



MIDWEEK UPDATE

JANUARY 29, 2026

A Message From Jeff...

Mattering

James Emery White writes, "At some point in the arc of a life, you begin to realize you have fewer years ahead of you than you have behind you. It's called getting old. When this happens, you begin to give increased attention to things you may have put off to the side during younger years, such as your health or retirement."

In a recent piece in the *Wall Street Journal*, Jennifer Breheny Wallace pointed out the retirement crisis that no one warns you about: *mattering*. We plan for future wealth and health, but give little thought to what it will take to continue to feel seen and heard. She writes of the angst that ambushes many:

It was an erosion in... their sense of mattering, the deep human need to feel valued and to have a chance to add value to the world. We plan for our wealthspan and healthspan, mapping out financial security and physical well-being. Yet very few of us prepare for an equally essential dimension of retirement: our mattering span, or how we will continue to feel seen, useful and capable of making a difference in this next chapter of life.

She notes that the consequences are profound. Citing a 2020 meta-analysis published in the journal *Healthcare*, nearly a third experienced depressive symptoms. The psychological losses embedded in retirement – feeling less valued, needed or connected – were strong predictors of postretirement depression.

This is not an issue for a small minority of marginalized people. **More than 11,000 Americans turn 65 every day. By 2030, one in five will be of retirement age.** Wallace rightly notes that as advances in medicine afforded longer lifespans, sustaining a sense of mattering has become a defining challenge of aging.

This changes the question from *How long will I live?* to ***How will I continue to matter while I do?***

The twenties is the age of new beginnings; the thirties is the age of second thoughts; and the forties is often the age of unhappiness. And the fifties and beyond? The age of investing.

The latter chapters of your life are when you have the most to invest in terms of money, time and wisdom. Biblically, there are three areas we are directly called to invest in: mentees, grandchildren, and the cause of Christ through the local church of which we are a part.

Just think of the role that Timothy's grandmother Lois played in his embrace of the Christian faith (II Timothy 1). But the clarion call is to throw ourselves into the life of the Church and its mission to **the least and the lost**. As Paul counseled Timothy: "Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage — to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous...**If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.**" (I Timothy 6:17-19, MSG) Wallace's research concurred: "In my interviews, the people who regained that sense of being needed, tended to follow a simple, repeatable pattern: They identified a genuine need and met it with 3Ts—time, talent or treasure."

Sounds like the Bible to me. The answer to mattering is simple: die to yourself, live for others, and leave a legacy. That means investing in people, investing in family, and investing in the cause of Christ.

Then you won't have to worry about mattering. Because you *will*.

Love,

Jeff

UPCOMING: “PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE” Message Series

Jan. 11 WORSHIP...you were planned for God's purpose

Jan. 18 FELLOWSHIP...you were formed for God's family.

Jan. 25 SNOW DAY SPECIAL WORSHIP!

Feb. 1 DISCIPLESHIP...you were made to become like Christ.

Feb. 8 MINISTRY...you were shaped for serving God.

Feb. 15 EVANGELISM...you were made for a mission.

Recent Message:

If you missed last week's Snow Day Message on Repentance (Psalm 51), be sure to click on the link to view it.
[\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

Prayers & Praises:

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the current prayer list.

Announcements:

Annual Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting at the close of both services on Sunday morning, **February 1**, for the purpose of affirming the 2026 Budget, suggested elder and deacons, and Church Treasurer.

SUGGESTED FOR SERVING IN 2026

These men have been suggested, screened, and are scheduled to be affirmed by the congregation on February 1.

Elder - **Dick Veach** Deacon - **Darren Cole** **Bill Graves** **Doug Haldeman** **Brent Fudge**

THANK YOU to **Clay Montang** who recently cleaned and re-organized the Fellowship Hall Kitchen and the supply storage closet in the FH. Your extra effort has made a positive difference! We are blessed with many willing volunteers at BCC.

HEALTH UPDATE: We have received a recent report from Peter & Cathy Ignatius (our missionaries in India) with the following good news: "Cathy's new chemo treatment is working out well! Praise God and thanks so much for praying!"

BCC 101 Information Meeting will be held on **February 22**. A complimentary pizza lunch will be served, and child care is available upon request.

Email the Church Office at admin@batesvillechristianchurch.org to sign-up.

-LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. IMPACT THE WORLD.

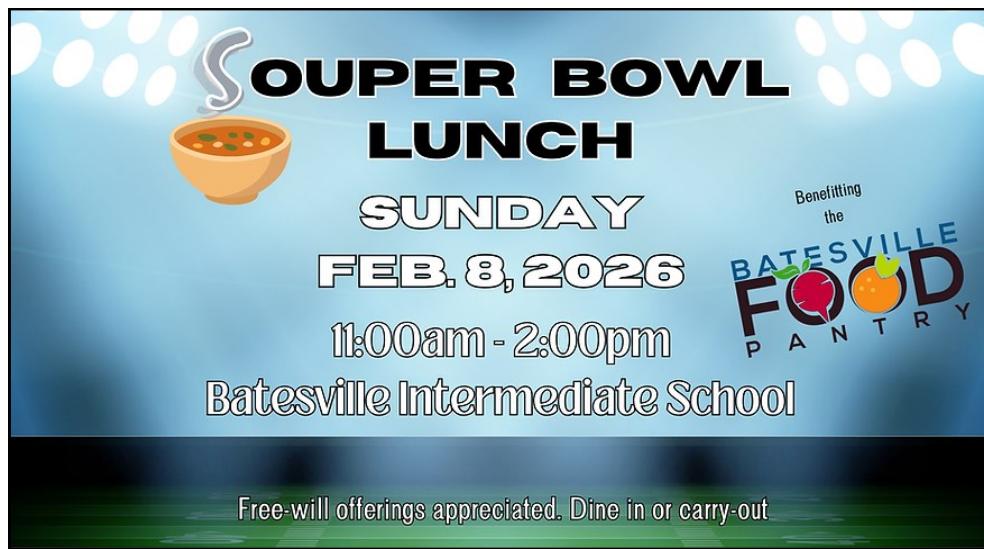
Mahoning Valley Christian Service Camp

Registration for Mahoning Valley's Youth Summer Camps is open at:
<https://www.mahoningvalley.org/summercamp>

You are encouraged to register your child(ren) as soon as possible to ensure they can attend your preferred week as camp spots fill up quickly. BCC will provide camp tuition scholarships for our attenders and their guests again this year.

Please email **Brittany** at admin@batesvillechristianchurch.org for the camp code.

A week of church camp in God's beautiful outdoors can truly be life-changing to your child, grandchild, or neighbor kid. Please invite them to attend Mahoning Valley.



College Valentine's

We will once again be sending our college students a Valentine surprise. They will receive gift cards inside a Valentine card to remind them that their church family loves and supports them. If you would like to donate a gift card (or money to purchase a gift card) to have sent to the college students, please give directly to **Debbie Mullins** or drop off to **Justin or Brittany** in the church office by Sunday, **Feb. 8**. If you have college students in your family, please submit their names and addresses to Debbie Mullins either by text or email by February 8. (812) 363-4857 or rdbmullins@gmail.com.

Together, let's share the love of God with our college students!



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