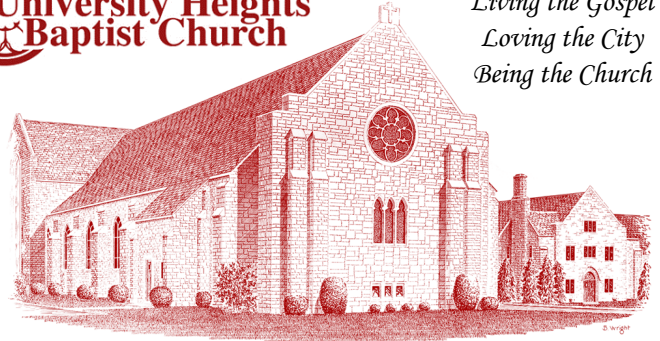


# THE CORNER CRIER

1010 S. National Ave  
(Corner of Grand & National)  
Springfield, MO 65804  
Phone: 417.862.0789



*Living the Gospel  
Loving the City  
Being the Church*



*A Church of Thoughtful, Gentle Grace*

April 2025

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## NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

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### *Pastor's Thoughts*

#### **He Is Risen! Share the Joy—Invite Someone to Celebrate Easter with Us!**

Easter is more than just a holiday—it's the very heartbeat of our faith! This is the day when death was defeated, the stone was rolled away, and our risen Savior proclaimed victory over sin forever. What an incredible, powerful moment we get to celebrate! As we reflect on the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, let's also ask ourselves: Who in my life needs to hear this life-changing news?

The hope of Easter isn't meant to be kept within these walls—it's a light meant to shine into the darkest places. All around us, people are searching for meaning, longing for peace, and aching to know they are loved beyond measure. Maybe it's a coworker who's been struggling, a neighbor who feels alone, or a family member who hasn't stepped into a church in years. This Easter, we have the privilege of saying, "Come and see what Jesus has done!"

#### ***How Can You Invite Others?***

— *Make It Personal* – A warm, face-to-face invitation can make all the difference. Try saying, "Easter at our church is such a special time—I'd love for you to join me! We'll celebrate hope, new beginnings, and the love of Jesus together."

— *Spread the Word Online* – Share our Easter service details on social media and add a sentence about why Easter matters to you. A simple post like, "This Sunday, we're celebrating the resurrection—the greatest love story ever told. You're invited!" could be the nudge someone needs.

— *Pray Boldly* – Ask God to bring to mind the people He wants you to invite—and then trust Him to work in their hearts.

Our Easter gatherings will be filled with joyful worship, a message of redemption and hope, and a community ready to welcome everyone with open arms. Whether someone is curious about faith, returning after years away, or simply needing encouragement, this is the perfect time for them to experience God's love.

#### **Let's Make This Easter Unforgettable!**

Beyond Sunday morning, we have special events all through Holy Week—times of reflection, fellowship, and celebration. Each one is a chance to connect, whether you're bringing a friend or simply deepening your own walk with Christ.

***Continued on Page 2***

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**Holy Week Events & Service Times:**

- *Maundy Thursday & Lord's Supper* – Thursday, April 17th, 7 PM in the Chapel (A solemn, beautiful, and meaningful time to remember Christ's last supper with His disciples.)
- *Annual Easter Carnival* – Saturday, April 19th, 11 AM–2 PM (Fun for the whole family—games, food, and an egg hunt for the kids!)
- *Easter Potluck Brunch* – Sunday, April 20th, 9:15 AM (Come early for fellowship and a delicious meal before worship.)
- *Easter Worship Celebration* – Sunday, April 20th, 10:30 AM (The highlight of our week—resurrection joy, powerful music, and a message of hope!)

This Easter, let's not just come to church —let's bring someone with us. Who knows? Your invitation could be the moment God uses to change a life forever.

**-Pastor Nolan**

**Welcome to 2025's New UHBC Members!**



**Alexa Shoop**

**We're thrilled  
you're part of  
the family!**



**Amy, Kelsey, & Reese Stockton**



**Emma & Ben Ludwinski**



**Jayden Mitchell**

# FROM JOE MILLER

## How People Grow

When spring rolls around I can't help but be reminded of new life while I watch the transformation from the greys of winter to the bold colors of a new season. It gives me hope as new growth becomes a part of our everyday scenery.

As we move closer to Easter, I can't help but think about that early community of faith and the events that shaped who they were and who they were becoming. In their shared faith in Christ, they found new life, purpose, and wholeness, God's story and theirs collided to create something new and life-giving.

Author Karen Armstrong writes, "Against all odds, by the third century Christianity had become a force to be reckoned with. We still do not really understand how this came about."

As a follower of Jesus, I believe it was the authentic move of God that pushed this new community beyond its birth in the middle east and its first century roots. As we enter this new season of life and all it brings, I think it is wise for us to look at the experience of that early movement and apply what gave them life and momentum (personal and communal growth).

1. **Doing:** While we know they attended things, we also know they did things. They made moves that required more of them than they thought was possible. Your faith grows when you can't do something, when what is needed is beyond you. It begins with one step in a direction and snowballs from there. Their lives were an active expression of Jesus' servant lifestyle. It's the same for us today, doing builds something bigger.
2. **Community:** Miracles don't happen without community. The early movement required investment from everyone, resources, wisdom, prayers, relationships, emotions, and physical presence. Every voice was needed. Isolation doesn't work in everyday life, and it doesn't work in the community of faith. We are a vital part of one another's growth in faith.
3. **Spiritual Practice:** Spiritual practice builds life, which is what we were made for in the first place. I agree with Chris Tomlin, *"You and I were made for worship, you and I are called to love, you and I are forgiven and free."* He goes on to write, *"When you and I embrace surrender, you and I choose to believe, then you and I will see who we were meant to be."* When we think of worship, often we think about what happens on a Sunday morning. I would define worship as a lifestyle of spiritual practice.

In my experience it is the Sunday gathering, hands-on work together, weekly discussion as we process faith together, hands-on service to the marginalized, daily prayer, the daily practice of scripture reading, and giving. I would probably add creativity and physical activity.

4. **Personal Ministry:** The early church was a hands-on movement; everyone had a part. We tend to forget that the disciples were ordinary people, each doing their part of something bigger than each person. They each took their own steps of faith. Personal ministry teaches us to rely upon God. It's kind of like parenting, no matter how much training you have, the rubber meets the road when you bring a child home and you're the responsible one. You've read the books, and you might think you're an expert, but it doesn't take long to find out you're not. Personal ministry grabs our heart, hands, and feet.

As we prepare for Easter, let's prepare our hearts for new growth and plant something worthwhile in our souls.

Blessings,

**-Joe**

# MISSIONS & MINISTRY



## Mission Group Meeting

Tuesday, April 8

1pm, Mann Group Hosting

Filling Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

## North American Offering at Work

Like many smaller, rural churches, Native American churches often face financial difficulties. This is compounded by the economic challenges within Native communities where poverty rates are higher than the national average due to many historical reasons. Limited resources can impact outreach programs, maintenance of church buildings, and connectivity, making it harder to serve members' spiritual and community needs.

When the staff of the American Baptist Home Mission Society visited the Native American ABC churches in Oklahoma, they assessed the need for improving their technology and internet access. They drove four and a half days visiting the different churches, talking to the pastors and their staff figuring out their needs. Most of the needs centered around gaining access to the internet and getting appropriate equipment for people to use that access in a meaningful way.

The technology supplied included monitors, laptops, PA systems, Zoom accounts, and cameras. This initiative also includes ongoing training and support, with check-ins to ensure the technology is effectively utilized, becoming a significant step in closing this digital gap.

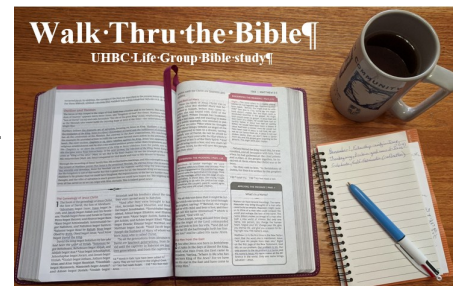
The goal is to eventually support all 24 churches in the region. UHBC can help by supporting the **North American Offering**, which is coming up in **May**. Please prayerfully consider this as you plan your giving.

**PS:** On March 14, 2025, high winds downed a power pole, sparking flames that rapidly fanned into a roaring wildfire, destroying the primary church building of the Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist in Southwest Oklahoma.

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Our **"Walk Thru the Bible" Life Group** will pause our study of Psalms to enjoy a 6-week study called *A Harmony of Easter*.

1. We will begin with when Jesus 'turned his face toward Jerusalem,' reviewing Jesus' travels and activities before arriving at Jerusalem.
2. Then we discuss Christ's Passion Week events,
3. Wrapping up by examining Christ's post-resurrection activities on Earth.



All adult ages are welcome to join in this fresh look at the events surrounding Easter! Feel free to participate, or simply listen, as you prefer.

We meet in room #237, the next-to-last room on the left in the south wing. If you see the large poster of a smiling resurrected Jesus on the wall, you've found the right room. We gather about 9:00-9:15 for refreshments and to visit, start at 9:30, wrapping up about 10:15.

- **Jeanetta Chrystie, leader**

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Youth Shine on Youth-Led Sunday!

Our youth did an amazing job leading the congregation on Youth-Led Sunday! From powerful prayers to heartfelt worship and inspiring messages, they truly showed their dedication and growth in faith. It was a joy to see them step up with confidence and passion, using their gifts to serve and glorify God. Thank you to all the youth who participated and to everyone who supported and encouraged them. We are so proud of you!

## Upcoming: Rummage Sale – April 26th!

Get ready for our upcoming Rummage Sale on Friday, April 26th! This is a great opportunity to clear out clutter and support our ministry at the same time. Donations will be accepted starting Monday, April 22nd, so start gathering gently used clothing, household items, and other treasures to contribute. Every donation helps make this event a success!

If you have any questions about the sale or donations, feel free to reach out. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to another great event!

## BigStuf Camp: June 19th -24th

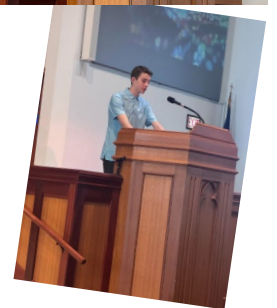
One of the biggest highlights of the summer is BigStuf Camp! This incredible experience gives students the opportunity to grow in their faith, build deep and lasting relationships, and encounter God in a powerful way.

The cost is \$499 per student, and we do have some students who need financial assistance to make this life-changing trip possible. If you feel led to help sponsor a student, please let us know! Your generosity can make a huge impact on a young person's spiritual journey.

## Wrapping Up Our Forgiveness Series

We recently finished a powerful series on forgiveness, and we've been reminded that forgiveness isn't just something we do for others—it's something that transforms us. When we choose to forgive, we allow God to heal our hearts, free us from bitterness, and help us grow in spiritual maturity. Forgiveness is never easy, but it is always worth it. Let's continue to walk in grace and extend the same forgiveness that God so freely gives us. Thank you for being part of our youth ministry family! We are excited about all that God is doing and can't wait for what's ahead.

**-Lisa Porter, Youth Pastor**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This month in our Children's Ministry, we've been exploring the beautiful and powerful concept of cooperation and how it's woven throughout God's Big Story. Cooperation may not always come naturally, but it's something that's close to God's heart. From the very beginning, God created us to live in community with one another. He designed us to work together, reflecting His love and helping to accomplish His purpose for the world. As we've learned through the Bible this month, cooperation isn't just about working together; it's about working together to do more than we could ever do alone.

We started the month by looking at how Jesus called a diverse group of disciples to join Him in His mission. This group was made up of people with different backgrounds, but Jesus saw the value in working together to fulfill God's plan. The Bottom Line: Jesus wants us to work together. Even when it's hard or we don't agree, cooperation is essential. Just like Jesus gathered His disciples, we are also called to work together, differences and all.

In week two, we learned about the battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites. Moses needed help to keep his arms lifted so the Israelites could win. Aaron and Hur cooperated by holding up Moses' arms, ensuring victory for the Israelites. Bottom Line: Work together to help someone succeed. Sometimes we need others to help us when things seem too hard to handle alone. By working together, we can help others succeed and make a difference in their lives.

This week, we looked at Nehemiah, who led the Israelites in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. The task seemed impossible, but by working together, they accomplished it in just 52 days! Bottom Line: Work together to solve problems. When faced with challenges, two heads are often better than one. Working together allows us to solve problems that might seem insurmountable on our own.

In week four, we encountered the story of four friends who worked together to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. They didn't let obstacles stand in their way — even tearing off a roof to lower him down! Because of their cooperation and faith, Jesus healed their friend. Bottom Line: Work together to help someone in need. Some problems may seem too big to solve alone, but when we work together, we can make a significant difference in someone's life.

We ended the month with Paul's encouragement to the early church in 1 Corinthians 12, where he reminded them that each person has different gifts but all are essential to the body of Christ. When we work together, we can show others Jesus' love and share His message. Bottom Line: Work together to point people to Jesus. Cooperation isn't just about doing things together; it's about using our differences to accomplish something bigger than ourselves and show the world the love of Jesus.

As we reflect on the lessons of cooperation this month, we encourage you to talk with your child about how they can practice working together with others in their own lives — whether at school, in their friendships, or within your family. Cooperation isn't always easy, but it's a beautiful way to reflect God's love and work towards His mission in the world.

We're excited to continue growing together as a community, learning how to cooperate with each other, and to see how God uses our efforts to impact those around us!

**-Heather Twibell, Children's Pastor**

## From the Library

Christian fiction is sometimes “in your face,” heart-rending stories that are solved by miracles or life changing romances.

Charles Martin is an artistic story teller, his books filled with quirky people, often small town characters just like those in our own families. Like life, the next chapter is seldom predictable. For example, in **Long Way Gone**, when the 18-year old leaves home with his guitar for Nashville, Martin peoples the Biblical Prodigal Son adventures with people you want to know better.

It’s always about relationships. In one of my favorites, **Where the River Ends**, a husband tries to fulfill his dying wife’s bucket list and they decide to steal away for a final 130-mile float trip as worried officials try to find them. Open the book anywhere for engrossing story.

*...if we were smart, we’d set our watches to river time. We’d wrinkle less and wouldn’t grow old as quickly. Abbie knew this. She had looked at her list and then chosen the river not because it was her favorite place or because she was a closet river rat but because it was the singular place on earth where time slowed down. Where each second counted.*

*Near lunchtime, I lifted the paddle out of the water, lay down next to sleeping Abbie and counted the clouds that slipped overhead. Then I tried to stop the sun.*

In **When Crickets Cry**, you meet two characters in Chapter One, a “retired” surgeon and a seven-year old precocious lemonade stand entrepreneur who has already experienced heart surgery.

*Her eyes traveled up me once, then back down again. ‘How big are you?’ She asked. ‘Height or weight?’ I asked. She held her hand level about eye level, ‘Height.’ ‘I’m six feet tall.’ ‘How old are you?’ I asked, ‘People years or dog years?’ She laughed. ‘Dog.’ I thought for a minute. ‘Two hundred fifty-nine.’ She sized me up, ‘How much do you weigh?’ ‘English or Metric?’ She rolled her eyes then said, ‘English.’.....*

*Well I’m seven. I weight forty-five pounds. I wear a size 6 shoe and I’m three feet ten inches tall.’ My mind whispered again. ‘O tiger’s heart wrappe’d in a woman’s hide.’*

They are thrown together soon when she is hit by a bread delivery truck.

People become real and the stories demand you follow. There are eight books in the UHBC Library by Charles Martin, each with engaging stories of those tending others in loving and demanding relationships.

**-Romona Baker, for the Library Staff**

