

CROSSROADS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

515 E. Markey Parkway, Belton, MO 64012 (816)331-5258

eReminder

January 23, 2026  
Volume 19, Number 4

LOVE God and Others    LEARN & Grow in Faith    LIVE Your Faith by Serving

[crossroads-umc.net](#)

CROSSROADS STAFF

Pastor Randy Kelly  
Lay Pastor

Cherrie Fleming  
Lay Leader

Lyn Polk  
Missions

Donna Shoemaker  
Hospitality

Cindy Jones  
Office Administrator

Kim Carson-Swift  
Melody Burns  
Music Leaders

Bob Ridgley  
Parker King  
Tech Leaders



Sunday  
Worship  
Service  
10:00 am

Adult Sunday School  
9:15am Explorers Room105  
9:00am Devotions with Randy  
Room 208

Tuesday  
Fellowship Class  
10:00am

Contact Us

In Person:  
515 E. Markey Parkway  
Belton, MO 64012

By Mail:  
PO Box 167  
Belton, MO 64012

By Phone:  
816-331-5258

Email:  
[office@crossroads-umc.net](mailto:office@crossroads-umc.net)

Online:  
[crossroads-umc.net](#)

SECURITY

Jan 16th to 31st  
Joe Matson



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

24 Rex Kelly

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Adree Anderson  
5 Chuck McClain  
8 Karen McLaughlin  
11 Virginia Robbins  
16 Jennifer Huffman  
20 Mason & Lucas Ridgley  
22 Phil Inman



90th Birthday  
Party for  
Virginia Robbins

Pastor Sid Robbins and family invite you to a 90th birthday party for Virginia on February 7th at the Masonic Lodge in Blue Springs, 908 W Main St, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

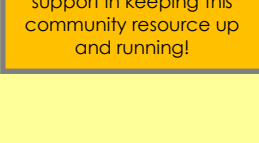
It is a come and go occasion from 1 pm to 4 pm. No gifts required, but cards are appreciated. All are welcome.



Bridge Over  
Troubled Water  
Pantry

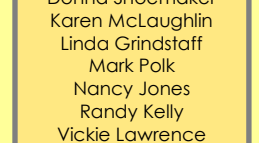
The Bridge Over Troubled Water Food Pantry in Belton has helped many people in our community. They provide a food pantry, supermarket style, which allows families to choose the foods their family prefers.

If you would like to make a donation to Bridge Over Troubled Water through CrossRoads, please make your check out to CrossRoads UMC and note on the memo line "BOTW". Thanks for your support in keeping this community resource up and running!



2026 Leadership Team

Bob Ridgley  
Cheryl Ashbaugh  
Cherrie Fleming  
Chuck McClain  
Cindy Jones  
Donna Shoemaker  
Karen McLaughlin  
Linda Grindstaff  
Mark Polk  
Nancy Jones  
Randy Kelly  
Vickie Lawrence  
Vickie Trutzel



Bake Sale Fundraiser

We are planning to hold a bake sale on Sunday, Feb. 15 before & after church. Donna will be contacting the bakers in our midst to contribute some tasty treats for this event.

And remember to bring your checkbook or some cash to purchase these delicious goodies.

Thanks for helping us raise funds to offset our recent expenses!

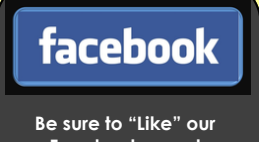


facebook

Be sure to "Like" our Facebook page!

Visit often and tag CrossRoads in your posts when possible. Help us show others how we Love people, Learn together, and Live in service to God at CrossRoads.

[facebook.com/crossroadsbelton](#)



Prayers



PEOPLE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Sandy McNeil  
Maxine Johnson  
Annalou Streiff  
Sharon Hedrick  
Bob Ridgley  
Penny Kelly  
Ron Spencer  
Paul Carr  
Carol Creach  
Dana Johnson (Joyce's husband)  
Joel (Vicki Miller's cousin's son)  
Mark Lindsay (Lisa Kenslow's brother-in-law)  
Renee Eubanks (Vickie Lawrence's family friend)  
Dusti Lawrence (Vickie Lawrence's daughter)  
Avis Wolfe (Snow removal contractor Steve's wife)  
Chyan (Carol Creach's friend's husband)  
Chelsea (Lawrence family friend)  
Rice Family (Toni Wiseman's niece & family)  
Guy (father of Angel Tree family recipient)  
Julie Reed (Angie Kormanec's co-worker)  
Dave McGill (Pastor Randy's friend)  
John Jerls (Cindy Keen's nephew)  
JR Alvarez (Angie Kormanec's family friend)  
Mary Jane Malmgren (Karen McLaughlin's sister)  
Janice Wilson (Karen McLaughlin's co-worker)  
Patty LeCompte (Karen McLaughlin's sister)  
Michelle (Dick Brighthaupt's friend)  
Ronna Buchannon (Wanda Carroll's friend)  
Ruthie Weil (Sandy McNeil's daughter)  
Alissa Wallace (Jade's cousin)  
Vera Glenn (Sandy McNeil's friend)  
Lorna Stinchfield (Cherrie Fleming's sister)  
Tessa (Angie Kormanec's friend)  
Daniel Hood (Cherrie's friend Pat Hood's grandson)  
Dennis Matson (Joe Matson's brother)  
Denise Wyatt (Wanda Carroll's friend)  
Linda Evans (Susie McClain's sister)  
Joyce Noah (TOPS)  
Kim Kirschling (Cherrie Fleming's friend)

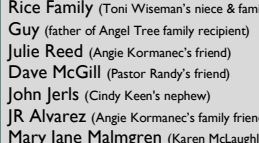
JoAnn Arnold  
Chris Harrelson  
Holden Batchelder  
Phil Gronemeyer  
Faye Wallace  
Dolores Martin

GROUPS

Gladden Staff & Students  
Silver Angels  
Health Care Workers  
First Responders  
Boy Scout 210 & Pack 4210  
USA and United States Military



Last Sunday's Service



If you watch our service online either on Facebook or on YouTube, please either comment on the video to let us know or let [Cindy](#) know to record your attendance.

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Reflections

From Pastor Randy

This Sunday we will continue our journey in Matthew's gospel, but we will be shifting gears.

We will be looking at John the Baptist.

During our Advent journey Silent Night, Holy Night we started with the encounter that Zechariah the priest had with the angel Gabriel. The angel had given Zechariah the news that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a child, and he should be called John. This was the birth of John the Baptist and the unfolding of God's plan for the Messiah.

We will now look at how John the Baptist was so pivotal in the ministry of Jesus. How John would prepare the people for their Messiah.

May we reflect this week on the person of John the Baptist. How would we handle such a role in God's story unfolding to reveal a savior?

Pastor Randy

January 25, 2026

Matthew 3: 1-12

John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

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Inclement Weather Policy

During the winter months, not only heavy snow, but also icy conditions, extreme cold, or a power failure can cause a cancellation. If it is necessary to cancel, the information will be posted on the home page of our website at [crossroads-umc.net](#) and on our [Facebook page](#). An email and text message will be sent to all attendees, so please be sure we have your current email address and mobile phone # on file. Email your info to [cjones@crossroads-umc.net](mailto:cjones@crossroads-umc.net)

Stay warm and be safe!

January Mission Project: Diaper Drive for Local Families

This is the final week for our diaper collection. Throughout the month of January, we have been collecting diapers—both disposable diapers (to be distributed by Bridge Over Troubled Water) and monetary gifts (for Happy Bottoms to purchase diapers)—to support families who are struggling to afford this essential resource.

Two Ways to Give

1. Donate Disposable Diapers

All sizes are welcome. Diapers collected will be delivered to Bridge Over Troubled Water, where they will be distributed to local families in need. Please place packages of diapers in the shopping cart located at church anytime during January.

2. Give a Monetary Donation

If you prefer to give financially, your donation will be sent to Happy Bottoms, a local agency dedicated to providing diapers to families across our metropolitan area. Because of their purchasing partnerships, Happy Bottoms can stretch every dollar—saving 30–50% off retail prices. Your \$20 gift can provide up to \$40 worth of diapers, doubling your impact and helping even more children. Monetary gifts may be placed in the offering plate (envelope or check clearly marked "diapers") or donate online at [crossroads-umc.net](#) on our giving page or click here:

Why This Mission Matters

The need is greater than many realize:

- Diapers are not covered by government safety net programs such as food stamps, Medicaid, or WIC.
- An estimated 21,000 children in our metropolitan area need diaper assistance (U.S. Census 2020).
- Families experiencing diaper need report missing an average of 5.1 workdays per month because they lack the required number of diapers for daycare—impacting employment, stability, and wellbeing.

Thank You for Being the Church

Your generosity helps ensure that babies in our community stay clean, dry, and healthy—and that parents can work, provide, and care for their families with dignity. Thank you for supporting this ministry and for being a church that responds with compassion where the need is great.

Unexpected Expenses

In an effort to maintain open communication with our church family, your Admin Team (Leadership Board) would like to share with you some recent developments.

It was announced last summer that after some extensive research and analysis, the Admin Team unanimously voted to engage in an electronic sign project. With the completion of Markey Road and the additional traffic, it was an opportunity to gain additional exposure for the church. At the same time, we had to update our security system. Along with the updates, we purchased additional exterior cameras. This move not only helped us to be good stewards of the building, but it also added additional security for the safety of our church family.

It was announced that these projects would cost us an estimated \$45,000 which would be pulled from our investment account at the Missouri United Methodist Foundation.

The security update and camera project has been completed. The electronic sign project has faced a number of setbacks and obstacles. We are hopeful that the sign will be completed by the end of January.

The main purpose of this communication however is to inform you of some recent and unexpected expenses the church has incurred. In November our Lift Station failed. Both of our pumps which send our building sewage up into the main sewer line quit working. We had to have the sewage in the lift station pumped out. Thankfully it was learned that one of the pumps had tripped a breaker from overuse and that pump is now functioning. The other pump needs to be replaced. This unexpected cost is roughly \$7000 for the pump and \$3000 for the labor to replace it.

In December our HVAC inspection revealed some major areas of concern. There were numerous repairs needed on the units. The Admin Team chose to have the repairs made on the newer unit, but decided that it was wiser to replace the older unit rather than to spend the money on repairing a unit that had passed its life expectancy. In total, for the replacement unit and repairs to the other, we were faced with an unexpected cost of roughly \$35,000. (Note: final costs came in after this letter was prepared and the total for the HVAC repairs was \$39,073)

This money will be withdrawn from our Foundation account as well. So in total, within the past six months we will have withdrawn nearly \$91,000 from the Foundation. The Admin Team will soon be organizing a small group to explore options and devise a plan to begin paying back the Foundation, so we ask that as our church family you would keep these proceedings in your thoughts and prayers.

The Foundation is a financial tool that the church uses as a prudent reserve. The balance within the Foundation has the ability to earn interest, but the gains are contingent to the balance as well.

We want to emphasize that we are **not** in a critical state at this point. However, it is important that we at least have a plan towards moving funds back into the Foundation for future unexpected expenses. If you have questions about the Foundation account, visit <https://mumf.org/> for more information.

If you have any more questions about this letter, please contact a member of our Admin Team: Bob Ridgley, Cheryl Ashbaugh, Cherrie Fleming, Chuck McClain, Cindy Jones, Donna Shoemaker, Karen McLaughlin, Linda Grindstaff, Nancy Jones, Pastor Randy Kelly, Vickie Lawrence, Mark Polk, and Vickie Trutzel.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers concerning this, CrossRoads Admin Team

Heart n Hand

Barrel Donations Needed:

- Any non-perishable food donations, such as cereal, pasta, baking mixes, canned fruit, cooking oils, granola bars, oatmeal, instant potatoes, canned meat, juices, seasonings and condiments
- Personal care & household items (like toilet paper, paper towels, diapers)
- Hygiene items (Preferably travel sized items: wash cloths, small combs and brushes, deodorant, body wash, razors, lip balms, wipes)
- Gloves and hand warmers
- [Amazon gift list items](#) (delivered directly to HnH)

Submit Prayer Requests Here

Questions or comments? Email us at [cjones@crossroads-umc.net](mailto:cjones@crossroads-umc.net) To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)