

Crossroads Church

a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

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Christians passionately dedicated to impacting our world with God's love, one person at a time.

There is construction in the industrial park just NE of the church. You cannot see it from the church, but if you sneak around past *Toby's* for another 1/8 mile you will find it. It has been going on for some time. I'm amazed at the time spent with foundations.

The holes were dug months ago. Cement was poured when days were warmer, and the ground dryer. Yet, mid February and a building is not yet rising. Other holes have been dug. More concrete poured. Still no new building height. Clearly foundation work is vital!

Sunday is Valentine's Day – a day we celebrate love.

Sunday is also the First Sunday in Lent – a time to be intentional and deliberate in our reflection on our sin and rebellion.

It feels strange to be writing about Valentine's Day and Lent in the same piece. What do love and sin/rebellion have to do with each other? They seem polar opposites.

Yet, foundational to true love is a joyful willingness to accept responsibility for my sin and brokenness. Unless I am willing to admit my own failure, my own stubborn rebellion, and take full responsibility I will never truly love another. If I never take responsibility for my actions my feelings of love will only be that selfish joy that someone else is taking care of me, and making me feel good about myself (hardly living in reality).

True love for another is always based on the foundation of responsibility for the hurts and pain caused in those I love. Only when I own my failure and my sin can I seek forgiveness and desire true reconciliation and give true love.

As the old confession states it: We can only know true comfort and joy in life when we know "how great my sins and misery are". We need to know (as in own it) what a mess we can make of things. Only then will we know love and be able to give love.

A great way to make this Valentine's Day special is to do the necessary honest personal reflection and recognize how badly we can mess things up. It may sound depressing and counter productive. Yet, it is the necessary foundation work that will serve us well as we build those relationships into shining monuments.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Sunday

Sunday: This Sunday is the first Sunday in Lent. We will see how we can get a good start in this season of repentance leading to salvation. The Bible reading is found in Luke 4.1-13.

We also welcome Missionary Dawn Van Hook as she presents an in-depth overview of Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship Campus Ministry here in Madison.

Our second offering will be for **InterVarsity** – InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is a vibrant campus ministry that establishes and advances witnessing communities of students and faculty. We minister to students and faculty through small group Bible studies, large gatherings on campus, leadership training, thoughtful discipleship and life-changing conferences and events. Today’s university shapes tomorrow’s leaders. Currently Crossroads Church supports Dawn Van Hook who works as an administrative assistant to InterVarsity staff.

Join us for Adult and Youth Education Classes after our worship.

Check it Out

Kingdom Kids

All children ages 4 through 5th grades are invited to Kingdom Kids on every Wednesday night from 6:15 -7:45 pm. Snacks are provided for all. In addition, we have a Bible lesson, some challenging crafts and some super fun games. Invite your friends to come too.

Unashamed Youth

Please join us every Wednesday night from 6:15 – 7:45 pm. Our goal is to help the boys and girls grow spiritually and have a night of fun and learning. Help yourself to additional copies of the upcoming events calendar on the sign-up table.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ryan.

Women’s Coffee Break

Women of all ages are welcome to come to Coffee Break Bible Study. Our Wednesday evening group meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:15–7:45 pm. Our morning group meets every Thursday morning from 9:00-10:30 am. Our Wednesday night group will start up again this week, January 13th, and our Thursday morning group started on January 7th. You are welcome to join at any time.

You Are Needed

Tuesday, February 23rd, Crossroads will be hosting the Classis Conference for approximately 80 people. The Fellowship Committee needs help to set up @ 10:00 am and to clean up from the luncheon. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. Any questions please call Patty. Thanks for your support.

Reserve the Date

Please mark **March 5th** from 8:30 am - 12 noon on your calendars for a church-wide seminar on **Making Disciples**. More information will follow in the weeks to come.

Your Crossroads Council

Have a wonderful Week-end! Enjoy the gifts God has given you. Honor Him in all you do, and I look forward to seeing you Sunday!!

May Jesus' love be your strength.

Pastor Doug

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