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RIVERS CROSSING

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# ***WELCOME.***

Thank you so much for being a part of Rivers Crossing and giving us a chance to help guide and celebrate your personal spiritual journey. The purpose of this brief time together is simply to introduce you to our church, our DNA, our values and purpose. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, to help customize your unique next step with God.



# OUR CORE VALUES

## *BALANCE*

We strive to be a church of fully engaged followers of Jesus Christ that focuses on the essential truths of the scriptures by preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God. We will passionately pursue both grace and truth while being led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

## *EVANGELISM*

An evangelistic church reflects God's heart to go to the least, last, and lost people within their community and in the world. Our mission is to reproduce evangelistic churches through church planting and supporting church planters. Whether we're serving in Cincinnati or around the world, our goal is to reach people with the good news of Jesus.

## *WORSHIP*

Worship is much more than group singing. It's a lifestyle of expressing our love to God through our actions, lifestyle, and work. We believe that when fully engaged followers of Jesus gather for corporate worship, their creative expressions of love toward God are experienced through art, film, music, design, Christ-centered preaching, and more.

## *JOURNEY*

Saying yes to Jesus is not the end but the beginning of a lifelong journey of discipleship. We will embrace people wherever they are on their spiritual journey, pointing them to Jesus as the source of an extraordinary life and calling them to commit their lives to following Him.

## *INNOVATION*

As carriers of the most important message in history, we are constantly trying new, creative strategies to share the good news of Jesus in an ever-changing culture. While our mission never changes, we are always innovating by investing in the next generation, launching new churches, and pursuing excellence in everything we do.

## *COMMUNITY*

Jesus said that the world would know His followers by the love they had for each other. We are a community learning how to love each other and those who are seeking a relationship with God.

# ***SALVATION.***

We believe that God created the world and everything in it, including you, and He wants to have a personal relationship with you. Because of our sin, that relationship is only made possible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.”

# ***GOOD NEWS!***

Restoring your relationship with God is as easy as ABC.

## ***ADMIT***

that your sin has caused you to fall short of God’s holy standard, that you cannot save yourself and that you need a Savior. Romans 3:23

## ***BELIEVE***

that God sent Jesus as your only hope for salvation. John 3:16

## ***CHOOSE***

to receive Jesus into your life, to place your faith in Him as your Savior and follow Him for the rest of your life. John 1:12





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# ***BAPTISM.***

Baptism is an outer sign of an inner transformation. It's the first thing Jesus calls His followers to do after they make a decision to follow Him, and a way that we publicly declare our new life in Christ.

When you're baptized, you will be lowered under water to represent your sinful nature dying with Christ. Then, you'll be lifted out of the water to symbolize your new life with Christ. When you walk into the water, you are letting the world know that you have stepped into a new life of faith in Jesus Christ and that you are committing to follow Him down a new path.

Whether you just started a relationship with Jesus or you've been following him for years, don't delay getting baptized.



# SERVING

Explore ways to volunteer at Rivers Crossing and find a place to serve that's just right for you.



## *Guest Experience*

Make everyone who walks on campus feel valued, loved and welcomed.

## *RC Kids*

Partner with parents to help kids become fully engaged followers of Christ.

## *RC Students*

Lead and mentor junior high and high school students toward becoming fully engaged followers of Christ.

## *RC Young Adults*

Lead and mentor young adults toward becoming fully engaged followers of Christ.

## *Groups*

Help nurture community and encourage others in their spiritual journeys.

## *Pastoral Care*

Pray and care for those who are hurting.

## *Operations*

Help keep our facilities safe, clean & welcoming.

## *Creative Arts*

Create and share stories of the extraordinary life through creativity.

## *Worship Arts*

Create an environment where people can experience Jesus each week by leading worship or serving on the Production Team.

## *Global Trips*

Serve communities and churches across the world on one of our global trips.

## *Joshua's Place*

Serve at our local outreach ministry to help people break the cycle of generational poverty.

# COMMUNITY

Our vision is to become a community of ordinary people seeking extraordinary lives.



## *RC Young Adults*

Rivers Crossing Young Adults is a weekly gathering for people from 18-25 years old. Whether they're a student, married or single, we help young adults grow in their faith, stay connected to Jesus, and build relationships with people in their season of life while serving our community.

## *RC Students*

RC Students is a passionate community where students grow together in their faith, worship Jesus, and learn how to live a Spirit-filled life. High school students gather on Wednesday nights for Tribes High School and junior high students gather on Sunday mornings for Tribes Junior High.

## *RC Kids*

RC Kids is a safe place where children from birth through 6th grade grow closer to Jesus while having fun and connecting with the same leader each week.

# GROUPS

## *Community Groups*

These groups consist of 10-14 people who meet regularly to share their lives, study the Bible and support one another. Most groups study questions and scripture connected to the week's sermon and pray together. Whether you're single, raising a young family or parenting teens, we have a group for you.

## *Men, Women, and Discipleship Groups*

These groups are offered throughout the year. They change regularly and include Bible studies, book studies and intensive discipleship experiences.

## *Celebrate Recovery*

Celebrate Recovery is a place where people find freedom from any hurt, habit or hang-up that is preventing them from experiencing the extraordinary life.



# ***GENEROSITY.***

Generosity is a critical component to being a fully engaged follower of Christ. It's not about what God wants from you, it's what He wants for you! He wants more for you than you could ask for or imagine, and we do too.

Consider the 90-Day Tithing Challenge and put God to the test. If you tithe for three months and God doesn't hold true to His promises of blessings in Malachi 3:10-11, we will refund you 100% of your tithe, no questions asked.

***SIGN UP AT [RIVERSCROSSING.COM/GIVE](https://riverscrossing.com/give).***



# ***GOD'S PROMISES***

Since God owns everything, He doesn't need our money.

So why give first to Him out of your income?

Because it takes faith to give first, and God wants us to trust Him.

He tells us to *"honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops and then your barns will be filled with overflowing"* (Proverbs 3:9-10).

We give first, and the blessings of God follow.

# OUR BELIEFS

## *God*

God is the Creator and Lord of the heavens and the earth. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are equal in power and eternity and are one God. God is love.

## *About Us*

Man is made in the image of God and we are the ultimate object of His creation. Although we have extraordinary potential for good, at some level we are all impacted by our disobedience toward God called “sin.” Our sin, of any magnitude, separates us from experiencing the love and presence of God.

## *Eternity*

We were created to exist forever and will either live eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and hell are places of eternal existence.



## *Jesus Christ*

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He entered this world fully God and fully man through a miraculous conception and virgin birth. His life is without sin, which allowed him to voluntarily offer himself as a sacrifice for our sins through death on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords.

## *Salvation*

Salvation is a gift from God to man and is received by faith. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. We can only receive salvation from our sin by trusting in the death and resurrection Jesus Christ. Once we make our confession and commitment to Jesus Christ, all sins are forgiven, our relationship with God is established and eternal life begins.

## *The Holy Spirit*

The Holy Spirit is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every follower of Christ from the moment of salvation. He provides the believer with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance needed to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. He gives all believers spiritual gifts used to draw them closer to Himself and build up the church. All gifts are in operation today and lead to a balanced community of believers.





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## *The Mission of the Church*

Those who receive Jesus Christ make up the one true Church. The Church has been called to action through following the teachings of Jesus Christ. This calling includes, but is not limited to spreading the story of Jesus Christ, building up one another in our faith and being with and serving the poor, the lonely and the oppressed. We recognize believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper as scriptural means of proclaiming the changed life found in Christ.

## *Scripture*

The Bible is composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired word of God and without error in the original writing. The Bible was given by God through chosen people and thus reflects the backgrounds, styles, and vocabulary of human writers. The Bible is the full and final authority on all matters of faith and practice; there are no other writings similarly inspired by God. The Bible's truth is timeless and speaks to our everyday lives.

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## ***MEET THE TAYLORS***

Pastor Paul Taylor and his wife, Farrah, founded Rivers Crossing in 2007. What started with a few families turned into a fast-growing community with two locations in the Cincinnati area and an online campus that reaches people across the world.

Paul and Farrah's passion is to share Jesus with people far from God, plant churches, invest in pastors, and equip other churches to reach their cities.

As a pastor's kid in Rome, GA, Paul grew up hearing about Jesus. But as he went on to play football at the University of Georgia, he found himself far from God.

At 21 years old, just as his choices were unraveling his life, Paul had a radical, life-changing encounter with Jesus.

He met Farrah at an Athletes in Action conference and, before long, they were married and beginning their ministry journey. In 2001, the Taylors responded to God's call to move to Farrah's hometown of Cincinnati, where they raised four wonderful children: Alexandria, Gavin, Ansley, and Eli.

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