



Join us Sunday morning at 10 am or anytime throughout the week. This Sunday Pastor Erick will present the fourth message in our Advent series, **"In our Battles, God Shows Up"**. He will be taking a look at the book of [Daniel chapter 3](#).

For the fourth Sunday of Advent, we look at how God shows up for his trusting servants in the battle against worshipping fake gods.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Sunday Dec. 24 - 10 AM Christmas Drama "God with Us"

Sunday Dec. 24 - 6 PM Candlelight Service "He is Here"

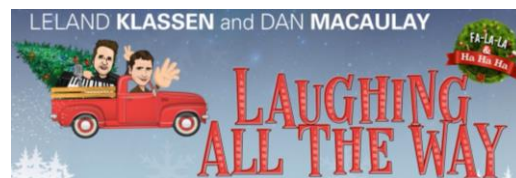
Monday Dec. 25 - 10 AM Christmas Day

Let's Build Community Connections!

Laughing All the Way with Leeland Klassen (Christian Comedian) & Dan Macaulay (Christian Musician): Community Connections @ Mountainview invites you to join us for a Christmas Comedy and Carols experience for the

whole family (www.mountainviewcrc.org/latw-2023). Join us at 6 pm (before the show) for a bit of winter fun!

• **Cookie Decorating • Colouring station • Hot Chocolate Bar • Games • Photo Booth and more...**



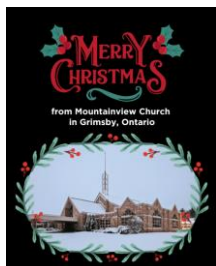
Congregational Participation in Advent Worship - Worship is always more wholistic and engaging and memorable when there's more than simply sitting in the pew, watching. So I encourage you to consider these ideas as a way to participate more fully in worship:

- 1. Make an ornament!** Colour, reflect, cut, glue, and 'ta-da' there's an ornament! Sheets will be available at the Welcome Centre and in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is invited to participate. (Contact Karin in the office if you need help getting or returning colouring pages and you don't attend on Sundays). Take one, take more, take a full set. If you don't want to cut and glue, simply colour them, fill in the blank part for your reflection and bring them back to church for us to finish. Bring finished ornaments to the basket and we will add them each week to the Christmas tree on the stage. I would like them back ASAP. I will hang the ones I get each and every week.
- 2. Share A Story** - Consider sharing a brief story of when God showed up for you – in different ways or specific moments – when did God show up for you in your fear, your panic, your anxiety, your loneliness, your confusion, your shame, your searching? OR where do you hope that God will show up? Where do you need God to show up for you? You can email these stories to ruthanns@mountainviewcrc.org. There will also be opportunity to
- 3. Listen to this year's Advent/Christmas Playlist** - Enjoy this curated list of Advent and Christmas worship music, some familiar, some new-er, some for corporate worship, some for personal worship. Thank you for helping us prepare for our Advent worship. Peace, *Ruth Ann*



Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/21YcnVA58Qwn7XR3mnCPpy?si=38401513a96d46c9>

Youtube link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_F0AgAAYnOGHVhnOwUlyJxkUN8D6nCcG



Please Send our missionaries your holiday greetings virtually by signing an ecard!

We'd like to bless our missionaries this Christmas with an abundance of our holiday greetings, prayers, and messages of encouragement from members of their supporting church community! Thank you so much! Karin in the office, is happy to write a note on your behalf if you can't sign on line. Just give her a call.

On Behalf of Your Mountainview Deacons

(see next page for links)

Tyler Couperus - Global Aid Network (GAIN)

<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/5844f38a554954a>

Kevin & Jackie Stieva and Family - Chaplain with the Canadian Armed Forces

<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/180a0c44987ffb0>

Peter Juhlke and Family - Youth Unlimited - Upper Deck Youth Centre (Vineland)

<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/ec13a481f209328>

Kathleen & Colin Wassenaar - EMI International – Cambodia

<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/03aac339261f66b>

Sovann Neth - World Renew – Cambodia

<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/fdd250a53c4d7e0>

Steve DeBoer and Family - The Bridge (Niagara Falls)

<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/c01e84baa589bcf>



A few devotional options and preparatory activities for the Advent Season:

CRC Network: [5 Ways Families Can Explore Waiting and Hope this Advent](#)

Thrive - Justice: [Advent Devotions](#) (sign up here to have them emailed to you)

Indwell Advent Sunday Devotionals: [Hope@Home](#) (sign up here)

Devotions for a Blue Christmas - In the midst of hard times, find strength and encouragement through God's word. A set of fourteen encouraging Today devotions reassure you that even during the darkest of Christmas seasons, you're not alone. Receive this free email series and ebook when you subscribe to Today at todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas

Right Now Media has Advent (& Christmas) Studies and devotionals for adults, kids and families.

[Check out our Mountainview Page for some ideas](#) or search under "Advent" and "Christmas".



Curious about how you can help support DIG (Doppenbegs in Guatemala)?

Talk to a team member about fundraising events, OR [visit our Mountainview DIG Events Page](#) (also on home page of the www.mountainviewcrc.org/).

- **You can donate to help the group or an individual.**
 - Bridge App – donate to DIG – Guatemala Mission
 - E-transfer to treasurer@mountainviewcrc.org (subject Guatemala Mission)
 - Cheque to Mountainview; Guatemala Mission in memo line



Mountainview's Library is OPEN before and after church and on weekdays for self-checkout. Adult Youth, Children, Fiction and Non-Fiction books are available as well as movies and audiobooks. **We will be highlighting some newer books in again soon.**

OTHER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS OPPORTUNITIES...



MAiD legislation in Canada - Visit the EFC's [Take Action on MAiD](#) page to learn about talking points you can share, a petition you can circulate, and many more ways to keep taking action on medical assistance in dying. Your engagement on this issue has had an effect on decision-makers. The government can change the law to stop or delay MAiD for mental illness before the scheduled March deadline.



Awake to Praise: There are tickets available for the **Dec. 16th, 8 pm** performance at the First Ontario Center in Hamilton. Visit our website at awaketopraisechoir.com. A performance you don't want to miss. Questions? Email awaketopraisetickets@gmail.com.

Kerstzangmiddag: A Dutch Christmas Hymn Sing – 3pm Sunday, December 17 there will be a Dutch Christmas Hymn Sing held at Immanuel CRC of Hamilton! Put it in your calendar, and plan to join! For more information, you may contact Femke Visser-Elenbaas at visser.elenbaas@gmail.com.



Shop Canada's Newest Christian Bookstore – 21FIVE - You may know 21Five as the bookstore on campus for all things Redeemer. Today we want to re-introduce it to you as Canada's newest Christian bookstore curating a collection of the best gospel-centred, God-glorifying books and products. We've added hundreds of books to our catalogue recently and will continue that along with giftware, apparel, and more in the near future! Visit us in store or country-wide online to find products that often are only available from retailers outside of Canada. [Shop the new 21Five.ca](http://www.21five.ca)



SOCO Beach Project Update: Join the SOCO Year-End Giving Campaign - every gift matters. See the on-going renovations. If you are a young adult (18 - 29), be part of SOCO summer 2024 ~ living in an intentional Christian community while having a summer job, learning how God's story shapes your story to impact the world's story. For more information: www.southcoastbeachproject.org. Newsletter: <http://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-dec-14-6212733>



You are invited!! Who: Young Adults; What: YAWR; When: **Fri. Jan 19 – Sun Jan 21** (Early Bird deadline (\$65) Jan. 7; Reg. Deadline (\$75) Jan 14; Where: Maranatha CRC Woodstock; Why: Connect with other Yas in Southern Ontario, Grow in Jesus. **Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/W3wfU1zYke3FkDV98>
Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/1rRLnuyqh>. We are praying for an amazing turnout of young adults!



Host an international student for Smithville Christian High School Expand your horizons. Try new food. Offer the gift of hospitality. Enrich your life. You can do all these things and be remunerated for expenses when you host an international student from Smithville Christian High School. New students are arriving at the end of January and we are looking for host homes for them. If this intrigues you and you would like to know more please email Marlene Bergsma at mbergsma@smithvillechristian.ca



Family Outreach Ontario was there for this family and addict. This was his response after accepting he had an issue with alcohol: "I thought I could fix the problem on my own and nobody would know about it. What a mistake that has been. It almost ripped our whole family apart. Thank you so much for your love and care." Call 905-933-3994, e-mail us at info@familyoutreachontario.com, or visit our web site www.familyoutreachontario.com.



Online Courses with Institute for Christian Studies – Learn with us. Tuition is \$1,500 to take a course for credit, \$600 to audit, or \$400 for first-time auditors. The registration deadline for winter term courses is January 12, 2024 - email academic-registrar@icscanada.edu to register, or visit icscanada.edu/winter-courses to learn more.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Staff work a combination of in the office and at home throughout the week. At least one staff person is typically in the church each weekday. Contact info: <https://www.mountainviewcrc.org/staff-1>

Sat Dec 16	6-9	p.m.	Laughing all the Way! ; Activities at 6:00; Performance at 7:00
Sun Dec 17	10:00	a.m.	Sunday Service; Pastor Erick preaching. "In Our Battles, God Shows Up"; Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mon Dec 18	7:00	p.m.	Cadets
Tues Dec 19	7:00	p.m.	Volleyball
Wed Dec 20	7:00	p.m.	Evening Coffee Break
	7:00	p.m.	Worship Team practice
Sun Dec 24	10:00	a.m.	Sunday Service; Pastor Erick preaching. "In Our Battles, God Shows Up"; Fourth Sunday of Advent
	6:00	p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; "He is Here!"; Pastor Jolene Veenstra

JOYFUL GIVING

THIS WEEK'S OFFERING: December 17th A.M. – The Bridge (Niagara Falls) – Pastor Steve DeBoer: An inner-city mission in a neglected area of Niagara Falls, the Bridge exists for the "placeless" of the city - the invisible, unseen ones of our society. In partnership with Third Space Cafe, The Bridge serves a nutritious breakfast every day to 50 - 75 people living on the streets, in tents, abandoned buildings, and under-serviced motels. More than a breakfast-service provider, The Bridge seeks to be a community of support and connection, working collaboratively with the City, Region, faith communities, businesses, not-for-profits, and people of peace who have a heart for homelessness, and compassion for the issues connected to it. To learn more about our mission, watch this video: <https://youtu.be/WHfBqjFzxE4>. Opportunities for monthly giving and volunteering are more than appreciated; to learn more contact our Mission Pastor at steve@thebridgenf.ca.

UPCOMING OFFERINGS: December 24 A.M. – Grimsby Life Centre is a ministry that is committed to providing help for the physical, social, and mental well-being of those in crisis. This loving care is demonstrated through on-going counseling, support and care. All services are free and confidential, and we depend solely on donations from individuals, churches, businesses, and fund-raising events. Thank-you for your support and prayers.

December 25th A.M. – World Renew (Giving Tree/Gift Catalogue): The Deacons invite and encourage you to join in the [Giving Tree Project from World Renew!](#) (Tree with ornaments and gift catalogues is in the foyer). *At Christmas we celebrate God's indescribable gift and remember it by reflecting his generous love to others.* The goat or rooster, kitchen garden kit, handwashing station, or bicycle that you add to your Christmas list this year for someone you may never know, may be just what they need. God knows them and will provide what they need to take the next step into the wholeness and wellbeing that God intends for them. Thank you for helping people in need through the World Renew Gift Catalogue and Giving Tree Project. **TO GIVE:**



1. Choose an ornament from the Giving Tree or pick online at worldrenew.ca/gifts
2. Complete the order form at the back of the gift catalogue OR give online at worldrenew.ca/gifts
3. Place cheque/cash and card/form in offering vase OR give online at worldrenew.ca/gifts



Is there a charity close to your heart that you would love to see thrive for years to come? Questions about wills and legacy? **Christian Stewardship Services is hosting open Q&A sessions** about these topics and more throughout the winter to answer all of your questions on charitable giving and estate planning. Find out more about the **Winter Conversation series** [here](#). While you are planning ahead, why not contact a consultant to maximize your year end giving, or set up an appointment to review your will in the new year? [Schedule an appointment](#) today!



ROSE CITY KIDS: Join us in **Doubling** Your Impact. As a community, we are blessed to have the incredible opportunity to be able to be a witness to more than 700 children and youth @ Rose City Kids in Welland. Every week we provide spaces where children can experience Jesus' love. In a world filled with uncertainties, our children need more than just guidance, they need hope, and Jesus provides the ultimate source of hope, love, and purpose! We are running a **\$100,000 match campaign** where every contribution will be **doubled**. Please help us reach our goals (give by the end of Dec.). Need more info? Please contact sonya@rosecitykids.com (289 687 5727). Thank you!



Christmas Greeting Video from The Banner - Watch a warm year-end video message where Banner editor Shiao Chong explains the impact The Banner has with its journalistic ministry that reaches thousands of people. He shares Christmas greetings to all readers. View it now! tinyurl.com/BannerChristmas23

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS



NEWSLETTERS FROM OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS – Available under “Community Partners” on our Website. Posted as they come in. Paper copies can be requested from the church office.. [Browse through the work of local and CRCNA ministries...](#)



Thrive Faith Formation Tip - “. . . and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” In what ways might you make more space for Jesus in your everyday life? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Everlasting Father - Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the Messiah when he called him the “Everlasting Father.” Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, and 1 John 3:1-3 to better understand how this revolutionary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging offered to us in Jesus, our Everlasting Father. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



Kids Corner: The Shepherds' Joy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net/. At the beginning of Luke 2, the shepherds were kind of like the last ones to be picked. They got the long and boring night shift job that nobody wanted to do: watch the stinky sheep. But God picked them for a special task the night Jesus was born. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast “The Shepherds.”



Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our community on Facebook.

JOBS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Mountainview church is looking for a Part-Time Assistant Custodian. At Mountainview our Custodians play a very important role in helping make to our members and guests feel welcome, and comfortable. They keep our spaces clean and orderly. This assistant will be responsible for every other weekend (1-2 hours on Sunday morning) and vacation relief for the Custodian. On-Duty weekends, may involve hours for opening, closing, setting up, and some cleaning, for rentals and events. The position includes hours day and evening hours. We offer competitive wages. This role may have physical demands including, but not limited to, lifting, bending, pushing, pulling and/or extended walking and standing. Prior caretaking experience is an asset. A Vulnerable Sector Police Check, is required. Please submit a letter and resume to hr@mountainview.org by December 15th



Cairn Christian School (Stoney Creek campus) has two openings for paraeducator support from Jan - June 2024. One opening: PSW/EA to work with a JK student who is on the spectrum. 4 days/wk (Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.) for 4hrs/day (9am-1pm). Other opening: Full-time EA to provide support in our Grade 5 classroom. Experience and a working knowledge of learning disabilities is an asset. Contact Bonnie, at bdesjardins@cairnchristianschool.ca for information.



We Are hiring at Shalom! Working at Shalom is a great opportunity to share your gifts and talents in a wonderful workplace and to become involved in the community! We take pride in offering the best possible care and making Shalom home for our residents. Become part of the team! [Visit our website](#) and send your resume or any questions to hr@shalommanor.ca to see if a career with Shalom is a good fit for you!



Resonate Global Mission is looking for an accountant to serve for 2-3 weeks in Nigeria. Timeframe for serving is flexible. Learn more at www.resonateglobalmission.org/opportunity/accounting



The CRCNA is seeking a candidate to fill the full-time, permanent position of Executive Director Canada. A search team has been tasked with recruiting for this position with the goal of having the successful candidate begin on or before May 1, 2024. Learn More at crcna.org/executive-director-canada-search



We are thrilled to introduce a new role to our Indwell Team in Hamilton. The **Event Coordinator** will love to plan and carry out key events that unify people who have a shared interest in the ultimate well-being of our vulnerable population. Posting at www.indwell.ca/careers. The closing date for applications is January 9, 2023.

OFFERING SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2024 – *Annual Offering Schedule coming soon ...*

January 7th A.M. – Shalom Manor & Gardens is a special Christian, non-profit long-term care home and retirement centre, serving seniors mostly of Dutch descent who belong to the community of Reformed faiths. Limited government funding does not allow the services our seniors require that meet our expectations and standards. Your gifts will enhance immediate resident care, programs, and debt load.

January 14th A.M. – Benevolence: Your contribution to Mountainview's Benevolent Fund provides assistance for those in need in our church family and in our local community. These include basic needs such as food, clothing, housing and schooling. A church and community of our size has many varied needs within it. Please continue to support our ministry of Benevolence.

January 21st A.M. – Global Aid Network (GAIN) – Tyler Couperus: **Together we are revealing hope by sharing God's unconditional love and restoring life by demonstrating the gospel through compassionate action to those who are living in poverty, injustice and crisis around the world.**

"That is where I come in. I work with GAIN full-time. In order to successfully fulfill our mission as GAIN, we need staff who can lay the groundwork, and do project management to empower staff in the field as well as our local partners. My role is managing our disaster relief programs and our preparedness. I collaborate with our partners worldwide, particularly those in our Disaster Relief offices. My position includes training new volunteers at our DART team training, as well as potential field visits, and ongoing conversation with our project partners about how we can work better together. Thank you for partnering with me in your time, prayers and encouragement, as well as finances so that I can fulfill my kingdom calling. I have been blessed by the church throughout my life; in each church we have celebrated together, mourned together and supported each other. I look forward to growing that community." *Tyler C.*

January 28th A.M. – Cadets is a program for boys 9-14 years of age. The ministry of cadets is to teach the boys to learn more about God and respond to the world around them in a Christ-centered way. This is done through activities such as Bible study, badge work, crafts, games, campouts and league activities. Your donations help us to mentor and nurture boys in our church and surrounding community, in their walk with God.