



Join us Sunday morning at 10 am or anytime throughout the week. This Sunday our message will be presented in a drama **“God With Us.”**

Our adult and kid actors have been working hard to present this story of “exile” and restoration. Join us as we listen in on how these “small group” participants are learning about how the Christmas story is part of the whole “big” story of the Bible.



Join us at 6pm on December 24th for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**. Pastor Jolene will lead us in a service of readings and singing to remember and welcome the arrival of our Saviour.

The timing and title of this service invites us into a long tradition of gathering for lessons and carols - Bible readings and Christmas songs. However, the traditional format will find a fresh flicker of the candles as we take the readings from the "Jesus Storybook Bible" surrounded by the artistic gifts of our community all given to the praise of the newborn king.



Join us at 10 am on **Christmas Day** as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Pastor Erick will present a message **“In Our Neighbourhood, God Shows Up”**, looking at the book of [John, chapter 1, verse 14](#).

God shows up as one of us in our community. That is what Jesus' birth at Christmas is all about. We will look at some of the ways Jesus showed up for people then and what that means for us today.

A few things to note for the upcoming weeks:

1. For those of you who use **offering envelopes**, they are available on a table in the foyer. Those who usually receive church information at home will also receive their envelopes next week.
2. **Today Devotionals** have just arrived. They are also out in the lobby. Those who usually receive church information at home will receive their Jan/Feb Today next week.
3. **2024 Directories have arrived!** A directory will be delivered to all persons in Shalom or in Nursing homes. They will also be delivered to Evergreen members and to those on our news delivery list; *so no need for family members to pick one up for their parent*). A page of updates for the directory will be shared in January and quarterly after that. You are always welcome to update your contact information on the Bridge App or by contacting the office.
4. The **offices will be closed** over the next week. Staff will be in only to get necessary work done at various points during the week. If you need to reach one of us, please text or call us on our cell phones. Check the Bridge App or our website www.mountainviewcrc.org/staff
If you are not here this Sunday (Dec 24, Dec 25) or next Sunday (Dec 31), the offices will be open daily Tues - Fri, 9am - 4pm again on January 2 and you can pick any of these items up then.
5. **Karin is on vacation** for the first week of January. During that time, if you have any urgent items, please direct them to Alice OR the appropriate staff person.



Let's Build Community Connections!

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

DEADLINE: CHRISTMAS EVE.

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! *On Behalf of Your Mountainview Deacons*

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)

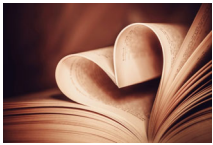
<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/c01e84baa589bcf>



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

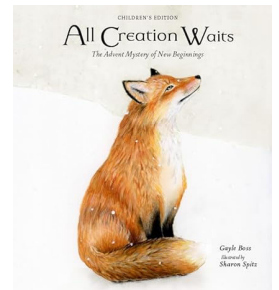
Talk to a team member about fundraising events, OR [visit our Mountainview DIG Events Page](#) (also on home page of the www.mountainviewcrc.org/).

- 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 again soon.**

All Creation Waits by Gayle Boss (children's edition) – An inspiring nature-based Journey through Advent, celebrating the beauty of God's creation and the hope of Jesus' arrival. All Creation Waits is ideal for early readers who love nature and wonder, featuring 24 animals and insects, eye-catching illustrations, and easy-to-read text.



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.



Shop Canada's Newest Christian Bookstore – 21FIVE - You may know 21Five as the bookstore on campus. 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 and will continue that along with giftware, apparel, and more! 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://ShoptheNew21Five.ca)



SOCO Beach Project Update: Read about God's generous hospitality. Join the SOCO Year-End Giving Campaign - *every gift matters*. 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. Applications available. For more information: www.southcoastbeachproject.org. Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-dec-21-6213433>



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



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

The offices will be closed for the week following Christmas for the holidays. If you need to reach someone please find our staff contact information here: <https://www.mountainviewcrc.org/staff-1> (click on the picture of who you wish to contact for their information). Karin is on vacation for the first week of January as well.

Sun Dec 24	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Service; Drama "God With Us"
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; "He is Here!"; Pastor Jolene; Service of Lessons and Carols.
Mon Dec 25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day; Pastor Erick preaching; "In Our Neighbourhood, God Shows Up"; reflection on John 1:14
Thurs Dec 28	7:00 p.m.	Worship Team practice
Sun Dec 31	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Service; Pastor Erick preaching.

JOYFUL GIVING

THIS WEEK'S OFFERING: December 24 A.M. & P.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.

UPCOMING OFFERINGS: December 25th A.M. – World Renew (Giving Tree/Gift Catalogue): Jesus is The Reason - As we give and receive gifts at Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God's gift to us! Will you add someone who lives in poverty to your Christmas giving? Change a life with an item like a goat, a bicycle, or a handwashing station from World Renew's Gift Catalogue. Give online at worldrenew.ca/gifts or call 1-888-975-3769 to give.

December 31st A.M. – The Village Church (Thorold): Thank you for partnering with us in another amazing year of ministry! Highlights of 2023: The launch of two new Dinner Churches at Covenant CRC and the Third Space Café; the launch of Summer for the city (Christian entrepreneurship and mentoring);

the ability to provide a meal and the gospel message to 200 guests at our Village Socials and to see 2 baptisms! There is much to celebrate and to anticipate with 12 new Dinner Church launches planned in our Classis over the next six years. Please remember us in your year end giving. *We are currently running a 36,000 deficit* and are working on plans for a more sustainable 2024 while still working to share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ with our neighbours in new and fruitful ways. Blessings to you in 2024!



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!



End of Year Giving Opportunities for Diaconal Ministries Canada (DMC) - DMC partners with deacons and CRC churches and ministries to demonstrate God's love in the community. In 2023, our Diaconal Coaches and Regional staff conducted more than 65 workshops & training events with deacons across Canada and were able to

have over 75 consultations & meetings with deacons, pastors, and congregations. This support covered important areas of deacons' work within local congregations and their communities. Workshops like: Helping Without Harming, Developing Benevolence Guidelines, Everyday Justice, and Stewardship...just to name a few. Have you been blessed by our work this past year? Also, our NewGround program (formerly Operation Manna) has partnered with churches to break new missional ground, nurturing Spirit-led ideas that bear everlasting fruit. Will you help DMC continue its work in equipping deacons and helping churches love their communities? Support our #EndofYearGiving2023 by donating today. Go to: diaconalministries.com/donate-now/ for ways to donate! And thank you for your ongoing support!

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...](#)

Kids Corner: Christmas Love for God's Global Family - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net/. Just like the wise men, we can choose to follow Jesus. By accepting the gift of his love, we give him a big gift: our hearts. God's family is together by the love of Jesus, which was shown on the first Christmas. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast “The Wise Men.”



Groundwork: Jesus: Our Prince of Peace - As we celebrate Christmas, join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 137, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 53:4-12, Ephesians 2:14-19, and Luke 2:1-21 to discover the deep and meaningful shalom Jesus brought to us in his birth, that he promises to establish permanently when he returns, and how we can be his agents of peace in our world here and now. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.





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



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](http://www.shalommanor.ca) 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



Christian
Reformed
Church

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.



Wellingstone Christian Home is presently seeking applicants for a live-in co-superintendent position. This position is responsible for 28% of the superintendent duties at Wellingstone Christian Home, with an anticipated start date of February 1, 2024. If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, or for more information on the full job description, please contact the Wellingstone Office by email at office@wellingstone.ca or by phone at 905-383-0754.