



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

wheelchair accessible • www.crosswaygr.com

On to the next fiscal year!

The leadership of our church offer thanks to many members for participating in the annual business meeting in May. We heard encouraging reports, reviewed the church's fiscal condition (Thank You, Lord!), adopted the budget for the year which began June 1, and re-elected two elders and elected a new one to our board.



Thank you to Frank Burt and Bob Johnston for agreeing to continue serving on our elder board.



And thanks, too, to Jeff Lash, for agreeing to serve. Jeff joined the church recently and is one of our worship leaders.



Fellowship directory updated

Our communications team recently completed the complex task of publishing updates to our photo fellowship directory and distributed them via our church mailboxes. The pages of updates, corrections and additions are punched for insertion into the original directories. Pam Reed & Penny Pullen stand ready to help anyone who has difficulty inserting them in the bindings; bring them Sunday morning if you need help. And if you desire changes on your page, let the ladies know.

**You
are
invited!**

The first Saturday of every month – including during the summer – ladies of CrossWay meet for dutch-treat breakfast at 9^{AM} at Russ's, 2750 28th SE. And the gents meet at 9 at Bob Evans, just down the street at 5190 28th, right near the I-96 ramp. It's a great way to get to know each other better. Y'all come!



Arlene Siebring, RIP

A beloved, long-time member of CrossWay, Arlene Siebring, passed into her eternal reward last month at the age of 98.

A memorial service in her honor was held at the church.

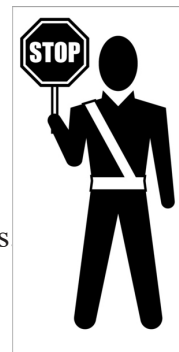


Opportunity to be a blessing

The Pregnancy Resource Center is seeking volunteers to serve as crossing guards downtown during the June 17 Walk for Life.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and able to stand for up to 1-1/2 hours. Time commitment is 8:30-10:30^{AM}.

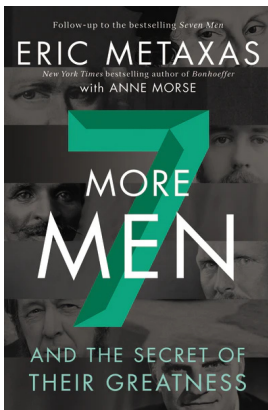
Contact becky@events@prcgr.org to volunteer or call Becky at 259-1522. If you would like to donate funds toward the event, please contact Bernie Burt.



Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 9:30^{AM} • Prayer, south wing classroom
Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together
Tuesdays • 7 - 9^{PM} • Small group @ Hinkles' home
Wednesdays • 6^{AM} • Men's Discipleship @ church
Wednesdays • 6:30^{PM} • Underhill Club @ Marchiones'
Thurs., June 1, 15 & 29 • 6:30^{PM} • Veurink/Le small group
Sat., June 3 • 9^{AM} • Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Sat., June 3 • 9^{AM} • Women's breakfast @ Russ's
Sun., June 4 • 11:30^{AM} • All-church picnic
Sun., June 4 • 6^{PM} • All-church prayer meeting
Tues., June 6 • 1^{PM} • Ladies Bible Study
Tues., June 6 • 2^{PM} • Bless Every Home prayer walk –
meet @ CrossWay
Wed., June 7 • 7^{PM} • Elder meeting
Sat., June 17 • 8:30^{AM} • PRC Walk for Life downtown
Thurs., June 29 • Day of the Christian Martyr
(persecution.com)

New to the CrossWay Library



In a follow-up to his popular *7 Men*, Eric Metaxas inspires readers with life stories of 7 *More Men* and “what makes [them] so great.”

Inspiring bios, layered with principles and even heroism, this 235-page hardback models “the ability to sacrifice everything — including their own lives and freedoms — for a greater good.”

If you are intrigued by biographies of heroes of the faith — or if you want to share such inspiration with the children in your life — this would be a good book to borrow for your summer reading pleasure.

Good news from a friend

Former member Vijay Michael has published a children’s book, available for free download online at <https://a.co/d/8JK3oDh>. It’s titled *Tiger and Pip: Best Friends* and can be enjoyed in full animation at <https://www.tigerandpip.com/videos.html>. (access code: “best friends.”)

Congratulations, Vijay. We hope this book will open a new career for you!



Ready for a picnic?

Weather prediction for Sunday, June 4, is sunny/84° — what a blessing, because CrossWay is planning a picnic after worship on the first Sunday this month.

We’ll provide the hot dogs and buns and juice. We are asking you to bring the accompaniments.



And bring neighbors or other friends to church with you this Sunday. A time of worship and then food, fellowship and fun — a great way to introduce friends and family to CrossWay.

Reaching out to our neighbors



Following up on our recent evangelism Sunday school series, we’re planning our first outreach event of the season for Tuesday, June 6.

Our CrossWay family are invited to join Mike Ward and Paul Samuelson at 2 p.m. that day for a prayer walk. We’ll meet at CrossWay and pray for our neighbors, interacting with them as opportunities arise. You might check your closet for “witness wear” for the event, including your “CW Community” t-shirt. Don’t have one? Ask about them on Sunday!

A big thank-you . . .

to all those who showed up on a Saturday in May to spruce up the gardens & grounds of CrossWay.





Don't Forget to Pray (Together!)

I write this article on Memorial Day. So, I suppose we can exclaim "Summer is here!" The day before I wrote this article, we gave recognition on Sunday, May 28, of Pentecost, which reminded me a bit of May's *Current* article. There, I shared with you a few ideas of what it looked like to wait upon the Holy Spirit for the renewal we all need.

To summarize that article, I suggested we need to engage in two things in our waiting upon the Spirit's empowerment. Those two things: prayer and Scripture. As the Apostles waited in the upper room (Acts 1) for the Holy Spirit, they were praying (v. 14) and reading the Word of God (v. 20). The Spirit came as Jesus promised.

Honestly, I don't have anything new, really, to add to that urging for us all to pray in the Spirit. I would like to invite you to two prayer gatherings on July 2 and August 6. These are the first Sundays of each month. Instead of gathering at 6 p.m. for our regular time of monthly prayer, we will gather at 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary for prayer, after a short break from our worship service. (And yes, we will still gather at 6 p.m. for prayer on Sunday, June 4).

How we need the Holy Spirit to empower us to be the church. Famous Christian Missionary Alliance Pastor, A.W. Tozer once said, "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do

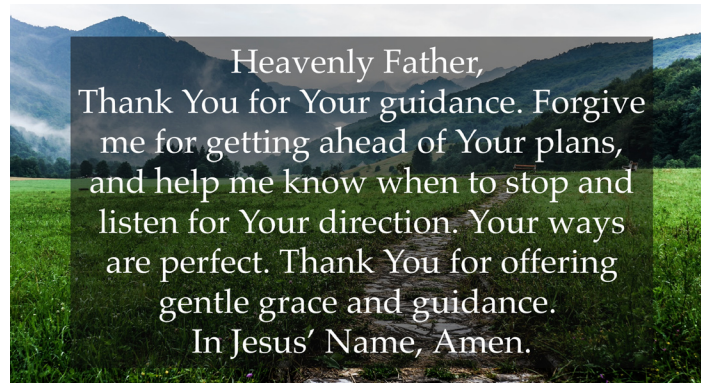
would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."

Now I suppose we could quibble about the percentage Tozer uses, and whether or not he is being overly negative about the church's commitment to prayer. But can I let you in on a "secret"? I don't think he's far off.

As a pastor, I know that getting the church together consistently for heartfelt prayerful dependence upon God is one of the most difficult things I have ever had to do and continue to try to do in my pastoral role. I am not alone. Many churches have given up on regular prayer meetings altogether. Many of my pastor friends would echo what Tozer has said. Should we wonder, where is His power in our churches?

Personally, I have found myself praying more lately. This is not necessarily because I am "good" or even more disciplined. It is because I feel more needy than ever, more weak and helpless apart from Him. Because apart from Him, we truly can do nothing. (John 15:5)

As summer's activities begin to ramp up for many, I pray we will not get so distracted by our "vacationing" that we find ourselves inadvertently vacating our commitment to pray together.



Heavenly Father,
Thank You for Your guidance. Forgive
me for getting ahead of Your plans,
and help me know when to stop and
listen for Your direction. Your ways
are perfect. Thank You for offering
gentle grace and guidance.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Kondors are coming!

Last spring, Kate and Matyas Kondor visited CrossWay with their children Abner and Emese, seeking our support for their return to the Balkans as new representatives of our denomination's missions arm ReachGlobal. They have lived in Budapest for about a year now and have been serving at a church for Hungarians and internationals.

They're planning to visit Michigan in August and will be bringing an in-person report to CrossWay on Sunday, Aug. 27.

In the meantime, they report that they are seeking a fully Hungarian



church, with Matyas actively following up on some leads. They've seen rich discipleship through Bible study, a prayer group, and times of worship. They ask for prayer for deep transformation to continue within those they have been walking alongside even during the complexity of schedule changes inherent in the summer season.

Recently, the couple has helped facilitate worship events in Spanish, English and African languages, bringing new faces into their church.

They love watching how well their children are adapting to life in Hungary.

Please pray for:



the Hungarian church the Lord has planned for their service,



ministry funding and open doors,



family cohesion with changed schedules and upcoming travel.

Praise God, he's finally been released!

At long last, Alimujiang Yimiti, a member of the Uyghur ethnic group, has been released from chains after 5,502 days of imprisonment.

In September 2007 Chinese government officials closed business and accused him of using it as a cover for "preaching Christianity among people of Uyghur ethnicity." He was later arrested in January 2008 and accused of "subversion of the national government and endangering national security," a crime punishable by death.

Alimujiang, a former Muslim, became a Christian more than 10 years ago and has been an active Christian in the growing Uyghur church.

Participants in CrossWay's seven-year tradition of our annual Christmas cardwriting party for persecuted Christians will recognize his face, as we have sent him greetings each year of the event, and the event's organizer Pam Reed recalls his story from many years before at her former church, where the "party" was birthed. Though The Voice of the Martyrs website *prisoneralert.com* carries no news of his condition or situation other than his release, this is truly good news!



It's time to pray...

No need to wait, of course, but June 29 has been designated the Day of the Christian Martyr in commemoration of the martyrdom of the Apostle Paul, according to church tradition. The day is noted by recognizing and honoring the sacrifice of those who have been killed because of their faith in Christ.



You can find resources by searching online for stories in memoriam at National Christian Foundation, The Voice of the Martyrs, Release International and others. Several websites are lifting up the stories of our brothers and sisters, dying in our own day for love of Jesus, our Lord.