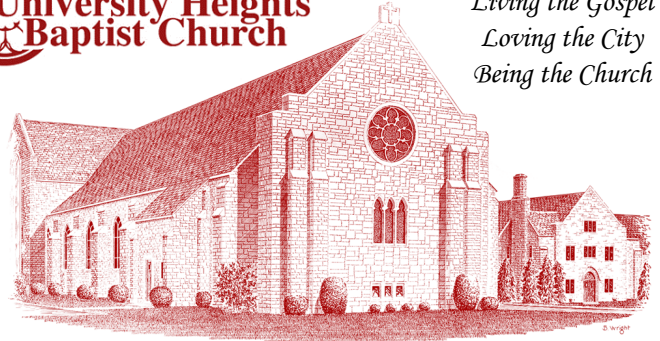


# THE CORNER CRIER

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*

May 2025

---

## NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

---

### *Pastor's Thoughts*

One of the most powerful gifts we can offer one another—and the world around us—is the gift of belonging. In a world that feels increasingly disconnected, busy, and fragmented, we have the opportunity to live out something different, something deeper, something distinctly Christ-like: radical hospitality.

Over the past few weeks in worship, we've been talking about what it looks like to be a church where everybody knows your name—a place where people are not just greeted, but genuinely welcomed; not just seen, but truly known; not just included, but deeply loved.

The truth is, hospitality isn't just a ministry strategy—it's the very heart of the Gospel. God's welcome of us through Jesus is the model for how we are called to welcome others:

- We welcome because God welcomed us first.
- We make space because Christ made space for us at the table.
- We connect because relationships are where faith takes root and grows.

This month, I want to invite you to live out the spirit of hospitality in three simple but powerful ways:

1. **At Church:** Look for the unfamiliar face. Sit by someone you don't know. Strike up a conversation. Learn a new name. Invite someone to lunch or coffee after worship. A simple connection can change a life.
2. **In Your Neighborhood:** Be a presence of kindness. Wave to your neighbors. Check in with someone who's been sick. Invite someone to a summer gathering. You don't need to have all the answers—just be available. Hospitality starts with a hello.
3. **Beyond:** Carry a spirit of welcome everywhere you go. At the grocery store. At the ballgame. At work. In the coffee shop. A warm smile, a moment of genuine conversation, a willingness to notice people—these are small seeds of the Kingdom planted in everyday soil.

As we move into the busy days of May and summer beyond, there are so many opportunities to build bridges instead of walls. I hope you'll be part of our **Church Picnic on Wednesday, May 21st**, where we'll enjoy a great time together and unveil an exciting **Summer Calendar** full of ways to stay connected, serve, and grow.

*Continued on Page 6*

# FROM JOE MILLER

## Start Somewhere

Find your place, find your people, make a difference



In case you're curious, and I think you should be, I am pretty excited about "Start Somewhere"! I think UHBC is a good place for anybody to begin something new, and I think this group is a good start.

Over the course of the next six weeks, we will be covering topics that are helpful for anyone who wants to grow in their faith or trying to figure it out. This is all of us at various points on our journey. This class is built in such a way that if you miss a session, you can still jump in and take part.

***Over the course of the next six weeks, we will cover:***

### **Session One: Introduction**

This session helps people get to know the church and one another. This is the story-telling portion, and a good story is part of who we are.

### **Session Two: How to Read the Bible**

This session is designed to help us understand how to read Scripture and give us some new tools no matter where we might be in our understanding of the Bible.

### **Session Three: Who is Jesus?**

This session focuses on who Jesus is and invites us to do our own wrestling with God's hope for us in Jesus.

### **Session Four: Prayer**

Most of us pray, but often we are not sure about what it looks like, and we have questions. This session is designed to help people pray on their own and gain a bigger picture of prayer, no matter our experience or faith background.

### **Session Five: How People Grow**

This session helps participants discover the ways God helps us grow as we partner with him and others in ministry.

### **Session Six: Who Am I?**

This session is designed to narrow down how God has wired you and the things that drive your mission and vision. At the end, we hope each person will have worked through a personal vision and mission statement.

So, if you're somewhat new to UHBC, come check it out.

If you're not new and you're looking for something new, come check it out.

If you've been around a while, not looking for something new, maybe now's a good time to be reminded of who you are in Christ and think through some of those topics on the list.

No matter where you are, there is always new growth and now is as good a time as any to start something new.

***Blessings!***

***-Joe***

# MISSIONS & MINISTRY



## Mission Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 13

1pm, Williams Group Hosting

Guest Speaker from Hospice

Foundation of the Ozarks

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## FISH OR FISHING?

While this old adage is true, many situations faced by the refugees, who Steve Clark, CBF North Carolina, serves, beg the question, “How many times is this person going to have to catch this kind of fish?”

When he assists families, he often has to decide if this is a singular obstacle to overcome and move on or if it is a problem they will face again. If the former, he accompanies them to get a “fish” and they move on. If the latter, he gets out the rod and reel and tackle box and starts teaching.

Recently, he had the opportunity to teach a Karen high school graduate how to “fish”. (The Karen people—pronounced “Kah-REN”—are an ethnic group in Myanmar, or Burma. A number of the Karen have settled in the US as refugees from ethnic cleansing that was being carried out by the Burmese military.) The things he helped her with were (1) how to apply on line to a college, (2) worked out a list of the steps needed to complete the admission process, (3) how to get financial aid, (4) how to register for classes, (5) needs acell phone for college contacting her (6) collect documents to apply for financial aid, (7) submit proof of residency, (8) after approval, see a counselor to sign up for classes.

“I encouraged her to be bold and persistent while pursuing these things. After all, you can’t cut bait and go home just because you hit a few snags”, Steve said. “Now, she is in the middle of her first semester of college and doing great.”

**This is feeding people.**

—Gerre Brown, for M & M



**May**

**Is**

**North American Missions  
Offering Month!**

**Our goal this year is \$4,000.**

100% of the offering is split between ABC and CBF missions work in North America.

To give to this effort, just notate the amount on your offering envelope, use one of the special offering envelopes, or give online at [uhbc.org](http://uhbc.org).

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Rummage Sale Success!

We are excited to share that our recent rummage sale was a major success! Thanks to the incredible support of our church family and community, we raised just over \$6,300. We are so grateful to everyone who donated items, helped with sorting and setting up, worked during the sale, and stayed to help clean up afterward. Your hard work and generosity made all the difference!

A very special thank you goes out to Roger and Carla Kirchner for their generous donation of a car and motorcycle, and to Gary and Ruth Schafer for donating a go-kart. These amazing contributions helped make this year's sale one of our best yet!

## Celebrating Our Graduates

We also want to take a moment to celebrate two very special members of our youth ministry: Royal Kirchner and Lydia Schlueter. As they graduate and prepare for the next chapter of their lives, we pray that God will continue to guide and bless them on their journeys. We are so proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to seeing how they will shine in the future!



## Looking Ahead



Get ready for an exciting summer! We have a variety of opportunities for youth to get involved, including volunteer projects, Bible study gatherings, and plenty of fun activities. Stay tuned for more details—you won't want to miss out on all the ways you can grow in faith and fellowship this summer!

**-Lisa Porter, Youth Pastor**



A big thank you from the Porter Family for the anonymous gift celebrating our five years at UHBC!

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Finding Hope in God's Story: What Our Kids Are Learning This Month

This month in our Children's Ministry, we've been focusing on a powerful and timely theme: HOPE. Life can be uncertain, even for kids, and they need to know that no matter what they face, there is a God who sees them, loves them, and is always working for their good. Through Scripture and meaningful discussions, we've been helping children discover that hope is believing something good can come out of something bad, and that God's story is full of that kind of transformation.

A central part of our teaching this month has been the story of Easter, which reminds us of the greatest hope of all, Jesus' resurrection. Easter isn't just a holiday, it's the foundation of our faith. We've helped kids understand that Jesus didn't just die for our sins, He rose again, proving that God's love is stronger than death and His promises are unshakable. Because of Jesus, we can trust that even in the hardest moments, God is working things together for good.

That message of hope came to life in a joyful and exciting way during our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held on April 19. While we had to move things indoors due to rain, the event was still well attended and full of fun for everyone! From the moment families walked in, the energy was high. Kids loved the egg hunt, as always, and the cake walk was a huge hit this year. We were also thrilled to welcome back Marty the Magician, who amazed and delighted for the second year in a row! And of course, the Easter Bunny made a special appearance, bringing smiles and laughter to children of all ages.

Events like this remind us of the joy and community that grow when we come together in love and faith. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped make the day such a success, from those who organized and set up, to those who volunteered during the event and stayed to clean up. Thank you also to everyone who donated candy! Your generosity helped us create a day filled with memories for families throughout our community.

### ***Back in our classrooms, the message remains the same:***

"I believe in Jesus and will continue to trust Him even when life doesn't make sense." We're not just telling Bible stories—we're pointing children toward a real relationship with a living Savior who walks with them every day. We're encouraging kids to trust Jesus, ask questions, and find comfort in knowing they are never alone.

Thank you for supporting our Children's Ministry as we guide the next generation to discover that Jesus is our ultimate source of hope—and He is alive!

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

### **Beginning in May... A New Opportunity to Share with our Community!**

Every two months is a new theme for Crosslines collections.

For the months of May and June, we can help celebrate birthdays by bringing:

- Cake Mixes
- Canned Icing
- Cake Decorations
- Birthday Candles
- Birthday Paper Plates
- Birthday Napkins
- Birthday Tablecloths
- Packages of Balloons
- Party Hats

**Look For The  
New Crosslines  
Basket**

**Located in the  
Missions Hallway!**

**Let's help Crosslines clients celebrate birthdays by filling the Crosslines Basket with birthday party supplies!!!**

# From the Library

## Did you know . . . . .

- \* Your UHBC Library has more than 5,500 books, (including DVDs, CDs, and study guides).
- \* Your UHBC Library has eight shelves of large print books.
- \* Your UHBC Library has many books authored by UHBC members, including . . .
  - \* Paul Bass (multiple books)
  - \* Ethan Bryan
  - \* Romona Baker
  - \* Jean Newman

Your UHBC Library is open on Sunday mornings before Life Groups and after worship, as well as on Wednesday evening before supper. There is a drop box by the entrance to return books if the library is not open.

Come in and check out the newer books or maybe a reference book.

—**Elaine Young**, member of the  
*Library Committee*

## Continued from Page 1

Hospitality is not about being perfect hosts or having all the right words. It's about having an open heart and an open table. It's about reflecting the welcome we have first received in Christ to everyone we meet. And it's about remembering that even the smallest acts of kindness can ripple out in ways we may never see.

Thank you for the way you love, welcome, and connect.

Thank you for being a church that lives the Gospel in real and tangible ways.

The Spirit is moving in beautiful ways among us—and I believe the best is yet to come.

Grateful to be on the journey with you.

**-Pastor Nolan**

*If you want to read more on hospitality and welcome in the way of Jesus, check out one or more of these books.*

1. **Untamed Hospitality: Welcoming God and Other Strangers** – *Elizabeth Newman* A theological and practical reflection on how hospitality shapes Christian identity and worship.
2. **Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition** – *Christine D. Pohl* A modern classic that explores biblical hospitality and its rich history in the Christian tradition.
3. **And You Welcomed Me: A Sourcebook on Hospitality in Early Christianity** – *Amy Oden (Editor)* A wonderful collection of writings from early Christian thinkers and communities on welcoming the stranger.
4. **The Gospel Comes with a House Key** – *Rosaria Butterfield* A deeply personal and challenging book about practicing radically ordinary hospitality in everyday life.
5. **Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate** – *Matthew Soerens & Jenny Yang* Not just about personal hospitality but extending welcome in national and political contexts.
6. **God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World** – *Amy G. Oden* A short but profound book that blends personal story, theology, and practical insight.
7. **A Place at the Table: Faith, Hope, and Hospitality** – *Jo Swinney* Invites readers to rediscover the joy and spiritual depth of eating and sharing together in community.
8. **Strangers to the City: Reflections on the Rule of St. Benedict** – *Michael Casey* While not exclusively about hospitality, it offers rich monastic wisdom on creating space for others.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Peggy Stepp	5	Lisa Carney	20
Richard Donaldson	8	Jerry Murphree	20
Wyman Grindstaff	13	Kelbi Schlueter	25
Brian Grindstaff	15	Dorothy Padron	29
Sabrina Ard	18	Henry Haynes	30
		Heather Haynes	31



## MAY at U Heights 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <b>Senior Sunday</b> Life Groups 9:15am Worship 10:30am w/ Lord's Supper	5	6	7 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm Kids Activities, 6pm	8	9	10
11 <b>Mother's Day</b> Life Groups 9:15am Worship 10:30am	12	13 M&M Meeting 1pm	14 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm Kids Activities, 6pm	15	16	17
18 Life Groups 9:15am Worship 10:30am	19	20	21 5:30pm Church Picnic	22	23	24
25 Life Groups 9:15am Worship 10:30am Board Meetings, 4pm	26 <b>Memorial Day</b> (church Office closed)	27	28 Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6pm No Youth or Kid's Activities	29	30	31

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

(Located at the Corner of Grand & National)

1010 S. National Ave

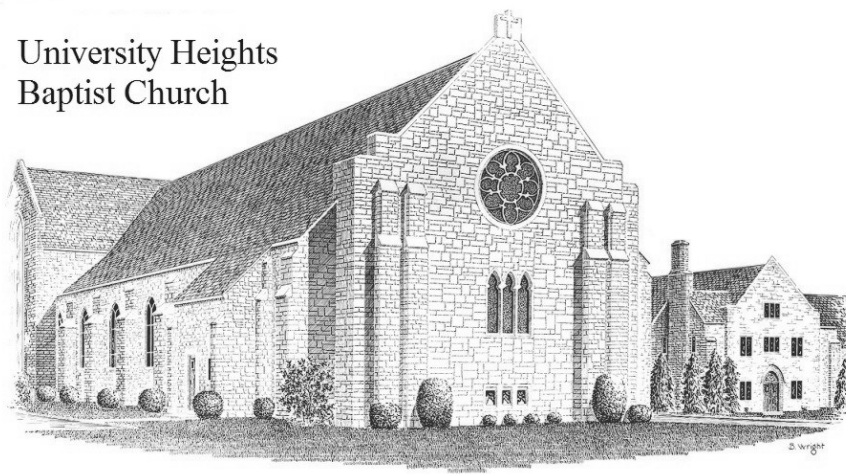
Springfield, MO 65804



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](http://www.uhbc.org). or email us at [uhbc@uhbc.org](mailto:uhbc@uhbc.org).