



The Messenger



Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

A network of churches committed to evangelizing, teaching, and ministering to our world.

April 2026

- Easter
- Women's Events
- Senior Adults
- CPBA Evening of Worship
- and more!

A Word from Kirk

"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.' Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.' And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.'"

Matthew 26:36-46

One of my most amazing lifetime experiences has been visiting Israel. We arrived in Tel Aviv and didn't stop for the next seven days. We basically walked the places that Jesus walked with a few extra stops along the way. Our first night was spent in Nazareth followed by visits to Beth She-an, Mt. Gilboa, Gideon's Spring, and then to the Jordan River. The next day we made stops at Magdala, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Caesarea Philippi, and Mt. Bental before spending the night in Tiberias along the Sea of Galilee. Our next day included Mt. Carmel, Tel Megiddo, and Caesarea. After spending the night on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea we made our way up to Jerusalem! Our first stop was the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane, Mt. Zion, Bethlehem, the Palace of Caiaphas, the upper room, and the Garden Tomb. After spending the night in Jerusalem, we made our way to the City of King David, the Jewish Quarter, the Western Wall, and Bethesda. Our last day included the Dead Sea, Masada, Ein Gedi, and Qumran.

What an experience of a lifetime! I would say that I connected with many of the places that we visited. However, as I sat quietly in the Garden of Gethsemane facing the Eastern Gate toward where the Temple once stood, I became overwhelmed. I began to realize that Jesus, My Lord and Savior prayed for me right here. I thought about his prayerful struggle as described in the Gospels. Scripture describes Christ's struggle in the physical, emotional, and spiritual areas of His life. And yet, for me and for you, He willingly yielded to His Father's will.

As I sat praying and reflecting in the Garden of Gethsemane, I looked over toward the city of Jerusalem. I thought about how Jesus was betrayed and falsely arrested. They would take Him from this Garden down into the Kidron Valley in front of me to Caiaphas' House. He would have to endure the shame of a bogus trial and then be mercilessly beaten. From there He would die on a cross for you and me at the hill called Golgotha. They would place him in a grave where He would rise from the dead three days later for you and me. And as I looked behind me at the Mt. of Olives, I know that one day He is returning for you and me! We have a true story to tell. It is the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ! He is alive for He is risen indeed!

Kirk

Easter Celebrations!!

Memorial Baptist

Sunday, April 5

- 8:00am "Sonrise" Service
- 8:45am Breakfast
- 9:30am Sunday School
- 10:30am Choir presents *No More Night*

Lantana Road Baptist

Wednesday, April 1, 6pm

- Easter Experience: Kids can walk through live scenes of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Friday, April 3, 6pm

- Living Last Supper

Sunday, April 5, 6am

- Sunrise service at Holiday Out RV Park

Fairfield Glade First Baptist

Easter Services/Activities
 Sunrise Service @ 7:00 am
 Easter Continental Breakfast @ 7:30 am
 Sunday School @ 9:00 am
 Worship Service @ 10:30 am

Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church
 130 Town Centre Way Crossville, TN

HE HAS
RISEN

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
 SERVICE**

APRIL 2 @ 6:00 PM



2026 TN WMU Go Team Opportunities

TN WMU Mission Team to Toronto, Canada – May 14-18, 2026

The team of up to 8 people will prayer walk, encourage missionaries, and assist in community engagement activities.

TN WMU Denver Mission Team – October 8-12, 2026

The team will prayer walk, encourage church planters, and assist in community engagement activities.

GO Teams in Tennessee

We are working on scheduling some GO Team ministry opportunities in Tennessee. More information coming soon.

If you are interested in joining any of these teams, contact [Vickie Anderson](#) for more information.

Ministry Couple's Night Out

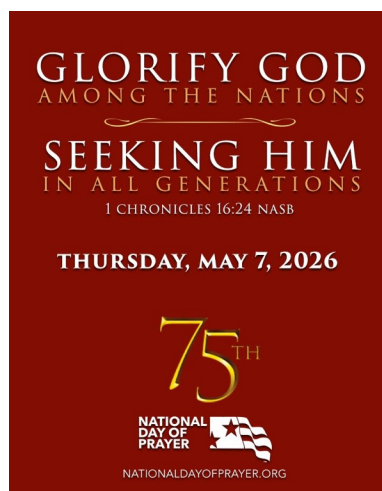
An evening for ministers and their spouses. 6:00 Meal, 7:00 program with panel discussion on pressures that ministry families face. No childcare provided.

- May 4 – [Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville](#)
- May 5 – [Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mount Carmel](#)
- May 11 – [Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro](#)
- May 14 – [Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga](#)
- May 18 – [West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson](#)
- May 19 – [Shelbyville First Baptist Church, Shelbyville](#)



Ministry Couple's
NIGHT OUT

[Learn More](#)



Spring Cohort Sign-ups Are Open!

Leading a small church comes with unique joys—and unique challenges. You don't have to navigate them alone.

We're excited to invite you to participate in Small Church Academy Spring 2026 Cohorts, an opportunity designed specifically for pastors of small churches. These cohorts provide a meaningful time of fellowship, encouragement, and practical study in a small-group setting.

Each cohort is:

- Led by experienced bivocational pastors who understand the realities of small-church ministry
- Built around peer connection, not lectures—learning from one another
- Offered in multiple time options, making participation more accessible
- Focused on real-life ministry challenges and growth

This is a space to build relationships, sharpen your leadership, and be encouraged alongside pastors who truly “get it.”

We would love for you to join us and be part of this growing community of small-church leaders. Spots are limited to keep groups personal, so we encourage you to register soon.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We hope you'll prayerfully consider joining a Small Church Academy Cohort.

Choose from the following studies:

- “Dangerous Calling” by Paul Davis Tripp (Tuesdays at 6 PM Central)
- “Redeeming Productivity: Getting More Done for the Glory of God” (Thursdays at 8 PM Central)
- “What Every Pastor Ought to Know,” a video series by Adrian Rogers and Love Worth Finding (Mondays at 6 PM Central)
- “Dangerous Calling” by Paul Davis Tripp (Thursdays at 1:30 PM Central)
- “The Painful Side of Leadership” by Jeff Iorg (Wednesdays at 10 AM Central)
- “Uniquely Bivocational” by Ray Gilder (Tuesdays at 6 PM Central)

[Register Here](#)

Camp Ozone Work Week, April 13-15.

You can choose to work one day or all three. There are jobs for everyone of all skills levels and abilities: prayer walking, kitchen serving, cleaning, gardening, brush clearing, carpentry, painting, etc.

If you would like to join the fellowship of working with others, please register with Camp Ozone via www.CampOzone.com

Please let Kirk know that you will be participating in Camp Ozone's work week.



Lighthouse Christian Camp Work Week, May 11-14.

You can choose to work one day or all four. There are jobs for everyone of all skills levels and abilities. .

Room provided. Breakfast and Lunch included.

Please let Kirk know if you're interested or have any questions.

**LADIES CONFERENCE
MAY 1ST & 2ND**

**FAIRFIELD GLADE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
130 TOWN CENTRE DRIVE**

Friday, May 1st: ● Dinner @ 5:00 pm Program 5:45-8:00	Saturday, May 2nd: Breakfast @ 8:30 am Program 9:30-1:30
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REGISTER IN THE FRONT LOBBY OR ONLINE @
<https://www.onhisrock.org>

\$25 PER PERSON
PAYMENTS CAN BE DROPPED OFF TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FFGFBC.
ADD TO MEMO LINE:
LADIES CONFERENCE



*Fill My Cup,
Lord.*

*Come and quench this
thirsting of my soul.*



**MISSIONS
GET-TOGETHER
SAVE THE DATE**

APRIL 17-18, 2026
DICKSON, TN
FIRST BAPTIST DICKSON

Make plans now to attend **Missions Get-Together** on April 17-18, 2026, at Dickson First Baptist Church.

Missions Get-Together is a weekend for women 18 years and older to come together with women from across the state to worship, learn what God is doing in Tennessee and around the world, meet new friends, hear powerful testimonies from missionaries and ministry partners, participate in relevant breakouts, open God's Word, have fun...and so much more!!!

The event features four General Sessions, four Breakout Sessions - with an additional TWO BONUS Breakouts on Friday Morning, a Missions & Ministry Fair with a WorldCrafts store and the annual Silent Auction!

[Click here](#) for lodging recommendations.

Stay up-to-date on the latest information by visiting the event [website](#).

Learning to Pray with Abandon

Prayer is often described as the lifeblood of the Christian faith—a direct line of communication with God. To pray with abandon is to approach God with complete openness and vulnerability.

Scripture offers numerous examples of individuals who prayed with abandon—King David pouring out his soul in the Psalms, Hannah weeping bitterly before the Lord, and Jesus Himself praying with such intensity in Gethsemane. These prayers were raw, real, and powerful.

In prayer, it is easy to focus on our needs, desires, and requests. While God invites us to bring our petitions before Him, there is a deeper invitation. Looking at the Lord's Prayer, we read the words, "Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. To seek God's face is to pursue His presence, character, and heart above all else. It's the difference between wanting what God can give us and wanting God Himself.

Join us on one of the following dates for Learning to Pray with Abandon. This training is for pastors, ministers, and laypersons. Please share this information with your leadership team, and the prayer champions within your church body.

Registration is required and closes one week before the event. Cost: \$20 and includes lunch.

April 7 – Hamilton County Association – 5516 Pearl St, Ooltewah – 10:00am – 2:30pm EST
Register online [HERE](#)

April 14 – Madison-Chester Association – 2035 North Parkway, Jackson – 10:00am – 2:30pm CST
Register online [HERE](#)

Questions? Please contact Nancy Duggin, TBMB Prayer Catalyst, nduggin@tnbaptist.org or 615.587.0334



Remember the donations that our Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association collected after Hurricane Helene? This is the house that was built in Cosby, TN, through your generosity to the Arise and Build project.

Thank you!

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

April 9, 2026- 6:00 PM

celebrating Seniors

CONCERT

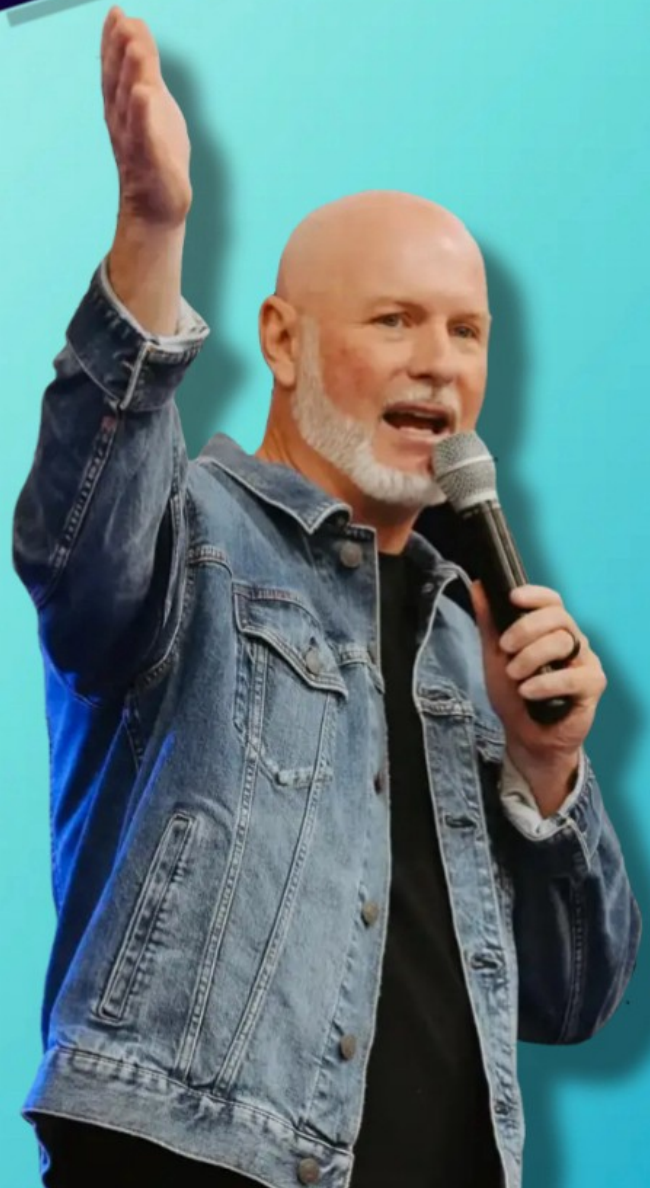
WITH
KENNY EVANS

from The American Oldies Show
Pigeon Forge, TN

Come enjoy a fun night of Golden
Oldies, Classic Country, and Gospel
Classics... and invite a friend

Central Baptist Church
1346 South Main St
Crossville, TN

Made with PosterMyWall.com



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF WORSHIP



Presented by the Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

APRIL 26, 2026 CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH 6:00 PM



Special Music:
**LED BY UNION UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS**

Guest Speaker:
DR. SAMUEL "DUB" OLIVER
President of Union University



WEEKDAY EARLY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

This is an annual statewide conference for the purpose of providing training for directors and teachers in Weekday Early Education/Preschool ministries.

When: Saturday, July 11, 2026
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM Central Time

[Register Now](#)

Where: Grace Baptist Church
1510 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37207

Theme: Planing Seeds of Faith; Teaching from a Biblical Worldview

This Weekday Early Education Conference is for directors and teachers of any part-time or full-time preschool program. Valuable training is available for anyone working with preschoolers, regardless of the type of program or curriculum used. The conference schedule provides six (6) hours of approved professional development clock hours, approved through TrainTN.

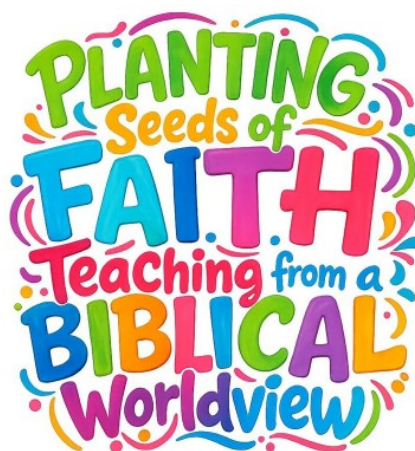
Registration Fee

\$75 per person if registered by June 2, 2026.
\$85 per person if registered after June 2, 2026.

No refunds after July 1, 2026.
However, the registration fee may be transferred to another member in your group.

Looking forward to seeing you in July!
Carol Pratt
Conference Coordinator
cpratt@tnbaptist.org

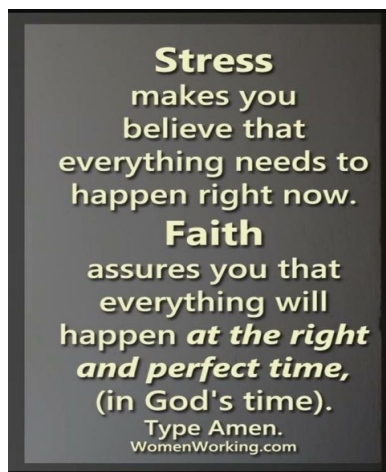
For registration questions:
Sharlyn Ricks
sricks@tnbaptist.org



Off the Grid Women's Hike May 8-9, 2026

Join us for a two-day hike in the Great Smoky Mountains to experience beautiful scenery and good fellowship with other missions and ministry minded women. We will spend Friday night at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact [Kim Cruse](#).



April 2026 At-A-Glance

Apr 3	GOOD FRIDAY
Apr 5	EASTER SUNDAY
Apr 6	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: Rebekah Harrington, IMB Macedonia Missionary
Apr 7	Executive Council Mtg
Apr 17-18	Missions Get-Together
Apr 20	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: Doug Elders, Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church
Apr 20-21	Love Packages trip
Apr 26	An Evening of Worship Central Baptist Church

DONATE

Please consider donating to support CPBA. All donations are tax deductible. Donate by mail, in person, or online at www.cpbaptists.com/donate

Looking Ahead to May 2026

May 4	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: TBA
May 7	National Day of Prayer
May 4-7	Lighthouse Christian Camp Work Week
May 10	MOTHER'S DAY
May 18	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: TBA
May 25	MEMORIAL DAY – Office Closed
May 27	CC Schools: Last Day, abbr.

More information about many of our calendar events can be found on the [EVENTS](#) page of our website.

SUBSCRIBE

If you currently receive the newsletter in print but could switch to the online version, please subscribe at www.cpbaptists.com/subscription

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

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Mon. -Thurs.

9:00 AM -2:00 PM

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