



WELCOMING
EVERYONE TO A
BIGGER TABLE.

THE CORNER

uhbc.org  

SUNDAY MORNING LIFE GROUPS - 9:15AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP - 10:30AM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - 6PM

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

(a CBF/ABC Church)

CRITER

Aug 2025

From Sunscreen to School Supplies: Embracing the Season Ahead

It happens every year. One minute we're slathering on sunscreen and soaking in long summer evenings, and the next we're standing in the school supply aisle wondering how it all flew by so quickly.

August is a month of transition. The calendar still says summer, but the rhythm of life starts to shift. Backpacks get packed, routines return, and our schedules fill up with school nights, practices, and meetings. And while that change can be a little overwhelming, it also offers us something beautiful—a fresh start.

The beginning of a new school year is a natural time for new energy, renewed focus, and recommitment. For students, teachers, and families, it's a time of possibility and growth. And for our church, it's a chance to step into the season ahead with intentionality and joy.

This season also brings with it a unique window of opportunity. People are more likely to visit a church or look for a new place of worship in the fall than at almost any other time of year. New routines bring openness to new rhythms—including spiritual ones. Whether it's a young family getting their kids settled in school, a college student arriving in Springfield, or a neighbor ready to reconnect after summer travels—this is a moment for invitation, welcome, and hospitality.

Let's lean into that. Let's be a church that's not just ready for guests but actively expecting them. A kind word, a warm smile, an empty seat saved—these small gestures can mean everything to someone looking for hope, connection, or a new beginning. This fall, let's be the church that helps people find their way home.

This August, we have several special opportunities to gather, serve, and celebrate as a church family:

- **Saturday, August 9 – Rountree Elementary TLC Day:** Join us as we show love to our neighborhood school by helping prepare their campus for the new school year. This is a great way to bless our community through simple, hands-on service—mulching, organizing, cleaning, painting, and more. There's a job for every age and skill level!

Pastor's Corner

Continued on next page >>>

News and Notes

From the Library

I can only remember one book I have read more than one time. The first book I ever read that had big words in it was TARZAN OF THE APES. I reread it to my little son about 40 years ago. Maybe I should go back and see if I still like it.

I checked out THE BOOK OF HOURS from the UHBC library because I had really enjoyed it. To write a review I needed to look through it. Instead, I began reading it, again! I had forgotten why I enjoyed it so much. Like an Agatha Christie, but without a single dead body, it was hard to put down. I dare not give away any of the story except to say it takes place in an ancient English mansion with hidden rooms, having only a half dozen well defined characters who must solve riddles to avoid community wide consequences.

A little history, a little prayer, a little romance, and even a car chase and a villain combine to make the book doubly entertaining, if you like mysteries.

The author, T. Davis Bunn, has 23 other books on his shelf in the library and I have read a couple, but perhaps THE BOOK OF HOURS is the one worth reading twice.

-Romona Baker



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• **Wednesday, August 13 6 PM – End of Summer Church Picnic:** Don't miss this evening of food, fun, and fellowship as we mark the end of summer together. Bring family, a friend, and your appetite. Whether you've been around all summer or just returning from vacation, this is a great way to reconnect and start the fall with joy.

• **Sunday, August 24 – One Day to Feed the World:** This special offering through Convoy of Hope invites us to give one day's wages to fight global hunger. It's a powerful act of worship and a meaningful way to extend compassion beyond ourselves.

As we make this seasonal shift, I invite you to do more than just check off the to-do list. Take time to reflect, re-center, and recommit. This fall, let's lean into who we are as a church—a thoughtful, gentle community that makes everything about Jesus. Let's start strong. Let's show up. And let's keep saying "yes" to the Spirit's invitation to grow, serve, and love.

I can't wait to see what God will do in and through us this season.

With gratitude and hope,

—Pastor Nolan

MISSIONS & MINISTRY



Mission Group Joint Meeting & Salad Luncheon

Tuesday, August 19, Noon, Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Clint & Rachel Miller, Missionaries to the Middle East

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Clint Miller and his wife, Rachael, have been missionaries to the middle east for 22 years. They have three children and are now back in the states to get the youngest one started in her freshman year of college.

Clint grew up in Springfield, attended our UHBC Vacation Bible School, and participated in our youth activities. He left Springfield to attend Baylor University. While there he attended Highland Baptist Church and then their Missionary Training School. His grandparents were Elzie and Miriam Miller, long-time members of our church, and he is the nephew of David Miller.

Clint and Rachael worked in Lebanon for nine years, and they are now in the Arab Gulf. Their primary focus is starting house churches. They have also started a prayer room where new believers can go anytime for regular prayer. Many of the Muslims are becoming Christians. One of the important parts of Clint and Rachael's work is an anti-trafficking ministry in Dubai, helping people to escape sex trafficking. Clint and Rachel also work with refugees and nomadic peoples teaching job skills so they can find better jobs.

This is a great opportunity to hear about mission work in the middle east.

Hungarian High Schoolers Apply To High School

The Hungarian high school fair is very similar and equivalent to an American college fair. Each high school participates in multiple fairs to showcase their school and the unique opportunities offered. The students pass from booth to booth, hearing presentations and collecting information. The students take the information home to discuss with their parents. Once the family selects the schools that they are interested in, then interviews and appointments to attend open lessons are scheduled.

Hungarian students must be accepted into the high school and acceptance is based on a point system. The school determines their own admission point criteria based on the 8th grade national exam scores, the student's middle school overall GPA, and the school's specific requirements. **YES. All of this to attend high school.**

Carmella Jones, American Baptist missionary in Budapest, Hungary, wrote "My proudest English teacher moment was when one of my 8th-grade students, whom I have taught since she was in 1st grade, told me she passed the national language exam in preparation for high school". Jones reports that the Hungarian government is committed to youth learning English.

Jones teaches in Pannonhalmi, a regular high school that prepares students for university. While the school does not offer a specialized curriculum as some do, two things make it attractive. Students with learning disabilities are welcome. Although it is not a bilingual school, classes are offered in Chinese, Russian and Spanish. Many of the children are quite interested in languages, and this has led to a beautiful, increasingly diverse student population speaking languages confidently.

**Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:
The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!
Psalm 118:15**

Comment: Mission work takes many forms.

—Gerre Brown, on behalf of M&M

**News and
Notes**

Youth Ministry

Thank You for Three Incredible Years

As I close this chapter of serving as youth pastor, I want to share how much these past three years have meant to me. When I stepped into this role, I could not have imagined how deeply I would come to love and care for our students or how much this ministry would shape my life.

Some of my favorite memories are the times our youth led Sunday services. Watching the students step into leadership, pour their hearts into worship, and inspire the congregation was an absolute joy. They rose to the occasion both times, and I could not have been prouder. Another highlight has been the mentorship program. Seeing the bonds that formed and the blessings that flowed from those relationships was a beautiful reminder of the power of community and intentional care.

Serving in this ministry has taught me so much. I have learned that faith looks different for everyone, and that you never truly know how God is moving in someone's heart, even if it is not immediately visible. These students have impacted me more than I can say. Each one is uniquely beautiful, full of potential, and has so much to offer the world.

To our students, I want you to know how much I love you and how proud I am of you. Even though I am stepping down, I still hope to be part of your lives and cheer you on in every step of your journey. To the parents and to the entire church family, thank you for trusting me with this incredible responsibility and for giving me the opportunity to serve in this way.

This experience has also led me to a new calling. Through my time as youth pastor, I discovered a deep passion for working with teens, which has inspired me to return to grad school this fall to pursue my MAT degree and become a high school English teacher.

Thank you, church family, for walking alongside me, encouraging me, and allowing me to grow in this role. Serving as your youth pastor has been one of the greatest blessings of my life, and I will carry these memories and relationships with me always.

-Lisa Porter, Youth Pastor

Welcome Baby Kieran!

We are thrilled to celebrate with Kathleen, our long time nursery leader, on the arrival of her sweet baby boy, **Kieran James Roark**.



For many years, Kathleen has lovingly cared for the littlest members of our church family- and now it's our turn to bless her and her growing family.

If you'd like to show your support, consider gifting a meal or gift card. Some of their favorite spots include Pizza Hit, Domino's, Jersey Mike's, Chick-fil-A, Cheddar's, Bricktown Brewery, Jose Locos, and Big Whiskey's. Let's come together to show our appreciation for all the love Kathleen has poured into our children over the years!

Any gifts can be dropped off in the church office with Teresa. Heather Twibell will be collecting them and delivering everything to Kathleen and her family.



**Kieran James
Roark**

7/7/2025, 9:07pm
7 lbs 9 oz, 20.5" long



This month in Children's Ministry, we're exploring what it truly means to have faith; where it comes from, how it grows, and how we can live it out every day. Faith can feel like a big concept for kids, especially when they're trying to understand a God they can't physically see. That's why we're taking time in August to help them realize that faith isn't a blind leap, but a confident trust in a God who has always been faithful.

Through stories from the book of Genesis, we'll look at how God has kept His promises from the very beginning. As we study scripture and reflect on our own experiences, we'll help kids recognize the many ways we can see God at work in the world, in the lives of others, and even in their own hearts.

Our theme verse this month comes from Romans 10:17 (NIRV):

"Faith comes from hearing the message. And the message that is heard is the message about Christ."

We'll remind our kids that faith doesn't come from trying harder, but from hearing God's Word, learning what Jesus said and did, and trusting that He's still working today. As kids put their trust into action, their faith will grow because Jesus is the Author and Perfector of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

August Highlights & Happenings

We have some exciting things planned this month:

August 6 – Outdoor Game Night

We'll kick off the month with fun and fellowship as we play outdoor games during our Wednesday night time.

August 10 – Robby Prickett's Baptism

Join us in celebrating Robby Prickett as he takes this important step of faith through baptism! What a joy to witness God's work in the hearts of our children.

August 13 – Back to School Bash

Before school kicks into full swing, we'll celebrate summer and the new school year with our Back to School Bash—a night full of games, fun, and encouragement for the year ahead!

August 17 – Promotion Sunday

Robby Prickett and Claudia Young will officially move up to the Youth Ministry. We are so proud of them and look forward to seeing how God continues to grow their faith in this next chapter. We'll also welcome two new friends to Children's Ministry: Finley Jennings and Winston Goodson, who will be moving up from the nursery. We're excited to have them join us!

August 20 – Regular Wednesday Night Activities Resume

We'll return to our regular Wednesday night schedule with new lessons and fun ways to grow together.

Thank you for continuing to support and pray for our kids as they learn to trust and follow Jesus. Whether it's through hearing God's Word, worshiping together, or watching a peer be baptized, we know that God is actively growing a strong foundation of faith in this next generation. And what a blessing it is to be part of that work!

-Heather Twibell, Children's Pastor

**Children's
Ministry**

What's Happening?

PLUS

August 9—Rountree Elementary TLC Day

August 24—One Day to Feed the World

See Pastor Nolan's article for details!

August

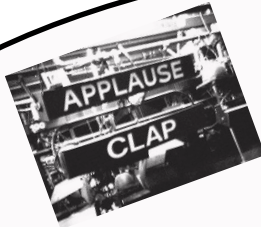


3RD	Lifegroups, Worship, Lord's Supper	14TH	Youth Group Serve Springfield Fun Day
6TH	Bible Study, Youth/Kids Game Night	17TH	Lifegroups, Worship, Promotion Day
10TH	Lifegroups, Worship	20TH	Regular Wednesday Night Schedule/Programming Resumes
13TH	Summer Celebration Extravaganza - Church Wide Event Featuring Food Trucks, Games, Fellowship, Etc	24TH	Lifegroups, Worship, Board Meetings
		27TH	Bible Study, Youth, Kids Choir Resumes

Unless otherwise noted, dinner will take place at 5:15 each Wednesday night. Please see the weekly announcements for further details on events and dinner. This is not an exhaustive list of summer events - please see weekly updates throughout the summer.

August 17

has been set by the Board of Deacons as



Staff Appreciation Day!

Join us for a small reception after worship to recognize them together as a church family.

There will be a box in the narthex for cards and tokens of appreciation. Please take a few moments to recognize UHBC staff members for their hard work and dedication!

(Because of the reception there will not be donuts in between Life Groups and Worship on this day.)



Aug 1	Mary Ann Jennings Jo Simkins	Aug 9	Nina Roberts	Aug 19	Margaret Rainey
Aug 2	Randy Baldwin Miles Porter	Aug 14	Ethan Ang	Aug 20	Seth Prickett Marilyn Williams
Aug 3	Cyril Brown Brett Dudenhoeffer	Aug 15	Molly Haynes	Aug 23	Linda Herr Ron Parry
Aug 5	Steve Losh	Aug 16	Ethan Bryan Jeddi Schlueter	Aug 25	Peggy Mullins
Aug 8	Catherine Broaddus	Aug 17	Jack Jennings	Aug 27	Tina Miller (Joe)
		Aug 18	Brooklyn Twibell		



Praying for What's Next

Just around the corner is a brand new semester. I'm sure some of us don't want to be reminded of that, but I think there are others who are excited about it. I'm one of those who are ready for whatever new is around the corner.

I think what's next can be exciting, intimidating, and exhausting - all at the same time. That's why whatever is next needs to be met with active and intentional prayer.

1. Read Scripture: John 4:4-42, Luke 7:36-50, and Luke 19:1-10. Scripture isn't full of fairy tales where the people are perfect, and things always work out. The Bible gives us the stories of real-life people. It shows us a picture of brokenness and forgiveness. And in our broken and fragile humanity, Jesus meets us there in our lostness.
2. As we prepare for a new season of ministry at UHBC, pray for those who lead us. We are blessed with a great group of teachers and leaders! Open your directory app or pick up a directory and pray for them by name. Pray for inspiration and that they might feel cared for as they continue to lead in this new season. And, while you're at it pray that there might be new people who step into a season of servant leadership.
3. Pray for our ministry space. We know that buildings and grounds are just tools God uses to reach and serve people well. As you pray, remember that every space and feature of the building and grounds would be used to inspire, serve, and connect people to God and one another. As you pray, think about the people we haven't met yet who might occupy this space and be blessed by ministry here.
4. Pray for our community. The church is not a building, the church is a group of people. We are God's people, chosen to reach out to others in our own neighborhood and across the globe. Remember those we share life with, and those our church will reach with a message of welcome, comfort, hope and life.
5. Pray for yourself. How might God use you in this new season? Pray for a renewed vision. Pray that God would fill you with an amazing love for others. Who are the people God would have you serve? Who are the people you see and interact with every day? Are there family members who need God's grace and love? Where are the marginalized you might serve?

Praying for you as you pray!

Let's do something that requires something miraculous.

Blessings,

-Joe

Wake Up
and Smell
the Coffee

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

(Located at the Corner of Grand & National)

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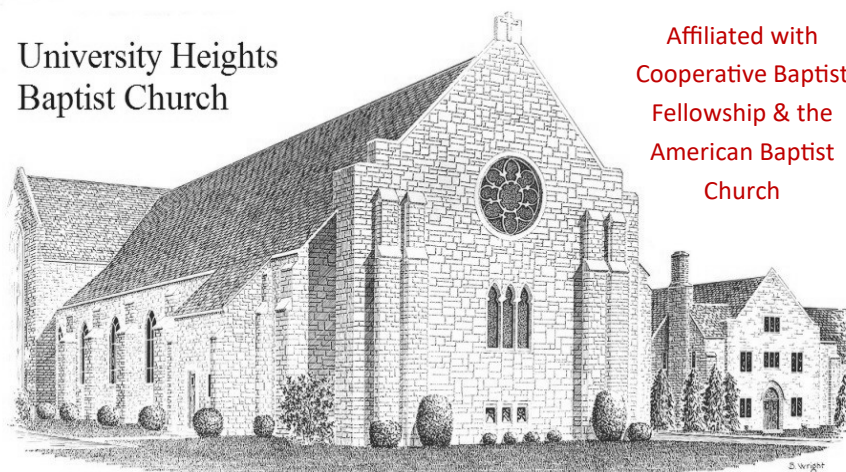
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Dr. Nolan B. Porter

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