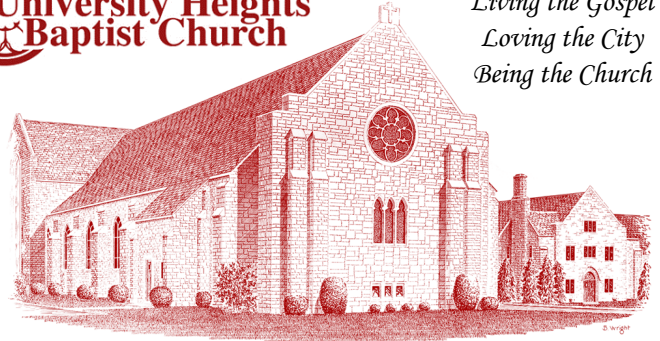


THE CORNER CRIER

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

February 2025

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Thoughts

Reflecting God's Love Through Diversity and Inclusion

As we step into February, a month often associated with love, I find myself reflecting on the profound ways God calls us to demonstrate love—not just in words, but in action. Love, as Scripture teaches us, is patient, kind, and selfless (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). It is also inclusive, reaching beyond boundaries to embrace all of God's children.

Growing up, the church my family attended held a layperson preaching series each summer. Many of those years, my grandmother volunteered. Year after year, she was turned away—not because of her ability or character, but simply because she was a woman. Like many of you, I grew up in a church where women were rarely seen in leadership roles, whether preaching, praying, or leading in worship. Passing the offering plate as an usher was even off limits. I am deeply grateful that my daughters and wife are part of a church like University Heights, where they can experience the fullness of life in the body of Christ without being limited by their gender.

This story reminds me of the importance of creating spaces where everyone—regardless of gender, background, or circumstance—can fully participate in the life of the church. It's a reminder that diversity and inclusion are not just cultural buzzwords but deeply biblical principles.

In Revelation 7:9, we catch a glimpse of God's eternal kingdom: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." This vision is a powerful reminder that God's love transcends all human divisions. It is a love that unites us in our diversity and calls us to reflect that unity here and now.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus consistently demonstrated this inclusive love. He crossed cultural and social boundaries to connect with people like the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) and the Roman centurion (Matthew 8). He welcomed children when others dismissed them (Mark 10:13-16) and dined with those society had cast aside (Luke 19:1-10). His love was radical, intentional, and without prejudice.

As a church, we are called to follow His example. This means ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors feels seen, valued, and welcomed. It means listening to stories different from our own, celebrating the unique ways God has created each of us, and standing alongside those who have been marginalized. It means recognizing and nurturing the gifts of all members of our congregation, regardless of gender, race, or background.

This month, I invite us all to consider how we can better live out this love in action. Who in our community needs to feel more welcomed? How can we extend hospitality in ways that go beyond words? How can we reflect the heart of Christ by embracing the beauty of diversity?

I am thankful to be part of a church that strives to love as Jesus loves. Let us continue to grow in that love—together. May we be a community that reflects the fullness of God's kingdom, where every person knows they belong.

Pastor Nolan

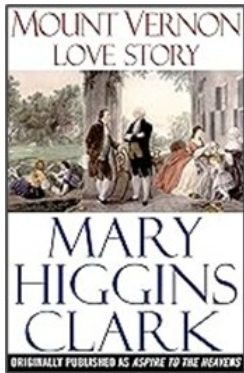
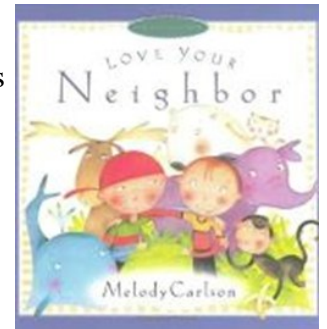
New Year, Fresh Starts

In the month of February, many people think of Valentine's Day and their loved ones.

Our church library has almost 100 books related to love for God, family, friends, and others in children's books, biography, non-fiction and fiction categories.

Following are a few examples of our current holdings, ready for you to check out:

Children's: *Love Your Neighbor (Just Like Jesus Said)* by Melody Carlson presents children with typical situations they may face every day and shows how the children should conduct themselves by illustrating what Jesus would have said or done.



Biography:

Mount Vernon Love Story: George and Martha Washington is an extensively researched biographical novel by Mary Higgins Clark who brings the history, the love, and the man fully and dramatically alive; dispelling the widespread beliefs about his best friend's wife, the author describes the Washington marriage as one full of tenderness and passion.

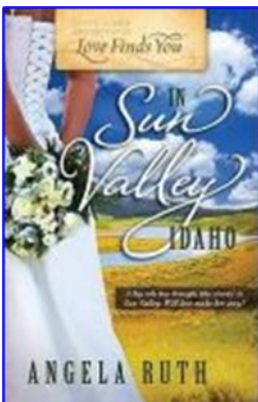
Non-Fiction:

- *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts: Seven Questions to Ask Before – and After – You Marry* by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott
- *Creating Love: The Next Great Stage of Growth* by John Bradshaw
- *Love Must Be Tough: New Hope for Marriage* by James Dobson
- *Courtship After Marriage: Romance Can Last a Lifetime* by Zig Ziglar
- *Love is a Decision: Proven Techniques to Keep Your Marriage Alive and Lively* by Gary Smalley and John Trent
- *The Miracle of Love (a Chicken Soup for the Soul book) is 101 Stories about Hope, Soul Mates, and New Beginnings*. This book includes the story of how Jeanetta and Keith Chrystie met.



Fiction:

- *Love Finds You in Sun Valley Idaho* by Angela Ruth
- *Speak to Me of Love* by Robin Lee Hatcher
- *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers
- *A Requiem for Love* by Calvin Miller



Happy Reading!

- Sue Grindstaff and Jeanetta Chrystie, UHBC library co-directors

MISSIONS & MINISTRY



Mission Group Meetings

Tuesday, February 11

9:30am Hackett/Williams —

1pm Mann Group—making blankets for Child Advocacy Center



Missionary kids (MKs) are integral to cross-cultural ministry as witnesses of God's love to their peers. Things the Juanes kids — Sidney (14), Gavin (12), Kolin (9) — want you to know about following God in Thailand with their parents, Alise and Mark Juanes:

- **You'll say a lot of goodbyes.** "One of the hardest things is leaving your friends," Gavin said. The good news is that "you get to make new friends from all over the world."
- **The trip is long.** It took the Juanes family 24 hours to travel from California to Chiang Mai. No one slept on the plane. "I was crying by the time we arrived because I was so tired," Sydney reported.
- **God's timing is everything.** The family landed in Thailand right before the COVID-19 shutdown. "It was definitely hard," Gavin said, "but it was all in God's timing."
- **You can love someone even if you don't know the word for "love" in their language.** "We don't know how to tell them about God in Thai yet," Sydney shared, "so we show them God's love through out actions."
- **Not everyone knows what a family is, but you can show them.** "Once a week, college students who have been raised in the House of Love come over to our home for dinner just to experience what it's like to be in a family," Gavin said.
- **God will change your heart.** Sydney knows God is moving in her life now because when she sees someone who is sad or has a disability, she is moved to reach out to them with compassion, care, and friendship.
- **You'll see God do amazing things.** HOL began as a ministry to HIV-positive women and their children, but the focus has shifted to helping families work through challenges and foster a safe environment where their kids can thrive. "It's nice to know this is making an impact in Thailand," Gavin said. "Even if it means just united a few families, that's still a huge success."

Gerre Brown, for M & M

Safe to Sleep

M&M invites everyone to join in collecting the following items for Safe to Sleep women's shelter.

Throughout February, we will be collecting the following items for Safe to Sleep.

These items may be left in the baskets in front of the church library.

Deodorant

Warm gloves

Coffee (regular and decaf)

Dry cereal

Adult coats

Pop tarts

Oatmeal (packs)

Dry coffee creamer

Bus passes

Hot hands

Mr. Clean

Kleenex (boxes & travel size)

Cough Drops

Large size shampoo & conditioner

Chapstick

Items listed in **red** are especially urgent needs.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

WE'RE GOING TO

Bigstuf 2025

JUNE 20 - 24

Summer Camp
is around the
corner!

WHY BIGSTUF

"FOR OVER 35 YEARS, BIGSTUF HAS BEEN LEADING IMPACTFUL CAMPS THAT ARE A CORNERSTONE OF OUR MINISTRY. FROM ENERGETIC SESSIONS TO MEANINGFUL SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS, BIGSTUF ENCOURAGES STUDENTS IN THEIR FAITH, EQUIPPING THEM TO LIVE IT OUT LONG AFTER CAMP ENDS."

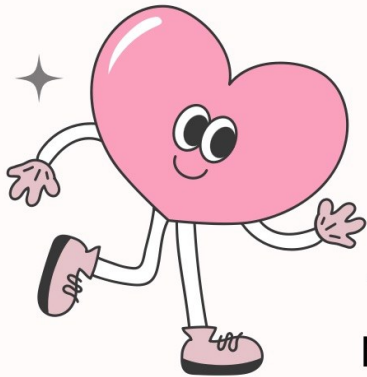
There are still
a few spots
available.

Please reach
out to Lisa
to sign your
student up!

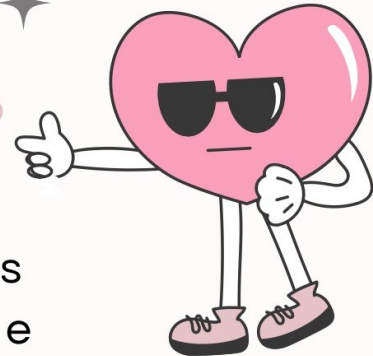
WHY BIGSTUF

POWERFUL WORSHIP
CHALLENGING MESSAGES
INSIGHTFUL SMALL GROUP CONVOS
BUILDING COMMUNITY
BEACH VOLLEYBALL
SPIKE-BALL
JUMPING IN THE OCEAN
BASKETBALL
THEMED LATE NIGHT EVENTS
& MORE!

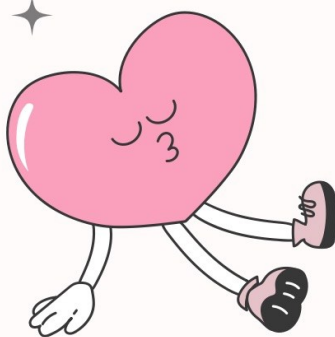
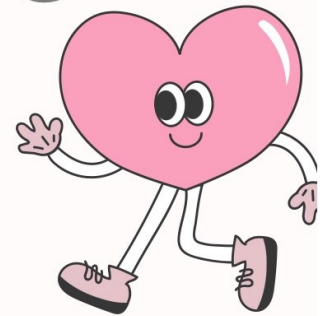
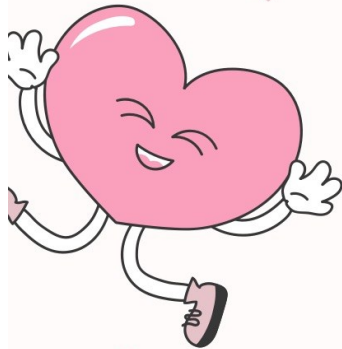
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



The Children's
Ministry will be
celebrating



Valentine's Day 12 February



6-7:15pm in The
Treehouse
3rd floor



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------|
| 2 | Alicyn Jennings | 17 | Jackson Jones |
| 3 | Annabeth Jones | 18 | Dana Brown |
| 3 | Heather Twibell | 21 | Brett Guillory |
| 6 | Bill Stone | 23 | Diane Schafer |
| 8 | Karen Parry | 26 | Will Brammer |
| 11 | Robby Prickett | 26 | Cathy Megee |
| 12 | Kay Procell | 26 | Joe Miller |
| 15 | Richard Baker | 28 | Dane Smith |



FEBRUARY at U Heights 2025



University Heights Baptist Church

SOUPER BOWL

February 9th

Wear your favorite team gear and bring canned soup for Grand Oaks Mission

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 The Lord's Supper Youth Nerf Night	3	4	5 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm Kids Activities, 6pm	6	7	8
9 Souper Bowl Combined Life Groups 9:15	10	11 M&M Meetings Hackett/Williams 9:30am Mann Group 1pm	12 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm 6pm Children's Valentine's Party	13	14	15 Christian Writers' Group, 10am Church hosting Hand in Hand meeting 4pm
16 Youth-led Sunday	17	18	19 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm Kids Activities, 6pm	20	21	22
23 Board Meetings, 4pm	24	25	26 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm Kids Activities, 6pm	27	28	

FROM JOE MILLER

"How you spend your days is how you spend your life." Annie Dillard

"Time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively." Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from a Birmingham Jail

I don't know about you, but I need a daily routine. I need to know where the day is headed, and when I don't, I don't handle it well. Even when on vacation, I need the down time to be part of the schedule. I didn't always know this, so it took about forty years, a time management book, and some really good questions for me to see this about myself.

You may not need routine like I do, however most of us need to be mindful of our time. Each day is an opportunity to live purposefully aligned around our values and vision. It's an opportunity to ask some healthy questions:

Where am I going?
Why am I going there?
How will I get there?
Who are the people on the journey with me?

As followers of Jesus, we are always traveling. We are always headed in a direction, whether by our intention or by the waves of culture. That's why it's vital we know who we are and what kind of people we want to be.

With that said, here's a daily routine you might try:

In an attitude of prayer:

1. Spend three minutes naming what you are grateful for.
2. Spend three minutes naming and thinking about the people you might encounter and serve.
3. Ask God to remind you of your purpose, if you have a vision statement, say it.
4. Spend three minutes asking God to prepare you to see challenges as gifts.
5. Read a passage of Scripture, perhaps out loud.

Let's be intentional with our days.

Hope this is helpful!

Blessings,

-Joe

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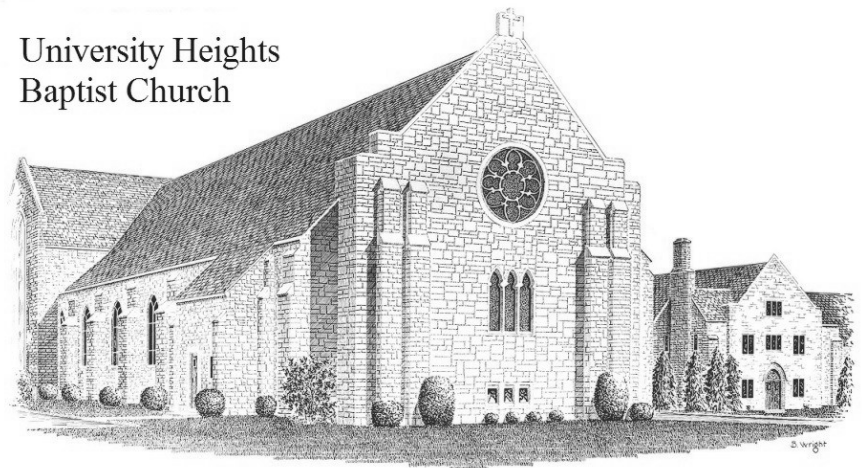
Springfield, MO 65804



Senior Pastor,

Dr. Nolan B. Porter

University Heights
Baptist Church



Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries. 417-862-0789 or visit our website: www.uhbc.org. or email us at uhbc@uhbc.org.