

# Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

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JUNE 2026



## **Joy in Suffering: How God Meets Us in the Hard Places**

**Our church has been experiencing a season of suffering in the form of grief.**

**We mourn for the loss of members and the losses suffered by their families.**

**No matter how many times we restate the fact that “No one, in this age, lives forever” or “You never know when you will draw your last breath”; when the reality strikes we are momentarily stunned.**

**There is comfort in believing that God is too wise to make a mistake and too good to be unkind—but it still hurts.**

**Most of us do not need to be convinced that suffering is real. We carry it in our bodies, our memories, our families, and sometimes in the quiet places of the soul where no one else sees. The Christian life does not deny this reality. Scripture never asks us to pretend that pain is pleasant or that trials are trivial. Instead, it offers something far more profound: the promise that**

God meets His people in suffering with a joy the world cannot give and cannot take away.

This joy is not a grin-and-bear-it optimism. It is not denial. It is not the power of positive thinking. It is the fruit of a God who enters our pain, transforms it, and uses it to shape us into the likeness of Christ. For both seasoned believers and those new to the faith, this truth is both a comfort and a calling.

### 1. Joy Begins With God's Nearness

The first foundation of joy in suffering is not in “what we feel” but it is in “who is with us”.

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted.” (Psalm 34:18)

Suffering has a way of stripping away illusions of self-sufficiency. When life is comfortable, we may drift into thinking we are managing quite well on our own. But in the valley, we discover a God who draws near, not a God who stands far off. His presence becomes our consolation, our strength, and—yes—our joy.

Joy in suffering is not joy because of suffering. It is joy in suffering because the God refuses to leave us alone in it.

I can hear someone saying, “I can’t hear him.”

To which I respond, “You will because he promised.”

## **2. Joy Grows as Suffering Produces Maturity**

**James writes words that sound impossible until we understand the logic behind them:**

**“Count it all joy... when you meet trials... for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” (James 1:2–3)**

**James is not romanticizing hardship. He is pointing to a spiritual reality: trials refine us. They expose what is weak, strengthen what is true, and deepen what is eternal. Paul echoes this in Romans 5:**

- Suffering produces endurance**
- Endurance produces character**
- Character produces hope**

**And hope does not disappoint**

**This is not the shallow joy of a moment. It is the deep, settled joy of a soul being shaped by the hand of God.**

**It is amazing how pain is multiplied if you are living for the moment instead of looking above.**

### **3. Joy Comes From Sharing in Christ's Life**

**One of the most mysterious and beautiful truths of the New Testament is that suffering brings us into deeper fellowship with Christ Himself.**

**Paul says he longs to “know Him... and share His sufferings” (Philippians 3:10). Peter tells believers to “rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings” (1 Peter 4:13).**

**Why would suffering bring joy?**

**Because Christ is there.**

**When we walk through sorrow, we walk a path He has already walked. When we feel misunderstood, rejected, or weary, we discover that He understands us perfectly. When we carry a cross, we find ourselves closer to the One who carried His for us.**

**Suffering becomes a place of communion, and communion with Christ is always a place of joy.**

**Jesus empathizes with all of our pain and suffering. He is no stranger to grief. That is why he can say to our spirit, “I know and we will walk through this together.”**

#### **4. Joy Looks Ahead to Future Glory**

**Christians are people of hope. Not vague hope, but resurrection hope.**

**Paul writes:**

**“The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed.” (Romans 8:18)**

**This is not escapism. It is perspective.**

**Suffering is real, but it is not final. Pain is heavy, but glory is heavier. Our trials are temporary; our inheritance is eternal. When believers anchor their hearts in the promise of future glory, joy begins to rise—not because the present is easy, but because the future is certain.**

#### **5. Joy Emerges as Suffering Purifies Our Desires**

**Suffering has a way of clarifying what truly matters. It loosens our grip on lesser things and awakens our hunger for what is eternal. Many believers can testify that their deepest seasons of spiritual growth came not in times of ease but in times of loss, uncertainty, or weakness.**

**In suffering:**

- **Prayer becomes more honest**
- **Scripture becomes more precious**
- **Worship becomes more heartfelt**
- **Community becomes more necessary**

**Christ becomes more beautiful**

**This purification of desire is itself a source of joy—a joy rooted not in circumstances but in transformation.**

## **6. Joy in Suffering Becomes a Witness to the World**

**One of the most powerful testimonies Christians offer is the ability to suffer with hope. When Paul and Silas sang hymns in prison, the other prisoners listened. Their joy in the darkness became a doorway for the gospel.**

**The world knows how to celebrate when life is easy. But when believers radiate hope in hardship, patience in trial, and love in loss, the world sees something supernatural. Our suffering becomes a stage on which the sufficiency of Christ is displayed.**

## **7. Joy Rests in the Confidence That God Wastes Nothing**

**Romans 8:28 is not a cliché. It is a lifeline.**

**“God works all things together for good...”**

**Not all things *are* good. But God works all things *for* good.**

**This means no tear is wasted. No trial is pointless. No season of suffering is without purpose. In the hands of a sovereign and loving God, even the darkest chapters become part of a redemptive story.**

**Joy grows when we trust that God is doing more than we can see.**

### **A Final Word of Encouragement**

**If you are suffering today, you are not failing. You are not forgotten. You are not alone. You are walking a path well-trodden by the saints and sanctified by the Savior.**

**Joy may not always feel like a shout. Sometimes it is a quiet, steady flame—a confidence that God is near, God is working, and God will finish what He began.**

**For the mature believer, this truth deepens faith.  
For the new believer, it anchors hope.  
For all of us, it reminds us that the God who brings joy  
out of suffering is the same God who brought life out of  
death.**

**And He is faithful still.**

**God loves you and so do I!!!**

**Pastor Rick**



# community

## BULLETIN BOARD

**MAY 2026 Average Monthly Attendance**

**Ministries/Other Actual**

Sunday Worship .....	62
Sunday School .....	28
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study .....	20
New Members: .....	0
Ladies' Bible Study .....	7
Ladies' Breakfast Attendance .....	4
Men's Breakfast Attendance.....	12
Visitors .....	9
Home Visitation .....	7



**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](mailto: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** 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.**

**June 6, July 4, August 1st**

**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

June: 5th the office will be closed for Summer Hours.

June: 6th : Men's and Ladies' Breakfast.

June: 7th: Lord's Supper.

June: 14th Good News Meeting

After service. Not for the whole church.

June: 19th the office will be closed for Summer Hours.

June: 21th: @ Father's Day

June: 27th: @ 10 Am Craft Day



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

**at Gold Canyon Café**

**June 6, July 4, August 1st**

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

**For more info Contact .Joanna @**

**480-560-9964**



## The Wisdom message

### Personification

One of the noted unique qualities of wisdom within the book of Proverbs is King Solomon's identifying wisdom as a woman who walks and cries out for others to listen to her. Wisdom being personified is unique to the book of Proverbs and the author, Solomon.

Paul personifies righteousness in Romans 10:6 when he writes, "...righteousness that is by faith says..." Righteousness speaking means that righteousness has taken on a human quality.

Paul comes close to personifying grace in Titus 2:11-13, where grace "appears," "brings salvation," "trains," and "waits for our blessed hope." Grace being active and human-like is similar to Solomon's personification of wisdom.

Wisdom (in being personified) stands in good company with righteousness and grace. Wisdom is connected again with grace as they are both "manifold" or having distinctive parts (Eph. 3:10, I Peter 4:10 in the NKJV).

Being personified is a high honor, as Solomon is telling us the importance of wisdom and placing wisdom above everything else. In Prov. 3:15 he directly says that nothing we desire can compare to wisdom. Solomon was blessed by God with great wisdom. Solomon knew the impact that being wise had had upon his life. Solomon encourages us to desire and do the hard work required to gain wisdom.

Let us enjoy these years as we get older by gaining what is rare to youth - wisdom.

God bless you greatly,  
Lafe M





## I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS!

GOD reaffirms this great comfort continually throughout His love letter/ revelation to us—the Holy Bible! Like a teenager experiencing their first love, I still get goosebumps all over everytime I read this or hear it proclaimed.

Genesis 28:15 (to Jacob); "Behold, I am with you & will keep you wherever you go...for I will not leave you till I have done what I promised you."

Deuteronomy 31:6 (to Moses)

Be strong & courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them. For it is The LORD your GOD Who goes with you? He will not leave nor forsake you!

Joshua 1:1-9 (God's commissioning of Joshua)

At least 3 times in this passage, GOD says, "Be strong & courageous." In verse 9 He says

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong & very courageous.

Do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD GOD is with you wherever you go."

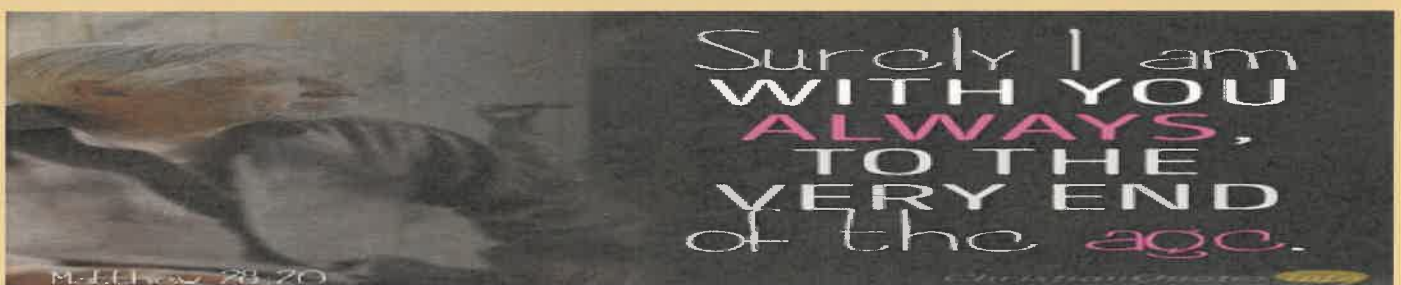
Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you..."

Jesus Himself, in one of His last acts on earth before returning to the Father:

Matthew 28:20: "And I will be with you always, even to the end of the age!"

This is His promise to accompany every member of His Body, the Church, in being





faithful to the Great Commission (vs. 19).

I ask you, "Does it get any better, Church?" Actually, yes, for He is with us via His Spirit from the moment He saves us till after our last breath, & then... We will be with Him forevermore, & so shall it ever be (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

Can I get an "AMEN" to that!?

In Romans 8:31 the Apostle Paul heralds, "If GOD is for us, who can be against us?"

These & dozens more are sprinkled throughout His Word:

I Will Be With You Always!

No reason to worry; Aslan's on the job! So let us revel in the wealth of these two solid gold promises of Jesus to His beloved betrothed bride from the author of the book of Hebrews:

13:6, "Therefore, let us boldly proclaim.

The LORD is my helper.

I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

13:8 Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today & forever!

AMEN! So let us live as victors, not victims!

**GOD WITH US!**

From: Tom W.



## ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CAREGIVERS

The life of a caregiver can be draining; sometimes it can even feel like an emotional rollercoaster. Responsibility, stress, and guilt can wear down even the most energetic among us. But there is strength, peace, and joy for the caregiver as well - found in Jesus, our perfect Caregiver.

I found a booklet “Real-Life Encouragement for Caregivers”. It takes an honest look at the struggles of caregiving, as well as the joys and opportunities it brings. There are eight chapters of hope, refreshment, practical tips, and Scripture-filled encouragement. This little booklet from CTA (a Christian based online store) will uplift and support all caregivers.

I gave this booklet to several caregivers, and they really appreciated it. I just wish I had this when I was a caregiver for my parents, my brother and Lafe. If you are interested, you can borrow mine or I can order you one.

“For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you”. Isaiah 41:13.

from Mary Murray



# 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 Security Committee has its cubbyhole, and we urge all committees to check it weekly; it is located near the office hallway.
- ⇒ We will release the first images or videos of our activities on our website in June 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](mailto:info@CrossroadsBaptistAz.com)

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



## EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.



For all the laughter  
and smiles, For the  
happiness & good times,  
For listening & caring,  
and loving & sharing...  
For your strong shoulders  
And kind heart...  
Love You.....!

©GoodLightscraps.com

*Happy Fathers Day, Dad!*

# JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i>	2 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	3 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	4	5 <u>The office will be closed</u>	6 <u>Men's and Ladies Breakfast</u> 
7 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am Worship. <i>The Lord's Supper</i> 	8	9 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	10 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	11	12	13
14 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am Worship 	15	16 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	17 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	18	19 <u>The office will be closed</u>	20
21 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am Worship Father's Day 	22	23 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	24 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	25	26	27 <u>Craft Day @ 10 Am</u> 
28 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	29	30 10:00 Am-Ladies Bible Study	<i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i>	<div data-bbox="906 1606 1485 1969" style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans  Proverbs 16 verse 3</p> </div>		

# † 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](mailto: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.valleyrimbsa.org/>

AZ Southern Baptist Convention

<https://azsbc.org/>

Southern Baptist Convention

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

