

Covington Family News

September 6, 2026



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

SHEPHERDS

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DEACONS

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Benny Collins
Brad Evins
Brandon Matlock
Jon McCain
Alan Otts
Craig Robinson
David Stewart
Robert Trimm

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SERVING THIS WEEK: 9/6/26 AM Worship Service

Announcements (ALL services): Ken Bringle Jr.
Song Leader (Sunday services): John Combs
Opening Prayer: Michael Wyatt
Sermon: Josh Manning
Closing Prayer: Jimmy McMahan

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Bill Murray
Brock McMahan, Mike Rogers, Donnie Benjamin, Ricky Stavrum
Conrad Scherffius, Drew Kinningham, Chris Max, Cody Strickland

Attendance Card Collectors (9/6)

Jaxton Carter, Ethan Matlock, J.O. Wall

September Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Brad & Becky Evins
Auditorium Entrance: Brenda & Hadley Mason

Lobby Management (9/6 & 9/9)

Security: Logan Wall

Worship Coordinator: Richard Shankle

Welcome Desk/Lobby Service: Rick Stavrum

Nursery Worker: Teresa Stacks

Bus Driver (9/6 & 9/9)

Grant Edmonds

Evening Worship Service

Opening Prayer: Robert Brownlee
Sermon: Josh Manning
Closing Prayer: Clint Stacks

Mid-Week Service: September 9

Song Leader: Nick Maness
Devotional Thought: Jeff Phillips
Closing Prayer: Ron Teems

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class	137
Worship AM	205
PM	106
Wednesday Bible Study	131

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg	Atoka, TN
Robert & Carla Usoff	Millington, TN
Benny & Jean Blackwell	Franklin, TN
Armand & Rhonda Desjaden	Grovetown, GA
Evangeline Word	Memphis, TN
Bret Anderson	Covington, TN
Brennan Max	Covington, TN
Amos Elliott & Alex Kimbrell	Henderson, TN

Covington Church of Christ
1690 Highway 51 South – PO Box 9
Covington, TN 38019

Schedule of Services

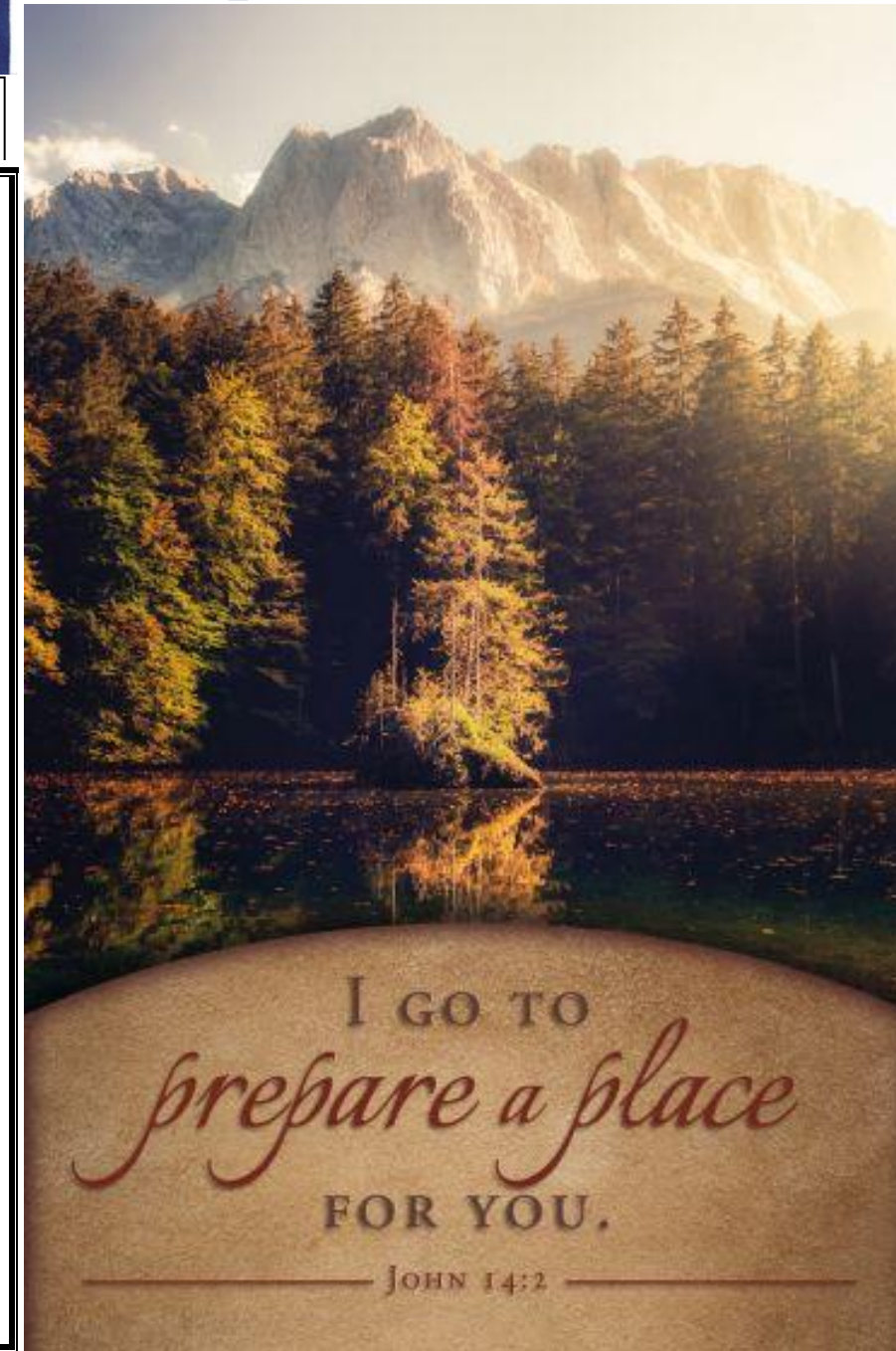
SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM

Worship 10:00AM & 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM



Motivational Message

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know” (John 14:1-4).

For some time now, Laura and I have been spending a lot of our waking moments dealing with the idea of “preparing a place.” We are in the process of selling our house in Paris, TN. We have buyers who have made an offer that we have accepted, but with the offer has come a number of “requests”. In other words, before they agree to pay us for the house, they have asked us to prepare the place for them. There are two big steps in the house buying & selling process. First, if you want the bank to give you a loan, they require a home appraisal to make sure the property is worth the amount of the loan. Second, the property needs to be inspected so that the buyers can have an accurate idea about the state of the home and if they are getting a move-in-ready house or a fixer-upper. Together, the appraisal and the inspection are ways of asking, “Is it worth the investment to call this place home?”

I think about what Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:2, “I go to prepare a place for you.” He was inviting them, and by extension the word of God is speaking to us, to contemplate whether what Jesus was going to prepare would be worth the investment to call home. Actually, the Lord already taught about the cost of being with Him (cf. Matthew 13:45-46; Mark 8:34-38). His words in John 14 were words of comfort to those who had previously committed to being with Jesus and needed to know that their investments had not been wasted.

But what about us? Have we taken the time to make an appraisal of what Jesus has prepared for us? Is it worth the high investment costs that the Lord clearly demands? What about our inspection? The scriptures are filled with the promises of God. Have we carefully looked at what the Lord has prepared for us? The reason these are important questions to ask is because we are thinking about the place we will one day call our forever home.

-Josh

Prayer List

Bobby White – at home recovering
Lang Taylor – recovering from surgery
Michaela Cook – Abbi Nicks’ (Will’s fiancée) friend; battling colon cancer

Members with ongoing needs: Joyce Scott, Judy McCool, Judy Merritt, Bill Murray, Andrew Evans, Hope Collins, Pat Gatlin, Larry Coughlan, Katie Merritt, Donna Sonwineski, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Jimmy Willis

Loved ones to remember: Carston Burks, Braxton Seward, Glenda Bramblett, Kaci Billings, Mike Utley, Ellyana Bowden, Heather Bowmer, Barbara Pool, Scott Lindley, Jason Elliott

NURSING HOME

Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

MILITARY

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

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to *Dianne Scott and Glinda Hayman*! These sisters have been visiting with us for some time and recently placed membership with our congregation. They are happy to join in the work of the church here at Covington and look forward to getting to know everyone. Please meet these ladies and make them feel at home with our church family.

HELP WANTED

A table has been set up in the foyer with personal items that were collected from the auditorium. Please look through these and pick up any of your belongings. Thanks!



Elder on call for September: Wayne Dalrymple

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 2 – Fall Quarter Adult Bible Classes begin
- 7 – Labor Day; Church office closed
- 8 – MNFM/Tuesday Together
- 11&12 – FHU Leadership Seminar
- 11-13 – Transform Women’s Conference
- 14-17 – Area Wide Gospel Meeting @BMS
- 19 – Birthday Party @Magnolia Creek; 2:00
- 20 – Devo @Covington Care; 3:00
- 21 – Monday Night for the Master, group 3
- 28 – Monday Night for the Master, group 4

Sign up on the church Facebook page to attend the Wednesday night fellowship meal

YOUTH

- 13 – Afternoon Devo
- 20 – Devo
- 26 – Day in the Park





Feed the Team
September 3, 17, 24



LOOKING AHEAD

- October 2&3 – Leadership Retreat
- October 17&18 – Friends and Family Weekend



BIRTHDAYS: September 6 – 12

- 9/8 – Lauren Benjamin, Adisyn Whaley
- 9/9 – Andy Whaley
- 9/10 – Chris Maness
- 9/11 – Cody Strickland
- 9/12 – Shirley Laxton, Ken Mason, Kristie Maxwell

ANNIVERSARIES: September 6 – 12

- 9/9 – Robert & Jacque Trimm

Ladies’ Bible Class – Tuesday @10:00AM
and
Men’s Breakfast – Wednesday @5:30AM



Carpenter’s Apprentice

The National Institute of Health describes inadequate weight gain among children as Failure to Thrive. Also known as FTT or weight faltering, the condition is admittedly somewhat ambiguous, and criterion are debated among physicians. The biggest problem with diagnosis appears to be with the use of standardized weight charts. Anytime something is standardized - whether we are talking about growth charts or testing in schools - the specifics of each situation are ignored, and conclusions are drawn, and decisions are made on very limited information. For example, in December of 2018, Baby Sabie was born in San Diego. Her gestational age was 23 weeks and 3 days. She tipped the scales at 8.6 ounces and was 9 inches long. For perspective, a large apple weighs about the same. When she finally went home, she was very small for her age and she remains so today, but reportedly, “continues to thrive” according to an article on Parents.com that was updated in October 2025.

According to the Cambridge dictionary, to thrive means to grow, develop, or be successful in a vigorous and healthy way. While individuals may be in the lower percentiles on various charts, more information is needed to determine if they are thriving or not. This information can easily be gathered through interview and examination. In John 10:10, Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” While this passage is often misused to say Jesus wants us to have great riches, it still gives us insight to Jesus’ wish for us. He wants us to thrive! This doesn’t necessarily mean we have it all, but it does mean we are growing and developing successfully in a spiritual way. The writer of Hebrews chastises in Hebrews 5:12-14, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” This is a spiritual diagnosis of Failure to Thrive. This is not based on a growth chart but clinical observation. Verse eleven says they had become “dull of hearing.” It may be time for each of us to step back and take a spiritual self-evaluation. How is our prayer life? How often are we in the Word of God? How often do we speak of Jesus to our family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers? Hebrews 6 starts like this, “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.” Let us thrive together!