

The Crest Connection

Connecting people with the Life that counts for eternity!

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CREST BAPTIST CHURCH, CRESTON, IOWA

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2017

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING®

March's mission offerings will go to support Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Inside this issue:

Small Groups	2
Priscilla Shire Simulcast	2
Calendar	3
From the Pastor (cont)	4
Open Table	4
Easter Musical Rehearsals	4
Easter Season Schedule	4

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

9:30 am Bible Study
10:45 am Worship
6:00 pm Cancer Support Ministry (March 12, 26)

Tuesday:

9:00 am Women's Bible Study
6:30 pm GriefShare, DivorceCare

Wednesday:

7:00 am Prayer Meeting
6:30 pm TeamKID, Youth and Adult Bible Studies
8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday:

6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery

Beloved,

We had some wonderful news to share with the congregation at our meeting in February which bears repeating. In 2009, Crest secured a 15-year, \$693,000 loan to begin construction on our educational building. We were aided by a \$300,000 grant from the DEKKO Foundation due to our relationship with Mayflower Heritage Christian School.

At the time of this loan, we were still paying off a \$450,000 loan on the Worship Center that was incurred in 2005. Many of you entered into a five-year pledge, giving sacrificially toward the educational building construction. In 2014, we retired the Worship Center loan after nine years, two months of its inception.

In 2015, the debt reduction was added to our budget, though many continued to maintain their 5-year pledges. With their help and the Finance Committee having the leeway to aggressively attack this debt, we were able to retire the loan after 7 years and eight months. "We're debt free!" That is a big PRAISE THE LORD!

When I was interviewed by the Search Committee in 1994, they

asked if I would be willing to lead the church in a building campaign. I said that I was more interested in building people, but if necessary, we would build facilities. While it was a challenge to go through two building programs in five years, God saw us through them!

However, we know that "brick and mortar" do not make a church...the people do. We are described as the body of Christ, who is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18). And over the years, God has blessed us with many who have associated with this church. While I am grateful for the tool that a facility is for ministry, the building is never the end but the means to the end, by which we are allowed to gather, stimulating "one another to love and good deeds ... encouraging *one another*"; and all the more as you see the day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25). So, thanks be to God for His provisions and to you for the stewardship that has allowed us to minister to so many through our facilities and beyond as the church is built up.

Continue to be in prayer for

(Continued on page 4)



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR North American Missions

March 5-12, 2017

Goal: \$70 Million

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES ON SUNDAYS

SUNDAY MORNING (9:30 A.M.):

Victory—Sometimes life can feel like we've won a battle or two, but we're still losing the war. We progress a step forward, but then we're forced back a step—or two. Christians, however can know victory. Victory has been gained for us by Jesus, and when we choose to follow Him, His victory impacts every aspect of life. Senior Adults (Fellowship Hall) and Young Adults (Room 5)

What a Savior—The seven sessions of this study come from sermons preached by the late W.A. Criswell of First Baptist, Dallas, where he served for over 50 years. They are burning messages from the heart of a pastor to the hearts of the people who were hungry to hear about the good news of our salvation in Christ Jesus. Adults (Room 4)

Acts 13-28 —First there were 12. Then 120. Suddenly there came an explosion of spiritual fire, and 3,000 were added. By digging deep into Acts, today's

Christ-followers can reconnect with our dramatic early story, renew our passion to obey the Lord, and refocus our vision as Christ's global witnesses. Adults (Room 9)

SUNDAY EVENING

Cancer Care Ministry: We are reaching out to families who are living with cancer. Contact Joe or Gay Lynn Owens at 641-202-5004. (Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m., March 5 and March 19)

ADDITIONAL CLASSES

TUESDAY: Women's Bible Study—We are continuing in the study of Israel and the Minor Prophets. Join us as we study how to remain faithful in a divided and pagan kingdom. We will study the lives and words of Elijah and Elisha, and the warning and promises of the prophets, and the unchanging and powerful character of our God. Come, bring a friend, your Bible and a notebook. (Room 9, 9:00—10:30 a.m.)

GriefShare—This is a Christ-centered 13-week series for those grieving the death of someone close. Cost is \$15 for

materials. Contact Brian Cramer, 344-6249, or Crest, 782-2018. (Room 5, 6:30 p.m.)

DivorceCare—This a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Don't go through separation or divorce alone. Contact Sandy Seals at 782-2018. (Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—Joshua, Judges, and Ruth are the first three books from what are called the historical books of the Bible and are a special illustration of the perils, pressures and problems which come upon the believer and life of faith, as well as the means of victory over them. If you want to know what history can teach you, join us on Wednesdays. (Worship Center, 6:30 p.m.)

THURSDAY: Celebrate Recovery—a Christ-centered 12-Step Ministry. The evening begins with worship and lesson/testimony, followed by open-share small groups. Contact Amanda Davis, 344-2440. (Youth Room, 6:30 p.m.)



Priscilla SHIRER
SIMULCAST

Worship with ANTHONY EVANS



SATURDAY, APRIL 8

9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Doors open at 8:00 am

CREST BAPTIST CHURCH
1211 N. Poplar, Creston, Iowa

\$20 per person
(includes lunch and materials)

Register at <http://www.crestbaptistchurch.com/shire>

Volunteers are needed for:

Set Up
Decorating
Greeters
Registration
Food Preparation
and Serving
Clean Up
If you would like to
help, see
Teresa Pendegraft,
Jennifer Hoyt or
Dorine Peterson

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sundays 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (all ages) 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Cancer Support Ministry (2nd and 4th Sundays)</p>		<p>Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Grief-Share; Divorce-Care</p>	<p>1 Wednesdays 7:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m. TeamKID, Youth Ministries, Adult Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 Birthdays: Connie Ellis, Tim Jennett Anniversary: Jim and Pam McCracken</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Birthdays: Brian Cramer, Marcy Lane, Becky Mason</p>
<p>5 Birthdays: Jessica Landers, Tristan Travis</p>	<p>6 Birthday: Catherine Daily</p>	<p>7 Anniversary: Jason and Erica Wolfe</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Thursdays 6:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery 9:00 p.m. Light Co. Celebration at SWCC (room 120)</p>	<p>10 Birthday: Brian Gutmann</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>Annie Armstrong Easter Offering: Week of Prayer for North American Missions</p>						
<p>12</p>	<p>13 Birthday: Teresa Peterson Anniversary: Alan and Jaleyn Dobbs</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Birthdays: Marion Hargin, Gloria Müller, Zack Peppmeier</p>	<p>18 Birthdays: Trevor Downing, Pat Prentice, Fred Taylor</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 4:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Church Council</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Birthdays: Bill Heatherington, Jenna Shimer, Dale VerHelst</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Birthday: Jordon Shimer</p>
<p>26 Congregational Meeting (at the end of Worship) Birthday: Jim McCracken</p>	<p>27 Birthdays: John Gravin, Tony Henry</p>	<p>28 5:00 p.m. Open Table (Sign up for food and Serving at the Welcome Center)</p>	<p>29 Anniversary: Jerry and Merry Nurnberg</p>	<p>30 Anniversary: Brian and Sherry Cramer</p>	<p>31 Birthday: Loren Edsall, Cain Goodenberger, Lexi Gutknecht</p>	



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(Continued from page 1)

our search for an additional minister, whose primary job will be collegiate and student ministry. Resumes have been received and we are beginning the process of prayerful evaluation.

Lots of opportunities beyond our weekly schedule to serve and celebrate God are coming up in the spring (Open Table, choir preparing for Palm Sunday, Priscilla Shirer Simulcast, and Easter). Plug in and see how God blesses you!

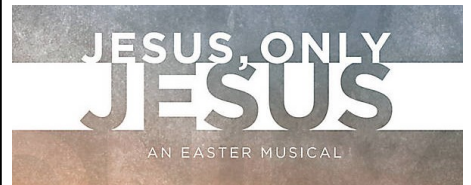
In His love,

Pastor Chuck



OPEN TABLE

Crest will be serving at Open Table on March 28 at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to supply food and serve at the UCC Church at 501 W. Montgomery St. A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Center or you can use the tear-off on the bulletin to volunteer.



Join us for our first choir rehearsal on Wednesday, March 1 at 8:00 p.m. We plan to present this Easter-themed musical during worship on Palm Sunday.

Easter Season

April 2: Christ in the Passover
April 9: Easter Musical
April 16: Easter (7:30 a.m. Early Worship Service; 8:30 a.m. Breakfast; 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:45 a.m. Worship Service)

***Crest Baptist Church is... Committed to Christ—Connecting with Each Other—
Commissioned to Serve Our Community and World***