

Coffee@theCrossRoads Artist Info

Coffee@theCrossRoads is an outreach of the CrossRoads Youth and Young Adult Ministry and St. Andrew United Methodist Church.

Coffee@theCrossRoads was designed with artists and the community in mind. We wanted to provide a venue for artists, established and aspiring, to be able to share their talents. We currently meet on the Friday evenings that run concurrent with the Purdue school year. As the coffeehouse grows, we hope to expand beyond just Fridays. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of St. Andrew UMC. Although perhaps not ideal, we have found the Fellowship Hall to be a good space for the coffeehouse. In a perfect world, we would have a dedicated coffeehouse space, but the Fellowship Hall gets used for all kinds of different things throughout the week requiring that we set up and tear down each evening. We typically set up about a half dozen round tables with chairs. We throw in some couches, a few candles, some games, and provide free coffee and snacks. We do set out a bowl for donations to help defray the cost of the food and drinks to help keep the doors open.

The coffeehouse has a very small budget, thus we are not able to compensate artists for playing. However, we do offer the opportunity and encourage people at the coffeehouse to donate or tip the artist(s) of the evening.

If you need sound equipment, feel free to bring your own or you may use ours. If you need to use the CrossRoads equipment, please let me know in advance so that I can arrange for someone to set that up. I'm not a technical person, so I can't give you all the specs for the system, however it has proved to be more than adequate for any individuals or groups we have had to date. What I do know is that we have a 12 channel board with Carvin speakers mounted on stands. We can also set up monitors if needed. We have a couple of mics and mic stands, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Attendance is erratic and sporadic (and one of my personal frustrations, but I digress...). We may have 5 people or 50+, but it is impossible to know ahead of time. We have a small core group that is pretty consistent, but with people's busy schedules, different events happening around town, the alignment of the stars and the moon, and who knows what else, attendance is unpredictable.

We do some advertising, but hope to be more consistent and diligent about it this year. We put a flyer together for each week and post them up around campus. I also have an email distribution list that gets a weekly reminder. We utilize the TGIF section of the Journal and Courier newspaper. We will also put an entry in the Tipp-C and we try to put a small ad in the Purdue Exponent each week. **HOWEVER, if you are hoping to have a good crowd on an evening when you perform, you will need to put the word out to your network of friends and family.** Our best crowds are always artist generated. I can't emphasize that enough.

Our doors are open from 6 – 10p on the Friday nights we are open. The artist or entertainment for the evening typically starts around 7:30p. There is no required amount of time that an artist or group has to play. A typical scenario is playing two sets with a break in between. Of course, this will vary if we are doing something different for the evening, i.e. a talent night or game night, etc. Also, if you are not prepared to put on a full evening's worth of entertainment, you can just play what you feel comfortable doing or team up with someone and take a night together.

Although we are an outreach to Youth and Young Adults, i.e. our target audience ranges from high school kids up to 20 and 30 somethings, we welcome everyone. We have folks that bring their young families up through adults of all ages. We feel that our community is whoever walks through the doors.

Despite the fact that we meet in a church and are a Christian organization, nobody is going to be hit over the head with a Bible or be expected to hear a sermon. We tend to get a number of Christian artists, but we welcome all kinds of artists as long as their message is positive and appropriate for the setting. We do offer anyone attending the opportunity to write down prayer concerns that will then be prayed about during the coming week and if anyone is interested in finding out more info about the CrossRoads or St. Andrew, we provide that information.

Our goal is to offer a fun place to hang out, with good fellowship and friendships. The artists provide entertainment, but we want it to be more than a place to go to see a band. We want people to feel welcomed and loved.

If you have questions or comments, email me at:
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Hope to see you at the CrossRoads!
Trent

Coffee@theCrossRoads Home Page:
<http://thecrossroads-umc.org/CrossRoads2/chhome.html>