



April 2019

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

<https://www.grandrapidscrosswaycommunitychurch.com>

A big step forward

Hot and muggy appears to be a thing of the past, along with floor fans and shortened attention spans here at CrossWay Community Church. Our leaders and congregation set an air-conditioned sanctuary as a high priority during this season of expansion, and the funds to accomplish this project have now met the need.

We get a bonus of an entirely new system for both heating and air conditioning our all-important worship space, positioning CrossWay as an efficient energy consumer well into the future.

Still underfunded are other aspects of our remodeling/expansion endeavor, so



Relegated to relic status!

join our elders in continuing to pray, work and give toward the full funding needed to complete Phase I. Still on the drawing boards: basketball and/or volleyball equipment, athlete-safe flooring, lobby furnishings, kitchen pass-through doors, coffee service equipment, classroom tables/chairs and parking lot paving.

Arrangements are being made with contractors, and furnishings/equipment are being researched at this writing. We broke the ground ceremonially on Easter 2018. Soon, it will be time for our ribbon-cutting celebration. Make sure you own a piece of the future for CrossWay. Add your blessing to the Building Fund ... perhaps today!



Redemption Day Is Coming!

New opportunity: Online givers can now designate “General”, “Building” or “Benevolent” Fund in donating to CrossWay via our website. (See “address” above.)

Coming up at CrossWay Community

Every Sun. 10 a.m.	Worship together
Every Sun. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Every Tues. 1 p.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
Every Thurs. 6:15 p.m.	<i>Wholyfit</i> exercise (church hosting)
Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m.	Hinkles' small group
Apr. 3 & 10 6 p.m.	Lent Lite
Apr. 6 9 a.m.	Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP
Apr. 6 9 a.m.	Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Apr. 7 6 p.m.	Alveses' small group @ Doerrs'
Apr. 11 & 18 10 a.m.	<i>Hosting Tips for Stressed-out Moms</i>
Apr. 13, 20, 27 10 a.m.	Spiritual revival prayer meeting
Apr. 15 6:30 p.m.	Mugs & Muffins (for women)
Apr. 19 7 p.m.	Good Friday worship service
Apr. 21 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Easter Brunch
Apr. 22 & 29 7 p.m.	Men's Ministry
Apr. 28 11:30 a.m.	Missionary potluck
Apr. 28 6 p.m.	Monthly prayer hour

Mugs and muffins, anyone?

Ladies, check out this new opportunity for fellowship and going deeper into Scripture. Bring a mug with you (one you can part with for a while) for your beverage and an activity. And enjoy a variety of muffins lovingly baked by members of the women's ministry team. A fun way to celebrate the new season!



Monday, April 15

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Fellowship Hall/CWCC

And for our men ...



The Heart of Man is a cinematic retelling of Jesus's parable of The Prodigal Son. Our CrossWay men will draw on themes prompted by the film for conversations about shame, identity, grace and the blessings of maturing as followers of Christ.

We'll be springing off this board for seven Mondays beginning April 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome to attend.

Serving at CrossWay

Here at CrossWay, we are a fellowship and a community, worshipping the Lord together, and serving Him together as well.

Several have responded to the call for volunteers during the first quarter of this year. It's time now to plan for your engagement as "the hands and feet of Jesus"

Continuing to prepare

As we approach Easter, we continue to prepare our hearts and share our lives for two more studies of Christian virtues in our Lent Lite series.

Come at 6 p.m. for a light supper, and stay for the teaching by Pastor Bob Funk. April 3, we'll be focusing our attention on the cardinal virtue of temperance; April 10, the cardinal virtue of fortitude. The classic Christian virtues — what they are and why they matter today. Food for thought during a season of contemplation.

Next steps

As our CrossWay South building addition comes ever closer to completion, our Elder Board has invited the congregation to get involved in planning for activities. What are your thoughts and dreams for this new ministry space? As you chat with friends, keep this project in mind. What community needs and opportunities are you hearing about? And newer CrossWay folks, you might have ideas from other churches you've attended. Now's a good time to speak up or send an email. Our leaders are "all ears!"



Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out ... Serving Christ Together 2019 • 2nd Quarter

As a frequent attender of CrossWay Community, I am willing to serve the Lord by helping the church in the service needs I have checked below. Please contact me about how I can apply my skills, interests and gifts:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in nursery during service | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up and/or take down tables & chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Man sound booth during service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in children's worship/ Sunday School | <input type="checkbox"/> Help plan Easter breakfast | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect grounds for repair/ maintenance needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer projection during service | <input type="checkbox"/> Help serve Easter breakfast | <input type="checkbox"/> Help lead women's ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship team/music | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in nursing home worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Join a missionary support team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greet worshippers on Sundays | <input type="checkbox"/> Bring refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Web design coordination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collect offerings on Sundays | <input type="checkbox"/> Set out refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Host a small group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take photos at church events | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Light carpentry/indoor maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in the kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep gardens weeded & trimmed | <input type="checkbox"/> Offer ideas for bldg. addition use |



Signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Phone # (_____) _____ E-mail _____

*This message
from Pastor Bob Funk*

A Week to Share

This month, we celebrate the highest holiday on the Christian calendar: Resurrection Day!

Bring friends and relatives to our special events, beginning with our **Palm Sunday** service on April 14. This special service remembers Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem and inaugurates the events of "Holy Week."

Our tradition at CrossWay has been to combine "Maundy Thursday" (the Last Supper) with a remembrance of **Good Friday** (Jesus's death) in an evening **Tenebrae** service. This very special worship service will be held on Friday, April 19, from 7 to 8 p.m. It's a somber time of remembering the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, who willingly laid down His life for us and endured the cruelest of deaths, though He Himself was innocent and pure.

We first will share together in a celebration of the Last Supper, hear the most relevant Scriptures read, sing the traditional songs of the church and gradually diminish the lights in the sanctuary, as we symboli-

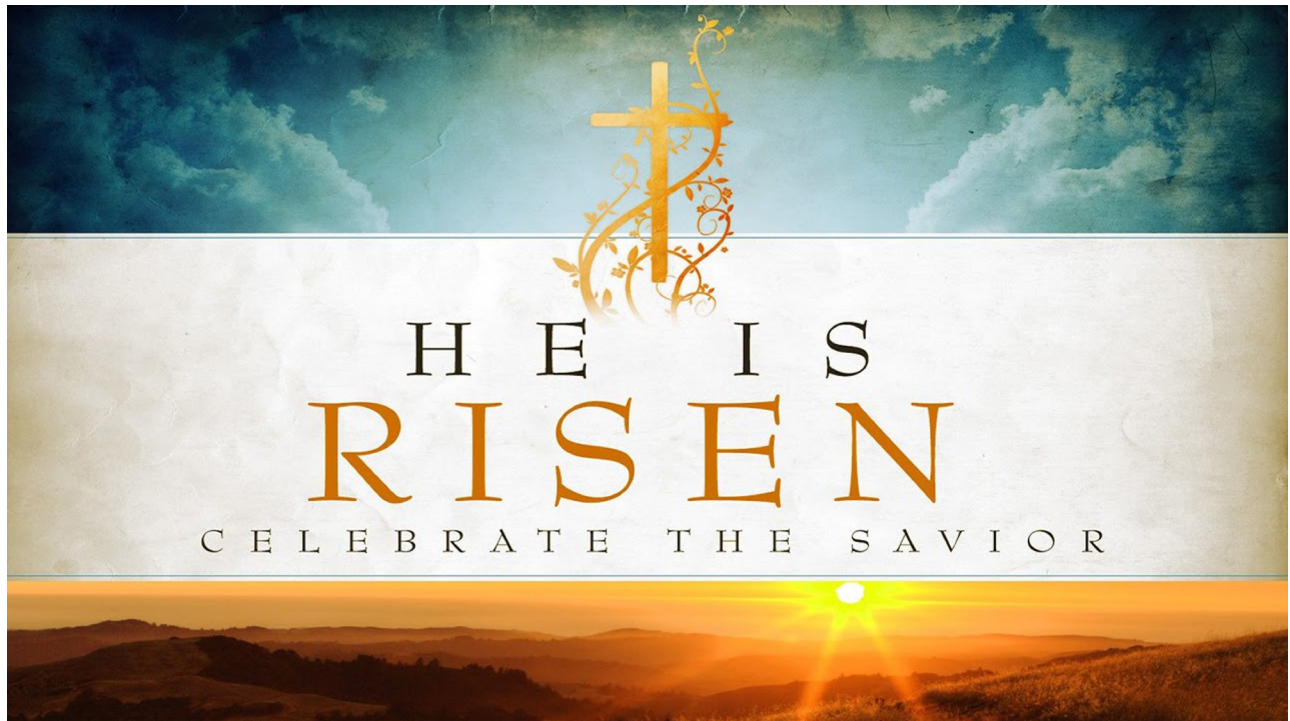


cally revisit the hours of deep darkness at the time of His death. For me, it is the most moving service in the Christian year.

But darkness gives way to glorious Light on **Easter Sunday**! Our celebration of new life begins at 10 a.m., a joyous time of worship, proclaiming the Resurrection that has turned the world upside down.

And don't forget our traditional **Easter Brunch** from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

"Holy Week" is *a week to share* with your brothers and sisters in Christ and with those who need to know God's grace for them, too. It culminates in the best good news the human race has ever received. Help us to share it. Invite someone to experience Holy Week at CrossWay Community!



CrossWay Community Mission Statement:

God has called us to make disciples of Jesus Christ who respond to His Gospel by committing ourselves to loving God, one another and the world in Christ's name.



*This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel*

Spring Has Sprung!

Yay! Spring officially sprung on March 20th. At this time, our minds and hearts naturally turn a bit giddy, anticipating the long-awaited colors, sights, sounds and smells of new life.

Winter can be long. And I'm not just talking about weather. As followers of Jesus, whose primary hope lies in what we *cannot see*, there's more than a little bit of groaning involved as we wait for our Blessed Hope. (Rom. 5:5, 8:22-27, Titus 2:13) Similarly we see in Proverbs 13:12, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."

It seems to me, hope is both *beautiful* and *hard*. Hope can especially feel hard and a bit groan-filled at the end of a long "winter" of waiting. What does this look like? Feel like? Sometimes it feels like anxiety, depression, anger, cynicism and, in general, just plain weariness. And, as we saw in Proverbs, sometimes deferred hope just makes our hearts feel sick.

Yet, this is also true: a longing fulfilled is a tree of life! Buds breaking forth in glorious green. The wait is almost over.

As I've set the table here a bit for renewed hope, let me leave you with a few thoughts gleaned from Mark 4:26-29. I hope it deepens your hope and expectation of God renewing His promises to us in His way and in His time. (Note, too, the spring-like setting in this passage, as seeds are sown in anticipation of a Fall harvest.) Here's the passage:

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not

know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

[NIV]

The growth of God's kingdom is not dependent upon our understanding how He goes about growing it. Understanding is a good thing, but there is a *mystery* as well as to how God works in our lives. Our part is to stay faithful in sowing His seed. Don't get discouraged if sometimes (often?!) you don't understand what God is up to. He doesn't need our understanding to grow His seed.

God doesn't stop growing His kingdom (His rule in our lives) even as our heads hit our pillows and we drift into la-la-land. He is still at work.

"All by itself" (Gk. *automath*, we get our English word "automatic" from it!). There is inherent power in the soil and seed and the God who gives growth (I Cor. 3:5-7) The power is not in the sower. Again, our part is to be faithful and consistent seed sowers even when we don't see the Object of our hope.

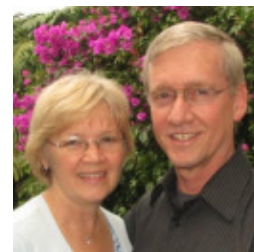
Remember, you are a child of the King, a citizen of His Kingdom. There is great hope in that alone!

So hope, while beautiful and life-giving, also inherently has *groaning* attached to it. And that's okay.

I trust tonight, when you go to bed, you will sleep easily and your dreams will be full of hope, knowing He is *still at work* even as you saw your logs. And, if He grants us the gift of "tomorrow," we will see the beautiful *tree of life*, with its glorious green buds, singing birds on its branches, the fragrance of flowers and anything and everything else that is granted to us in the "sprunging" of spring!

Meet our frontline workers Keith and Judy Anderson in person!

This month we have a special opportunity, as Keith and Judy Anderson will visit CrossWay on Sunday, April 28. Our Missionary Support Steering Committee is organizing a churchwide potluck for the Sunday School hour to give us all a chance to greet these long-time missionaries and hear their first-hand report on their work based in Costa Rica with ProMETA, a project of the Evangelical Free Church's mission arm ReachGlobal. In their ministry Keith and Judy work with students in 24 countries. Keith is director of the project, equipping Spanish-speaking leaders at a master's level and making theological education accessible in Spanish, awarding degrees in Biblical Theology and in Christian Leadership. Judy is teaching second grade in a missionary children's school in Costa Rica.



Please pray...



for the new term that just began. Approximately 70 students have enrolled in ProMETA's online master's and missions courses. Pray that God will use ProMETA's ministry as a tool of transformation in the hands of the Holy Spirit.



Pray for the students in Venezuela. Some of our students are losing their internet connections due to restrictions by the government. Being able to connect to ProMETA's program via the internet is indispensable!



Pray for a new master's (in missions) program to be launched this year. God is leading us to develop the only Spanish program (of which we are aware) that will offer equipping to Latin American mission agency leaders.



Pray for ProMETA students in countries like Russia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Venezuela and many others who depend on ProMETA for high quality theological and missions training.



Pray for us as we follow God's calling to equip many men and women to serve Him in ministry in the Spanish-speaking Church.

New to the CrossWay Library

Consider checking out this seasonal classic docu-novel by Western Michigan U professor Paul Maier. The title speaks for itself, don't you think? A Double-day publication, *Pontius Pilate* was re-released in 2013 by Kregel Publications. The small print on the cover indicates more than 500,000 copies in print.



Coming, briefly, to our town



Two films promising to bless Christians are coming to Grand Rapids this month. Both will make just a brief visit, so mark them on your calendars if they appeal to you!

The first is a portrayal of the life of evangelist Luis Palau, whose City-Fest project brought the Gospel to West Michigan in grand style just

last Fall. Catch it at the AMC at 3000 Alpine NW, Thurs., April 4, at 7 p.m. or Sat., April 6, at 12:55 p.m.

Then, consider taking in a flick on Easter weekend, Saturday, April 20, at 12:55 p.m. only, at the Celebra-

tion Cinema Rivertown (Grandville). It's a fresh animation of John Bunyan's classic *The Pilgrim's Progress*, rated PG.

Both films have potential for introducing someone special in your life to the Gospel.

