



eReminder

May 16, 2025

LOVE God and Others LEARN & Grow in Faith LIVE Your Faith by Serving

Volume 18, Number 20

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
Melody Burns
Worship Directors



Markey Parkway
The temporary entrance to the church parking lot is now open for use. Access it from the Y Hwy side. See more info below in this newsletter.

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 am

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

Contact Us

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Belton, MO 64012

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816-331-5258

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On the Web

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SECURITY

Joe Matson
816-289-4630



MAY BIRTHDAYS

7 Ari Frank
7 Jessica Frank
8 Annette Waugh
10 Cindy Keen
13 Cherrie Fleming
16 Steve Anderson
18 Cathy Parks
21 Macy Batchelder
24 Dana Pearis
25 Mat McCann
31 Joe Matson
31 Sandy Harrelson

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/7 Parker & Ashleigh King
5/31 Chris & Sandy Harrelson

2025 Leadership Team

Cheryl Ashbaugh
Paul Carr
Cherrie Fleming
Linda Grindstaff
Cindy Jones
Nancy Jones
Randy Kelly
Vickie Lawrence
Karen McLaughlin
Bob Ridgley
Donna Shoemaker



VBS 2025

July 21 thru July 25
Meal 5:30pm
Activities 6 to 8pm

VBS Helpers Needed
Email [Cindy](mailto:Cjones@crossroads-umc.net)
if interested
cjones@crossroads-umc.net

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 or [Donate online here](#). Thanks for your support!

Heart n Hand

Some items needed:

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

Personal care & household items (like toilet paper, paper towels, diapers)

Hygiene items (Preferably travel sized items: wash cloths, small combs and brushes, deodorant, body wash, razors, lip balms, wipes)



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

Ponderings

Hey Church Family!

As we are smack dab in the middle of a sermon series looking at immigration, the news is full of breaking headlines about immigrants. No matter where you sit on this topic, it can be difficult to discern if the moves our government is making on this topic are helpful or hurtful. Yet, there are some that seem blatantly wrong and deceitful.

Did you know that the families of the immigrants who have been fast-track deported can no longer find where their family member is and essentially have no way of knowing if their loved one is alive or how to help them? (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/families-search-for-loved-ones-after-hundreds-taken-on-u-s-immigration-flights-disappear-from-online-locator>)

We have stopped hearing Abrego Garcia's name as much with everything else that is drowning out the news, but the Trump administration is actively refusing to follow court orders to allow this man a chance to have due processing. (<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trumps-remarks-could-come-back-bite-him-abrego-garcia-deportation-battle>)

And now we are hearing a celebratory story about how White Afrikaners are being allowed refugee status due to persecution that the African government is saying is false and not happening. (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/white-south-africans-arrive-in-u-s-after-receiving-refugee-status-from-trump>)

And unfortunately, it seems that race and white supremacy is the direct reason why these people are being given this privilege. (<https://www.cnn.com/2025/05/12/politics/video/trump-afrikaners-non-white-refugees-ac360-vrtc>)

I could go on for pages and pages about the immigration news we are hearing in this day and age, but I know you don't want me to.

I know that some of you do not appreciate this sermon series. I know that some of you do not appreciate my thoughts on this. I know that some of you think I am being led astray by the devil.

I don't want you to listen to me. I want you to listen to the Spirit of our loving God who speaks through these headlines, through the Scriptures, and through our discourse on this topic.

I beg you to take time to do your own research and look beyond the American controlled news that can skew stories because they are run by the powerful elite with an agenda. I beg you to hear these headlines to be about beloved children of God. I beg you to hear that the government knows that our immigration laws need to be reformed and is instead creating this fear-mongering environment.

Let the Spirit move you to be able to see as God does.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Erika

"The God Who Sees"

May 18, 2025

Genesis 37:23-28, 36



So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

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VBS Donations Requested

We provide a free meal each year for the kids at VBS each day. We do receive donations from some families to help offset the meal costs, and Donna shops diligently to get the best prices for the food, but the cost exceeds the donations. We also provide crafts and supplies for projects for usually 50 or 60 kiddos, and also a few décor items to set the stage.

If you would like to help defray the expense of our VBS program this year, please mark your check or envelope with "VBS" and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, or you can donate online here:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5N0/campaign/C-12M6N>
Thanks!

May Craft Social

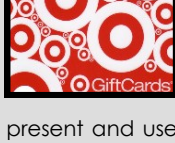
MARCH CRAFT SOCIAL—Saturday, May 17, 10am to 7pm! Bring your favorite craft and join in the fun. Cost - \$5 per person. Please register below to reserve a spot or contact Tracy.

Hope to see you there!

REGISTER HERE!

Scrip Gift Cards

When heading for a meal out to a local restaurant, or when you need a gift for a special occasion, remember to shop CrossRoads' scrip gift card program. We have an assortment of plastic cards in stock, and many come in an e-gift card version that can be emailed to you to present and use directly from your cell phone or that can be printed on paper and presented to the merchant.



We can order and receive the e-gift cards immediately in most cases, whereas it takes a few days to receive the plastic cards. The e-gift cards have an image of the card on them as well as instructions for redeeming them online or at the merchant location.

You can easily place your order on our website here:

Order Scrip Gift Cards

If you prefer, you can pick up an order form on the info table at church, or email your order to Cindy. Thanks for supporting CrossRoads through your gift card shopping year round!

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.

OUR MISSION AT CROSSROADS

Our mission at Crossroads is making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We help people move toward being faithful followers of Jesus: We LOVE people, connecting them with our congregation and with God, we LEARN and grow in faith, and we LIVE our faith through service to God and others. And in circular fashion, the more we live our faith, the more we love people and God, the more we learn and deepen our faith.



Road Construction

Markey Pkwy

The temporary entrance for the church is now open, and it is accessed from the Y Hwy side. To go to the church, you'll use the left turn lane at the traffic signal on Markey Pkwy (by Hobby Lobby), but instead of turning left towards the shopping center, you'll go straight across the intersection to access the church entrance.

Here is a picture of the church access drive that is now open.

The entire project has a planned completion date of July 2025.



Prayers



PEOPLE IN NEED OF PRAYER

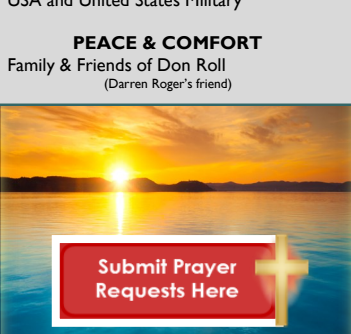
Paul Carr
Faye Wallace
Carol Creach
Phil Gronemeyer
Ken & Patty Kluter
JoAnn Arnold
Betty Robertson
Chris Harrelson
Holden Batchelder
Nikki Bowers (Gerald & Maxine's granddaughter)
Lacinda Hamilton Kramer (Dana's daughter)
Mary Jane Malmgren (Karen McLaughlin's sister)
Vera Green (Sandy McNeil's friend)
Katlyn Madrigal (Jade's friend's mom)
Lorna Stinchfield (Cherrie Fleming's sister)
Tessa (Angie Kormanec's friend)
Iata (Penny Kelly's son's mother-in-law)
Maria Smith (Gwen Roger's sister-in-law)
Kim Smith (Gwen Roger's daughter-in-law)
Daniel Hood (Cherrie's friend Pat Hood's grandson)
Mikel (Nancy Jones' cousin's husband)
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)
Kayla Jackson (Vickie Lawrence's friend)
Brandi Price (Tracy, Penny, Vickie, & Angie's cousin)
Gail Welchon (Sandy McNeil's friend)
Dennis Matson (Joe Matson's brother)
Lisa McBride (Nancy Jones' neighbor)
Denise Wyatt (Wanda Carroll's friend)
Linda Evans (Susie McClain's sister)
Joyce Noah (TOPS)
Kim Kirschling (Cherrie Fleming's friend)

GROUPS

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

PEACE & COMFORT

Family & Friends of Don Roll (Darren Roger's friend)



Submit Prayer Requests Here

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, May 16

9:30am-10:30am

Study of David Class in Room #208

Saturday, May 17

10:00am-7:00pm

CrossRoads Crafters in the Multipurpose Room

Sunday, May 18

9:15am-9:45am
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

Monday, May 19

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

Tuesday, May 20

10:00am-11:00am
7:00pm-9:00pm

Fellowship Book Study w/Pam Ekey in Room #105
Scout Parents Club Meeting in the Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, May 21

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

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

Thursday, May 22

8:45am-10:30am
10:30am-11:00am
11:00am-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
Scout Troop #210 Meeting Upstairs or Office

Friday, May 23

9:30am-10:30am
4:00pm-5:00pm

Study of David Class in Room #208
Creative Stitchers in Room #201

Saturday, May 24

NONE

Sunday, May 25

9:15am-9:45am
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

Craft Social, Sat, May 17, 10am to 7pm

Gray Spaces, Fri, May 30, 6pm, Zoom

Care Team Meeting, Sun, June 1, After Church, Rm 105

MO Annual Conference, June 6 thru June 8

VBS, July 21-25, Mon-Fri, FREE Meal 5:30pm, Activities 6-8:00pm

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