



The Messenger



Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

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

October 2025

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- Annual Meeting 2025
- Christmas Backpacks
- Love Packages
- Roane State Meals

A Word from Kirk

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,' and 'The laborer is worthy of his wages.'" 1 Timothy 5:17-18

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, a special opportunity for us to recognize and thank those who faithfully shepherd our church family. The apostle Paul's words in 1 Timothy 5:17-18 remind us that the work of ministry is worthy of honor—double honor, in fact.

Pastors carry a unique calling. They spend hours studying Scripture, preparing sermons, counseling the hurting, visiting the sick, praying for the flock, and equipping believers to grow in their faith. This work is not just a job—it is a labor of love and a spiritual responsibility before God. Paul uses vivid imagery, comparing a pastor's service to an ox treading grain and to a laborer earning wages. Both pictures remind us that spiritual leaders deserve to be supported, encouraged, and cared for by the very people they serve.

Pastor Appreciation Month is more than a calendar event—it's a biblical opportunity to obey God's Word by showing gratitude. Here are a few ways we can give "double honor" to our pastors this month:

- **Pray for Them Daily:** Ministry can be spiritually, emotionally, and physically exhausting. Lift your pastors and their families before the Lord.
- **Express Your Thanks:** Write a note, send a message, or share a story about how their ministry has impacted your life.
- **Encourage Them Publicly:** A kind word in front of others can bless and strengthen your pastor's heart.
- **Support Them Tangibly:** Consider a love offering, gift card, or meal to bless them in a practical way.
- **Serve Alongside Them:** The greatest encouragement you can give a pastor is to join them in the work of ministry.
- **Give them a few days away:** Let me recommend a few getaways. Carson Springs and Linden Valley have special rates for pastor's getaways. Call 844-777-8262 for more information. At Ridgecrest, NC they offer a special rate of \$89 per room per night for ministers. To plan this special time away for ministers to rest, contact their reservations desk at 800-588-7222.

When we honor our pastors, we honor the God who called them. This month, let's be intentional about showing appreciation to those who "labor in the word and doctrine." Together, we can build up our leaders and remind them that their work is making an eternal difference.

Appreciate your pastor and Pray for your pastor,

Kirk

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association 71st Annual Meeting & Worship Service

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Bethlehem Baptist Church

4:00 pm – Business Session

6:00 pm – Worship Service

Phillip Smith – guest speaker



Phillip Smith serves as a Harvest Field 5 Team Leader for the TBMB. Phillip is super excited about serving churches by multiplying gospel leaders who advance God's Kingdom. Phillip is a graduate of Union University and NOBTS, served with the IMB for 10 years in the Middle East, and pastored Faith Harvest Church for the past 8 years. Phillip is married to Rebecca, and they have 4 beautiful daughters and one male dog named Axle.

Messengers, please RSVP by October 1.
The RSVP form is online. Contact our office if you need help.
Dinner provided for Messengers only
between business and worship.



CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

**Collection Days October 20-22
9A-2P @ Oaklawn Bapt. gym**

2025 Christmas Backpacks

(Click for more information.)

Over the last few years, we have invited your church to join us in sharing the gospel with Tennessee's impoverished children through the Christmas Backpack ministry. Many of you responded by giving backpacks. In fact, last year there were nearly 7,540 Christmas Backpacks donated by individuals from 166 Tennessee Baptist Convention churches. Thank you!

We are moving into the eighth year of receiving Christmas Backpacks. This year's goal in Tennessee is 7,000 backpacks. As so many deal with rising costs of food and gas, the need for Christmas backpacks has only increased. Around 34 churches/ministries have made application for Christmas Backpacks with almost 7,000 requested.

We need your help. Would you consider joining other Tennessee Baptists in sharing the love of Christ through giving Christmas Backpacks? Would you be willing to lead your church to do so?

As you consider joining in this ministry effort, please know the following:

- 89 of 95 counties in Tennessee have double-digit poverty rates
- 19 counties have poverty rates at more than 20%
- 14% of Tennesseans living below the poverty line
- 10% of all Tennesseans live in extreme poverty
- 15.6% of the population lives with food insecurity
- Every Christmas Backpack given this year will be given to children in Tennessee.
- Every Church/ministry that signs up to give out Christmas Backpacks is asked to do three things:
 - Have a Christmas event.
 - Present the gospel to each child and family.
 - Follow-up with each child that accepts Christ.

To assist you in shopping, please consider these possibilities:

Dollar Days- For Backpacks and Contents: Click the link.

Mark McSwain has a ministry called **The Slip Disc: The Original Gospel Tract Flying Disc**. You can purchase discs complete with an attached gospel presentation through his website: Click the link.

Dollar Days

The Slip Disc

If you haven't already done so, please let us know if you will join us by signing up to donate backpacks. When you do, we will send you copies of "The Christmas Story" to insert in each backpack. These will be mailed in mid-September. The backpacks will be collected at various sites across the state between **October 20-22, 2025**. You can find out everything you need to know about donating Christmas Backpacks at www.tnbaptist.org/backpacks. If you have questions, call Beth Moore at 423-440-6225.

Tennessee Baptist Church giving through the Cooperative Program and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions make TBMB ministries possible. Thank you for your willingness to consider joining us in the important work of reaching children with the gospel.

Register Here to Donate Christmas Backpacks

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!

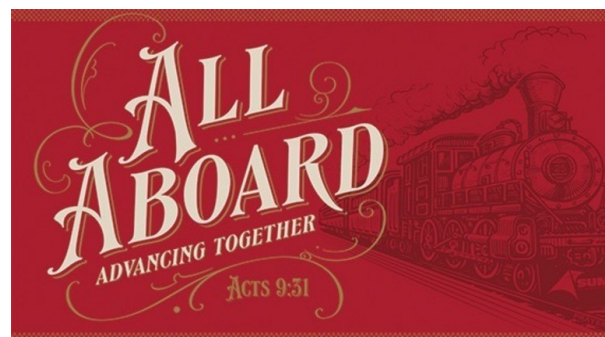
[Click here](#) for lodging recommendations.

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

Summit

The Summit is the annual gathering of Tennessee Baptists. You probably know it as the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The Summit includes the Pastors Conference, the annual meeting, and everything in between. The 2025 Summit will be held November 9-11, at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, TN

Visit tbcsummit.org for more information.



SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

RA Camp-O-Ree

LINDEN VALLEY BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER
LINDEN, TN

WHERE CAMPING BECOMES AN ADVENTURE!



2025 RA Camp-O-Ree

Make plans now for your boys to attend the 2025 RA Camp-O-Ree on October 17-19 at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center in beautiful Linden, Tennessee.

RA Camp-O-Ree (RAC) is an exciting weekend camping event for any/all organized boy's groups affiliated with a Southern Baptist church.

Groups attending RAC participate in a multitude of activities, challenges, games, and crafts while enjoying the great outdoors. They meet missionaries from around the world and enjoy two action-packed worship services all in one weekend!

This year's special guest speaker will be comedian, magician and illusionist Clayton Poland.

For more details and downloadable promotional material about the event [click here](#).

Questions? Call 901-849-0867 or email rastaff@midsouthras.org.

RA Camp-O-Ree is planned and hosted by Mid-South Royal Ambassadors organization in partnership with Tennessee WMU and Tennessee Baptist Mission Board.

Love Packages Mission Trip



Kirk and Jason are ready to get started.



Sorting materials.



Binding bundles of materials

Next Trip: December 8-9

If you would like to join us for an upcoming Love Packages mission trip, let our office know. We go about once a quarter, and we'd love to get you on our schedule!



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Roane State Meals

We are still looking for a couple more churches to volunteer for the Fall Semester. You would need to feed about 75-100 students. The two dates currently available are Nov 6 and Nov 20, both Thursdays.

Let your church office or CPBA know if you'd like to participate. It won't be long before we will be making our schedule for next semester. Now is a good time to be organizing and planning a delicious meal.



CPBA Serving Lunch at Roane State

Libby recruited her husband Tim and her son Colton DeMoss to help serve one of the lunches in September. Thanks guys!



October 2025 At-A-Glance

Oct 1	RSVP list (for the Annual Meeting) is due
Oct 5	CPBA Annual Meeting Business Meeting for Messengers 4pm Worship Service for everyone 6pm @ Bethlehem Baptist
Oct 6	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: Ted Williams
Oct 13-17	FALL BREAK CC Schools & Roane State
Oct 20	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: Kelly Campbell, TN Bapt Children's Homes

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 November 2025

Nov 2	Daylight Savings Time ends
Nov 3	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: Andrew Lewis, Southwest Baptist
Nov 9-12	TBC Summit Jackson, TN
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 17	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: Andy Weaver, Pine Eden
Nov 26	CC Schools closed
Nov 27	Thanksgiving Day Office Closed

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

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Mon. -Thurs.

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