

Covington Family News

July 20, 2025

Am I OK?

In the 1970's Denver running back Floyd Little was facing off against the big bad linebacker Dick Butkus. When describing a collision he said, "Dick Butkus hit me so hard my body almost liquified." Not wanting to look weak, Little pulled himself up quickly as if nothing had happened. Butkus then said to him, "You okay?" Floyd Little said, "Yeah of course." Then Butkus replied, "Well if you're okay, why are you in our huddle?" He'd been hit so hard that he had followed him into the Bears' huddle.

A lot of time we pretend we are okay when it is obvious we are not. Maybe we want to look tough. Maybe we are just shell-shocked. Maybe our pride can't admit we are broken.

But we don't have to do that with God.

"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).

God isn't fooled when we try to play like we are fine. And we don't have to play. He supports us in our weakness. As Isaiah 57:15 says, "For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.'" Even when we have been knocked down and out by the "big bads" of the world, He is there to lift us up and turn us in the right direction. We always have a place with him even when we have been knocked low.

Barry Haynes

Hope Church of Christ

Hope, AR

BulletinDigest.com



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Brandon Matlock
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SERVING THIS WEEK 7/20/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Brad Evins
Song Leader: Ken Bringle Jr.
Sermon Jeff Phillips

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: LeRoy Finto
Chris Huggins, Hadley Mason, Garrett Howard, Eason Robinson, Wesley Fowler, Chris Maness, Nick Maness, Caleb Smith

Opening Prayer: George Watkins
Closing Prayer: Donnie Benjamin

Nursery Worker: LeAnn Maness

Attendance Card Collectors: (7/20)
Levi Teems, Houston Davis, Kyle McCain

July Bus Driver (7/20/ & 7/23)
Beau Phillips

July Door Greeters:
Main Lobby Entrance: Alan & Debbie Otts
Auditorium Entrance: Brenda & Hadley Mason

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Ken Bringle Jr.
Opening Prayer: Robert Brownlee
Closing Prayer: Nick Maness
Sermon: Jeff Phillips

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| Sunday Bible Classes | 138 |
| Worship AM | 216 |
| PM | 135 |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 129 |

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Chris Fowler Covington, 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

A Common Love

The Theme for the Covington church of Christ for 2025 is *A Common Love*. This theme was developed by the leadership (elders and deacons) in a meeting near the end of 2024. In the English language there is only one word for love. I am told that the ancient Hebrew language also had only one word for love. Just like in English, all different expressions of love had to be captured in that single term. The Greek language, however, is much more expressive with eight words that express different kinds and measures of love. We will show three of these words as they appear in the New Testament.

Storge was probably used more often to express love in ancient Greek literature. It was frequently used to refer to the love between a mother and a child. This word is not used in the Bible in its original form but the compound, *astorgos* is used in Romans 1:31 and translates “unloving” (NASB). The compound *philostorgos* is also used in Romans 12:10 and translates “brotherly love” (NASB).

Another word was *philia*. This word commonly expressed the strong confidence, acceptance and consideration friends have for one another. It usually expresses friendship or fondness. This word is used in James 4:4 referring to “friendship with the world.” This word appears a number of times in compound form such as Revelation 3:7 referring to the church at Philadelphia as the “open door” church. Peter uses the verb form in response to Jesus’ question, “Do you love me” (John 21:16-17)? *Philia*, in the verb form, is used twice to refer to God’s love. First in John 5:20 referring to God’s love for Jesus; and second, in John 16:27 when Jesus says to the disciples, “the Father loves you.” The fourth word is *agape*. Interestingly, this word is especially infrequent in ancient Greek literature. However, this is the word most often used in the New Testament. It is the word commonly used to refer to God’s love. It is sacrificial. It is always thinking of others before yourself (see Phil. 2:1-4). Most Greek scholars do not make a significant distinction between *agape* and *philia*. Both suggest sacrifice. Therefore, we will not force a distinction. Both words are used in the love that God calls us to have for Him and for one another.

Further, the word “common” is from a Greek word that means shared: “they had all things in common” (Acts 2:44; 4:32). While this same word may not be used in connection with love, the idea is motivated by a similar and prevailing attitude of love for one another. So, when we are called to a common love, we are called to have a prevailing selfless and sacrificial love for one another. How is your love?

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List



LaVerne Baxter
Brandon Matlock
Michael Wyatt
Tim Scott
Steve Cook
Kathy Billings—Stepmother of Heath Billings
Anderson family in the loss of their loved one, Gary Anderson. Also remember Israel, Our Country, Our Missionaries, Flood Victims, Heath Billings, Heather Bowner, Captain Mike Shipley, Georgia Cook, Jeff Cooper, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Alan Davis, Megan Davis, Jason Elliott, 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, Larry Osbourne, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Upton Shelton, Donna Sonwineski, David South, Clint Stacks, 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

“As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.”
Joshua 24:15

“For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
Matthew 16:26

Theme For 2025:
A Common Love

Calendar of Events

JULY EVENTS

16 – Summer Series; Speaker: Jim Faughn
19 – Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
20 – Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM
23-- Summer Series; Speaker: Jacob Evans
28 – Monday Night for the Master, Groups 3 & 4
30 - Devotional/Worship in song

Polishing the Pulpit
Branson, MO--July 16-21
Sevierville, TN--August 15-21

JULY YOUTH EVENTS



17 – Ignite!
20 – Middle/High School Devo



Day Camp (Kindergarten-5th grade)
July 21-25
Monday-Thursday 8AM-12PM
Friday 8AM-2PM
Cost \$5/wk

BIRTHDAYS JULY 20-26



20—Rita Benjamin
21—Michael Wyatt
22—Susan Mason
25—Bill Gatlin
26—Dean O’Brien
ANNIVERSARIES
22—Evan & Michelle Nowak
BIBLE READING SCHEDULE JULY 20-26
July 20—Prov. 10-12
July 21—Prov. 13-15
July 22—Prov. 16-18
July 23—Prov. 19-21
July 24—Prov. 22-24
July 25—Prov. 25-27
July 26—Prov. 28-31

Carpenter’s Apprentice

Faith, according to Hebrews 11:1 is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Some still struggle with the application of this definition to real life. Simply stated faith is this, you can’t see ‘it’ but you know ‘it’ is there. The key word here is ‘know’. If you don’t ‘know’ then you don’t have faith. Without knowing you are left with something you think might be true; therefore, you go with it. You go along with it because going along is easier than not going along. Faith however demands more than going with the flow. In fact, true faith means you will likely go against the flow. Jesus said, “the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many” (Matthew 7:13). Faith not only determines the direction of our life it dictates our actions during our travels through life. True faith answers the “why” of life but also gives us the “how” of life dictating our response to life’s curves and Satan’s deceptions. Certainly, the level of our faith can be seen in the fruit of our lives. Faith is not and can never be a game of chance. We aren’t hopeful of a winner; we are certain of a winner. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field Matthew 13:44. This man is certain, convicted and refuses to be denied. In this one-line parable it is easy to overlook the giving up of everything for one thing. He sold all he had; all he’d acquired and worked for in life to gain one thing he knew without a doubt he could hang his hat on. Jesus said I go to prepare a place for you, in my father’s house are many mansions and when your room is ready, I will come and get you (John 14:2-3). Do you believe that? Do you believe it enough to live it? I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Mark 9:7). I believe he left glory to come and walk as a man (Philippians 2:6-8). I believe He will come again and gather those whose lives demonstrated their faith (2 Thessalonians 1:5-12) in Him through their unselfish love (John 13:34) and obedience to His Word (John 14:15). I believe it is my duty as one who has faith in God and His promise to share the good news of Christ with all who will listen (Matthew 28:19) because I believe there is a judgement day coming (Hebrews 9:27). I also believe Jesus came to save the world (John 3:17). I am fairly positive most people who read this will agree and believe almost exactly. So let me pose one question for thought; Is the refusal to share God’s word and the love of Christ, for any reason, anything more than a demonstration of true faith?

-jeff