

Cross Roads Connections

A monthly newsletter of the

Cross Roads Presbyterian Church

“Where Monroeville Meets Christ”

2310 Haymaker Road, Monroeville PA 15146

☎ 412-372-2226

📧 CrossRoadsPresbyterian.com

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April, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sunday, March 12, 2017 was a wonderful day of worship at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church. On that day, every effort was made to re-create the worship service held 50 years prior, the first worship service in the sanctuary at this location. The worship that day was truly special. The sanctuary was filled with people worshipping God as we gave thanks to God for 50 years of ministry from the Haymaker Road location.

The celebration isn't going to end there, either. The 50th Anniversary Committee is working to make the celebration last throughout the year. They are planning various events to provide everyone the opportunity to celebrate this joyous occasion. Next up on the agenda? The Golden Anniversary Celebration in April! This event is planned for Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Monroeville. Tickets are \$40 per person and includes salad, your choice of entrée: (Talapia with orange sauce, pasta primavera, or chicken romano), oven roasted potatoes, green beans, and apple pie. Coffee, tea, iced tea, and water are included with dinner. A cash bar will be available during the night. Each ticketholder will receive coupons for two free soft drinks when they arrive at the event. After dinner, music is provided for your entertainment while socializing with your church family. If you would like to reserve a table for 8 to guarantee seats with your friends, please indicate this when purchasing your tickets. Otherwise, the seating will be open. Tickets are available for purchase Sundays following worship and in the church office during the week.

Every effort was made to keep the price of the event affordable. We also know that attending the event might be difficult for some. Our hope is to remove any barriers that may keep you from attending. Is ticket pricing an issue? Do you need child-care? If you would like to attend, but something – anything - is getting in the way, please, talk with Pastor Rob or a member of the 50th Anniversary Committee. We want to work with you to ensure that you are part of the celebration.

Recently a friend of mine posted a tweet that struck a chord with me. The tweet was this:

“You don't go to church just to get something out of it. We need your voice and your faith in the body. We all miss out if you miss out.”

I believe that there is truth in this statement. We all miss out if you miss out! Together, we are Cross Roads Presbyterian Church. Together, we are the body of Christ. I am hopeful that we can work out any roadblocks that arise that may keep you from attending this joyous event. However, if you must be elsewhere on that evening, I am hopeful that you are able to be involved in one of the other future events planned to celebrate this special year in the life of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church.

A free community picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 13, 2017, at the Monroeville Community Park. That is the normal day of our annual church picnic. Other special events will include participation in the Monroeville Fourth of July Parade, special music presentations or concerts, an art show, and much more.

Remember, we all miss out if you miss out! I hope to see you soon.

In Christ,

Pastor Rob

Worship Opportunities for April

April 2 – Pastor Rob’s sermon will be “Death: Encountered and Defeated,” based on Ezekiel 37:1-14, and John 11:1-45. In a vision, Ezekiel sees a valley of dry, dead bones. “Can these bones live?” A wind from God works a miraculous transformation. John tells the story of the sickness of Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha, and Jesus’ visit to Lazarus’s tomb. Into our world of fear and death, of endings and beginnings, Jesus comes. Death, our final, greatest fear, is encountered and defeated. Whenever Jesus wades into our fearful, settled arrangements with death, life breaks out. Amazingly, it still does! We will celebrate Communion together.

April 9 – Passion/Palm Sunday – Our children will process in with palms. The morning message will be “God is Present” based on Psalm 31:9-16 and Matthew 26 and 27 (selected verses). Matthew gives an account of Jesus’ trial and crucifixion. To be a human being is to encounter, and to suffer through, tragedies. We humans experience the tragic in personal and social dimensions. And yet, because of the passion and cross of Christ, we also know that God is with us in our times of tragedy, particularly there. Jesus Christ is God with us, Emmanuel, with us all the way through suffering and death.

Maundy Thursday – April 13 - 6:30 p.m. - The Alternative Ministry Project team will lead our Maundy Thursday worship service. Join us at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a shared meal, followed by a contemporary worship service, as we remember the night of Jesus’ arrest and share in Communion together.

Good Friday – April 14 - 7:30 p.m. - On this most holy day of the year, we will observe our traditional Tenebrae service. Join us at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we listen again to the story of Christ’s betrayal, extinguish the candles, and move into the shadow of the Cross.

April 16 - Easter Sunday – Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. - As we celebrate the resurrection, our morning texts will be Colossians 3:1-4, and Matthew 28:1-10. Pastor Rob’s message will be “Following the Risen Christ.” The letter to the Colossians speaks of early Christians as those who have “been raised with Christ,” urging Christians to “seek the things that are above.” Matthew recounts the story of the resurrection by telling of the women who go to the tomb of Jesus. The women go out to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning. There they see an empty tomb. They do not yet believe, but they obey the angel’s command and return and tell the disciples, “He has risen!” For us as well, Easter is something that we understand, not through arguments or reasoned discourse, but through believing, seeing, obeying, and following the risen Christ.

April 23 – Today’s sermon will be “Easter Faith,” based on Psalm 16 and John 20:19-31. John tells of the events after Easter that led the disciples from paralyzing fear to great joy. It takes great faith to believe in the truth of the resurrection of Christ. In his presence, in his appearances to us, in the worship of the church, and in the mystery of our own lives, Jesus gives us the evidence we need to have faith in the reality of resurrection.

April 30 – Today’s texts are 1 Peter 1:17-23 and Luke 24:13-35, and Pastor Rob’s message will be “Stay With Us.” In his resurrection, Jesus Christ returned to us, was present with us in a new and mysterious though undeniable way. The resurrection is not something that originates in us or in our desires; it is an unexpected, unsought, surprising intrusion by a living, loving God. The Christian faith is lifelong training in receiving the risen Christ as he is, as he comes to us in all of his sovereign, resurrected glory and presence.

Women's Association News

Women's Flower Sale

The Women's Association's Annual Flower Sale is here! These beautiful flowers are grown at J.E. Mussig Greenhouses in Zeligople and will be delivered to our church on Friday, May 19. You may pick them up in the back parking lot near the bocce court from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Just fill out the order form available on the Women's Bulletin Board and in the church office, and turn it in to the church office with your check payable to Women's Association. Forms and checks may also be given to Ilona Beatty. The last day for ordering is Wednesday, April 5. All proceeds benefit the Women's Association's many mission projects. Questions? Call Ilona Beatty at (412) 798-0270.

90th Annual Mother~Daughter Banquet May 12 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for a special evening of fun and fellowship at our 90th Annual Mother-Daughter Banquet. This year's entertainment will be an Animal Rescue and Wildlife Program. You do not have to be a mother to attend. Invite a neighbor, a friend, an aunt, or come alone to enjoy this fellowship of women.

Tickets will be sold after church on Sundays, April 23 and April 30 (the last day to purchase tickets). You may also buy them from Martha in the church office until Friday, April 28. Tickets available include the \$18 "Chicken Piccata" meal, (with baked potato, mixed vegetables, salad, roll, and cake) and the \$8.00 "Chicken Finger" meal (with cheese macaroni, corn, jello jigglers, and cake). Ladies of all ages welcome!

Women's Circle and Sewing Circle

Our women's circles continue to meet every Tuesday. The sewing circle will meet April 4, 11 and 25 in the choir room to work on our baby quilts. New members are always welcome to join our time of fellowship! On April 18 we'll meet at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor to continue our Bible study, "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" with Pastor Rob. All women are welcome to any of our circle events.

When We Can't Find Easter

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's *wrong* with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. *You're* okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too.

—Heidi Mann, *The Newsletter Newsletter*

Children's Ministries News

Movie Night

April 1 ~ 6:00-8:00 p.m. ~ Moana!

Join us for movie night on April 1. We will be making boats, eating free popcorn, drinking free lemonade and watching a wonderful movie! Please RSVP to Pastor Lori [child-ministry@verizon.net/](mailto:child-ministry@verizon.net) 412-737-1412 (call or text) so we have enough supplies. We are looking for someone to help with popcorn and lemonade distribution. Our next movie night will be May 13, 6-8 p.m. for Sing!

**All Children Needed for
Palm Sunday Parade April 9!
Please be there at 9:50AM!**

On April 9 we will have our traditional Palm Sunday Parade. Pastor Lori will be away at her sister in law's wedding so Betsy Hughes will lead the parade! Everyone gather in Pastor Lori's office at 9:50 to get their palms and join in the fun! Youth and Young Adult Director, Taylor Walter will assist Betsy. Parents with toddlers and infants are welcome to join us with their children!

Maunder Thursday and Good Friday Services

Children are welcome at our 6:30 p.m. Maunder Thursday service! It is an AMP service so it will be a relaxed atmosphere and dinner will be served. Good Friday worship at 7:30 p.m. on April 14 is a reading of scripture, hymns, and extinguishing of candles. This may be a little harder for children to attend. We will have childcare available at our Good Friday service for age 3 and younger.

Easter Sunday – Only nursery care available

We will invite the children age 3-6th grade to join us for our Easter celebration! We will have some special Easter surprises to share with them for that day! Don't miss it!

J.A.M. (Jesus And Me)

4th-6th grade

Please RSVP to Pastor Lori by April 5

Jam will not be meeting at their normal time this month. They will instead meet on April 29 for the Crestfield Camp overnight retreat!

Dates: Saturday April 29 – Sunday April 30

Leave Time from church: 10:30 a.m.

Start Time: Crestfield program starts Saturday at 12:00 pm

End Time: Sunday after lunch

Home Arrival: We will text parents when we leave!

Cost: \$45/person, includes: 2 lunches, 1 dinner, 1 breakfast, kids from all over Pittsburgh, games, Bible Study, fun!!!

One More Adult Male

Needed For Crestfield in April!

We need one more adult male chaperone for our JAM Crestfield overnight SATURDAY APRIL 29 10:30 a.m. —SUNDAY APRIL 30 2 pm. Please contact Pastor Lori if you are interested. You do not have to have a student in JAM but you do need all of your clearances.

Thank You!

Thanks to all who have been contributing wine corks! We have more than enough for our project and more to spare for another project! Thank you to whoever dropped off all the velvet ribbon, Laverne Lokay for contributing shoe boxes and fabric, and everyone else who drops all sorts of wonderful things for our craft room! Also thanks to Stacey Gray, Chris Sinback, Nathan Phillips and Josh Phillips for helping me wrap rocks for our Ash Wednesday service. Thanks to all who helped with our children's service! I especially want to thank Liz Sommer, Taylor Walter, and Tara Nikou who helped with the initial organization and Debbie Broker who helped with the music. Thanks to all the parents who helped keep our preschool – 1st grade piggies in check during the service! Thanks to Kathy Bradley and Jeanne and Carl Smith for doing the popcorn and drinks for movie night.

Discovery Day Camp is Back!

Pastor Lori is so excited to announce that we have filled all our morning positions for camp as well as most of our afternoon positions! This month we will be sending out information on all the camps! Remember, these are the camp dates: June 19-23; June 26-30; July 10-14; July 17-21; July 31- August 4; August 7-11. Please contact Pastor Lori if you are interested in beginning a payment plan.

Looking for One More Head Teacher for Discovery Day Camp!

We recently received word that one of our teachers will not be able to lead our first week in August. If you know of any wonderful teacher out there who you feel would make a good fit for our program, please give me that person's information ASAP!

Looking for Two More Afternoon Counselors

We are looking for individuals who are 18 and older to staff our afternoon Day Camp programming. One person will only be needed once a week for pool day (1 p.m. – 5 p.m.). The other person would be a daily afternoon counselor. Please let Pastor Lori know if you or someone you know may be interested.

VBS 2017 Needs

Plans are underway for Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School!

In order to keep costs to a minimum, we are once again asking the congregation to help provide items for our craft and snack stations. For April, we are asking you to donate cleaned and washed soup/vegetable cans, boxes of glue dots and glue sticks, wiggly eyes/googly eyes from the craft store, tissue paper in red, yellow and orange, metal bottle caps, flat round pieces of cardboard any size (like from frozen pizza) and empty paper towel rolls. Vacation Bible School will be held July 24-28, for children ages 4 through those completing sixth grade. Thank you for your help!

Cross Roads New Shirt ... Have You Ordered Yours?

The Vacation Bible School committee is currently selling Cross Roads Presbyterian Church shirts. They are 50th Anniversary gold in color and can be worn for dual purposes.

- Purpose # 1 - If you volunteer for anything here at church.... Italian Buffet, clean up days, yard sale, Vacation Bible School, feeding the homeless, youth ministries, children's ministries and any other volunteer opportunities that may arise, please purchase a shirt with "volunteer" printed on the back. Our hope is that everyone who volunteers wears this shirt and can be seen by the community during a Cross Roads event.
- Purpose # 2 - Being proud of Cross Roads!! You can purchase a Cross Roads Church t-shirt just to add to your t-shirt collection. They are cotton shirts and look very nice. You can wear them when out in the community to promote our church.

You can order shirts for \$10.00 each in sizes kids s-xl and Adults s – 4xl. Please note, if you are **volunteering for Vacation Bible School and / or walking in the 4th of July parade you will need to purchase one of these shirts.** We will be taking orders until April 30.

There are two ways to order your shirt: stop by the table in Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, April 23 and 30 or May 7, or stop by Pastor Lori's office.

Youth News From the DYYAM

Word

Word will meet on April 2 and April 23. Junior and Senior High students will be meeting together from 5 - 7 p.m. in the youth room. We will be continuing to work through our NOOMA based curriculum of personal application of scripture and real life. We will be talking about music and "staying in tune with God." Friends are always welcome.

Mission

The youth will be continuing to practice for the dinner theater in May! The play will be entitled MORBIDMAN RETURNS! Practices are on Sundays from 11:30 to 1 pm and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. We'll present the show to congregation on May 6 and 7 in Fellowship Hall ! Please let Taylor know if you would like to help with this event!

Community

The youth are going to be playing Laser tag! It's going to be Legen- wait for it....dary! We will be going on Friday, April 28 from 7- 9 p.m. Cost is \$21 per person. We'll meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to car pool to Laser Storm, 7715 McKnight Road. If you are available to help chaperone this event, please contact Taylor Walter.

Mission Possible for All Youth

Mission Possible is a mission program targeted for Junior and Senior High youth groups that offers experiential growth in faith through service, fellowship and fun. Depending on the dynamics of our group, Crestfield will design a program that is unique to our group's needs. By focusing on mission, participants will work side by side with partners in Christ's service, and working to fulfill Christ's great commission to make disciples. This program is open to all youth who have completed grades 6-12.

The Work to Be Done: Projects such as home building, repair, cleaning, client interaction, processing food donations, and painting can be possible in the Mission Possible experience.

When: July 23-28, 2017 (Super Week)

Cost: \$150 when paid in full by April 30, \$175 after April 30

Let Taylor Walter know if you have any questions or are interested in going!! Email Waltn13@gmail.com, or call or text, 412-294-7143.

Senior High Mission Trip

Where: Blue Knob PA with TeamEffort Mission Trips

Where are we staying: Penn State Altoona Campus

Cost: \$150

When are we going: June 11-17, last day to register is May 7th

The Work to Be Done: We will be working on flooring, dry walling, make a ramp or two, and maybe some foundation work. But best of all: NO STRIPPING PAINT!!!

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Taylor Walter, 412 294 7143 or waltn13@gmail.com

Upcoming Events At Cross Roads

Men's Dinner

April 11

All men are invited to our monthly Men's Dinner on April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our presenter will be Fred Schirm and he will talk about the trip that he and Diane took to the recently expanded Panama Canal. Our wonderful dinner will be prepared by Chefs Betsy Hughes and her team. Cost is \$10 per person, and proceeds help to pay for maintenance on our tractor and lawn care. Please sign up using the form found in the Sunday bulletin, or call the church office at 412-372-2226 to reserve your place. All men of the church are welcome, and encouraged to invite a friend!

Produce to People

April 15

Produce to People is the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank's large-scale produce distribution program. Each family receives 30-50 pounds of food, mostly fresh produce. Produce to People is an additional resource to our local pantry – families can come to as many Produce to People distributions as they need to, and still attend the Cross Roads Food Pantry.

Cross Roads has committed to having five volunteers each month to assist at the McKeesport distribution for Produce to People. Our April date is Saturday, April 15. We will meet at the church at 8:15 a.m. to car pool to the distribution site, and finish our work at noon. Please sign up on the Current Happenings Board to volunteer!

Men's Breakfast

April 18

Don't miss the monthly Men's Breakfast on Tuesday, April 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Denny's Restaurant on Route 22 in Monroeville. All men of the church are welcome to start their day with good food and conversation.

Theology and People

April 17

Our TAP group will meet again on Monday, April 17 at 7:00 pm at Papa Rocks in the Haymaker Village. Stop by, enjoy some great food, a large drink menu, and discuss some of life's most interesting theological questions with friends! Currently we are using a study called "The Wired Word" which takes current events and relevant Scripture, and turns them into through-provoking discussion topics. Please RSVP to the church office at 412.372.2226 if you are planning to attend so we can reserve enough seats.

Young Adult Gathering

April 20

On Thursday evening, April 20, all young adults are invited to gather at Lokay Lanes, 2127 Mossie Boulevard, for bowling!. Please RSVP to Taylor Walter so he can provide Lokay Lanes with a final number. All young adults are invited to our monthly YAM community events.

Faith and Film

April 25

Our next "Faith and Film" event will be on Tuesday, April 25. We will attend a matinee film at the Phoenix 18 Cinema on Route 30 in North Versailles and share in a discussion at King's Family Restaurant on Route 48 afterwards. The exact film and time will be determined closer to the date, so be sure to watch the Sunday bulletin for details.

Be sure to set aside the fourth Tuesday of every month to enjoy a matinee movie and discussion with your church friends! All are welcome.

Bocce Kick Off

May 8

It's time to sign up for our summer Bocce league! Our 6th Annual Kick-off party is Monday, May 8 at 6:00 pm. We'll provide the entrée, and ask you to bring a side dish or a dessert! The sign-up sheet for our teams is on the Current Happenings board. If you are a retuning team please find your name and update team information and indicate whether you would like to stay on the same night as last year or change to a different night. All new teams please sign up on the New Team Sign-up form. Any questions please call Dominic Zappa at (412) 877-4509 or email zap0726@yahoo.com

Dinner Theater

May 6 and 7

On Saturday May 6 and Sunday, May 7, our youth will present a night of super heroes and villains in the hilarious play, *Morbidman Returns*.

Terminus City is ground zero in a never-ending conflict between good and evil as Morbidman, Everyman, and the Master of the Obvious do battle with Dr. Insidious. The plot takes a strange twist when Morbidman and Everyman turn evil and try to take over the world! Dr. Insidious has forgotten his wedding anniversary, and everyone is in need of redemption in this fun and lighthearted show.

Tickets are \$10 each and include a delicious dinner and the show. Join us at 6:00 p.m. on May 6 or 7. All proceeds go toward our junior and senior high mission trips. Tickets will go on sale Sunday, April 9 after worship.

News from Church and Community Involvement (CCI)

The 5th Annual Forum on the Problems of Sudan and South Sudan

Sunday April 30, 2017

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

2 until 5 pm

Guest speakers will be:

Dr. Issac Gang, Professor of Computer Science at Baylor University and an Advocate for Peace in South Sudan
Brian Adeba, representing the Enough Project (a global nonprofit group focused on ending genocide and human rights abuses)

A representative from the Special Envoy's office of the U.S. State Department
Congressman Mike Doyle

This event is sponsored by the Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition, the Pittsburgh Presbytery International Partnership and support from Cross Roads Presbyterian Church.

For more information, please contact Karen Teaman, 412-856-0127.

Congratulations!

As a member of Cross Roads Church, you have been selected by the
American Lottery Sweepstakes Commission
to receive an instant cash prize of

\$10,000.00

To claim your free no-obligation cash prize, call us immediately at 412-372-xxxx.
For identity verification purposes, please have your mailing address and bank account
information ready. This will ensure the expedited delivery of your award.

Don't hesitate...*Call today!*

Disclaimer: This is a limited time offer for eligible recipients only. No award will be released without Management authorization. California residents are subject to an adjusted Equity Wealth Diversification Tax. Void where prohibited.

Criminals and scammers rake in millions of dollars using fraudulent gimmicks like the one pictured above. While regular mail and telemarketing are still effective tools for committing fraud - the internet, email, and social media make it easier than ever to steal money from innocent people. In many cases, the victims are too embarrassed to admit they've been scammed, or they just don't know where to turn for help.

If you thought (even for a second) the above advertisement might be true, you need to attend the **Faith Works class on Sunday, April 30!** Jim Brown is a Cyber Security Professional and will be giving a presentation on basic computer security along with tips and techniques for protecting your identity and safe guarding your personal information. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring lots of questions!

Adult Education for April

All adults are invited to join our Faith Works class each Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The coffee is hot, and the topics are always interesting. Attend all of the classes, or just stop by as you are available. Our April classes are as follows:

April 2 and 9 – Pastor Rob will conclude our study of the Parables of Jesus. On April 2 we'll discuss the Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price. This class will be repeated on Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. On April 9 we'll conclude with The Parable of the Owner of the Vineyard. This class will be repeated on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.

April 16 – Easter, no class.

April 23 – “Getting to Know You” session 2. Help us determine what small groups are of interest to you!

April 30 – Jim Brown will present a session on Cyber Security – please see the details above.

News from Our Deacons

Italian Buffet Success

This year's Italian Buffet was a complete success! Thanks to many hands we served many.

- "Eat In" served 234 adults and 76 children;
- "Take Out" served 56 adults and 11 children;
- In total we served 377 individuals;
- We raised \$ 2,801.43. \$1,400.71 will go into the general mission fund and \$1,400.72 will go to the Higgs Preschool Scholarship Fund.

Again, thank you to the Cross Roads Preschool, those members who donated desserts, and all of you who came and enjoyed a good Italian Dinner!

Annual Chili Cook-Off

We, the Board of Deacons, would like to say *thank you* to our very loving and gracious congregation for your wonderful support of our Chili Cook-Off. This year we had lots of great chili to taste and lots of fun trying each of them. We want to congratulate our winners. 1st Place - Bob Stallard; 2nd Place - Beth Marrow; and Honorable Mention - Jason Steele. We look forward to our Third Annual Chili Cook-off coming to you sometime next winter.

From Our Shut-Ins

As you all recall, during our Chili Cook-Off we all wrote our loving thoughts and prayers to members of our congregation who are ill or find it difficult to get to church. Well, those cards were mailed, and we have been receiving back lots of thanks and appreciation from the recipients. Those cards and caring notes mean so much. Thank you for your time and loving thoughts to our shut-ins.

Deacon Yard Sale Planned

Are you ready? The Deacons are planning to hold another yard sale this summer. Look for dates and more information in the months to come. Start cleaning out your closets and garages.

Church Work Day

Join our trustees on Saturday morning, April 22, at 8:00 a.m. as we care for our facility. Many hands make light work!

Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed

There are several opportunities to host a Fellowship Hour in the coming months. In addition, Fellowship Hours will continue through the summer. Small snacks are all that is needed to host. Individuals, groups and committees are all encouraged to sign up. Reserve your date at the sign-up sheet located in the office hallway near the water fountain.

Join a Small Group!

There are opportunities every week!

Social Justice: Afternoon and evening meetings weekly. Check the bulletin each week for times. The group is reading *Faithful Resistance: Confronting Empire at the Border* by Allison Harrington as a focus for discussion. Books are available on Amazon.

Theology and People: Third Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. at Papa Rock's pizza. All adults are welcome to join our informal discussion group, led by Taylor Walter. Please RSVP to the church office so we can reserve a seat for you.

Yoga: Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. \$7.00 for an hour session with instructor Sue Lomeo.

Men's Breakfast: Third Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. at the Denny's Restaurant on Route 22 in Monroeville. No reservation required. All men are welcome.

Men's Dinner: Second Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome. Topics vary each month. Reserve a seat by calling the church office.

Women's Circle: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. We'll continue our study of "Who is Jesus?" with Pastor Rob.

Genealogy: May 2 at 7:00 p.m. Our newest group, join us to share your expertise or learn from others about how to trace your family tree.

Faith and Film: Fourth Tuesdays matinee movie at Phoenix 18 Cinema. Join Pastor Rob for a matinee film, followed by a discussion at King's Family Restaurant on Route 48. Films and times are announced the weekend prior.

Card Playing: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a relaxing afternoon of card games! All ages and skill levels are welcome. Games may include bridge, 500, euchre, pinochle, and others based on your interests.

Bell Choir: Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft
Open to all skill levels.

Sanctuary Choir: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room
If you love to sing, join this fun group to learn the anthem for the Sunday service.

Watercolor Painting and crafting: Friday 2-5 in Fellowship Hall. Join Pam Price's watercolor painting class for \$10 per session, or just bring your own craft projects and enjoy the company of other artists!

Adult and Teen Craft Night: Friday at 6:30 p.m. in room 208. Bring your own projects and let's get together for craft time! This is designed for those unable to attend the afternoon session due to work or school.

Faith and Fiction Book Club: First Sundays evenings at 6:00 in the parlor. For our April 2 meeting, we are reading The Submission by Amy Waldman. Of thousands of anonymous submissions for a memorial for a terrorist attack, the winner is an American Muslim.

Easter Dinner Food Distribution Scheduled

The Cross Roads Food Pantry will be distributing an Easter meal to the families it serves on April 10 and 11. If you are able to help provide a holiday meal to a family in need, please pick up a shopping list on the current happenings bulletin board, and bring your groceries to the church by Sunday, April 2. Please sign for the list so we know how many meals will be provided.

The menu for Easter includes: Dinner roll or muffin mix, green and yellow vegetables, instant specialty potatoes, applesauce, canned fruit, Jell-O and pudding mixes, brownie or specialty dessert mix, regular or decaf coffee or hot chocolate, and canned juice.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

Honors and Memorials

The Planned Giving Ministry Team gratefully acknowledges the following contributions to our Honors and Memorials program:

General Fund

Given By:

Dan and Kim Shafer

In Memory Of:

Mae Duff

Food Pantry

Given By:

Randy Baker

Lisa Kasiorek, James Roscoe,
and bunnies

Fred and Diane Schirm

Mary Soukup

In Memory Of:

Ada Sue Baker and Robert C. Baker

Lucy Peckman

Lucy Peckman

Lucy Peckman

The Role of the Cross

If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony. ...

To be “saved” requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death — death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. ... This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*

Love Notes

Dear Rob and the Congregation of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church,

As you celebrate the 50th Anniversary of worshipping and serving God at 2310 Haymaker Road, I offer my prayers of praise and thanksgiving for “*your work motivated by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*” (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

I rejoice in knowing that the faithful witness and service of so many people through the years continues to this day. I count it a great honor of mine to have shared in the ministry of our Lord at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church.

May God bless you in this year of celebration and keep your hearts inspired by faith, hope and love.

Gratefully,

Richard Ollinger

Dear Rev. Marrow,

I wanted to congratulate you on celebrating 50 years of worship at Cross Roads Presbyterian – Haymaker Church. I would like to extend my utmost appreciation for everything you have done for the community.

It is truly impressive reading that the church has a preschool, food pantry, center for Boy/Girl Scouts, and offers teens/young adults/senior programming. Your parish has demonstrated such compassion, and made such a positive impact not only within your community, but internationally with your involvement in the ministries.

Once again, congratulations, and thank you for everything you have done for the citizens for Allegheny County.

Sincerely,

John K. Weinstein

Allegheny County Treasurer

Dear members of Cross Roads Church,

Thank you for organizing the Meager Meal Soup Day and sharing the profits with us. It was a pleasure meeting and working with you. We received \$59.20 on 2/7/17 and will use it to assist the needy.

The Ladies of Charity

St. Bernadette Parish

Worship Attendance at Cross Roads

February 26	170
March 5	183
March 12 (50 th Anniversary)	219
March 19	144

Notes from the Church Office

Articles for the May issue of the Cross Roads Connections are due in the church office by Wednesday, **April 19**. Articles may be emailed to the church at:

CrossRoadsPresbyterian@Verizon.net

In Our Father's House:

Lucy Peckman passed to eternal life on March 14, 2017.

Celebrating a Birthday ...

April ...

2 - Christie Doege
 2 - Ciara Rhea
 4 - Audrey Lees
 4 - David Arbogast
 5 - Daniel Wintersgill
 6 - Colton Reinhart
 6 - Greg Warnock
 8 - Jennifer Morris
 8 - Alexis Mossing

9 - Kerry Broker
 14 - Ryan Conley
 14 - Jay Winter
 15 - Dominic Zappa
 17 - Bernhard Erb
 18 - Nicole Zappa
 19 - Gail Doege
 21 - Cindy Wojton
 23 - Lori Bass-Riley
 24 - Danielle Ochendowski

26 - Patsy Boyer
 26 - Elisa Falvo
 27 - Madelyn Rhea
 28 - Bob Conley
 28 - Joseph Morris
 29 - Bill Wheat
 30 - Tom Beatty
 30 - Sharon Kehlert

Celebrating an Anniversary ...

Jay & Ginny Cochenour	4/3/82
Tom and Ilona Beatty	4/7/79
Al and Nancy Walthour	4/17/76
Jay and Pat Winter	4/19/86
Joanne and Kevin Wiesenbach	4/21/84
Bob and Marilyn Reynolds	4/22/65
Lori and Bryan Bass-Riley	4/23/99

If you would like to have a birthday or anniversary listed, please contact the church office.

The Church Staff

Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor
 Taylor Walter, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
 Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Director of Children's Ministries
 Randal Broker, Organist/Music Director
 Deborah Broker, Children's Music Director
 Martha Wintersgill, Office Coordinator
 Diane Testa, Nursery Care Giver
 Barry MacDonald, Custodian
 Kelley Rupchak, Preschool Director
Church Office: 412-372-2226
Church e-mail: CrossRoadsPresbyterian@Verizon.net
Website: crossroadspresbyterian.com

April at Cross Roads

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Every Sunday at Cross Roads 8:45 a.m. Adult Faith Works Class 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour						1 12:30 p.m. Egg Decorating Class 6:00 p.m. Family Movie Night
2 Communion Sunday 11:30 Journey to Bethlehem Planning 11:30 a.m. Play Practice 5:00 p.m. Word for youth 6:00 p.m. Faith and Fiction	3 7:00 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Stewardship	4 9:30 a.m. Women's Sewing 6:00 p.m. Brownies 7:00 p.m. Deacons meeting	5 Women's Flower Orders Due 12:00 p.m. AA 5:30 p.m. Play Practice 6:30 p.m. Chess Club 6:30 p.m. Parable Study 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Committee	6 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed Team 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:15 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Choir	7 9:30 a.m. International Women's Club 11:30 a.m. Food Pantry Board 6:30 p.m. Adult and Teen Crafting 7:30 p.m. PAS	8 8:00 a.m. chess tournament 10:00 a.m. Boy Scout Jamboree meeting
9 Palm Sunday 11:15 a.m. Palm Sunday Brunch 11:15 a.m. Mission Trip Meeting 11:30 a.m. Play Practice	10 Food Pantry Easter Distribution 7:00 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Trustees	11 Food Pantry Easter Distribution 9:30 a.m. Women's Sewing 6:30 p.m. Men's Dinner	12 12:00 p.m. AA 5:30 p.m. Play Practice 6:30 p.m. Parable Study 6:30 p.m. Chess Club	13 Holy Thursday 6:30 p.m. AMP Worship 7:15 p.m. ACOA	14 Good Friday Office closes at noon 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service	15 8:15 a.m. Produce to People 10:00 a.m. Worship and Music team
16 Happy Easter! 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Worship	17 Church Office Closed 7:00 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Committee 7:00 p.m. TAP	18 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Women's Circle meeting 6:30 p.m. Brownies	19 Connections Due 12:00 p.m. AA 5:30 p.m. Play Practice 6:30 p.m. Chess Club 7:00 p.m. Session	20 TBD – YAM bowling 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:15 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Choir	21 6:30 p.m. Adult and Teen Crafting 7:30 p.m. PAS	22 8:00 a.m. Work Day 5:00 p.m. 50 th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at the Doubletree
23 Pastor Lori's Birthday 11:30 a.m. Play Practice 5:00 p.m. Word	24 7:00 p.m. Yoga	25 9:30 a.m. Women's Sewing 1:00 p.m. Faith and Film	26 12:00 p.m. AA 5:30 p.m. Play Practice 6:30 p.m. Chess Club 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Team	27 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:15 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Choir	28 6:00 p.m. Youth to Laser Tag 6:30 p.m. Adult and Teen Crafting 7:30 p.m. PAS	29 JAM to Crestfield Retreat
30 11:30 a.m. Play Practice						

Join us on
Easter Sunday
April 16, 2017

*Worship at
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.*

*Continental Breakfast
in Fellowship Hall
at 9:00 a.m.*