

Covington Family News

December 7, 2025

FOR THE
message of the
CROSS
IS FOOLISHNESS
TO THOSE WHO ARE
PERISHING, BUT TO US
who are
being saved.
IT IS THE
power of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18 (NKJV)



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

SHEPHERDS

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

SERVING THIS WEEK 12/7/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements: Brad Evins
Song Leader: Jimmy McMahan
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: Hadley Mason
Closing Prayer: Ron Teems

Nursery Worker: Elaine Shankle

Attendance Card Collectors (12/7)

Levi Teems, Houston Davis, Kyle McCain

Bus Driver (12/7 & 12/10)

Robert Charnock

November Door Greeters:

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

Evening Worship Service

Song Leader: Jimmy McMahan
Opening Prayer: Breck Beasley
Closing Prayer: Reid McMahan
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Mid-Week Bible Study December 10

Announcements: Brad Evins
Song Leader: Jimmy McMahan
Closing Prayer: Nick Maness

Sunday Bible Classes	151
Worship AM	229
PM	120
Wednesday Bible Study	136

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Roethlisberg family	Atoka, TN
Stavrum family	Atoka, TN
Cathy Corder	Brentwood, TN
Cindy Randle	Antioch, TN
Ian Keith	Fort Smith, AR
Lydia Edmonds	Brentwood, TN
Bret Anderson	Covington, TN
Theresa Terry	Brighton, TN

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

Standing on the Power of God; I Cor. 1:18 – 2:5

Salvation is provided by the simple message about a crucified Messiah. No one, in the name of human wisdom, could dream up anything like that. Only God can be so wise and be so simple. Verse 18 reveals that those who are dying in sin do not accept the word of the cross as a saving power. They did not believe in Jesus as the Messiah. They believed in human wisdom.

In verses 20-21, Paul drives home the point that man could not be so wise as to devise such a tragic and glorious message. Yet what man calls foolish, God is pleased to use to save anyone who believes it (vv. 22-25; cf. Rom. 1:16). Had God consulted man for a means of salvation, we would have given the sign-seeker what he wanted and the wisdom-seeker what he wanted. But God did not ask us. He gave us, by His own wisdom, what we needed. Salvation is extended to the wise and the unwise, to the rich and to the poor. No one, in the name of human wisdom, would have chosen the unwise, the poor, the sinner, the publican, or the downtrodden to be saved (1:26-31). Paul makes a special plea for the Corinthian Christians to “consider their calling.” Not many of them had been wise according to human standards, or mighty (influential), or of noble birth (v. 26). The things man elevates and holds in high esteem are not the same things that God holds dear; and they are certainly not the things that lead to salvation (vv. 27-28). Some of these Christians had not only been of the lower class, but fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, homosexuals, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and swindlers (6:9-10). But they had been washed, sanctified, and “justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God” (6:11). God has called us all to salvation.

Paul’s preaching was simple. Paul had been educated at the feet of Gamaliel, one of the most influential Rabbis of the day. His writing style is that of a highly educated man, and his vocabulary is extensive. He could have come with theological reasoning and philosophy. But he didn’t. He came in “weakness, fear, and much trembling.” Paul’s preaching was not in persuasive words of human wisdom (v.4). His words were from the Holy Spirit (2:11-13). The preaching of the cross is a simple message, and it should be preached in a simple way. People are not converted with theological arguments or deep, insightful philosophies. Conversion comes through the power of God, the simple gospel message of the crucified Messiah (cf. Rom. 1:16).

-Mike Rogers

Prayer List

Delores Whaley – Methodist North; heart problems
Kay Gatlin – home on hospice care

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

Loved ones to remember: Anderson Flake, Jenny Garcia, Lincoln Copeland, Jason Elliott, Emily Armstrong, April Burch, Ellis Conley, Robbie Renfroe, Tristan Long, Kathy Townsend, Tony Hobbs, Addley Hodge

NURSING HOME

Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

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

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to our brother David Fulks in the death of his wife, *Teresa Fulks*.



If you would like to be a Sunday morning Nursery worker in 2026, please meet after services Sunday morning in classroom 2 or see Kristine Bringle this week to sign up.



BIBLE READING SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 7-13

December 7 – Philippians 1-4
December 8 – Colossians 1-4
December 9 – I Thessalonians 1-4
December 10 – I Thess. 5- II Thessalonians 2
December 11 – II Thess. 3- I Timothy 3
December 12 – I Timothy 4-6
December 13 – II Timothy 1-4

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

4 – Senior Saints’ Banquet; 6:00
7 – Winter Quarter Sunday classes begin
8 – Monday Night for the Master, Group 2
12 – Movie & Ornament Night, 6:00: parents are welcome to join in or drop off children; dinner will be served
15 – Monday Night for the Master, Groups 3&4
20 – Birthday Party @ Magnolia Creek; 2:00
21 – Devotional @ Covington Care; 3:00
23 – Tuesday Night service
31 – Wednesday Night Service in Song

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

YOUTH EVENTS

4 – Senior Saints’ Banquet; 6:00
12 – Movie & Ornament Night, 6:00
14 – Devo
18 – EU Registration Due

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

BIRTHDAYS: DECEMBER 7-13

12/7 – Ginger Sallee, Oscar Williams
12/8 – Helen Kennedy
12/9 – Robert Trimm
12/10 – Spencer Hanks
12/12 – Ron Sutton

The Tuesday morning Ladies’ Bible Class will take a brief holiday break. The next meeting will be January 6 @10:00.

Elders & Deacons – please sign up for a Wednesday night object lesson to share with the congregation.

Carpenter’s Apprentice

I started going to baseball practice when I was 5. I probably didn’t play much for several years after that, but I loved baseball. It was a different game back then. Not everyone got a trophy, and it was ok to call losers, losers, because we/they already knew it and hoped to soon return the “compliment.” There were “church” leagues and there were “independent” leagues, and for a while there was a big difference in the level of play. Teams like the Coca-Cola team had plenty of money for matching uniforms and even jackets with players’ names on them. Church teams, on the other hand, were there to play hard, learn the game, and grow as ball players and young men on an infinitesimally small budget. Nobody got cut and nobody got a jacket - with or without their name on it. Then, as it often does, the world started creeping in on the church leagues. It was good “advertising” and some of the teams started getting jackets and even jerseys – with their name on them. (Teams like my brother’s team. Not mine.) They were not the “nice” shiny satin jackets, but still they were jackets. I was reminded how proud I was of my first satin jacket with my name on it the other day when a man I’d met in the car-rider line at Charger Academy showed me his. Several years ago, we began talking more as he dropped off his kids because he was different than most parents. He was happy! Most days, he pulled up singing happy songs along with his too-loud radio and his mostly happy kids. One day he stopped and said, “Pray for me Mr. Jeff. I am going to the Vo-tech to see if I can start classes and get a real job in HVAC.” I said I would, and I did. He started school and last year graduated- knowledgeable and licensed to start work. He showed me his certificate one morning. I hadn’t seen him in a while; in fact, the last time was at Le Bonheur one evening when we were going to see Bear. I saw him Monday as he was leaving school after dropping off a forgotten backpack. He was wearing a jacket that had the company logo on the front right chest. I said, “Bro! Nice jacket! Let me see that!” He proudly said, “I got a real job, Mr. Jeff. They gave me this coat – and look!” He showed me the left side. Tears filled his eyes as he said quietly, “and it’s got my name on it.” He’d made it. He was somebody. I hate that it sometimes takes a jacket to help us see that we are somebody. We are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26); somebody worth dying for (Romans 5:8; John 3:16); heirs to the kingdom of God (Romans 8:16-17). Reflecting, I thought of heaven and the place prepared for me (John 14:1-3), a crown of life (Revelation 2:10), being clothed with Christ (Galatians 3:27) and the Book of Life (Revelation 20:15); all of which – have our names on them. -jeff