



June 2019

# CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

<http://www.crosswaygr.com>

## Getting closer!

Between weather and city permit delays, our building addition has unquestionably taken longer than originally projected, but so much has been accomplished that it's becoming obvious now: It's going to happen!

The general contractor is now predicting mid-to-late July, so redouble your prayers and start thinking about what ministry opportunities you would like to propose for the multi-purpose structure added to our church on the south and for the expanded lobby added to the west of the sanctuary.



## Want to add your talent?

Volunteers will be needed, as the construction nears its completion, chiefly this month to do landscape work. If you are willing to put your back and knees to work on beautifying the church's grounds, please check the appropriate boxes on the "Serving at CrossWay" form on page 2 of this newsletter or on the identical Sunday bulletin insert. Let us know we can call on you! Many hands make light work!

## Women to study 'Miracles'



All CrossWay ladies — and friends! — are invited to a 6-week scripture study of "Miracles: Signs of God's Glory" on Tuesday afternoons beginning June 4.

The Women's Bible Study meets in the church library, near the north entrance, every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Reaching out . . .

## Opening the conversation

CrossWay folks, we have opportunities this summer (Tuesdays, 11:30 — see calendar below) to meet our "neighbors," many of whom are refugees and sojourners right outside our door. We can staff the GRPS summer lunch program "Meet Up — Eat Up," a federally funded food distribution project to serve children in need.

Led by our new Missions Outreach Steering Committee, our participation will give us an entree with children and parents, a beginning to our friendship building work to eventually share the Good News with people from around the world. Info? Contact Pam Reed.

## Coming up at CrossWay Community

Every Sun. 10 a.m.	Worship together
Every Tues. 1 p.m.	Ladies' Bible study
Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m.	Hinkles' small group
June 1 9 a.m.	Neighborhood food distribution
June 1 9 a.m.	Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP
June 1 9 a.m.	Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
June 2, 9, 16 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School
June 2 & 16 6 p.m.	Alveses' small group @ Doerrs'
June 3 & 10 6 p.m.	Men's ministry
June 8, 15, 22, 29 10 a.m.	Spiritual revival prayer meeting
June 11, 18, 25 11:30 a.m.	Neighborhood meet-up/eat-up
June 13, 20, 27 6:15 p.m.	Wholyfit exercise (church hosting)
June 23 6 p.m.	All-church prayer meeting

## Another way to give

Our church website ([www.crosswaygr.com](http://www.crosswaygr.com)) is a boon to our ministry in so many ways. One is an easy way for you to present your offerings by credit card or bank transfer; you can even set up an automatic monthly gift within your budget and not have to worry about remembering to write a check or tuck cash into your wallet.

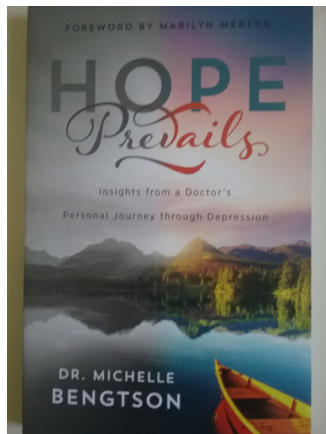
Simply click on "Give Online" and then fill out the donation page, designating "General," "Building" or "Benevolent" as your fund choice.

It's quick, it's secure and it's convenient. Give it a try!

## Welcome, Brenda!

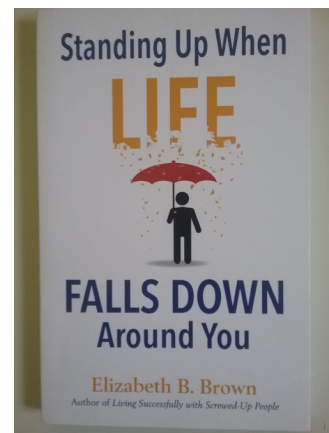
We were pleased to welcome Brenda Weillnau into our membership at our May 19 congregational meeting and then to witness her baptism during the May 26 worship service, when Brenda's mom Lisa joined us for worship from her home in southwest Wisconsin.

## New to the CrossWay Library . . . available to you!



If you're looking for some sunshine in your life, one or both of these books might just be the tonic for you! Written from a Christian perspective, of course, *Hope Prevails* by Dr. Michelle Bengtson and *Standing Up When Life Falls Down Around You* by Elizabeth Brown could be just the pick-me-up to borrow from the CrossWay library this summer.

Just enter your name and the book you're borrowing on the clipboard near the library door and take one or both home with you. Don't forget to bring it back to share with your CrossWay family.



## 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"

during the **second** quarter of 2019. Please prayerfully consider how best to offer your talents in service at CrossWay, complete the form below and hand it to a pastor or leave it in the office, even if you filled one out last quarter; perhaps the Spirit is whispering to you a new way to serve Him and your church family.



## Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out ... Serving Christ Together 2019 • 2<sup>nd</sup> 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"/> Serve at neighborhood events            | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect grounds for repair/ maintenance needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer projection during service       | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in planning church events        | <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"/> Visit shut-ins                                |
| <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

## *What's in your hand?*

That's the question God asked Moses when He told him to pick up and go to Egypt. You remember the words God told Moses to speak to Pharaoh, "Let my people go!"

But God knew Pharaoh would not listen. The Lord had a plan to perform signs and wonders to persuade the Israelites and the Egyptians that He had indeed spoken to Moses.

God said to Moses,  
"What's in your hand?"

Moses replied, "A staff."

Then the Lord demonstrated His power, performing miracles with that simple staff.

And then there was David. What was in David's hand?

A sling. A primitive means of shooting stones.  
And what did God do with David's sling?  
He used it to slay a giant.

And then there was a little boy. What was in his hand?

Some food. Loaves and fishes, to be specific.  
And what did Jesus do with his food?  
He used it to feed a multitude.

And then there was a widow. What was in her hand?

Not much. Just two small coins. But she gave it to the treasury anyway. Jesus noticed.  
And what did Jesus do with her two coins?  
He used them as an illustration of sacrificial giving to inspire millions of people.

We could go on, but again, the question is,  
"What is that in *your* hand?"

You might be thinking, "Not much."

And God says, "Well, what are you going to do with it?"

### **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.*



You see, God specializes in taking whatever He puts in our hands and using it for something very good — *if* we will let Him.

Again, what about you? What has God put in your hand?  
There may be more there than you think!  
How can you use it? How might God use it?

Remember Moses' staff, David's sling, the little boy's loaves and fishes and the widow's coins.

Most of all, remember that God has put something in *your* hands that *He* intends to use.  
Will you let Him?  
Will you believe Him?

I hope you and I will, because that's how good — even great — things happen.



Reaching out . . .

## **Pregnancy Center needs your help**

The Grand Rapids Pregnancy Center needs crossing guard volunteers to aid the safety of participants in the annual Walk for Life — and needs as well, of course, hikers and donating sponsors.

If you can help in any way, give them a call at 616/259-1522.

The 2-mile Walk will step off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, at the Center at 415 Cherry St. SE, or in Middleville. For information or to register, visit the website at <https://prcforlife.org/join-us/events/walk-for-life>.





This message  
from Pastor Bob Manuel

*‘Are you having  
a good day?’*

Are you having a “good” day? How do you measure whether or not a day has been “good” or “bad”? Such a question seems simple to answer at first glance, and, while I don’t want us to overthink our response, some recent “bad” days I have had made me ponder again how I tend to answer such a question. When a day goes south, it seems the Spirit of God often brings to my mind questions such as the following:

- ▶ “Why has this particular bad day (or season) been so hard on me?”
- ▶ “Would a brother in less fortunate circumstances view my ‘bad’ day as a walk in the park?”
- ▶ “Am I wise enough to see the big picture, and, if so, might perhaps this ‘bad’ day be working out for the good my Good God is massaging into my life?”
- ▶ “Does a day qualify as ‘good’ only to the extent that I am feeling good, comfortable or happy about things?”

I could go on, but let me briefly share with you a few thoughts that have helped me over the years to recover from my “bad” days/seasons and then regain a sense of the goodness of God. The two thoughts are ...

The measure of all goodness is

- 1) God Himself, and
- 2) What He has to say.

Let’s consider the first thought: God Himself is the measure of all good things. In Psalm 16:2, we read, “I say to the LORD, ‘You are my Lord; apart from you I



have no good thing.” Eugene Peterson paraphrases this verse: “I say to God, ‘Be my Lord!’ Without you, nothing makes sense.” (Ps. 16:2, MSG) In Psalm 16, David was using imagery from Joshua, chapters 13-21, which detailed the allotted portions of the Promised Land to the tribes (see verses 5-6). The good gifts of God (including a “good” day!) makes no sense apart from a relationship with the God who gives the gifts. In fact, disconnected from enjoying Him, knowing Him, being loved by Him and trusting Him, His good gifts become like moldy manna, hoarded because we forget where the gifts came from (Exodus 16: 19-20).

Finally, to enjoy our days, we must remind ourselves that the measure of all goodness is what God has to say about anything. We see this very early on in Genesis, where He repeatedly says His creation is “good” (Gen. 1). Ultimately, something is “good” or “bad” because God says so, not whether or not I feel good about any given thing or day.

Oh, so much more could be said about this question of whether or not we are having a “good” day, but with Jesus in our lives as our Portion and as He speaks His Word over us, I would like to encourage you to have a very good day!

## CrossWay missions this month



Our friends Marlan and Mercedes Olson, whose home church is in nearby Ludington, serve the Lord through Ripe for the Harvest in Zaragoza, Spain. This year, they are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the El Shaddai Church, which they planted in this area where evangelicals are definitely in the minority.

They labor among those who were brought up in a religious environment that is seen by many as repressive, as well as among those who have had no formal contact with church life.

The Olsons are building their church one person, one family at a time, through friendships and one-on-one Bible study and discipleship. With church planting on their hearts, the Olsons are praying for the Lord to provide new leadership for this growing church so that they can begin a fresh work in a new neighborhood and continue to multiple the harvest in their chosen mission field.

Please pray for:



success in moving from Sunday evening to Sunday morning worship services.



new leadership for El Shaddai and a new opportunity for the Olsons.



parishioner Jonathan, who has returned with his family to church in recent months after a season of straying from the walk prepared for him when he came to faith some three years ago.

**To join the Olsons' CrossWay communications & prayer team,  
please contact Pam Reed or Dennis Veurink.**

## Sudan — Standin' in the need of prayer



In May, The Voice of the Martyrs sent out an email urgently calling all Christians to pray for Sudan, a land that has long suffered under an oppressive regime, where Christians are daily persecuted for their faith in our Lord Jesus:

“Christians in Sudan are facing many uncertainties following the military’s recent ousting of longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir [formally charged several years ago for his crimes against humanity by a world justice system that has no ‘teeth’]. Since his removal from power, Sudan’s churches have come together to pray for their country’s future, even gathering outside the military headquarters to pray.

“This is a vital time to join our prayers with those of our Sudanese brothers and sisters in Christ. Below are three ways Sudanese Christians have asked us to pray:

“1. **Focus** — Pray Christians in Sudan will stay focused on the Gospel during this season of excitement, change and political turmoil they are experiencing.

“2. **Freedom** — Sudan’s ruling Transitional Military Council is negotiating with protest groups about a new constitution. Pray the final document will allow for true freedom of religion.

“3. **Unity** — Church leaders in Sudan are encouraging believers to remain bold and united. Not only is

there strength in numbers, but unity during times of upheaval and strife can be a powerful witness for Christ’s love.

““Pray for general unity among the churches, because Bashir didn’t just divide the people, he also divided the churches and the church leaders,” said Pastor Hassan Abduraheem, who spent 510 days in Sudanese prisons for his work as a pastor. ‘We need you to pray for the genuine union of the churches so they stay united, strong and are protected.’”

In 2016, we sent Christmas cards to this very same pastor, then behind bars. And now, let us join him in prayer

*Women's Ministry:*

*Mosaic!*

*Good food*



*Good conversation*

*A time of  
learning about our  
Asian-American  
sisters*

