

## 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.*

I've been reading some poetry lately. "Some" is the key word here. There is no *101 Great American Poems* or similar volume to be found on my desk. Currently I have a thin book – *the Jubilee* – that lays on the corner of the desk and is picked up when I feel a need for a "quickenning of the spirit".

I find a good poet has a way of grabbing the heart while holding the mind. A good poem touches the emotions while causing echoes in my mind.

In his poem entitled *What the Beloved Heard* John Blase discusses what John must have heard when he leaned back into Jesus at the last supper. He discards all the commentator's theories and offers,

*"And anyone who knows*

*knows that meant he was near enough*

*to hear the universal whisper that*

*revealed Jesus truly was our brother:*

*I just want to make my old man proud."*(1)

That is life in a nutshell isn't it? At our deepest level we simply want Mom or Dad to convince us that they are proud. And this desire is, in its most basic form, an echo of an even deeper human cry – the cry of wanting to know God is proud.

And this is the trick of grace – God's gift of His pride in Jesus given to you and me. The eye can see it, but the mind has a difficult time wrapping itself around this truth. I know I'm still battling believing what my eye says it sees in grace.

And maybe that's the trick of grace. Anyone who knows magic knows there is always more than the eye sees. What the eye does not see makes it magic. Maybe what I need to understand is that grace is grace simply because there is something I do not see, and may never see. Yet, this unseen thing is precisely what makes grace so effective and powerful.

Maybe I don't need to see everything. Perhaps the absolute wonder of life is the gift of living in something so incomprehensible it makes life mysteriously wonderful.

So today I'm living in a place I will call safe uncertainty. Something wonderful and miraculous is happening around me, and I really have no idea what it is. And I'm going to enjoy it without trying to understand it.

(1) *The Jubilee* by John Blase. Bright Coppers Press. p.11

## Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. as we continue our series of messages entitled *Major Stuff from the Minor Prophets*. We continue our study of the Prophet Amos. Our Scripture Lesson is from Amos 1.1-2.3 I look forward to seeing you! **Make worship a priority this week – someone is depending on you to share this worship time with them!**

### Our Offering:

*World Renew*: *World Renew* is our denomination's arm of mercy as compelled by God's deep passion for justice & mercy, we join communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation. *World Renew* is often an early arrival at natural disasters such as recent Hurricane Harvey, and a long-term commitment player as they often are still working long after the major players have gone home.

## Get Involved!

### Unashamed Youth

All youth 6th-12th grades are invited to join us on Wednesday nights 6:15-7:45PM! Our goal is to help young men and women grow spiritually and have fun while learning. *Dinner is provided!*

***This Wednesday – February 14th:***

#### **The Truth About The Truth**

*For more detailed information and if you have any questions, please contact:*

**Pastor Ryan Moorad** by [email: crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com) or call/text: (608) 335-2785

# KINGDOM KIDS

All children ages 4 through 5th grades are invited to Kingdom Kids on Wednesday nights 6:15-7:45PM.

We have a Bible lesson, some challenging crafts and super fun games! We and encourage you to invite and bring friends along with you!

*Dinner is provided!*

***This Wednesday – February 7th:***

**Unit 1:3—Noah**

## **Women's Bible Study Groups**

### **Thursday Morning Coffee Break**

*Every Thursday morning 9:00-10:45AM Studying a Coffee Break international bible study “**Discovering the Whole Bible**”*

### **Wednesday Evening Coffee Break**

*Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday evening 6:15-7:45PM Studying the book of John, Chapters 13-17 with “**Lessons from the Upper Room**”*

#### **Get Added to the List**

If someone forwarded you this e-mail, and you are not currently on our church's “e-mail list” but would like to be included in future mailings please send a return e-mail requesting this.

Have a wonderful Weekend! 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