



Love • Transform • Serve

# RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

May 2023, Volume 41, Issue 5

Mission Statement

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares in Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.

*'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. 1 Kings 19: 11-13*

## ***Into the Silence: An Extrovert's Journey into Contemplation***

The story of Elijah hearing the silence and moving out to meet God has always fascinated me. The role of silence has long moved me. Before prayer. After the sermon. In the face of loss. In the face of joy Inspired by awe and wonder as well as pain and lament, silence speaks. As I prepare to begin my first sabbatical after 13 and a half years as a pastor, I find myself excited and anxious because both stepping into an experience with silence through contemplation and out of the flow of parish life that has come to shape my daily life. I'm excited because I believe contemplation has an important role to play in a healthy and balanced life, and I have much to learn and experience during this time apart from the typical routines and demands of parish life. I'm anxious because there exists a vulnerability in letting go of the noise and routines that has been my familiar pattern of life for over a decade. The hope for this time of sabbatical is to

- rest – in all ways, physical, emotional, spiritual;
- renew a sense of energy and spirit for our work together;
- recall a sense of vision and mission in ministry;
- reinvest in practices and tool for healthy ministry.

You can read about my part of the sabbatical plan in the March edition of Rays of Hope. You can read about the Church Council plan for the parish part on page 5 of this issue. A few questions have led me to believe this may be a first sabbatical for many of us so let me address some of them here.

- No, you will not be able to contact me. Sabbatical is an intentional time apart in all ways. The Church Council is doing a great job of leading the community and I have full faith they will continue this stewardship while your pastor is on sabbatical!
- Yes, I am coming back. Sabbatical is intended to be a way to care for, and benefit, the life and relationship of the community. I look forward to returning in August and being your pastor!

Before I go, hear from me again, thank you. Thank you for your faithfulness in Jesus. Thank you for this time of intentionality, thank you for continuing the work God has called us to these months of sabbatical and welcoming me back to begin the next season of our life together.

Vaya Con Dios,  
Pr. Adam



**Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School**

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[cohcouncil@crossofhope.org](mailto:cohcouncil@crossofhope.org)

*This Journal of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church is published each month for the enrichment of the mission ("Loving God • Transforming Relationships • Serving Others"), for the life of the people of God at Cross of Hope and our community.*

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**WE WANT YOUR NEWS ITEMS**

Deadline is 10th of the month for the following month's edition. Send E-mail articles to [office@crossofhope.org](mailto:office@crossofhope.org), [lbagby@crossofhope.org](mailto:lbagby@crossofhope.org), or deliver to church office.

**Stewardship**

Stewardship involves your time, talent and treasure. Contact the church office for assistance in getting started in any of our ministries. Please remember Cross of Hope in preparing your will.

**Cross of Hope School**



Our chess club was recognized for 4th place in the 2023 Central NM Team Chess League!

**Now enrolling new students at Cross of Hope School**

Please click on this link to begin our Online Registration process:

<https://ch-nm.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=2059>

Campus tours are available for those families interested in becoming more familiar with Cross of Hope School.

To schedule a tour prior to registering your child/children, please contact Debra Alba, Director of School Ministry at 505-897-1832 or email [esdirector@crossofhope.org](mailto:esdirector@crossofhope.org). We look forward to seeing you soon!

Cross of Hope School is a welcoming, Christ-centered community providing high quality education in a nurturing environment that respects each child's development.

School continued on page 3

**Cross of Hope School (Preschool-5th Grade)**



Debra Alba  
 Director of School Ministry  
 Courtney Knutilla  
 Preschool Director

6104 Taylor Ranch Road, NW  
 (505) 897-1832

email: [esdirector@crossofhope.org](mailto:esdirector@crossofhope.org)  
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School continued from page 2



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cohpastor@crossofhope.org

**School (PreK-5th)**  
(505) 897-1832  
esdirector@crossofhope.org

April 21, 2023

Dear Cross of Hope Community,

Grace and Peace to you this beautiful spring day! I am writing this note to inform you of my intent to resign my current role as Director of School Ministry at Cross of Hope Church & School effective June 30, 2023.

I am tremendously grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve as the Director of School Ministry at Cross of Hope Church & School these past five years. As many of you know I have also been on a tandem journey pursuing a call to serve as a Minister of Word & Service (aka Deacon) in the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). I previously served as a commissioned deacon in The United Methodist Church. This past August the Candidacy Committee of the Rocky Mountain Synod unanimously approved me for rostered ministry with the ELCA.

I am now ready to actively pursue opportunities to serve as a Minister of Word & Service. I trust the Holy Spirit is active in the call process and recognize it most likely will not follow an academic calendar! Over these next two months I will be working very closely with our School Ministry Team and Church Council to ensure this position is well advertised and filled with enough time to allow for a smooth transition into the 2023-2024 academic year.

Thank you for the numerous ways you have supported and encouraged me in this role. It has been a blessing to journey alongside each of you!

Peace,

Debra Alba



*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

School continued from page 3

# Farewell to our Cross of Hope Fifth Graders



## Maia Vera

“Whoever is happy will make others happy.” -Anne Frank

Sadly, I will be leaving Cross of Hope for good on May 19, 2023. I am 11 years old and my favorite thing about Cross of Hope is the people. The first time I met my best friend Sophie, my heart exploded in fireworks! My favorite memory is when Mitchell Horst was confused because our third grade teacher has a New York accent. My years at Cross of Hope were not as easy as riding a bike (I can't ride a bike!). I will miss all my lovely friends and teachers. I will never forget this school. Goodbye Cross of Hope.

## Mitchell Horst

When I came here in October of third grade, it was from a public school as big as Elon Musk's house. That school went online during the pandemic and I was not doing the best in my online school. It was learning how to divide  $6/25$  by  $3/5$  in third grade - which was very hard! My favorite memory here at Cross of Hope is that Mrs. Pratt has a Bronx accent, and one day she said, “Can you get the ruler out of the draw?” I was so confused, but then my classmates told me that's how Mrs. Pratt says “drawer”! The next middle school I will be going to is Hope Christian. Overall, this is probably the best elementary school I have been in and with some of the best teachers I have had. I really am going to miss this school. I recommend this school to anyone who needs an elementary school.

## Oliver Lechman

My years at Cross of Hope were amazing! I am really going to miss this school. My favorite memory was when it was the first time reading with Jackson, my kindergarten reading buddy. I am nervous about middle school at AIMS. I will make new friends, learn bigger things, and have new teachers. My plan for middle school is to do my best!

## Oscar Faron

My life at Cross of Hope has exceeded the fun of any other school I have been to! I have met tons of different people throughout my seven years here. To me, these years at Cross of Hope have been as fun as playing ball with a polar bear. This year is so far one of the greatest school years I can remember! I have worked with my third grade teacher, my fourth and fifth grade teacher and the computer science teacher. Ms. Joy has made science more interesting with lab experiments that are always different - just like books are always different. Also, I have collected hundreds of different memories. Next year I am going to go to Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School.

# Council Corner

by Margie Reed, Council President

## Rest, Renew, Recall, Reinvest – What a Sabbatical is all about!

The Council has been talking about Pastor Adam’s upcoming Sabbatical for several months. I was curious as to what a sabbatical really is, what the purpose is, and what the outcome is. After searching through various websites, I have found answers to some of my questions. I would like to share them with you.

A sabbatical leave is an extended period of time for study, spiritual growth, skill development, research, refreshment, and renewal for the purpose of enrichment for continued service in the same ministry setting. It is not a time to do similar professional work in another setting nor is it an extended vacation.

The word sabbatical has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath (to rest or to cease) It is a time to be refreshed in body, mind, and spirit and to deepen one’s relationship with God.

The mission of the congregation benefits when the Pastor returns to the ministry - new experiences and abilities, as well as being refreshed and renewed. The Pastor benefits from the personal and spiritual growth and renewal that come from participation in a structured time away.

When the Pastor returns from sabbatical, a report will be presented to the congregation: what was done, who was met, what was read; what impact the experience had personally, including family, vocationally and congregationally. The Pastor will share on what went well and what was problematic in the sabbatical preparation, experience, or follow-up, and ultimately, what was discovered about himself or his ministry, and his plans for applying the knowledge and experiences to himself and to this ministry upon return.

Below is information regarding Pastor Adam Berndt’s’ Sabbatical Leave and what you can expect during his absence.

**Sabbatical Dates:**

Beginning date: June 3

End date: July 29

Pastor Adam will be back in the office July 31 and resume Sunday services beginning August 6.

**Please Note:**

Pastor will be unavailable by phone, text, and email during his sabbatical. If you need assistance—please contact the church office.

Phone: (505) 897-0047 ext. 102 (during office hours)

Email: office@crossofhope.org

Council continued from page 5

**Pastoral Coverage:**

Sunday Services

Pastor Russ Sorensen - June 4, June 11, June 18, and June 25.

Pastor Rick Alpers - July 2, July 9, July 16, and July 30.

For Pastoral care - home visits, hospital visits, funerals, etc. please contact the Church Office

Phone: (505) 897-0047 ext. 102 (during office hours), or fill out online

Email: [office@crossofhope.org](mailto:office@crossofhope.org)

**Services:**

Sunday - Outside: 9:00 am (inside if inclement weather)

Sunday - Inside: 10:45 am

No Wednesday service

No Daily Devotion

A Council member will be available before and after the Sunday services to help as needed or to answer questions the congregation may have.

**Worship Team Leaders:**

Margie Reed, Council President (Phone: (505) 366-7149 [cohcouncil@crossofhope.org](mailto:cohcouncil@crossofhope.org))

Sherrie Simek, Council Member (Phone: (505) 362-8571 [rsimek1053@yahoo.com](mailto:rsimek1053@yahoo.com))

*“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good! For His steadfast love endures forever.”* 1 Chronicles 16:34



**The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Group**

To provide an opportunity for all people to share Christ's love and authentic community in a small group setting where lives are transformed through growth in faith and service to others.

COH Small Group Ministry

Sundays at 9:50am Facilitated by Rich Neely and located at COH\*

Sundays at 12:30pm Facilitated by John Valdez and located at COH

Sundays at 1:30pm Facilitated by Jan Wormwood and located at COH

Wednesdays at 10:30am Facilitated by Sheri Phillips and located at group members homes

Wednesdays at 6:30pm Coordinated by Pastor Russ and located at COH\*

Thursdays at 1:00pm Facilitated by Jan Anderson and Lois Caipen only over Zoom

**The Faith Connection groups on Sunday Morning at 9:50am and Wednesday Night at 6:30pm** are specially designed as drop-in opportunities for those interested.

**Weekly topics in May**

**Week 5 - May 7 - Knowledge (John 14:1-14)**

**Week 6 - May 14 - Belonging (John 14:15-21)**

**Week 7 - May 21 - Prayer (John 17:1-11)**

**Week 8 - May 28 - Spirit (John 7:37-39)**

**For Specific information or questions about these groups please** contact:

Pastor Russ Sorensen 505-400-8206

Email: [r2csorensen@gmail.com](mailto:r2csorensen@gmail.com)

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**Robert Austin**

My favorite memory at Cross of Hope was the last day of school since all my friends and I got to hang out, but it was also kind of sad to see all of them leave. I like Cross of Hope because it is really easy to make friends and the teachers are really nice. It's kind of sad leaving Cross of Hope after all these years and I'm going to miss all of the friends I've made and all the people I've met. But one thing is for sure, I will never forget this place. The middle school I am going to is Ask Academy which is where my sister goes. I am nervous for middle school, but I am excited, since I can meet a lot more people, it is a way bigger school, and from what I heard, it is really fun!

**Sophie Stradford**

I have been going to COH since third grade. I have a beautiful best friend named Maia Vera who has also been going to school since third grade. One of my best memories from COH was the last day of the school last year. The fifth graders were presenting their I am poems and lots of the fourth graders started to cry, so that made everyone tear up - some more than others. Next year I'm going to be a 6th grader. I'm going to be going to Hope Christian School next year and I'm so excited. I will be missing this school, but I am still excited to go to middle school. Peace.

## Boy Scouts

Gary Warner will be taking over as Charter Organization Representative for the Boy Scouts Troop 126 here at Cross of Hope for Lois Caipen. Thank you Lois for all of your years of service!

## Church Potluck



There will be a church potluck following the May 7 Congregation Meeting. Please come and join us for some great food and fellowship.

If you are interested in contributing, please sign up [here](#).

# Camp @ COH (Wednesday Evenings)

**Come and Gather for some time of faith formation on Wednesdays at Cross of Hope from 5-7:30pm.**

**To Start we'll gather in the Great Hall with Pastor Adam**

5p - K-5th grade Bible Study with Pr. Adam

5:30p - All camp activity for all ages (Great Hall)

6:00p - Great hall for worship until weather permits to meet outside with campfire.

6:00p - Financial Peace (those pre-registered only) Rm 206 Hans Zimmer

**Bible Study/Fellowship:**

6:30p – 7:30p Mid-High Youth/Confirmation Rm 302 Pastor Adam

6:30p – 7:30p Sr. High Youth – Rm 304 Rowynn Adams

6:30p – 7:30p Adult Making Faith Connection group – Coordinated by Russ Sorensen– Rm 306

(\*The Faith Connection group on Wednesday night is specially designed as a drop-in opportunity for those interested).

6:30p - 7:30p Voices of Hope (Choir) Sanctuary Thomas Ropp

7:00p - 8:00p Girl Scouts Troop 10624 Rm 205 Annette Hatch



**Field Trip to the New Mexico United Match - On to the next round!**





Kristen Case	2
Jeremy Hinton	4
Brianne Mares	4
David Humble	5
Gary Warner	5
Louise Hawley	5
Diane Pressel	8
Barbara Wright	10
Susan Case	11
Tim Fuller	11
Michele Moser	12
Sheri Phillips	12
Kristi Valdez	12
Carolyn Bye	14
Robert Bye	15
Pete Wormwood	16
David Bagby	17
Janet Wormwood	18
Gloria Hubbard	22
Christian Wylie	22
Morgan O’Roark	24
Oliver Kouri	24
Florence Begay	25
Toby Fuller	26
Bob Reed	28
Julie Morgan	31



Ryan Hale was baptized April 2, 2023.



Pictures courtesy of Pete Wormwood



	Day	Years
Married		
Charlie and Jane Anderson	25	49
Mike and Patty Westerfield	27	45
David and Kathy Albin	28	46
Rick and Kimberly O’Roark	28	29

## Sweet Jazz Benefit Concert

The Sweet Jazz Benefit Concert scheduled for April 30 was cancelled and rescheduled for June 4. Tickets that were previously purchased will be honored, or refunded with your ticket surrender. You may also donate your ticket purchase to Family Promise of Albuquerque.

Thank you for grace and support,  
 Laura Combs, Family Promise Director



## Heart Strings

*Members of COH unable to worship with us on a regular basis.  
Please contact and let them know we care.*



**Dale and Edee Bauer**  
4905 Wagon Mound Trail NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120

**John Fries**  
Gardens - Retreat Villas Assisted  
Living  
4100 Jackie Road SE, #15  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

**Karen Reiten**  
899-1504  
4841 Shin Avenue NE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

**Carroll Werling**  
Palmilla Senior Living, 10301  
Golf Course Rd NW - Room 267  
Albuquerque, NM 87114

### Farewell and Godspeed to the Caipen's:

**New address:**  
Lois and Terry Caipen  
1819 Shady Ln  
Cortez, CO 81321



## The Church Mouse



*“And of everything living, of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark...”  
Genesis 6:19-22*

All of us have read the story of Noah and the ark. There are many, many children's books about Noah too.

I've always wondered two things about that story. First of all, did Noah bring two of every breed of dog or just one. Did he have two cocker spaniels, two boxers and two poodles or did he just have one generic dog? I've also wondered why he included ants, flies and even snakes. I know there is a reason, but I've never been able to figure it out. Most of us have had a pet some time in our lives. Dogs and cats seem to be the favorite but I've known of people who have had rabbits, turtles, fish, sea horses, hamsters and even the dreaded snake. A pet brings so much joy to your life. They're lovable, funny and a great companion. Who else runs to greet you when you come home or who else will go for a walk anytime of the day or night. Sure, they can be little devils sometimes. We still have a coffee table with the corner chewed off.

Pets are smart too. Anyone who thinks a dog or cat isn't smart has never had one. If I'm sitting in my chair reading my iPad, our dog will come along and swipe her paw across the screen to change what is on there. Yes, the Lord knew what He was doing when He gave us a pet to love.

As a friend told me, "If you get a dog you will have unconditional love and you will never go to the bathroom alone again."



# Cross of Hope High School Graduates 2023

By **Mary Bresnahan**

Congratulations to four graduates who are excitedly stepping into their future. Best wishes and prayers as you start your next chapter from all of Cross of Hope. We will celebrate our graduates on May 28 at one 10am service.

## **Carly Adams**



Carly will be graduating from Explore Academy on May 26. She will be attending UNM to study art and education. During her time in high school she enjoyed singing, doing aerial dance, playing volleyball, and growing her art skills. She hopes to continue pursuing art, eventually going into art education. Carly was president of her school’s chapter of the National Honor Society during her senior year. For her senior project she completed a six-piece art portfolio that won four awards. She is very active in her choir, the Rio Rancho Youth Chorus, and acting in a leading role in her school’s musical. Carly is excited to begin the next chapter of her life, and extremely grateful for all the support from her family and community.

## **Mitchell Manning**

Mitchell is the grandson of Liz Sanchez. He is graduating on May 17 from West Mesa High School. He will be attending UNM in the Fall with an undeclared major. Mitchell is interested in record albums, music and sports, particularly basketball and football. His favorite football team is the Seattle Seahawks. He referees soccer for youth soccer in Albuquerque. Grandma says he has a heart of gold. He attends church with his girlfriend regularly.



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**Kaley McClain**

Kaley is graduating from Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School on May 26. She plans to attend Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado in August to pursue a major in Business Administration and a minor in Music. Kaley is excited to see where this next chapter in my life takes her!



**Emilio Reynolds**

Emilio is graduating from Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School on May 26. He will be attending UNM in the Fall majoring in computer science. Emilio will be enrolled in the BS/MS Shared-Credit Degree Program in the School of Engineering. He will receive a combined Bachelor of Science Degree and Master of Science Degree in 5 years of higher education.

**Lunch Bunch**

**Meeting Wednesday, May 10 at 1p**  
**Olive Garden**  
 10500 Coors Blvd NW

**Questions?** Contact Beth Cretsinger  
 Call/text (505) 249-1162, or email [ddbecrets@gmail.com](mailto:ddbecrets@gmail.com).



**Trimmers and Weeders Needed**

Cross of Hope is in need of some additional gardeners. The gardeners start between 8 and 9a on Fridays and toil until it gets too warm! Rudy and Sherrie Simek, Margie Reed, and friends would love some additional hands!

# Cross of Hope Outreach Opportunities

*‘ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Matthew 25: 35-36*

## Rio Grande Food Project

Cross of Hope Outreach is hosting a food drive for the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley on May 14. Please bring your contribution on or before May 14. They are happy to receive any donations, but especially ask for:

- Canned Meats-tuna, salmon, chicken
- Pastas, rice
- Peanut Butter
- Soups
- Individual Easy Open snacks and meals
- Instant Potatoes
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Dry beans



Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Gorman at [klgorman@aol.com](mailto:klgorman@aol.com) or check out their website: <https://rgfp.org>.

## New Mexico Ramp Project



We are inviting you to work with COH as we provide a ramp for two families in Albuquerque. We will work with the New Mexico Ramp Project. They will provide the tools, the ramp modules, and instructions. Cheri Sorensen was told that the only skill needed was to be able to use one’s index finger to push the trigger for the drill. The project will take about five hours starting at 8 in the morning. The first project was postponed to May 9.

If you would like to be part of this great chance to make a difference in a person's life, please contact Cheri Sorensen, 505-400-8409 or [sorensench51@gmail.com](mailto:sorensench51@gmail.com).

For more information about The New Mexico Ramp Project, you can access their website at: [nmramp.org](http://nmramp.org).

## Special Olympics

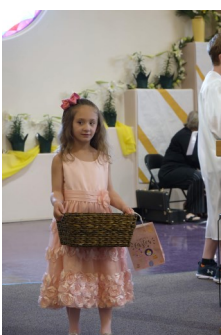
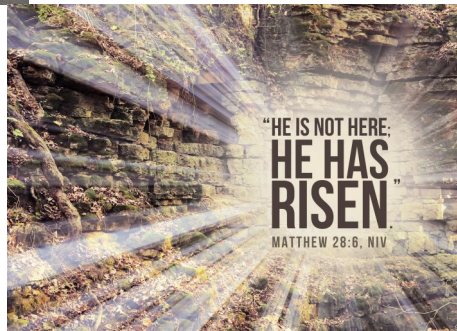
There is an opportunity to help with Special Olympics on Saturday, May 20 in Albuquerque. All details and links to the sign-up forms are now available:

[https://bit.ly/SONM\\_BVolunteerSignUp](https://bit.ly/SONM_BVolunteerSignUp)

**Special Olympics**  
New Mexico



# Holy Week at Cross of Hope



**When you need these services, please think of Rays of Hope sponsors. We thank them for their continued support in offsetting the costs (by \$10 per month) associated with producing Rays of Hope each month.**

**thrivent**



**Matthew J Klandrud**  
ChFC®, RICP®, CKA®  
**Financial Consultant**  
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7600 Jefferson St NE, Ste 25  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

**Cross of Hope Care Outreach**

**Transportation**

Medical Appointments  
Other Appointments  
Necessary Errands



**Emergency Meals**

Family Emergency  
Illness  
Death

Assistance is available:

- www.crossofhope.org/forms
- Email: care@crossofhope.org
- In the Great Hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



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**Cross of Hope Church and School  
Congregational Council Team  
cohouncil@crossofhope.org**

Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed- President,  
Pat Benchik- Vice President, Janet Conlon-  
Secretary, Tim Fuller, Kathy Gorman, Sherrie  
Simek, Kristi Valdez

**Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp  
Registration**

RAINBOW TRAIL LUTHERAN CAMP

**DAY CAMP 2023**

**Where:** Cross of Hope Church  
6104 Taylor Ranch Rd NW, Albuquerque 87120

**When:** June 12 - June 16, 2023



505-897-0047, x102

office@crossofhope.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT:

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Mission Statement**

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.

 Rev. R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

505-897-0047 • office@crossofhope.org  
www.crossofhope.org

Facebook Page: Cross of Hope Church

**Worship Times:**

On-Site Sunday - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday - 10:45 a.m.

Digital: Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Devotions: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

## May Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

### **The Damascus Way (book 3). - Davis Bunn and Janette Oke**

Julia has everything money can buy...except for acceptance by either the Gentiles or the Jews. Her Greek father already has a wife and family, leaving Julia and her Hebrew mother second-class citizens. But when they are introduced to followers of the Way (Abigail and Jacob), they become part of that community of believers.

### **Making the Most of Your Resources: How Do I Make the Most of My Time, Energy and Money? - Margaret Feinberg**

Using scripture to address such issues as; how to weigh your resources, How to leverage the finite hours in the day to your advantage, finding energy and rest in the Lord, learning to trust God to provide (financially) and knowing that we can't do it all ourselves, we need to lean on the Lord.

### **Night - Elie Wiesel**

Night is a 1960 memoir by Elie Wiesel based on his Holocaust experiences with his father in the Nazi German concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944–1945, toward the end of the Second World War in Europe.