

# Covington Family News

## June 28, 2026



*Serving Our Community  
for the Glory of God*

### 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

Jeff Phillips  
Cell # 901-233-9495  
E-mail  
[rjphillips@covingtoncofc.com](mailto:rjphillips@covingtoncofc.com)

### OFFICE

901-476-8278  
Office hours: M-F, 9AM-2PM

### E-mail

[secretary@covingtoncofc.com](mailto:secretary@covingtoncofc.com)

### Website

[www.covingtoncofc.com](http://www.covingtoncofc.com)

### SERVING THIS WEEK: 6/28/26 AM Worship Service

**Announcements (all services):** Jon McCain  
**Song Leader (Sunday services):** Ken Bringle Jr.  
**Opening Prayer:** Mike Rogers  
**Sermon:** Jeff Phillips  
**Closing Prayer:** Donnie Benjamin

### Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Jerry Gatlin  
David Stewart, Clint Smith, Craig Robinson, Landon Bringle,  
Nick Maness, Myles Benjamin, Zach Higgins, Ken Mason

### Attendance Card Collectors (6/28)

Houston Davis, Kyle McCain, Jaxton Carter

### June Door Greeters:

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

### Lobby Management (6/28 & 7/1)

**Security:** Charles Wolfe  
**Worship Coordinator:** Bruce Hazlerig  
**Welcome Desk/Lobby Service:** Jeff Coughlan  
**Nursery Worker:** Jan Hanks

### Bus Driver (6/28 & 7/1)

Grant Edmonds

### Evening Worship Service

**Opening Prayer:** Craig Robinson  
**Sermon:** LeRoy Finto  
**Closing Prayer:** Robert Trimm

### Mid-Week Service: July 1

**Opening Prayer:** Brandon Matlock  
**Song Leader:** Drew Kinningham  
**Speaker:** Justin Rogers  
**Closing Prayer:** Robert Charnock

### Attendance

Sunday Bible Class	136
Worship AM	223
PM	88
Wednesday Bible Study	150

### VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Cindy Randle Nashville, TN  
Mark & Kathleen Brown Houston, TX

*Elder on call for June: Andy Whaley*

**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



## Motivational Message

### Getting Closer to God

Without a doubt, there are times when God seems far away. In times like these, we may feel as if our prayers go unheard. Or we may wonder why it feels God is so disconnected from our lives.

What we need to remember is that God is unchanging (Malachi 3:6). His character stays absolutely holy. His faithfulness remains constant. His power continues unabated. It is we who change. Oftentimes, the problem is that we allow sin into our lives and choose a direction away from God. Sometimes the problem is that we spend less and less time with Him in Bible study, meditation, and prayer. Then, one day, we realize that we have gradually grown distant from God.

For those in situations like this, the inspired writer James offers a solution. He tells us how to once again draw near to God. It is found in James 4:8. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." James' two suggestions are:

**Stop whatever is pulling you away from God.** It is mentioned in the text as "cleanse your hands." If you have been actively engaged in sin, you must renounce it (Ephesians 4:22). Stop doing things that harm your soul. If you have been drifting away from God, stop whatever is causing you to wander. Get your life back on the track that God has laid out for you.

**Start your heart again for God.** The passage states it this way: "purify your hearts." By repenting and getting forgiveness, God cleanses us once again (1 John 1:9). It is then that we must keep our hearts focused upon God. The heart is where the problem began. If we keep our attitudes, motives, and thoughts in harmony with God's will, we will find ourselves drawing nearer to Him once again.

There is no greater feeling of joy than knowing God is near you. We can have this assurance if we keep our hearts pure and our hands clean – if we stop doing the things we shouldn't and start again doing the things we should.

Edd Sterchi  
Via Bulletin Digest

## Prayer List

Mindy Stavrum – recovering from surgery  
Andrew Evans – upcoming tests  
Oscar Williams – upcoming surgery  
Heather Bowmer – Marilyn Blevins' daughter; cancer treatments

*Members with ongoing needs:* Joyce Scott, Pat Gatlin, Larry Coughlan, Katie Merritt, Judy Merritt, Donna Sonwineski, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Jimmy Willis

*Loved ones to remember:* Linda Simpson, Barbara Pool, Scott Lindley, Ricky Hatcher, Jason Elliott

### NURSING HOME

Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

### MILITARY

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



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*Men's Breakfast -  
Wednesdays @ 5:30AM*

## Calendar of Events

### JUNE

24 – Singing Night; 7:00  
27 – Workday at the building; 8:00AM  
28 – Bridal Shower for Melea Edmonds; 2:00

### JULY

1 – Summer Series w/Justin Rogers; 7:00  
8 – Summer Series w/Mitchell Rogers; 7:00  
13 – Monday Night for the Master; groups 1&2  
15 – Summer Series w/Josh Ketchum; 7:00  
18 – Birthday Party @Magnolia Creek; 2:00  
19 – Devotional @Covington Care; 3:00  
22 – Summer Series w/Jeremy Hall; 7:00  
27 – Monday Night for the Master; groups 3&4  
29 – Singing Night; 7:00

### YOUTH

June 24 – Wednesday Night  
Treat!



June 28-July 3 – WKYC 11-13 Week  
July 12-16 – Big Reedy Christian Camp  
July 20-24 – Day Camp!  
July 26-31 – Mission Trip to Beloit, KS

### LOOKING AHEAD

August 1&2 – 24 Hours of Prayer; more info to come  
August 2 – Josh Manning's first Sunday with us!

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### BIRTHDAYS: June 28 – July 4

6/29 – Paulette Watkins  
6/30 – Clint Smith, James Watkins  
7/3 – Houston Davis, Lauren Mosley

### ANNIVERSARIES: June 28 – July 4

7/4 – Grant & Crystal Edmonds;  
Brandon & Kaiden Hanks



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**WKYC 11-13 Week** – the bus will leave immediately after morning worship on Sunday. Campers, have your change of clothes ready and bring money for lunch on the way. The bus will return to the building Friday evening. It's going to be a great week!

## Carpenter's Apprentice

The La Posada Hotel opened in 1930 in Winslow, Arizona. The luxurious train stop hotel was part of the Fred Harvey chain of hotels, designed by famous architect, Mary Jane Colter, whose influence is seen all over the southwest. Colter developed a completely fictional story about a wealthy Spanish ranch family who formerly called the hotel home and designed the structure to match the story. Construction was financed by the Santa Fe Railroad, costing nearly two million dollars (which translates to about 50 million now). The 60,000 square foot, 70 room hotel was glamorous, luxurious and opulent; the crown jewel of Harvey's hospitality empire and the Santa Fe Railroad. It had everything from a barber shop and shoeshine stand to lush gardens, lounges, and a library. After 27 years of operation, the hotel closed its doors, the contents were auctioned off, and the building was repurposed into offices for the railroad. Over the next forty years, the hotel continually faced the chance of demolition until in 1997 it was purchased and restored. Today, it is a hotel and museum. Amtrak still stops there, and the beautiful hotel sits quietly in the shadow of another Winslow attraction derived from the Eagles' song, *Take it Easy*.

As Jennifer and I walked past the hotel, peering through the fence at the lawn and gardens, she commented, "Those gardens look so beautiful through the fence. I wish we could see them." Sunday after church, we were walking to the more popular "Standing on a Corner" monument, and I found a key to room 323 in the La Posada. It was an actual key lying in the middle of the road! Returning the key, I discovered we could tour the hotel/museum! The interior was beautiful and educational, but it was those beautiful gardens in the back we wanted to see more of. Stepping around the building, we disappointingly agreed: the gardens looked better through the fence. The area next to the fence was indeed beautiful, but there was very little depth to it, despite its great potential. I suppose that was by design. What could be seen from the outside was well taken care of, presenting an image at odds with reality. You can see now where this is going. Jesus said, "First clean the inside of the cup and the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also ... you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness" (Matt. 23:26-27). Like the garden – and the Pharisees – sometimes we spend too much time working on image and perception and not enough time, or possibly not any time, strengthening who we are, setting up for disappointment behind the veil. We should remember what Jesus instructed in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things (including image) will be added to you."

jeff