



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

www.crosswaygr.com

Taking care of business

CrossWay's annual congregational business meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, following our worship service. Members are encouraged to participate. Folks who have been worshipping with us who are not official members are invited to sit in but will not participate in voting.

We'll be hearing reports from various ministry leaders and, of course, from Pastor Manuel. We'll be reviewing the church's financial situation and voting on the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1. We'll also be voting on elders to serve on our church board.

We will celebrate together God's grace to our fellowship here at Burton and East Paris.

Time to pray

National Day of Prayer will be observed in Grand Rapids on Thursday, May 5, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Calvary Church, 707 E. Beltline Ave. NE. All are welcome.



Photo time!

New to CrossWay? Your new friends want to find your picture in our fellowship directory! Come to the lobby coffee bar after worship any Sunday in May and look for our photographer. We'll be asking for your contact info, too. Then, we'll add you to our CrossWay regulars guidebook!

Now "on demand"



Did you miss it? It's not too late!

Several of us came to CrossWay March 20 to be inspired by the film *Sabina: Tortured for Christ*, produced for The Voice of the Martyrs. Now this movie is coming to your living room, as it is newly available "on demand." Register for your viewing at https://www.sabinamovie.com/?_source_code=EM22D7A.

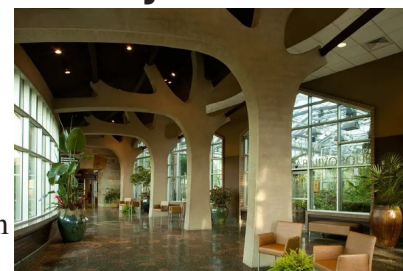
You will be inspired.

Mission India invites us to Frederik Meijer Gardens

Mission India is inviting you to a banquet of praise to our Lord on Tuesday, May 10, at Meijer Gardens.

Your choice — lunch at 11:30 or dinner at 6:30, with a virtual reality "trip" through India to observe south Asia's mission field.

Complimentary admission includes a stroll through Meijer Gardens at no charge. Plan to be inspired.



Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together

Sunday School • 11:30^{AM} • All ages

Tuesdays • 1^{PM} • Women's Bible Study at church

Tuesdays • 7 - 9^{PM} • Small group @ Hinkles' home

Fridays • 8 - 9:30^{PM} • Men's discipleship meeting

Sat., May 7 • 9^{AM} • Monthly breakfasts - Ladies @ IHOP,

Men @ Bob Evans

Wed., May 4 • 6^{PM} • Elders meeting

Tues., May 10 • 11:30^{AM} or 6:30^{PM} • Mission India events at Meijer Gardens

Thurs., May 12 & 26 • 7^{PM} • Small group @ Amanda Le's home

Sat., May 21 • 9^{AM} • Conversations on Race, Session 3,

@ Messiah Baptist Church, 513 Henry Ave. SE

Sun., May 22 • 11:30^{AM} • Annual congregational meeting

Budapest bound



On Sunday, Apr. 24, Matyas and Kate Kondor addressed our adult Sunday School in the South Wing while their three- and five-year-old children got to know our youngsters at the other end of the building.

The Kondors have served the Lord in Ukraine for several years and are now raising support in preparation for joining EFCA's ReachGlobal Budapest (Hungary) City Team in July.

They gave us insight into the war in Ukraine and explained their plans for future service. They are under consideration for support through CrossWay's Missions budget. Individuals are also welcome to pledge their personal support; check with Pam Reed.

Changes in the wind at Bach Christian Hospital, Pakistan

Our friends Dr. Luke and Nancy Cutherell are preparing for a new role with their sending organization TEAM after many years of leading the staff at Bach Christian Hospital (BCH), Abbottabad, Pakistan.

Though Dr. Luke will retain the title of CEO, he will be working with Bach's new medical director, a Pakistani doctor who was born at the 66-year-old facility and has worked with them there for 10 years. The transition is a delicate one, as Dr. Ambrose Emmanuel is younger than some other staff physicians, but Dr. Luke is confident that "he has a heart for the Lord, has demonstrated that he is a visionary, with the energy to act on that vision. He has demonstrated a commitment to BCH and is willing to communicate and seek advice."

Cutherells will also be helping TEAM provide administrative support to BCH, encouraging friends who have come to faith, and recruiting for BCH and for TEAM's medical work in other countries.

New to the CrossWay library

"The real place to find out about the future is God's Word," reads the cover of this 100-page paperback, featured this month as the latest addition to CrossWay's lending library.

This book by radio host and prophecy expert Charlie Dyer offers us "an insightful look at the end times that's grounded not in human fantasies but in the revelation of God."



Check out Prof. Dyer's answers to such questions as: "Are we in the last days right now?" "Is Covid-19 a fulfillment of Bible prophecy?" "Is the United States in Bible prophecy?" "What difference should Bible prophecy make in my life?"

Our Creator and eternal King "wants us to know about the end times so we can be confident in His eternal purposes. With a Biblical understanding of the future," promises the back cover, "you'll be powerfully equipped to live with faith and hope today!"

You'll find it on the book table in the foyer, near the coffee bar — unless someone else got there first!

Please pray:



For Dr. Ambrose, as he moves into his new role as medical director in his mid-thirties in a culture where age confers authority. For wisdom and a willingness to listen. That he might be gracious to those staff members who find it difficult to adjust to new leadership. For a growing vision for him for how the hospital can enhance spiritual outreach.



For wisdom for Dr. Luke as he continues to meet with Dr. Ambrose on a weekly basis and mentor him in this new responsibility.

Offer praise:



That Dr. Luke and Nancy were able to attend a medical conference recently in Greece, updating their medical and nursing licenses and enjoying fellowship as well as academic and spiritual refreshment.



I'm sure most of us are aware of the saying, "April showers bring May flowers." As Michiganders, we know April in springtime teases us. A bit of sun here and there, more "grey" skies perhaps than clear, and, of course, lots of rain! But we endure, as you know, because, as the saying goes, we know that the "flowers" are coming. And not just flowers, but green grass, leaves on trees, fruits, vegetables, singing birds and all the sights, sounds and smells associated with the life of summer.

In this brief article, I'd like to equate the "flowers" of May with the *character qualities of Jesus Christ* we all long to see in our lives. You see, in Scripture we are told to "take off the old self," that is, things that characterize our earthly nature. (see Colossians 3:5-9) We are then urged to "put on" our new self. In the context of Colossians 3, these new things we put on are expressions of the life of Jesus in us. They are things such as compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and love. (Colossians 3:12-14) Look, too, at Galatians 5:22 and the fruit of the Spirit that is borne in us as we walk with and under the leadership of Jesus.

So, I will ask at this point, which of these "flowers" (fruit!) are you longing to see grow in your life during this month of May and beyond? Let me suggest some ways in which you can see a desired flower/fruit grow in your life. For example, I find in my own life that I am not nearly as humble or patient as I'd like to be. For a variety of reasons, I struggle with seeing these flowers of humility and patience bloom in my life. So, what do I do? How can I "put on" these expressions of the character of Jesus? As I put on these virtues, let me suggest five key words that will help us experience the May flowers of Jesus' life. These words are **Confession, Thanksgiving, Expectancy, Submission** and **Celebration**.

The flowers are coming

First, let me say that these are not necessarily words I consciously always enter into. Nor are they always as tightly sequential as I might now suggest. But, as I see the life of Jesus in and through me, these words, in one way or another, are experienced and expressed. So, for example, let's say I am not being patient. I **confess** this to God as the sin that it is. I may even have to seek the forgiveness of those I might have harmed with my impatience. I then **thank** Him that He has made me aware of this. I **thank** Him for loving me enough and being committed to me, that He would take the time to point out the lack of this flower. I then enter into an **expectancy** that He will begin to help me pull out the weeds of impatience and that I will soon, in His time, begin to enjoy the flower/fruit of patience in my relationship with Him and with others.

Submission is also involved as I wait for Him to bear this fruit in my life. Living with expectancy is another way of saying I live by faith, not by sight. As you know, this living by faith is rarely easy! It means we learn to wait on Him, not in resignation, but in expectant submission that He is more eager and committed to living out His life in me than I am. I can be extremely confident that He who began a good work in me *will* complete it.

And now, finally, comes the **celebration**. We see the flowers of patience, humility, etc. And we can even begin to celebrate, by faith, before we see the flower fully formed! These five words describe a faith dynamic that can help us in the showers of April, to enjoy the flowers of May as Jesus grows in and through us.

Brothers and sisters, please endure. Please don't be discouraged. The "flowers" are coming in our lives. Or, as our friend the Apostle Paul put it, "let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)



Celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord



Singing 'Beauty of the Cross' . . . our congregational choir under direction of Sandy Williams

Before the Easter service . . . our beautiful, delicious buffet



. . . and the joy of fellowship while eating breakfast together on a glorious Resurrection morning