



[www.crossroads-umc.net](http://www.crossroads-umc.net)

**CROSSROADS STAFF**

**Pastor Erika Braun**  
Lead Pastor

**Randy Kelly**  
Prayer Leader  
Lay Leader

**Cherrie Fleming**  
Lay Leader

**Donna Shoemaker**  
Hospitality

**Cindy Jones**  
Office Administrator

**Kim Carson-Swift**  
Worship Director

**Sunday Worship Service**  
10:00 am

**Adult Sunday School**  
9:15am Explorers Room 105  
9:15am Devotions with Randy  
Room 208

**Contact Us**

**In Person:**  
515 E. Markey Parkway  
Belton, MO 64012

**By Mail:**  
PO Box 167  
Belton, MO 64012

**By Phone:**  
816-331-5258

**Email:**  
[office@crossroads-umc.net](mailto:office@crossroads-umc.net)

**On the Web**  
[www.crossroads-umc.net](http://www.crossroads-umc.net)

**SECURITY**

**Jan 1st to 15th**  
**Bob Ridgley**



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1 Linda Grindstaff  
6 Gerald Johnson  
13 Ella Jane Anderson  
13 Toni Wiseman  
13 Walter Waugh  
15 Pam Ekey  
19 Cindy Jones  
29 Byron Swift  
30 Kendra Martin

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

NONE

**Best Choice Bar Code Labels**

Please keep collecting labels and placing them in the glass jar on the welcome table in the sanctuary or in the plastic container on the reception area counter.

Proceeds go to our Pirate Pantry Ministry. Thanks for your support.

**Pirate Pantry Ministry**

We are currently raising funds for the Pirate Pantry to help students in the Belton School District who need food assistance. Please consider donating today to provide proper nutrition so these young people can focus on their educational needs. Drop your check in the offering plate and note in the memo line that it is for Pirate Pantry. Thanks for your support!

**facebook**

Be sure to "Like" our Facebook page!  
Visit often and 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.

[www.facebook.com/crossroadsbelton](http://www.facebook.com/crossroadsbelton)

**Heart n Hand Food Pantry Items Needed**

You can drop pantry items in our blue barrel at church or deliver them to HnH Program Center at 200 B St. (behind Scooters) from 10am to 2pm (Mon—Fri). Needed items are:

- Any non-perishable food donations such as cereal, pasta, baking mixes, canned fruit, cooking oils, granola bars, oatmeal, instant potatoes, canned meat, juices, seasonings and condiments
- Gloves or hand warmers
- Pet food
- Coffee, creamer, and sweeteners

Thrift Store donation hours are 11am to 3pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

## Prayers

**PEOPLE IN NEED OF PRAYER**

Kathryn Moore  
Mickey Tabor  
Darin Polk  
Mark & Lyn Polk  
Faye Wallace  
Kala Handley  
Carol Creach  
Phil Gronemeyer  
Caleb Kormanec  
Grayson Kormanec  
Ken Kluter  
JoAnn Arnold  
Betty Robertson  
Chris Harrelson  
Holden Batchelder  
Christina & Charleton Painter  
Frank Sotosek (Nancy Jones' cousin)  
Mark Mikel (Nancy Jones' cousin's husband)  
Tiffany Hedger (Joe Matson's friend)  
Gabe Clutter (Sandy McNeil's great grandson)  
Don Jamerson (Toni Wiseman's nephew)  
Frank Medlin (Robert Berry family friend)

**Andrew Bowman** (Vickie Lawrence's S-I-L's friend)  
**Jake Minor** (Vickie Lawrence's S-I-L's friend)  
**Melissa Shipman** (Vickie Lawrence's family friend)  
**Robbie Robertson** (Darren Rogers' friend)  
**Lacinda Hamilton Kramer** (Dana's daughter)  
**Kayla Jackson** (Vickie Lawrence's friend)  
**Dave McGill** (Randy Kelly's friend)  
**Dawn Maksimov** (Angie Kormanec's friend)  
**Julie Reed** (Angie Kormanec's coworker)  
**Peggy Mullinix** (Karen McLaughlin's friend)  
**Brandi Price** (Tracy, Penny, Vickie, & Angie's cousin)  
**Amanda Brodfehrer** (Vickie's daughter's cousin)  
**T.J. Carr** (Paul & Donna Carr's nephew)  
**Gail Welchton** (Sandy McNeil's friend)  
**Charles Grimes** (Joe Matson's friend)  
**Thomas Pinckney Smith, Jr.** (Gwen Roger's brother)  
**Roseann** (Wanda Carroll's friend's daughter)  
**Dennis Matson** (Joe Matson's brother)  
**Lisa McBride** (Nancy Jones' neighbor)  
**Denise Wyatt** (Wanda Carroll's friend)  
**Linda Evans** (Susie McClain's sister)  
**Thelma, Joyce Noah** (TOPS)  
**Kim Kirschling** (Cherrie Fleming's friend)  
**Greg Coy** (Cherrie Fleming's brother)  
**Shawn Burnam** (Sharon Burnam's son)  
**Sue Schindler** (Kathy Siems' mother)

**GROUPS**

Victims of New Orleans Truck Attack  
Graduates Staff & Students & Silver Angels  
Health Care Workers  
First Responders  
Boy Scout 210 & Pack 4210  
USA and United States Military

**Submit Prayer Requests Here**

**Ponderings**

Hey Church!

This week wraps up our series from A Sanctified Arts on these Words for the Beginning. As we celebrate Epiphany this week, may we find place in the story of Christmas for ourselves to carry the message on.

Our words this week are "the road isn't straight," and that feels like a pretty good reminder for us as we come into the New Year. No matter what is ahead or how we get there, the Spirit walks with us.

May this poem give you a moment to pause, reflect, and ready your hearts for worship.

**Field Notes – by Rev. Sarah Speed**  
**Founding Creative Partner of A Sanctified Art**

With tears in your eyes,  
you name all the bumps  
and zigzags your life has taken.

With clenched teeth  
and a hummingbird pulse,  
you wake up  
and wonder—how did I get here?

In the last 40 days of  
desert wandering, you say  
you haven't heard God's voice once.

You say you miss when God was close,  
when God used to sing the harmony line.

So you yell at the sky,  
begging God to drop a pin,  
to name the road,  
to draw you a map.

You lament the way this life isn't easy.  
You ask me—was the road ever straight and narrow,  
or was that all a lie?

But then you crest the mountain,  
and I don't hear from you for a while,  
because God was growing  
in the lilac field  
on the other side of the hill.

God was scattered  
among the pebbles  
of the road you never planned to take.

Isn't it amazing, you say,  
there are a million roads home  
and God walks every single one of them.

**January 5, 2025**

**Epiphany**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**"The Road isn't Straight"**

*In the event of a weather cancellation for January 5, we will move this service to January 12.*

**WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING**  
— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —

*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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

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**Inclement Weather Policy**

During the winter months, not only heavy snow, but also icy conditions, extreme cold, or a power failure can cause a cancellation. If it is necessary to cancel, the information will be posted on the home page of our website at [www.crossroads-umc.net](http://www.crossroads-umc.net) and on our [Facebook page](#). An email and text message will be sent to all attendees, **so please be sure we have your current email address and mobile phone # on file**. Email your info to [cjones@crossroads-umc.net](mailto:cjones@crossroads-umc.net) **Stay warm and be safe!**

**CROSSROADS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**BELTON, MO**

**BEGINNING JAN. 5TH**

**WORSHIP**

**TIME CHANGE**

**10:00 AM**

[www.crossroads-umc.net](http://www.crossroads-umc.net)

**Charge Conference**

Our church charge conference will be held the weekend of January 11. Times and locations are:

- 1/11/25 Christ UMC 10:00am – noon
- 1/12/25 Harrisonville UMC 3:00pm – 5:00pm

All church members are invited to attend, if you wish to do so. In the event of inclement weather, the affected Charge Conference(s) will take place via Zoom on February 1, 2025.

**Musicians Wanted**

We would love to get more people involved in the music department. If you would be interested in singing in the choir or playing the bells, please see Kim or any of the music people. And you don't have to be able to read music to ring the bells or sing! We welcome you to join us in this important element of our worship service!

**Bible Recap**

Until the 5th season of "The Chosen" comes out on DVD this spring, this group will do the Bible Recap at 9:30am on Friday mornings in Room #208. They will move back down to Room #105 when "The Chosen" videos resume. They welcome new members any time, so if you'd like to join them for the Bible Recap sessions, plan to meet on the upper level in Room #208. If you need a door code to enter the building, let Cindy know.

**Explorers Sunday School**

The Explorers Sunday School group will begin a new book study using Adam Hamilton's book "Creed" on Sunday January 12 at 9:15am in Room #105. They welcome new members so please see Kala Handley or Steve Worstell if you are interested in joining them. The books are here and cost about \$6 each.

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- Gloves or hand warmers
- Pet food
- Coffee, creamer, and sweeteners

Thrift Store donation hours are 11am to 3pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

**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**

<b>Friday, January 3</b> 9:30am-10:30am	Bible Recap Class in Room #208
<b>Saturday, January 4</b> 10:00am-12:00pm	Bunco in the Multipurpose Room
<b>Sunday, January 5</b> 9:00am-10:00am 9:15am-9:45am 9:15am-9:45am 10:00am-11:00am	Choir Rehearsal in Room #210 Devotions With Randy in Room #208 Explorers Adult Sunday School in Room #105 Worship Service in the Sanctuary
<b>Monday, January 6</b> 9:00am-10:00am 9:00am-4:00pm 6:30pm-7:30pm	"The Chosen" DVD viewing at Carnegie Village Creation Station in Room #205 Cub Scout Den Meeting in the Multipurpose Room
<b>Tuesday, January 7</b> 10:00am-11:00am 5:30pm-6:30pm	Fellowship Book Study w/Pam Ekey in Room #105 Care Team Meeting with Video in Room #105
<b>Wednesday, January 8</b> 5:30pm-6:15pm 6:15pm-7:00pm	CrossRoads Ringers Bell Choir Rehearsal in Room #210 Heavenly Bell Choir Rehearsal in Room #210
<b>Thursday, January 9</b> 8:45am-10:30am 10:30am-11:00am 11:00am-4:00pm 2:00pm-4:00pm 6:30pm-8:30pm	TOPS Meeting in Room #201 Happy Feet Walking Group in the Multipurpose Room Creation Station Quilters in Room #205 UWF Joy Group Meeting in Room #105 Scout Troop #210 Meeting in the Multipurpose Room
<b>Friday, January 10</b> 9:30am-10:30am	Bible Recap Class in Room #208
<b>Saturday, January 11</b>	NONE
<b>Sunday, January 12</b> 9:00am-10:00am 9:15am-9:45am 9:15am-9:45am 10:00am-11:00am	Choir Rehearsal in Room #210 Devotions With Randy in Room #208 Explorers Adult Sunday School in Room #105 Worship Service in the Sanctuary

**Upcoming Events**

**UWF Joy Group, Thursday, Jan 9th, 2:00pm, Rm#105**  
**Charge Conference, Sat or Sun, Jan 11 or 12**  
**UWF Lunch Bunch, Monday, Jan 13th, 11:30am, Multipurpose Room**  
**Craft Day, Saturday, January 18, 10:00am, Multipurpose Room**