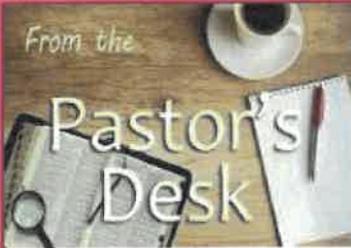


Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

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February 2026



Pastor Rick

OUR CHURCH & OUR WIDER CHURCH FAMILY

A Conversation About Cooperation, Freedom, and Mission

Dear Church Family,

Occasionally, I get a question about our Church or our Southern Baptist Association.

Questions like:

“What exactly is a Southern Baptist Church?”

What makes a Southern Baptist’s distinct from other Baptists?” (not answered fully here except for our distinctive Cooperative Program)

“Who exactly are we connected to as a Southern Baptist Church?”

Others wonder:

“Does anyone outside our church tell us what to do?”

“Why do we belong to an association?”

“Where does the Southern Baptist Convention fit into all this?”

From the earliest days of Baptist life, churches have discovered that walking together in mission multiplies gospel impact. Cooperation allows churches to do together what none of us could do alone.

That cooperation begins closest to home with local associations.

Local Association: Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association

A Fellowship of Neighboring Churches

Our church cooperates with the Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association, often simply called *Valley Rim*.

Valley Rim is a local fellowship of churches across central and eastern Arizona, currently made up of over 50 cooperating Southern Baptist churches.

What does Valley Rim do?

- Encourages pastors and church leaders
- Strengthens healthy churches
- Assists churches facing difficulty
- Promotes local missions and outreach

Fosters fellowship rather than competition

What Valley Rim does *not* do is just as important.

Valley Rim:

- Does not govern churches
- Does not appoint pastors
- Does not control budgets or property

Does not dictate doctrine

Participation is voluntary, relational, and service-oriented.

Associations exist to serve churches—not the other way around. We currently give a flat monthly amount of \$160 of our church contributions to the Valley Rim Association.

A Few Common Questions (Answered Simply)

Who is in charge of our church?

The congregation, under Christ. Always.

Can a church leave an association or the SBC?

Yes. Cooperation is voluntary at every level.

Does the Southern Baptist Convention, which receives the largest portion of our monthly contributions at 8%, control the local churches?

No. The SBC is a *convention of churches*, not a hierarchy over them.

Where the Southern Baptist Convention Fits

Beyond the local association, churches also cooperate statewide and nationally.

Across the Southern Baptist family:

- Over 47,000 churches cooperate
- Nearly 3,500 international missionaries serve through the International Mission Board
 - (Note: This is why we contribute to the Lottie Moon Missions Drive.)
 - Thousands more serve across North America

- (Note: This is why we have our Annie Armstrong Missions Drive.)

- Disaster relief teams respond quickly to crises

Six seminaries train pastors and missionaries

The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program

How Churches Work Together for the Gospel

One of the quiet strengths of Southern Baptist life is something called the Cooperative Program. You may hear it mentioned from time to time, but many people are unsure exactly what it is—or why it matters.

Simply put, the Cooperative Program is how Southern Baptist churches voluntarily partner together to support missions and ministry, both nearby and around the world.

Simple Definition:

The Cooperative Program is a voluntary, unified way for Southern Baptist churches to fund missions and ministry together—while remaining fully autonomous.

No church is required to give.

No percentage is mandated.

No outside entity controls how a church participates.

How It Works

When a Southern Baptist church gives through the Cooperative Program:

- The church decides freely how much to give

- Funds are shared at the local, state, and national levels

Those funds support:

- ⇒ International missionaries
- ⇒ North American church planting
- ⇒ Disaster relief
- ⇒ Theological education
- ⇒ Leadership training
- ⇒ Evangelism and outreach

The key idea is shared mission.

Why Southern Baptists Use the Cooperative Program

Many mission efforts rely on constant fundraising, individual appeals, or competing priorities. The Cooperative Program was created to solve that problem.

It allows churches to:

- Support missions consistently
- Avoid competition between causes
- Keep missionaries focused on ministry, not fundraising

Work together rather than independently

Because thousands of churches participate, even small gifts become part of something much larger.

What the Cooperative Program Supports

Through Cooperative Program giving, Southern Baptist churches help sustain:

- International Mission Board (IMB) Supporting thousands of missionaries serving around the world

- North American Mission Board (NAMB) Church planting, evangelism, disaster relief across the U.S. and Canada
- Six Southern Baptist Seminaries Training pastors, missionaries, and ministry leaders

State Conventions and Local Associations Supporting church health, leadership development, and local missions

All of this happens without a central authority over local churches.

Why This Matters for Our Church

The Cooperative Program allows our church to be:

- Faithful locally— serving our own community
- Engaged regionally— through associations like Valley Rim

Active globally— reaching the nations

It allows us to have a missionary presence in places we may never visit, while still caring deeply about ministry right here at home.

Through cooperation, our church's faithfulness is multiplied.

At Crossroads we also support Barnabas International (Missionaries Al and Elizabeth Dyck), they provide counselling, intervention, and training to other missionaries. The Miller Family (Missionaries to the Philippines). Spirit of Martyrdom (Plants churches in underrepresented countries. Also serves persecuted churches in India, Pakistan, and Africa).

A Beautiful Balance

The genius of the Cooperative Program is the balance it maintains:

- Local church autonomy is preserved
- Mission effectiveness is strengthened

Resources are stewarded wisely

A small church and a large church stand side by side—not competing but cooperating.

A Pastoral Perspective

When we give through the Cooperative Program, we are saying:

- *We trust one another*
- *We share the same gospel*
- *We care about people we may never meet*

We believe the Great Commission is bigger than any one church
That is a beautiful testimony in a fragmented world.

The Baptist Faith and Message

Our Shared Confession

You may also hear reference to the Baptist Faith and Message.

The Baptist Faith and Message is:

- A summary of biblical doctrine
- A confession, not a creed
- A guide, not a governing document

Always subordinate to Scripture

It helps cooperating churches know that we share core convictions about:

- The authority of Scripture

- Salvation by grace through faith
- The nature of the church
- Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Religious liberty

Associations like Valley Rim use the Baptist Faith and Message as a theological compass, not a tool of control. It helps cooperation remain clear, healthy, and Christ-centered.

Why This Matters for Us

This Southern Baptist Faith and Message protect:

- Church autonomy
- Biblical accountability
- Doctrinal clarity

Missional effectiveness

It allows us to be:

- Independent, but not isolated
 - Connected, but not controlled
 - Local in ministry, global in mission
-

Learn More (If You're Curious)

- Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association <https://www.vrsba.org>
- Arizona Southern Baptist Convention <https://azsbc.org>
Southern Baptist Convention <https://www.sbc.net>
Baptist Faith and Message <https://bfm.sbc.net>

A Closing Word from the Pastor

We cooperate not because we must—but because we want to. We do so freely, joyfully, and thoughtfully, trusting that Christ is honored when His churches walk together in truth and mission.

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.” — Psalm 133:1

God loves you and so do I!!!

Pastor Rick



Notices/Events

If you have something you no longer need or want, an upcoming event, or have a notice to share with the church, feel free to advertise it here to the members of Crossroads. Give your info to Amos (office) for posting. If the info goes in the newsletter, remember that it will be posted online, so do not put in private information.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

The **DECORATIONS COMMITTEE** needs volunteers. The committee changes up the sanctuary decorations for seasons and/or special holidays. There isn't a lot of time required and even if you don't have the "gift" you can help take down and put up/out decorations. We especially need our "summer stayers" to join. Men, you are helpful as well!

The **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** needs volunteers to join the committee. With enough volunteers, Sunday mornings can have a rotation again and will have enough people to assist at other events like our business meeting, potlucks, Concerts even on the upcoming National Prayers day on May 7, 2026.

TO SIGN UP/ASK QUESTIONS, SEE DAVID ANYTIME.

Important

MEN'S BREAKFAST!

First SATURDAY of each month at 8:00 AM at the church.



No men Breakfast on Feb 7

Feb 8 (Men Chili Cookoff), March 7, April 4.

Sign up in the info area. If you can help in the kitchen, please come at 7:00 am to help "Chef" Lafe. Food, Fellowship, and God's Word

For more info Contact Lafe @ 719-342-0431

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 8, 2026 @ 8 AM (Men Chili Cookoff), @ Church & Worship Speaker: Trinity Cole (Genesis Project)

Feb 13, 2026 @ 7 PM First Baptist Church

The Aaron Shust Night of Worship

Feb 14, 2026 @ 8AM Valentines Breakfast

Feb 22, 2026 Missions Meeting after service

Feb 28, 2026 @ 10AM CRAFT DAY (Men & Women)

Tax Filing Season: Jan 26th, 2026 - April 15, 2026



First SATURDAY of each month at 8:30 AM at a local eatery.

**Feb 7, at Gold Canyon Café
March 7, April 4.**

Sign up in the info area. Bring a friend or family member!

For more info Contact .Joanna @

480-560-9964

The Classified Page

If you have a need for repair work around your home, able to perform handyman or cleaning service, or know of job opportunities, this is the place to be. Give your info to Amos (office) for posting. If the info goes in the newsletter, remember that it will be posted online, so do not put in private information.

Handyman needed

Homes need repair at times and when those small, but needed things breakdown, you need help. We have several members of the church who are experience in many areas. The Property Committee can help with many home issues. Please let the church office know of your needs and the Property team will be notified.

If you are experienced with tools, please let the office know of your talents. We are here to serve our church family in many areas and you can be a blessing to others in need.

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT JOANNA**



Have something you want to sell or give away? Take a picture of it , provide a description, and send to the office. We will place it in the newsletter and on the website.

Do you need something for your home? Before you buy it, we can put your need in the Bulletin and who knows, someone may be able to help .

(Tax Return Prep, Landscaping, Home cleaning, etc).

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT THE OFFICE**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you know of any job openings that would interest our church family or friends of the church, please let the office know.



Our church pantry is available for our church members, their families, and those in our community. We have a variety of canned and packaged goods, cleaning supplies and hygiene items. If you have a need or you know of a neighbor who is struggling, please let the office

What is new ???

⇒ If for any reason you are unable to attend a meeting in person, we can provide you with a Microsoft Teams or Zoom meeting link if you let the office know in advance.

⇒ Benevolence Donations Box

If you need prayer, our staff and deacons are always available. Please contact the office if you would like prayer.



Missions News

- News off/from missions supported by Crossroads Baptist Church

Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for



Valentine's day will also be our 9th wedding anniversary. I wanted to share this heartfelt story and a picture from 2018.

On December 4, 2018, I walked outside our back Colorado patio with Daisy (our dachshund). Since it snowed earlier, I shoveled. A little bit later, the sun came out and noticed the patio cement was already dry. With much amazement, I stood there in awe because I know God sent me a sign in a heart on the dry patio. I know He was reminding me that he loves Lafe and I and that everything will be okay.

I was praying daily as I always do. But, I was asking for extra strength because my 56-year-old brother died of bladder cancer 6 years before and Lafe's news was devastating. Lafe just had a large mass removed from his bladder a few weeks before and we were waiting for the results. After I saw the heart the very next day, Lafe was diagnosed with stage 2 bladder cancer. Plus, Lafe was seeing an oncologist and surgeon

soon after. After two surgeries, (including a NEO bladder to replace his bladder), chemo and KEYTRUDA infusions, he is still cancer free today.

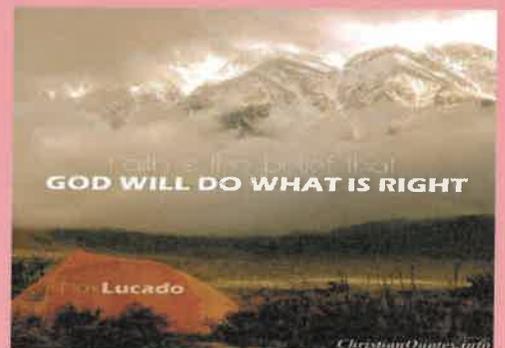
Philippians 4: 6-7 (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

By Mary Murray





**January 2026 Average
Monthly Attendance**

Sunday Worship 69
 Sunday School 32
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 24

Ministries/Other Actual

New Members: 0
 Ladies' Bible Study 6
 Ladies' Breakfast Attendance 8
 Men's Breakfast Attendance 14
 Visitors 7

JEANS FOR JESUS

Jeans needed to make Prayer Pockets for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

See Mary Murray with any questions.

Happy New Month
 Welcome to
FEBRUARY
 wishing you the best of the month

Get Involved!

- Sunday Fellowship - coffee & donuts @ 9 am.
- Sunday School @ 9:30 am.
- Worship Service @ 10:45 am.
- Ladies' Bible Study and Life Group
- Tuesdays @ 10 am.
- Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study @ 3:00 pm.
- Choir - Wednesday- No Practice @ 5 pm
- Ladies' Breakfast - Monthly: First Saturday @ 8:30 am at a local restaurant.
- Men's Breakfast—Monthly: First Saturday @ 8:00 am at the church.
- Connections Saturday - One Saturday each quarter. Check church calendar.
- Volunteering: The church needs your gifts and talents. See a need? Want to help somehow? Contact the office or the committee chairperson.

When February Breathes in Perfect Rhythm

Every so often, time seems to slow down.

In February 2026, the calendar finds a rare stillness: four Sundays, four Mondays, four Tuesdays... each day appearing just as frequently as the next. No excess. No shortage. Just four complete weeks, flowing like a steady breath.

Some may call it coincidence. Others might see it as a miracle. But on a spiritual level, it's an invitation.

An invitation to recognize balance.

February is often the overlooked month—short, quiet, suspended between endings and beginnings. Yet this February holds a subtle symmetry, as if time itself is gently reminding us of what harmony looks like. Everything has its place. Everything returns in rhythm.

In spiritual traditions around the world, balance is revered. Equal light and shadow. Rest and movement. Giving and receiving. And here it is, clearly marked on the calendar: a month that neither rushes ahead nor lags behind, but simply exists.

This alignment doesn't imply that life suddenly becomes flawless. But it does provide a moment to pause and reflect: Where can I bring back balance?

What would it feel like to live my days with this same quiet order?

You don't have to believe February is rare or magical for it to hold meaning. Sometimes the universe communicates softly, not through grand displays, but through gentle patterns we're meant to observe. Four weeks. Seven days. A calm reminder that balance is always achievable—and that even time, now and then, chooses tranquility.

By **Amos B Mahi**

FEBRUARY 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <small>Full moon</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <small>President's Day</small>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						

BunCatcherStudio.com



February 2026 is perfectly balanced —

- ⇒ four of every weekday. Valentine's Day, however, remains emotionally unstable.
- ⇒ Flowers will be bought last-minute.
- ⇒ Dinner plans will be "low-key.
- ⇒ "Chocolate will still solve everything.
- ⇒ Some traditions are timeless





The Wisdom message

Typically, love is taught as the greatest of all the character-building virtues.

I Cor. 13:13 compares love to faith and hope, declaring that love is the greatest of these three.

Heb. 11:6 says that without faith it is impossible to please God. Yet, love is greater than that. Wow! Wisdom, when compared to all of the virtues and all of the things of value, is said to be greater than all of them.

Pro. 3:15 and Pro. 8:11 tell us that nothing we desire is greater than wisdom.

Pro. 4:7 says that the wisest thing we can do is to get wisdom.

Loving action then becomes the wisest behavior as we seek to honor others as better than ourselves. Remember that love never fails and that wisdom lasts forever.

By your servant, Lafe.

John 3:16

for God so loved the world
that He gave His
only Son that
whoever believes
in Him
should not
perish but have
eternal
life

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship The Lord's Supper	2	3 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study 1	4 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	5	6	7 8:00 AM 
8 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship Speaker: Trinity Cole (Genesis Project)	9	10 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study 1	11 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	12	13	14 8:00 am Valentines Breakfast
15 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	16	17 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study 12:00 pm Property Committee meeting	18 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	19	20	21
22 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship Mission Meeting after service	23	24 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	25 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	26	27	28 10 00 Am Craft Day (Men and Women)
Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.						

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God. “

Romans 8:38–39

+ Crossroads **+** **Baptist Church** **Great Commission Church**

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Church Office: 480-982-9120

Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Email: info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com

Website: <https://www.crossroadsbaptistaz.com/>

Pastor: Rick Basch

Deacons

Bob Allen, Earl McDonald, Hector Palma, Mike Tacker, Robert Wisner



MATTHEW 28:18-20
WIN SOULS. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association

<https://www.valleyrimbsba.org/>

AZ Southern Baptist Convention

<https://azsbc.org/>

Southern Baptist Convention

<http://www.sbc.net/>

