



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

July 2025

Faith That Endures in the Dog Days of Summer

They call these the dog days of summer—that long, hot stretch of July and August when the days feel slower, the sun feels hotter, and routines seem to melt like dropped popsicles on the sidewalk. Vacations scatter us in different directions. School is still weeks away (“thank God,” I just heard a teacher and student say) and the energy we had at the beginning of the year sometimes feels like a distant memory.

And yet—even in the heat and haze and humidity - God is still at work.

In fact, I often find that spiritual growth happens not so much in the mountaintop moments but in these in-between seasons. When life is slower, when routines are out of rhythm, when we’re tempted to coast—those are often the moments that shape us. Those are the times we learn what it means to abide with Christ. Not just run for him. Not just work for him. But to remain in him. To let our roots sink down deep and to go further into the deep end of the pool with him.

And I hope you know, I am so grateful for this church family. Even in these dog days of summer where consistency is hard to find and everyone is looking forward to their next trip, I continue to see the Spirit move through your faithfulness, your generosity, your encouragement, and your care for one another. You are a blessing. You are a witness. You are proof that even in anxious times in the world, the church can still be a place of peace and purpose.

But let’s be honest: anxiety doesn’t take a vacation. Wouldn’t that be great? But, it doesn’t. Whether it’s watching the news, checking your bank account, navigating relationships, or worrying about what’s next—many of us are carrying heavy burdens. That’s why staying rooted in our faith matters so much. We don’t wait for the perfect time to grow. We grow now because now is what we have. We grow deep. We grow steady.

So, here are a few summer practices to help you keep your faith vibrant during these weeks of hot summer nights:

1. *Stay rooted in the Word.*

Pick one Psalm or Gospel chapter a week to slowly read, reflect, and pray over. Let Scripture shape your mindset and bring you peace. Rest in that word for the week and let it wash over you - don’t rush on to the next thing - let your mind and your heart sink down deep into it.

**Pastor's
Corner**

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OFFICE SUBSTITUTES

If you would be willing to have your name added to a list of possible subs for Teresa in the church office when she is out (which is not often, and thus far has been scheduled well in advance), please email her at teresa@uhbc.org, or call the office at 417-862-0789.

This could range from an hour or two up to a full day (5.5 hours) or, rarely, a full-week (4 days). You wouldn't have to take on the full absence - different volunteers can take it in shifts.

Duties would primarily be answering the phone, buzzing people in, and greeting visitors. Light office work based on skill and interests. And you also get to hang out with not one, but TWO awesome pastors!



Thank you!

Continued from Page 1

2. *Serve somebody.*

Do what you can, with what you have, as much as you can, for as long as you can to serve others in need. Serve quietly. Write a note of encouragement to a teacher preparing for the fall. Offer your help with a church project or a church ministry partner in the community. Small acts of service often carry the biggest blessings.

3. *Take prayer walks.*

Go for a walk in the early morning or evening, and pray as you go. Pray for the world. Pray for your neighborhood. Pray for your family. Pray for opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Pray for our church. Pray. Turn your steps into sacred time.

4. *Give intentionally.*

Summer is a time when church giving often dips, but ministry keeps going strong. Your continued generosity sustains our mission and purpose.

5. *Rest with purpose.*

Don't forget that Sabbath is a gift. Take a real day off. Let your soul breathe. Rest is resistance in a world that never stops.

The dog days may be long, but they don't have to be dry. This can be a season of deep, quiet growth. Of gentle trust. Of joyful endurance. Let's keep showing up for one another and for the mission of Christ. And let's remember: no matter the heat, God is still faithful.

With gratitude and hope,

-Pastor Nolan

MISSIONS & MINISTRY



Mission Group Meetings

Tuesday, July 8

WILLIAMS GROUP

Home Bound Visits 11:15am, then lunch at Neighbor's Mill

MANN GROUP

Whole Hog Restaurant, 12:30pm

THANK YOU for all your donations to Rare Breed Youth Services!

Thank you for your help to the homeless youth of Springfield. The personal hygiene items were needed and very much appreciated.

Also, food is donated on a weekly basis to help feed the youth.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Karen and Tom Dixon for leading this effort.



From the Library

Our UHBC library has a variety of topics and genre available. Here are a few examples.

- People interested in C.S. Lewis or Narnia books will find several non-fiction and fiction books ranging from older youth to adult reading levels. Come check for your favorite authors.
- Life Group leaders will discover more than 30 ready-made DVD-based and print Bible studies; plus, they can check-out Bible commentary reference books...yes, reference books!
- Early and pre-readers can browse hundreds of children's books along the south wall of the library.
- Our recent 'Meet the Missionary' series of almost 20 missionary-specific books, such as "Freeda Harris- Woman of Prayer" and "The Pattersons-Missionary Publishers" is aimed at older youth yet is also interesting and informative for adults.
- Mysteries abound for all ages, including well-loved children's classics and well-known authors of adult mysteries.
- Biographies and health-related books, crafts and poetry, many Chicken Soup for the Soul books, and Guideposts fiction series are all available for your learning and enjoyment during these hot summer days.

If you haven't peeked in the library in a while, please pause to visit and look around. Also, enjoy the library's fun summer window display created by Jan & Phil Hockensmith. Thanks, Jan & Phil!

-Jeanetta Chrystie

News and Notes

Youth Ministry

BigStuf 2025: A Week on The Flipside

This last week, our youth group had the incredible opportunity to attend BigStuf Youth Camp in Panama City Beach, FL and what a life-changing experience it was! With the beautiful Gulf Coast as our backdrop, we gathered with over 1100 other students from across the country to worship, learn, and grow in our relationship with God. The theme this year was “The Flipside”, a powerful reminder that God is in the business of transformation.



Throughout the week, we were challenged to see how God can take the things that weigh us down like fear, doubt, shame, insecurity and turn them around for His glory. In His grace, He invites us to turn away from our old stories and step into something new: a life marked by purpose, freedom, and joy. We were reminded that we are never too far gone for God to rewrite our narratives and bring light out of even the darkest places.

Between sessions, we got to enjoy the beauty of God’s creation as we swam in the ocean, watched the sun rise over the waves, and spent time with friends under wide, blue skies. The beach gave us time to laugh, connect, and just breathe. We are so thankful for God’s protection over our group and that we remained safe and well throughout the trip.

We had originally planned to take an airboat tour through the bayous one afternoon, but unfortunately, storms rolled in and the outing was canceled. However, before the rain came, we did get the unforgettable experience of holding a baby alligator named Marvin Gator which was a small but fun adventure that reminded us to be flexible and enjoy each moment, even when plans change.

None of this would have been possible without the faithful support of our church family. Thank you for every prayer, every dollar donated, every encouraging word, and every act of generosity that helped make this trip happen. We felt your prayers with us throughout the week, and we return home refreshed, transformed, and more committed than ever to following Jesus.

Thank you for helping us experience life on *The Flipside*.

-Lisa Porter, Youth Pastor





Summer Fun in Full Swing!

The first month of our Summer Fun has flown by, and what fun it's been! On Father's Day, the kids brought laughter to the whole congregation by sharing their best "dad jokes" in our Annual Father's Day videos. Their comedic timing was a gift in itself!

Our Wednesday nights have been full of fellowship and fun, enjoying sweet treats at Andy's with the youth, celebrating Pastor Nolan's birthday, and watching *The Bad Guys* in anticipation of the sequel coming later this summer. These evenings have truly been a highlight of the season.

Looking ahead to July, we're keeping the excitement going with outdoor games, water balloon battles, and a perennial favorite: Nerf Wars! Summer is such a special time in Kid's Ministry. There's nothing quite like the joy, laughter, and connection we share on Wednesday nights, and our time in the Treehouse learning how to love like Jesus is something I cherish deeply.

As we celebrate the season, we also prepare for a bittersweet transition. In August, we'll be sending two of our beloved kiddos—Robby Prickett and Claudia Young—up to the youth group. Robby and Claudia have been part of our ministry since kindergarten, and while it's hard to see them go, we are incredibly proud of who they're becoming. Watching them walk up the stairs to The Loft will be emotional, but we know they are stepping into the next chapter of their faith journey with courage and grace.

At the same time, we're thrilled to welcome two new faces to the Treehouse! Finley Jennings and Winston Goodson will be graduating from the nursery and joining us as they begin kindergarten this fall. We're excited to have them join their siblings and peers as part of our growing community.

In the coming month, our lessons will focus on how Jesus modeled what it means to truly value others. Through His life and actions, Jesus showed us how to love, care for, and lift up those around us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we'll explore how we can follow His example, even when it's hard. We'll talk about caring for, forgiving, teaching, and praying for one another, and how we can become the kind of people who build strong, loving communities.

This will wrap up our nine-week summer series focused on what it means to live and love like Jesus, and it's been nothing short of transformational. We can't wait to see what God continues to do in and through these amazing kids!

-Heather Twibell, Children's Pastor

**Children's
Ministry**

What's Happening?

Summer 2025 at University Heights

June

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1ST Lifegroups, Worship, Lord's Supper | 18TH Bible Study, Youth/Kids Movie Night & Last Choir Before Summer Break |
| 4TH Bible Study, Youth & Kids Andy's | 19TH-24TH Youth BigStuff Summer Camp at PCB |
| 5TH Youth Group Serve Springfield Day | 22ND Lifegroups, Worship, Board Meetings |
| 8TH Lifegroup, Worship | 23RD-26TH CBF General Assembly St. Louis |
| 11TH Bible Study, Youth/Kids Outdoor Games, Choir | 25TH No Midweek Activities |
| 15TH Father's Day, Lifegroups, Worship | 29TH Lifegroups, Worship, Students Camp Presentation |



July

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2ND Bible Study, Youth Group & Kids Min | 20TH Lifegroups, Worship |
| 7TH Lifegroups, Worship, Lord's Supper | 23RD Youth Group Serve Springfield Day |
| 9TH Bible Study, Youth Group, Kids Min | 23RD Quarterly Business Meeting, No Youth/Kids |
| 10TH Youth Group Serve Springfield Day | 27TH Lifegroups, Worship, Board Meetings |
| 13TH Lifegroups, Worship | 30TH Bible Study, Youth/Kids Nerf Night |
| 16TH Bible Study, Youth/Kids Water Night | |
| 19TH Kids/Youth & Families Swim Night | |



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.





Never Forget

At the tail end of June, I spent four and a half days travelling through a few sites detailing moments of regrettable, shameful, and painful history in the American South. This journey was called Sankofa, which is a word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. It means San (to return), ko (to go) fa (to fetch, seek, and take). Sankofa attests that we must look back before we can faithfully move forward together, in the present and the future.

Eighteen of us traveled together by bus through Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. Our time was painful, angering, difficult, and confusing, but at times it was also filled with beauty. We made emotional space for one another as we processed what we were experiencing. We practiced humility and curiosity, ready to learn with open hearts and open minds. Our journey began in Memphis, Tennessee, and we made our way through Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama visiting several historical sites along the way. Each place brought new conversations, new perspectives, new thoughts, new emotions, and new questions. As we made our way to Birmingham, Alabama, we read Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail". I hadn't read the letter since college and it was a far different experience reading it this time around. King's words rang more deeply in my soul while I was immersed in historical sites documenting the tangible suffering of people who had been created in God's image.

As I have reflected since my trip, some things have grabbed my attention and have changed the way I move forward:

1. Sometimes we literally need to walk where others have walked so we can understand their experience in a deeper way. Walking the Edmund Pettis bridge in Selma, Alabama was emotional for me. I walked slowly, aware of its significance. Healing happens as we face the past with honesty and humility, with a willingness to grow.
2. Never forget. Every September 11th I am reminded to "never forget." When I hear those words, like everybody else in the United States, I know what that means. The same is true for other events in history that carry significant lessons for us today. Never forget how fear and hatred can drive unimaginable evil...and never forget that the God we serve calls us to love mercy, act justly, and walk humbly.
3. Never stop learning and growing. We cannot be afraid of the past and cannot escape the truth of history by ignoring or sugar coating it. There is something new we can learn every day, but we have to be willing to grow, too.
4. Slavery, lynching, and racism were built into the fabric of the founding of our country. These actions were rooted in greed, where the thriving of some was prioritized over the humanity of others. Like a weed in our garden -- greed will always take over when it isn't kept in check. As with weeds, we must do the work to remove greed and injustice wherever they are growing.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to take a Sankofa journey. Nearly every important moment of growth in my life has come in a group of people, and this was no different. I am thankful for the group who traveled this Sankofa with me and what I learned from conversations with them as we learned together. It is my prayer that everyone at UHBC has opportunities to grow through their time spent with others.

Blessings,

-Joe

Wake Up
and Smell
the Coffee

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

(Located at the Corner of Grand & National)

1010 S. National Ave

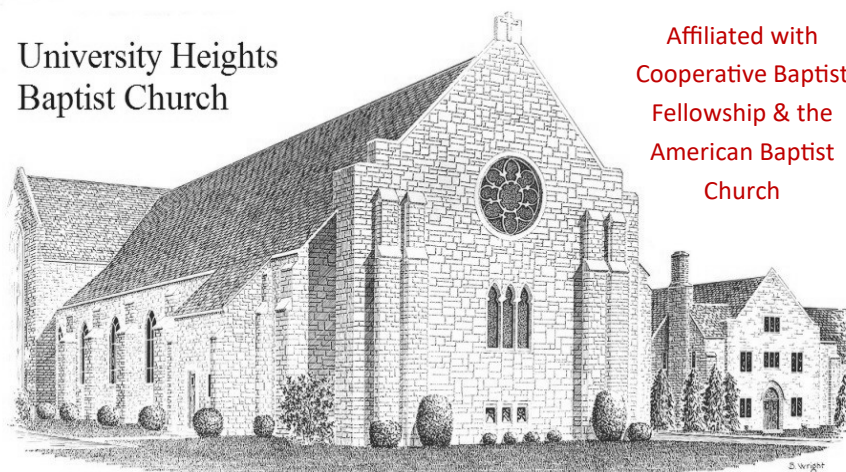
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Senior Pastor,
Dr. Nolan B. Porter

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A Church of Thoughtful, Gentle Grace

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.