



1630 W. Republic Road * Springfield, MO 65807
www.gosouthland.org

The Southland Vine

For FEBRUARY 2026

Who we are: A church family where *together* we are equipped to **LIVE OUT** faith in Christ as we **ENCOUNTER** God, **CONNECT** with others, **GROW DEEP** and **BUILD UP** one another.



WE LOVE
Because
He First
LOVED US

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We plan to publish the next edition of *The Vine* in late February.

When WINTER WEATHER comes ...

As happened back on Sunday, January 25, we are in the time of year when weather can occasionally impact our schedule. Check out page 3 for a reminder about how we communicate any weather-related adjustments in such situations.

Southland "FAMILY" News



Congratulations to Jersey Hessee who was immersed into Christ by Simeon Martin on Sunday morning, January 4.

We rejoice with her in this decision to follow Jesus!

UPCOMING EVENTS for the Southland family:

There is not another one of our "big events" to advertise in this space at this point (the next one is the picnic in June). Yet, there is obviously still a lot happening with our regular ministry programming - see below - and within individual Southland ministries. Such ongoing ways are still a great way to experience the goodness of our church FAMILY life.

Our next "First Sunday CONNECTION" is Sunday, February 1 at 10am (then, March 1 also)

At Southland, we value **CONNECTING** with others within the church family; in fact, we identify this as a key priority that we believe is part of God's design for His people in Christ. It's why we have **CONNECT** Groups that meet each week (see p. 16). It's also why we have some opportunities throughout the year for experiencing and developing relationships with one another.



That's the goal behind these "**First Sunday CONNECTION**" times (we have one on Sunday, February 1, then another one on March 1). In the midst of everything else, we want to provide an informal time for making connections with others. We'll provide some simple breakfast items and coffee, but otherwise, there's nothing else we do besides providing the basic context for good conversation. We have regular 9:15am Connect Groups for adults/S.S. classes for kids and youth on these days, just dismissed earlier than normal. If you're not typically here with us in that time, we encourage you to join us on these days at 10am anyway for this time of **CONNECTING**.

NOTE: Kids up through 5th grade will have their own time on these days, meeting in Rooms 1 and 2 (nursery-age kids will remain there during this time).

Throughout this edition of "The Vine," we've shared about some upcoming events later this Spring. (We'll really start sharing about Summer events in March/April, but we've already provided some details about those as well.) While there is much more information on the pages that follow, we want to make sure we highlight them here as well so that they're not missed:



Each Summer, our high school students take an annual trip to the "MOVE" Conference (part of the ministry of CIY - see p. 12 for details). It is a costly trip, and part of how the broader Southland family can support our young people is through the annual **YOUTH YARD SALE**.

The yard sale is *the main fundraising event* for our students attending MOVE (we did also have another fundraiser in November); each year it certainly makes a big impact! This year's sale will be May 1 and 2; Les will formally start accepting donations for the sale from the Southland family on March 1. Obviously, such donations are crucial to making the yard sale a successful endeavor, so we encourage you to help out in this way. Thanks, in advance, for helping in this way!

Our annual “LIVE OUT: Service Day” for 2026 is Sunday, May 3. It’s a great day in the Southland FAMILY as SERVING becomes our intentional focus. We adjust the schedule of the morning so we can show love through practical action - typically, in the community, though it was a different format in 2025. We’re still working on plans for the day; but, for now, please put the date on your calendars and make plans to join us for this day!



Some Technology Tools for the Southland Family



CHURCH CENTER by Planning Center ... This tool provides an online directory that those who have signed-up can access through a secure log-in and password (<https://people.planningcenteronline.com/>). There is also an app that goes with it too - “Church Center.” It’s a great tool for us to maintain connections with others in the Southland family. It also allows each individual person with access to this resource to manage their own contact information as that needs to be updated. Additionally, we use the e-mail platform within the “PEOPLE” portion - for sharing both general information and prayer requests. Let us know if you’re not receiving these.

FACEBOOK, including “The Southland Scoop” ... We have a general Facebook page that is public/visible for sharing some basic information about us more broadly (e.g. this is what we use for putting out our weekly live stream as well - see page 15 for more on that). *We also have a page called “The Southland Scoop.”* We use this more “internal” page to share church family-related information: pictures from recent events, reminders, announcements, updates, upcoming sermon themes, etc. If you’re on Facebook and not a part of “The Scoop” already, we encourage you to find it and get connected with us there.



OTHER GENERAL REMINDERS & INFO



IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER ...

We are in that time of year when wintry weather can become a possibility. Unfortunately, there are times - as on January 25 - when we have to cancel or adjust our regular schedule as a result. These changes will be made as soon as reasonably possible (*we try to have a decision made at least two hours prior to start time*) and communicated in these main ways:

- ⇒ Through our “Southland Scoop” Facebook page.
- ⇒ Via e-mail through the “Planning Center: PEOPLE” lists we regularly use for sharing information.
- ⇒ We also make an attempt to call those who may not have such “electronic access.” *Please do let the office know if you wish to be contacted in this way when weather requires a schedule change.*

We encourage you to check in these places for an official word from SCC if you’re wondering about our plans on a particular day. *Of course, if you are in doubt at all about conditions or if circumstances make your travel unsafe, we certainly encourage you to use appropriate discretion regardless of our decision.*

NOTE: Even if conditions are not good because of weather, there is always the LIVE STREAM option for our ENCOUNTER time; see page 15 for more on that.

**TITHE.LY**

We use an online platform called “Tithe.ly” as a giving option. It can be accessed at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1302996> or through the app. Either way, you can find a page designed for Southland where you can give. In addition to regular giving, this can be used for other purposes like payment of fees. Especially when using this platform to make such a payment, we do ask that you cover any charges. *There is certainly no requirement to use this tool, but we are grateful to have it available for those who choose to use it.*

FINANCIAL UPDATE ... For January 2026

We provide this basic info to keep you updated about what's happening with giving at Southland. In each edition of “The Vine,” we share a monthly snapshot with a ministry year total as well.

INCOME: January monthly tithe = \$45,783⁰⁰ (4 Sundays)* Average weekly tithe = \$11,445⁷⁵
Five months into this fiscal/ministry year-to-date (September 2025 onward), our tithe is \$209,819 for a weekly average of \$9,991³⁸ ... this projects to a little under \$520,000 annually.

** Even though we did not meet “in-person” on 1/25, we are still counting that week.*

We started this ministry year in a good spot overall, including some layers of reserve. At this point (thanks especially to really strong December and January tithes), we’re a little bit ahead of the pace we were on last year - through August 2025 - when we finished at \$477,000. That being said, our budgeted tithe need has increased a bit so that we need in the \$480,000 range. So, while we continue to be in good shape, even still, we continue to encourage you to keep pressing on in your financial participation with our ministry - as 2 Corinthians 8 puts it, “to excel in this grace of giving.”

2025 GIVING RECEIPTS ... Receipts were sent out in January (mainly via e-mail because of the new format we are using for this). Please double-check yours against your own records. If you discover a discrepancy, make sure you let the office know and we will work to get it corrected. Also, if you don’t receive a receipt by the end of January and need one, please also let us know that. *Thank you, again, for your faithful participation in giving!!*

Weekly ministry happenings - Southland FAMILY-wide:

Sunday mornings at 9:15am ... ministry programming for all ages including CONNECT Groups for adults - Sunday School classes for all kids and youth as well. See page 16 for more specifics. *We are meeting as normal during February, including a “First Sunday CONNECTION” time at 10am on Sunday, 2/1.*



Sunday mornings at 10:30am ... our ENCOUNTER service - the time when we gather as a church FAMILY to meet with God; you can join us “in person” or online via the live stream if you cannot be here. See page 15 for more on this.

Sunday evenings (6-8pm - *not meeting on Sunday, February 8*) ... Group Huddle for middle school and high school youth; the new semester has resumed. See pages 10-11 for more details about themes for the various weeks and more.

Wednesday evening CULTIVATE, a “GROW DEEP” ministry ... 5:30 for dinner, 6:30 for ministry programming - find details about this semester on page 17. We’ve wrapped-up a round of D-Groups; at this point, we are in a six-week session of ELECTIVE classes from February 4 through March 11.



Thursday mornings (10am start time) ... WSA - Ladies' Bible Study. We have provided this as another weekly D-Group option for ladies with the same content as on Wednesdays; *see page 14 for the plan for February 5 through March 12.*

Specific Events to Highlight (listed by date):

We try to consolidate into one list the dates you need to be aware of for the weeks ahead.

Sunday, February 1 ... the new due date for the 2nd \$75 MOVE Conference deposit; make sure you get this paid ASAP if you haven't already (see p. 12).

Sunday, February 1 ... a "First Sunday CONNECTION" at 10am (see p. 2).

Sunday, February 8 ... VBS meeting at noon for the grade school core team/rotation leaders.

Sunday, February 15 ... VBS meeting at noon for those interested in serving as part of the decoration team.

Sunday, February 15 and Sunday, February 22 ... the "Presidential (Prez) Coin Challenge" for Group Huddle students - a way to bolster missions giving for this semester (see p. 11).

Friday, February 20 ... kids' movie/game night; see page 9 for details.

Sunday, February 22 ... "Open Hearts, Open Homes" lunch after service.

Sunday, March 1 ... another "First Sunday CONNECTION" at 10am (again, see p. 2).

Sunday, March 1 ... VBS meeting at noon for pre-k/K leaders.

Friday, March 6 ... the high school "Mid-Nighter" from 6pm until midnight (see p. 12).

Sunday, March 8 ... Daylight Saving Time begins, time to "spring forward."

Friday, March 20 ... Winter Jam at Great Southern Bank Arena; doors open at 6pm - the youth are *not* going as a group, but we wanted to share the information (see p. 11).

By the end of March ... Rick is wanting the 2026 mission trip team set; see his article on page 7 for more details.

Friday, April 3 and Sunday, April 5 ... Easter weekend 2026.

Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 ... Women's Event/Conference at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO (see p. 14)

A few dates for down the road so you can have these on your calendar:

Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2 ... annual youth yard sale; see pages 2 and 12.

Sunday, May 3 ... our annual "LIVE OUT: Service Day."

Various dates in June ... sessions at Maranatha Bible Camp (see p. 9).

July 5-10 ... the high school MOVE conference (see p. 12).

July 18-25 ... a mission trip to Mexico with *Casas por Cristo*; again, see Rick's article on page 7 for more details.

Monday, July 27 through Thursday, July 30 (starts at 6pm each day) ... "Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23" - our 2026 VBS (see p. 9).

What MATTERS to me ...

As we turn our calendars to February, it's common for LOVE to be on our hearts and minds. After all, Valentine's Day is on the 14th (*quick public service announcement, guys, don't forget!*). In this time of year, it's common to reflect on love - primarily, what we might call "romantic" love, but beyond that, too. Accordingly, it seems appropriate to use this space to reflect on the Designer of love, God Himself, the One of whom John writes in 1 John 4:8, God is love!

Even beyond the month itself, God's love is especially on my heart because of our journey through 1 John (where the Father's love is a prominent theme - as in 3:1 or 4:7ff) and because of a song we've sung recently. It's simply titled "Love of God" by Brandon Lake and Phil Wickham. I won't share the whole song, but there are several parts that stand out - like these:

- Verse 1: It's so good, I almost can't believe it, far beyond what hearts could ever dream.
 The God who set the galaxies in motion would descend to give His life for me.
- Pre-Chorus 1: For what could make Perfection bleed for sinners? What leads a King to pay so great a cost?
 All my life, my heart will sing the answer: only the love of God!
- Chorus: Singing, oh, how great is the love of God; He paid our debt on that rugged cross!
 For all our days we will sing our Savior's praise; how great is the love of God!
- Verse 3: Though I try, my mind can't comprehend it; it's so high, too marvelous for words.
 I could sing a million songs about it and barely scratch the surface of Your worth.
- Pre-Chorus 3: This all my life the banner I'll be waving, my anthem cry no matter what may come.
 And when I rise to walk the streets of Heaven, I'll still be singing this song,
 For everything that You've done: how great the love of God!

Like many songs, there's extra power when the music is playing; yet, even these lyrics themselves have something about them that stirs my heart. There are so many aspects of God's love captured here. It's the powerful truth that the Creator of the universe descended into our world for us. It's the incredible sacrifice of Jesus, Perfection, bleeding for sinners - a King paying a cost for His people's salvation. It's the eternally lasting reality of God's love - what never fails and what we'll be singing for all our days here and beyond. It's the words of verse 3: that God's love is so great that our minds cannot comprehend it and it's too marvelous for words ... even more that even singing a million songs doesn't fully capture it.

Something about that part of the song really grabs my heart. It specifically reminds me of words that Paul writes in Ephesians 3, part of a prayer he prays for the believers in Ephesus. Amidst a prayer for growth in Christ, he writes that as God's Spirit empowers us as believers and as Christ makes His home in our hearts as we trust Him, our roots "will grow down into God's love and keep you strong" (3:17, NLT). In other words, the same love that saves us and brings us into relationship with Him is the same love that strengthens and steadies us in life. Indeed, His love fuels our growth. From there, Paul writes these words in verses 18-19:

¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

I love the contrast: though God's love is truly far too great to understand fully, it is worth our attempts to understand it *and* to experience it. Will we ever fully get it this side of Heaven? No, it's too great for that! Yet, there is value in us as God's people in Christ to stop and meditate, allowing the truth of God's love to fill our hearts. No matter how much we do, we'll only be scratching the surface (to use language from the song); yet, something powerful happens within us nonetheless. It's worth pursuing and certainly worth declaring.

So, especially this month, as LOVE is on our hearts and minds, may this highest and purest form of love capture our hearts - only the love of God. May we revel in being His beloved!

A note from RICK ...

Hi, Southland Family!

It's not too late to get in on our trip to Anapra, Mexico this summer! We are working with *Casas Por Cristo* to build a house for a family in need in this neighborhood of Juarez. While we don't know just yet who our family is, we've been blessed to help out some wonderful people in the past, and I'm sure that will be the case once again. I should be able to introduce the family to you in another month or two.



This is a great opportunity to get involved in missions and to just go and serve for a week. If you can swing a hammer, listen to and follow instructions, and pick on Karl while you work, we can use you. If you have building or electrical experience, that's a plus, too. Over the week, we will pour concrete, frame walls, roof, insulate, hang drywall, paint, play with kids, love on our family, and enjoy some great food and fellowship. I hope you'll prayerfully consider getting in on this, and if you can't this year, that you'll join us in prayer for our family.



Here are some basic details:

Dates: July 18-25

Cost: \$375 - an initial \$150 deposit by April 30, then, the remaining \$225 by June 1

Needs: A few tools

A passport (if 19 or older)

Some work clothes

(I can get a more detailed list to you if you're interested.)

I'd like to have our team put together by the end of March at the latest, so please reach out to me if you have any questions at all!



SOUTHLAND Kids

CHECK-IN Process for our Kids' Ministries



We use a check-in process on Sunday mornings for those who are participating in our ministries for kids (birth through 5th grade).

This is for those coming for the first time - it takes a little longer to provide some basic registration information - and for regulars.

REMINDER: We use this process for both time slots on Sundays so please check your kids in when you first arrive.

Sunday School Classes for kids (9:15am on Sundays)

We have kids' Sunday School classes as part of our regular weekly schedule. In addition to nursery for our youngest ones, we have classes for all ages. We are meeting as normal in February, including a "First Sunday CONNECTION" at 10am on 2/1 (kids have their own time).

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

Kids' Programming during ENCOUNTER (10:30am on Sundays)

Here's what happens for kids 5th grade and younger during this time slot.

Nursery, "Wee Kid ENCOUNTER" (for 2-&-3 year-olds) and "Li'l Kid ENCOUNTER" (kids up through Kindergarten/1st grade - those in 1st grade have the option: here or in "Kid ENCOUNTER") are all available throughout our ENCOUNTER time.

Kid ENCOUNTER (1st through 5th graders) meets during the sermon portion of service. Kids start with their families and then are dismissed at the appropriate time. *Kid ENCOUNTER is meeting as normal in February.*

Kid ENCOUNTER has started a new curriculum called "Jesus Up Close." This 12-lesson series "zooms in" on the life of Jesus - perhaps even some of the less familiar moments - as the Easter season draws near.

Wednesday evenings this Winter/Spring

CULTIVATE KIDS

Kids up through 5th grade have their own programming as part of CULTIVATE on Wednesday evenings; they meet in the Fellowship Hall (this location is likely to change during the round of adult elective classes from February 4 through March 11). Jessica leads this time with a lesson series called "Dave Did!" The curriculum focuses on King David, one of the most fascinating characters in the Bible - a warrior, a poet, a man after God's own heart. After looking at his life in these lessons, the plan is to watch the new kids' "David" movie at the end of this semester.

CULTIVATE ministry programming meets from 6:30-7:45pm each week; check out page 17 for information about what is happening on Wednesday evenings more broadly.

An Upcoming Event for Kids (age 4 through 5th grade):



Kids' Game/Movie Night
Friday, February 20 from 5-8pm
for kids age 4 through 5th grade

We will meet in the Gathering Room - pizza included. Please sign-up at the check-in counter or let Jessica know if you're coming. We're looking forward to a fun time together!

A Look Ahead to Our 2026 VBS - July 27-30 (evenings)

As we continue on into this new year, it's time to start thinking about our 2026 VBS. For now, we wanted to share the theme - it's focused on Psalm 23 - and get the dates out so you can put them on your calendars. As always, VBS is a great week for the kids because of all of those who volunteer to serve! We'll be sharing much more information along the way.



If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, we'd love your help; please contact Jessica (we'll also be sharing more along the way about how you can help). There will be several upcoming meetings as we prepare for VBS 2026, including the following ones:

February 8 (noon in the Fellowship) - grade school station leaders

February 15 (noon in the Fellowship Hall) - anyone interested in helping with decorations

March 1 (noon in the Fellowship Hall) - pre-K/K team



Dates for the 2026 Camp Season

Below are the sessions and dates Southland will be attending at Maranatha this Summer; we wanted to make sure you have them on your calendar.

Camp Session (ages/grades)*	Dates (days of the week)	Camp Theme
Beginner Camp 2 (K-1 st)	June 13 (Saturday)	 MARK 10:45 Jesus the Servant A study of Mark
Kids' Camp 1 (2 nd -4 th)	June 18-20 (Thursday - Saturday)	
5 th /6 th Grade Camp 1	June 14-17 (Sunday - Wednesday)	
Junior High Camp (7 th -8 th)	June 28 - July 2 (Sunday - Thursday)	

* It's the grade students are in for the 2026-2027 school year!

LES' LATEST

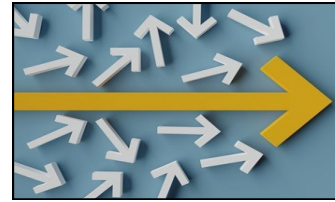
If you've ever used GPS while driving, then you know how easy it is just to trust the voice telling you which way to turn. You can follow the directions without much thought until you reach your destination or encounter an issue. Maybe the signal drops, the directions are outdated, or the app reroutes you through an unsafe area. Suddenly, your trust in that digital voice gets shaken.



Now, think about your own life. You're trying to move forward, maybe through school stress, tough decisions, or complicated friendships. Voices are telling you to follow this path or that one. Be this. Do that. Go here. It can be overwhelming, and honestly, it's easy to get lost in it.

Proverbs 3:5-6, offers this solid advice:

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make straight your paths.*



These two verses remind us that there is one voice that actually knows *the WAY*, and it's not your favorite influencer or even your own gut feeling. It's the Lord - the One who made you - the One who has always known the path ahead! Trusting God doesn't mean life is going to be easy or instantly straightforward. It means you stop trying to force your own way and start asking Him to lead you in *His way*.

GROUP HUDDLE NEWS

"GROUP HUDDLE" is a weekly time (normally meets from 6-8pm on Sundays) for middle school and high school students. It offers a place for students to connect and dive into God's Word as they participate in meaningful small groups, worship and fellowship - see below for more details about what's happening.

Upcoming Group Huddle Schedule:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday, 2/1 | "Groundhog Disco" - Wear a tie-dyed shirt and play some groovy groundhog games. |
| Sunday, 2/8 | <i>No Group Huddle - enjoy the Super Bowl with family and friends.</i> |
| Sunday, 2/15 | "Prez Coin Challenge" - Don't miss this money-raising challenge as we support our current mission partners in London. |
| Sunday, 2/22 | "Wacky Winter Games" - Competitions to award; we guarantee you won't be bored! |
| Sunday, 3/1 | "Sauce Night" - Bring your favorite savory sauce for dipping your nuggets and fries. |

GROUP HUDDLE Series for this semester: "The Way"



We are all on a journey. Some wander without direction. Some run towards success, comfort or control. Others don't even realize they're moving. But, every path leads somewhere, and every heart longs for the same things: truth, purpose and life that lasts.

From the very beginning, there has only been one true Way: Jesus Christ. He doesn't just point to the Way - He is the Way. The life He offers isn't about empty religion or performance; it's about relationship. It's not a path we trek on our own, but one He's already walked for us and now walks with us.



GROUP HUDDLE MEALS:



Each semester, we ask parents to help defray the expense of feeding several hungry teens at Group Huddle. **We ask parents to send \$30 for each student** (we've raised this total recently due to rising food costs; this does cover the whole semester through April).

You can pay this by check or through Tithe.ly by choosing the "Group Huddle meals" option; please cover the fee for this if you are using this option (see p. 4 for more on using Tithe.ly).

As always, we need parent volunteers to help with meal preparation and clean-up throughout the semester; sign-up in the foyer.

GROUP HUDDLE and CHILDREN'S MISSIONS:

We're continuing to support **Andy & Lisa (Husted) Nunn** as our mission partners. They are in London - Andy's home country - as part of a broader ministry called **"Discipleship Global."** They are currently assisting with a church-plant, conducting Bible studies and doing some one-on-one discipleship. They also have the opportunity to share the Gospel in intermediate schools within London. Each Sunday that we meet, our students have the opportunity to pray for our mission partners and give during both "Kid ENCOUNTER" and Group Huddle Bible Study. ***So far, we have raised over \$620!***



The annual "Presidential (Prez) Coin Challenge" is happening February 15 & 22! Each year, this regularly boosts our missions giving during the Winter/Spring semester. This friendly contest will have our young people searching for coins under the couch cushions and doing extra chores around the house. It's a friendly contest that encourages students to give in creative ways. Of course, there are no losers in this competition, because when we support world missions, everyone wins!

MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL (starts at 9:15am on Sunday mornings): We have separate Sunday School classes for our MS and HS youth. *Both have moved to the Gathering Room (off of the Great Room; that room has a middle divider for when the classes meet separately).* ***We are meeting as normal this month, including a church-wide "First Sunday CONNECTION" at 10am on February 1.***

Wednesday Evening CULTIVATE (6:30-7:45 each week). Our middle school/high school youth will be using a Bible study called **"Why Not Now?"** as their content to start this semester. This curriculum challenges students to accept the calling to live like Jesus and participate in His mission even now, not just later. It does this by sharing stories of adolescents from the Bible and in modern life who did/are doing significant things for the Lord. *See page 17 for broader CULTIVATE details for this Winter/Spring semester.*

The 2026 Winter Jam Tour is coming back to Springfield - Great Southern Bank Arena ... Friday, March 20 with doors opening at 6pm, tickets are \$15 at the door (make sure to get there early!). *We're not going as a group, but we wanted to let you know about this event.*

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Beyond our ongoing ministry programming, there are two significant events coming this Summer for middle school students. We'll share more about both of these along the way, but we wanted to make sure they were on your calendars even at this point.

- (1) **Junior High Camp at Maranatha (for *next year's* 7th and 8th graders) - Sunday, June 28 through Thursday, July 2, later than normal** ... we'll share much more about camp, including registration details, once we get to April.
- (2) **VBS week (July 27-30 ... 6-8:30pm each night)** - in addition to what VBS involves for younger students, each year, ours also includes special activities designed for middle school youth (those going into 6th-8th grades *next* school year).

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ...

"High School Mid-Nighter"

Friday, March 6 (6pm - midnight)

Cost is \$25/person



We're still working out specific details (*i.e.* what exactly the activities are). Either way, we'll be here until the clock strikes midnight! Be looking for a sign-up sheet for this event.



The High School "MOVE" Conference

**July 6-10 @ in Lincoln, Nebraska
(for the graduating classes of 2026-2030)**

We have already completed the initial registration process based on an initial head count Les did back in the Fall (*i.e.* for both students and sponsors). There are often some changes to our list as answers change; we deal with these as necessary/possible along the way. *Please let Les know ASAP if your previous answer has changed either direction.*

A second pre-registration deposit of \$75 is due NOW if you haven't already paid it!

As always, you can pay via check (payable to Southland Christian Church with "MOVE") in the memo line; *this can also be paid via Tithe.ly (see p. 4) by choosing the "MOVE Conference Payment" option ... as with any other payments such as this, we do ask that you cover any fees.*

The total cost for this year's conference is \$489. This includes all of the conference fees and housing as well as transportation costs; it doesn't cover any travel meals, merch, etc. ***The balance will be due post-yard sale (likely in June after we've applied a yard sale credit, etc.).***

As a reminder, we help offset the cost of the MOVE Conference through the annual yard sale fundraiser (in addition to the cinnamon roll fundraiser back in November); we have set the dates for this year's sale: **Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2.** *See page 2 for details about donations.*



Southland Women

The holiday season is behind us. I hope it was a blessed season for you! We enjoyed the blessing of time with family and loved ones. Along with those good times, this winter season has brought about some thought-provoking moments in my heart.



Early in December of last year, a significant event in my family history happened - the arrival of the first grandchildren from my siblings. My brother, Mike, became a grandpa to two adorable baby girls from his son, Caleb and wife, Kaylee. These girls are my parents' first great-grandchildren. Something about the beginning of a new generation feels significant! I thought it would likely be several months before I was able to meet these baby girls. But God blessed me with a trip to



Indiana this month and the opportunity to meet Scarlett Layne and Georgia Rose! It was a privilege to see and hold them, and to see God's faithfulness in beginning a new generation in my family. This reality will be even more precious when our own grand-daughter, Lord willing, arrives in March to Anna and Carson. The birth of a baby (or two 😊) is a beautiful marker of God's goodness and faithfulness.

The trip also reminded me of the passing of time. My mother has not been in good health for some time now, but the latter half of 2025 held significant challenges for her. My dad holds his own, but has some health challenges as well. Seeing your loved ones age and decline in health is hard on a heart.

Once we returned to Springfield after our trip, it wasn't long until we heard that our long-time friend from Southland, Jewell Rand, was nearing the end of her earthly life, and we visited her. It was a reminder to me that our earthly bodies are not meant to last forever. She passed away peacefully, surrounded by loving family, and we rejoice for her that she has gone to her eternal home.

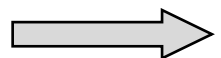
These recent events have been poignant bookends for me that illustrate the beauty of life. The "circle of life" might seem empty if it weren't for the goodness of God in the midst of it. There are many passages in Scripture that speak of the faithfulness of God throughout generations. Here are a few to consider:

Deuteronomy 7:9 - "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments."

Psalms 26:3 - "For I have always been mindful of Your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on Your faithfulness."

Psalms 100:5 - "For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Psalms 117:2 - "For great is His love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD."



Psalm 119:90 - "Your faithfulness continues through all generations; You established the earth, and it endures."

Psalm 135:14 - "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does."

Such reminders of God's faithfulness throughout the seasons of life brings joy and comfort to my heart. God is with us in each situation, whether in joy or in hardship, and His presence brings peace. He allows us to experience blessing and happiness, and He carries us through suffering and difficulty. His goodness and faithfulness can be seen at the beginning of life and the end. Truly, "His faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalm 100:5b).



WSA is back to meeting as normal (the next week off is Thursday, March 19). This ministry is an opportunity for women of all ages and life stages to spend time studying God's Word together while forming bonds with sisters in Christ (designed for "CONNECTING" and/or "GROWING DEEP").

**WSA meets at 10am in Room #6 - finishing around noon each week;
see the note below for details about the content for this session of WSA.**

For February 5 through March 12 (during the CULTIVATE session of electives), WSA is using a RightNow Media series called "Trite, *not* True" by Jarret Stephens. It's a study considering "six of the most common pop philosophies that influence people's lives today, including Christians." Amidst such half-truths and self-help trends, these sessions unpack the truth of God's Word. That's where real wisdom for life is found!



The "Women's Event" at Ozark Christian College is April 24-25.



We are not formally taking a group to this conference; however, we did want to make you aware of the opportunity that is available through OCC, one of our local ministry partners. The early bird rate (through 2/15) is \$30; from there, the cost goes up to \$35 through 3/15 and \$40 after that.

For more details/to register, use this link:
<https://occ.edu/events/womens-event>



WEEKLY ENCOUNTER

... a time to gather in God's presence together.

Our Upcoming Preaching Calendar

To kick-off our sermon calendar in 2026, we're in a sermon series we're simply calling "**BLESSED!**" If it sounds familiar - and/or if the image looks familiar - it's actually the same basic way we started 2025. It's good to celebrate the blessings we experience from our Father in Heaven! This time, however, we move from the Psalms to the NT. In Christ, God's blessings abundantly flow into our lives - beyond even the general provision we experience as part of our Father's creation and the broader goodness of a life of faith (as in the Psalms). In fact, the NT regularly highlights the gracious blessings that come *specifically because of our faith connection to Jesus* - **belonging to Him leads to a far greater level of being BLESSED!**



Here's the catch, though: many times, these blessings are counter-intuitive as they exist more "beneath the surface" of life. In fact, being "BLESSED" in Christ actually comes *regardless* of physical, earthly, here-and-now circumstantial realities. Yet, when we see through the eyes of faith, we grasp how truly and immensely **BLESSED** we are in Him! In this series, we are reflecting on this reality. In most weeks, we are focusing on the actual blessings that are ours through Jesus. While in others, we're identifying who it is that receives His blessing (as in Matthew 5:3-12 with the "Beatitudes" and John 20:29 - those who believe in Jesus without "seeing," that is, having certain proof).

Here's where we intend to head in February throughout the rest of this series:

- February 1 Ephesians 1:3-14 (week 1) - the blessing of relationship with the Father
- February 8 Ephesians 1:3-14 (week 2) - the blessing of forgiveness/redemption through Christ
- February 15 The blessing of eternal reward even in the midst of suffering for Christ and death
- February 22 Demonstrating the JOY of being BLESSED by Him



We continue to offer a LIVE STREAM of our worship service through Facebook LIVE. *You can access it directly from our website itself:* <http://gosouthland.org/watch-online> or through our general/public Southland Facebook page. Even though this format is not as ideal as "in-person" participation - the much better way of joining us for our weekly ENCOUNTER - we do value this online option as an alternative, especially on a Sunday like January 25 that was impacted by weather! Whatever the reason you are not able to be present with us in-person, you can still stay connected to your church family in this way.

Facebook is no longer archiving past videos as it used to. So, if you're looking for past services, you can now access them on YouTube - find us there through a search for "Southland Christian Church" (clarify Springfield, MO) or at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@southlandccstreams>. If you missed a week and want to catch-up, they are accessible at this location.

The well-known BIBLE app (a.k.a. "YouVersion") is a great app for accessing God's Word electronically. There's also a feature within the app that we use during our ENCOUNTER time. It is simply called "EVENTS." It's a great way to follow along with the sermon and even take electronic notes. **Please ask if you need help finding and/or using the app.**



YouVersion

CONNECT GROUPS

... a place to discover Christian community.



One of our priorities here at Southland is to provide a context where relational *family-like connections* can develop. Because it's a prominent theme in the New Testament, we emphasize it within our process statement as a key way we can grow and be equipped in faith. That's a big part of what our CONNECT Groups are about - a small group **relational** setting for **reflecting on God's Word** and **praying together**.

As we continue on into 2026, our **"regular" Connect Groups - with a bit of adjustment, see below - are meeting at 9:15am each Sunday** (note: we do have Sunday School classes for all ages of kids/youth as well during this time). Here is a list of our current groups:

- (1) **"LAUNCH"** (a group for college-aged students) and **"VOYAGE"** (a group for young adults - a portion of it, anyway) are combined with Rick leading a session for this stretch ... **meets in the Fellowship Hall**
- (2) The newer group we started in September is in the midst of a study through the book *Raising Disciples* - some from "The Voyage" are joining this group during this particular stretch/for this curriculum ... **meets in the Great Room for now (previously in Room #7)**
- (3) A group *generally* made up of those who still are in the midst of vocation, and, in many cases, parenting, albeit with older kids ... **meets in Room #7 for now (previously in the Great Room)**
- (4) A group *generally* made up of those who are retired or still working, but approaching that stage of life ... **meets in Room #6**

During this upcoming stretch (at least through the end-of-March), we are planning on having our regular schedule with 9:15am groups and classes each week.. Of course, that involves our **"First Sunday CONNECTION"** times as well - see the note below about those.

Upcoming "First Sunday CONNECTIONS" at 10am - 2/1 + 3/1

As highlighted on page 2, we are hosting these opportunities for church-wide connection over breakfast items and coffee. Groups will be dismissed early on that day and we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall/foyer area for this informal time. Even if you're not normally a part of a group, we invite you to join us!

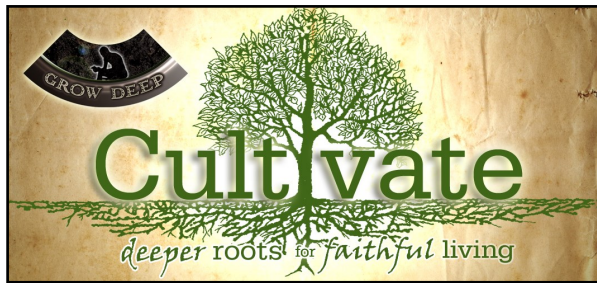
NOTE: When we are hosting these, Jessica is also having a special **CONNECTION** time for kids - special breakfast treats for them to snack on and games; meeting in Rooms 1 and 2.



GROW DEEP MINISTRIES



... an opportunity to plant deep roots in Jesus and God's Word.



Our Wednesday evening CULTIVATE has resumed with our 2026 Winter/Spring semester

We previously shared a flyer with details about our current semester; you can find it through this link if you're viewing this electronically: [Winter/Spring 2026 Cultivate Session](#) (as always, paper copies of this flyer are also available in the foyer).

As a reminder of the basic timing, a meal is served from 5:30-6:15 each week (the cost is now \$4/person with a max of \$15/family) and then ministry programming for all ages from 6:30-7:45.

Our Wednesday evenings include ministry programming for all ages (see page 8 for specifics about what our kids are doing during this time and page 11 for what our middle school/high school youth are doing).

Specifically for adults, we have advertised that there are 3 mini-sessions throughout this Winter/Spring Semester.

- ♦ We have already completed a D-Group session in the letter of 1 John during the month of January.
- ♦ We'll return to another D-Group session once we get past Spring Break (we're off for that week - Wednesday, March 18 ... so, we'll resume on March 25 through the end of April; *content to be determined*).
- ♦ That leaves these six Wednesday evenings running from February 4 through March 11. During this timeframe, we are offering **3 ELECTIVE classes**. While we certainly value what happens in the D-Group context, there are occasionally some other priorities we want to emphasize as part of CULTIVATE - *all still focused on this same basic goal of GROWING DEEP roots in Christ and our faith*. That's what these electives are about.

Here are the options we are making available:

1. **"Every Thought Captive"** - led by Rick Randleman & A.J. Gegg based on a book by Kyle Idleman
2. **"Revealing God: Designer of Life"** - led by Dr. Josh Smith (*one of our SCC members and part of the science/biology faculty at MSU*)
3. **"The Last Week (Jesus Final Week)"** - led by Matt Martin

See the flyers at the CULTIVATE display for more details on these classes (we've also shared more details electronically on "The Scoop" Facebook page and via e-mail). We are looking forward to how God is going to be at work through these classes!



OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD UP

... a way to serve others and even help ourselves grow.

Opportunities to Serve & “BUILD UP” the Body

In so many different ways, just like any FAMILY, we function as we do *because of the willing-hearted servants* who BUILD UP others through serving. As we continue onward into this new year, maybe it's a great time for you to find a way to either get involved in serving your church family or even stretch yourself with a new role.

At the Welcome Center, there are blue flyers identifying various areas in which we need volunteers. There are also blue “BUILD UP” cards that you can fill out and leave in one of the offering boxes (or give to a staff member) to let us know you want to get plugged-in to serving; we'll get in touch with you from there.

We encourage you to volunteer in one of these ministry areas; it would be a great “next step” to take both for the good of others and for your own benefit too!

SERVING SCHEDULE for February 2026

	Foyer Hosts (10:15 on, through whole service)	Greeters (at the doors from 10:15-10:40)	Serving Team Leader
2/1	Bob & Liz Wood	<i>T.B.D. (First Sunday CONNECTION”)</i>	Les Londeen
2/8	Ben & Debbie Jennings	Room #6 Connect Group	Doug Graves
2/15	Doug & Susan Graves	Room #7 Connect Group	Deckard Family
2/22	Les & Kristin Londeen	Great Room Connect Group	Les Londeen

	Nursery workers (all morning)	Wee Kid ENCOUNTER & Li'l Kid ENCOUNTER	Kid ENCOUNTER (1 st - 5 th grades)
2/1	Baadsgaard Family	<i>Ezri S. Sandy A./Becky K.</i>	Jessica Y. & Cary S.
2/8	Wilcox Family	<i>Harmony M. Anna M.</i>	Falconers
2/15	Worthy Family	<i>Jamie B./Anna R. Harmony M.</i>	Halls
2/22	Swadleys (9:15am)/ Harnstroms (10:30am)	<i>Talia S. Debbie H.</i>	Youngs

Ephesians 4:11-16

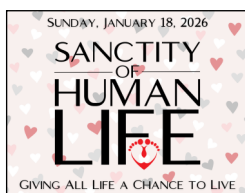


“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” (Ephesians 4:16)

LIVE OUT MINISTRIES



... a path for putting
faith into action.



On Sunday, January 18, we again recognized **"Sanctity of Human Life Sunday."** It is a day each year when we re-affirm our commitment to God as the Creator of *ALL* human life. As such, we acknowledge that *all* human beings - regardless of any factor such as race, social status, etc. - *all* people have intrinsic value as those created *in His image*. Ultimately, a commitment to our Heavenly Father means recognizing His rightful place as Creator! Likewise, in this area or any other, Jesus' Lordship over our lives should move us to strive for what is right and just in God's eyes. That's why we highlight this day annually - an opportunity to draw attention to the day and pray for a greater valuing of life.

In addition to the vital importance of PRAYER (and raising awareness/affirming our commitment), a key way we can LIVE OUT this commitment is through our partnership with the ministry of the Pregnancy Care Center here in Springfield. We are grateful to have them as long-standing ministry partners.

SAVE the DATE! One of our favorite days on the calendar at Southland is what we call our **"LIVE OUT: Service Day."** For several years now, it's been a day for us to be intentional about focusing on SERVICE church-wide - living out an active love in our community. *The date for this year's "LIVE OUT: Service Day" is Sunday, May 3.* Make sure you have it on your calendar and plan to join us!



To keep you informed about Southland's foreign missions partners, we strive to provide updates when available (now in the hallway across from the nursery entrance). This is really the only way one of our partners can communicate with us. Their location makes any online presence too risky from a security standpoint. We do regularly make their newsletters available as they come in.



There is a website for the **"Central India Christian Mission"** (www.indiamission.org); check it out for more information about their work. You can also find their Facebook page for ongoing updates or use this link to get access to e-mails: <https://www.indiamission.org/aboutcicm>.

Check out the website for **"Life of Hope Ministries"** at www.lifeofhope.org. Through our connection with this organization, we are privileged to partner with various ministries on the ground in Guatemala.



A 2026 Mission Trip Opportunity: We are preparing for a return trip to Anapra, Mexico with *Casas por Cristo* this Summer (July 18-25). On this trip, we will be building another house to bless a family. See Rick's article - page 7 - for more on this opportunity, including the basic details re: the trip.