



March 2024

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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A crescendo month

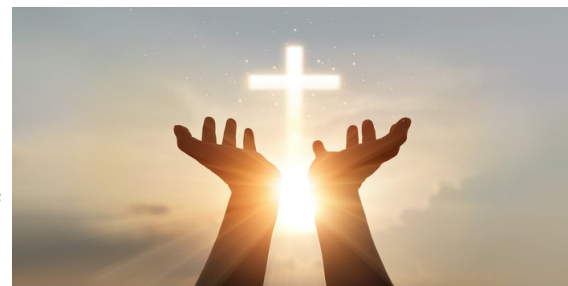
This year, March is a month of spiritual lows that culminate in the high victory of Easter Sunday on its last day.

For the first three weeks, our Elders will continue to lead us in discussions of the spiritual disciplines of our Christian faith during the Sunday School hour. Accompanying these conversations will be our traditional Lent Lite soup and bread common meal between our worship time and the teaching time.

March 24 brings the celebration of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem, traditionally known as Palm Sunday, a time of joyous worship in anticipation as we enter Holy Week. Adult Sunday School on Palm Sunday will check in once more with our continuing discussion of our denomination's recently decided statement of "denials and affirmations" on topics of concern arising from our current culture.

On March 29, we will gather in the evening for a solemn service focusing on the Good Friday sacrifice of our Savior. The service will begin at 7 p.m.

We'll regather in victory on Easter Sunday morning, beginning with a meal together at 9 a.m., before our 10 a.m. worship. Bring a neighbor; bring a friend.



A choir at CrossWay?



Easter Sunday is such a special time of celebration. It's a great time to break out in song!

Our worship coordinators Annie Lash and Jocelyn Ostoich have issued

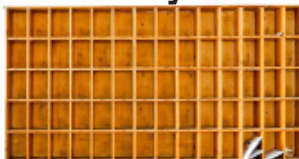
an invitation to join them in leading the jubilation by singing in our Easter Sunday choir.

How to answer this call? Attend the choir practices for four weeks, set for 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, beginning March 3. You'll be given sheet music and placed according to your voice range. Give it a try! It's the most special, most blessed Sunday of the year.

Spring ahead . . .

Daylight Saving Time begins in the wee small hours of Sunday, March 10, so re-set your clocks an hour ahead before you go to bed on Saturday night. See you on time for our worship gathering!

Check your mailbox



CrossWay's administrative assistant Cindy VerStrate has been busily updating our church mailboxes, located in the narthex behind the sanctuary. They are not for members only but also for regular attendees. If you don't find a box with your name and want to take advantage of this means of communication, please inform the office.

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 9:30^{AM} • Prayer, south wing classroom
Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together
Tuesdays • 1^{PM} • Ladies weekly Bible study
Tuesdays • 7 - 9^{PM} • Small group @ Hinkles' home
Wednesdays • 6:30^{PM} • Underhill Club @ Marchiones'
Sat., Mar. 2 • 9^{AM} • Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Sat., Mar. 2 • 9^{AM} • Women's breakfast @ Russ's
Sun., Mar. 3, 10, 17 • 11:30^{AM} • Lent Lite soup and study
Sun., Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 • 12:30^{PM} • Choir practice for Easter
Wed., Mar. 6 • 7^{PM} • Elder meeting
Thurs., Mar. 7 & 21 • 6:30^{PM} • Small group @ Le's
Sat., Mar. 16 • 1^{PM} • Lunch with Denis & Diane — missions
Fri., Mar. 29 • 7^{PM} • Good Friday worship
Sun, Mar. 31 • 9^{AM} • Easter breakfast

Sending Matthew



On Sunday, Feb. 25, CrossWay's missions coordinator Pam Reed introduced Matthew Robles to the congregation as our newest missionary. Matthew answered the call issued at our January semi-annual meeting to go on a short-term trip to our denomination's Budapest City Team annual conference in Hungary in April.

While attending the conference, Matthew will also be getting to know Kate and Matyas and their young children, encouraging the long-term missionaries we agreed last year to support financially and with prayers and communication. Matthew will be communicating directly for all of us!

He's going on faith that the Lord will provide *through His people* the support he needs to answer this short-term call. Please join together in prayer and support this young man in his quest to be a Barnabas to Kate and Matyas.

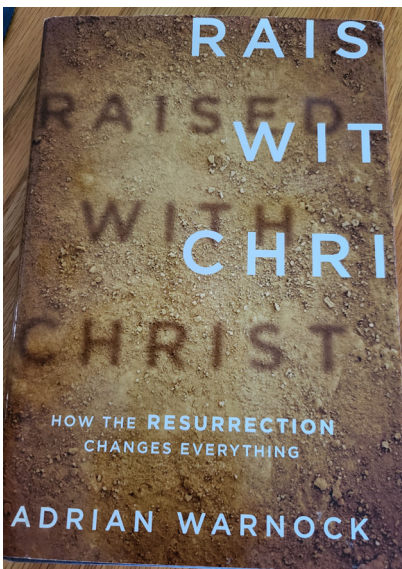
Praying for our Leaders Doesn't Mean Praying for Them to 'Succeed'

reprinted from Focus on the Family's *Daily Citizen*, Feb. 15, 2024

As Christians, we're commanded to pray for our leaders, regardless of party or position. "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people," wrote the apostle Paul to Timothy, "for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

But how we pray for our leaders is different than praying and asking the Lord to bring our leaders' plans and policies to fruition. As we lift up elected and appointed officials in all three branches of government, here are some ways to pray:

New to the CrossWay library



Joni Eareckson Tada recommends this book: "Finally, a new generation of readers has a clear and highly readable book on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ...Christians are in for a delightful surprise as they grasp anew all the benefits that flow from His resurrection — what an awesome difference it can make in our lives,

our churches, and our communities!"

And here we are, in the perfect season for borrowing this book from the library table near the coffee bar.

— For wisdom and discernment: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you," advised James (1:5). There are plenty of clear moral choices in government, but there are also significant areas where the way forward is a bit murkier. We need leaders who are wise, thoughtful and clear-headed.

—For truth and clarity: We desperately need leaders who value human life and are committed to preserving and protecting it at all ages and stages. Strong nations are led by righteous individuals who are not blown about by the spirit of the age.

—For grace and gentleness: The strongest leaders are humble, selfless and gracious. "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant," counseled Jesus (Matt. 20:26)

—For boldness and courage: We live in a time hungry for heroic, unwavering and unapologetic leaders. Despite censors who may want to silence people of faith, or those who champion Constitutional principles, we need those who won't back down or wilt when the woke mob tries to rise up.

—For peace and impartiality: Social conservatives have often been accused of starting the so-called "Culture War" – but nothing could be farther from the truth. For decades now, radical revolutionaries have worked tirelessly to up-end multi-millennia traditions. They're the instigators and agitators. Instead, we pray that our leaders will respect our deeply held convictions and acknowledge the pluralistic nature of our country.