



February 2016

Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

A Moment with Pastor Mike

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I was knocked for a loop about the middle of January when a respiratory infection turned into pneumonia. Most of my time and energy for a couple of weeks were spent coughing. We called off worship on January 10 because of threatening weather and my health, and I was still home on January 17, while lay leaders read the material I had prepared. Thank you, Pat, Ken and Bob. And thank all of you for your prayers, best wishes and cards. You are a loving and caring congregation, and it shows. Since then, I have gotten back into the swing of things. Crossroads hosted the Super Cluster, an annual gathering of Disciples ministers from the Metro area and Southeast Missouri. It was a really good event, focusing on the theme of hunger, and I had the opportunity to brag you up for all the creative ways you have supported the local food bank and other hunger causes. Thanks again to Carol, Carole, Pat, Mike, Shirley, and Jan for your help and hospitality. The other ministers and I appreciated your giving of yourselves to welcome others.



LENT

Worship times:

Sunday School at 9:30 am.

Worship at 10:45 am.

Now Lent is almost upon us. We will be gathering on February 10 for our Ash Wednesday supper and service (pancake supper at 5, service at 6). The service will be different this year. We will be using music from Taizé, a Protestant monastic community in France. You can find more information on page 2.

To help keep you inspired and thoughtful through the Lenten season, we will make available a Lenten devotional book put together by four Disciples congregations—Affton, Crossroads, Compton Heights, and Kennett Christian Churches. Beside myself, writers from Crossroads include Sandy Dixon, Bob and Jill Green, Ken Holmes, Pat McAllister, Mona McAllister, Kay Marshall, and Dan Upton. There will be print copies available, as well as a link to it at our website.

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Taizé Worship Service

Taizé worship is a prayer service consisting of meditative singing and periods of silence in order to reach a contemplative state.

Reformed Worship, a publication of Faith Alive Christian Resources CRC (Christian Reformed Church) Publications, carries an article on their website that promotes the practice of Taizé worship. The article, "How to ... Plan in the Style of Taizé," says that the students, faculty, and staff of Calvin Theological Seminary spend time together once a week in "contemplative services" in "the manner of the Community of Taizé."

Taizé is a form of contemplative worship that incorporates mystical practices and interspiritual beliefs as this article describes:

"Short chants, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character," the brothers explain in a brief introduction printed in the paperback songbook. "Using just a few words, [the chants] express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being."

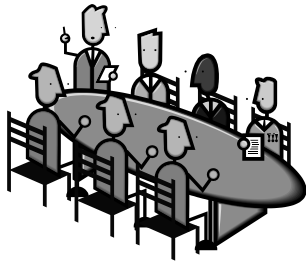
For those who may wonder if Calvin Theological Seminary's Taizé is the same as the Taizé in France, the article provides a link (to learn more) to Taizé Community In France.

This article in *Reformed Worship* is just another indication that contemplative spirituality is no respecter of denominations. Nearly all are affected and influenced.



Chips from the Board

- Outreach giving by members totaled nearly \$11,000 in 2015
- Property Committee seeking bids for converting front doors to handicapped accessible
- Several Crossroads members preparing Lenten devotional booklet in conjunction with other area Disciples churches



February Sunday Sermons

February 7, 2016 Transfiguration Sunday
 The Message: Coming Down the Mountain
 Scripture: Luke 9:28-36 and Luke 9:37-43a
 Theme: From glory to grit
 Loose Change Offering: Souper Bowl

February 10, 2016 Ash Wednesday
 Scripture: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2

February 14, 2016 1st Sunday in Lent
 The Message: Jesus Tried and Tested
 Scripture: Luke 4:1-13 and Psalm 91
 Theme: Don't ever give up

February 21, 2016 2nd Sunday in Lent
 The Message: No Turning Back
 Scripture: Luke 13:31-35 and Psalm 27
 Theme: When the going gets tough

February 28, 2016 3rd Sunday in Lent
 The Message: Why Did This Happen?
 Scripture: Luke 13:1-9 and Psalm 63:1-8
 Theme: No pat answers; just deeper questions

A Moment with Pastor Mike

(Continued from page 1)

The services in Lent follow Jesus from his Transfiguration, on the journey to Jerusalem, and the increasing conflict that he faced, leading up to Holy Week. Here are some highlighted events.

Palm Sunday, March 20. Jesus' followers welcome him to Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, March 24. We will gather for reflection and communion.

Chain of Prayer, March 25-26. You are invited to pray and meditate, either in the sanctuary or at home.

Easter Sunday, March 27. Celebrate the risen Lord!

Come walk the journey with us, and grow in faith.

Grace and peace,
 Pastor Mike



Prayers

- Dale Hodges adjusting to new living arrangements
- Jessie Hull recovering from shingles
- Jon Thompson contract at SAFB extended another 3 years
- Ryan McAllister beginning his post college career
- Pastor Mike recuperating from pneumonia
- Sympathy for Dan & Kathy on the death of Kathy's brother-in-law Kevin
- Shirley (niece of Tom & Mary) in hospital with heart problems
- Marvin (brother of Mary P.) recent cancer diagnosis



Our
Homebound

Ray Doctorman
Vera Hudson

Makunzi Olivier

News from Mukunzi (our young man in Rwanda who is supported by the choir and congregation through Compassion Ministries.)

“Crossroads Church Choir. I first greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. My family and I are doing well and thankful to God. On December 27th, I will be baptized. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. At school it's good. I got 50%. I have progressed to senior 2. I request you to continue praying for me. I do pray for you as well.

I thank you for the Christmas gift you sent. It pleased me very much, and I was able to buy a goat which will help my family greatly. May God bless you. I do always pray for you.”

New Addresses

Dale Hodges
The Trace
19432 Crawford Road, Apt 219
Covington, LA 70433

Ryan McAllister
527 E. Walnut St., Apt 110
Springfield, MO 65806



Lay Worship Leaders—February 2016

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Worship Leader	Lori Burgess	Jan Evans	Bob Green	Pat McAllister
Elder	Mike Thompson	Pat McAllister	Mona McAllister	Dan Upton
Deacons Prepare	Mary Petrekovich Pat Killian	Helen Richter Pat Killian	Carol Brookshier Pat Killian	Mary Petrekovich Pat Killian
Deacons Serve	Jan Evans	Shirley Holmes	Shirley Holmes Jan Evans	Kay Marshall Jan Evans
Deacons Candles			Pat Hayes	
Deacons Sanctuary				Pat Killian
Greeter	Jim Buckhannon	Curt Sutton	Pat Killian	Curt Sutton
Audio-Visual	Pat McAllister	Kay Marshall	Pat McAllister	Pat Hayes



February 2016

SEGA Prayers for the Month

2/7-2/13 First Christian Church, Troy, MO
 2/14-2/20 Reconciliation Ministries
 2/21-2/27 Webster Groves Christian Church, Webster Groves, MO
 2/28-3/5 St. Charles Christian Church, St. Charles, MO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship			5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice			
7	8	9	10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 5:00 Pancake Supper 6:00 Worship	11	12	13
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	15	16 11:30 Lunch Bunch	17 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	18 7:00 Elders Meeting	19	20
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Board Meeting	22	23	24 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	29					

Happy Birthday!

2 Mike Dixon	9 Sophia Lewis	23 Cameron Medley
8 Kevin Daugherty	10 Jonathan Cripe	Noelle Moder
Lee Smothers	11 Carole Thompson	Bonnie Speraw
	14 Amber Reichling	27 Maggie Daugherty
	21 Jared Ott	29 Doug Cripe

Week of Compassion Special Offering, February 21-28

“Where You Stay I’ll Stay.”

Ahmad is a shy young man who recently arrived with his family from Syria. Today, Ahmad enjoys classes at The Educational Center of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) in Beirut, Lebanon. At The Educational Center of DSPR students like Ahmad can learn new skills such as electronics repair (Ahmad’s expertise), cosmetology, and more.



Ahmad’s family’s future is uncertain. His grandparents are experiencing life in a third country since they first fled their home in Palestine in 1948. Most recently, Ahmad and his family were forced to leave Syria. The violence is still a very vivid memory. Ahmad and his family are safe, for now, but they cannot go home. Still, it remains unclear whether Lebanon’s infrastructure can continue to support the numerous refugees now living in the country.

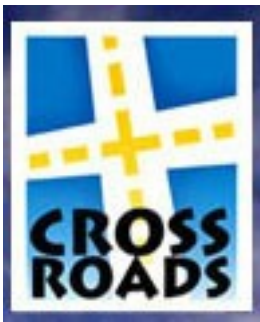
As it stands, there are few opportunities for housing, employment or school. But through DSPR, refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine, have access to food, medical attention, clean water, and education.

DSPR’s work is increasingly important as more of the world’s people are forcibly displaced from their homes.

Week of Compassion has long supported the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). Through DSPR, refugees like Ahmad not only learn a new skill, but also begin to share in the hope for a safe and productive future.

Will you put your Compassion into Action?





Christian Church

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medixon2@earthlink.net

Office Manager - Patrick McAllister
crossroadsdisciple@sbcglobal.net

Hours: M,T,W,Th 8-12

Music Director - Carol Brookshier
clbrookshier@charter.net

Nursery - Connie McAllister

Custodian - Richard Reichling

**We're Disciples: a movement for
wholeness in a fragmented world**

Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch

On Tuesday, February 16, 2016, the Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30am, at Bandana's BBQ, 4608 N. Illinois, Fairview Heights, IL 62208. A sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall.



Ash Wednesday February 10, 2016 Pancake Supper and Worship



Pancake Supper
5:00 pm

Worship
6:00 pm

