

California Road Missionary Church

April 2019 Newsletter

Pastor's Pen

Every Wednesday morning, I go to a truck tire retreading shop where I serve as a chaplain. I have the privilege of connecting with each of the guys at their various work stations, and this last week, while talking with one of the employees, I was really impressed with the robotic machine he was managing. I asked him if he had ever imagined working with such a complex piece of equipment. He puts a tire on the machine, pushes the right places on the computer screen and the machine does all the work, buffing off all the old tread. We marvel at what technology has done around us, and we have to wonder what the future must hold as new things are developed. Because of our fascination with what's new and coming in the future, we often don't have a very good grasp of our past. Either we ignore or forget it, or we deliberately push it aside, thinking we don't need it as we pursue bigger and better.

It's not too much of a stretch to recognize how easy it is to follow that same logic in our worship. One of the various parts of worship is the call that Jesus made for us to remember. When He instructed His disciples to "do this in remembrance of me," He was reminding them, and all who follow Him, to remain grounded as we reflect on God's marvelous (and fulfilled) plan of salvation for all mankind. This very tangible exercise of *remembering* is called communion. Here, we celebrate communion once a month; some churches have communion as a part of their service every week, and others only four times a year. Communion is something the church has been doing since the first time that Jesus demonstrated it; but the history of what we see with Jesus and the disciples in what is referred to as the *last supper* is something that goes much farther back in history. Jesus and His disciples gathered in that room to participate in the Passover meal. When we take communion in our services, we are doing some of the same things that were done for the Passover remembrance.

A couple of years ago, we gathered as a church family on Maundy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter) to participate in a Seder meal. This involves going through the whole

Passover meal, just as Jewish people have done for centuries. On Thursday, April 18th we're planning to, again, participate in a Seder meal together. The word Seder means order; we are given an order to follow that gives structure (packed with symbolism) to the meal.

So, why should we take time to remember something that is distinctly Jewish? Once again, it is easy for us to forget history. All we have to do is pick up the Bible, see the Old Testament, and we should be reminded that the Jewish faith is very much a part of what Christianity is about. I found this in an article, *Should Christians Celebrate Passover?*

"In a fantastically multi-sensory way, the Feast of Passover pictures the salvation and deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, and foreshadows the salvation that Christ would work for the whole world one and a half thousand years later. It is a festival of freedom – from slavery, and from sin. It is no accident that the Jewish year starts at this point, according to God's word to Moses: "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Exodus 12:2). This is God's way of letting us know the cosmic significance of the coming events. The clock starts here."

"Like all other Jewish Feasts, it is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ... Passover speaks of His atoning work as the Lamb of God. Colossians 2:16-17 tells us that we should "let no one judge us in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths..." Christians are no longer bound to observe the Passover Feast the way the Jewish people were commanded to, but it is very interesting and beneficial to dig into the symbolism nonetheless. By studying and celebrating this feast that was designed by God Himself, we can enrich our understanding of His salvation story, and dig up all the clues, hints and pointers that He has woven in there for our instruction. He uses sight, smell, taste and touch as well as hearing and experiencing the story to teach us the truths that He wants us to grasp."

I want to invite you to be a part of this remembrance of Passover on the evening of April 18th at 6pm in our church's gym. This is for all ages, and children will remain in the care of their families.

Let's Learn...about music history. Last month we looked at congregational songs in our worship services, including their purpose and how songs are selected each week. As an extension of our look at congregational music, let's learn about the history of some of these songs.



My Jesus, I Love Thee: The following excerpt is written by Tim Challies (challies.com/articles/hymn-stories-my-jesus-i-love-thee): *"My Jesus I Love Thee* is a sweet expression of love for the Savior that flows directly from the author's experience of the Savior's love for him. A remarkable thing about "My Jesus I Love Thee" is that it was not penned by an aged and experienced hymn-writer like so many of our favorite hymns. Rather, it was originally written as a devotional poem by Willam Ralph Featherston, a teenager who had recently come to faith. Not much is known about Featherston, except that he attended a Methodist church in Montreal, that he was young when he wrote the poem (12 or 16 years old), and that he died at just 27 years of age. One story about how the poem became public is that Featherston mailed it to his aunt in Los Angeles who, upon reading it, quickly sought its publication. It wasn't until several years after Featherston's death that Adoniram Judson Gordon (founder of Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) added a melody and published it in his book of hymns, thus forever transforming this poem to a song. As we consider the words of the poem, it is clear to see why Gordon deemed it worthy of wider attention. As we sing Featherston's words we are all able to declare our intimacy with Christ, to sing of our assurance of salvation, to celebrate the gospel, to delight in Christ's loveliness, and to resolve to praise Christ through all circumstances. The movement of each of these themes extends from now—this very moment—into eternity."

Young Adult Fellowship

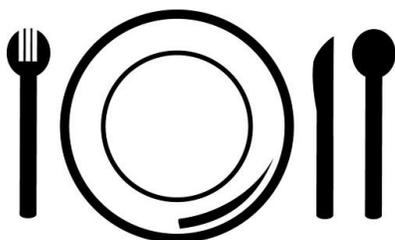
Young adults are invited to enjoy lunch and an afternoon of fellowship **each Sunday** following the worship service.

- **April 7:** All young adults are invited to Pastor Bud and Cris' house.
- **April 14:** Tim and Sue plan to host as usual, but Pastor Bud and Cris will be unable to do so, due to a family gathering.
- **April 21:** There will be no YA Fellowship on Easter in order to give everyone time to celebrate with family.
- **April 28:** All young adults are invited to join the rest of the congregation for Pastor's Pizza and a send-off for Mike and Janis Kendall. More information can be found on page 4.

This ministry trip is a great fit for our church family, due to the reasonable distance, timeframe, affordability, intercultural experience without a serious language barrier, and the opportunity to go shoulder-to-shoulder with mixed age groups within our own team. Please pray for safety for our team as the travel and work and that God would be glorified through every interaction and act of service.

The SWAP team will share about their experience during the worship service on **Sunday, April 7.**

JOY Group



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group will meet on **Wednesday, April 17.** Please bring a dish to share, and come enjoy the meal and fellowship!

Intercultural Update



CRMC is sending a team over spring break (**Monday, April 1** through **Saturday, April 6**) to serve with Sharing with Appalachian People (SWAP) in Harlan, KY. SWAP pre-selects clients and work projects from the community and provides building materials to complete the project. The team will

be doing construction on homes, in addition to "people care" and other needs that will arise when they get there.

Euchre

The next Euchre Night will take place on **Friday, April 12** at Mark and Diana Osborn's house. (Please note that this is the second Friday of the month—instead of the usual first Friday—since the



first Friday is during spring break.) Carry-in snacks will be served at 6:30 pm, and the games will start at 7 pm. Please RSVP online (signupgenius.com/go/5080e49ada82ea6f94-april) or to Osborns if you plan to attend so that they can set up accordingly. New players are always welcome!

Holy Week

Palm Sunday: There will be a skit during the worship service on **Sunday, April 14** as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday: The Seder is a meal that takes place during the Jewish festival of the Passover (a celebration of God delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt). Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples the night before He died—a meal we now call the Last Supper. We have the opportunity to celebrate Maundy Thursday with our own Seder Supper on **Thursday, April 18** at 6 pm in the gym. Children are welcome to attend, but they'll need parental supervision. The Seder Meal will be held in place of that week's Wednesday night meal and classes (April 17). If you're interested in attending, please sign up electronically through Sign-Up Genius (signupgenius.com/go/5080e49ada82ea6f94-seder) or at the Welcome Center, so that appropriate preparations can be made.

Good Friday: There will be a special worship service on **Friday, April 19** as we remember Jesus' death. The service will include skits and church family participation through worship.

Easter Sunday: We will celebrate our Lord's resurrection on **Sunday, April 21**. We will enjoy corporate worship and celebration through music and the presentation of God's Word through dramatic presentations by our thespians (Reader's Theater).

Let's ask the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts and minds to remember our Savior's death and celebrate His resurrection. We hope that you'll be enriched and drawn nearer to our Lord through these times of worship.



by **Wednesday, April 10**. Checks should be made out to CRMC. (If you include your payment in the offering plate, please make sure to note that it's for spring flowers so that the amount isn't confused with regular giving.) Please take your flowers home after the Easter service. Thank you!

Spring Clean-Up

Spring Clean-Up at the church is set for **Saturday, April 13** from 8 am to noon. Snacks and lunch will be provided. The list for outdoor jobs is longer than indoor, but there's still plenty to be done in both places. If you have a favorite rake, leaf blower, or other tool, bring it! We're grateful for your help for whatever length of time you're able to give it as we work to keep up the land and church building that God has so graciously provided us with.

Singles

The next Singles gathering will take place on **Friday, April 12** at 5:30 pm. Come enjoy good food and fellowship!

Midweek Classes

Midweek classes continue **each Wednesday evening**.

- Supper is served at 5:30 pm.
- Emily Silvia leads an optional music time for children at 6 pm.
- The following midweek classes will take place from 6:30-7:30 pm in **April** and **May**: Cris Walterhouse leads the children's class in Room 111, Aaron Grosse leads the youth in the Youth Room, and Dan Bridges leads a prayer time for adults in Room 106.
- Financial Peace University, led by Paul Neel, will continue through **April**. The class meets from 6-7:30 pm in the young adult classroom.
- In **May**, Janice Bridges will lead a series on "Healthy Living with Family and Friends". This class will be beneficial for everyone, regardless of age or marital status. Janice brings her experience as a sister, wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, counselor, author, and friend. We're excited and grateful for the opportunity to learn from her experience, insight, and godly wisdom as we seek to mature in our love for God and for one another.
- Please note that there will be no midweek classes during spring break (**Wednesday, April 3**) or Holy Week (**Wednesday, April 17**). There will, however, be a Seder Supper on Thursday the 18th and a Good Friday Service on Friday the 19th. More information can be found in the announcement to the left.

Spring Flowers

If you would like to order flowers to both decorate our sanctuary for Easter and honor a loved one, please pick up an order form from the Welcome Center. Your order form and payment are due to Cris



Greeters

We are in need of more friendly faces (adults and children) to welcome people to our church each Sunday morning. If you're willing to serve in this manner, please talk to Burl or Linda Hatfield.



Partners in Prayer

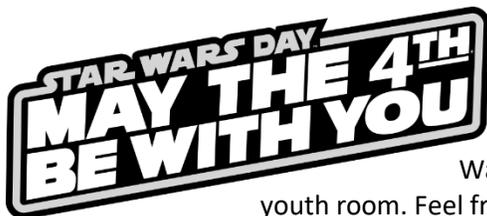


There are dozens of quiet ways that people serve within our church family to help it function as it should. This month we ask that you pray for those who help prepare for our worship services each week:

- Using the words and themes of each week's lectionary texts (four Scripture passages), **Hannah Matteson** writes or finds the responsive readings and prayers that we use each Sunday (such as the call to worship, prayer of confession, etc.).
- Next, **Everett and Sarah Forrester** select the congregational songs. They also chose songs that support the lectionary texts and reinforce the responsive readings, while keeping in mind the other complexities of congregational songs (like familiarity, location in the service, and the singability of the songs).
- Once the readings and songs have been selected, **Kelli Grosse** communicates details to the worship team, sound and graphics technicians, special musicians, Scripture reader, and any thespians. Kelli also schedules people for these responsibilities every two months, prepares binders for the worship team each week, and files music from previous weeks.
- In the meanwhile, **Pastor Bud** prepares a sermon based off of one of the week's lectionary texts.
- Once the order of worship is complete, **Cris and Hannah** prepare and print the bulletins.
- We will request prayers for our musicians, technicians, Scripture readers, and thespians in the coming newsletters, but it's important to note that they also work hard to make sure that everything is prepared for our Sunday morning worship services.

Please pray for these people as they endeavor to faithfully share God's Word with you every week. Please pray that God guides their words and efforts so that He is glorified and that you, His people, are drawn near to His throne in worship.

(If you would like to learn more about the lectionary or our order of worship, there are summaries available on our church website: californiaroad.org/service-structure.)



Star Wars

In honor of Star Wars Day, there will be a Star Wars marathon event in the youth room. Feel free to stop in for any/all of these movies! You're welcome to bring snacks or desserts whenever, but pizza will be provided at noon on Saturday. See Aaron Grosse if you have any questions.

Saturday, May 4:

- 6 am: Episode I (The Phantom Menace)
- 8:30 am: Episode II (Attack of the Clones)
- 11 am: Episode III (Revenge of the Sith)
- 1:30 pm: Episode IV (A New Hope)
- 3:30 pm: Episode V (The Empire Strikes Back)
- 5:30 pm: Episode VI (Return of the Jedi)

Sunday, May 5:

- 2 pm: Episode VII (The Force Awakens)
- 4:30 pm: Episode VIII (The Last Jedi)

Mother's Day

You're invited to join us on **Sunday, May 12** for a Mother's Day Breakfast. The breakfast will be served in the gym at 9 am (in place of Sunday school classes that morning). If you're willing to help with any part of the set-up, serving, or clean-up, please talk to Paul Neel and Wes Rhoda.

Send-Off

After 15 years of fellowship and partnership in ministry, Mike and Janis are leaving Elkhart (in mid-May) so that they can live closer to their children and grandchildren. We'd like to celebrate their friendship and send them off well by enjoying a Pastor's Pizza open house at Pastor Bud and Cris' house on **Sunday, April 28**. Feel free to come and go anytime between noon and 3 pm, as time and appetite allow, and take advantage of the opportunity to spend some time with beloved church family before they move. If you plan to attend, please sign up online (signupgenius.com/go/5080e49ada82ea6f94-pastors3) or at the Welcome Center, so that PB&C can make adequate food preparations. Carpooling will also be helpful, due to the limited parking space.

Job Musical

The musical "Job"—script written by Cobey Bartlett, music written by Aaron Grosse, and musical performed by CRMC talent—will be performed at 7 pm on **Saturday, April 27** in the gym. Tickets are \$6/person and include a dessert buffet, drinks, and the performance. Proceeds benefit the CRMC youth group.

*Note for actors: The final Job rehearsals are scheduled for **Sunday, April 14** and **Friday, April 26** (dress rehearsal).

See Aaron or Cobey if you have any questions.

Dessert Banquet

On **Tuesday, April 30**, the Elkhart County Jail is hosting a fundraising dessert banquet. This will be a casual and relaxing banquet, serving Essenhous pies, coffee, and water. While this is a fundraising banquet, they do not use auctions to raise money; instead, they'll have a simple "ask" at the end. People can donate by check, cash, or credit card. (They can run credit card donations at the event so that people don't have to write their information down and leave it.) They try to make it a fun evening, spending the majority of the time hearing from current and former inmates, with plenty of light-hearted moments mixed in. Above all else, they hope to share how the Kingdom of God is growing inside the Elkhart County Jail. If you would like to attend (we're hoping to have a table of eight people), please let Pastor Bud know by **Sunday, April 21**.



Thank You

From Amie Flowers Shakespeare (Kathe Stowe's daughter):

"Many thanks for the support, kindness and love shown to Mom and Bob over the last several months—especially over the last few months. Your care has been a blessing and a balm. Sincere Thanks,
Amie Flowers Shakespeare"

From Leon & Anne Amstutz:

"Dear Church Friends, Thank you so much for the beautiful basket of flowers you gave us in memory of my step-mother. Thank you also for your thoughts and prayers. They mean a lot to our family.
Leon & Anne Amstutz"

Business Notes

The next Ministry Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 9**. Dinner will be served at 6 pm, and meeting will start at 6:30.



FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

pm and carpool. See Aaron Grosse if you have any questions.

Mayhem

The Missionary Church North Central District is hosting their annual Mayhem event for middle and high school students on **Saturday, May 11** at the Elkhart Sports Center. There will be dodgeball, volleyball, basketball, bubble soccer, bowling, and tacos! You can register online at mncd.org/our-ministries/students. The cost is \$15/students and \$10/adult volunteers, and the registration deadline is **Wednesday, May 1**. The event will last from 4-10 pm, but our youth will meet at the church at 3:30

Heavenly Thoughts

Consider this excerpt from the children's book *Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing* by Sally Lloyd-Jones:

Have you seen a fish swimming? It dives, darts, glides, turns, flashes through the water. That's its natural habitat—the place where it belongs.

And the Bible says we were made for God—to be loved by him and to love him. That's where we belong.

...What if a fish one day decided, "I've had enough of being told what I can and can't do and only being allowed in water. I want to be FREE! I'm going to find my fortune on land!" and then jumped out of the water and onto the riverbank?

How far do you think that foolish fish would get?

It would wriggle and flap its fins, but of course fins don't work on land. It would lie there gasping for air and pretty soon it would die.

How free is that fish on land?

Not very.

The fish is not built for land.

And we are not built to be away from our Heavenly Father.

Carpet Care

We need your partnership in caring for our church facilities and keeping our new carpet in good condition. Here are some ways that you can help:

- **Cap your cup:** Please keep lids on any non-water beverage that you enjoy at church. The church has purchased washable coffee cups with lids for you to use. When you're finished with your drink, please leave your CRMC cup in a bin at the kitchen window.
- **No red dye:** Please do not bring/serve any beverages with red dye (fruit punch, red Kool-Aid, etc.) in the church.
- **Sunday samples:** Please enjoy your Sunday samples in the Multi-Purpose Room, where spills can be easily cleaned.

It is not our intent to be legalistic, but rather to be good stewards of the church building that God has given us.

