



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)

# CRITER

Apr 2026

### Beyond Easter

What a gift Easter is.

Every year, Easter comes to us with beauty, celebration, and joy. We gather to sing with a little more energy as Julie raises the roof with her organ playing, greet one another with a little more excitement as everyone arrives in their pastels and Easter best, and together proclaim again the greatest news the world has ever heard: **Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!**

And what good news that is.

In a world so often marked by sorrow, stress, division, violence, and uncertainty, Easter reminds us that death does not win, despair does not win, and darkness does not win. The resurrection of Jesus is not just a comforting church tradition or a once-a-year celebration. It is the announcement that God is still bringing life where we only see death, hope where we only see discouragement, and new beginnings where we thought the story was over.

Easter matters because it tells us that Jesus is alive. And because Jesus is alive, we can live with hope.

But as important and joyful as Easter Sunday is, the church was never meant to stop at Easter. In many ways, Easter is not the finish line. It is the beginning. The resurrection sends us forward. It calls us to live as Easter people not just for one Sunday, but every day that follows.

So what does it mean to live beyond Easter as Easter people?

It means we continue to worship with gratitude and expectancy, trusting that the risen Christ is still meeting us, still shaping us, and still calling us forward. It means we continue to grow in faith, to deepen our life together, and to make room for others to encounter the love of Jesus in this church family. It means we continue to serve. We continue to care for our neighbors, partner in mission, welcome the stranger, show compassion to those who are hurting, and offer thoughtful, gentle grace in a world that desperately needs it.

And it means we keep looking ahead with hope.

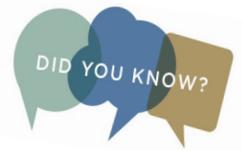
I believe God is doing great things at University Heights. I believe there is still more ahead for us; more growth, more ministry, more opportunities to love and serve, more ways to share the good news of Jesus

## Pastor's Corner

*Continued on Page 3*

# News and Notes

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



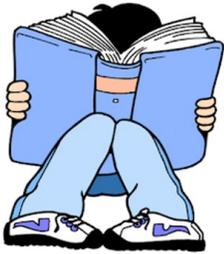
Just go to

**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.)

## **Directory Updates and Corrections:**

- \* New member **Cindy Kohler**: cindy.kohler@att.net; phone 336-908-0568
- \* New member **Jack Fayette**: conajack@gmail.com; phone 573-855-2051
- \* **Rosemarie Prickett**'s email should be rosemarieprickett@gmail.com.
- \* **Phil and Norma Jones** new emails: jonespr1210@gmail.com & jonesnc1208@gmail.com.
- \* **Shannon & Melissa Hall**: zip code 65809



## **What are YOU reading?**

It's ALWAYS a good time to get lost in a good book. Here's what some of the staff are reading...**we'd LOVE to hear what you're reading these days.** Do you like biographies? History? Mystery? Novels? Just drop a note to [teresa@uhbc.org](mailto:teresa@uhbc.org) and let us know so we can share in the fun!

**Alicyn:** *“Glimpses of Grace: Treasuring the Gospel in Your Home”* by Gloria Furman

**Teresa:** *“The Furious Longing of God”* by Brennan Manning

*“When Everything's On Fire: Faith Forged from the Ashes”* by Brian Zahnd

**Nolan:** *“Goodbye to a River”* by John Graves

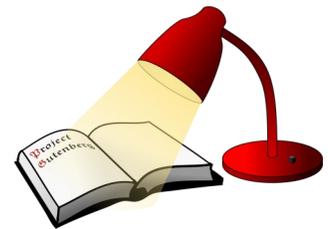
*“East of Eden”* by John Steinbeck

*“Till We Have Faces”* by CS Lewis

**Joe:** *“Where Do We Go From Here”* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

*“Chasing the Scream”* by Johann Hari

*“Chain of Ideas”* by Ibram X Kendi



## **MEET YOUR DEACONS**

Hi! If you don't know me, my name is **Ben Ludwinski**, and my wife Emma and I have been at UHBC for almost 3 years, and I'm thankful to be able to share just a bit about me here. Outside of church, I currently work at Burrell Behavioral Health, where I help kiddos who need some extra behavioral support. Before moving to Springfield in 2023, I was raised in a suburb of Dallas, TX (very close to McKinney, if you're familiar with the area) by two faithful parents who brought me up going to church for my whole life. Although I am just now about to reach 25 years of age, I have been able to see God's faithfulness all throughout my life. When my best plans



have not materialized, I have realized that I am not in control and that God's plans are far better than I could ever come up with. I trust that God has plans for this church that are far beyond anything that we as a congregation could ever imagine either. Emma and I are very blessed to be a part of this loving and servant-hearted congregation. I am thankful to have been granted the ability to serve you all as a deacon, and I look forward to seeing how God can use us both individually and collectively for His will and for His glory.

# MISSIONS & MINISTRY



**Mission Group Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 14, Noon**  
**Salad Luncheon**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**Speaker: Emma Ludwinski**

## WHAT IS M&M (Missions and Ministry)?

M&M is a group of men and women who have a heart for missions—local, regional, national, and worldwide. From assisting our local elementary school (Rountree) with things like the Christmas market and back-to-school backpacks, to mission efforts across the globe through support of our partners in Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and American Baptist Churches, M&M is actively engaged in supporting all kinds of mission work.

M&M meets once a month on the 2nd Tuesday, and programs range from hosting special speakers to working on projects such as making blankets for the Child Advocacy Center.

M&M also champions fundraising and in-kind donation efforts throughout the year to support local charities such as Crosslines and Grand Oak Mission food pantries.

We're very excited to welcome **Emma Ludwinski** to our **April 14 Salad Luncheon**. Emma will share with us about her medical mission trip to Thailand last fall.

**Everyone is welcome!**

There are two mission groups. Each group is named for a global missionary it supports with prayer and finances. Anyone is welcome to join. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Pat Wolf (417-844-3958) or Elaine Young (417-496-2319).

## From the Library



Studying the origins of the Bible provides vital historical context, helps establish its historical reliability and credibility, confirms its authenticity through manuscript evidence, illuminates how and why specific books were selected for the canon of Scripture as God-inspired and authoritative, and ensures accurate interpretation of its message. Understanding how it was written, canonized, and translated helps readers understand the specific historical, social, and cultural settings in which the Bible was written, preventing modern misunderstandings.

Our UHBC library offers multiple resources to aid members in studying and understanding these truths. Here are a few examples you can check out from the UHBC library:

1. The Bible: A History, The Making and Impact of the Bible
2. God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible
3. Discovering the Bible: Archeologists look at Scripture
4. How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth
5. The Books and the Parchments: How We Got Our English Bible
6. The Bible in English Translation: An Essential Guide
7. How We Got the Bible, second edition
8. The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times
9. The Handbook of Bible Times
10. The Book of God: The Bible as a Novel
11. All the Men of the Bible
12. Cast of Characters
13. All the Women of the Bible
14. Every Woman of the Bible
15. Find It Fast in the Bible: Your Complete Topical Reference
16. Atlas of the Bible
17. Holman's Bible Atlas
18. The Dead Sea Scrolls
19. The Victor Handbook of Bible Knowledge
20. The Crossway Illustrated Bible Handbook

### **Continued from Page 1**

with our community. Easter reminds us that with God, new life is always possible. New beginnings are possible. Renewed vision is possible. A hopeful future is possible.

So as we move through April and beyond, may we celebrate Easter with joy, but may we also carry its promise with us. May the hope of resurrection shape how we live, how we love, how we serve, and how we dream together as a church.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to worship, pray, serve, give, and show up in the life of this congregation. I am grateful for you, and I am hopeful for what God still has in store for us.

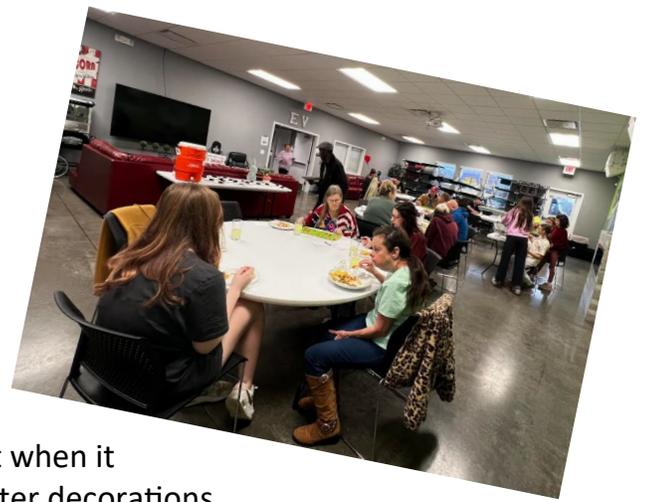
Christ is risen. And because He is risen, we have every reason to move forward with hope.

Grace and peace,

**-Pastor Nolan**

# Youth Ministry

March was a meaningful and joy-filled month for our youth group! On March 11th, we had the opportunity to



serve at Eden Village, where we shared a meal and played BINGO with the residents. The gas station gift cards were definitely the biggest hit when it came to prizes—those went fast! The cute Easter decorations, however...not quite as popular. One of the sweetest moments of the evening

was getting to celebrate a resident's birthday. We gathered together to sing "Happy Birthday" and make her feel special, which was such a beautiful reminder of the importance of community and connection.

Throughout the rest of the month, we have been walking through our Easter Story series. Students have been learning about different prophets in the Old Testament and what they foretold about Jesus. It has been powerful to connect those prophecies to Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection, and to see how God's plan has always been at work.

Looking ahead to April, we have a full and exciting month! On Saturday, April 4th, our youth will be serving at the Easter Carnival, running a tattoo station where they'll help younger kids with fun Easter-themed tattoos. It's always a great opportunity for our students to serve and connect with the younger members of our church.

We'll also be focusing on leadership throughout April as we prepare for Youth Led Sunday on April 26th. Our students will be leading worship, and it's shaping up to be a really special and meaningful day for our church family.

In addition, our annual Rummage Sale is coming up on April 25th! We would love your help in making this a success. Please begin setting aside items to donate and bring them to the church starting Sunday, April 19th, or anytime that week during office hours.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our youth and the ways you help make these experiences possible!

*With gratitude and joy,  
Heather Twibell*





Spring has officially sprung and that means we are looking forward to Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations here at UHBC! Our kids have been practicing some special music with Ms. Lauren each week in preparation for those meaningful services. We had a great time bowling at the end of February for

# Children's Ministry

Family Night Out! We had more than 30 participants and it was just a wonderful time to connect and build community within our church family. We will look forward to another



event in the coming months.

The focus of our Bible stories this month has been humility and learning to “treat others the way Jesus treats you.” From John the Baptist to Mary and Martha, we’ve been looking at how these people in the Bible worked to put God first in their lives. Our verse of the month comes from Phi-



lippians 2:3 which says, “Don’t do anything to get ahead. Don’t do anything because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.” (NIRV) What does this look like from the perspective of our children? Maybe you score the game-winning goal, but you give credit to the whole team for the win. Maybe there is only one cookie and you give it to your brother or sister instead of taking it for yourself. What are some other ways to show humility?



Finally, we are continually looking to have a few adults who can serve in children’s ministry on a monthly or bimonthly basis. This could look like assisting me with children’s church once a month, stepping in on a Wednesday night to help with a craft or game, or even teaching a short Bible story. I am certain that there are many at UHBC with a heart for children, wisdom from walking with Jesus, and a willingness to step into a discipleship role. I’d love to help you find a place in children’s ministry to serve Jesus with humility!

*With joy,  
Alicyn Jennings*

# What's Happening?

Are you a new UHBC member or thinking about joining?  
What does that even mean?

**WiFi @ UHBC (Where I Fit In) takes place during Sunday school on Sunday, April 19** in the parlor with the pastor and a couple of other leaders.

Learn more about UHBC, its rich history, our vision for the future, and where you can find places to serve.

Please sign up by talking to Pastor Nolan or Pastor Joe after worship, or email [uhbc@uhbc.org](mailto:uhbc@uhbc.org).



- 3 Emma Ludwinski  
Roxy Prickett
- 5 Elizabeth Ang  
Brenda Hall  
Sarah McAllister  
Jay Miller
- 7 Linda Holt  
Kitty Mackey

- 10 London Porter  
Harlow Porter
- 11 Edwin Frederickson
- 12 Christian Ard  
Chris Ard
- 16 Randi Edelman
- 17 Jonathan Schott
- 20 Loren Michael Broaddus

- 21 Meredith Roberts
- 22 Ann Willingham
- 24 Steve Sherrill  
Aaron Sirb
- 25 Andrew Albritton  
Frankie Beavers
- 26 Louis Lunn
- 28 Jonathan Carney  
Ben Ludwinski
- 30 Doug Bryan

## April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NO WED ACTIVITIES	2 Maundy Thursday service with communion, 7pm	3 Good Friday	4 Easter Carnival 11a-2p
5 9:15 Easter Brunch 10:30 Worship <b>EASTER!</b>	6 Church office closed	7	8 5:45 Supper 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth Activities	9	10	11 10am Christian Writers' Group
12 9:15 Life Groups, 10:30 Worship	13	14 M & M Meetings	15 5:45 supper 6:30 Bible Study, Kids/Youth Activities	16	17	18
19 9:15 Life Groups WiFi (Where I Fit In) 10:30 Worship	20	21	22 5:45 supper 6:30 Bible Study Kids/Youth	23	24	25
26 9:15 Life Groups 10:30 Worship 4pm Board Meetings	27	28	29	30		



## RESURRECTION TABLE

*1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.*

*2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.*

*5 Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said.*

*"I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."*

*—Matthew 28:1-7 New Living Translation*

A table is a place where we sit down, face to face. It's a space where we share meals or sometimes just drinks, whether they are coffee or something else. A good table is one where we share good conversation, joy, laughter, and heartbreak. At its best, a table is a place where we are allowed to bring all of who we are. We bring who we are, in the moment—a moment filled with our past and present experiences.

- When you think about who you are, what kind of experiences do you have?
- What kind of family did you grow up with?
- Who were your friends?
- What have been life-altering experiences for you? How did that shape you?

The disciples had brought themselves to a table of change—they had seen it everywhere they went with Jesus. Jesus was someone they had hoped would turn their world upside down—and he had. But they had hoped for something more. The past week had been filled with several emotions for them. In a short period of time, they had been exhilarated with hope, expectation, and devastating disappointment. On that Easter morning things took the most unexpected twist they could have imagined.

Resurrection invites us to bring who we are—our expectations and disappointments—to a table filled with new life. It is an invitation for hopes, dreams, and possibility big enough for the messiness of who we are and the world we live in. It moves us further into relationships and the tension and messiness relationships can bring. It moves us into the lives of people we would not normally spend time with or build relationships with. And we don't hide who we are at the table of resurrection. We can be honest about the ways we need to grow, knowing that we are all in the same boat, invited to the same table.

### Some questions to process resurrection:

- Can you imagine losing hope the way the disciples did? How do you think you would have handled it?
- What do you need to be saved from? How does Jesus need to resurrect you?
- What do others need to be saved from? What would salvation mean for them?
- What does justice and mercy look like for everyone?

**Blessings,  
-Joe**

*Wake Up  
and Smell  
the Coffee*

# UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

(Located at the Corner of Grand & National)

1010 S. National Ave

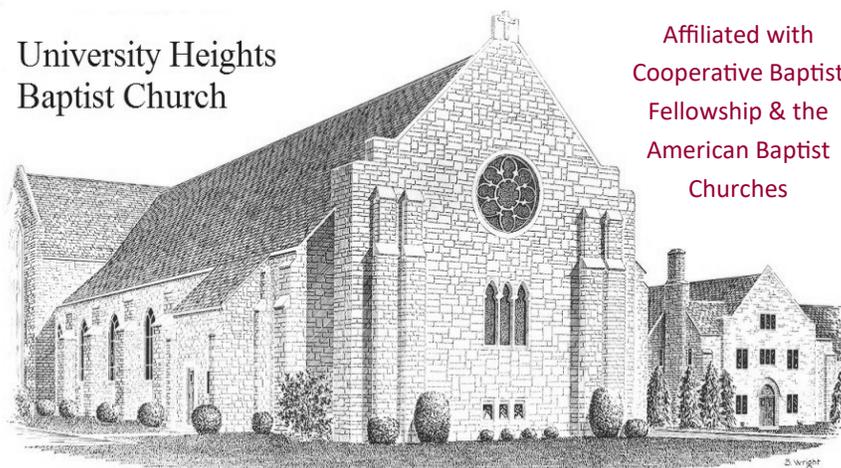
Springfield, MO 65804

Phone: 417.862.0789



Senior Pastor,  
Dr. Nolan B. Porter

## University Heights Baptist Church



Affiliated with  
Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship & the  
American Baptist  
Churches

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