

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

THE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER
CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
March 12, 2010



ALERT!

The time changes this weekend.

What do you have to do to make the time spring forward?

If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, if you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places - firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.

-- Isaiah 58: 9b -12

IN WORSHIP *THIS WEEKEND*



The Lenten theme is **LIKE A WATERED GARDEN: LIVING INTO THE PROMISE OF LENT**. For this fourth weekend of Lent the **prompting**, entitled "Feasting from the Garden," will be offered by **Pastor Mike Castle**. **Kenny Roaden** will sing "Resurrection."

Tess Little, local artist/ sculptor who created **Filled with Spirit**, the sculpture that is serving as the focal for our Lenten worship services will bring her **Artist Testimony** this weekend in worship.

This Sunday's One Great Hour of Sharing offering supports international programs of health, education, agricultural development, worldwide disaster relief efforts and refugee assistance. There will be special envelopes in the bulletins or place your offering in your regular envelope and mark it "One Great Hour of Sharing."



REMINDER: Easter Lily orders (\$10 per plant) are due by March 21st. These plants that will decorate the church on Easter weekend may be given in honor or memory of someone special to you. Please use your offering envelope, clearly designating the amount for lilies.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION THIS WEEK....

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING UP FOR LENT?

It's Lent...the season that represents a solemn reminder of the suffering and sacrifices of Jesus and ends with the glorious celebration of Everlasting Life and Unconditional Love. A hundred years ago when I was striving to be a good little Catholic girl in a navy blue uniform, this was, to me, the season of GUILT. Not that guilt wasn't an ample part of most of my Catholic experiences, but this season, above all others, gave the nuns and priests the perfect setting to remind us of all the things we needed to feel guilty about—and it started with the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?"

Now, I can honestly say, I tried very hard—at least as a young child—to do as we were told and give up something of pleasure for the duration of Lent. It was explained that we were to "suffer" so we could more appreciate the suffering of Jesus. The emphasis was always to "suffer". Now, even as a very young child, I really couldn't fathom how my "suffering" by not eating candy or cake had anything remotely whatsoever to do with the incomprehensible suffering that was imposed upon Jesus. I would have every intention of being "good" and giving up something. I gave up candy...that lasted until my brother had a candy bar and offered me a piece. I gave up cake, but my sister's March birthday always snaffed those plans. I tried to give up TV, but Mickey Mouse and the Lone Ranger were just too big a temptation. So I usually failed and the black marks on my little soul just kept piling up.

Now here I am, happy to be part of Cross Creek but every year a voice from my Catholic past asks, "What are you giving up for Lent?" I usually dismiss it as ancient Catholic gibberish...except THIS year...THIS year is different. Because this year at Cross Creek "UP" has a new meaning!! "UP" is the theme of our Service Auction! I've decided to bring the old question to my new faith family and ask, "Hey, Cross Creek, what are you giving UP for lent?" We chose the "UP" theme because of the delightful movie, but also because we need to support our community and RAISE our budget and RAISE money for the balloon payment fund.

The Service Auction is a wonderful way to look into your heart at your God-given talents, ideas, skills, imagination and energy and pull from that something you can give of yourself to your Church Community in the spirit of the holy season of Lent. Donations from the last Service Auction included dog sitting, car washing, teaching a class, singing a song, hosting a dinner, baking a pie a month...the possibilities are endless!

It's Lent...a holy season of sacrifice and love leading to the very foundation of our Christian faith, a celebration of Everlasting Life and Unconditional Love! Instead of a guilt trip, we're asking you to join your church family in tapping into YOUR life force, YOUR uniqueness, YOUR God-connection. Give UP something of yourself for Lent and celebrate Everlasting Life and Unconditional Love! Forms for donations are on the Activity Table or on the church website at www.crosscreekchurch.org. Between now and Easter, during this season of introspection and seed planting—what are YOU giving UP for Lent, Cross Creek?

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Sue Voisard and her family in the death of her brother, Rich Voisard, from cancer. Rich passed away on Wednesday morning at 11:40 AM at his home in Middletown. There will be a simple receiving time and memorial service on Tuesday evening, March 16, in Middletown. Cards may be sent to Sue at 7876 Millerton Drive, Centerville, Ohio 45459.

Joyce Williams and her family in the unexpected death of her brother-in-law in Cleveland last week. Cards may be sent to Joyce at 2580 Cross Village Drive, Miamisburg, Ohio 45342.

Garrett Broughton in the unexpected death of his sister-in-law this past Sunday. Cards may be sent to Garrett at 533 Crawley Run, Apt. 205, Centerville, Ohio 45458.

Bev Grzymala as she faces another cancer surgery on March 31 at the James Cancer hospital. The cancer in her colon has now spread to her liver. Surgeons plan to remove 10-20% of her liver. She will be in the hospital for 5-7 days, will need approximately 4 weeks for recovery, followed by a year of chemotherapy. Cards of care may be sent to Bev at PO Box 119, South Vienna, Ohio 45369-0119.

UPCOMING EVENTS

REMEMBER: Everyone is encouraged to check out Cross Creek's complete events calendar online at www.crosscreekchurch.org.

EASTER EGGS-STRAVAGANZA 2010 -- Saturday, April 3

Cross Creek's annual Eggs-stravaganza, for infants through second grade children and their families will take place Saturday, April 3, from **10:30 AM to Noon**. Tickets are \$3.00 and friends are welcome. There will be an Easter egg hunt with prizes and entertainment by Jonathan Heart "The Origami Wizard". Tickets on sale now at the events table. Get yours today!

IT'S WORK-SHIP TIME AGAIN The Cross Creek congregation continues our Easter celebration with Work-ship services the weekend of **April 10-11**. We will gather at tables and together prepare grooming kits for the families who come to our Feeding Friends food pantry. Because we are doing grooming kits again, many of the supplies will be the same as for our last Work-ship for ARC Ohio, and we will again be filling one gallon zip-lock baggies. All the needed items are available at "dollar" stores. Check out the display in the hall, and take the flyer in your bulletin with you as a shopping reminder.

THERE'S NO WHERE TO GO BUT "UP!" on May 1, 2010!! What's "UP!?" you ask.

"UP!" is the theme for our 2010 Service Auction. "UP!" will raise funds for our budget AND our Balloon Payment. "UP!" will be LOTS OF FUN! Mark the date!! Donate a service!! Details available at the Activity Table and at our website <http://www.crosscreekchurch.org>. Plan to be there!

MORE IAF LISTENING SESSIONS

So many times we take a look around our communities and think, "I would really like to change _____." The Cross Creek Industrialized Areas Foundation (IAF) team would like to invite you to come to one of our upcoming listening sessions to discuss the Greater Dayton region, its challenges, and possible solutions. Listening sessions are a great way to get to build relationships with your fellow church members, and provide valuable feedback for this grassroots organization.

Sessions will last about one hour, and are limited to 10 participants. Sign up sheets are located at the Events Table. For more information, talk to one of the Cross Creek IAF team members, or contact Bill Youngkin at wyoungkin@woh.rr.com or (937)-223-8474.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Sunday, March 21, @ 12:30 PM led by Lynne Wise and Brad Jones at Cross Creek
(child care & lunch snacks provided)
- Monday, March 29, @ 7:00 PM led by Nikki Hammes and Bill Youngkin at Cross Creek

QUARTERLY JUSTICE & WITNESS MEETING

The Justice & Witness Ministry will meet on **Monday, March 29th**, from 7:00 - 8:30 PM, at Cross Creek. We'll make decisions about first quarter Local Mission Giving, get update on our teams' activities and make final plans for the Good Friday Walk for Justice and Peace. Whether you're a regular participant on a Justice and Witness team, interested in finding opportunities to work with us for justice, or just curious about what we're up to, you're welcome to attend!

DREAMING OF SUN AND FUN-FILLED SUMMER DAYS....

You'll notice that the **2010 summer camp** inserts are in the bulletin this weekend. The Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ offers an amazing selection of summer camps for both adults and kids at our two beautiful outdoor ministry facilities in Ohio! Consider all of the different experiences and opportunities for this summer!! For more information, see the detailed pamphlets in the church hallway. You can register online at www.ocucc.org or call them direct at 1-800-282-0740. Members of our church family (talk to Sue Voisard or Haley and Brice Donegia!) have experienced these camps firsthand and found them to be wonderful, safe, well-organized and inspirational! Check them out for yourself!

IN THE COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MARCH OF DIMES MARCH FOR BABIES

Did you know that 1 in 8 babies is born prematurely? The March for Babies is the March of Dimes biggest fundraiser – raising almost \$300K in Dayton in 2009 – and volunteers are needed for the day of the event. Multiple times and opportunities are available to fit into your schedule. Groups are also encouraged to volunteer. Each volunteer will receive a free t-shirt, and most importantly, will be doing real work to end prematurity in our area and throughout Ohio.

The March will be held **Saturday, April 24, 2010** at Carillon Park. Volunteers are needed from 6 AM until noon. Shifts generally last 2 hours, and assignments vary (running game booths for kids, set up, tear down, parking, crossing guards, Taste of Walk booths, etc.) For more information or to hear the Hammes family prematurity tale, please contact Nikki Hammes at harter.hammes@gmail.com or 937-307-0248.

EQUALITY OHIO GATHERING FOR GREATER DAYTON -- Friday, March 19 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to join the Boards of Directors for Equality Ohio and Equality Ohio Education Fund for a fun night of learning more about Equality Ohio and supporting its important work in our state. It is at EL MESON Restaurant in West Carrollton with owners Bill Castro and Mark Abbott being our hosts!

We'll be introducing our new executive director, Sue Doerfer. Come meet her and let her meet you! We'll also be recognizing Miami Valley Ohio House of Representatives who helped pass the Equal Housing and Employment Act (HB 176) this past September. Peggy Lehner (R), Ross McGregor (R), and Roland Winburn (D) have all committed to be present. So please, join us in thanking them for their important support!

Please register by March 16 at http://eqfed.org/equalityohio/events/El_Meson_Registration/details.tcl. \$75.00 (includes food, non-alcoholic beverages plus \$35 membership to Equality Ohio. Cash Bar Available.) If you have any questions, please call Mike Castle at 937-434-4580 x14 or email him at MDCastle@aol.com.

CENTERVILLE WASHINGTON DIVERSITY COUNCIL PRESENTS.....

CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY: IRAN -- Forum on March 25, 7-8:30 PM

Our guest speaker, Melody Moezzi, grew up mostly in Dayton, Ohio (graduated from Centerville High School) amid a strong and vibrant Iranian-American Diaspora. She is a writer, speaker, activist, author and attorney. Her first book, *War on Error: Real Stories of American Muslims*, earned her a Georgia Author of the Year Award and a Gustavus Myers Center for Bigotry and Human Rights Honorable Mention. Moezzi is a commentator for National Public Radio's All Things Considered and for Georgia Public Broadcasting's Georgia Gazette. At this Forum, Moezzi will relate general background information about Iran and about their culture. She will also relate her experiences growing up here as an Arab-American. The forum will be held at Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8690 Yankee Street, Centerville

CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY: AFGHANISTAN -- Forum on April 22, 7-8:30 PM

Our guest speaker, Jaro Bilocerkowycz, is an author and professor of political science specializing in national security and global politics at The University of Dayton. He has written numerous articles for the World Book Encyclopedia and is author of the book *Soviet Ukrainian Dissent*. He covers Afghanistan in courses on international relations, global politics, nationalism and ethno politics, and US national security. The forum will be held at Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8690 Yankee Street, Centerville.

Lent: 2010

LIKE A WATERED GARDEN: LIVING INTO THE PROMISE OF LENT

March 20-21 Fifth Weekend in Lent: *Carrying the Seed* Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8
Guest Pianist: **Zach Ruppel**

March 27-28 Palm Sunday: *Out of the Garden and Into the Streets*

Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Lk 19:28-40

April 1 Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM *Agony in the Garden*

**Childcare provided for Children who are pre-Kindergarten.*

April 2 Good Friday – 7:00 PM *A Garden of Horrors*

**Childcare provided for Children who are pre-Kindergarten.*

April 3-4 EASTER: *Now the Green Blade Rises*

**Cross Creek Choir Sings. ** Communion Served at all weekend worship services.*

Liturgy Planning Team for Lent: Barbara Battin, Kathy Swenson, Tom Harry

THANK OFFERING FOR TESS LITTLE

We are collecting a free-will love offering for Tess Little as a way of thanking her for sharing her art with us this season. She has not asked us for anything and she is thrilled to be able to share her art with us. However, we want to respond in gratitude and deep appreciation. You can give by marking your envelope "Tess Little Offering" or place your offerings in the container near the Usher Table. All gifts are tax deductible.