Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

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November 2026



More Than Wanting to Follow

Read: Luke 14:25-33

There is a difference between wanting to follow Jesus and being willing to follow Him.

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus attracted large crowds. Some were curious about His miracles. Others were captivated by His teaching. Still others hoped He would deliver them from Roman oppression.

But Jesus understood something about human nature: enthusiasm is not necessarily commitment.

In Luke 14:25–33, Jesus turned to the crowds following Him and challenged them with an uncomfortable truth. Being His disciple would require more than admiration, good intentions, or religious enthusiasm. It would require a willingness to surrender everything to Him.

First, discipleship requires a decision.

Jesus spoke of loving Him above even our closest family relationships and being willing to carry our cross (vv. 25–27). He was not commanding us to despise our families. Rather, He was declaring that our allegiance to Him must be greater than every competing loyalty.

We cannot follow Christ faithfully while insisting that He accommodate every personal preference and ambition.

Second, discipleship requires deliberation.

Jesus illustrated His teaching with two examples: a builder calculating the expense of a tower and a king considering whether he could withstand an approaching army (vv. 28–32).

Both illustrations emphasize the importance of carefully considering what lies ahead.

But here we must recognize an important distinction: **There is a difference between counting the cost of discipleship and paying the price of salvation.**

Jesus Christ has already paid the full price for our redemption through His death on the cross. Nothing we surrender, sacrifice, or accomplish can add to His finished work. Salvation is God's gracious gift, received through faith. It is not a reward earned through human effort.

Yet the grace that saves us also calls us to follow the Savior. We do not count the cost to determine whether we can afford salvation. We count the cost because following Jesus means surrendering our claim to live life on our own terms.

Jesus never promised that following Him would be easy. He promised something infinitely better: a life anchored in Him, guided by His truth, and sustained by His grace.

Third, discipleship requires devotion.

Jesus concluded with a striking statement: "Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples" (Luke 14:33, NIV).

The question is not whether we possess much or little. The question is whether anything we possess has become more important to us than Jesus.

Genuine faith brings us under the lordship of Christ, gradually transforming our desires, priorities, and conduct. Discipleship is not a momentary emotional response. It is a lifelong journey of faithful obedience.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we naturally reflect on God's many blessings. We thank Him for family, friends, provisions, and the freedoms we enjoy.

Thanksgiving should also prompt a more searching question:

Are we more grateful for what Jesus gives us than we are committed to the One who gives it?

It is possible to appreciate the blessings of Christianity without fully embracing the responsibilities of discipleship.

Christ does not call us merely to admire Him from the crowd. He calls us to follow Him with surrendered hearts and obedient lives.

The cost of discipleship may be substantial. It may require us to surrender our comfort, change our priorities, forgive someone who has wounded us, or remain faithful when circumstances become difficult.

Yet whatever following Christ may cost us, it can never compare with the immeasurable worth of knowing Him.

As we give thanks this November, let us remember that gratitude is more than something we express with our lips. It is something we demonstrate through faithful obedience.

Salvation is free because Christ paid the price.

Discipleship is costly because following Him changes everything.

God loves you and so do I!!!

From: Pastor Rick



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

October 2026 Average Monthly Attendance

Sunday Worship.....	59
Sunday School	27
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study.....	27
Baptisms	2
Ladies' Bible Study.....	12
Women's Breakfast	15
Men's Breakfast Attendance	12
Visitors	2
Home Visitation.....	6

Ministries/Other Actual

The 2026 church directory has been completed. If you have not received your copy, please see Joanna or Amos.



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.
- Women's Breakfast - Monthly: First Saturday @ 8:30 am at a local restaurant.
- Men's Breakfast—Monthly: First Sa
- turday @ 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.

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!

We are looking for at least 1 or 2 more Volunteers counters (members) for the Monday following the Sunday service. If you are interested see Amos

The committees provide services to the church in various areas, and we are looking for those who feel a call to serve. A list detailing the committees is on the foyer information board and the kitchen side room information board. We have 3 committees that need help: Pantry, Barnabas, and Benevolence.

For more information and to request to be on a committee, please see a Personnel Committee member: Bob Allen, Nan Allen, Tom Bennett, Joanna Burgan, Lafe Murray,

ASK QUESTIONS, SEE JOANNA OR AMOS ANYTIME.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 14 Connections Saturday (Crafts)

Nov 15 Missions Meeting after Church

Nov 25 No Prayer & Bible Study

Nov 26 Thanksgiving (office closed)

Nov 27 Office closed

Nov 28 Decorations day (for Christmas)

Dec 7 Finance Meeting @12 pm

Dec 9 Deadline to return Gifts cards for Project help angel Tree

Dec 13 Genesis Project guest speaker(Trinity Cole) and Christmas Bake Sale.

Dec 20 Genesis Project guest speaker

MEN'S BREAKFAST !

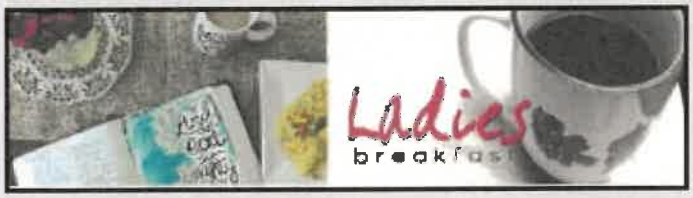


First SATURDAY of each month at 8:00 AM at the church.

Dec 5th, Jan 2nd, Feb 6th

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



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

at Gold Canyon Café

Dec 5th, Jan 2nd, Feb 6th

Sign up in the info area. Bring a friend or family member!
For more info Contact .Joanna 480-560-9964

Wisdom Corner

There is a discipline of study called Biblical Theology. It is different from Systematic Theology which takes a subject-by-subject study of Bible topics. Biblical Theology instead will take a subject and show its beginnings within Scripture and how the subject developed to maturity within the Bible from infancy, which tends to begin in Genesis.

This is true of the subject of wisdom. It began within the context of the artists that designed and built great works in furniture for the tabernacle in the wilderness. These skilled laborers became wise in making beautiful things to worship God for the religion given to Moses. The law needed sacrifices of certain clean animals and grain offerings as duty in teaching the people about their sins and the seriousness of their sins.

Therefore, wisdom first became synonymous with the skill of wise workman who made functional pieces of art for the religion of the Hebrew people for the priests who did their ministry in the tabernacle. Skill or doing things well became the task of wise men. Study of woods and metals became the foundations of wisdom as science was explored for information about God's creation.
Schools of the wise men became schools of the prophets as learning what could be known was explored. God helped in these matters of learning as He revealed His nature and ways. Solomon then took wisdom to a new level of understanding by the graces of God given to him. It is Solomon who reveals that wisdom literally had a beginning in creation before anything else was made (Pro. 8:22-23). Wisdom or skill was necessary for creation before anything could be made. Wisdom came first and continues to be needed in each of our lives as we skillfully navigate this journey of faith.

Skill in present day Christianity is linked to the spiritual gifts that are both given to us and by exercising these giftings a person grows in greater skill in functioning with that gifting. Look at our pastor, for instance, he has become very skilled in preaching and teaching God's Word. His gift isn't what it was. He is wiser and more skilled in blessing us as our pastor.

Let skill and excellence be our standard. Let us love wisely and skillfully as we become a great community of faith.



God bless you greatly,
From Lafe Murray

Just Believe

After last month's Bible study there should be no doubt how to answer the question; "What must I do to be saved?"
Believe, Just Believe baby!
That's according to no less a Source than Jesus Himself!
This month we will take it one step further, actually two steps, as we will seek to answer the obvious follow-up questions:
"What precisely, must I believe to be saved?"
In answering that we also answer the most important question...
Salvation is a Who... a personal Savior, Jesus Christ! Acts4:12
There is salvation in no other Name under Heaven given to people by which we are saved.
No Other Name!
At least 3 times it is recorded in the Gospel accounts that Jesus clearly spoke & previewed the Gospel to The Twelve. The first real mention he makes of it is approximately six months before Calvary, in the mammoth shadows of Mt. Herman in Northern Galilee near Caesarea Phillipi. Matthew16:21

From then on Jesus began to point out to His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem & suffer many things from the elders ,chief priests & scribes ,be killed & raised the third day.
That brothers & sisters is the Gospel; death, burial & glorious resurrection! That is the "what" which we must believe to be saved. It really is that simple folks...Death Burial Resurrection!

The clearest cut & concise rendering of The Gospel is found in 1Corinthians15:1-4:
2) Now I make known to you, brethren ,the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received ,in which also you stand,
3) For I delivered to you as of First Importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
4) and He was buried & that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
Just a few notes; First off ,the Apostle Paul says this Gospel is of First Importance (so pay heed);Second, he "received" The Gospel directly from Jesus! Third ,he amplifies that this is all part of GOD's plan reinforced by Holy Scripture.
Starting in verse 5 Paul gives strong evidence for the Resurrection, four separate verses of witnesses who had encounters with the Risen Christ, during the 40 days after His Raising. This includes over 500 at one time. Many of these witnesses were still alive in the mid 50's when 1Corinthians was written, twenty years or so post resurrection!

So, there you have it church, the "what" to believe of the Gospel. We actually previewed this last month when we studied Romans10:9-10: If you confess with your mouth Jesus is LORD & believe in your heart GOD raised Him from the dead...you Will be saved!

Now comes the most important part, The Main Thing, the "Who" that we must believe in. Philippians2:8-10

8) He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross
9) For this reason, also, GOD exalted Him& bestowed on him the Name above every other name.
10) So that at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow & every tongue confesses;
Jesus is LORD to the glory of GOD the Father.
The "Who" of the Gospel...Jesus Messiah! Or, as Hebrews12:2 says the Author & Perfector of our faith!
In Him my faith & joy are complete.
Perhaps it has never been said simpler than this: " The whole of my theology is stated in this; Christ Died for me!"
Charles Spurgeon said that.
"It is finished!"
Just Believe!
Next month we will explore the one question every human must answer that has life or death consequences.

Til then: Stay faithful & obedient. Finish well!

From. Tom Winston





How was Thanksgiving established?

In 1827, noted magazine editor and prolific writer Sarah Josepha Hale launched a campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. For 36 years, she published numerous editorials and sent scores of letters to governors, senators, presidents and other politicians. Her efforts earned her the nickname the "Mother of Thanksgiving."

President Abraham Lincoln finally heeded Hale's request in 1863, at the height of the Civil War. In an October 3 proclamation, he acknowledged how the nation had continued to thrive despite the war and entreated all Americans to ask God to "commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife" and to "heal the wounds of the nation."

Lincoln scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November, which became the holiday's customary date (with a notable exception in 1865) until 1939. That year, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Roosevelt's decision, known derisively as "Franksgiving," was met with passionate opposition. The president agreed to move the holiday back starting in 1942, but Congress had had enough with the changes and decided to establish a fixed date. After some debate, they chose the fourth Thursday in November, and Roosevelt signed the bill into law on December 26, 1941.

From Joanna Burgan

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 have 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 or a member of the property team



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 .
(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 ?

We have some things in the lost and found bin; please retrieve them.

We are releasing images or videos If you would like to share, please send them via our email address before the 24th of each month @ info@CrossroadsBasptistAz.com

You could now find and pick up free discount coupons from various vendors at the table behind the A/V area to help offset your expenses
Our emergency evacuation plans are posted in the church. Please consult them. We will conduct a trial in the near future.

If you need prayer, our staff and deacons are always available. Please contacts us



Please see Mary Murray if you have any questions. Donations can be made directly to the Genesis Project or placed in the Missions area behind the A/V area.









5 Thanksgiving Celebrations Around the World

1. Canada

It may surprise you to learn that Canada's first Thanksgiving celebration actually predates America's—by more than 40 years. In 1578, an expedition led by the English navigator Martin Frobisher held a ceremony in what is now Nunavut, giving thanks for the safety of their fleet. This is considered the first-ever Thanksgiving celebration in North America, though in fact First Nations (the indigenous peoples of Canada) and Native Americans had been holding harvest festivals long before Europeans arrived.

Loyalists who moved to Canada during the Revolutionary War introduced turkey, along with some other customs from the American Thanksgiving. Canada's Parliament formally established a national Thanksgiving Day (November 6) in 1879; as of 1957, the date was changed to the second Monday in October. Thanksgiving traditions in Canada look very similar to American ones, including eating turkey and watching football (the Canadian Football League holds an annual Thanksgiving Day Classic) with family.

2. Germany

The German equivalent of Thanksgiving is Erntedankfest ("harvest festival of thanks"). This religious holiday often takes place on the first Sunday in October, which is often also the first Sunday following Michaelistag (Michaelmas) on September 29; different places mark the occasion on various dates in September and October.

3. Liberia

In the early 1880s, Liberia's government passed an act declaring the first Thursday of November as National Thanksgiving Day. Today, it's a largely Christian holiday: Churches auction off baskets filled with local fruits like papayas and mangoes after their services, and local families feast on the bounty. Instead of turkey and pumpkin, Liberia's Thanksgiving tables boast items such as spicy roast chicken and mashed cassavas, and live music and dancing are part of the Thanksgiving tradition.

4. Japan (Nippon)

Japan's variation of Thanksgiving, Kinro Kansha no Hi (Labor Thanksgiving Day) evolved from an ancient rice harvest festival, Niinamesai, the roots of which go back as far as the seventh century A.D. During the Meiji Era (1868-1912), the date of the festival was set as November 23, and it has remained the same since then.

The modern tradition of Labor Thanksgiving Day began in 1948, just three years after World War II ended, as a celebration of the rights of Japan's workers. Today, the public observes it as a national holiday, but with none of the huge feasting you'll see on the American holiday. Instead, labor organizations lead events at which citizens are encouraged to celebrate the principles of hard work and community involvement. To mark the occasion, children often make thank-you cards for policemen, firefighters or other municipal workers.

5. The Netherlands

It's sometimes forgotten that of the English settlers who traveled to the New World on the Mayflower, some 40 percent spent the years 1609 to 1620 living and working in the Dutch city of Leiden. As a result, some have claimed that the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving celebration was actually inspired by Leiden's annual commemoration of the breaking of the Spanish siege in 1574. In any case, the people of today's Leiden continue to celebrate their ties with the Mayflower's passengers by holding non-denominational church services on the fourth Thursday of November.

YOUR MONEY AND YOUR FUTURE
BY
Amos B Mahi

Spend Wisely This Holiday Season!

As we enter the holiday season, remember that financial peace begins with good planning. Set a realistic budget, avoid unnecessary borrowing, compare prices, and be careful with online shopping scams.

Remember, the greatest gift is not how much we spend, but the love and kindness we share with others.

Financial Tip: Save before you spend, and avoid starting the New Year with unnecessary debt.

Finish 2026 Strong – Prepare for 2027!

As the year comes to an end, take time to review your finances. Check your savings, outstanding debts, retirement contributions, and charitable giving records.

Start planning your 2027 budget and establish realistic savings goals for the coming year.

Remember to keep receipts for qualifying charitable donations and consult IRS guidelines regarding possible tax deductions.

Financial Tip: A financially successful New Year begins with wise decisions today.

5 ways to improve your credit score before January 2027

1. **Pay bills on time.** Payment history is very important.
2. **Keep credit card balances low.** Aim to use less than 30% of your available credit; lower is generally better.
3. **Pay down outstanding debt.** Reduce credit card balances whenever possible.
4. **Avoid unnecessary credit applications.** Too many applications can affect your score.
5. **Check your credit report.** Look for errors and report inaccuracies.



Coming in December 2026

Calling all bakers!!! Get ready for the bake sale to benefit our local missions.





A man asked, "What must I do to be saved?" The pastor said, "Believe in Jesus."

The man asked, "That's it?" The pastor smiled, "That's it!"

Which state produces the most cranberries?

A) Minnesota

B) California

C) Wisconsin

- Answer:

How many passengers were on the Mayflower?

A) 98

B) 102

C) 102

- Answer:

What year did "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" debut on television?

A) 1973

B) 1969

C) 1978

Answer:

Which retailer was the first to host a Thanksgiving Day parade?

A) Gimbels

B) Macy's

C) May Company

Answer:



November2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship **The Lord's Supper**	2	3 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study	4 3:00 pm Prayer & Bible Study	5	6	7 8:am Gentlemen's Breakfast 8:30 am Ladies Breakfast
8 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship	9	10 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study	11 3:00 pm Prayer & Bible Study	12	13	14 10:00 am Decorations day for Christmas
15 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship	16	17 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study	18 3:00 pm Prayer & Bible Study	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship	23	24 No Ladies Bible Study	25 No Prayer & Bible Study Enjoy your Thanksgiving!	26 Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship	30				"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5	

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, Robert Wisner,
Dave Goben, Wesley Ehlers.

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

Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association
https://www.valleyrimsba.org/

AZ Southern Baptist Convention
https://azsbc.org/

Southern Baptist Convention
http://www.sbc.net/