



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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www.crosswaygr.com

In the black!

Church treasurer Bob Greenhoe brought good news to our annual church business meeting. Praise the Lord, we're "in the black" for our finances going into the new fiscal year June 1. Giving is always on something of a roller coaster, but for FY 2021-2022, the trend is positive and puts us in a good position for the coming year.

The one area that needs attention is the building fund, which is depleted thanks to the completion of so many improvements to the church building and campus. We expect to publish a "needs" list soon from church chairman Bob Johnston, who is skilled in the building-&-grounds arena and is preparing a next-steps report. Keep your eye on *CrossWay Current* for details.

Welcome to the board!

Our church members at the annual meeting elected one new member to the church elder board, re-elected one whose two-year term was expiring and brought back an elder who has served in the past.



The board will be welcoming Scott Montgomery to its membership and welcoming back Michael Stevens. Dennis Veurink will continue to serve

for another two years.

We all thank our elder board for their stewardship and dedication.



Welcome new members!

David and Diane Tongue joined the church formally on May 22, as did Jerry Pretzel. We are delighted to welcome them into membership, having enjoyed worshiping with all three of them for about the past year or two.



Those who are interested in exploring membership — no pressure! — are invited to talk with Pastor Manuel, who is always happy to lay out the CrossWay story and the

principles of faith in our church and denomination, the Evangelical Free Church of America.



Coming Up at CrossWay Community

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

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

Sat., June 4 • 9^{AM} • Monthly breakfasts - Ladies @ IHOP,

Men @ Bob Evans

Sun., June 5 • 11:30^{AM} • Wedding Shower for Josh Manuel

Tues., June 7 & 14 • 1^{PM} • Women's Bible Study at church

Sun., June 12 • 11:30^{AM} • Summer Missions at Cross-

Way, with Melva, home from Asia

Sat., June 18 • 9^{AM} • Pregnancy Resource Center

Walk for Life

Sat., June 18 • 10:30^{AM} • Baby Shower for Julie Stevens

Sun., June 19 • The Day of the Christian Martyr

Sun., June 26 • 11:30^{AM} • Church family picnic

Opportunities for service

Our men's discipleship program is taking a hiatus for the summer — at least for weekly meetings. Instead, the men of CrossWay are looking for a few service opportunities. Do you have a project that could use a few good men? Or perhaps you have a neighbor who would benefit from a helpful visit by some Christian guys on a mission to serve and to bless.

Contact Pastor Bob with your ideas of where our men might serve this summer.



With the U.S. Supreme Court seemingly about to overturn the 49-year-old *Roe v. Wade* ruling

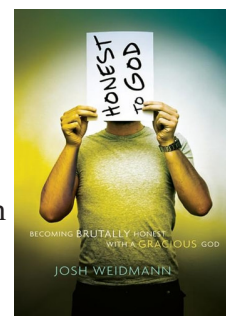
legalizing abortion across America, pregnancy care centers like the Pregnancy Resource Center of Grand Rapids are in greater need of community support than ever, as their client base is about to grow significantly.

One of the ways we can help is by participating in the annual Walk for Life pledge-raising event on Saturday, June 18. The downtown Walk steps off from the PRC office at 415 Cherry St. SE, downtown. Registration opens at 8 a.m., and the Walk begins at 9.

Walkers are even now seeking pledges from their friends, and donations can be sent even without committing to a particular hiker. For information or to pledge or donate, please see Bernie Burt, who is planning to walk to raise at least \$500 herself.

New to the CrossWay library

A 162-page quality paperback book from Moody Publishers, *Honest to God: Becoming brutally honest with a gracious God* is written by Josh Weidmann.



“Honesty with God will transform your life,” promises the author, a pastor near Denver who, says the back cover bio, “has traveled the world as a writer and speaker proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and the truth of the Bible.”

The book shares the author’s life experiences “and practical tools from Scripture,” promises the back-cover description, helping “you identify the lies, misunderstandings and masks that keep you from walking more deeply with God,” leading to “real joy” as you “open up and trust God to crush those barriers.”

Available for you to borrow from the lobby book table.

Review of a book checked out of CrossWay library by Ann Hackney, frequent visitor

Kindness & Wonder: Why Mister Rogers Matters Now More than Ever by Gavin Edwards

As a child, we did not have television. However, as a young adult and as a parent, I loved watching Mr. Rogers.

Some may think, “He is too good to be true,” but this book shares that Mr. Rogers was authentic. His love for children also reflected his love for everyone. He thought all were special “just the way you are.”

He was a great believer in “listening.” He had many great friendships with other famous people. I like what LaVar Burton said: “He saw no conflict in using a very secular medium for a holy purpose.”

The first part of the book tells his story. The second part give us 10 ways to live like Fred Rogers now.

✦ If you are moved to apply your talents to help CrossWay, please complete the “coupon” below and turn it in to the church office or drop it into an offering box! ✦

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out ... Serving Christ Together 2022 • Summer

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in the nursery during service | <input type="checkbox"/> Join Bob Johnston’s work crew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in children’s worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Set out refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Man sound & computer booth during service | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect grounds for repair/maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join a worship team/provide music | needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greet worshippers on Sundays | <input type="checkbox"/> Help lead women’s ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take photos at church events | <input type="checkbox"/> Join a missionary support team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in the kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> Host a small group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide light carpentry/indoor maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Tend the flower beds |



Signed _____ Printed name _____

E-mail _____ Phone (____) _____



Our church family
is invited to help celebrate
the upcoming wedding
of Josh Manuel
to Hannah Smith.

We'll gather for a
wedding shower
at 11:30 ^{AM}
on Sunday, June 5
here at CrossWay.

Find their registry at www.zola.com/wedding/hannahandjoshuauly30/registry



And, the CrossWay family has another occasion for joy . . .

Our nursery is growing! Jake & Julie Stevens
(married new year's day 2021) excitedly
anticipate the arrival of their first daughter,
due this July!

Ladies, join in celebration at a baby
shower on Saturday, June 18, at 10:30 AM
at CrossWay Community, where we'll fellow-
ship, play games and shower Julie and baby
girl with some CWC love.

Sign up to bring food at the back table
in the narthex!

The happy expectant parents are regis-
tered at Amazon.com.

~ Julia Stevens



And don't you think it's about time we greet summer with a picnic?

Sunday, June 26 • 11:30 ^{AM} (after worship) • here at CrossWay
Bring salads & veggie dishes to share — grilling meat & grads' cake will be furnished.
Games & fun for the whole family — & your guests — on the lawn.
(We'll move into the South Wing if weather doesn't cooperate!)



Preaching: A look ahead

order our lives around the Big Story and Good News (Gospel) of Jesus. By so doing, we combat the false narratives we are bombarded with on a daily basis.

Now, as to my second item: what should we expect in our next series? My practice over the years has been to alternate between an Old Testament and then a New Testament book. After Isaiah, I hope to preach through the Pastoral Epistles.

Before this series, though, I am looking at a transitional series called “Your Sermon Series.” What will it consist of? I don’t know yet, because that is up to you! This series will give me time to do some preparation and research in the Pastoral Epistles. It will also help me address questions/topics/concerns that you might have.

I often have folks say to me something similar to, “I’d like to hear a sermon about . . .” (fill in the blank). Or, they will say, “I’d like to hear a sermon on the passage . . .” (and they will give me a specific text). How long will the “Your Sermon Series” be? It depends on how many submissions I get, but I will most likely limit it to the first 10-20 submissions I get. So, this is your chance to hear “your” sermon!

As for the Pastoral Epistles, these are the three books of I & II Timothy and Titus. Why preach through these books? To begin with, I’ve never preached through them! Secondly, compared to Isaiah, it’s much more manageable. Third, I believe these books will help us to “rediscover” what church is about.

These letters were written by the older Apostle Paul to the younger pastors Timothy and Titus. Paul’s chief purpose was to mentor these younger Pastors on how to serve their local churches. In this age of Covid and other unrest, much ink has been spilled on the value (or, sadly, on the lack thereof!) of the local church. The Pastoral Epistles tell us many things, such as what a church should/should not be doing, character qualities of church leaders, warnings against false teaching, instructions on worship and prayer, how to serve widows, the proper use of money, implications of living out the Gospel, how not to reflect the surrounding culture, how to care for one another, etc.

You would profit well by beginning to read these books. Unlike Isaiah which has 66 chapters, these three books combined have 13 chapters. I look forward to both “Your Sermon Series” and these Pastoral Epistles!

As you are most likely aware, one of the main responsibilities I have as a Pastor is to study each week, preparing for the congregation a word from the Word. (I Pet.4:10-11; II Tim. 2:15; 4:2). In this article I’d like to share two things: 1) What is being done in preaching and 2) A word about our next preaching series. As for the first, as I share what is being done in preaching, I will mention only a few items.

First, every sermon is an “expedition” of sorts to help us see and enjoy Jesus and to help us follow Him as His disciples. (Luke 24:27)

Second, I am trying to model how to study Scripture. I preach primarily what is known as expository sermons. An expository sermon is one in which the message of the sermon comes from the message of the text. In other words, I don’t approach any sermon thinking, “Now, what do I want to say to the congregation?” Or, “what do they need to hear?” I want to protect you from my theological hobby horses, but I do want to expose you to what God has already spoken to us in His Word. My job is to discern that from the text of Scripture and communicate it to you. Normally, I call this the “Big Idea.” I am rarely satisfied with how I do on this each Sunday, but that remains my goal and guiding principle. And by so doing, I want you to see how I got my big idea, the sub-points, etc., giving you confidence to study Scripture yourself.

Third, though I try to craft my messages in a way that is interesting, I’m not trying to entertain you. (II Tim.4:1-4) In fact, sometimes a faithful presentation of the passage will lead to correction or even rebuke. (II Tim. 3:16) While that is hard for me to do and for you to receive, in an expository message, if the text before us is correcting an error or rebuking God’s people, this must be the message and tone of the sermon as well. SO MUCH MORE could be said, but I will stop at this.

I will add, though, there are many “voices” in our world today that can either drag us down or give false hope that can’t even sustain us here in this world. But in preaching, I want you to hear Who God is, who you are as His child, and the true hope/life He offers. Preaching helps us live well today and prepares us for eternity. Preaching helps us come together as God’s people, encouraging us as we learn to