



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

Oct 2025

There's a moment every fall when you step outside and the air itself seems to say, "Start fresh." The heat breaks, the leaves begin their slow confetti, and the light softens just enough to make everything look new. I love that God wired the Ozarks with distinct seasons—because they remind us that change isn't just possible; it's built in. October is one of those "built-in" gifts: a time to breathe, begin again, and lean into what God is doing among us. Maybe L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables said it best; "I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

This month, our church is stepping into some good newness together. We're welcoming people into new staff roles, and that's more than a line in a bulletin—it's a sign of God's provision! Heather Twibell (now serving as Youth Pastor) and Alicyn Jennings (now serving as Interim Children's Pastor) are familiar faces to us, but as they step into their new roles encourage them, pray for them, introduce yourself (if you don't know them already), and help them feel the warmth and welcome in their new roles of leadership and service. Your smiles, notes, encouragement, and patience are not small things; they are gospel-shaped gifts that make ministry sustainable.

October also means that we're launching our studies through the Sermon on the Mount—on Sundays in worship and on Wednesdays in our midweek Bible study. We're calling the series **The Upside Down Kingdom** because Jesus' words in Matthew 5–7 flip so many of our assumptions on their heads: strength looks like meekness, blessing finds the broken, and true influence looks like salt, light, and love. On Sundays, we'll walk through these teachings this is it. Bring a Bible, a friend, and an open heart.

**Pastor's
Corner**

Continued on Page 3

Youth Ministry

Dear Church Family,

It has been such an incredible journey to serve as your Children's Pastor over the past three years! Spending time with our kids, watching them grow, laugh, worship, and discover more of who God has made them to be has been a true blessing. Parents, thank you for trusting me with your children and for partnering with me in their spiritual journey.

Having my own two children involved in Children's ministry during this time has been such a tremendous joy, and it has been wonderful to see God at work in their lives alongside all of your kids.

I also want to give a heartfelt shout-out to the amazing volunteers who have faithfully served in Children's Ministry. I could not have done this ministry without each of you!

Thank you to Linda and Mark Herr for your years of dedication to teaching Sunday School and leading Children's Church, and for all the ways you've supported me and my family. Thank you to Alicyn Jennings for serving as both a volunteer teacher for many years and now stepping into the role of Interim Children's Pastor, for supporting me and my children, and for taking on so much responsibility with such grace. Thank you to Sonja Baldwin for stepping up to teach and love our children, and for all the encouragement and help you've given to me and the kids. Thank you to Jay and Tina Miller and Rosemarie Prickett for your faithful support and willingness to jump in whenever needed. And thank you to Miss Lauren Vomund for leading our Sunshine Singers in music with such joy and harmony.

Each of you has made a lasting impact on our children's lives and has been a true blessing to me. I am so thankful for all of you.

If you've ever felt a nudge in your heart to serve, I want to personally invite you to take that step now. There's never been a better time to get involved, whether it's in Youth Ministry or Children's Ministry. Your gifts, energy, and love for our kids could make all the difference, and I would be so thrilled to welcome you into this ministry alongside us. God uses each of us in unique ways, and I promise, serving in His Kingdom brings joy beyond measure!

As many of you know, Miss Lisa has recently stepped away from her role as Youth Pastor. After much prayer and reflection, I feel God's leading to step into this new season as our Youth Pastor. While it's bittersweet to transition out of Children's Ministry, I am excited and eager to see all that God has in store for our students!

To our youth, I cannot wait to get to know each of you better, to walk through life with you, and to grow together in faith. This is such an exciting time in your lives, and I look forward to seeing how God will use you in mighty ways!

Although my primary role is shifting, I will always be here for the children of our church. They hold a special place in my heart, and I look forward to celebrating their milestones, cheering them on, and supporting them as they continue to grow in Christ. And for many of our kids, I will get the joy of seeing you again in just a few short years when you move up into the youth group. I can hardly wait for that day!

I may be moving into a new ministry area, but my heart remains with this church family. I am thrilled to continue serving here, and I hope you will continue to pray for both our Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry as we step into this new season together.

If you see me around, please come say hello. I would love to connect with you, hear your stories, and share in the excitement of all God is doing in our Children's and Youth Ministries!

With gratitude and joy,

Heather Twibell

Children's Ministry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fall is also a great time to plant yourself in community and service. Here are a few simple ways to connect this month:

- **Jump Into Midweek at UHBC and a Sunday Morning Lifegroup.** Our Wednesday night Sermon on the Mount study is a perfect on-ramp. Youth, kids, bell choir, and all kinds of great things are happening. Come as you are; no prior knowledge required.
- **Lifegroups** at UHBC are where you can truly begin to be connected to the UHBC family. There are many different choices and all are great! They're filled with people that will welcome you, love you, encourage you, and together, you all can go deeper into Scripture and friendship.
- **Practice hospitality.** Sit with someone new on Sundays. Learn a name and their story. Share your smile and a word of blessing.
- **Serve locally.** We partner with ministries like Grand Oak Mission, Crosslines, Council of Churches, and many more. Bring an item, give an hour, write a note—small acts add up. **Jeff & Angie Miller are providing farm fresh eggs to the food pantry at MSU - you can help by bringing empty egg cartons. You can set them on the stage in the fellowship hall.**
- **Encourage our students and kids.** Pray for our next-gen ministries. Be a mentor. Show up; it matters more than you think.
- **Give faithfully.** Your generosity fuels worship, discipleship, and mission. Thank you for investing in what God is doing here.
- **Pray daily.** Choose one person and one ministry to pray for every day in October. Simple. Steady. Powerful.

If the Sermon on the Mount teaches us anything, it's that following Jesus is both deeply personal and wonderfully public. It's a heart transformed *and a life that looks like it: forgiving enemies, telling the truth, giving quietly, trusting God, choosing the narrow way of love when anger, worry, and judgment feel so much easier. My prayer is that, as the leaves change, our lives change too—toward Jesus.*

Thank you, church, for being the kind of family that welcomes new faces, loves our city, and keeps saying “yes” to growing as followers of Jesus. I'm grateful for your commitment, your personalities, your character, your prayers, and your willingness to try new things for the sake of the Kingdom. Let's lean into October like a fresh page—pens up, hearts open, ready for what the Spirit will write among us.

Grace and peace,

-Pastor Nolan



News and Notes



The UHBC response to Convoy of Hope's One Day to Feed the World campaign was absolutely amazing! UHBC sent a check to Convoy for

\$15,447.06

Y'all are incredible!

Wednesday Night Updates

Due to work being done on the air handler in the fellowship hall, we will **NOT** be having Wednesday suppers

on the following nights:

October 8 October 15 October 22

We WILL still have Bible Study (in the chapel) and Kids/Youth Activities at the regular time of 6:30pm.

From The Mailbag



Thank you so much for providing this scholarship for me. As a student who is paying for college mostly alone, this money is helping me to reach graduation this spring.

I am a General Art major with a minor in management, and I am a senior! My goals right now are to graduate this upcoming spring and then go to seminary for a master of arts in theology or church ministry. After that, I hope to start, or work for, a company that works like a retreat where those who are working in ministry can take a break and refresh their hearts. I hope to provide recreation, deep theological conferences, and encouragement for pastors, ministers, and their families.

Your contribution to my schooling is pushing me one step closer to achieving my goals for Christ.

Thank you and God Bless!

Breanne Hamby
(granddaughter of Phil and Norma Jones)

A scavenger hunt from one end of the country to the other and all the people she meets along the way ...

The Life Saving Adventure of Gracelyn Gordon and Her Dog is written by our own Ethan Bryan. Wonderful, kind, and pleasant people throughout the book help the reader enjoy

and experience interesting places.

Ethan shared with us how the story just flowed and carried him along with it. He received help from many friends who gave him advice and information from all over the country.

We highly recommend that you borrow a copy from the church library, or procure your own copy as you may want to read it more than once!

Joan Baker
Grace Clifton
Susie Hall

Billie Lang
Ann Willingham
Susan Willingham



MISSIONS & MINISTRY



Mission Group Meeting
Tuesday, October 14
1pm, Fellowship Hall
Speaker—Charity Jordan
from Harmony House



Sonja and Randy Baldwin inspired M&M attendees at the September meeting to take personally the challenge presented in Matthew 28:19 “Therefore go and make disciples”. The Baldwins have taken many mission trips to South American countries. Because they speak Spanish, are educators, and love Jesus, they use their talents as short term missionaries.

Here at home they consider work, college students, Eden Village, Craig Hollow neighborhood, our church, and their grandchildren their mission. When they worked in the Springfield schools and lived nearby, they sent out invitations to the neighborhood to meet them at the park for cookies and lemonade. Over time, they developed greater relationships with adults and children having the opportunity to introduce Jesus. Special talent isn’t necessary to do Matthew 28:19

M&M October program is Charity Jordan with **Harmony House**. Since 1976 in Springfield, the mission of Harmony House is to provide shelter, advocacy and education to survivors of domestic violence and promote the principle that all individuals have the right to life free of abuse.

UHBC’s own Karen Dixon and her sister have a personal mission to Harmony House because they feel these children there should have new clothes on the first day of school. Many of the children come to HH with only the clothes on their back. They watch for the clearance sales at the stores that have the best deals. During the year and by the time school starts, they have collect enough attractive tops, shorts, pants, jeans, dresses, socks, underwear and shoes for each child to have a complete new outfit. Karen tells stories of how God provides great deals: tops for 50 cents and shoes for three dollars etc.



Cookies and lemonade in the park, a postcard to the homebound or a trunk full of new clothes — all can be a personal mission. From Next Steps on September 14, “What is the extraordinary work into which God is calling you?”



Inspiring Hope Through Compassion and Service



Personal soaps needed

- hand soaps for kitchen
- hand and body soaps for bathroom
- shampoos and rinses



Place items in Crosslines basket across from the Missions bulletin board.

What's Happening?



- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Ireland Smith | 10 Jerry Jones | 21 Donna Murney |
| 4 Keith Chrystie | 11 Jill Bergen | 22 Janet Southard |
| John Megee | 12 Martha Rice | 25 Susan Willingham |
| 7 Karen Dixon | 13 Sharon Baack | 26 Nancy Hagan |
| 8 Izzy Brammer | 14 Amanda Jones | 27 Loren E Broaddus |
| Elaine Todd | 17 Sophie Bryan | Kevin Smith |
| 9 Melissa Hall | 19 Dixie Edgar | 29 Ginny Chamberlin |
| Lauren Vomund | Willa Jones | 30 Ed Ksara |
| | Eric Sharp | Margaret Szewczyk |

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:45 Supper 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth 6:45 Chancel Choir	2	3	4
5 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship & Communion	6	7	8 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth 6:45 Chancel Choir	9	10	11 10 am Christian Writers Group
12 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship	13 CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED due to electrical & HVAC work	14 1pm M&M Meeting	15 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth 6:45 Chancel Choir	16	17	18
19 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship	20	21	22 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth 6:45 Chancel Choir	23	24	25
26 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship 4pm Board Mtgs	27	28	29 5:45 Supper 6:30 Quarterly Bus Mtg, Kids/Youth 6:45 Chancel Choir	30	31	



Building Bigger Tables

"Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible." - The Apostle Paul from his first letter to the Corinthians

"Get out of your own way." - U2

If you're like me, you have a list of people who showed you who Jesus is, even if they didn't say a word. They are people we trust: teachers, coaches, parents, grandparents, pastors, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, friends, etc. In my experience the people whose lives demonstrate Jesus are those who show genuine care and compassion; people invested in our welfare and future. They exude integrity, honesty, and sincerity. Most importantly, they are people with enough emotional maturity to love us despite our fears, hurts, doubts and disappointments.

I think perhaps, when Paul wrote his first letter to the church in Corinth so long ago, he must have thought much about the value of trust, empathy, and guest-hood (in case you're wondering, that's not a word). He must have thought about the broad, never-ending table of Jesus and those who are invited but have not yet made the connection. Paul's hospitality moved beyond words and stepped into the lives of the people he was hoping to share the good news of Jesus with.

It can be easy to forget what our experiences and thoughts were like before we knew Jesus, especially for those of us who have been followers of Jesus for a very long time. The longer we spend in church settings, the further away we are from the version of ourselves who didn't yet know Christ. We must remind ourselves often of our faith story and model our lives after those who demonstrated so clearly the love and belonging we can have with Jesus.

Here are **Four Simple Rules** for living life in such a way that others know your faith is good news:

1. Remember that ALL people are created and loved by God
2. Remind ourselves that we have been called a "royal priesthood" with a mission to live out within the spaces where we already exist for work, hobbies, and our neighborhood.
3. Recognize that you are a guest in the lives of others and it isn't your job to renovate who they are and how they behave.
4. Remain attuned to opportunities that exist around you for meeting needs, providing encouragement, or otherwise being present for those in your midst.

Blessings,

-Joe

Wake Up
and Smell
the Coffee

In December, our congregation will be electing new Board members for the 2026-2028 fiscal years. This means that someone from the Nominating Committee or the Deacon Selection Committee may be calling you soon to ask if you are willing to serve on a particular board.

Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve in this way. UHBC has always had a very strong and participatory lay leadership, and much of our strength as a body comes from that shared leadership.

To help you as you reflect on any decisions you might be asked to make, below is a summary of what the Boards at UHBC do.

Listed below these summaries are lists of the current members of these Boards. Please reach out to a current member if you would like to hear directly what it's like to serve in this way.

BOARD OF DEACONS

The role of a deacon, as established in the early church and described in Acts 6, is to oversee practical and charitable tasks, freeing the apostles and elders to focus on preaching and teaching. At UHBC, a deacon is primarily a caring person with a servant's heart. Members on the active deacon board serve 3 year terms on the board, meeting once a month. Active deacons typically connect with one of our homebound members, visiting from time to time, remembering birthdays, etc., and just generally keeping them connected to the life of the church as much as possible. An area responsibility is assigned to each deacon, such as preparing and overseeing the serving of The Lord's supper; coordinating and assisting in preparations for baptisms; coordinating and assisting in new member classes such as WiFi; coordinating transportation needs for members who need it; evaluating and administering the benevolence fund when requests come in or needs are identified; and other ways of serving the congregation and the community. The primary task of the Board of Deacons is to support the pastors and staff of the church, and to care for the congregation's members.

Current Deacon Board Members:

David Edwards	Jan Hockensmith	Marilyn Broaddus
Bob Reed	Loren Broaddus Jr.	Jay Miller
John Megee	Phil Hockensmith	Patrick Twibell
Sharon Baack	Teresa MacAlmon	Norma Jones

(A full list of all ordained deacons is in the church directory, as well as the deacon nomination packet.)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members of the Board of Trustees are elected to 3 year terms, and meet once a month. The Board of Trustees has oversight of all property owned by the church. They review and approve repair needs (such as HVAC, roof repairs, etc.) and expenditures for same, submitting those to the church for approval when needed. They oversee the maintenance of appropriate insurance (both property and liability).

Current Trustee Board Members:

Gary Schafer	Richard Baker	Robert Carney
Jim Twibell	Mark Herr	Cindy Hogan
Sheri Bryan	Jamie Bryan	Brian Grindstaff

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Members of the Board of Missions are elected to 3 year terms, and meet once a month. The Missions Board allocates all missions funds, setting the annual budget allocations and distributing the missions general fund and PFTF funds based on need, requests, and member input. Additionally, the Board recommends potential for UHBC to participate in new mission opportunities as they arise, especially in the Springfield area.

Current Mission Board Members:

Amanda Jones	Dixie Edgar	Loren Broaddus Sr.
Bob Perry	Gail Smart	Rosemarie Prickett
Nina Roberts	Diane Schafer	Kay Procell

BOARD OF FINANCE

Each member of the Board of Finance is elected to a 3 year term, and the Board meets once a month. The Finance Board oversees the annual budgeting process, approves the final budget, and during their monthly meetings monitors the financial status and expenditures of the church.

Current Finance Board Members:

Ethan Bryan	Ed Ksara	Peggy Stepp
Heather Haynes	Meredith Roberts	Phil Jones
	Dana Brown	Shannon Hall

UHBC FOUNDATION BOARD

Members of the UHBC Foundation Board are elected to 3 year terms, and meet once a month. The Board oversees the funds held by the UHBC Foundation, and in their monthly meetings monitors the status of the funds invested. They evaluate and approve requests for use of Foundation funds for needs of the church, in particular non-budgeted items related to maintenance or improvement of the church property.

Current Foundation Board Members:

Wyman Grindstaff	Cathy Megee	Steve Stepp
Josh Haynes	Clif Smart	David Miller

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

(Located at the Corner of Grand & National)

1010 S. National Ave

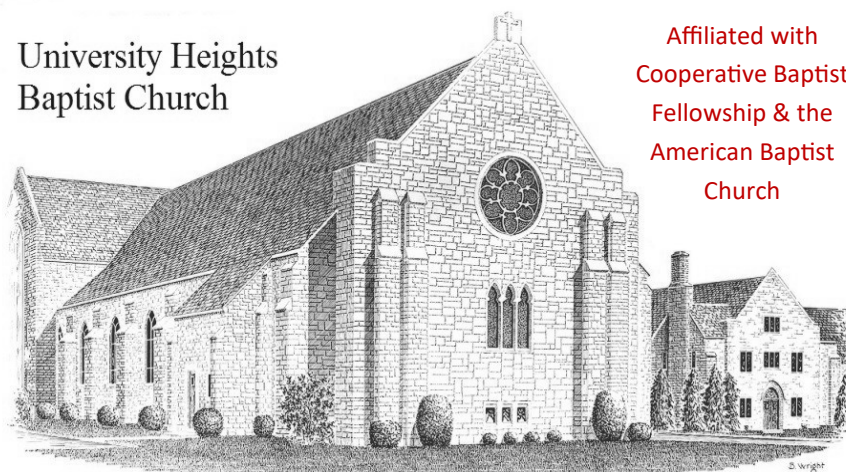
Springfield, MO 65804

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Senior Pastor,
Dr. Nolan B. Porter

University Heights Baptist Church



Affiliated with
Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship & the
American Baptist
Church

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.