

CrossWay Covenant Church

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

December
2025

Address
101 East Main
3rd & Main Street
New Market, IN 47965

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 326
New Market, IN 47965

Office Phone
765-866-0703

E-Mail
nmcrossway@gmail.com

Office Hours
8AM-Noon
Monday, Wednesday
& Friday

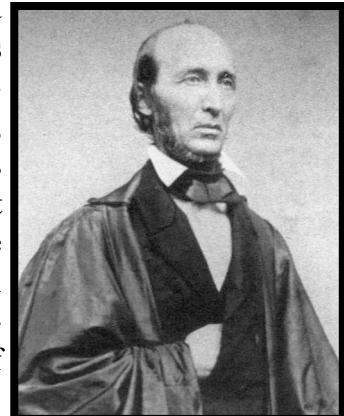
Pastor
William "Bill" Pike
Phone & E-Mail:
Cell: 765-719-0712
nmcrosswayrev@gmail.com

Secretary
JoElla Haffner
Cell: 765-230-0800

Dear Friends,

Appearing in nearly 1,100 known hymnals, "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" is a true staple of the Christmas season. It has also been lauded as one of the first and truest American-written hymns in the Christmas carol form. It might surprise us to find that this song has also been a source of past controversy and holds deeply political overtones. As a lyrical, soothing piece of music, we can easily overlook its fraught past.

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" was written by a minister named Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876). Sears was no ordinary minister, however. A liberal, Unitarian, Massachusetts pastor educated at Harvard Divinity School, Sears was an avid abolitionist and advocate of women's rights. He was also part of a denomination which does not and did not recognize the concept of the Trinity. As the nation barreled into the Western prairies and the Industrial Revolution built up new cities, Sears represented a cultured, socially progressive New England sometimes out of tune with the bustling nation it had spawned.



After a period of poor health, Sears penned "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" in 1849 as his own very personal response to the times of division and struggle the United States was going through, during the tense era between the Mexican War and the Civil War. The hymn concentrates on the beauty of celestial peace falling upon the earth, a peace Sears longed to see in America.

Some argued against the inclusion of a Christmas carol written by a Unitarian. Despite his formal affiliation, however, Sears did believe in Christ's divinity and even wrote an influential book on the Gospel of John and its treatment of Christ. Nevertheless, as a politically-charged hymn by a pastor from a theologically liberal tradition, "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" did not gain universal acceptance easily in its own day.

"Above its sad and lonely plains," filled with "Babel sounds" the angels bring good news and the gift of peace. Many years, filled with many conflicts, have come and gone through these intervening decades, but the earth, and indeed our nation, continues to need to hear "the blessed angels sing."

Blessings,
Pastor Bill

Pastor's Office Hours by appointment for December

VOLUNTEERS

Greeter
Lana Welliever
Usher
Joe & Cece Kraynak
Liturgist
7th Rhett Welliever
14th Marci Welliever
21st Dan Welliever
28th Marcia Shaw
Nursery
Sheila Chadd
Marci Welliever

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Prayer Meeting
Fellowship Hall
Every Monday, 4:00PM
Holy Communion
Sunday, Dec 7, 10:45AM
The Women's Group
Wednesday, Dec 3, 6:00PM
Dine Out at Cracker Barrel
Men's Fellowship Group
Sunday, Dec 7, 5:00PM
Christmas Party
Administrative Council
Wednesday, Dec 17, 7:00PM

PRAYER REQUEST

- Collin & Lauren Bartlett and babies
- Janet Bennett
- Tom Boots
- Mike Bowman
- Brian Bradley
- Mary Butz
- Tom Common
- Sue Foy
- Gary Fruits
- Barb Lidester
- Patricia Pruitt
- Barb Runyon
- Jay Strickland
- Church Growth
- Our Country's Leader
- Our Military Personnel
- Israel
- Global Christians
- Travel Mercies

Our sympathy to the family & friends of Neal McVay

BY THE NUMBERS - ATTENDANCE & GIVING

October 26

Sunday School Attendance: 19
Sunday School Offering: \$ 26.00
Worship Attendance: 32
Sunday Offering: \$ 1,206.00

November 2

Sunday School Attendance: 23
Sunday School Offering: \$ 23.00
Worship Attendance: 45
Sunday Offering: \$ 2,033.00

November 9

Sunday School Attendance: 21
Sunday School Offering: \$ 18.00
Worship Attendance: 38
Sunday Offering: \$ 805.00

November 16

Sunday School Attendance: 24
Sunday School Offering: \$ 12.00
Worship Attendance: 42
Sunday Offering: \$ 1,041.00

November 22

Sunday School Attendance: 20
Sunday School Offering: \$ 14.00
Worship Attendance: 36
Sunday Offering: \$ 1,740.00

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 9:00PM

The Women's Group

Five women met in fellowship hall November 1, 2025. President Marci Welliever opened the meeting at 7:00 PM talking about change in reference to Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Life is full of transitions. Change is a part of God's plan and people need to embrace change. She then gave prayer.

The group discussed several local charities and decided to donate \$350 to the following: Achaius Ranch, Through the Gate, Mountie Mission
Volunteers for Mental Health

Treasurer Sheila Chadd will send the checks and a card to the recipients. A \$500 scholarship will be given to a graduating senior in May, 2026.

Plans were finalized for the November 7 50+ luncheon.

The women will eat at Cracker Barrel for the December 3 meeting. The women of the church will be invited to attend. Women are to meet at the church at 5:40 PM or be at Cracker Barrel by 6:00 PM.

BLESSINGS & JOYS

- Charge conference went very well.
- The Halloween Pit Stop was fantastic.
- Sylvia had a great trip visiting her brother in San Antonio.
- Mark Pickering had two successful surgeries.
- Cecie Kraynak had an amazing trip to Mexico.
- The Community Thanksgiving Dinner fed about a hundred families.
- Gary Fruits has safely

Thank you to everyone who donated to the **FISH outreach** in October. Four bags of food were taken to the food pantry and \$200 was donated.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers needed for Monday, December 1st. Contact Judy Welliever to volunteer.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner 2025

Thank you Southmont FFA and all the volunteers for your donation, help and prayers. We were able to serve 425 meal Saturday, Nov. 22. What a blessing to be able to be with our friends and neighbors and welcome new people in our community.

Love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39





OH HOLY NIGHT

A	D	N	H	P	W	P	J	Q	B	T	G	F	F	S	Q	V
Y	D	M	Q	M	I	A	A	S	T	A	R	R	L	G	F	R
F	X	F	A	G	R	D	O	N	K	E	Y	A	S	Q	L	J
F	S	B	U	G	S	A	V	I	O	R	M	N	F	W	U	W
H	H	E	A	X	W	I	X	H	Z	I	E	K	J	A	C	B
E	E	T	M	B	Y	J	R	S	N	M	V	I	N	Z	X	I
M	P	H	I	N	Y	R	O	A	E	H	H	N	U	G	L	B
I	H	L	B	K	Y	P	G	S	Z	B	N	C	Z	O	Q	J
W	E	E	Z	M	Z	N	I	M	E	U	Q	E	X	L	M	E
K	R	H	I	M	Z	W	F	M	E	P	S	N	P	D	N	S
Z	D	E	R	A	S	K	T	A	B	A	H	S	L	D	Y	U
G	N	M	Q	J	J	J	S	N	Y	I	A	E	S	R	V	S
V	A	N	F	Q	F	A	T	G	F	T	G	I	A	Z	T	X
N	J	C	U	R	Z	Z	X	E	U	N	O	M	N	G	L	Z
B	K	Y	M	W	I	H	F	R	A	P	E	A	C	E	G	W

ANGEL	GIFTS	MYRRH
ANIMALS	GOLD	PEACE
BABY	JESUS	SAVIOR
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SHEPHERD
DONKEY	MANGER	STAR
FRANKINCENSE	MARY	WISE MEN



December 2025



	1 Prayer Meeting 4:30PM	2	3 Women's Group Dine Out 6:00PM	4 Angie Staggs Birthday	5 Jan Morse & Greg Hunt Birthday	6 Blood Drive 8:30AM-12:30PM
7 Holy Communion 10:45AM Men's Fellowship Christmas Party	8 Prayer Meeting 4:30PM Luke Hurt Birthday	9	10	11	12 Sue Foy Birthday	13 Brenda Hunt Birthday NM Baptist Church Lord's Closet 9AM-
14 Ryan Staggs Birthday	15 Prayer Meeting 4:30PM	16	17 Ad Council Meeting 7:00PM	18	19	20
21	22 Newsletter Items Due Prayer Meeting 4:30PM	23	24 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27
28	29 Prayer Meeting 4:30PM	30	31 			

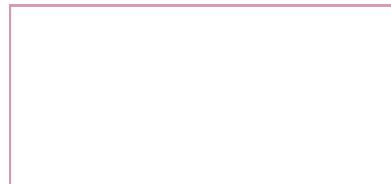
CROSSWAY COVENANT

101 EAST MAIN STREET

P.O. Box 326

NEW MARKET, IN 47965

PHONE # 765-866-0703



DECEMBER 2025 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Come Worship With Us

Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Worship Gathering: 10:45 AM



Find Us On Facebook!

Just search CrossWay Covenant, New Market, Indiana and select Facebook.

If you have any pictures or events you want posted, please contact Lori Hedrick.

Find Us On Our Website!

Just go to www.crosswaycovenantchurch.com or google CrossWay Covenant, New Market, Indiana

If you have any thing you would like to put on the church website, please contact Rachel Welliever