

THE MESSENGER

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Hey Church Family!

Welcome to 2026! I pray that our new year is full of godliness and goodness.

What do you want the new year to look like? Maybe 2025 was a great year and you want to keep that going, or maybe, 2025 was tough and you would like to see improvements in 2026. Most likely, it is a bit of both. So, how do we do that? How do we ensure solid things continue to remain strong and make rough things better?

The answer comes from Psalm 119:97-104. Specifically, a flourishing life comes from obeying the Bible, but to obey the Bible, you have to consistently think about it. Verse 97 helps us understand what consistently thinking about the Bible looks like when it says, "How I love your instruction! It is my **meditation all day long**."

The two key words here are "meditation" and "all day long." Meditation means to thoughtfully contemplate something. In the context of Psalm 119's poetic language, all day long means that God's word is always present in our minds. Sure, we will think about what to cook, work that needs doing, family life, etc., but as our minds go about their daily business God's word is always there. It is our thoughts' constant companion "all day long."

Thoughtfully contemplating God's word can be done in a few minutes (10-15 minutes is all it takes and of course more time is wonderful) where we cut out distractions and intentionally focus on our Bibles. The "ABC's" of a quiet time help us with thoughtful contemplation of God's word. Those "ABC's" are: Ask questions, pick a **Best Verse**, and Communicate with God.

To begin, identify a passage of the Bible to read by using a Bible reading plan. Then, read your passage. Now, Ask questions about what you just read that help you understand the meaning of the passage. Example questions are, "What's the big idea of this passage?" or "What details are included?" Next, pick a **Best Verse**. This verse is the one that stood out to you the most. Spend the day considering the truth it contains. Finally, Communicate with God in prayer. Based on what you read in the Bible, pray for your day. Jesus gives us the model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 if you want to see an example of biblical prayer.

There you go! Now you know how to consistently think about the Bible. However, there is one more thing we should note. Consistently also means that you do something more than you do not do it. You are not consistent if you only do something one or two times a week. So, to be consistently think about the Bible, you need to engage with it at least 4 days a week. This is important because what we

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think about shapes our actions and our actions lead to the results we see in life. Therefore, to get different or improved results, you need to not only adjust your actions, but you also need to adjust your thoughts. The results in your life are directly connected to your thoughts. This is why meditation on God's word all day long is so important to your 2026 being your best year yet!

Don't forget to...

- Join us at 9:15 am on Sunday Morning for Sunday School and at 10:30 for our Worship Service.
- Join us at 6:00 pm on Sunday nights for Bible Study and Prayer.
- Join us at 7:00 pm on Wednesday nights for Discipleship Training.
- Visit our church YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/@CrawfordRoadBaptistChurch>) to see the recordings of past Sunday or Wednesday preaching/teaching.

- Pastor Ethan



JANUARY

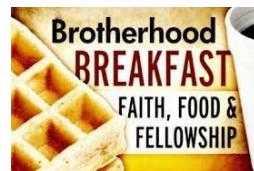
Birthdays

Red Carden, Jr.	1
Nathan Sadler	1
Tony Shirley	2
Gene Tillary	2
Ethan Graves	3
Jake Wilson	4
Dorene Goodson	5
Blakley Johnston	5
Danny Kirkland	5
Teresa Herman	7
Dakoda Sadler	7
Jerry Ray	9
Eden Johnston	18
Barbara Greene	19

Kristi Goodson	21
Aubrey Minton	22
Jenna Wilson	25
Jessie Catrett	26
Pam Ray	29

Happy Anniversary

Jake & Lauren Tester	1
Billy & Karol Anne Motos	12
Scott & Marcia Catrett	26
Kevin & Kristie Goodson	30



Our next Brotherhood Breakfast will be January 11th at 7:00 A.M. All men and young men are invited to join us for some delicious food and a great time of fellowship.

Men, if you haven't been attending, it's not too late to join us. You won't regret it.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES**Operating Offering**

Weekly budget needs—**\$4,448.00**

Tithes & Offerings for December

\$12,478.40

Average per week
\$3,119.60

Restroom Renovations

The two restrooms directly behind the sanctuary are in great need of renovations. We are going to start getting estimates for plumbing, flooring, vanities, etc. If you would like to contribute to this renovation, please mark your contribution "Restroom Renovation Fund".

Playground

Our playground set is badly deteriorating and is beyond repair. The House & Grounds committee has gotten prices to rebuild and replace it for a cost of around \$5,000.00. If you would like to contribute to this, please mark your donation "Playground".



We had a great turn out for our Children's Christmas Party on December 20th. Thank you to everyone that helped in any way. The kids had a great time celebrating Jesus' birth.

Weekly opportunities for worship:

Sunday — Sunday School 9:15-10:30 am
Children's Church 10:30-11:30 am

Wednesday — Missions Classes for all ages 7:00-8:00 pm.

Angie Wilson, Children's Ministry Director

LADIES, THE MOMENT OF TRUTH IS ALMOST HERE! IT'S TIME TO UNWRAP THE MYSTERY AND REVEAL THE SWEET SOULS BEHIND ALL THOSE THOUGHTFUL SURPRISES

Secret Sister Reveal**BRUNCH**

JANUARY 17TH 11:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

BRING YOUR FINAL GIFT, YOUR BEST GUESS, AND YOUR WARMEST SMILE! LET'S CELEBRATE THE LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND SISTERHOOD THAT'S BEEN BLOOMING ALL SEASON LONG. GET READY FOR HUGS, HAPPY TEARS, AND MAYBE A FEW "I KNEW IT" MOMENTS.



We have had a busy Holiday season. Thanksgiving we made up fresh cut flowers and for Christmas we decorated Christmas stockings and filled them with snacks of all kinds. I am very "THANKFUL" for our workers that give their time and love to our Feed My Sheep Ministry. Our people love for us to visit. We get a true blessing. I pray for each one of you and ask you to do the same. The need is great within our church. Instead of making a New Years Resolution, make a goal to visit or call someone. Makes a big difference in one's day...God Bless You All!

Janice (JJ)

Sanctity of Human Life SUNDAY

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."
- Jeremiah 1:5a

We will be observing Sanctity of Human Life on Sunday, January 18th.

We will have someone from Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic as our guest speaker on the night of January 25th.

Please mark your calendars and make an effort to be here to hear about what they do in our area to help women in crisis pregnancy situations.

WMU® God's mission.
Our passion.

"LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING"

Thank you all for your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Our goal is \$4,000.00 and we have not met it yet. The children will be ready with their buckets on Sunday, January 4th so you still have time to give. This offering helps to support our missionaries around the world and we can all be a part of their work. As one of our missionaries said, "We're all better together."

"WOMEN ON MISSION"

Thank you Angie for hosting our Christmas party and Nacy for entertaining us. We enjoyed it very much. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 20th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. The menu is soup, salads, sandwiches, and sweets. All ladies are invited.

"MISSION FRIENDS" and "CHILDREN IN ACTION"

Ms. Angie and Ms. Sarah are ready each Wednesday evening at 7:00 to teach your children about missions.

"PRAYER FOCUS"

Pray for ALL MISSIONARIES—Lift up missionaries as they experi-

ence the stresses of life and ministry. Our prayer support and financial support is vital to them.

The Cooperative Program is the financial fuel for reaching every person for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state, and every nation. Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists help bring God's Word to forgotten people in their heart language.

What JOY!

WMU Emphasis for 2024-2026

WMU WATCHWORD...

"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

WMU OBJECTIVE...*We are passionate about the lost. We are compelled by love. We are generous in sharing. We serve with great delight (joy).*

WMU MANDATE...*"making disciples of Jesus who live on mission"*

WMU MISSIONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

** Learn about missions * Pray for missions * Support missions
* Do missions and tell about Jesus*

Judie Goodson, WMU Director

CRAWFORD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

2706 US Highway 80 West
Phenix City, AL 36870



Address Label

We're on the web:
crbch.com

CHURCH INFORMATION

Staff Directory...

Ethan Graves, Pastor
Scott Catrett, Music Minister
Cindy Wood, Secretary

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Watch our services on YouTube at
<https://www.youtube.com/@CrawfordRoadBaptistChurch>



Active Deacons...

Scott Catrett
Jonathan Johnston
Josh McPeters
Tom O'Flinn
Nathan Sadler
David Weaver
Hunter Wilson
Jake Wilson
Chris Wood
Jay Wortley