

# River of Love

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

## CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

*Moving Mountains!*

February 1, 2026

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### BATTERED BUT NOT BROKEN

RAY GURNEY, PASTOR

February may be fun this year. We hope to make it that way. The Valentines dinner will be served on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It will also be a very special day because there will be a baptism service. This baptism day is open to anyone who has accepted Christ as their Savior and understand that the next step in this relationship with Jesus is to symbolically be buried with Him in baptism showing the world you have died to your old life but now wish to demonstrate that you are raised from the grave-shaped body of water to live a new life in Jesus Christ. What a wonderful opportunity! Don't let it slip by.

In the summer we push to keep the property mowed and trimmed. Winters we tighten every spot around the windows and doors to keep out blowing arctic winds. Over the years little by little we learned to direct heat to keep the water pipes from freezing. Several years ago, on a Sunday morning the snow was blowing so hard that we could not stop it from coming in around the north door by the stage. We had heavy duty sheets of plastic stapled to the door jam and tables leaning on the blown plastic and they were sometimes knocked to the floor. When the storm was over, we removed the snow out of the sanctuary with shovels. It was a mess. Once, a stool right above Vickie's office froze and broke the tank. We estimated the water ran for eight to ten hours before I arrived the next morning for work. It was a destructive flooding. There have been times that I've wanted to just say "this is it!" I'm going to look for another way to make a living. The flooding in Vickie's office was like Satan moved in with us.

### In this newsletter:

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BATTERED BUT  
NOT BROKEN

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LADIES DAY OUT

VALENTINE'S  
BANQUET

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PRAYER IS  
TALKING WITH  
GOD

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2026 THEME: ASK,  
SEEK, KNOCK

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MEN'S  
BREAKFAST

FEBRUARY MENU

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The stench was unbearable and we smelled it every time we entered her office for a couple of years. If you can believe this; Important papers had to be ironed and placed in folders. Hundreds of papers. We still have some containers holding those ironed documents. Just seeing them can make me ill. Vickie gets emotional because she was writing page upon page for the initial "Capable Woman" seminar. The conferences were all successful but they were close to never happening.

My purpose for recalling these events is reminded how hard ministry life can be. Life in general can be hard for everyone all the time, some of the time or none of the time. I have come to the conclusion there is no greater privilege than starting a church that keeps going and there is no higher calling than pastoring. Over the years Vickie and I have worked hard together to make Cross Creek Baptist Church successful. Hidden in ministry are things unfair and difficult to accept. For instance, I was called to be the pastor but Vickie was expected to bring her gifts and talents working alongside me often without position or recognition. My earnings have always been a lot more than hers which is unfair. The list goes on. I hope some day she is compensated by God for the injustices she has been dealt. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we're celebrating Valentines Day with a dinner planned by Vickie because she loves you so much. Always thinking about you. Lord Jesus, come quickly!

*Pastor Ray*

When I enter that beautiful city And the saints all around me appear, I hope that someone will tell me; "It was you who invited me here."

**CORRIE TEN BOOM**



## **VALENTINE'S BANQUET**

**Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 11:30 AM**

\$15.00/person, kids 6 & under free. Please have your money in by Feb. 8th and make checks to Cross Creek Baptist. Also add your name(s) to the signup sheet and number of people coming with you.

**Menu: Lasagna, Spaghetti & Meatballs,**  
Country Green Beans, Garlic Bread,  
Garden Salad, Cottage Cheese, Tea,  
Coffee & Dessert



## **LADIES DAY OUT**

Ladies, we are going to Red Robin in Independence. From thicker, juicier burgers and over-the-top appetizers, to signature beverages and craveable sauces, everyone has their favorites at Red Robin. And while preferences may vary, you can count on a never-ending supply of fun and YUMMM® for every appetite. Invite a friend! We'll meet at the church on February 17 at 10:45 AM and head out. Please add your name to our sign-up sheet in the lobby. Hope you will attend! We are going for the RED this month! To bad the Chiefs weren't on the same page.

*Vickie*

## Prayer Is Talking with God

Jesus gathered His disciples and followers on the side of a mountain and taught them about God's Kingdom. We call this His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus talked about the blessings of God's Kingdom - the beatitudes, about loving others, and then He spoke about prayer.

Prayer is simply talking with God. We can talk to God at anytime and anywhere; He is always listening.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7). Notice the Lord doesn't say "maybe it will be given," "perhaps you will find," or "hopefully it'll be opened."

He wants us to know that those who seek after Him will never be disappointed. The journey—however long or challenging it might be—will always be worth it.

But what kind of door does Jesus have in mind? It is Himself.

In John 10:9 Jesus says, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." Jesus is the door through which we find abundant, eternal life. When we knock, we trust that there is always more goodness in store for those who are in Christ. And when we walk through this open door, it is through faith in Christ on the path of salvation that He alone provides.

When you ask, ask for more of Jesus. When you seek, seek the path of Jesus. And when you knock, knock boldly in the certainty that Jesus will open Himself to you and welcome you home.

*Christy Kirkman*

## 2026 Theme: ASK, SEEK, KNOCK



This can only mean one thing. **We can stop striving for a seal of approval that is already ours.** Christ has set us free from climbing ladders to God's love. The solution to our shame is never found in our own efforts or striving, but in Christ's perfect work. It comes only from being hidden in Him, resting in Him, and receiving His mercy and grace.

To put shame in its rightful place we have to receive the mercy and grace of God, and enjoy the identity given to us by God in Jesus Christ.

**You are fully known. You are fully accepted. You are fully loved.** Not because of anything you do or don't do, but because of everything Jesus Christ has done for you.

This means we are free to love and serve God (and one another) not in an effort to gain God's favor, but in gratitude for all that Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.

**We are free to live from God's love, not for it. All because of Jesus.**



**For those who wish to make contributions electronically, scan this QR code or go to [crosscreekbaptist.com](http://crosscreekbaptist.com) and follow the steps!**

## CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

THE CHURCH ON A MISSION

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“He has made everything beautiful  
in its time.”

ECCLESIASTES 3:11 (NIV)

## DON'T FORGET

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** please  
bring a couple of cans of soup or  
canned goods for the Grain Valley  
Assistance Council on **February**  
**8th** to celebrate!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST, Saturday, February 21st 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)

## FEBRUARY MENU

- Feb. 4, Chicken Pot Pie**, cottage cheese, sweet potatoes, salad & dessert.
- Feb. 11, Beef Stroganoff**, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.
- Feb. 18, Chicken Gnocchi Soup & Chicken Enchilada soup**, cornbread, chips, cheese & crackers, salad & dessert.
- Feb. 25, Pork Chops**, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, salad & dessert