



The Messenger



Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

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

September 2026

- Annual Meeting
- RS Meals, MK Project
- Mental Health Training
- Disaster Relief
- Pictures
- And much more!

A Word from Kirk

"Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God." II Cor. 8:1-5

As our annual meeting approaches next month, we must continue recognizing the value of our churches working together in association. Is there value in this partnership? Absolutely. When we cooperate, we can accomplish more together than we can alone. Our shared ministry as a local association of Baptist churches truly matters.

Now those are just words until we actually see some of the examples of our associational partnership. Let's think about some of these examples. When Hurricane Helene hit East Tennessee and North Carolina our disaster relief volunteers immediately responded, sending 14 volunteers to help. Two more groups of volunteers would help in rebuilding efforts months later. Our churches came together and raised over \$25,000 to help build one of the 40 new houses that Tennessee Baptists built for flood victims.

Our association has partnered with several church plants that include two in Colorado and one in Montana. The small seeds that we planted continue to increase as I receive reports of the progress of these churches. The last report from Mead, CO spoke of over 500 kids in their summer sports camp and 200 attending church at the local Middle School each Sunday. The small work in Superior, MT saw 60 children in VBS, and the church is seeing 45-50 attending each Sunday.

Locally, our association comes together to accomplish several ministries together. Just recently, 31 volunteers from 6 of our churches served 26 shifts at the Baby Comfort Station at the County fair. We continue to be involved in collecting and taking Bibles and Christian literature to Love Packages increasing to 5 trips this year. Our churches are also involved in serving lunches for students at RSCC, workdays at local Christian camps, and collecting items for Christmas Backpacks.

Because your church supports our association, we are able to accomplish these ministries as well as many more. We are in this together. However, like many of our churches, inflation has hit our association really hard this year. One clear example of this has come in a continued increase in our building insurance. In 2016 our annual insurance amount was \$1,843.00. Just last month we had to pay \$5,433.00 to insure our building and ministry. We've seen a 15% increase in insurance in each of the past two years.

So, the leadership team has made some difficult decisions and will be presenting a budget at the annual meeting next month that will represent a 7% decrease in the association's overall budget.

Pray with us as we move forward. We pray that our churches will evaluate their giving to the association and look to increase their giving in the coming year. Maybe God is leading you as an individual to make a financial gift to our association during the month of September.

Together, we can do more,

Kirk

Cumberland Plateau
Baptist Association
presents...

72nd ANNUAL MEETING

Guest Speaker

Erik Christensen

*Central Baptist
Church*

☑ Sunday, October 4, 2026

☑ Pine Eden Baptist Church

☑ Business Session - 4PM
Worship Service - 6PM



Erik Christensen was born on the mission field in Jos, Nigeria, where his parents were medical missionaries. He personally came to know the Lord during his early college years at Liberty University, realizing that he had been “churched” but not “changed.” Shortly after, he felt the call to become a pastor. Since 1995, Erik has served in a variety of pastoral roles. He holds a master of Letters degree in Family Life Counseling and earned a PhD from Omega Graduate School in 2025. He is deeply passionate about discipleship, missions, and supporting young families with a focus on Next Gen spiritual growth. He joined the staff at Central Baptist Church in 2025 as the Discipleship Pastor.

Erik and his wife Stephanie have two children and one beautiful grandchild.

Messengers attending the business session, please RSVP by September 28.

Dinner is provided for Messengers only between business and worship.



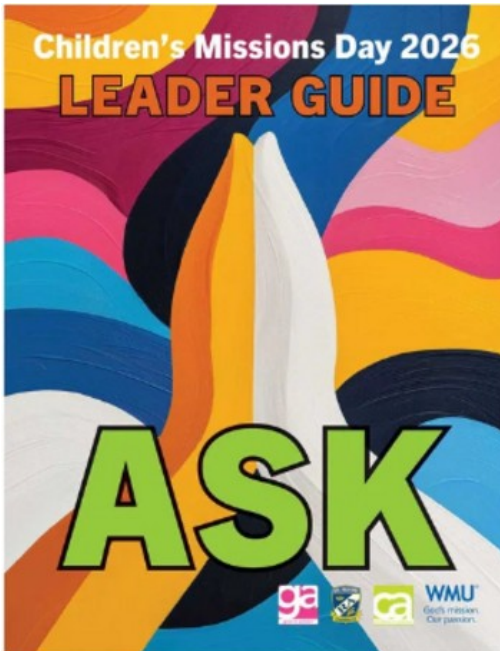
ROANE STATE MEALS

The fall semester at Roane State is underway, and we currently have 3 weeks that have not yet been scheduled.

- September 2 or 3
- September 16 or 17
- November 4 or 5

We usually plan to feed about 75-100 people including students, faculty, and staff. Once the semester is underway, we might be able to fine tune that estimate.

If you have a group from your church that would like to help with this ministry, please contact Libby to be added to the schedule.



ASK! Children's Missions Day

WMU launched Children's Missions Day in 2008 to move children in grades 1–6 out of their churches and into their communities to do missions. The goal is for children's groups to create projects that meet needs in their own communities.

Children's Missions Day (CMD) has been going strong ever since, with people in communities across the United States hearing about and experiencing the love of Jesus because children's groups are going beyond simply learning about missions to actively participating in missions.

Date: September 19, 2026

Theme: ASK--We can pray boldly, just like Jesus

Scripture: "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you." (John 15:16 CSB)

[Click here](#) for more information and to order the leader guide.

Each year Tennessee WMU asks a few associations to "adopt" a Missionary Kid (MK) whose parents are serving overseas with the IMB. These students are often away from their family for the first time and in a country they did not grow up in. College can often feel lonely and isolating to them. The purpose of this MK Adoption is for the associations to nurture and encourage these students while they are far from family and hopefully for the church to see missions more personally. We are being asked to offer encouragement to our MK throughout the school year.

Our assigned MK is a young man named Sage, who will be a sophomore this fall at TN Tech. I am asking our churches to sign up for one month to minister to him by sending notes, emails, gift cards, goody packages, etc. This could be a church-wide project, a youth project, a seniors group project, or a project for any group. Individuals are welcome to sign up as well.

Would you be will to commit to one month? We are looking to fill the calendar from August through May. Let us know, and we will add you to the schedule. Once you sign up, you will receive Sage's mailing address, his email address, and a few extra suggestions to get you started.

Of course, if your church wants to correspond with Sage for more than "your" month or even all summer, that would be wonderful. Signing up for a specific month just ensures that he isn't overlooked.

MK Project
Click for Sign-up Sheets

We've already missed August, but all the remaining months in the Fall Semester are still open. Please sign up.

SAVE THE
DATE!!!

MISSIONS
GET-TOGETHER
MARCH 12-13, 2027
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
COOKEVILLE, TN

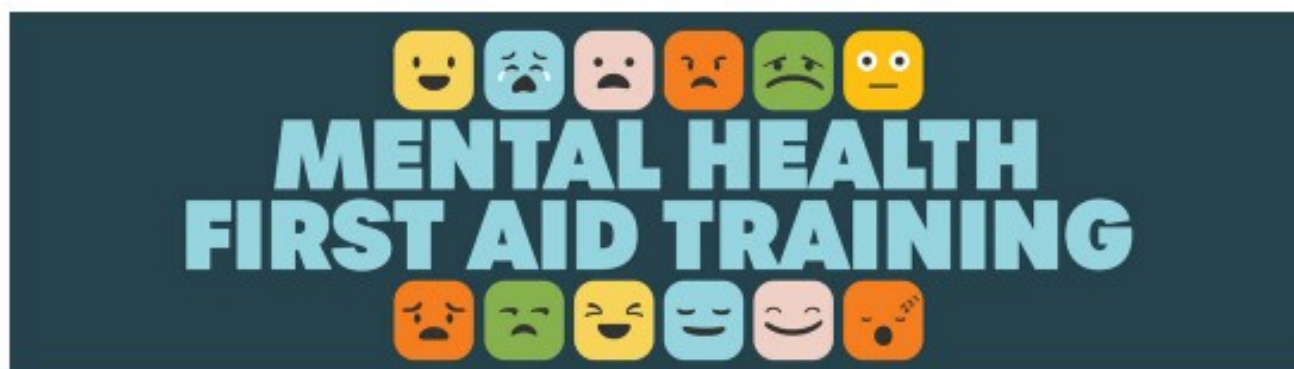
Stay tuned to
<https://tnbaptist.org/event/missions-get-together/>
for updates.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & SPREAD THE WORD!

Missions Get-Together
March 12-13, 2027
Cookeville First Baptist Church

This is an exciting weekend to join women from across the state to worship, learn what God is doing in Tennessee and around the world, receive valuable information and resources to take back to your church, meet new friends, hear powerful testimonies from missionaries and ministry partners, open God's Word, and so much more!

More information coming soon: suggested lodging list, Bible Study leader, worship leader, and schedule.



Tennessee WMU is collaborating with churches, associations, and other ministries to host **adult and youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** training events across the state as part of our emphasis on the critical issue of mental health.

- MHFA is a skills-based training that teaches participants to identify, understand, and respond to mental health and substance use challenges.
- Each MHFA training requires a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 30 participants.
- The registration cost for participants is \$10 per person, which covers lunch.
- The Tennessee Department of Health provides instructors through community partners who are trained to lead youth and adult MHFA.

Upcoming trainings

- **Youth MHFA on September 12 in Knoxville at New Covenant Baptist Church**
- **Adult MHFA on September 26 in Knoxville at New Covenant Baptist Church**
- **Youth MHFA on September 26 in Dickson at Sylvia Baptist Church**

To register for a training event, [click here](#).



RA. Camp-O-Ree
OCTOBER 16-18, 2026
 LINDEN VALLEY BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER
 LINDEN, TN

WHERE CAMPING BECOMES AN ADVENTURE!

An exciting weekend where boys in grades 1-12 and their leaders/fathers:

- participate in activities, challenges, games, and crafts
- meet missionaries from around the world
- enjoy two action packed worship services all while enjoying the great outdoors.



WWW.RACAMPOREE.ORG



Disaster Relief: Hands-On Specialized Classes

October 10, 2026 – Missions Mobilization Center, 6434 John Hagar Road, Mt. Juliet, TN, 37122

To pre-register for this class, REGISTER ONLINE – [click here](#).

For questions, contact Elizabeth Holmes at eholmes@tnbaptist.org.

Please pre-register by Monday, October 5, for the meal count.

You must be current with your Disaster Relief credentials. Depending on which course you take, you may need current classroom training.

Classes being offered are:

- Bucket Truck Classroom and Hands-On Training (all day) – includes test – Must have current Chainsaw Operations & Safety classroom training OR
- Chainsaw Hands-On Training (morning class or afternoon class) – Must have current Chainsaw Operations & Safety classroom training OR
- Forklift/Skid Steer Classroom (1 1/2 hours) and Hands-On Training (1 1/2 – 3 hours depending on class size) – includes test OR
- Mass Feeding Hands-On Training (all day) – Must have current Mass Feeding classroom training

Lunch – \$5 person (prepared by the Mass Feeding Hands-On Class)

Click link for the agenda – [2026 Hands-On Specialized Training – October 10 – MMC](#)

Registration Forms Disaster Relief volunteers can now download the following forms to their computers and fill them out and bring them with you to training or send them to the DR office. By typing these forms, you are helping us save time with data entry and increasing our accuracy of keeping your records. Use this [link](#) to fill out the Record of Volunteer Training form.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

2027 Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat

Theme: "Joy in Every Season"
John 15:11

Music Road Hotel & Convention Center
303 Henderson Chapel Road, Red Light #1
Pigeon Forge, TN

January 28-30, 2027
Begins at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday
Concludes at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday

Cost: \$275 per couple
(Includes hotel, breakfast meals and Thursday night meal,
breaks & materials)

We must have complete registration &
full payment to reserve your room.
Due to circumstances beyond our control,
No Refunds can be issued after **December 8, 2026.**

Brochures with the full program have been mailed.

[Click here to register.](#)

For more information contact:

Roger Britton, Bivocational Ministry Specialist,
rbritton@tnbaptist.org or 423-322-0176

Carrie Kidd, Ministry Assistant,
ckidd@tnbaptist.org or 615-371-2025



CONNECTION

SAVE THE DATE!

2026 Connection

September 11-13 | Cookeville

Connection is a missions discipleship event for middle and high school girls that is filled with Biblical teaching, worship, missionaries, fun, and a variety of breakout topics. [Click here](#) for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Tennessee Baptists are challenged to provide 7,000 Christmas Backpacks for children living in poverty regions in Tennessee. Churches and associations will partner with ministries in these regions to impact the lives of children and their families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For more information and resources, [click here](#).
- Tennessee WMU continues to partner with Baptist Collegiate Ministries to collect snack foods to help reach students. [Click here](#) for more information on locating and contacting your local BCM.



Ladies from Bethlehem Baptist Church serving the first meal of the Fall Semester. Betty Woods, Betty Betts, and Debbie Nielsen



Michele Irving from FBC FFG sharing a Gospel tract with a young couple while Kathleen Newell cleans the diaper changing station in the trailer.



Volunteers from Calvary Baptist Church, Debbie Towns and Lisa Puckett hand out Bibles, Freezer Pops, and water during the fair.



Volunteers from Calvary Baptist Church, Debbie Towns and Lisa Puckett hand out Bibles, Freezer Pops, and water during the fair.



Scott and Beth White from Central Baptist Church are crowded with children wanting a Freezer Pop to cool off their Saturday visit to the fair.



Lantana Road Baptist Church volunteers, Heather Smith and Fran Blaylock wait for the rain to pass as they serve at the fair.

Highlights from the Fair

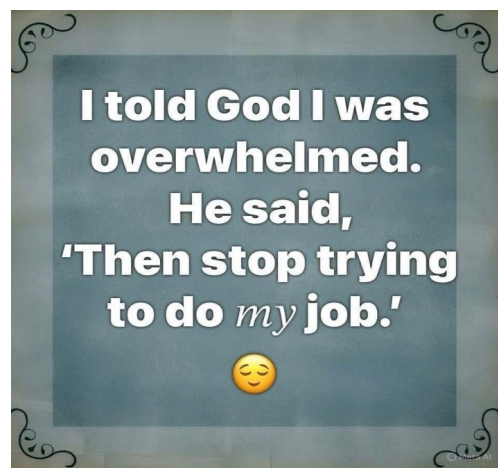
God has blessed us with a wonderful year serving our County Fair with our annual Baby Comfort Station. We had over 30 volunteers that worked 26 different shifts throughout the week of the fair. These volunteers were from six churches: Bethlehem Baptist, Oaklawn Baptist, FBC Fairfield Glade, Calvary Baptist, Central Baptist, and Lantana Road Baptist Churches. Thank you to each of our volunteers.

Our Baby Comfort Station provided a clean atmosphere for 36 babies to have their diapers changed and three mothers to have a cool, quiet place to nurse.

Most importantly, our volunteers engaged in Gospel conversations as they passed out 41 Bibles and 42 Christian Books. By the end of the week over 200 Gospel tracts and 21 Gospel bracelets had been given to fair goers as they stopped by the Baby Comfort Station.

As a part of the Baby Comfort Station Ministry, our volunteers also handed out other items to help with the August heat. By the end of the fair, our volunteers had passed out 726 freezer pops, 187 suckers, and 456 bottles of cold water.

There were many stories that came out of the week, and I'm sure every volunteer has a story to share. Here's one story that offers a glimpse of what we hope to accomplish. A family was leaving the fair that had earlier stopped by the Baby Comfort Station. Our volunteer that had given one of their boys a Bible overheard the boy as his family was leaving. Pointing to the Baby Changing Station, the boy said, "Hey Dad, that's where I got my new Bible. When we get home, can we read it?"



September 2026 At-A-Glance

Sept 1	Executive Council Meeting
Sept 7	Labor Day: Office Closed
Sept 15	ACP reports due
Sept 21	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: TBA
Sept 21-22	Love Packages Trip
Sept 28	Messengers RSVP due

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 October 2026

Oct 4	CPBA Annual Meeting Pine Eden
Oct 5	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: TBA
Oct 12-16	Fall Break CC Schools & Roane State
Oct 19	Pastors' Conference Guest Speaker: TBA

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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