

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

THE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER OF CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE: December 17, 2009

*"We are all meant to be mothers of God.
For God is always needing to be born."*

-- Meister Eckhart

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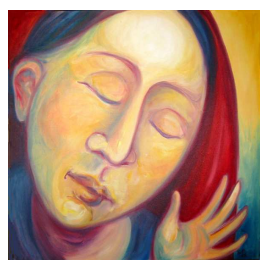
IN WORSHIP *THIS WEEKEND*

SATURDAY NIGHT:

Our children's ministry will be presenting a Christmas musical called "**Mattie and Lucy's Version Births**" which explores the differing stories of Jesus' birth told in the books of Matthew and Luke. Which one is right? Join us and find out! A cookie reception will follow the service.



SUNDAY MORNING:



We will gather and light the FOURTH Advent candle. We will be honored to have as our guest preacher, **Rabbi Bernard Barsky** of Beth Abraham Synagogue in Oakwood (see bio below). **David McKibben** will be singing *He Shall Feed His Flock* from **George F. Handel's Messiah**. Pianist, Dr. Joyce Cameron, will be making her Cross Creek worship debut with an offertory entitled *Notturmo* by **Edvard Grieg** (OP. 54, NO.4). And the **Drama Team** will kick off the service with an original skit written by our own **Jey Ellis**, entitled *The Everything Shopping Network*. The drama will be performed by **Greg Barry, Katy Cecil, Jey Ellis and Emily McCann**. We'll also be collecting the **Alliance of Baptists Bridges of Hope Mission Offering**, one of our four special mission offerings collected during the year. It is sure to be an uplifting and spirit-filled worship experience that you won't want to miss. Come, let us worship together as we open our hearts to Christmas!

ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKER:

Rabbi Bernard Barsky has been the spiritual leader of Beth Abraham Synagogue since 2003. Before coming to Dayton, he served congregations in New York and New Jersey, and was the founding rabbi of Shaarei Tikvah Synagogue in Scarsdale, N.Y. From 1989 to 1992 he was Executive Director of the World Council of Synagogues, the international organization of the Conservative Movement. Rabbi Barsky earned his M.A. in Judaic Studies with an emphasis in Jewish philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Prior to his rabbinical career, he taught English literature at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Baruch College in New York, and Freiburg University, in Freiburg, Germany, where he lived for twelve years. Rabbi Barsky has edited two volumes for the Wilstein Institute of Jewish Policy Studies: "Re-examining Intermarriage: Trends, Textures, Strategies", and "Vouchers for School Choice: Challenge or Opportunity, An American Jewish Reappraisal." Rabbi Barsky has three children, Jacob, Sarah and Leah.



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CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, December 24: 5:30 PM & 11:00 PM

Carols, Cross Creek Choir, Communion, Candlelighting

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STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

Cross Creek traditionally presents its staff with monetary gifts at Christmas time, thanking them for the hard work and in many cases, countless hours of overtime they provide for our church. Donations for the staff are now being taken. Make checks payable to CCCC and mark "Staff Christmas" on your offering envelope.

ALLIANCE OF BAPTIST SPECIAL OFFERING

Cross Creek is both a United Church of Christ congregation and an Alliance of Baptists congregation. Our fourth mission offering each year goes to the Alliance of Baptists program. Want to know more about the 29 organizations supported by this offering? You can find a booklet in the hallway. The Alliance of Baptists offering will be collected at Cross Creek the weekend of December 19-20. The bulletin will include a booklet with an envelope inside for your gift, but you can give at any time using our regular envelope and marking it "Alliance of Baptists."

YEAR END GIVING TO CROSS CREEK

Often people contribute gifts to Cross Creek Community Church at the end of the calendar year. For credit to the 2009 fiscal year, contributions for 2009 (or prepayments for 2010) must be dated on or before December 31, 2009, and must be received no later than 12:00 noon on January 4, 2010. If you want your gift to be counted in 2009 please note on the memo line of your check that your gift is for 2009.

CROSS CREEK "BOOK CLUB"

A new Book Club has been formed. They are meeting on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 PM at the church. We would like to extend an invitation to the congregation to join us! We are now reading and discussing John Shelby Spong's "**Why Christianity Must Change or Die**". Questions? Contact Brad Jones at brad.s.jones@gmail.com or 214-728-6390.

PRAYER GROUP STARTED

Announcing a new opportunity to pray with others. A Prayer Group has been started that will meet every first Tuesday of the month from 6:15 PM to 7 PM at the home of Alison Perkins in Washington Township. This will be a drop-in group, so come when you can. Sign up in the hallway or just drop in. Sorry no childcare is available. Adults only, please. Directions to her home will be sent prior to the first meeting or call the church to get them. Bring a friend.

FEEDING FRIENDS - 2009

Feeding Friends is close to ending our full first year of assisting our community with our food pantry. Feeding Friends has fed over 1,500 people and distributed over 30,000 lbs of food. In November we were able to hand out \$1,400 worth of Kroger cards to 50 families. Further updates will soon be found on the bulletin board.

Feeding Friends would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions in 2009:

- Dorothy Lane Market
- LexisNexis Cares
- Cross Creek Community Church – Justice and Witness
- Diamonds Cabaret
- Voss Auto Network
- Cross Creek Community Church members with 800 hours of volunteer hours in 2009

2010 looks to be an exciting year. Feeding Friends will be able to offer more support to our clients. If you are interested in assisting the team, please contact Brian Worley, Brian Terry or Chuck Longo.

Thanks again for your support – Feeding Friends.

2010 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2010 Flower Calendar is now on the door beside the Special Events Table in the hallway. Please sign up to provide altar flowers in honor, memory or celebration of special people and events.

OUR WHOLE LIVES

To offer sexuality education in a congregation is to acknowledge that human sexuality is simply too important, too beautiful and too potentially dangerous to be ignored in a religious community."

Cross Creek will again be offering *Our Whole Lives* programming beginning in January for our children in grades K-1 and grades 4-5. *Our Whole Lives* is a series of faith-based sexuality education programs for six age groups. The resources were written by professional sexuality educators in conjunction with the United Church of Christ and provide accurate information to be used in the affirming and supportive setting of our churches.

If interested in this program, please sign-up (in the church hallway) for the **mandatory** parent/child orientation to be held on Sunday, January 10th from 12:30-2:30 pm. **Bring your brown bag or carry-in lunch.** Drinks and dessert will be provided. This meeting will give you vital information and answer all of your questions and at the conclusion you will be invited to register your child for the program. You must be present at the meeting or speak to Sue Voisard, program coordinator, prior to the meeting to register your child. *The elementary classes for Our Whole Lives will not be offered again until 2012.*

The 8-week session for children in grades K-1 and grades 4-5 will be held on Thursday evenings at the church from 6:00-7:00 PM from January 28th through March 25th (there will be no session on Thursday, February 18th). Each class will be led by Cross Creek members (one male and one female) who have been specially trained as facilitators for this program. For more information or to review the curriculum prior to the orientation, please contact Sue Voisard, Director of Spiritual Formation.

TENTH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR BREAKFAST

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Battin, Interfaith Campus Minister at Sinclair Community College and member of Cross Creek Community Church, will speak at the Centerville-Washington Diversity Council's breakfast in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The breakfast takes place at 7:30 AM Monday, January 18, at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace, 10000 Yankee St.

Battin will speak on the topic, "Tree House to World House," based on a chapter found in King's book, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?" In it, King calls us to transcend tribe, race, class, nation and religion to embrace the vision of a World House. The "World House" chapter is based on King's Nobel Peace Prize lecture, delivered in 1964 at the University of Oslo. He worked nearly a month on the lecture and may well have regarded it as his most important single speech or essay.

Sharon Howard, Executive Director of Community and Public Relations for WDTN-TV, will return as moderator. Following the breakfast, participants are encouraged to join the city-wide march to Courthouse Square for the Dayton area's annual MLK Day celebration. Tickets are \$12 and reservations are required. Call the City of Centerville at 433-7151.



CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH – UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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