

# River of Love

1050 SW 15th St.  
Oak Grove, MO 64075  
crosscreekbaptist.com

## CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

*The Church on a Mission!*

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### THE DOOR IS OPEN TO 2026

We lost a very special member of our church family in 2025; Ronda Duckworth. She was a lady with a big heart that reached out far to help and comfort people. She was our only member who went to see Jesus in 2025 and she will be sorely missed. Keep Bill in prayer as he makes life's adjustments. Also, in '25 the church accomplished several things in close succession. The parking lot resurfaced, new security system, new kitchen appliances, and a microwave (by donations). For the third year in row the property insurance increased at unbelievable rates. Late in the year we agreed to a lesser coverage which reduced the monthly premium. God watches and provides for us for which I'm grateful.

Every December 31 at 11:59 PM gives way to the next new year. Cross Creek has witnessed many years coming in and many going out. As this year gives way to the next, we may be stepping into one of the most hope-filled exchanges the world has seen since the resurrection of Jesus. A new year usually brings in new plans to achieve new accomplishments. Some at home, perhaps at work, and of course in the kingdom world.

This year, Cross Creek should anticipate a new dependence on God as we ask Him to draw new people into our church and use us to reach out and welcome them in. We have plans for a new educational class to learn what we believe at Cross Creek. We should be in one accord as we are advised to be in scripture. We need to communicate to those who attend but have not officially joined Cross Creek. That is one way we grow. Next year there are plans laid to have a renewed focus on Easter. We are digging deep so that we truly Glorify the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If the church presented messages about Jesus in a different way, would you be inclined to ask your friends and others you may encounter to come with you?

**RAY GURNEY, PASTOR**

#### In this newsletter:

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MEN'S  
BREAKFAST

JANUARY MENU

We are in the early stages of planning for some spring and summer events in 2026 that we hope will put you at ease about asking them to join you on those days. If we had outdoor Sunday services it would be a great opportunity to ask people to come and then to stay for a picnic. How about outdoor Baptisms? It's not hard to get a horse tank deep enough to dunk a person! I'll get in there with them if I need to. That would be a fun time. It may be close to the old tent revival days when God really came down on the services. Bring your lost friends, let's introduce them to Jesus and then we can watch Jesus grow this church.

*Pastor Ray*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The book of **Judges** cracks a window into depths of the human soul. Watch a nation struggle with its identity and relationship to its God. Heroes and heroines arise, who seem to have the potential to save Israel. But in the end, each proves to be a broken savior that cannot deliver.

In this series, pastor and author J.D. Greear wades into the book of Judges to shine a light onto the muddy waters of human rebellion. The stories and truths within are not just archaic tales with no relevance for us today. Rather, J.D. works through each chapter unpacking the truth of God's grace in the midst of human wickedness, and shows how only the divine can redeem the fallen. Starting January 7th.



## LADIES DAY OUT

### THE STORY of RED LOBSTER

Before there was Red Lobster, there was Bill Darden, a man passionate about making delicious, high-quality seafood available and affordable to everyone, including people who lived far from the coast and regardless of race, gender, religion or economic means. In 1968 Bill Darden opened his first Red Lobster it was a single, family-owned restaurant in Lakeland, Florida, now has over 500 locations around the world. Join us Ladies as we go to Lee's Summit's Red Lobster we'll leave the church at 10:45 AM January 20<sup>th</sup>. Hope you can attend!

*Vickie*

## FIERY FAITH & WORSHIP

Cross Creek ladies and friends, join Chrissy on **Friday, January 23 at 6:00 PM** to revive and refresh your faith in God.

Dress comfy, bring a blanket and journal, and let's gather together in our Discipleship Room for a sweet time of worship, breath prayer, a devotion, and soaking prayer with the Holy Spirit. We'll enjoy warm soup, drinks, and a dessert.

***Please sign up and join us!***



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## ASK, SEEK, KNOCK.

God is not only able to meet your needs, He is eager to meet them. He invites you to come with confidence, knowing He is a good Father who delights in caring for His children. And this year at Cross Creek, our theme echoes that invitation: **Ask, Seek, Knock.**

We often forget how committed God is to help us and slip back into self-reliance. We bring Him the “big stuff” and try managing the “small stuff” on our own. But nothing is small to Him. He knows every hair on your head, every weight on your heart, every need you have not spoken aloud yet.

You are NEVER bothering God when you pray. He designed prayer. Scripture invites us again and again to bring every need before Him.

Jesus says, ***“Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you.”***

Matthew 7:7 (NIV)

Worry never solves a thing. If something is big enough to worry about, it is big enough to pray about. Prayer opens the door for God to grow your trust.

Jesus reminds us in Luke 11:13 that if imperfect parents know how to give good gifts, our heavenly Father delights to give even better gifts to those who ask.



**If you prefer to make contributions electronically, scan this QR code or go to [crosscreekbaptist.com](http://crosscreekbaptist.com) and follow the steps!**



God grows trust through a simple rhythm.

You notice a need.

You bring it to Him.

He meets it in His perfect timing.

Your faith deepens.

### **So today, pause for a moment.**

Name your need.

Bring it to your Father.

### **Ask. Seek. Knock.**

These are not passive words. They are invitations to step toward God.

- To ask is to come with honesty.
- To seek is to look for His presence and direction.
- To knock is to move forward in faith, believing He hears you.

Each verb invites you to engage with the God who loves you, sees you, and responds with perfect wisdom and perfect timing. What could be better than that?

As we step into 2026 with this theme before us, we can look ahead with confidence because God meets every movement toward Him with mercy, wisdom, and faithful care. He will not fail you, and He will continue to show Himself strong as you Ask, Seek, and Knock in the year ahead.

*Chrissy Kirkman*

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*Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the **LORD** forever. Psalm 23:6*

"Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God"  
(John 3:3)

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST, Saturday, January 17th at 8 AM** - Golden Corral 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.



\$6.00 per person (ages 7 - adult)  
\$3.00 per person (ages 6 & under)

Jan. 7, Breakfast casserole, bacon, sausage, biscuits & gravy & fruit.  
Jan. 14, Meatball sandwiches, chips, cottage cheese, roasted broccoli, salad & dessert  
Jan. 21, Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, cottage cheese, salad & dessert  
Jan. 28, Chicken Enchilada soup & Tortellini soup, corn bread, cheese and crackers, salad & dessert