

# Covington Family News

## June 29, 2025



### Don't Be a Dud!



July was a favorite time of the year during my youth, because that was when we could shoot fireworks. It was a great experience to go down to the fireworks stand with my dad, look over all the multi-colored packages and imagine what each explosive would do. We usually ended up with a ton of firecrackers and bottle rockets.

Fireworks are great because you light each fuse with anxious anticipation, knowing you are about to experience the thrill of a satisfying explosion of light and sound. Unless, of course, you light a dud. Then, instead of a beautiful starburst and fiery pop, you just get a smoking fizzle, and you drop your shoulders and walk away, hoping for better luck next time. I hated duds!

Sometimes I wonder if Jesus feels the same way about His followers today. In the "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus tells His disciples they are the light of the world that shouldn't be hidden, a lamp that shouldn't be covered up (Matthew 5:14-16). Christians are lights that are meant to be seen! But sometimes, after we have our fuses lit by the gospel, we fizzle. We flash a little, we give off a little smoke, but ultimately do not give off that satisfying explosion of light that is expected of us as Christians.

With every firework you shoot or see this Independence Day, remember that God wants to see our beautiful Christian lights shining across this world. Don't be a dud!

Matt Clifton, Judsonia church of Christ



**SHEPHERDS**  
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**DEACONS**  
Ken Bringle Jr.  
Neil Bringle  
J.J. Brown  
Benny Collins  
Brad Evins  
Brandon Matlock  
Alan Otts  
Craig Robinson  
David Stewart  
Robert Trimm  
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Jon McCain

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**SERVING THIS WEEK 6/29/25 AM Worship Service**  
**Announcements** Brandon Matlock  
**Song Leader:** Jimmy McMahan  
**Sermon** Mike Rogers

**Presiding Over the Lord's Table:**

Head: Robert Charnock  
Donnie Benjamin, Craig Robinson, Ken Mason, Landon Bringle, Clint Stacks, Will Thomason, Robert Brownlee, Gordon Cartwright

**Opening Prayer:** Jerry Gatlin  
**Closing Prayer:** Brad Evins

**Nursery Worker:** Christine Bringle

**Attendance Card Collectors:** (6/15)  
Eli Charnock, Noah Charnock, August Charnock

**June Door Greeters:**  
Main Lobby Entrance: Richard & Elaine Shankle  
Auditorium Entrance: Brad & Becky Evins

**PM Worship Service**

**Song Leader:** Jimmy McMahan  
**Opening Prayer:** Alan Otts  
**Closing Prayer:** Nick Maness  
**Sermon:** Mike Rogers

<b>Sunday Bible Classes</b>	127
<b>Worship AM</b>	207
<b>PM</b>	105
<b>Wednesday Bible Study</b>	145

**VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS**

Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg	Atoka, TN
Cody Smith	Covington, TN
Tucker Lockhart	Milan, TN
Jack Butorac	Temecula, CA

**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

Forgiven

Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 23:34

A study on forgiveness can be very confusing, and a discussion on the topic is often controversial. The reason for the controversy is that so many people have different opinions on the answer to the question, “Do I have to forgive someone who has not asked for it?” or, “Why do I have to forgive someone who refuses to admit they have wronged me?” In order to answer these questions correctly, we must understand that the Bible discusses forgiveness from two perspectives: man forgiving man, and God forgiving man. What does Jesus say about forgiving those who sin against us (Matt.18:21-35)? This text is not about a sin against God (see v. 21). This text is not about financial debt. This text is about comparing man’s insurmountable sin against God to the small way one may sin against his fellow man. Jesus uses financial debt because this is one infraction against man that does not have to be against God. Most of us can probably relate to this. Someone may owe us money and cannot pay because they fell on hard times. They come to us and beg for patience. This is not a sin against God, but only against us, because they cannot meet their obligation to us. Jesus’ point is that we should show the same mercy to one who begs us for patience as God shows us. If God has forgiven us, we must be willing to forgive those who sin against us. If we do not, God will not forgive us (v. 35; Matt. 6:14-15). Jesus also addresses the question about forgiving those who sin against God (Luke 23:34). Jesus understood that ultimately only God can forgive sins against Him (see James 4:12). Jesus had a true desire for all to be forgiven. If we are going to be like Christ, we must have the same desire that all be forgiven, even if they have not asked for it. How one can know he is forgiven by God? Once you believe that Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24), you must “Be obedient from the heart to that form of teaching” (Rom. 6:17). You must die to sin, sincerely repenting and making the decision to change your life (Rom. 6:2). You must then bury the old sinner (Rom. 6:3-4), and be raised up a new creation imitating Jesus (Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17). However, God knows we are not perfect and that we will sin (Rom. 3:23). So, because He has a heart to forgive, He made the provision that if we continue to confess sins, He will continue to forgive. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Are you forgiven? --Mike Rogers

Prayer List

Michael Wyatt—Recovering from surgery  
Kathy Billings – stepmother of Heath Billings; broken hip  
Shirley Laxton—Health problems  
Megan Davis—Recovering from surgery  
Heather Bowner—Daughter of Marilyn Blevins  
Alan Davis  
Larry Osbourne—Health problems  
Storm victims, earthquake victims, Israel, Our Country, Our Missionaries, Heath Billings, Captain Mike Shipley, Georgia Cook, Steve Cook, Jeff Cooper, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Jason Elliott, Hattie Fields, Malissa Garner, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kyle Hanks, K.C. Haynes, Helen Kennedy, Kathy McMahan, Stan McDevitt, Phyllis McLillie, Judy Merritt, Gigi Miller, Dorothy Morris, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Upton Shelton, Donna Sonwineski, David South, Clint Stacks, Gale Sutton, Melvin Wall, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II  
**NURSING HOME:**  
**Covington Care:** Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson  
**Ripley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center:** Vicki Mayfield  
**MILITARY:**  
Killian Bridgeman, Logan Bridgeman, Major Creel, Brad Evins, Dayana Fendley, Tanner Mason, Richie Newbill, Chris Nowak, Michael J. Pena, Jedidiah Phillips, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

**SYMPATHY:**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Frank Brown in the death of his sister-in-law, *Byrl Smith*. Visitation for Byrl will be Thursday at 11:00 a.m. with the funeral to follow at 12:00. Services will be at the Covington Funeral Home. The burial will follow at the Helen Crigger Cemetery in Munford.

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Please wish *Neil, Ashley, Briley, Aniston, and McKinley Bringle* well as they prepare to move to Collinsville, TX to serve the church there. They will be greatly missed! Keep this family in your prayers as they make this big transition.

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Calendar of Events

**JUNE EVENTS**

25—Devotional/Worship in song  
**JULY**  
2—Summer Series; Speaker: Mitchell Rogers  
4—4<sup>th</sup> of July; the church office will be closed  
6 – Deacons’ Meeting, 4:00  
9 – Summer Series; Speaker: Daniel Dalton  
14 – Monday Night for the Master, Groups 1 & 2  
16 – Summer Series; Speaker: Jim Faughn  
28 – Monday Night for the Master, Groups 3 & 4  
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***Sunday, June 29 following the AM Worship Service we will have a Potluck Meal followed by a 1:00PM Worship Service.***

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**JULY YOUTH EVENTS**



6-11 – Big Reedy Camp  
17 – Ignite!  
20 – Middle/High School Devo  
21-25 – Day Camp

**BIRTHDAYS JUNE 29-JULY 5**



6/29 – Paulette Watkins  
6/30 – Clint Smith, James Watkins  
7/3 – Lauren Mosley  
7/5 – Elaine Shankle

**ANNIVERSARIES**

7/4 – Grant & Crystal Edmonds  
7/5 – Rick & Patsy Moore

**BIBLE READING SCHEDULE JUNE 29-JULY 5**

June 29—Psalm 96-98  
June 30—Psalm 99-102  
July 1 — Psalm 103-105  
July 2 — Psalm 106-107  
July 3 — Psalm 108-110  
July 4 — Psalm 111-114  
July 5 — Psalm 115-118

Carpenter’s Apprentice

A day and a half into camp and my step total is already approaching 40,000! What a week this is shaping up to be! Sunday night we were divided into teams and each team given a mascot and a team color. We were tasked with coming up with a name and then we compete in a number of challenges during the week for points and a chance at being inaugurated into camp immortality as the best team of the week. Our mascot is a brown stuffed rabbit, now named Gilbert. As part of last night’s challenge, all the mascots were collected and “hidden” and teams that found them during the activity received an extra hundred points. I assumed our mascot had been found by someone, but this morning I learned I was mistaken. As I followed three cabins worth of boys to the flagpole, I stopped by one of the teaching pavilions to pick up a few small pieces of trash around the pavilion. As I bent over, I saw the brown rabbit, seemingly staring at me, about three feet from my head. Realizing he was a leftover from last night’s game, I picked him up, but before I moved him, I took a look around wondering why he wasn’t already found and picked up. From his placement, I could understand why he wasn’t found last night. He wasn’t out of bounds, but he was off the general path of the game. Amazingly, though, he was in plain sight. All three cabins of boys had passed him by. Despite being easily seen, no one saw him. As I picked him up, I realized this is another example of how the drudgeries and weariness - and sometimes the excitement and expectations of life - keep us from seeing the obvious. Maybe not obvious, but obvious if we are looking and definitely something you would think we would notice – if we were paying attention. I mean really, a stuffed animal sitting all alone at a teaching pavilion far away from any girl’s cabins? How much more out of place could something be and yet almost no one notices? Galatians 6:10 says, “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith” and Hebrews 13:16 says, “And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” As Christians, I don’t think there are many of us who neglect opportunities to do good, but I know I sometimes get so caught up in God’s blessings and maybe even my own struggles, I fail to see opportunities right in front of me. Lord, make me a servant. Lord, make me like you. You are a servant, Lord, make me one too. Open my eyes, Lord, so I can see the opportunities before me.

-jeff