

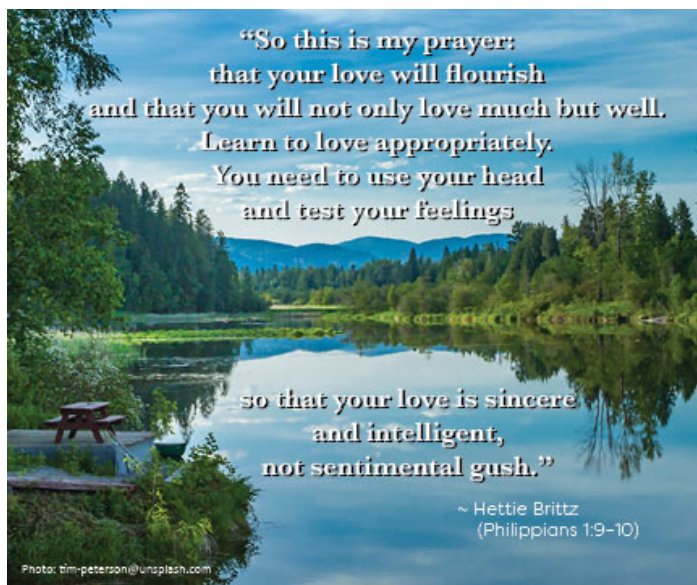


We end the year looking at another biblical prayer. Paul expresses great appreciation as he looks back; at the same time, he has a powerful request for more. We will join him in that prayer.

#### 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.
2. **Today Devotionals** have just arrived. They are also out in the lobby.
3. **2024 Directories have arrived!** A directory will be delivered to all persons in Shalom or in Nursing homes and to Evergreen members; *so no need for family members to pick one up*). 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. **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.

Join us Sunday morning at 10 am or anytime throughout the week. This Sunday we will take a look back and a look forward. Pastor Erick will present a message entitled **“A Prayer for Smart Love.”** He will be looking at the book of Philippians chapter 1, verses 1-11.

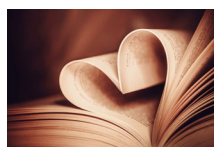


### Let's Build Community Connections!



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/](http://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](mailto: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.**

### OTHER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS OPPORTUNITIES...



**Kerstzangmiddag Recording Available!** In case you missed the Kerstzangmiddag, but would still enjoy some Dutch Christmas hymns this weekend, the recording is still up on YouTube at the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/fGu9gcZQEfk?feature=share>



## NIAGARA CHRISTIAN GLEANERS

Niagara Christian Gleaners – In 2023 we were entrusted with over 3 million lbs of fresh, surplus produce. With these generous food donations and with the help of our volunteers and financial supporters we were able to prepare and share over 13 million servings of dehydrated food aid in

2023. Through our trusted distribution partners, we sent food into 9 different countries including Canada. Out of the more than 13 million servings, over 4 million servings were used as crisis aid in Poland, Romania and Ukraine as the war in that region continues. The global demand for food aid continues to grow as food insecurity is the reality for many across the world. Canada is incredibly blessed with an abundance of food and our willingness to compassionately share with others is the test we want to pass - all in Christ's name. To learn more about this ministry please visit <https://niagaragleaners.org/>



**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:** Need some encouragement - then read this week's SOCO newsletter! 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](http://www.southcoastbeachproject.org)  
Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-dec-27-6213929>



**You are invited!!** Who: Young Adults 18-30ish; What: YA Weekend Retreat; When: **Fri. Jan 19 – Sun Jan 21; Early Bird deadline (\$65) Jan. 7th; Reg. Deadline (\$75) Jan 14th;** Where: Maranatha CRC Woodstock; Why: Connect with other YAs in Southern Ontario, grow in relationships with them and with Jesus. **Registration:** <https://forms.gle/W3wfu1zYke3FkDV98>. **Facebook:** <https://fb.me/e/1rRLnuyqh>; **PROMO VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/FcfZmrwM09U> We

are praying for an amazing turnout of young adults!

**MALE-VOICE AUDIENCE PSALM/HYMN SING:** All men are invited to a male audience psalm/hymn sing, the Lord willing, on Saturday, February 3 at 7:00PM at Maranatha Free Reformed Church. Whether you sing tenor, bass or just enjoy singing the melody of songs, you will enjoy this event. A beautiful collection of psalms & hymns will be sung. The evening will be directed by Herman den Hollander and accompanied by Tjeerd Klaver on the organ. A free-will offering will be taken for the Niagara Christian Gleaners (Smithville) and Ontario Christian Gleaners (Cambridge). Looking forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, contact [hdenhollander@yahoo.com](mailto:hdenhollander@yahoo.com).



**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](mailto:mbergsma@smithvillechristian.ca)

## 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 31st	10:00	a.m.	Sunday Service; Pastor Erick preaching; "A Prayer for Smart Love"
Thurs Jan 4th	7:00	p.m.	Worship Team practice
Sun Jan 7th	10:00	a.m.	Sunday Service; Pastor Erick preaching; "The Power of Words"

## JOYFUL GIVING

**THIS WEEK'S OFFERING: December 31st AM – 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!

**UPCOMING OFFERINGS: January 7th AM – 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.

**Giving Thanks at Christmas** - Thank you for sharing God's love through the World Renew Gift Catalogue during Advent. Your donation of a chicken, water filter, or goat can be a miracle for people who are facing poverty, hunger, and injustice today. It's not too late if you want to give in the New Year! Go to [worldrenew.ca/gifts](http://worldrenew.ca/gifts) or call 1-888-975-3769. Thank you!



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](mailto:sonya@rosecitykids.com) (289 687 5727). Thank you!

## 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: Big Plans** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Do you like to make plans? By making plans, you can be excited about what's coming and anticipate what you may need to prepare. But did you know God has made even bigger plans for you? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.



**Groundwork: Your Questions about Scripture and Hope** - Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 6:9-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 11:13-16, Revelation 20:1-6, John 15:18-25, and Psalm 46 to look at some of the questions you asked this year in response to our discussions on the Lord's Prayer, Joshua, and Revelation; then we'll talk about the issues that feel most pressing for our faith right now and where we can find the hope and encouragement to keep living faithfully each day. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Eugene Peterson says of Scripture engagement, "Reading is an immense gift, but only if the words are assimilated, taken into the soul—eaten, chewed, gnawed, received in unhurried delight." Read your favorite Scripture passage that way today. Take time to savor and "gnaw" on it, noticing any new insights that come to mind. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)



**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:office@wellingstone.ca) or by phone at 905-383-0754.