



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION (Sunday, February 5, after both worship services) Please sign up to help on the Youth Ministry board. Souper Bowl of Caring helpers can pick up the soup pots at the welcome center. Helpers for the 8:30 AM service need to arrive by 9:15 AM. Please give donations to Matt following each service.

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT (February 10-12) For those of you registered for the retreat, we will leave church at 6:00 PM, Friday, for Kirkmont Center. Bring money for dinner at Young's Dairy. We will return to church at 12:15 PM, Sunday.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT (Sunday, February 12, 4:30-7:00 PM) Come and join your Kirkmont family for a time of playing games and enjoying some relaxed time together. Bring your favorite board games or card games, and be ready to play! We'll order in pizza for dinner so bring \$5 per family. Beverages provided.

CASTING CROWNS CONCERT (Friday, February 17, 5:30 PM) Casting Crowns is coming to Hobart Arena as part of their "Come to the Well Tour" with Matthew West, Royal Tailor, & Lindsay McCaul. Tickets are \$20 each. **Sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, February 5, and pay for your ticket by Wednesday, February 8.** These artists do not come to the area very often, so sign up now to save your spot.

KOINONIA (Sunday, February 19, 6:00-8:00 PM) This month we will be talking about what it means to follow Jesus, to go beyond just saying we do and to actually do it. So come on out for a night of fun, games, food, and worship.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (February 22, 7:00 PM) Action Groups and Crossroads will not meet so that we can worship with our Kirkmont family on Ash Wednesday. WN@K dinner will be at 6:00 PM.

NIGHT IN THE KITCHEN (Sunday, February 26, 5:30-8:00 PM) For this month's S.O.S., we are going to support the guys going on the Guys' Retreat by cooking up some treats. This is a great opportunity for the youth group to encourage those going on the retreat.

Be sure you have Medical Release & Permission Forms (ORANGE form) on file with us. Additional forms are available on the Youth Ministry board or at kirkmont.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:30 & 11:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM

Please sign up on the Youth Ministry board for activities!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><u>ACTION GROUPS</u></p> <p>Middle School Girls, MS Room, 6:45-8:00 PM Crossroads (HS & College), Trotter Home, 6:45-8:00 PM MAKE A RESERVATION WITH JANE IF YOU WANT TO EAT DINNER AT WNAK AT 6:00 PM. COST IS \$5.</p>			1 WNAK Action Groups	2 	3	4
5 COMMUNION 	6	7	8 WNAK Action Groups	9 Happy Birthday, Micah Karr! 	10 	11 High School Retreat
12  Return from HS Retreat	13	14  Happy Valentine's Day	15 WNAK Action Groups	16	17	18
19 Koinonia  <i>Lift Up Your Praises</i>	20 	21	22 WNAK  Happy Birthday, Alex & Colby Carnegis! 	23	24	25
26 Night in the Kitchen 	27	28	29 WNAK Action Groups 			



REFLECTIONS

This month at Koinonia we will be talking about what it means to follow Jesus. This is the second video in the series "Who is God?" with Francis Chan. The video got me thinking about how I follow Jesus and why I follow Jesus. For me the "why?" question was the more difficult to pin down. I follow Jesus because I do. I follow Jesus because He is God incarnate, the Messiah, the Christ. I follow Jesus because He died for me. All of these are great reasons to follow Jesus, but what's that one reason that encompasses all of those other important ones.

I recently read Rob Bell's new book *Love Wins*. In it he discusses how God's love ultimately wins, that love ultimately will draw the whole world into relationship with God through Jesus Christ. While I disagree with him in some places, his focus on love has got me re-thinking how I look at some things, including the question of why I follow Jesus. I realized I follow Jesus not because of what He did on the cross or what he continues to do in my life (though both play a role in why I follow Him). I do not follow Jesus to escape impending judgment, or to increase my status, or to make myself feel better. I follow Jesus because I love Him, and because He loves me.

Love. It makes all the difference. It's the sinews that hold this body of Christ together and holds me closely to Christ. It drives me to do the right thing when I wake up in the morning and opens my eyes to see others as God sees them, with love. I follow Jesus not because I'm scared or I think it's the right thing to do, but because I am in love with Jesus. How can I not respond with love to His loving work in dying for me? How can I miss God's love intricately directing my life? This love is everywhere; it's all around each and everyone of us—guiding, changing, and loving us. How great is God's love!

Ultimately, I follow Jesus not because of one thing He does or the various things He continues to do in my life. But I follow Jesus because of love, a love which is born out in so many ways from the cross to the hope and promise of new life with Him. A love to which I can only respond with love.

So going back to the beginning of all this, I did not answer the first question, "how to follow Jesus." The answer comes from how one answers the "why?" question, love.

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)

In Christ,
Matt



Questions?

Have a question or concern, need more information about something, just want to check in?

Contact
Matt Mellott,
Youth Fellowship Coordinator,
at 427-1350 or
matt@kirkmont.org
or contact Pat Youther,
Director of Christian
Education, at
426-8292 or
pat@kirkmont.org.



Kirkmont's



Celebration
Sunday, March 4
One Service 10:45 AM

Verse of the Month



Kirkmont Guys of all ages are invited to attend the Guys' Retreat the weekend of March 2-4 at Cricket Holler. We will use the movie *Courageous* as a backdrop for discussion as we focus upon how God calls us to live our lives. We will stay in heated cabins with kitchens and showers/restrooms. Join us for a time of spiritual growth and activities, including campfire chats, games, steak dinner, and our "Young vs. Old" competition. The events begin Friday at 7:00 PM, and end with worship at Kirkmont's 10:45 AM Sunday worship. Please join us for some or all of the weekend. The cost is \$60 for the whole weekend; \$30 for Saturday only. **Registration begins Sunday, February 5, in the Narthex. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 26.** Please plan to join us!

The Middle School Retreat is coming up March 9-11 at Kirkmont Center. Our theme for this year will be "Authentic Prayer." We will use David and the Psalms as an example for how we can develop a closer relationship with God through opening up our lives to God through prayer. There will also be plenty of fun, games, food, and fellowship! Cost is \$85. We will leave at 6:00 PM on Friday and return by noon on Sunday. Please bring \$ for a dinner stop at Young's Dairy on Friday evening. **So, to join the fun, make sure to sign up by Sunday, February 26, with a deposit of \$25.00 to secure your registration.**

