



Church Family,

How Great Is Our God!

"Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation continually say, 'The LORD is great!'"

Psalms 40:16 (CSB)

The word **great** is one we use often. We speak of a great meal, a great game, a great vacation, or a great accomplishment. Yet the more casually we use the word, the more we risk diminishing its true significance.

Scripture, however, reserves that word for the One who alone is truly worthy of it:

"Great is the LORD and highly praised; his greatness is unsearchable."

Psalms 145:3 (CSB)

God's greatness is beyond comparison. He is great in His sovereign majesty, reigning over all creation. He is great in His perfect holiness, untouched by sin or darkness. He is great in His eternal nature, existing before time began and faithfully governing every moment of history. Yet above all, we marvel at the greatness of His mercy. Through His Son, Jesus Christ, God has graciously extended forgiveness, redemption, and eternal life to undeserving sinners.

The more we behold the greatness of God, the smaller our problems become, the deeper our worship grows, and the stronger our confidence rests in Him. May our hearts continually echo the words of the psalmist:

"Proclaim the LORD's greatness with me; let us exalt his name together."

Psalms 34:3 (CSB)

Truly, our God is great, and He alone is worthy of all our praise!

This past Sunday, we witnessed yet another beautiful display of His greatness as **five new followers of Jesus** entered the baptismal waters to publicly declare their faith in Christ. What a joy it is to be reminded once again that **"salvation belongs to the LORD."** We rejoice in what God has done and give Him all the glory!

Please continue to pray for these new believers as they begin their walk with Christ. Ask the Lord to strengthen them daily, establish them firmly in His Word, make them bold in their witness, and enable them to be salt and light in a world that desperately needs the hope of the gospel.

This Sunday is also **Sunday School Promotion Sunday**. Please pray for the children and students who will be moving into new classes. Pray for our teachers and leaders as they welcome these students, faithfully teach God's Word, and lovingly disciple them in the grace and truth of Christ.

We will also conclude our study through the book of **Esther** as we examine chapters 9–10 together. Our focus will be "**Remembering the God Who Delivers.**" We will see that God's deliverance was designed not only to rescue His people but also to remind future generations of His faithfulness, to stir continual rejoicing in His grace, and to encourage His people to remain steadfast in His purposes.

I hope you will make plans to join us this Lord's Day!

Join Us in Prayer

Sunday Prayer Gathering

Sundays • 8:00–8:15 a.m. • Prayer Room

Begin each Lord's Day by joining us as we seek God's presence, power, and blessing upon every aspect of our worship services.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Sundays • 10:15–11:15 a.m. • Prayer Room

Each Sunday, faithful intercessors gather to pray throughout our worship service. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, a sign-up sheet is available in the Prayer Room.

Back-to-School

This Thursday our students, teachers, administrators, and school staff will begin a new school year. While we have already prayed for and over them, my hope is that we will continue lifting them before the Lord throughout the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Pray for their safety and protection. Pray that they will be bold and unashamed in their witness for Christ. Pray that God will grant them wisdom, discernment, and grace as they interact with classmates, coworkers, and friends—especially those who do not yet know Him. Pray that their daily walk with Christ will remain steadfast and that they will neither stumble nor drift from Him.

Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen them to stand firmly upon God's truth and to reflect the character of Christ in every conversation, every classroom, every decision, and every relationship.

Finally, pray that the joy of the Lord will be so evident in their lives that others will be drawn to Christ through their testimony. May they faithfully "**act justly, love faithfulness, and walk humbly with [their] God**" (Micah 6:8), shining brightly for the glory of Christ wherever He has placed them.

A Few Thoughts on the Importance of Sunday School

In recent years, many have questioned the role of Sunday School in the life of the local church. While no single ministry can accomplish every aspect of discipleship, I remain convinced that a healthy, Christ-centered Sunday School is one of the most effective ministries a church can offer. When intentionally led and biblically grounded, Sunday School becomes a vital avenue for evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and spiritual care.

1. It Provides Biblical Instruction for Every Generation.

Sunday School offers intentional Bible teaching for every member of the family—from preschoolers to senior adults—allowing the entire church to gather around God's Word while receiving age-appropriate biblical instruction.

2. It Strengthens Relationships and Church Assimilation.

Healthy churches are built upon meaningful relationships. Sunday School provides the smaller setting where people are known, loved, encouraged, and cared for. It fosters involvement and serves as one of the primary environments where disciple-making naturally occurs.

3. It Encourages Systematic Bible Study.

One of the strengths of biblically faithful curriculum, such as LifeWay and similar resources, is its intentional approach to teaching the whole counsel of God. Over time, believers are exposed to the breadth of Scripture and gain a growing understanding of God's redemptive plan.

4. It Supports Corporate Worship.

Sunday School and corporate worship complement one another. People who are faithfully connected in smaller groups are often more faithful in gathering with the larger body for worship.

5. It Builds Lasting Relationships.

The church is more than a place we attend—it is a family to which we belong – God's family with Christ as our head. Sunday School provides opportunities to encourage one another, bear one another's burdens, and cultivate lifelong friendships centered on Christ.

6. It Creates Opportunities for Ministry.

Sunday School provides numerous avenues for believers to serve through teaching, outreach, hospitality, care ministry, prayer, administration, and leadership. As classes grow, opportunities for meaningful service grow as well.

7. It Advances Our Discipleship Strategy.

At First Baptist Church Benton, Sunday School is an essential part of our discipleship pathway. Together we learn God's Word, apply it to everyday life, pursue spiritual maturity, and encourage one another to become disciples who make disciples.

8. It Provides an Open Door for Evangelism.

Historically, Sunday School began as an evangelistic ministry. While its ministry has expanded over the years, we must never lose that original emphasis. Every class should be a welcoming place where guests, seekers, and new believers encounter the truth of God's Word, experience genuine Christian love, and hear the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Final Thought

Sunday School is far more than another program on the church calendar. At its best, it serves as one of the primary engines of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and pastoral care within the local church.

Like every worthwhile ministry, it requires prayer, faithful leadership, committed teachers, and servants who are willing to invest in people. It takes work—but it is work that bears eternal fruit.

When we invest in Sunday School, we are investing in people. And when we invest in people through the faithful teaching of God's Word and loving biblical relationships, we are investing in the future health and mission of Christ's church.

I remain convinced that Sunday School continues to be one of God's most effective tools for making disciples—when God's people prayerfully and faithfully embrace the work He has entrusted to them.

Child Evangelism Fellowship – 5-Day Club

What a wonderful week we experienced during our **CEF 5-Day Club**! While the temperatures were certainly warm, the Lord blessed us with **nine children** who faithfully attended each day for two hours of Bible lessons, missionary stories, songs, Scripture memory, and activities.

I am deeply thankful for everyone who invested their time to pour the love and truth of Christ into these young lives. We know that seeds were planted, watered, and cultivated—and we trust God to bring the growth in His perfect time.

A heartfelt thank you to our CEF missionaries, **Rick and Shirleen Pilcher**, along with the student leaders who faithfully served throughout the week. Your love for Christ and your commitment to children were evident in every lesson and every conversation.

Please continue praying for these children and their families, asking the Lord to draw many to Himself and to produce lasting spiritual fruit through the faithful proclamation of His Word.

In Christ,

Bro. Todd

todd.henson@bentonfbc.org

Music Ministry



August is the *perfect* month to join the Adult Choir! We'll be preparing new music for the Fall season. Plus, work on our new Christmas musical begins in *September*!

I'm so grateful for each choir member and Bonnie and all our musicians who faithfully give of their time and talents so generously every week! Thank you for the Wednesday nights, the Sunday morning warmups, and the faithful service you offer to the Lord and to this church family.

Church, please lift up our music ministry in prayer. Pray that every song offered would glorify our Father, who is worthy of our praise and worship!

Come join us this Wednesday evening, 6:15pm in the choir room. We have a chair waiting for you!

Stuart

stuart.terry@bentonfbc.org

Student Ministry

Jesus said, "unless you turn and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

The older we get, it seems the harder we try to impress God. But these recent salvations are a reminder that the Lord desires people to come to Him like little children. Fully trusting Him, with pure and humble hearts, weak in strength, and looking to Him for hope, strength, courage, and love.

Just as little children depend on their earthly father, God's children are called to depend on their heavenly Father. He is not asking anyone to earn His love or impress Him. Through Christ, He has already set His love upon His people. May these students' salvations remind us that our heavenly Father delights in those who come to Him with childlike faith.

August 4, 2026

Beginning **August 12 at 5:15 PM**, a **New Christian Discipleship Class** will begin for new believers. The purpose of this class is to help students establish a strong biblical foundation and grow in their walk with Christ. All students in **6th–12th grade** are invited to attend in the **Upper Room**.

Upcoming Dates:

- **August 5** – No Wednesday Night Church
- **August 12** – Fall Wednesday Night Student Ministry Begins | 6:15 PM
- **August 16** – Vertical Jump Park (Middle School Trip)

In Christ,

Hayden Jaco

Director of Students

hayden.jaco@bentonfbc.org

Children's Ministry

It's back to school this week for most schools! I'm praying it will be an easy transition this week and that it will be a great school year!

We will have Wednesday night activities beginning August 12!

Sunday School promotion is this Sunday for the kids classes.

Have a great week!

Margaret Siress

margaret.siress@bentonfbc.org

Business Information

Budget Offering 8/02/2026	\$13,565.73
Given to date	\$423,794.42
Budget needs to date	\$426,726.33
Designated Offering	\$535.00
Building Fund This Year	\$2,290.00
Lottie Moon	\$6,447.00
Annie Armstrong	\$1,740.00
Raymond James/Endow. Fund	\$76,218.09

ATTENDANCE

08/02/26	272
----------	-----

Volunteers Needed

- Monitors for Wednesday evening bible study starting back on Aug 12th at 6:15pm
- Welcome Center during the Sunday School and Worship hours.
This will be a once every three-month rotation. Please contact **Coye McCurry 270-703-0276** or **Mark Harrison 270- 206-8763** for these positions.

~~~~~

- Audio & Video positions – once every 4 – 5 weeks. No experience needed. Short training session.  
**Please contact church office for these positions. 270-527-7575**

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

## Upcoming News & Events



## Welcome New Members

**Kyree Morris**  
**203 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Benton, Ky 42025**

**Melody Morse**  
**1549 Iuka Road**  
**Grand Rivers, Ky 42045**

# Church Highlights



**PROUD PARENTS: JARED & MEGAN**  
**BROTHER: JACE**  
**IT'S A BOY!**



# Prayer Request

## **Church Family**

Karen Brown  
 Brent Clark  
 Kia Crouse  
 Joe & Dianne Dodd  
 Doug Galyen  
 Jim & Margie Greer  
 Kathy Harrison  
 Joan Hillen  
 Roy & Joetta Jones  
 Barbara Kinsey  
 Cheryl McCuiston  
 Tommy & Brooks Meyer  
 Dennis Pierce  
 Ronnie Powell  
 Tristen Prange  
 Ann Riley  
 Edna Riley  
 Wendy Rose  
 Dale Southerd  
 Jason Trammell  
 Barb Travis

\* Indicates new prayer request

## **Friends & Family**

Ed & Jane Alton  
 Anthony Cain  
 Amanda Crittendon  
 Debbie Dowdy  
 Veronica Galloway  
 Shelby Hega  
 Tony Hercula  
 Keith Johnson  
 George & Jane Kickhofel  
 Aaron Peters  
 Alicia Powell  
 Sandra Rowley  
 Dorothy Ryba  
 Dennis Southerd  
 Jane Willie  
 Eddy Wild

## **Deaf Ministry**

Kevin & Jessica Cartwright  
 & Family  
 15213 W 121<sup>st</sup> Terrace  
 Olathe, KS 66062  
*(Patty Sanders' son & family)*

## **IMB Missionaries, SE Asia**

Trevor & Maggie Grant  
 3806 Monument Ave  
 Richmond, VA 23230  
*(Martha Lewis's  
 granddaughter & husband)*

## **North American Mission Board**

*(Kaitlin Penn's brother &  
 family)*  
 Eric & Brittany Gibbs  
 767 N Castledale Ave  
 Casa Grande, AZ 85194

## **Prayer Request**

If you have a prayer request that you would like added to the newsletter, please call the church office at 270-527-7575



# Volunteer Schedules

|                                                                  |                                                        |                                           |                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b><br>8/2 Elizabeth Garrett<br>Deanna Trammell | <b>WORSHIP ONLY</b><br>Tammy Willie<br>Mary Jo Sprouse | <b>S S &amp; WORSHIP</b><br>Kathy McCurry | <b>S S &amp; WORSHIP</b><br>Janice Miller |
| 8/9 Rita Hawes<br>Patsy Doom                                     | Amy Northcott<br>Heather Yates                         | Dara Smith                                | Stacey Malone                             |
| 8/16 Vicki Wynn<br>Vicki Tynes                                   | Wendy Rose<br>Kia Crouse                               | Jessica Jaco                              | Lori McGregor                             |
| 8/23 Dara Smith                                                  | Karen Postma<br>Karen McKean                           | Devan Willoughby                          | Megan Robinson                            |
| 8/30 Elizabeth Garrett<br>Deanna Trammell                        | Mary Jo Sprouse                                        | Dana Marsteller                           | Janice Miller                             |

|                                        |                           |                                     |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Welcome Center</u></b>           | <b><u>Camera Room</u></b> | <b><u>Audio – Video</u></b>         |
| 7/26 – Bud Langlois, Gary Allen        | 7/26 – Gary Allen         | 7/26 – Grant & Devan Willoughby     |
| 8/2 – Danny Owens,<br>Ricky Marsteller | 8/2 – Bud Langlois        | 8/2 – <b>TBD</b> & Chase Duncan     |
| 8/9 – Eric Penn, Mark Heuer            | 8/9 – Allen Gildersleeve  | 8/9 – Jeff Siress & Keagan Owens    |
| 8/16 – Josh Powel, <b>TBD</b>          | 8/16 – Kevin Jackson      | 8/16 – Joe Jackson & Miranda Mathis |
| 8/23 – David Puckett, Ron Welch        | 8/23 – Mike Donohoo       | 8/23 – Billy & Terri Thorpe         |
| 8/30 – Gabe Bryant, Tim Yates          | 8/30 – Brenda Langlois    | 8/30 – Grant & Devan Willoughby     |

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>Offertory Prayer</u></b> | <b><u>Wednesday Evening</u></b> |
| 7/26 – Brian Doss              | 8/12 – David Puckett            |
| 8/2 – Greg Carter              | 8/19 – Ricky Marsteller         |
| 8/9 – Josh Powell              | 8/26 – Clayton Crouse           |
| 8/16 – Josh Owens              |                                 |
| 8/23 – Andy Miller             |                                 |
| 8/30 – Kevin Jackson           |                                 |

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## August 2026

| Sun                                     | Mon                                                                       | Tue                                          | Wed                                                                   | Thu                                           | Fri                                                                                            | Sat                                              |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                         |                                                                           |                                              |                                                                       |                                               |                                                                                                | 1                                                |
| 2<br>Joe Jackson<br>Jarrett Malone      | 3<br>Breanna Carnine                                                      | 4                                            | 5<br>Holly Moore                                                      | 6<br>Irma McClain<br>Brent Lanier             | 7<br>Brian Alexander<br>Danny Maxberry<br>Eric Penn<br>Tamie Hodges<br>Clifford & Sherrie Penn | 8                                                |
| 9<br>Marisa Smith<br>Jessica Cartwright | 10<br>Tammy Anderson<br>Eleanor Pogue                                     | 11<br>Richard McLeod<br>Todd & Amy Northcott | 12<br>Becky Auten<br>Hayden Jaco<br>Clark Pullen                      | 13<br>Susan Sedlock<br>Mark & Debbie Heuer    | 14<br>Debra Edwards<br>Sarah Robertson                                                         | 15                                               |
| 16                                      | 17<br>Todd & Kelly Henson                                                 | 18<br>David Record                           | 19<br>Steve & Cynthia Cary                                            | 20                                            | 21<br>Judy Southerd<br>Ken Toby                                                                | 22<br>Carolyn Donohoo<br>Danny & Lockie Maxberry |
| 23<br>Brooks Tynes<br>Tessa Powell      | 24<br>Cathy Maddox<br>Steven Bowers                                       | 25<br>Danny Owens                            | 26<br>Savannah Hairgrove<br>Karen McLeod<br>Pam Rye<br>Karsyn Warmath | 27<br>Tommy Sedlock<br>Mike & Carolyn Donohoo | 28<br>Nate Moore<br>Annie Malone                                                               | 29<br>Natalie Thurmond                           |
| 30<br>Erin Mathis                       | 31<br>Tommy Meyer<br>Cheryl McCuiston<br>Dusty Kornbacher<br>Jill Spencer | ANNIVERSARIES IN RED                         |                                                                       |                                               |                                                                                                |                                                  |