

## *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 thought I saw the coyote Monday morning. I've written before about the local coyote living in the woods near the church. Earlier spottings have been at night. Thus, the appearance on Monday morning was a surprise. Well, it was a surprise until I realized that my apparent Monday morning coyote was actually the old weathered stump in the field next door. I'm sure you are chuckling at me by now. I know I was quietly laughing at myself on Monday morning.

What I find really interesting, however, is that every time I glance out my window my brain triggers the sighting of the coyote. It takes a split second "double-glance" to assure me that it is not the coyote, and the old tree trunk is still playing tricks on me.

All of this reminds me how quickly we attach meaning to events, circumstances, experiences and sometimes even people. This meaning we initially attach to all these can take on a life of its own. Early childhood memories can be remembered as traumatic. Even when we learn the whole story surrounding this remembered event, and learning the whole story changes it from traumatic to compassionate we can still feel traumatized in its remembering. Attached associations are powerful motivators – for good and evil.

That's why the Bible talks about guarding one's heart:

*Above all else, guard your heart,*

*for everything you do flows from it. (Proverbs 4:23)*

*[Jesus] went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come. (Mark 7:20-21)*

When I get the associations wrong in my heart all kinds of evil is produced. When my associations are correct and God honoring my life produces fruit of righteousness.

Together we can chuckle about the old weathered tree stump coyote. There are other associations you and I have made that are deadly. What associations have you made that are costing you, that are deadly? Make a decision today to do whatever is necessary to correct these. It could mean the difference between life and death.

## **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 5. 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:**

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is a vibrant campus ministry that establishes and advances witnessing communities of students and faculty.

## Your Help Wanted

He has often helped us in the past! In fact, he's one of the people who makes worship dance when he plays the drums.

Eric plans on moving on March 10<sup>th</sup> (that's a Saturday), and he could use a little help from a few of us. He assures me he doesn't have that much stuff so it won't take all day. But some of the stuff he does have needs more "oomph" than one guy can muster by himself.

If you are willing to help please give me a call (608.469.0503). I'd love to have you join me in giving Eric a hand.

**Also:**

At its February meeting, your Church Council agreed it was time to consider remodeling/updating the church sanctuary and the kitchen/fellowship hall area. Your Council is seeking your help in this process. If you are interested in helping formulate ideas and plans for these projects please contact Pastor Doug or one of your Council members at your earliest convenience.

We are excited about the possibilities for these projects, and look forward to your participation and input!

## 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 – March 7<sup>th</sup>:***

### **Plugging Into the Power of the Holy Spirit**

*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 2:1 King Saul**

## 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**”*

## Upcoming Events

Dear friends at Crossroads Church: Your brothers and sisters at Geneva invite you to worship and observe the Lord's Supper with us at a Good Friday service, in the sanctuary at The Crossing (1127 University Ave.), Friday, March 30, at 7 p.m. As you exit the service, you will have opportunity to contribute to an offering for World Renew. Everyone is invited to a light supper prior to the service, at 6 p.m. It will be served in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. You may park in The Crossing lot, or (free of charge except for metered spaces) in the zoology lot at the corner of Johnson and Charter; the entrance to the zoology lot is one block south of the entrance to The Crossing lot.

## A Few Things from the Denomination

Calvin Theological Seminary—Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (Oct.4-16, 2018) Travel by motor coach (8days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspiration tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or [weimje@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:weimje@calvinseminary.edu).

Resonate Global Mission—Exodus Vision Tour-There is still time to sign up for the Exodus Vision Tour (April 14-29, 2018). Learn about the ancient Israelite's journey from Egypt, through Jordan, and into the promised land. The deadline for application is March 16. For more information visit [www.resonateglobalmission.org/exodus](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/exodus).

World Renew—Group Volunteer Overseas-Are you a compassionate, respectful, and adaptable person who would like to volunteer overseas with others who have common interests? With World Renew's Global Volunteer Program, you will get an authentic cultural experience and learn about the deep history and traditions that define the life of an international community. To find out more, email Andrew at [globalvolunteer@worldrenew.net](mailto:globalvolunteer@worldrenew.net).

### 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