



The Messenger



Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

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

May 2026

- VBS 2026
- Ladies' Conference
- Ministry Couples
- Support Staff
- National Day of Prayer
- And more!

A Word from Kirk

"Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God"

Phillippians 1:1-11

As you read this newsletter article, my bags should be packed and I should be on my way to Idaho Falls, Idaho. I have been invited back to my previous church, Calvary Baptist Church, to join them in celebrating the church's 75th anniversary. No, I was not there when the church began, but I had the privilege of serving as pastor from 1997 to 2008, when I became your Director of Missions.

I ask that you pray for Tina and me as we travel and celebrate with this congregation this weekend. I will have the honor of preaching during the anniversary service on Sunday morning.

One of the passages that has come to mind during this time is from Philippians. Paul expresses what so many pastors carry in their hearts when they reflect on people they once served. I preached my last sermon at Calvary Baptist Church eighteen years ago, and my first sermon there nearly thirty years ago. How does time pass so quickly?

I would describe my years in Idaho Falls as "the best of times and the worst of times." I say that somewhat lightheartedly, because the best of times far outweighed the worst. Those are the memories I choose to hold onto. Yet it is also amazing and even miraculous how God works through and uses the difficult seasons. Just as Paul remembered the joy and partnership in the gospel with the believers in Philippi, I hold tightly to those same kinds of memories from my time in Idaho Falls.

Preparing for this anniversary has also led me to reflect on my eighteen years serving as your Director of Missions. Yes, eighteen years, we moved here in May of 2008. Recently, on a trip to Love Packages, we experienced a small medical incident. Thankfully, the individual is fine. But it caused me to pause and thank God again for His protection and faithfulness over these many years. Think about all the volunteers, many of them senior adults, who have traveled on mission trips, served faithfully, and responded through our disaster relief teams. With gratitude and praise to God, we can say that over all these years, we have experienced only one major medical event. That is a testimony to His care and provision.

Thank you for the joy and fellowship in the gospel that I have the privilege to share with you. It is a blessing to serve alongside you. Let us continue to press on together, confident that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion.

Kirk

VBS! 2026



Bethlehem Baptist Church

Dates: May 31-June 4

Times: 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Theme: *Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23*



Register with Bethlehem



Memorial Baptist Church

Dates: June 7-12

Times: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Theme: *Illumination Station: Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is*



Oaklawn Baptist Church

Dates: June 7-11

Times: 5:15-5:50 Registration and Meal

5:50-6:10 Worship Rally

6:10-8:00 Classes and Activities

Theme: *Junkyard Redemption: God's Master Plan to Remake our Broken World*



Pine Eden Baptist Church

Dates: June 15-18

Times: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Theme: *Illumination Station: Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is*



Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church

Dates: June 21-25

Times: 4:30pm light dinner

5:00pm-7:30pm VBS activities

Theme: *Illumination Station: Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is*



Oak Hill Baptist Church

Dates: July 13-17

Times: 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Theme: *Illumination Station: Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is*

LADIES CONFERENCE
MAY 1ST & 2ND

FAIRFIELD GLADE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
130 TOWN CENTRE DRIVE

Friday, May 1st: Saturday, May 2nd:
 ● Dinner @ 5:00 pm Breakfast @ 8:30 am
 Program 5:45-8:00 Program 9:30-1:30

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.*



**Support Staff
 Appreciation
 Luncheon**

Thursday, July 16

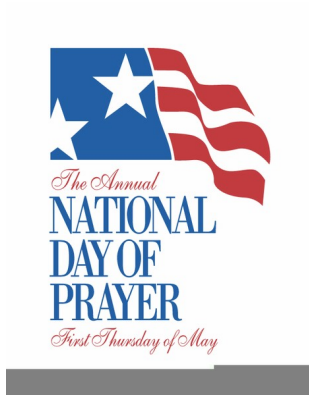
Ministry Couple's Night Out

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



[Learn More](#)



GLORIFY GOD
 AMONG THE NATIONS

SEEKING HIM
 IN ALL GENERATIONS
 1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

75TH

**NATIONAL
 DAY OF
 PRAYER**

NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG





Mother's Day
May 10

Special Offering

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.



go TEAM OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Roane State Meals



Lantana Road Baptist Church feeding students at our local Roane State Community College Campus

Camp Ozone Work Week



Volunteers working at the Camp Ozone Work Week



Getting instructions for the work day by Brent Woodward, the director of Camp Ozone



Taking a break for lunch



Clearing trails



The birth of a lumberjack

Celebrating Seniors



Stacking firewood



Stacking firewood



Celebrating Seniors event featuring Kenny Evans



Seniors enjoying the evening



Just doing the twist to the Golden Oldies



Celebrating Seniors was an evening full of fun and fellowship.

Celebrating Seniors (cont.)



Participating in Celebrating Seniors

Love Packages Trip



Billy Kemp, Legacy Pastor at Central Baptist enjoying a good old-fashioned banana split



Volunteers from Central Baptist Church



Listening to Love Packages stories during a needed break



Phil telling one more story



Sorting Sunday School material

Evening of Worship



Packing boxes of literature to be shipped overseas



Repairing Bibles is a great way to have a sit down job.



Welcoming everyone to our Evening of Worship



Students from Union University leading in worship



President of Union University, Dr. Dub Oliver, brings a challenging message at our Evening of Worship

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.

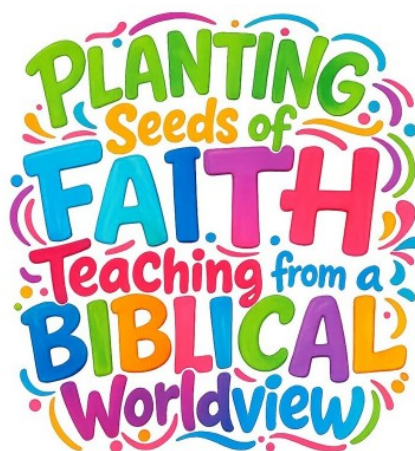
Registration Fee

\$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

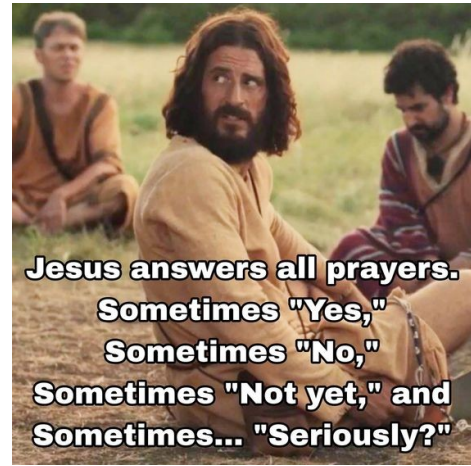
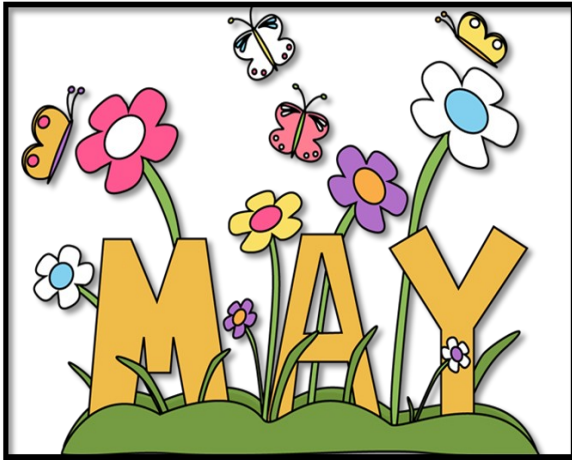
For registration questions:
Sharlyn Ricks
sricks@tnbaptist.org



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](#).



**Jesus answers all prayers.
Sometimes "Yes,"
Sometimes "No,"
Sometimes "Not yet," and
Sometimes... "Seriously?"**

May 2026 At-A-Glance

- 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.

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 June 2026

- June 7-10 SBC at Orlando, FL
- June 21 FATHER'S DAY

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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