

# THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

THE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER  
CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
APRIL 30, 2010

## GOD IN A BOX

“Living God,” we say,  
even as we bury you  
deep within the leaves  
of sacred texts, as if  
you suddenly stopped speaking  
when the canon was closed.

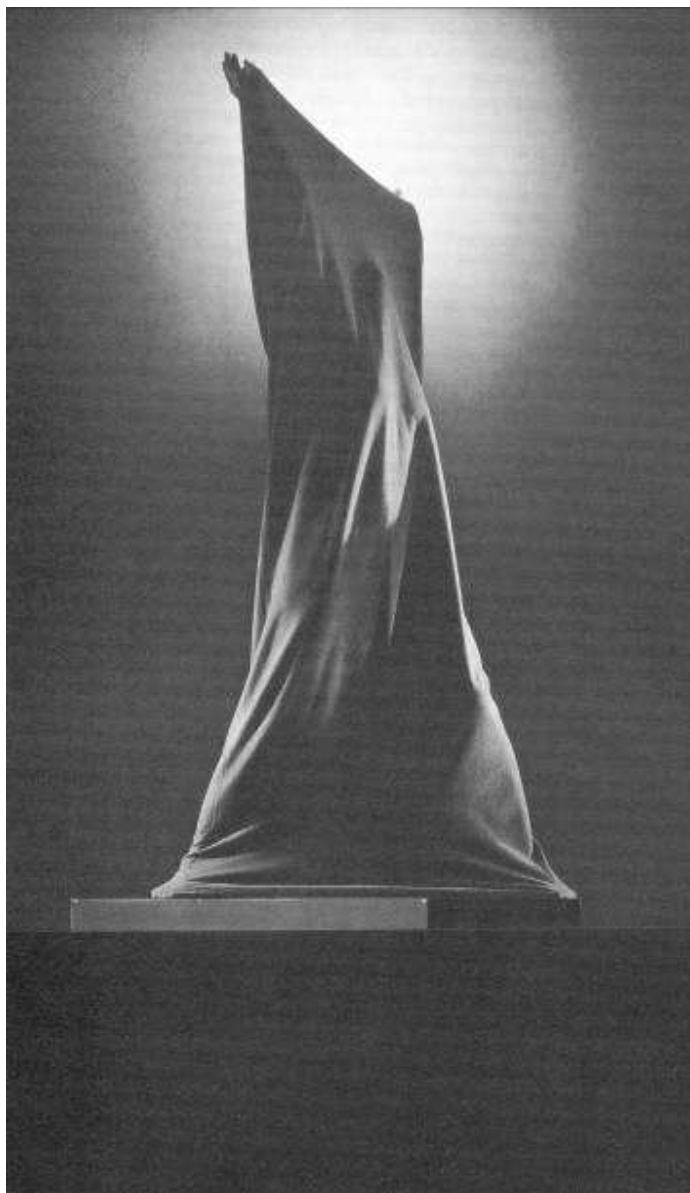
“Living God,” we pray,  
even as we confine  
you in a box—the ever  
present vault of “I believe...”  
“*This*,” we say, “I believe!  
But *only* this—no more.”

“Living God,” we pray,  
even as we block our minds  
to change, to things that challenge  
and threaten your release  
from printed pages and cultural cages  
in which we’d have you stay.

“Living God,” we say,  
even as we turn away  
from folks to whom our minds  
and doors are barricaded.  
To let you out—to let *them* in—  
our hearts would have to melt.

Great Living God—we *pay*  
with bound-up, boxed-in lives  
for our closed-mindedness.  
Help us to think outside the box.  
Help us to live without the locks  
that separate “us” from “them”  
—us from you.

*By Rev. Dr. B. Kathleen Famin, October 22, 1997*



Photograph by Edward Steichen. From: *Steichen, A Life in Photography*

## ON SATURDAY NIGHT

The **Cross Creek Service Auction** will be held this Saturday, May 1 at 6:30 - 9:00 PM. There **will not be a worship service on Saturday** evening. If you've signed up for the Service Auction, we'll see you there.



## IN WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

The prompting, "**NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES: A People of Justice and Equality**" will be offered by **Pastor Mike**. **Special Music** by **Mark Kennedy** and **Brian Lanham**. **Communion** will be served.

Scripture: Acts 11: 1-18

## PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for.....

**Katherine Wilder and her partner, Patricia Lemmons**, in the passing of Kat's mother on Thursday, April 22 and her step-father, who she called "dad" for 40 years, on Sunday, April 25. Cards can be sent to: 306 Clark Street, Middletown, OH 45042

**Ann Mourouzis** was able to return home from rehab on Tuesday, April 27.

**Aaron Saari**, whose girlfriend's father is fighting lymphoma cancer.

**Gideon Castle**, who is doing well after a bad case of hand-foot-mouth disease.

### PRAYER GROUP -- May 4 at 6:15 - 7 PM

**Bring a friend!**

This drop-in adult group meets at the home of Alison Perkins in Washington Twp. Directions can be obtained by calling the church or by sending an e-mail to [prayergroup.cccc@gmail.com](mailto:prayergroup.cccc@gmail.com).

### Emergency Fund

- The **Emergency Fund offering**, normally collected the first weekend of the month, will be collected on 5/8-5/9 due to the Service Auction on 5/1.
- Given our challenging economic times, our Emergency Fund needs replenishing. If you can afford to give anything extra, please include it in your offering, designating it "Emergency Fund," or put something in the Emergency Fund pillar during the 5/8-5/9 worship services.
- Money from our Emergency Fund goes to help folks facing financial challenges such as shortfalls in rent or utilities or unexpected medical bills or car repairs. Assistance is for folks within the Cross Creek community and is limited to no more than once per year.
- People seeking assistance can contact either Pastor Mike Castle or Justice and Witness chair David Lauri.

### CROSS CREEK USHERS AND GREETERS NEEDED

If you are interested in becoming an usher or greeter at Cross Creek, contact Richard Croskey at [dickenns@woh.rr.com](mailto:dickenns@woh.rr.com). We need dedicated people to join this part of the worship team. Come join us!

## LOBBY DAY FOR EQUALITY REGISTRATION AND CAR POOL

It's not too late to register for Equality Ohio's 5th Lobby Day for Equality on Wednesday, May 19th. To register, go to [equalityohio.org](http://equalityohio.org) and follow the link for Lobby Day. All Lobby Day participants are put on a team to visit their state senator, as well as the three representatives within that Senate District.



our state. our lives.  
our home.

It is a great day of action and empowerment and especially important this year as we seek to move HB 176, the Equal Housing and Employment Act, that passed in the House of Representatives last September, into a Senate Committee for a fair hearing during this legislative session.

If you'd like to carpool to Columbus on May 19th please sign-up at the Special Events table. The car pool will leave the church parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

## GET READY FOR A COSMIC ADVENTURE!!

**EVENINGS of July 12-15 for kids 4 years - 5th grade**

This year's Vacation Bible School is going to be a **GALACTIC BLAST** as our young cadets voyage into outer space learning about God. Through daily missions, our kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have the cadets experiencing God in a new way!! And don't miss our graduation/closing event on Saturday, July 17th at Space Day at the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum (event is from 10-3 with graduation and carry-in lunch at 11:45)! This event at the museum will allow us to commemorate the anniversaries of the Apollo 11 and Apollo 15 moon landings while learning about rocketry and space flight through aerospace demonstration stations. **SAVE THE DATE.... YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!!**

## DAYTON PRIDE PARTNERSHIP DINNER

Dayton Judge Mary Wiseman and Seattle singer/comedian, Lisa Koch ("Coke") will headline the Dayton Pride Dinner on **June 12, 2010** at the Ponitz Center on campus at Sinclair Community College. In both serious and light hearted ways, these women will help the Pride Dinner celebrate the 2010 Pride theme: We Are Here! Bound for Equality. The evening begins at 5 PM with an impressive business and non-profit exposition with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. At 7 PM dinner begins and is followed by awards and recognitions, Judge Wiseman's keynote speech, and Lisa Koch's comedy show. Pastor Mike will be introducing Sue Doerfer, Executive Director for Equality Ohio as they receive an award for their work on HB176:EHEA (Equal Housing and Employment Act). Tickets are \$45.00 with an early bird special of \$40 per person if purchased by May 5, 2009. To purchase individual tickets, go online to [www.pridedayton.com](http://www.pridedayton.com) or [www.daytonlgbtcenter.com](http://www.daytonlgbtcenter.com).

Also, if you are interested in sitting at the Cross Creek Table at the Pride Dinner, please stop by the Special Events table today. You can purchase your Pride Dinner tickets there for \$40 per person. Only 4 seats remain.

Side note: The Castle-Carl family will be the Grand Marshalls at the Pride Fest parade this year on Saturday, June 5 which steps off at noon at Cooper Park and travel to Courthouse Plaza.

## WORSHIP IN THIS SEASON OF EASTER

**NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES:**

**Being an Easter People in a Good Friday World**

Liturgy Team: Rev. John Bengson, Rev. Dr. Janice Kemp and Philip Elam

**May 8-9 Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)**  
*A People of who Offer Healing* Acts 16:9-15, John 5:1-9  
*\*Cross Creek Choir Singing!*

**May 15-16 Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Day – May 13)**  
*A People for this World* Acts 1:1-11  
*\*Welcome New Covenant Members*

