

Heartland

Baptist Church



Alex Melton, Senior Pastor

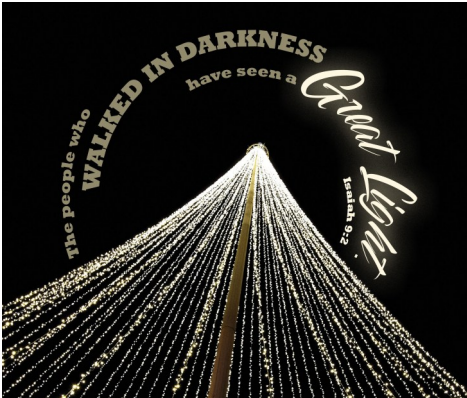
Isaiah 9:2

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." Isaiah 9:2

As we enter this Advent season, we are stepping into a beautiful journey together through a new sermon series called "The Light Has Come." The weeks leading up to Christmas invite us to slow down, lift our eyes above the noise, and remember that the world's true Light has already dawned in Jesus Christ. In a season filled with lights on Christmas trees and on houses in our neighborhood, we want to take time to focus on the truth that God has sent His Son to shine hope, truth, and salvation into the darkness that people walk in.

Throughout these four weeks and Christmas Eve, we will explore how Scripture reveals Jesus as the promised Light, the dawning Light, the arriving Light, the victorious Light, and finally, on Christmas Eve, the celebrated Light. Each passage—from Isaiah's ancient prophecy to John's proclamation that the Word became flesh—points us to the same truth: Christ came to pierce the darkness with His glory and grace.

Advent is also one of the most meaningful opportunities to invite others to hear the good news of Jesus. People are already thinking about Christmas as they decorate their homes, shop for presents and wrap them, and make plans to visit family. As Christmas is on their minds and Christ's name is on their lips as they sing, people are wondering about hope, meaning, and what truly matters. A simple invitation can open the door for someone to encounter the Light of Christ, perhaps for the first time.



I want to especially encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, and family members to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:00pm. This service is always a powerful, Christ-centered celebration overflowing with Scripture, music, and the beauty of sharing the light together.

Let's pray boldly, invite eagerly, and celebrate joyfully the coming of our Savior with expectant hearts. The Light has come and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Deacon Ministry

If you have a need or know of someone who needs assistance, has become ill, hospitalized, or is in need of a ride to church please contact the church office at 618-462-1276 or Ted Burleson at 618-462-3032.

This Month at Heartland

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:** Join us for our Coffee/Donut Fellowship at 8:45am followed by Small Groups at 9:15am and our Worship Gathering at 10:30am. Sermons are available online at <https://vimeo.com/hbcaltan>. Our Worship Gathering is livestreamed on our Facebook page.

**IMPACT GROUPS:** Impact Groups meet on Sunday nights from 5:30-7. We have groups for all ages. Our Men meet in Room 39. Our Women meet in Room 48 and are going through a Bible study called "More Than Enough", a study on 2 Corinthians by Christine Hoover. Heartland Students (6th-12th grade) meet in Room 31, and Kids (PreK-5th grade) meet in the Children's Wing. Childcare is available in our Children's Wing for babies (age 0-2). Please enter the church through Door "A" (the office door) on Sunday nights. **The last night of Impact Groups is December 14. Impact Groups will resume on January 11, 2026.**

Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

**December 7:**  
**Connectors:** Karen Harris, Sam Ollenbittle  
**Door Greeters:** Pat Farley, Jo Joyce

**December 14:**  
**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Susie Kreitner  
**Door Greeters:** Bev Vatoles, Glennita Seal

**December 21:**  
**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle  
**Door Greeters:** David & Karen Hickerson

**December 28:**  
**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Robin Shawback  
**Door Greeters:** Pat Farley, Jo Joyce

Nursery & Kid's Church

**December 7:**  
**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Susie Kreitner  
**Nursery 10:30am:** **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Miranda Rendleman, Megan Hart, Karen Hickerson, Bekah Melton  
**Kid's Church:** Sandy Stolze, Jack Ollenbittle

**December 14:**  
**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Marsha Anderson  
**Nursery 10:30am:** **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Karen Harris, Kim Collins, Hannah Cline, Lexi Hart  
**Kid's Church:** Pam Barry, Davis Bertels

**December 21:**  
**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Anna Drury  
**Nursery 10:30am:** Sam Ollenbittle, LuEllen Job, LeAnn Parish, Carole Fredrick, Evie Vatoles  
**Kid's Church:** Candace Stutz, Jack Ollenbittle

**December 28:**  
**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Kelli Melton  
**Nursery 10:30am:** Nate Hart, Ronda Jolly, Lisa Pedersen, Hannah Pedersen, Rylee Hart  
**Kid's Church:** Jackie Parish, Paula Zugmaier

**For more information or if you would like to volunteer please contact the church office or:**

**Greeters:** David Ollenbittle III  
**Nursery:** LeAnn Parish  
**Kid's Church:** Jackie Parish at 618-789-2974



This Month at Heartland

**LUNCH & PRAYER WITH THE PASTORS:** Wednesdays at 11:30am. Bring a lunch and spend some time with our pastors as we eat, pray, and share from the Word. **Lunch & Prayer with the Pastors will not meet on December 24 and 31.**

**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** In 1872, Southern Baptists commissioned Lottie Moon to go to Northern China as a missionary. She spent the next 40 years of her life sharing the Good News of Christ there. Now in 2025, in her honor, we join with 45,000 other churches in giving to send IMB missionaries to the nations. As a church, we have a goal to give \$3,600. To mark our progress, a flag from a different nation will be placed on the platform each Sunday for every \$120 given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. To give to this special offering, either use the LMCO envelope, write "Lottie Moon" on a HBC offering envelope, or select "Lottie Moon" when giving online.

**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE:** Sending out Christmas Cards this year to members and regular attenders at Heartland? Rather than buying a stamp from the US Post Office, send the card with the Lottie Moon Post Office and help send missionaries to the nations at the same time. From November 30—December 14, Heartland kids will receive Christmas cards in the post office set up in the lobby and distribute them to members and regular attenders each Sunday. Make sure to write names on the card/envelope. A suggested donation of 25 cents per card is encouraged. All donations through the Lottie Moon Post Office will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The January newsletter deadline is Monday, December 8. Please email your announcements to [office@hbcalton.com](mailto:office@hbcalton.com).

**WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU):** WMU will meet on Saturday, December 13 at 9:30am. We will be packing up cookie trays for our shut-ins. All ladies interested in national/international missionaries and studying God's word are welcome to joins us. If you have ideas for service projects for 2026 please feel free to come and share them.

**WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP:** Ladies, Join us for our Christmas Fellowship on Sunday Dec 14 from 5:30-7pm. We will be enjoying a hot chocolate bar and cookies. Grab a recipe card at the Next Steps table. Fill it out with your favorite holiday recipe and bring it back for a recipe card swap. (No need to make the recipe, unless you want to!). Bring something from your house to regift for our white elephant game (No need to buy anything.). Please sign up at the Next Steps table.

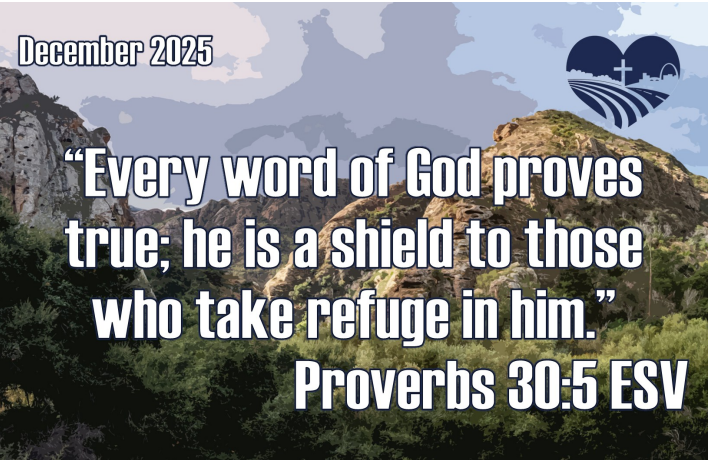
**DEACONS' MEETING:** Monday, December 15 at 6pm.

**WORSHIP & PRAYER NIGHT FOR THE NATIONS:** Christmas is the declaration that God has sent His Son to save people from their sins. This is good news of great joy for all the world, but there are billions of people who have not heard of Jesus and what He came to do. Join us on Sunday, December 21 at 5:30pm in Room 48 for a night of worship as our Heartland Kids sing songs about the birth of Jesus, and we take time to pray for the nations that more people will hear the Gospel and believe. Childcare will be available in the Children's Wing for Babies through PreK.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** Wednesday, December 24 at 4pm. This service is always a powerful, Christ-centered celebration overflowing with Scripture, music, and the beauty of sharing the light together. Everyone is encouraged to invite, friends, neighbors, and family members.

**END OF YEAR GIVING:** All contributions you would like to be included in your 2025 Giving Statement must be received by Sunday, December 28, 2025.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday—Thursday: 8:30am—3:30pm. The church office will be closed on December 24, 25, 29 and 31 for Christmas Break, and January 1 for New Year's Day.



2	Lucy Jacoby	15	Ashley Huggins
2	Ed Kreitner	16	Karen Harris
2	Kayla Staley	16	Shepherd Stutz
2	Chance Wuthrich	17	David Hickerson
4	Finnley Vatole	18	Mary Kellum
6	Margaret Cox	19	Opal Simpson
7	Gregory Sims	20	Scott Manns
8	Karol Hazelwonder	27	Bekah Melton
9	LeAnn Parish	27	Dinah Pimentel
9	Anthony Stolze	27	Lonnie Vatole
12	Mary Remmers	30	Damon Parish
14	Candace Stutz		

COMING UP IN JANUARY

IMPACT GROUPS RESUME

Sunday, January 11 from 5:30-7pm

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30pm

Date changed due to the Mission Trip.

Quarterly Business Meeting Reports for Oct.—Dec., 2025 are due in the church office by January 5.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD

Saturday, January 24 from 9am-Noon

Church Staff

Alex Melton, Senior Pastor  
[alex@hbcalton.com](mailto:alex@hbcalton.com)

Sarah Neuhaus, Office Coordinator  
[office@hbcalton.com](mailto:office@hbcalton.com)