




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 - 6:30PM

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

(a CBF/ABC Church)

Mar 2026

CRITER

Spring has a way of sneaking up on you. One day you're scraping ice off the windshield, and the next day you're driving with the windows cracked, because the air is warm and smells like possibility again. The flowers start pushing up like they've been waiting their turn. The daylight stretches a little longer. And for a lot of us, spring also means one sacred thing: baseball season is back.

There's something hopeful about the beginning of a season. Everybody starts the same. The standings are clean. The gloves are oiled. The bats feel they've got more pop. Even teams that struggled last year show up in spring training convinced this could be their year. And maybe that's why we love it, not because it guarantees anything, but because it reminds us that new starts are real.

Spring is the season that preaches without saying a word. It's a quiet sermon written in flower buds and birdsong: God is still making things new. What looked dead isn't always done. What felt stuck isn't always final. The ground that seemed barren has been working on something underneath the surface all along.

And that's where Lent and Easter come in.

Lent is the gift of slowing down on purpose on the way to Easter. It's the Church's way of saying: don't rush past the cross on your way to the empty tomb. In the coming weeks, I want to encourage you to prepare your heart for the resurrection celebration by leaning into a few simple, concrete practices. You'll find Lenten resources listed in this edition of the Corner Crier (page 3). These are devotionals, readings, and simple guides to help you pray, reflect, and keep company with Jesus as we journey toward Holy Week.

You can also engage this season in a tangible way through the Stations of the Cross on the church lawn (the fenced area where the picnic table and cross are located). Consider taking a quiet walk, pausing at each station, letting the story of Christ's suffering and love settle in your bones. Bring your family. Come alone. Come at sunrise or after dinner. Let it be a prayer with your feet, an embodied reminder that Jesus chose the way of sacrificial love for the sake of the world.

As we approach Easter, we'll also be collecting Easter candy as we get ready to welcome children and families and to share the sweetness of celebration. It may seem small, but these simple offerings become signs of hospitality and joy, little foretastes of the "alleluia" we're headed toward.

Easter isn't just a date on the calendar. It's the announcement that God specializes in new beginnings. Resurrection isn't God's nice idea; it's God's signature move and what the New Testament and in fact, the church, rest on. So let's take this season seriously and tenderly. Let's prepare our hearts, make room, and walk together toward the day when we proclaim with full voices: Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen, indeed!

I can't wait to worship with you this spring. Let's step into this season expecting God to do what God has always done: bring life where we thought there couldn't be any.

Pastor's
Corner

-Pastor Nolan

Road Work

*This month continues our new feature, “Road Work,” sharing stories of personal faith journeys...where we came from, how we got here, where we hope to go. This month we’re honored to share some reflections from **Melissa Hall** about her faith story.*

My husband Shannon and I are fairly recent members here. We moved to Springfield about 20 months ago from south Louisiana, where we had lived our entire lives. Shannon was a public school teacher and administrator for 30 years, and retired prior to our move. I am an audiologist, and continue to work part-time here. We have two adult children; our son and his wife live in Colorado Springs and our daughter lives in Charlotte, NC. After my husband retired, he asked if I would like to move to Springfield to live near family, as two of my sisters have lived here for

many years. I had no idea he was even thinking of this as we lived in his hometown, which was a small and tight-knit community, but I said YES! And we began to plan our move.

I had the great privilege of godly parents who loved the Lord and wanted to share His love with us as their children. Some of my earliest and best memories are of preparing the “sets” for VBS with my mom, memorizing Scripture with my dad, and attending church together as a family. As I was introduced to the gospel from early childhood, this set the stage for me to accept Christ at an early age. While of course I didn’t then and still don’t understand it all, I did know that God loved me and prepared a way for me to be in relationship with Him through His Son, that I needed a Savior and Christ had paid the debt for my sins, and that He was sufficient for all my needs.

Fast forward to adulthood, and Christ has been sufficient through all the stages and complications of life - as we struggled with infertility and then adopted our children, as we experienced the daily joys and also the complexities of family life, as we had challenges in our careers, as our parents aged and were ill and we desired and hopefully did support them as they had been so supportive of us, as we moved from Louisiana less than two years ago and are finding our home here in Springfield and at University Heights.



I am thankful to have always been a part of a church family. Some had more struggle (dare I say dysfunction!) than others, but we have always been connected to God’s people through church. Service at church in various capacities has been a catalyst for spiritual growth for me. As we have gotten to know you at University Heights, I especially appreciate this church because we see that you are Christ-centered, that you are willing to invest in one another and in this community, that you are unafraid to tackle hard issues and examine how to live in a broken world so that the light of Christ shines through you. This makes us delighted to call University Heights our church home. My desire is to support this church and work to continue to make it a welcoming and Christ-centered place of worship, ministry, and fellowship. I am honored to serve as one of your new deacons.

Melissa and her husband, Shannon

MISSIONS & MINISTRY



Mission Group Meeting
Tuesday, Mar 10, 1pm
Fellowship Hall
Ministry Project: Filling Easter
Eggs for the Carnival
ALL ARE WELCOME!



At our March 10 meeting, we'll be helping to fill eggs for the Easter Carni-

val. ***Please bring bags of small, wrapped candy (no chocolate) for filling the eggs.***



M&M will continue collecting items for Safe to Sleep through March 8. Items urgently needed are:

- Dry Coffee Creamer
- Decaf Coffee Pods
- Hot Hands
- Travel Size Toothpaste
- Laundry detergent or pods

The collection basket is in front of the library.

From the Mission Field

When Elket Rodriguez looks up to watch multitudes of birds fly over his head, he sees a metaphor for what is taking place all around him on the ground. He lives in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, on the flight path of millions of birds migrating between North and South America. The Valley is the path human migrants from around the world follow to the United States. Rodriguez is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel based in Harlingen, Texas ministering to those on-the-ground migrants.

He and his wife, Yesenia, are Puerto Rico natives who were displaced to the U.S. mainland in the of 2017's Hurricane Maria. Although not technically migrants—Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory—they appreciate the cataclysmic change affiliated with uprooting family and relocating in a strange culture far from home. As a family law attorney with insight into U.S. immigration system's legal structure, he helps migrants navigate the American asylum process.

"I'm an immigration attorney by training and I have a pastoral approach to the work I do. I could not just sit down and take on a case without having a personal connection with the migrant, understanding this is not just a legal need, but a spiritual need", he said.

Rodriguez is grateful CBF's Mission Offering enables him to stay on the border to make a difference in migrants' lives giving legal advice and spiritual counsel. Long-term presence is essential for the work.
— Gerre Brown

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.
-Leviticus 19:33

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL IDEAS

It's not too late to start a devotional practice during Lent, as we move toward Easter. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Walking through the Stations of the Cross, in the grassy fenced area by the cross and picnic table here at UHBC, is a great way to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice.
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity has a weekly series on their website, focusing on putting our faith into practice.
- ◆ Read and meditate on a different Psalm each day to explore themes of repentance, trust, and God's steadfast love.
- ◆ "The Unvarnished Jesus," by Brian Zahnd is a beautiful reflection seeking to strip away all the ways we cover over the real Jesus.
- ◆ "Were You There? Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals," by Luke A Powery, provides devotions based in the music that fostered hope and sustained enslaved Black people.

Youth Ministry



February was such a full and exciting month for our youth group! It has been a joy to see our students growing in community, stepping up to serve, and simply having fun together.



Instead of a traditional Valentine's Party, we switched things up and went bowling on Wednesday, February 11. It was a fantastic night of laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of snacks. It was also Robby Prickett's birthday, so happy birthday, Robby! We loved getting to celebrate with you!

On February 15th, we had a very busy and meaningful day. That morning, our youth hosted a bake sale to raise funds for youth group activities and summer camp. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our church family, we raised over \$800! Thank you so much to everyone in the congregation who donated and supported our students. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

I also want to give a huge thank you to our youth and parents who helped bake, organize, and serve. It was a team effort, and I'm so proud of how our students represented our church.



That same evening, we held our first Mentor Event of the year: Board Game Night! It was wonderful to see our youth connecting with their mentors over their favorite board games. Events like these help strengthen relationships and create space for encouragement, discipleship, and fun.



Looking ahead to March, our youth are currently in discussions about returning to Eden Village to serve by preparing and sharing a meal with residents there on March 11th. We're excited about continuing opportunities to serve our community and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

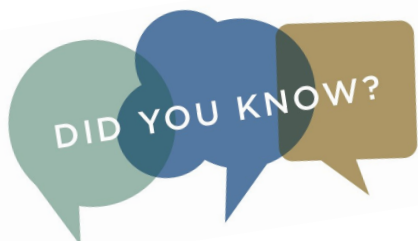
Please note that we will not have youth activities on Wednesday, March 18th due to Spring Break.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our youth ministry. God is doing good things, and we are grateful to walk alongside these students as they grow in their faith.

*With gratitude and joy,
Heather Twibell*

You can access the church directory from your smart phone! Yes—you can have the directory at your fingertips wherever you are!

Just go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com, and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "create a login now." (You will need to make sure you use the address that we already have on file—that is how the app verifies that you have authorization to access the directory.)





It has been another great month in the Treehouse! We've had lots to celebrate and lots to look forward to this spring. We started off joyously with the baptism of Preston Hake on February 8, 2026. We are so proud of his kind, loving nature and of how he contributes to our church community in a positive way. He took a very courageous step to profess his faith in front of the UHBC family. Congratulations Preston!

Children's Ministry



Our children also showed kindness and generosity this month as they cashed their Bible Bucks in at the Mission Market for Souper Bowl Sunday. Our students have the opportunity to earn these "dollars" by bringing their Bible to church, bringing a friend, and by demonstrating the fruits of the spirit at church. We then exchange them for canned goods to donate to those in need. We cleared the shelves and helped to fill up the bins for Grand Oaks Mission!



This month's focus has been on learning how we are called to "Love God" and "Love others" every day. We heard about Zaccheus and how Jesus loves even those who have made wrong choices and that he can transform our hearts! We heard about how Jesus made time for those in need, from healing those who are sick and even raising people from the dead, like Jairus's daughter. Our God's love is so big!



We had a great time with our Valentine's party playing fun games together and enjoying sweet treats. We are looking forward to a night of fun at the bowling alley at the end of February! Stay tuned for ways you can get involved and connected with children's ministry.

*With love and joy,
Alicyn Jennings*

From the Library

Three donations have recently been received by the UHBC library.

Once Upon A Town, a book by Bob Greene, is about a small town in Nebraska (North Platte) during WWII. Their train depot was a short stop for the cross country troop trains. The community provided a continuous canteen for the service men and women for about 4 years. The author interviews many of the people who contributed to the effort as well as many of the troops who received the hospitality.

The Thank You Book was donated by Convoy of Hope. It contains letters from people Convoy has helped over the years.

The third donation is the Sean Kruger Mystery Series. It is a group of 8 books by J. C. Fields. They follow profiler Sean Kruger through various cases that weave Missouri into the story line.



What's Happening?

Easter Candy Collection

Beginning March 8, we'll be collecting candy for the Easter carnival. We need **SMALL, INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED** candies that will fit in the plastic eggs—and **NO CHOCOLATE**, please. Collection basket is in front of the library.



MARCH 8—MARCH 29



- | | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| 2 Ann Davis
Donna Sherrill | 10 Tom Dixon
Linda Howell | 15 Kevin Hogan |
| 3 Shirley Dodds
Susie Hall
Jan Hockensmith | 12 Jerry Scott | 19 Anita Hunter |
| 7 Eli Roberts | 13 Nancy Broaddus
Emerson Hake
Billie Lang | 22 Matt Roberts |
| 8 Joan Baker
Naomi Kirchner | 14 Reese Stockton
Kelsey Stockton | 23 Sally Brice |
| | | 27 Gary Hall |
| | | 28 Jerry Mackey |
| | | 30 Elliot Miller |

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship & Communion	2	3	4 5:45 Supper 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth	5	6	7
8 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship	9	10 M & M Meetings	11 5:30 Bell Choir 5:45 Supper 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth	12	13	14 10am Christian Writers' Group
15 9:15 Life Groups, 10:30 Worship	16	17	18 5:45 supper 6:30 Bible Study, Kids/Youth Activities	19	20	21
22 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship 4pm Board Meetings	23	24	25 5:45 supper 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth	26	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship	30	31				



*"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."
1 Peter 2:9*

Sometimes we get mixed messages about who we are. Sometimes we are described by adjectives: funny, smart, big, small, pretty, rich, poor, etc. But, who is it that God says we are? Paul tells us that the "body (of Christ) is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body." As people who are created in God's image, this is who we are. Peter takes the image a step further when he says, "you are a holy nation." When Peter says the people

(you, me and others) are a holy nation, he's not talking about a physical nation with borders -- he's talking about a body of people working together for something significantly greater. The Church is a unique community where all people are welcome to participate, each has good gifts, and each person is equally valuable. Each of us has our own story of how God has transformed our life, and this transformation becomes an important part of the stories of others. Our lives have been changed and that same change moves into new spaces and new faces.

As this life-giving body of people approaching Resurrection Sunday, let's pay attention for the action and vision of God. Below are three ways to keep our eyes open for God's action and vision.

1. Being Uniquely You

How can you use your gifts and abilities to help others spiritually grow? Are there three, four, maybe five people that could use a little more of your gifting?

2. Proximity to the Vulnerable

We grow when our lives are in proximity with the vulnerable. If proclaiming the good news to the poor was valuable to Jesus' ministry and vital to who Jesus was, it is valuable for us as well. Revival begins at the margins, and it's at the margins where we will be pushed into supernatural trust.

3. Building Something New.

The Church is in the business of creating new movements where new people can connect.

Is there something new you can be part of creating:

A new Bible study group or class, a gathering around food, or prayer? Is there a next step you can take and learn to do that? Is there a conversation that can be had, questions that could be asked?

Praying for new life change and new things as we approach Easter!

Blessings,

-Joe

*Wake Up
and Smell
the Coffee*

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

(Located at the Corner of Grand & National)

1010 S. National Ave

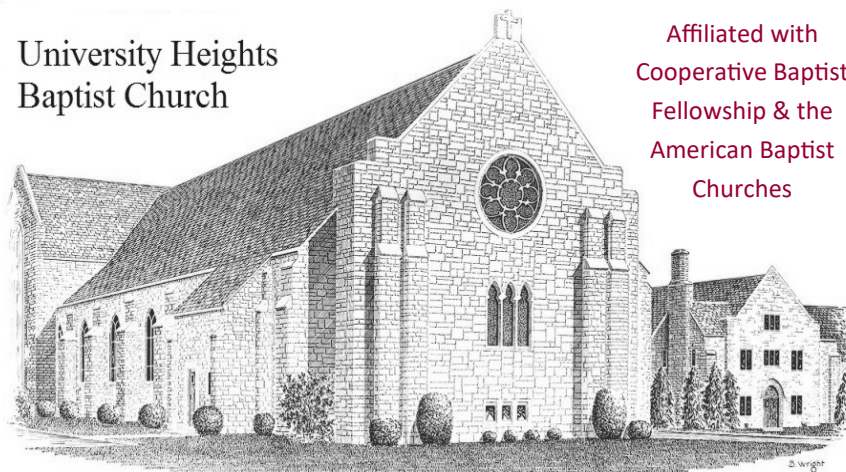
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Senior Pastor,
Dr. Nolan B. Porter

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