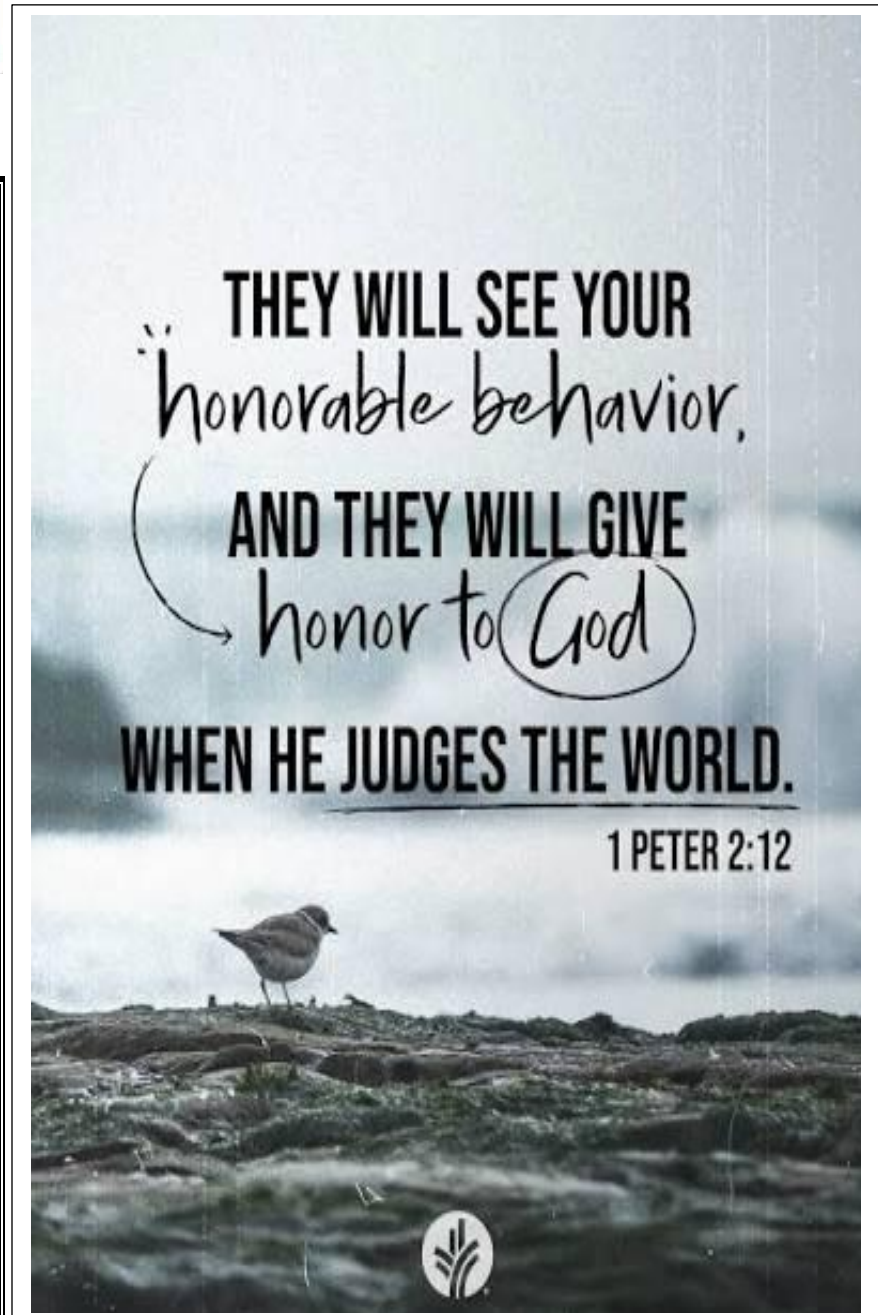


Covington Family News

October 25, 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

DEACONS

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

MINISTER

Josh Manning
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OFFICE

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Office hours: M-F, 9AM-2PM

E-mail

secretary@covingtoncofc.com

WEBSITE

www.covingtoncofc.com

SERVING THIS WEEK: 10/25/26 AM Worship Service

Announcements (ALL services): Brandon Matlock
Song Leader (Sunday services): Jeff Phillips
Opening Prayer: Cody Strickland
Sermon: Josh Manning
Closing Prayer: Jimmy McMahan

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: John Evans
John Combs, Robert Brownlee, Beau Phillips, Gordon Cartwright,
Heath Hoffman, Wesley Fowler, Craig Robinson, Hadley Mason

Attendance Card Collectors (10/25)

Kirby Wall, Davis McMahan, Henry Kinningham

October Door Greeters:

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

Lobby Management (10/25)

Security: Rick Stavrum
Worship Coordinator: Bruce Hazlerig
Welcome Desk/Lobby Service: Jeff Coughlin
Nursery Worker: Jan Hanks

Bus Driver (10/25 & 10/28)

Grant Edmonds

PM Worship Service

Opening Prayer: Robert Brownlee
Sermon: Josh Manning
Closing Prayer: Michael Wyatt

Mid-Week Service in Song: October 28

Opening Prayer: Jeff Phillips
Closing Prayer: Nick Maness

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class	118
Worship AM	202
PM	101
Wednesday Bible Study	149

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Tommie Young	Covington, TN
Thomas McGee	Covington, TN
Kenneth Russell	Covington, TN
Andy Molina Rodriguez	Memphis, TN
Justin Hazelrig	Covington, TN
Terri Barber and Allie Jean Peebles	Centerville, TN

Elder on call for October: 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

“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men” (1Peter 2:13–15).

The apostle Peter uses the word “submit” as the foundation word upon which he builds an image of the Christian life. In the context of 1Peter 2 (which is where he begins a rather lengthy passage devoted to the topic of submission) he gives a powerful exhortation that serves as his launching point to the submission discussion. Notice how he says, “Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge” (1Peter 2:12 NRSV). The Christian life needs to be a public display of godliness that is so faithful to the holy calling of God (cf. 1Peter 1:14–15) that when the world seeks to (falsely) disparage it, all evidence points to the contrary. Now practically what does that life of holiness look like? Peter answers our question by saying that the life which best demonstrates godliness and holiness is summarized by the word “submission.”

In 1Peter 2:13–17 Peter begins by calling Christians to live out submission in our relationships with the earthly powers around us (the NRSV says “For the Lord’s sake accept the authority of every human institution” in 1Peter 2:13, while the NKJV says, “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake”). By saying “earthly powers” or “human institutions” or “ordinances of man” we recognize that Peter is speaking about our civil governments. Keep reading and you’ll find references to various civil-authority positions like governors or kings (i.e. the emperor).

As we introduce this concept, I think a good place for us to begin is to consider if there is any biblical precedence for such an exhortation. Was Peter presenting a new revolutionary thought when he encouraged Christians to submit to the laws of the land or was his teaching something that harmonized with the rest of biblical teaching? There are three Old Testament stories that are helpful to study because they provide examples for our inquiry: Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39–41), Daniel and friends in Babylon (Daniel 1–6), and the Esther story. Go check these out and then we’ll continue with our thoughts next week!

Josh

Prayer List

Bill Murray - recovering from surgery.
Ken Bringle, Jr - did well with his knee surgery. He has already started physical therapy.
Charles Wolfe - recovering from knee surgery.

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

Loved ones to remember: Asher Gibson, many who are battling cancer, Jason Elliott

RESPONSES

Brother Alan Ottis came forward asking for prayers to become a stronger Christian. Please lift up this request in your daily prayers.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest condolences go out to David, Heather, Ian and Eric Keith in the death of David’s mother, Beverly Keith. She will be deeply missed. She is also Jennifer Phillip’s aunt. Please keep the entire family in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.

NURSING HOME

Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

MILITARY

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

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

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

25 – Deacon budget sheets due
26 – Monday Night for the Master, group 4
28 – Lads to Leaders Registration due

NOVEMBER

1 – Outdoor Evening Worship and Fall Festival; 4:00 at the Phillips’ home
14 – 6:00 Area Wide Singing and Dessert Potluck at the building

YOUTH

25 – Devo



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



BIRTHDAYS: October 25 – 31

10/26 – Coltin Clay, Brandon Hanks
10/28 – PJ Charnock, Laura Manning
10/30 – Kynlee Davis, Jeff Phillips, Brandon Stacks
10/31 – Bill Murray

ANNIVERSARIES: October 25 – 31

10/25 – Ken Jr and Kristine Bringle



Carpenter’s Apprentice

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalms 23:4). Even without the parenthetical citation, most of us recognized this verse as part of the 23rd Psalm. For some time, the first part of this verse talking about the valley of the shadow of death and fearing no evil has been one of my top ten passages in the Bible. I love the fundamental truth that if God is on our side, we will win, but recently, I noticed something more in the last part that makes the whole chapter feel different. “Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.” David knows well the role of the shepherd having defended his flock on many occasions (1 Samuel 17:34) and therefore would understand fully the role of the rod and the staff.

Knowing what the rod and staff are and what they can do in the hands of a willing and capable shepherd is the source of this deep peace and comfort. While most of us recognize the familiar curved end of the shepherd’s staff, the walking stick was used for guidance and rescue, GotQuestions.org explains many shepherds carried “a shorter club-like weapon used for defense from predators and for counting sheep” too. This shorter stick was the rod mentioned in Psalm 23:4. One only needs to read 2 Samuel 23:8,18 and 20-21; the accounts of David’s mighty men, or Judges 15:15; what Samson did with a jawbone, to realize what a man with a stick in his hand is capable of. You may argue, “but those were spears and a jawbone!” and while accurate, the argument does nothing to negate the truth that our God is both knowledgeable and capable, and stands ready to intercede in defense, guidance and rescue of His people.

This does not mean His sheep will not be attacked, injured or even killed; He warns us otherwise throughout the Bible (Matthew 5:10; John 15:20; 1 Peter 3:17; 2 Timothy 3:12). But He also says, “Draw near to Him, and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8). We can and do boast about the protection and power of our God and His rod of justice, but we often forget the guidance of His staff. We cannot wander from His Word. We cannot refuse His commands. We cannot take refuge under wings we are not close to (Psalm 61:3-4). If we are going to maximize the protection and peace that defies understanding, then we must feed in the pastures where He leads.

We have talked of the protection and guidance signified in His rod and staff, but we must also take comfort in His willingness and ability to rescue. I mentioned earlier the rod being used in defense and counting. We need to remember He is ever watchful and He knows. “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save ...” (Isaiah 59:1) and that hooked staff only increases His reach.

- jeff