

Covington Family News

October 5, 2025



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

SHEPHERDS

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Office hours: M-F, 9AM-2PM

SERVING THIS WEEK 10/5/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements

Brad Evins

Song Leader:

Jeff Phillips

Sermon

Tony Solaita

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: LeRoy Finto

Chris Huggins, Hadley Mason, Ken Mason, Robert Brownlee,
Craig Robinson, Chris Maness, Nick Maness, Zach Higgins

Opening Prayer:

Jerry Gatlin

Closing Prayer:

Ron Teems

Nursery Worker: Elaine Shankle

Attendance Card Collectors: (10/5)

Eli Charnock, Noah Charnock, August Charnock

Bus Driver (10/5 & 10/8)

Terry Wall

October Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Alan & Debbie Otts

Auditorium Entrance: Brenda & Hadley Mason

PM Worship Service

Song Leader:

John Combs

Opening Prayer:

John Evans

Closing Prayer:

Will Thomason

Sermon:

Mike Rogers

Mid-Week Bible Study October 8

Announcements:

Brad Evins

Song Leader:

John Combs

Closing Prayer:

Jon McCain

Sunday Bible Classes 126

Worship AM 214

PM 130

Wednesday Bible Study 156

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Theresa Terry	Brighton, TN
Lamar Chason	Covington, TN
Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg	Atoka, TN
Thomas Starck	Atoka, TN
Joey Moody	
Lainey Sullivan	
Florine Wyatt	
Debbie Beasley	
Abbie Nicks	
Jedidiah, Chasse, Alice & Lucy Phillips	

Covington Church of Christ
1690 Highway 51 South – PO Box 9
Covington, TN 38019

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM

Worship 10:00AM & 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

You are the light of the world

A city on a hill
cannot be hidden...

Matthew 5: 14-16

Mike’s Message

Christianity First

Preparing people to live as Christians, Jesus taught, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:14-16).

Within these three verses lies the distinct purpose of Christianity. We are to bring glory to God in **everything** we do. The Christian purpose is not to glorify self, son, daughter, father, mother, sister, brother, or even grandchildren. The plain purpose of a Christian is to bring glory to God our Father. How can we do this?

Later in the same sermon, Jesus taught, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33). The word “first” is a very explicit word. It is unqualified yet grossly misapplied in our world. We often apply it only when it suits us.

The Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament observes that when referring to God, in at least one of his writings, Philo uses the same Greek word to denote exclusivity. I think this harmonizes well with what the Scriptures reveal about the conduct of the Christian. The immediate context discloses that Christians should live by faith in God exclusively (see Matt. 6:19ff). Paul taught, “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do **everything** in the name of the Lord Jesus . . .” (Col. 3:17 emphasis mine). In addition to authority, “in the name of . . .” means we are to bring glory and honor to Jesus exclusively. Additionally, Paul makes it plain that Christians should live every aspect of their lives in such a way that they can spend eternity with God (see 2 Cor. 5:4-7). Furthermore, Paul explains the life of a Christian, saying, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). Paul further instructs, “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

One who desires to be known as a Christian must pattern his life after Christ. Christ set the example for Christian living even in difficult times as he “continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly” (see 1 Peter 2:21-23). To be faithful Christians, we must follow Jesus' example and seek God's “righteousness” exclusively.

What is first in your life? Think about it!

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List

LaVerne Baxter – Vanderbilt Hospital, recovering from surgery

Charles Wolfe – recovering from surgery

Ron Teems – had tests ran

Lauren Mosley - recovering from surgery

Anna Kathryn Word – surgery, October 2

Mildred Johnson – Mother of Carolyn Murray

Carla Rogers- sister-in-law of Mike Rogers, surgery, October 3

Members with ongoing needs: Heath Billings, Frank Brown, Larry Coughlan, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kathy McMahan, Judy Merritt, Bonita Rogers, Ginger Sallee, Donna Sonwineski, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Jimmy Willis

Loved ones to remember: Robbie Renfroe, Addley Hodge, Kathy Townsend, Makayla Bishop, Heather Bowner, Jason Elliott, Stan McDevitt, Randy Rhoads, David South

NURSING HOME

Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson
Ripley Healthcare & Rehab Center: Vicki Mayfield
MILITARY: Tanner Mason, Chris Nowak, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Young family in the death of *Nedra Young*. She was the sister of Pat Stephenson.

MEMORIALS

Donations to the Covington church of Christ have been given in memory of *Melvin Wall* and *L. Bryant*.



BIBLE READING SCHEDULE: – OCTOBER 5-11

October 5 – Hos. 8-10

October 6 – Hos. 11-14

October 7 – Joel 1-3

October 8 – Amos 1-3

October 9 – Amos 4-6

October 10 – Amos 7-9

October 11 – Obadiah-Jonah 2

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER EVENTS

5 – guest speaker: Tony Solaita from Honolulu, HI

13 – Monday Night for the Master, Groups 1&2

18 – Birthday Party @ Magnolia Creek Nursing Home

18 – Family Movie Night

19 – Devotional @ Covington Care; 3:00

19 – Lads To Leaders registration forms due

20 – Monday Night for the Master, Group 3

25 – Ladies’ Day @ Henderson Church of Christ

27 – Monday Night for the Master, Group 4

29 – Singing Night

LOOKING AHEAD

November 1 – Fall Festival

November 2 – Friends & Family Day

November 8 – Young adult game night @ the home of David & Heather Keith; babysitting provided by the youth group!

Sign up on the church Facebook page to attend the Wednesday night dinner. See you Wed. Night @ 6:00!

OCTOBER YOUTH EVENTS

3&4 – Lock In for grades 4-12

12 – Devo

25 – Devo/Haunted Trail & Corn Maze

If you would like to host a youth devo in your home, please see Jeff to pick your date.

 **BIRTHDAYS: – OCTOBER 5-11**
10/11 – Debra Foshee

ANNIVERSARIES

10/9 – Steve & Margie Crews

Ladies’ Bible Class: Tuesdays @10AM

Carpenter’s Apprentice

Oxford Languages defines the term consequences as, “a result or effect of an action or condition.” It is a term we should both learn and teach. The concept includes phrases like, “What gets rewarded, gets repeated,” and, “If you don’t want to get burned, stay out of the kitchen.” Typically, I think we associate the term consequences with negative results, as in the latter example, but consequences can be positive too, as in the former. A consequence of hearing the Word of God is either belief or unbelief. Repentance, confession and obedience are also consequences of belief. I am a believer in consequences, especially when training; rewarding good behaviors and discouraging less desirable decisions. Consequences would then be Biblical too. The familiar passage, “Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6), is often debated, diluted and sometimes rejected because the focus is too often on past (those who departed the faith), rather than on the present (those in our charge who still need training). We must also understand, consequences are a sign of love. Again, the book of Proverbs comes through in another verse sometimes misinterpreted or misapplied, “He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently” (Proverbs 13:24). This verse is often preached as “spare the rod, spoil the child,” however, that specific phrase comes from a 3-part satirical poem entitled Hudibras, written in the 17th century by Samuel Butler during the English civil war. Often quoted as a “biblical phrase,” ‘spare the rod, spoil the child’ is not found in the Bible! Worse, it is often used to defend corporal punishment and sometimes hide or excuse abuse. I am a believer in corporal punishment, but without **love and consistency**, think about it, the rod is really nothing more than abuse. Proverbs 13:24 says, not disciplining is hate, but “disciplining **diligently**” is actually love (emphasis mine). Diligently means “steady, earnest and energetic” (Webster’s). We must be consistent, purposeful and relentless in training. The rod, referred to in the Bible is clearly necessary, but that doesn’t mean it is the only method for training or the first consequence in training. When speaking of training, someone will no doubt say kids don’t come with a manual and yet, they do. Too often though, like the directions with a toy at Christmas, we simply refuse to use the manual. Look at these verses: Proverbs 29:15 refutes gentle parenting. Deuteronomy 6:1-15 tells of the importance of talking about God and His Word with our children. Ephesians 6:4 encourages us to “nurture and admonish them in the Lord.” What better way to train up a child than to practice what we preach, modeling Christianity using verses like Ephesians 5:1-5 as our instruction manual. In Hebrews 12:6, the writer reminds us, “FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES.” As does the father who loves his son (Proverbs 3:12). The consequences of no discipline are just too great (Matthew 7:21)! -jeff