

Covington Family News

December 21, 2025

“THE GREATEST
AMONG YOU
SHALL BE
YOUR
SERVANT.”

MATTHEW 23:11

CHURCHLEADERS.COM



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

SHEPHERDS

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DEACONS

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J.J. Brown
Benny Collins
Brad Evins
Brandon Matlock
Jon McCain
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Office hours: M-F, 9AM-2PM

SERVING THIS WEEK 12/21/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements: Brad Evins
Song Leader: Beau Phillips
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Bill Murray
John Combs, Chris Huggins, Cody Strickland, Reid McMahan,
Robert Charnock, Will Thomason, Landon Bringle, Ken Bringle Jr.

Opening Prayer: John Evans
Closing Prayer: Jon McCain

Nursery Worker: Teri Robinson

Attendance Card Collectors (12/21)

Tyler Bringle, Dayton Maness, Beau Glidewell

Bus Driver (12/21 & 12/23)

Brad Evins

December Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Richard & Elaine Shankle
Auditorium Entrance: Michael & Susie Wyatt

Evening Worship Service

Song Leader: Beau Phillips
Opening Prayer: Ken Bringle Jr.
Closing Prayer: Will Thomason
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Mid-Week Bible Study: Tuesday, December 23

Announcements: Brad Evins
Song Leader: Beau Phillips
Closing Prayer: Andy Whaley

Sunday Bible Classes	144
Worship AM	211
PM	146
Wednesday Bible Study	150

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Stavrum family	Atoka, TN
Theresa Terry	Brighton, TN
Lil & Nathan Warren	Bowling Green, KY

Elder on call for December: Mike Rogers

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

Mike’s Message

Make Me a Servant

“*Make me a servant*” is our theme for 2026. Our Summer Series is centered around this theme, with lessons that include: Make Me a Servant in the Home, Make Me a Servant in the Church, Make Me a Servant in My Community, Make Me a Servant in the World, and some general lessons such as: Make Me a Servant with Commitment, Make Me a Servant with Devotion, and Make Me a Servant with Sacrifice. Each lesson will include a biblical figure to illustrate how that person exemplified servanthood. When considering commitment and devotion, a sharp difference lies between the two. Commitment is a pledge; devotion is a practice. First, as servants, we should consider our devotion to God. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38). In these few words, Jesus says, as servants, every fiber of our being must be devoted to loving and serving God. This means His will is the priority for everything we think, say, and practice (cf. Col. 3:17). This means He is first in our lives (Matt. 6:33). We can hold nothing back from serving Him because He holds nothing back from us (see John 3:16). If God is so devoted to us that He gave His Son for us, we should be devoted to Him. Paul followed the Lord’s example of “devotion” in sacrifice and service, 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” (Galatians 2:20 ESV). Second, as servants, we must consider our devotion to the word. The word is from God and provides us with everything necessary to be a servant of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The word of God is a light to guide our lives (Psalm 119:105). It will never lead us astray or into danger if we practice what it says (James 1:22; Luke 11:28; Matt. 7:24). God’s word is perfect and will last forever (Psalm 18:30; Isa. 40:8). Finally, as servants, we must consider our devotion to the church. The church is the people the Lord has added together (Acts 2:41, 47). We share a relationship with Christ, and we must support one another. Paul declares that Christians are “individually members one of another” (Rom. 12:5). We are to love one another (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7; 1 Peter 1:22). We are to pray for one another (James 5:16). We are to teach and admonish one another (Eph. 5:19). We are to give money to support one another (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:7). Lord, make me a servant in my devotion to God, His word, and my church family!

-Mike Rogers

Prayer List

Lyncoln Copeland – Rita Benjamin’s great niece; recovering from surgery
Linda Wood – Teresa Stacks’ mom; health issues

Members with ongoing needs: Delores Whaley, Teresa Stacks, Katie Merritt, Laverne Baxter, David Fulks, Ann Huggins, Heath Billings, Larry Coughlan, Pat Gatlin, Kathy McMahan, Judy Merritt, Bonita Rogers, Donna Sonwineski, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Jimmy Willis


Loved ones to remember: Kathy Townsend, Anderson Flake, Jenny Garcia, Jason Elliott, Tony Hobbs, Addley Hodge

NURSING HOME
Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

MILITARY: Tanner Mason, Chris Nowak, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

SYMPATHY
Our condolences go out to Mary Isome-Newman in the death of her sister, *Shirley Glenn*. Visitation for Ms. Glenn will be Friday, December 19 from 12:00-1:00 at the Covington Funeral Home.

MEMORIALS:
Donations to the church have been given in memory of *Mildred Johnson* and *W. Williams*.


Congrats to all of our December college grads! We are so very proud of you. Go do great things in the world!
Abby Edmonds – Freed-Hardeman University
Emma Matlock – Austin Peay State University
Leah Max – Arkansas State University

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 21-27
December 21 – I Peter 4-5
December 22 – II Peter 1-3
December 23 – I John 1-5
December 24 – II John - Jude
December 25 – Revelation 1-4
December 26 – Revelation 5-7
December 27 – Revelation 8-10


Calendar of Events

DECEMBER
20 – Birthday Party @ Magnolia Creek; 2:00
21 – Devotional @ Covington Care; 3:00
23 – *Tuesday Night* service
31 – Wednesday Night Service in Song; New Year’s Eve Fellowship


Don’t Forget! Our mid-week service and Bible Classes this week will be on *Tuesday, December 23 @ 7:00*

YOUTH
If you would like to host a youth devo in your home in 2026, please see Jeff to pick your date.




BIRTHDAYS: DECEMBER 21-27
 12/21 – Robert Brownlee, Judy Merritt
12/22 – Jeff Coughlan, Chris Max, Genie Renfroe
12/26 – Bruce Hazlerig, Jill Matlock

ANNIVERSARIES: DECEMBER 21-27
12/25 – Bill & Pat Gatlin



Sign up now to be a part of the **2026 Fellowship Groups!** Groups will be shuffled up and reorganized so we can spend time fellowshiping with new groups of brothers and sisters. Everyone is encouraged to take part.


Everyone is invited to stay after the evening service on Wednesday, December 31 for a New Year’s Eve night of fellowship! Please bring games and snacks of all kinds, and stay to ring in the new year together.



Carpenter’s Apprentice

There is a scene in the movie *Santa Clause 2* where Tim Allen, playing the part of Scott Calvin (who will continue to be Santa Claus if he can get married before Christmas), is walking through a snowy park with principal Carol Newman. As they walk, a young girl leads her mother over to Scott Calvin and follows him until he stops and kneels. She comes up and just tells him quietly what she wants for Christmas. If you watch the *Santa Clause* movies, you will see that children just “know” who he really is. They flock to him. He has a reputation. He takes time for each one of them. They love him and want to be near him because of who he is. Several years ago, I was playing Santa at Charger Academy. Most of the kids knew it was just me, but one little girl was totally unaware of the imposter who sat in Santa’s chair, wearing Santa’s clothes. She rounded the corner, stopped still in her tracks, and with eyes misting and hands in the air, exclaimed, “OH! SANTA!” She broke free of her teacher’s grasp, ran over and jumped into my lap hugging me so hard I was having trouble keeping my fake beard in place and she whispered in my ear, “I missed you soooo, soooo much.” While in no way do I mean to suggest a connection between SC and JC - for the one is make believe and the other very much real- I am aware of several passages in the Bible that parallel, to some extent, these two scenes. Specifically, I think of Mark 5:25ff when, as Jesus walked down the road, crowds pressed in about him and the woman who’d hemorrhaged for 12 years pressed in close enough to just touch Him. Nonspecifically, we know Jesus drew a crowd of followers everywhere he went; they wanted to be near him for many reasons. In the second scene, I am taken to the outside of the tomb in John 20:11 as Mary sits weeping, confused and probably afraid when the “gardener” asks her what’s wrong. As she explains her sorrows in hopes of answers, Jesus says her name and she realizes the man standing near her is not the gardener. But the similarities are not what brings my attention to these two moments. What captures my attention is how people responded to these two. To be sure, there are haters of both. Nonetheless, both are very approachable and, outside of a sometimes-vocal minority, both very much loved and anticipated. I can’t help but wonder, as a Christian, how do people respond to me? Is my coming anticipated the way the second coming of Christ is, or am I more Grinch-like in my demeanor? Peter wrote, “always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). Part of that statement is the implication that others should **see** “the hope that is in you.”

-jeff