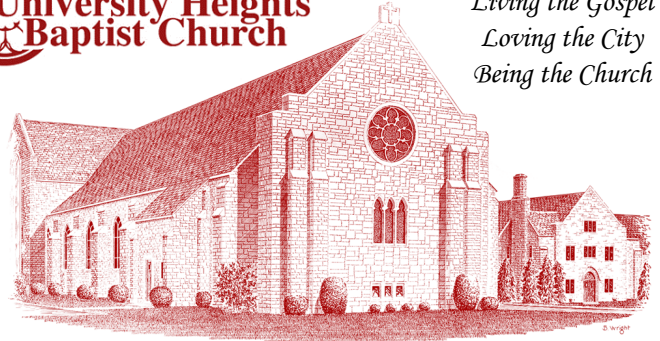


THE CORNER CRIER

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

January 2025

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Thoughts

As we close out 2024 and look toward 2025, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for all God has done in and through our church this year. It has been a year of tremendous spiritual and numerical growth — a testament to the Lord's faithfulness and your incredible commitment as a faith family. Together, we've celebrated new members, witnessed lives transformed, and grown deeper in our discipleship to Jesus.

I am also thrilled to share that for the third consecutive year, we've surpassed our budget goal. This milestone reflects not only God's provision but also your steadfast generosity and trust in His work through this church. Your giving enables us to minister effectively, reach our community, and expand our efforts to bring hope and the good news of Christ to a world that desperately needs it.

A special word of thanks goes out to everyone who has served this year — on boards, committees, in church offices, and behind the scenes. Your willingness to step in, show up, and make things happen has been inspiring. Whether it's teaching Sunday School, setting up for events, or leading in worship, you've made a difference. And a heartfelt **thank you to Rick White**, who has faithfully served as our treasurer for the last 11 years. *Rick, your dedication and stewardship have been a tremendous blessing to this church, and we are deeply grateful for you.*

While we have much to celebrate, the call to follow Jesus is never static. As a church, we are always being called to what's next — the next step in our faith, the next opportunity to serve, the next goal to pursue as we grow together. As we enter 2025, we are launched into the future with a renewed sense of mission. In January, we will begin discerning and setting specific goals for our church family, asking God to guide us toward the next season of fruitful ministry.

Thank you, church, for your faithfulness and commitment. Your love for God and one another is evident in all that you do, and it's an honor to serve as your pastor. Let's continue to trust in God's faithfulness and step boldly into what He has planned for us next.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Pastor Nolan

**THE ORDINATION
OF MARILYN
BROADDUS AND
JAY MILLER TO
THE DEACON
MINISTRY OF UHBC**

**DURING MORNING
WORSHIP**

**26 | 10:30
JAN | AM**

**JOIN US AS WE SET
APART THESE
SERVANT LEADERS
FOR DEACON
MINISTRY & THINK
ABOUT HOW WE CAN
ALL BE SERVANTS IN
GOD'S KINGDOM**

New Year — Fresh Starts

At the beginning of a new year, we often look for fresh reads to enjoy and learn from as the year progresses. We see time stretching out before us. We refresh our to-do lists, plan projects, and schedule times when we hope to tackle them—even if the schedule only exists in our thoughts.

It's also important to include times of margin in our busy lives to rest, relax, and refresh. Curling up with a good book can be part of your inner vacation, even for a few minutes several times during a week.

Our church library has more than three dozen book series in both fiction and nonfiction.

- Fiction series in several genres: romance, westerns, mysteries, historical, and thrillers
- Fictionalized stories of Bible characters
- Fiction in books for young people
- Non-fiction books of short stories
- Non-fiction Bible studies

Following are a few examples of our recently acquired series:

The **Uncommon Heroes** series by Dee Henderson is a military romantic suspense series with Christian values.

- True Devotion, book 1
- True Valor, book 2
- True Honor, book 3
- True Courage, book 4

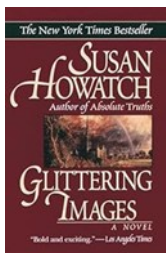


The English Garden series by Lori Wick are touching stories exemplifying Christ's love at work and God's sovereignty in the characters' lives.

- The Proposal, book 1
- The Rescue, book 2
- The Visitor, book 3
- The Pursuit, book 4

The O'Malley collection by Dee Henderson are inspirational stories of seven members of a family, each abandoned or orphaned as teens.

- #1 The Negotiator
- #2 The Guardian
- #3 The Truth Seeker
- #4 The Protector
- #5 The Healer
- #6 The Rescuer



The Church of England series by Susan Howatch centers on the beautiful Cathedral of Starbridge depicting spiritual hubris, the seductions of power, and the moral dilemmas of England between the wars.

- #1 Glittering Images
- #2 Glamorous Powers
- #3 Ultimate Prizes
- #4 Scandalous Risks
- #5 Mystical Paths
- #6 Absolute Truths

Happy New Year!

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

MISSIONS & MINISTRY



Combined Mission Groups Meeting

Tuesday, January 7, 1pm, Fellowship Hall
Speaker: Tina Miller from Lutheran Family and Children's Services
(Hackett/Williams Group Hosting)

Hurray! We exceeded our Global Missions offering goal!

Received to date: **\$7398.00**

THANK YOU to those who gave and to those who helped with Global Missions Sunday!

The willingness of so many of you to help with our Global Missions Sunday made it a success. God guided in the plans and blessed our efforts. A special thanks to all who got up early to make an egg casserole and to all who supplemented it with breads and fruit. And thank you to many others who helped in important ways!

Thank you to the children, youth, college, and "old timers" who carried a flag for the Parade of Flags. This is a great way to call attention to the many countries of the world who need to hear about God's love for them. The flags are a reminder that our partners, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and American Baptist Churches USA take the message of God's love to the world.

Our speaker, Dianne McNary, told us about the many ways CBF personnel are serving around the world.



Safe to Sleep

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

Beginning **January 19 and 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

As we step into a new year, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for what God has in store for our youth ministry. Reflecting on the journey we've been on together, I am reminded of the incredible growth we've already experienced and am eager to see how we can build on that foundation in the months to come.

One of my greatest hopes for this year is to see our students grow deeper in their faith. Spiritual growth is at the heart of everything we do, and I want to create even more opportunities for our young people to encounter God in meaningful ways—through Bible studies, worship experiences, and intentional moments of prayer. My prayer is that every student would come to know God's love more deeply and feel equipped to live out their faith in their daily lives.

Another key focus is relational growth. The bonds we form within our ministry are vital to creating a sense of belonging and community. This year, I hope to foster stronger connections among our students, leaders, and families. Whether it's through small groups, retreats, or casual hangouts, I want to see relationships flourish and provide a safe space for everyone to feel seen, heard, and valued.

I am also eager to welcome new students into this ministry and to encourage the students that together, we can be a light to those around us and help new students feel embraced by the love of Christ.

Finally, I am passionate about continuing to grow the intergenerational aspects of our ministry. There is so much wisdom and encouragement that can be shared between generations, and I want to see those connections thrive. Whether it's through our mentor program, events like the tea party, or simply creating more opportunities for interaction, I believe these relationships are essential for the spiritual health of our ministry and our church as a whole.

As we move forward, let's commit to praying for one another and for the vision God has placed on our hearts for the future of our church and the ministries within. I am so grateful to walk alongside you all in y this church and ministry, and I can't wait to see how God will use us to make an impact in our church, our community, and beyond.

Here's to a year of growth, connection, and faith!

Lisa Porter, Youth Pastor

What is Stewardship?

According to the internet, it is the job of supervising or taking care of something. It is more than just tithing — it's respecting and taking good care of the things God has provided for you and your family. Maybe you don't have a fancy new car, but take care of the one you have. Keep it clean inside and out. Same thing with your home. It may not be a palace, but maintain it inside and out. Same thing with your clothes. They may not carry Ralph Lauren labels, but keep them clean, mended, and on hangers.

It seems to me that as Christians we should take care of all the things we've been blessed with in a respectable way and yes, this includes our finances. Guard it like your very future depends on it.

Brenda Hall, for the Stewardship Committee

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

A Busy and Blessed December in Children's Ministry!

Wow, what a fast month December has been! It's been a whirlwind here in Children's Ministry as we celebrated Jesus' birthday and all the joy that comes with the Christmas season. We've had so much fun this month, and I'm excited to share all that we've been up to!

The kids have been learning all about the amazing story of Jesus' birth, and they got to live out that story in our Live Nativity on December 15th. What a special morning it was! We had a wonderful cast, with Adeline Jennings playing Mary, Reese Stockton as Joseph, and the cutest Baby Jesus ever—little Jack Jennings, the newest member of our UHBC family! It was such a joy to watch the kids step into their roles with so much heart and enthusiasm. I also want to give a huge shout-out to Amy Stockton for helping keep everything on track and making sure the kids stayed in their spots—thank you, Amy!



In addition to the Nativity, our Sonshine Singers, led by Miss Lauren Vomund, have been busy spreading joy through music. They sang at the Missions Banquet on December 8th and again on December 22nd, blessing the congregation with beautiful songs of praise. We even had some brave soloists who did an amazing job! It's been such a joy watching the kids grow in confidence and shine in front of their church family.

God is doing something amazing in their lives, and I'm so grateful to be a part of it. We wrapped up the month with a fun Christmas party on December 22nd in The Treehouse. The kids enjoyed a movie, played games, had some yummy snacks, and received their Christmas gifts. What a wonderful way to celebrate the season and all that we've experienced together!



This has truly been an incredible year in Children's Ministry, and I'm beyond thankful for the opportunity to serve your kiddos. It's such a privilege to walk alongside them as they grow in their faith and understanding of Jesus. Thank you, parents and church family, for trusting me with your precious children and for being such an amazing support to our ministry. I can't wait to see what 2025 holds for our kids and for all of us here at UHBC.

The cast: *Back row:* Liam Twibell (shepherd), Willa Jones (shepherd and narrator), Robby Prickett (wise man), Preston Hake (wise man narrator), Harlow Porter (wise woman and narrator), Kelsey Stockton (angel and narrator), Claudia Young (angel), Elliot Miller (angel and narrator), Liliana Minor (angel and narrator), Payton Karnes (angel), Holly Herr (angel). *Middle row:* Adeline Jennings (Mary) holding baby Jack Jennings (baby Jesus), Suzana Boyts (angel), Reese Stockton (Joseph). *Front row:* Harrison Minor (sheep), Finley Jennings (donkey), Winston Goodson (sheep), and Arthur Goodson (camel).



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!
With love and blessings,

Heather Twibell, Children's Pastor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Curtis Jones | 17 | Sheri Bryan |
| 2 | Carla Kirchener | 17 | Susan Ang |
| 2 | Tom Edelman | 18 | Becky Donaldson |
| 3 | Patrick Twibell | 18 | Nate Schlueter |
| 4 | Bob Perry | 19 | Marilyn Broaddus |
| 6 | Adeline Jennings | 19 | Marion Wolf |
| 8 | Rhonda Ridinger | 19 | Phil Jones |
| 9 | Kim Woody | 19 | Vicky Scott |
| 9 | Sue Grindstaff | 20 | Carole Fortner |
| 10 | Steve Stepp | 23 | Phillip Hockensmith |
| 10 | Tom Inman | 24 | JC Rainey |
| 11 | Connie Smith | 24 | Leslie Arnold |
| 11 | Wayne Bartee | 25 | Renee Grant |
| 13 | Gerre Brown | 25 | Tina K Miller |
| 13 | Judy Weekley | 28 | Mark Arnold |
| 14 | Harley Snyder | 30 | Nina Lightner |
| 16 | Buanna Beach | 31 | Jim Hagan |
| 16 | Peggy Bush | | |



JANUARY 2025

at U Heights

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day No Wednesday Activities	2	3	4
5 The Lord's Supper	6	7 M&M Meetings	8 CHILI AND PIE Dinner! 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm	9	10	11 Christian Writers' Group, 10am
12	13	14	15 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm	16	17	18
19	20 MLK Day Church office closed	21	22 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm	23	24	25
26 Board Meetings, 4pm	27	28	29 Dinner 5:15pm 6pm Annual Business Meeting	30	31	

FROM JOE MILLER

"See, I am doing a new thing!" Isaiah 43:19

With every new year comes an opportunity for new growth and maturity. It invites us to start fresh with a new attitude, new goals, new challenges, new practices, and new expectations. The new year reminds us God is up to something and we are part of the something God is up to. The challenge for most of us, is always the challenge to greater receptivity; a greater awareness of what God desires to do in us and with us.

For some of us, we need to leave behind or say "goodbye" to some ways we did things in the past that weren't helpful or fruitful. For most of us, I would say all of us, we need the newness of taking a new step toward a new goal, a new challenge, or a new way of doing things. A new year gives us an opportunity to be honest about where we are, awareness of our need to grow, and the opportunity to do something about it.

So, in this new year and new season of life, make the decision to move deeper into who you were made to be. If we're honest, all of us can take one step and do one thing. Below are four ways to live intentionally in the new year.

1. Put yourself in a place to hear from God (worship/scripture/group/prayer).
2. Learn something new.
3. Invest in people.
4. Spend time cultivating a new vision for how God might partner with you for the greater good in 2025.

P.S. Don't forget to do this with people.

Blessings,

-Joe



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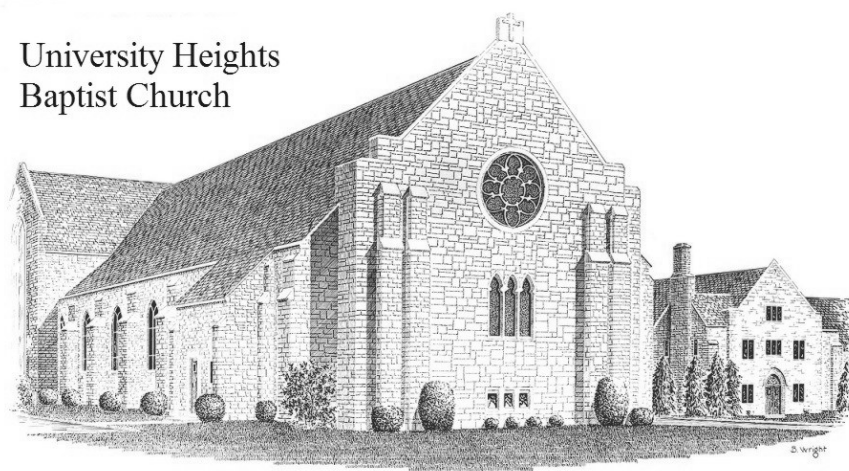
Springfield, MO 65804



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.