

# River of Love

**CROSS CREEK**  
BAPTIST MISSION  
*Moving Mountains!*

1050 South West 15th Street,  
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**Pastor Ray Gurney**

## **IN TIMES LIKE THESE** by *Pastor Ray*

We approach Easter with sadness due to the senseless killing all over the world and especially in Ukraine, where people are dying daily. We can sense evil in every viewing of the newscast displayed on our TV screens. It's hard to watch those poor people wondering around hopelessly after their homes have been the target of an artillery shell or missile leaving a pile of rubbish. Millions are fleeing the country for fear of losing their lives. It's not hard to imagine this very thing happening to cities in America. Each day delivers more evidence that we are living in the time of the end. It's no surprise that Russia is the leading force to usher in the end times. Our hope is Jesus seated at the right hand of His Father, receiving the order that the time has arrived for the trumpet sound to call the church home. *"And the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive will be caught up to meet them in the air"*. No one knows the hour this event takes place but it must be soon. Are you ready Cross Creekers?

Next, I want to share a mission moment. As you know, the work of missions is hard and usually takes time and patience. Steve Reed, was asked to join a mission team going to Nicaragua just two weeks after we returned from our trip. Steve joined them and it was a very successful trip. More than 700 people accepted Christ as savior. While it may appear that Satan is winning the battle, I hear reports that the Spirit of God is working around the world and many people are coming to Christ. I wonder how many people the war in Ukraine will bring into the Kingdom of God. Where will the next war be waged? I don't know but God does. Lord Jesus Come Quickly!

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### **Special points of interest:**

- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
- EASTER
- LIFE LINE MAY 10TH

**Men's Breakfast**

**Saturday, April 16th, 2022 at 8:00 AM at Perkins Restaurant** in Independence, Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.

**Ladies Day Out**

Thursday, April 21 will be our next Ladies' Day Out! Weather permitting, we will plan to have a "picnic" on the back patio. As usual, there will be devotions, games, food, and visiting. Let's share stories about something that happened to you one time during the Spring season; it can be happy, good, funny, or sad. It's how we get to know each other and helps others see how we became the person we are today. If there is rain, we might take our umbrellas and dance in the rain! (Oh, I forgot... we are Baptists.) Plan to join us, if for no other reason than just to get out of the house! Hope to see you there! Blessings,

Dixie

**IN TIMES LIKE THESE...continued from page #1****Good Friday Service**

It's a challenge each year to have a new or different kind of Good Friday service. Annie takes Good Friday as a ministry to the church body to celebrate Easter and observe the Lord's Supper/Communion. This year, at this time, I don't know the details of how this will be presented but we are celebrating Jesus giving His life for yours. This afternoon my thoughts went back to 2020 when we couldn't meet together because of the Covid 19 scare. So many people expressed their sorrow that they couldn't attend in person but had to watch on livestream. I expected that in 2021 we'd have to meet in the sanctuary because so many people wanted to celebrate Good Friday. However, that was not the case. This year, as every year, we will prepare a meaningful service; not to impress an audience but to honor Jesus Christ, the suffering Son of God who on Good Friday took a beating that belonged to me. He was spit upon and hated because of my sin, He was nailed to a cross because Satan wanted to take me to hell for eternity but God wanted me more and was willing to pay the price; I don't think I will ever comprehend that level of love. The deacons and I are going to serve the Lord's Supper to everyone who attends the service because we love serving the body of Christ. I hope you will attend and celebrate with us the sacrifice of a perfect life for ours.

**The Risen Savior, Jesus**

Put yourself in the Apostle Peter's sandals; he went fishing and being the natural leader, the other men followed him only to spend a night fishing without a single catch. The Lord Jesus stood on the shore and ask how their fishing adventure was going to which they replied; we don't have any fish to eat. So, Jesus shouted fishing instructions to the fishermen, they followed his suggestion by throwing their nets on the opposite side of the boat and hauled in a full net of fish; more than they could pull into the boat. John announced to Peter it was the Lord on the shore. Peter went to Him amazed. Then a private conversation took place between Jesus and Peter. Peter must have been very uncomfortable speaking with the one whom he had denied three times. Now stop. That was Peter. Now it's you standing in his sandals and the conversation turns to a personal encounter when you too didn't hit the mark when Jesus had a call on your life. It's an uncomfortable feeling for sure. How do we right this wrong? What did Peter do? He said yes to Jesus and followed Him till the day he died. Wasn't perfect as we know, but he became a powerhouse for the kingdom of God. It's a simple move. Walk in obedience with Jesus and come alive for the sake of others.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE APRIL 15, AT 6:00 PM**

## EASTER MEANS NO MORE CONDEMNATION by Rick Warren

Have you ever wondered who put Jesus on the cross?

It wasn't Judas or Caiaphas. It wasn't Pilate. It wasn't even the religious leaders who hated Jesus.

This may shock you, but there are two answers.

First, it was God. The Bible says it was His plan from the very beginning. It's the reason He came to earth. The Bible had predicted His death hundreds of years earlier.

But the other answer is us. You put Jesus on the cross, and so did I. If we had never sinned, Jesus wouldn't have needed to die. Romans 4:25 says, "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification" (NIV).

Because Jesus died on the cross, our sins are forgiven.

We're all imperfect. We have sin that makes us feel guilty about our past. We have regrets. But God doesn't want us to live with that guilt. That's why Jesus died!

Ephesians 1:7 says, "Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free, which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because God was so kind to us" (CEV).

Guilt wastes a ton of energy. It wears us out and robs us of peace of mind.

Too many believers are saved but don't act like it. They're full of shame and guilt. It dominates everything they do. They believe in Jesus, but they haven't been set free from the condemnation of sin.

Romans 8:1 says, "Now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus" (NLT).

"No condemnation" means God doesn't judge you for all the things you've done wrong if you've trusted in Christ Jesus. He took your punishment on the cross. God doesn't have to condemn you, because Jesus took your condemnation.

That's what Easter is all about. You're forgiven. Jesus died for you. You can live with hope and not condemnation.

You can be free!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

**Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 PM.**

The cost is \$5.00 a person for ages 7 years through adult. 6 years and under are \$3.00.

The menu for the month is listed on the right.

**Please sign-up on the list on the information table each week.** If you are running late that night, please call the church so we can set aside the proper number of meals for you.

- **Apr. 6, Chicken Gnocchi Soup & Chicken Enchilada soup,** corn bread, chips, cheese & crackers, salad & dessert.
- **Apr. 13, Ham,** Mashed Potatoes, green beans, cottage cheese, rolls, salad & dessert.
- **Apr. 20, Sloppy Joes,** Mac' & cheese, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert
- **Apr. 27, Roast Beef,** mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, cottage cheese, corn, salad & dessert

## CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

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**YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH. PSALM 119:105**

### LADIES DAY TRIP

**Ladies Day Trip April 26th.** Fort Scott National Historic Site protects 20 historic structures, a parade ground, and five acres of restored tallgrass prairie, inside the city of Fort Scott. We will carpool, leaving the church at 9:00 AM.



## CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

### EASTER SERVICE

**“PETER’S PREACHING POWER”**

**April 17th,@10AM,**

Sunrise Service at Faith Committee Church  
Pastor Ray is giving the message. 6:30 AM

**Life Line Screening here at**  
**Cross Creek May 10th. Infor-**  
**mation on welcome table.**