

Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

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JULY 2026



Real Independence

As Americans, we have a special reason to celebrate this July. On July 4, 2026, our nation marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. For two and a half centuries, Americans have enjoyed freedoms secured through great sacrifice, courageous leadership, and a commitment to the ideals of liberty. We rightly give thanks to God for the blessings of living in a nation where freedom has been cherished and defended.

Yet as Christians, we know there is a freedom even greater than political liberty.

The Declaration of Independence announced freedom from earthly tyranny. The Gospel announces freedom from a far more powerful enemy—the tyranny of sin.

Political freedom affects our circumstances; spiritual freedom transforms our souls.

Jesus said, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36, NIV).

The New Testament teaches that before Christ, every person lives under the penalty and power of sin. Sin is not merely something we do; it is a condition that enslaves us. We may believe ourselves free, yet apart from Christ we are bound by guilt, separated from God, and unable to rescue ourselves. The Apostle Paul writes, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23, NIV).

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus accomplished what no government, constitution, or human effort could ever achieve. He paid the penalty for our sin and broke sin’s dominion over those who trust Him. Paul declares, “For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace” (Romans 6:14, NIV).

This is real independence.

It is freedom from condemnation. “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1, NIV).

It is freedom from fear. Because Christ has reconciled us to God, we no longer live under the dread of judgment but in the assurance of His love.

It is freedom from bondage. The believer is no longer a slave to old habits, sinful desires, or a hopeless future. While Christians still struggle against sin, they do so as people who have been liberated by grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

As we gather with family and friends this Independence Day, let us thank God for the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this nation. Let us pray for our country, our leaders, and the continued blessing of liberty for future generations.

But let us also remember that the greatest freedom is not found in Philadelphia in 1776 but at Calvary nearly

two thousand years ago. The cross of Christ accomplished the ultimate declaration of independence—a declaration that frees sinners from guilt, grants forgiveness, and opens the door to eternal life.

As we celebrate America’s 250th birthday, may we rejoice even more in the freedom that belongs to every believer in Jesus Christ. Political liberty is a precious gift. Spiritual liberty is an eternal treasure.

“Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, NIV).

Happy Independence Day—and may we live each day in the freedom Christ has purchased for us.

God loves you and so do I!!!

Pastor Rick





BULLETIN BOARD

JUNE 2026 Average Monthly Attendance

Ministries/Other Actual

Sunday Worship	54
Sunday School	26
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study	18
New Members:	0
Ladies' Bible Study	6
Ladies' Breakfast Attendance	9
Men's Breakfast Attendance.....	12
Visitors	3
Home Visitation	10



GENESIS PROJECT
Serving the Hungry and Homeless

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our mission is to **FEED, CLOTHE** and **HYDRATE** the **HUNGRY** and **HOMELESS**, **NO QUESTIONS ASKED!** 

 **WHEN:**
Monday-Friday
9AM - 2PM

 **COMMITMENT:**
One day a week
now until October.

 **WHAT YOU'LL DO:**
Help with everything that comes with preparing and serving around 200 people in need of a free hot meal.

 **REQUIREMENTS:**
• Food Handlers Card
• Must be over age 18



 **INTERESTED?**
Email us at genesisprojectaz@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us make a difference! 

COMPASSION | DIGNITY | RESPECT | COMMUNITY

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.

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 searching for **volunteers** who would like to serve **as greeters** for our Sunday services. It is only a 15-minute shift on the front patio to welcome members & visitors to our church. If you are interested

- ⇒ We are looking for at least 2 or 3 more **Volunteers counters (members)** for the Monday following the Sunday service. If you are interested

SIGN UP/ASK QUESTIONS, SEE JOANNA OR AMOS ANYTIME.

Important

MEN'S BREAKFAST !

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

July 4th, Aug 1st, Sept 5th



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

July: 4th : Men's Breakfast.. No ladies' Breakfast

July: 5th: Lord's Supper.

July: 10th,, 31th the office will be closed for Summer Hours.

July 11th Celebration of life Julie DeSmith

July 14th ARC Women's/word painting/ @ Coolidge see Linda Elders

July: 17th the office will be closed for Summer Hours.

July 26th : Business Meeting 2nd quarter

July: 31th: the office will be closed for Summer Hours.



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

at Gold Canyon Café

August 1st, Sept 5th, Oct 3th

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

For more info Contact .Joanna @

480-560-9964

**GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MAKING A DONATION.
GIVING IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

GOSPEL COMFORT FOR CAREGIVERS

(Samaritan's Ministries - Christian Health Care Newsletter - Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage)

How can a church address the growing need for ministry for caregivers?

The church can help to “bear the burden” of caregiving in six important ways:

1. Pray for caregivers when you pray for the sick.
2. Listen well for the spiritual and emotional struggles caregivers may experience and respond with a well-timed word from the Bible.
3. Offer wise counsel concerning end-of-life decision-making.
4. Recognize the financial struggles caregivers face and offer assistance.
5. Offer respite care.

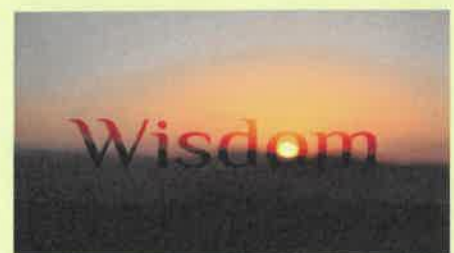
Assist with practical needs.

Call or visit the caregiver, and, instead of telling them you are praying for them, go ahead and do it. A praying voice soothes frenzied spirits, for prayer is a river of life poured into a thirsty soul.

Throughout its history, the church followed Jesus' lead in caring well for the sick. As the aging populations of our churches increase, it is crucial for us to learn how to bring gospel comfort to the caregiver.

Approximately 43.5 million caregivers have provided unpaid care to an adult or child in the last 12 months. As a study by the Institute On Aging in 2016, revealed, “upwards of 75% of all caregivers are female and may spend as much as 50% more time providing care than males

from Mary Murray





The Wisdom message

Wisdom Having a Beginning Implies a Destination

Many years ago, I was struggling preaching on the subject of wisdom. I pulled out the three sermons that I had preached in a previous pastorate, but was immediately hit with the realization that they were horrible sermons. Not knowing what to do, but still wanting to preach on the subject of wisdom, I went to prayer.

With my prayer, I climbed back into my Commentaries, and Bible Dictionaries, hoping for inspiration. Hours later, still nothing. All I had was those old, dry sermons. I looked at them again. Frustrated, but not willing to give up, I started to do a verse study of all the verses in the Bible that contained the word "wisdom." Only one verse, that was repeated, stood out. "The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord." (Ps. 111:10, Pro. 9:10)

As I meditated on this verse, I pictured a man in pure, raw fear shaking while kneeling before our holy, all powerful God. That made sense to me that fear or deep respect for God could look like that. The man that I pictured continued to shake with fear, cowering before the God who is so very awesome. But as I meditated, suddenly there was a change. I was shocked as the man in my vision stood up and was no longer shaking.

I knew this meant something. I started to have a new thought about this "beginning of wisdom." I asked myself, "Something that has a beginning, should have a middle, and should have an end. What is the middle and end destination of this wisdom journey that begins with fearing God?"

The word studies had nothing about the middle or end of wisdom. But then it dawned on me that God doesn't want us to cower before Him, but He wants a relationship with us. Fear is a great beginning but doesn't get us anywhere.





I had studied the Bible just enough to know a few relationships that are mentioned - my friend Gale Erwin taught on servanthood or the master slave relationship with Jesus. Then Jesus gives us another relationship in John 15:15 where He says, "I no longer call you servants... but I call you friends..." And it is also true that we are adopted in God's spiritual family. And eventually, we being the bride of Christ will be married to Him.

The middle of relational wisdom is friendship, and the end of relational wisdom is marriage. Wisdom leads to a destination - a great relationship with God.

With this I had the foundation to preach on the subject of wisdom. I eventually connected holiness to fear, justice to our obedience in servanthood, mercy in our friend Jesus dying for us, grace in the abundance in family, and glory in our future marriage to Jesus.

This pattern places Jesus (the Wisdom of God) as God, Lord, Redeemer Friend, Older Brother, and Future Husband. In this pattern, I could teach on the character of God in His holiness, justice, mercy, grace, and glory. In this pattern I could teach the Old Testament (fear and servanthood), the New Testament (friendship and family), and our future (marriage).

The sermons on wisdom became powerful, enriching, unique, and easy to listen to. Enjoying a great relationship with God changes us into godly men and women of wisdom.

God bless you greatly,

From : Lafe M.





Why WHY WORRY?

Jesus' RX for Unbelief

"At the end of the day,

At the end of the day this

Pastors, ministry leaders, elders—we may be some of the worst at "Do what I say, not what I do." We preach the truth for an hour from the pulpit, then go home, & an hour later something minor happens & we fly to pieces with our worry meters going off the charts!

But Jesus says, "Brother, it should not be so."

Jesus starts out by saying, "For this reason,"

For what reason? We have to go back to just prior to this, in verses 19-21, for "this reason."

Jesus says, "Don't store up treasures for yourself on earth...but store up treasures in heaven." "For where your treasure is, there too is your heart!"

So it is "for that reason" that Jesus says, "Do not be worried about your life as to what you will eat or drink, nor for your body as to what you will wear."

Isn't life much more than food & the body much more

than clothes? Then the Master Teacher uses the analogy

of the birds to show that they make no effort to care for

their existence & sustenance, yet The Father provides amply for them!





Jesus' second analogy is the lilies of the field that do nothing but grow & glow in their color

"Will He not much more clothe you?" ...O, ye of minute faith!

In between these two contrasts, Jesus asks another rhetorical question in vs. 27:

"Who of you, by being worried, can add a single hour to your life?"

Starting in vs. 31, Jesus issues several kingdom edicts that will eliminate any doubt, which is the source of all worry, fear, anxiety, etc.

"Do not worry... seek first His kingdom & His righteousness, & ALL these things will be added unto you!"

Then in the last verse (34), Jesus, knowing our human penchant to also worry as much about the future as we fuss about the present, warns against such nonsense: "Do not worry about tomorrow...Each day has enough trouble of its own."

A little later in the New Testament, Jesus gives us His solid-gold promise for anything life may bring us:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect through your weakness!"

Soooooo, "at the end of the day,

Why Worry?

Jesus Has This!

Stay Faithful & Finish Well

Pastor : Tom W.



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 .

(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 can provide you a link to attend Virtually a meeting with a Microsoft Teams or Zoom meeting link if you let the office know in advance.
- ⇒ The floor was thoroughly cleaned by a professional company (Coconut), and we appreciate all the volunteers who contributed their time over two days to complete the task.
- ⇒ We will release the first images or videos of our activities on our website in July 2026. If you would like to share some photos or videos of your committee, please send them via our email address before the 24th of each month @ info@CrossroadsBaptistAz.com

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



Posted by Farmer Girl on Facebook:

Have you ever noticed that one of the most encouraging things Jesus ever did was not a miracle, a sermon, or even a resurrection?

It was being honest.

I think sometimes we accidentally create this picture of faith where a "good Christian" is supposed to smile, never question anything, never struggle, never feel overwhelmed, and certainly never tell God that something hurts. We imagine faith means standing there with everything falling apart around us and saying, "Everything is fine!" while the emotional equivalent of a barn fire is raging behind us.

Then we get to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus knew exactly what was coming. He knew the betrayal was coming. He knew the arrest was coming. He knew the beating, the mocking, the nails, and the cross were coming. And what did He do?

He prayed.

And His prayer was not, "This is great. I am having a wonderful time."

His prayer was, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me."

In other words, if there is another way, I would very much prefer that option.

Yet in the very next breath He says, "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

That is not a lack of faith. That is faith.

Faith is not pretending you don't have preferences. Faith is not pretending something doesn't hurt. Faith is not pretending you aren't afraid. Faith is bringing all of those things to God and then trusting Him anyway.

Then comes the cross.



As Jesus hangs there, He cries out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

People sometimes read that and wonder if Jesus was doing something wrong by asking that question.

I don't think so.

First, He was quoting Psalm 22, a prophecy written centuries before His birth that describes the suffering of the Messiah with incredible detail. But second, the pain was real. The suffering was real. The weight He was carrying was real.

The Son of God was not pretending.

And maybe that is what I find so comforting.

Because sometimes Christians seem to think that asking God "why" is somehow evidence of weak faith. Yet Jesus Himself cried out in anguish. He Himself asked if there was another way. He Himself brought His pain before the Father.

The problem was never the question.

The problem would have been refusing God's answer.

There is a difference between saying, "Lord, I don't understand," and saying, "Lord, I won't obey."

Jesus did the first. He never did the second.

Maybe that is a reminder some of us need today.

God is not shocked by your questions. He is not surprised by your grief. He is not wringing His hands in Heaven because you admitted that what you are carrying is heavy.

Sometimes faith looks less like standing on a mountaintop shouting victory and more like kneeling in a garden at night saying, "Lord, I don't want this. I don't understand this. This hurts."

And then getting up and taking the next step anyway.

That is exactly what Jesus did.



In **1942**: Congress formally adopted the Pledge of Allegiance into the federal Flag Code. Six months later, Congress changed the pledge gesture, with those who recite it placing their right hand over their heart to avoid resembling the Nazi salute.

• **Credit Score** – A number (typically 300–850) that affects your ability to get loans, credit cards, mortgages, and even some jobs or apartments.

• **Budgeting** – Tracking your income and expenses to live within your means and save money.

• **Emergency Fund** – Savings to cover 3–6 months of essential living expenses in case of unexpected events.

• **Bank Accounts**

- Checking account: For everyday spending.
- Savings account: For saving money and earning interest.
-

• **Taxes**

- Federal income tax
- State income tax (where applicable)
- Social Security and Medicare taxes (payroll taxes)
-

• **Retirement Savings**

- 401(k) plans
- IRA (Traditional or Roth)
- Employer matching contributions
-

• **Insurance**

- Health insurance
- Auto insurance
- Homeowners or renters insurance
- Life insurance (when appropriate)

If you're looking for **low gas prices in Arizona's East Valley (Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Apache Junction, Queen Creek)**, these stations are often among the least expensive:

Costco Gasoline – Frequently one of the lowest-priced options (membership required). Recent prices have been around **\$3.85/gal**, Sam's Club Fuel Center – **\$3.95/gal**,



JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i>	1 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	2	3	4 Men's Breakfast 
5 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am Worship. <i>The Lord's Supper</i> 	6	7 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study <i>Finance Committee meeting @ 1Pm</i>	8 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	9	10 <u>The office will be closed</u> <u>Due date for Committee Business Report 2nd Qrt</u> o	11 Julie DeSmith Celebration of Life 
12 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am Worship	13	14 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	15 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	16	17 <u>The office will be closed</u>	18
19 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am Worship	20	21 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	22 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	23	24	25 <i>Craft Day @ 10 Am</i>
26 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship <u>2nd Quarter Business Meeting.</u>	27	28 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	29 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 3 PM	30	31 <u>The office will be closed</u>	
<i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i>						

**"See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)**

† 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/>



