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CROSSROADS STAFF

Pastor Randy Kelly
Lay Pastor

Cherrie Fleming
Lay Leader

Lyn Polk
Missions

Donna Shoemaker
Hospitality

Cindy Jones
Office Administrator

Kim Carson-Swift
Melody Burns
Music Leaders

Bob Ridgley
Parker King
Tech Leaders

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Sunday
Worship
Service
10:00 am

Adult Sunday School
9:15am Explorers Room105
9:00am Devotions with Randy
Room 208

Tuesday
Fellowship Class
10:00am

Contact Us

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SECURITY

Jan 1st to 15th
Mark Polk

Reflections

From Pastor Randy

January 6 is observed as Epiphany in most Christian religions. But the date is also called other names such as Three Kings Day or the Baptism of Jesus. In most cases, the day is set aside to commemorate the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus and the revelation to the gentiles.

Some churches also include the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, and Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

This Sunday we will be looking at scripture from Matthew's gospel covering the visit of the Magi. We will be focusing specifically on these unlikely characters who traveled a great distance following a star. How they came to worship a newborn king. And why the Three Wise Men are included in the Nativity scene.

For our reflection this week, let us think of what gifts we might offer to King Jesus.

January

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Linda Grindstaff
5 Jazmin Huntington
6 Gerald Johnson
13 Ella Jane Anderson
13 Toni Wiseman
13 Walter Waugh
15 Pam Ekey
19 Cindy Jones
20 Byron Swift
24 Rex Kelly



Anniversary
Cookbook SALE

We have cookbooks!!
We are selling our \$10
(NOW \$5) anniversary
cookbooks at half
price. There are giving
envelopes by the
cookbooks on display.
Place your payment in
one and drop it in the
offering plate. Thanks
for your support!!

Bridge Over
Troubled Water
Pantry

The Bridge Over Troubled
Water Food Pantry in
Belton has helped many
people in our community.
They provide a food
pantry, supermarket style,
which allows families to
choose the foods their
family prefers.

If you would like to make
a donation to Bridge Over
Troubled Water through
CrossRoads, please make
your check out to
CrossRoads UMC and
note on the memo line
"BOTW". Thanks for your
support in keeping this
community resource up
and running!

Thank You from Belton Welfare

Thank you for your generous
contribution to the Belton Welfare
Association. We are grateful for
your support of "Operation Santa"
which provides groceries, gifts,
and toys to less fortunate
members of our community. Your
monetary donation, gifts, and/or
family adoption helps us assist
families and individuals during the
holiday season and throughout
the year providing for utility help
and emergency needs.

Belton Welfare is a non-profit
organization and has been
helping others since 1960. As we
continue this service to our
community, we are thankful for
your support to enable us to
provide for those in need. Best
wishes for a wonderful holiday
season.

Don't
forget your
flu shot &
vaccine &
boosters!

facebook

Be sure to "Like" our
Facebook page!
Visit our tag
CrossRoads in your posts
when possible. Help us
show others how we
Love people, Learn
together, and Live in
service to God at
CrossRoads.
[facebook.com/
crossroadsbelton](#)

Prayers

PEOPLE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Annalou Streiff
Sharon Hedrick
Bob Ridgley
Julie Brighthaupt
Dick Brighthaupt
Penny Kelly
Ron Spencer
Paul Carr
Carol Creach
Joyce & Dana Johnson
Joel (Vicki Miller's cousin's son)
Debby Zamany (Sharon Hedrick's sister)
Mark Lindsay (Lisa Kenslow's brother-in-law)
Renée Eubanks (Vickie Lawrence's friend)
Dusti Lawrence (Vickie Lawrence's daughter)
Avis Wolfe (Snow removal contractor Steve's wife)
Ryan (Carol Creach's friend's husband)
Chelsea (Lawrence family friend)
Rice family (Toni Wiseman's niece & family)
Guy (father of Angel Treese family recipient)
Kylie Drake (former Troop 210 leader)
Julie Reed (Angie Kormanec's friend)
Dave McGill (Pastor Randy's friend)
John Jerls (Cindy Keen's nephew)
JR Alvarez (Angie Kormanec's family friend)
Mary Jane Malmgren (Karen McLaughlin's sister)
Sally McLaughlin (Karen McLaughlin's sister)
Janice Wilson (Karen McLaughlin's co-worker)
Patty LeCompte (Karen McLaughlin's sister)
Michelle (Dick Brighthaupt's friend)
Ronna Buchannon (Wanda Carroll's friend)
Ruthie Weil (Sandy McNeil's daughter)
Alissa Sallee (Jade's cousin)
Angela McNeil (from Sandy McNeil)
Vera Glenn (Nancy McNeil's friend)
Lorna Stinchfield (Cherrie Fleming's sister)
Tessa (Angie Kormanec's friend)
Daniel Hood (Cherrie's friend Pat Hood's grandson)
Gail Welch (Sandy McNeil's friend)
Dennis Matson (Joe Matson's brother)
Denise Wyatt (Wanda Carroll's friend)
Linda Evans (Susie McClain's sister)
Joyce Noah (TOPS)
Kim Kirschling (Cherrie Fleming's friend)

Tanisha Ray
JoAnn Arnold
Chris Harrelson
Holden Batchelder
Phil Gronemeyer
Faye Wallace
Dolores Martin

GROUPS

Gladden Staff & Students
Silver Angels
Health Care Workers
First Responders
Boy Scout 210 & Pack 4210
USA and United States Military

Submit Prayer
Requests Here

Pastor Randy

January 4, 2026

Matthew 2: 1-11

The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

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January Mission Project: Diaper Drive for Local Families

As Pastor Randy shared on Sunday, we are beginning the new year with a mission that meets a very real and often overlooked need in our community. Throughout the month of January, we will be collecting diapers—both disposable diapers and monetary gifts—to support families who are struggling to afford this essential resource.

Two Ways to Give

1. Donate Disposable Diapers

All sizes are welcome. Diapers collected will be delivered to **Bridge Over Troubled Water**, where they will be distributed to local families in need. Please place packages of diapers in the shopping cart located at church anytime during January.

2. Give a Monetary Donation

If you prefer to give financially, your donation will be sent to **Happy Bottoms**, a local agency dedicated to providing diapers to families across our metropolitan area. Because of their purchasing partnerships, Happy Bottoms can stretch every dollar—saving 30–50% off retail prices. Your **\$20 gift can provide up to \$40 worth of diapers**, doubling your impact and helping even more children. Monetary gifts may be placed in the offering plate (envelope or check clearly marked "diapers") or donate online at [crossroads-umc.net](#) on our giving page or click here:

Happy Bottoms Fund

Why This Mission Matters

The need is greater than many realize:

•Diapers are not covered by government safety net programs such as food stamps, Medicaid, or WIC.

•An estimated 21,000 children in our metropolitan area need diaper assistance (U.S. Census 2020).

•Families experiencing diaper need report missing an average of 5.1 workdays per month because they lack the required number of diapers for daycare—impacting employment, stability, and wellbeing.

Thank You for Being the Church

Your generosity helps ensure that babies in our community stay clean, dry, and healthy—and that parents can work, provide, and care for their families with dignity. Thank you for supporting this ministry and for being a church that responds with compassion where the need is great.

ZOE Empowers Update

CrossRoads is beginning a new chapter of ministry this year. Through **ZOE Empowers**, we will be supporting **twenty orphaned children** in a three-year program that provides healthcare, education, vocational training, and a caring community for young people who have been left to navigate life on their own.

We are able to do this because CrossRoads has joined **The Collective**, a model that combines our gifts with those of others to form a full empowerment group of about fifty children. Together, we are helping create a network of safety, dignity, and opportunity. Learn more about this life-changing program at: [zoeempowers.org/give-monthly](#)

If you didn't sign up for a monthly pledge, please don't feel left out. **One-time gifts** are welcome at any time. You can give by writing "ZOE" on the memo line of your check to CrossRoads and dropping it in the offering plate, or by giving online through our church website here:

ZOE Donations

All designated gifts will be sent directly to ZOE.

This ministry will allow us to be a blessing in the lives of these young people—and we, in turn, will be blessed as we watch their courage, growth, and transformation unfold. **Thank you, CrossRoads family, for stepping into this work with such generosity and hope.**

Parish Nurses Notes

January, 2026

The start of a new year always encourages me to get better organized. I spend time transferring birthdays and anniversaries into my new appointment book. I put in doctor's appointments that are already set, reminders to change the furnace filters, etc. This effort makes me feel that I am ready to take on whatever comes at me in the next year.

I quit making specific New Year's Resolutions a couple decades ago. Now I prefer to assess my health, my home organization, and how I'm doing in loving and caring for those around me. I usually find things I need to "tweak"—drink more water, throw or give more things away, s-l-o-w down, watch more sunsets.

This year I am going to focus on lowering my blood pressure. I've told you that the newest guidelines from the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology are encouraging doctors to treat even modest elevations in blood pressure as threats to both heart and brain health. **You must be lower than 120/80 to be within the normal range. 130-139 over 80-89 is Stage 1 and 140/90 or higher is Stage 2.**

My family doctor just increased my dosage of blood pressure medication, despite my insistence that my B/P is always higher in the doctor's office than it is at home. I reluctantly got it filled and began taking the higher dose.

A few days later I had my annual eye exam. As I did the visual field testing, I thought there were more blank areas than I remembered. At the end of all the testing, the doctor told me that the pressure inside my eyes is too high and that I have lost some vision in my left eye. So I now have a glaucoma diagnosis, eye drops before bed every day and a repeat eye care visit scheduled in two months.

A computer search confirmed that my slightly elevated B/P could have contributed to my eye problems. So I'm gonna lose a few pounds, eat more veggies, watch my salt intake, stay active (not a problem for me!) and sleep better (a bit of a problem).

Please make every effort to keep YOUR blood pressure under control. Stop by the table where your Parish Nurses will be offering B/P checks the first Sunday of every month. We can do this together!

Communion
Sunday
blood pressure checks
1st Sunday each month

Last Sunday's Service

If you watch our service online either on Facebook or on YouTube, please either comment on the video to let us know or let [Cindy](#) know to record your attendance.

CrossRoads Calendar

Friday, January 2

NONE

Saturday, January 3

10:00am-11:00am

Bunco in the Multipurpose Room

Sunday, January 4

9:00am-9:30am
9:15am-9:45am
10:00am-11:00am

Devotions With Randy in Room #208
Creation Adult Sunday School in Room #105
Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, January 5

9:00am-4:00pm
6:30pm-7:30pm

Creation Station in Room #205
Cub Scout Den Meeting in the Multipurpose Room

Tuesday, January 6

NONE

Wednesday, January 7

5:30pm-6:15pm
6:15pm-7:00pm

CrossRoads Ringers Bell Choir Rehearsal in Room #210
Heavenly Bell Choir Rehearsal in Room #210

Thursday, January 8

8:45am-10:30am
10:30am-11:00am
11:00am-4:00pm
2:00am-4:00pm
6:30pm-9:00pm

TOPS Meeting in Room #201
Happy Feet Walking Group in the Multipurpose Room
Creation Station in Room #205
UWF Joy Group in Room #105
Scout Troop 210 in the Multipurpose Room

Friday, January 9

NONE

Saturday, January 10

10:00am-11:00am

Leadership Retreat Meeting in the Multipurpose Room

Sunday, January 11

9:00am-9:30am
9:15am-9:45am
10:00am-11:00am

Devotions With Randy in Room #208
Explorers Adult Sunday School in Room #105
Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Upcoming Events

Penny's Bunco Group, Sat, Jan 3, 10:00am, Multipurpose Room

UWF Joy Group, Thurs, Jan 8, 2:00pm, Room #105

Leadership Retreat, Sat, Jan 10, 10:00am, Multipurpose Room

UWF Lunch Bunch, Mon, Jan 12, 11:30am, Multipurpose Room

CrossRoads Crafters, Sat, Jan 17, 10am, Multipurpose Room

Fellowship Hymn Study Resumes, Tues, Jan 20, Room #105

Staff Meeting, Tues, Jan 20, 5:30pm, Room #103

Questions or comments? Email us at cjones@crossroads-umc.net
To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)