



November 2024

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690
AED-equipped, wheelchair accessible • www.crosswaygr.com • crossway.communitygr@gmail.com

Getting together this month

We will gather as usual for worshipping the Lord together on Sunday mornings, but this month there are many opportunities to gather for both fellowship and service.

Preparing for a big event

On Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 12, our congregation is asked to pitch in to “build the set” for our second annual mid-December outreach An Evening at Bethlehem.



Come around 6 p.m. and prepare to be busy! Food will be provided.

Bringing joy to dark places



We’ll meet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Nov. 17, for our 9th annual cardwriting party

for persecuted Christians. For details, please see page 2 of this edition of the *CrossWay Current*.

Turn ‘em back Saturday night 11/2



Be sure you remember to turn back your clocks so we can all gather for worship on time Sunday morning.

Putting on a pretty face

It goes so much faster when we all show up for the annual decorating day for our church.



We’ll be working around the Bethlehem set and making the lobby, sanctuary, and north end of our building joyous and welcoming.

And then a time of thanks



Plan to join your church friends for a time of praise and thanksgiving at our annual fall potluck Sunday, Nov. 24, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and our church lobby. Bring side dishes and desserts to share. And bring a friend or two!

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

- Sundays • 9:30^{AM} • Prayer, lobby classroom
- Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together
- Tuesdays • 1^{PM} • Ladies Bible Study/Philippians
- Tuesdays • 1^{PM} - 3^{PM} • Neighborhood prayer walk
- Wednesdays • 6:30^{PM} • Underhill Club
- Sat., Nov. 2 • 9^{AM} • Men’s breakfast @ Bob Evans
- Sat., Nov. 2 • 9^{AM} • Women’s breakfast @ Russ’s
- Sun., Nov 3 • 2^{AM} • Turn clocks back
- Sun., Nov. 3 • 11:30^{AM} • Cookie reception
- Sun., Nov. 10 • 11:30^{AM} • Sunday School
- Tues., Nov. 5 • Election Day
- Wed., Nov. 6 • 6^{PM} • Elder meeting
- Thurs., Nov. 14 • 6:30^{PM} • Small group @ Le’s
- Tues., Nov. 12, 19, 25 • 6^{PM} • Preparation for “Bethlehem”
- Sun., Nov. 17 • 11:30^{AM} • Christmas cardwriting party for persecuted Christians
- Sun., Nov. 24 • 11:30^{AM} • Thanksgiving praise and potluck
- Sat., Nov. 30 • 9^{AM} • Church decorating party

Bring your friends



There are places in this world where owning a Bible can send you to prison . . . or worse.

Each November, CrossWay sets aside an hour or two to join together around tables to send Christmas greetings to Christians who are serving the Lord while behind bars. We read prisoners' stories and prayerfully prepare our greetings, completed by heart-language Scripture enclosures.

It's a small way we can care for some who have put their faith on the line and taken great risks to worship Jesus in some dark corners of the earth.

Join us Sunday, Nov. 17, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for our card-writing party. Bring your children, bring your friends, bring some sacred cards, and prepare to make a donation, if you can, for international postage.

Time to bless the children

. . . Overseas

This is the month for CrossWay folks to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. So, grab one or two from the narthex and fill them, per instructions. Bring them back for overseas distribution by Sun., November 25.



. . . In Grand Rapids

Miracles Happen Here!



You're encouraged to attend the annual Gala for the Pregnancy Resource Center on

Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. at the J.W. Marriott Ballroom downtown.

Keynoting the event will be Scott Klusendorf, president of Life Training Institute and author of *The Case for Life: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture*. RSVP requested as soon as possible at events.prcgr.org.

VOTE!

Tuesday, Nov. 5 • 7AM-8PM

A Message from the Director - An Evening in Bethlehem

Thanks to Becky and RaeAnne for all of their work on costumes!



Also, thanks to our helpers for bringing things back from storage: Bob J., Scott M., Pastor Bob, Parker J., Gary S., Oliver M., Elizabeth M., Johanna H., Jacob H., Jon H., Frank B., Michael S., Ethan S. (and to Linda S. for bringing refreshments).

As to timeline, we will be full-steam-ahead as soon as election day is over. (We need to keep the space open until then, as our south wing is a polling place.)

Anyone interested in helping put up the panels and framing for "Bethlehem" should contact Bob J. Anyone interested in decorating can stick around after service on November 24. This is a "many-hands-make-light-work" opportunity.

I have a few openings for adult actors still.

Cody Hinkle



Let us pray . . .

for our pastor

Be sure to read his column, next page.





‘What Shall I Choose?’

By now most of you know of some of the medical challenges I have been having with my heart.

I believe it was in an e-mail that I shared with some of you of two different ways God could heal. I mentioned He could heal with the means of doctors and nurses, or He could heal apart from these medical means and just take the heart problems away. (I’m still jumping through the hoops, and a decision has not yet been made regarding treatment.) I then mentioned I will trust Him with whatever way He chooses to heal.

Almost immediately after I sent that e-mail, the Lord gently and playfully spoke in/through my spirit, suggesting, rightly (!), that I failed to mention another way He could heal. Some call it the “ultimate healing.”

Years ago, Wayne Watson released a song with the title “Home Free.” In the song, Watson describes praying for a young mother who was struggling with cancer. He wrote:

*Out in the corridors, we pray for life
A mother for her baby, A husband for
his wife. Oh, sometimes the good die
young, It’s sad but true. And while we
pray for one more heartbeat, the real
comfort is with You. ... Home free,
eventually: **At the ultimate healing**
we will be home free. Home free, oh I’ve
got a feeling, at the ultimate healing we
will be home free. ... I know every
prayer gets answered, but the hardest
one to pray is slow to come.*

*Oh Lord! not mine!
But Your will be done.*

I don’t share this to be overly dramatic. In fact, sharing this at all is a bit uncomfortable, but I do so to remind myself and to encourage you of our good God and the comfort He brings. Back to this idea of my failing to mention another way God could heal. This is the way, as the song suggests, of an “ultimate healing.”

Again, I sensed the Lord saying to me, “Bob, you missed another way I heal, and that would be for Me to bring you Home to Me. Are you okay with that?”! Of course, as a follower of Jesus, I am more than okay with that. While I have every hope and expectation to make it through the surgery, I might not make it through, and that’s okay.

The recovery part is what scares me the most. Curiously, the Apostle Paul apparently had the opportunity to choose either life or death when He was in prison at Rome. Writing to the church in Philippi, he said, “*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again, your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.*” (Philippians 1:21-26)

While being with Jesus may be called the “ultimate healing,” He has given every one of us the desire to live in these bodies upon this earth. That is my desire, but if God has other plans, I’m okay with that, too.

So, whatever circumstance God may have you in today, please remember He loves you. And whatever kind of “healing” you might need — be it relational, emotional, physical or spiritual — He promises to walk with you every step of the way Home.