

# Covington Family News

## March 8, 2026



**Before there was a nation,  
God called one man.**

**Before there was a flood,  
God commissioned one servant.**

**Before there was a cross,  
God sent His son.**

**Before the gospel reached the world,  
God sent ordinary people.**

**And He is still doing it today!**

**Right now, God is working in this world – *changing lives, restoring families, saving souls* – and He has always chosen to do His greatest work through individuals who are willing to serve Him.**

**This is not about what we can do for God. This is not about who we are. *This is about God* – and what He is ready to do through us, because *when God finds a servant, He changes the world.***

**We invite you to our motivational weekend, “*Saved to Serve,*” where we hope to inspire service in the hearts of God’s people, through which God can change the world.**

**—Austin Johnson**



**SHEPHERDS**

Wayne Dalrymple 901- 573-3908  
David Keith 901- 430-3940  
Andy Whaley 901- 626-2911  
Mike Rogers 901- 229-4305

**DEACONS**

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

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

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**SERVING THIS WEEK: 3/8/26 AM Worship Service**

**Announcements (all services):** Brandon Matlock  
**Song Leader (all services):** Ken Bringle Jr.  
**Opening Prayer:** Michael Wyatt  
**Sermon:** Austin Johnson  
**Closing Prayer:** Jimmy McMahan

**Presiding Over the Lord’s Table:**

Head: Mike Rogers  
Andy Whaley, Landon Bringle, Robert Charnock, Matt Moody,  
Breck Beasley, Beau Phillips, Chris Huggins, Cody Strickland

**Attendance Card Collectors (3/8)**  
Nolan Carter, Ethan Matlock, J.O. Wall

**March Door Greeters:**  
Main Lobby Entrance: Ron & Judy Teems  
Auditorium Entrance: Robert & Debra Brownlee

**Lobby Management (3/8 & 3/11)**  
**Security:** Will Thomason  
**Worship Coordinator:** Jeff Coughlan  
**Welcome Desk/Lobby Service:** Ben Evans  
**Nursery Worker:** Brandy Brown

**Bus Driver (3/8 & 3/11)**  
Luke McMahan

**Evening Worship Service**

**Opening Prayer:** Jeff Hanks  
**Sermon:** Jeff Phillips  
**Closing Prayer:** Clint Stacks

**Mid-Week Service: March 11**

**Devotional Thought:** Caleb Smith  
**Closing Prayer:** Reid McMahan

**Attendance**

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Sunday Bible Class    | 167 |
| Worship AM            | 245 |
| PM                    | 152 |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 133 |

**VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS**

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg | Atoka, TN       |
| Melissa Troye              | Covington, TN   |
| Jennifer & Caelan Canning  | Burlison, TN    |
| Peggy Harbin               | Lyle, TN        |
| Keith & Judy Matlock       | Centerville, TN |

**Elder on call for March: David Keith**

**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



# Service Spotlight

## Benevolence & Middle Grades' Education Jon McCain

Benevolence is all about service and helping those with personal needs. The formal definition of benevolence is "the disposition to do good; good will; charitableness/kindness; love of mankind," but practically speaking, benevolence is simply loving and helping others as they have needs.

The benevolence ministry is set up to help people in various ways. People go through difficulties or fall on hard times, and we try to help as we can. It may be with food, clothing, or helping them get back on their feet financially or find work. Benevolent work can really include so many things. We offer this support for members and non-members of our congregation.

One area of our work that is a primary focus, though, is helping people with their most basic and most important need - sin removal. We usually come across people who are struggling both physically and spiritually, and just as was Jesus' practice, we attend to both of those needs. While we try to meet their physical needs, we also point them to their most important need - Jesus! If they haven't started their journey with Jesus, we want to at least have that conversation and, hopefully, study God's word with them. Matthew 6:25-34 reminds us that when we seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, all of our needs will be met, so we try to help everyone who comes to us to seek God with their whole heart.

These articles have been highlighting ways each member can serve and be involved with the work of the church. This one is no different. Each of us are the eyes and ears to those around us. If you come across someone struggling, let me know so we can try to show love and service to our neighbors. If you would like to study with those who come our way, let me know, and I will connect you when we have those opportunities to hold studies.

In addition to benevolence work, I serve as the deacon over the middle grades' education program. I coordinate teachers and curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. Right now, Jeff is working with the middle school class, but we need teachers for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. If you want to be involved in teaching this age group, please let me know, and we'll get you plugged into the education program.

## Prayer List

Wesley Fowler – recovering from surgery  
Haley Jo Lipsky – Sophie Maness' friend; recovering from surgery

*Members with ongoing needs:* Bobby White, Laverne Baxter, Katie Merritt, David Fulks, Ann Huggins, Heath Billings, Larry Coughlan, Pat Gatlin, Judy Merritt, Bonita Rogers, Donna Sonwineski, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Jimmy Willis

*Loved ones to remember:* Kathleen Brown, Linda Heathcock, Kyle Hanks, Ricky Hatcher, Jenny Garcia, Jason Elliott, Tony Hobbs

### NURSING HOME

**Covington Care:** Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

### MILITARY

Noah Liles, Tanner Mason, Chris Nowak, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

### BAPTISM

Praise God and welcome our new sister in Christ, *Brittany Mitchem*, into the family at Covington! Brittany was baptized for the forgiveness of her sins this past Friday, February 27.

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to *Brandon, Kristie, Addison, and Braylen Pickard!* The Pickard family recently placed membership with our congregation and are happy to join in the work of the church here at Covington. Please meet this family and make them feel at home with our church family.



## Calendar of Events

### MARCH

- 7/8 – Gospel Meeting with Austin Johnson
- 9 – Monday Night for the Master, group 2
- 15 – Devotional @Covington Care; 3:00
- 21 – Birthday Party @Magnolia Creek; 2:00
- 23 – Monday Night for the Master, group 3
- 28 – Senior Adult Rally @Henderson Church of Christ
- 29 – Fifth Sunday schedule w/Potluck Lunch
- 30 – Monday Night for the Master, group 4



**Join us at the Gospel Meeting sessions this Saturday, March 7, at 5:00 & 7:00. Bring your favorite desserts and sweet treats for the fellowship break at 6:00.**

**Come together this weekend for some good lessons, good fellowship, and good treats! See you there!**

### YOUTH

- 8 – Devo
- 13 – Kids' Movie Night; 7:00
- 13/14 – Midnight Bowling (HS)



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

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### BIRTHDAYS: March 8-14

- 3/8 – Alan Otts
- 3/10 – Taylor Benjamin
- 3/14 – Garrett Howard

### ANNIVERSARIES: March 8-14

- 3/12 – David & LeAnn Stewart
- 3/14 – Heath & Mandy Billings



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**Ladies' Bible Class - Tuesdays @10:00AM  
AND  
Men's Prayer Breakfast -  
Wednesdays @5:30AM**

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## Carpenter's Apprentice

You may have recently heard me say, "You can't get more by expecting less." Today, I Googled the phrase to see who I should give credit to for saying it first. Imagine my surprise when many of the articles I found disagree with the premise. One article said the key to happiness is to lower expectations! Writers highlight the differences in expectations and reality, saying, if you don't want to be disappointed, don't expect much. One even went so far as to say it's not about lowering the bar, but not setting a bar at all (<https://community.thriveglobal.com/if-you-want-to-be-happy-expect-less>). I must admit, I was blown away, particularly in light of scriptures like Colossians 3:17, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus," and "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY" (1 Peter 1:16). Those verses scream "Do your best!" Paul writes to the church at Corinth, "Bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33), which speaks not just to expectations for us, but also for those we hang around. Comedian Steve Harvey accurately says, "If you hang out with 9 broke dudes, you gonna be number 10!" State and federal education standards have been lowered to increase success rates but has only proved that "ignorance is bliss" and increased the burden and pressure on teachers and school systems. If we are not doing our best, why would we think we deserve success? Greatness does not come while striving for mediocrity.

For my archers, I have been reading lately about what it takes to be great. The books are written to athletes and shooters of all types, and the message couldn't be more in opposition to lowering expectations. If you want to be elite and rise above, then first you must believe you can, set the expectation that you can, and work hard to become what you expect to be. This also means you must come to grips with failure. Let's face it, some days we just don't meet the expectations we set for ourselves. Those who settle for mediocrity will never understand this, but failure and success are not supposed to be what defines happiness and joy in our lives. You could say failure and success are not in opposition, rather they are both part of the same process. Failure is just another step toward success. Thomas Edison addressed "failure" saying (reportedly), "The light bulb was an invention with a thousand steps." Make no mistake, his expectations were high. God's expectations are high too. The Old Testament is full of examples of those who did not meet expectations and His response to the condition of their hearts. John wrote, "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin." He had high expectations! But he also understood failure and the process of Godliness, so he continues, "if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 2:1-2). So let us continue, or begin, working toward the great expectations of His righteousness. -jeff