



MIDWEEK UPDATE

AUGUST 21, 2025

A Message From Jeff...

RELATIONSHIPS ARE HARD

Author Paul Tripp writes in New Morning Mercies—

Life in a fallen world is hard. Ministry to fallen people is hard. Together they leave you exhausted, discouraged, and tempted to be a tad cynical. You simply cannot live with sinners and not be sinned against. You cannot live with people without seeing their true hearts revealed.

I understand why people, after experiencing the hurt and disappointment that so often mars our relationships, decide to live in isolation or in a comfortable collection of terminally casual relationships. I understand why people say to themselves, “I’ve been taken once and I won’t be taken again.” I understand why married couples choose to live in long-term cold-war relationships that lack intimate friendship and unity. I understand why ministry people often choose to live in functional isolation from the body of Christ. I understand why adult children choose to live a great distance away from their parents. I understand why many people dread the extended family gatherings that accompany the holidays. I understand why people hide their hurt and refuse to talk about painful topics with one another. I understand why some people don’t want to ask for help or give help when asked. I understand that none of us have ever lived in one single relationship that hasn’t disappointed us in some way. **I understand that relationships are hard.**

But there is one other thing that I understand. It is that, **for the believer, relationships are not a lifestyle option. No, they are an essential piece of God’s calling between your salvation and your final resurrection.** Biblical faith is fundamentally relational. It is shaped and driven by two primary communities. First and foremost is the community of God that is the whole reason for our existence. Life is found in community with the Creator. Then there is God’s call not only to live in self-sacrifice for your neighbor, but also to be a tool of God’s work in your neighbor’s heart and life. You and I just don’t have the choice of opting out. We are relational beings who have been called to lifelong community with God and others.

We need help to face the often overwhelming call to relationships, following God’s high standards and not giving way to the weariness we feel. Part of God’s purpose in corporate worship is to correct your vision about those relationships. **If you’re not looking at your relationships through the lens of God’s amazing grace, you’re not seeing those relationships accurately.** So gathering after gathering is intended to so enthrall you with the grandeur of God’s grace that you can’t think of anything better than being a tool of that grace in the lives of others.

Love,

Jeff

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www.batesvillechristianchurch.org

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. IMPACT THE WORLD.

UPCOMING MESSAGE SCHEDULE:

August 10	Creation/Noah	Genesis 1-9	Jeff Stone
August 17	Abraham/Isaac	Genesis 12:1-4, 16:1-3, 22:1-14	Jeff Stone
August 24	10 Commandments/Moses	Exodus 19, 20, 24, 25, 32-34, 40	Jeff Stone

RECENT MESSAGE:

If you missed last week's message on "Abraham/Isaac" be sure to click on the link to view it. [\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

Prayers & Praises:

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

Mission Trip

Still thinking about joining the upcoming mission trip to Mountain Mission School?

There still is time to commit. Contact **Charlie McGee** with any questions. (618) 660-8893

The deadline to sign up to go on the trip to Mountain Mission School in Grundy, VA is on **September 7**.

MMS Special Collection

If you cannot make the trip, but wish to help us help the school, here are some things you can donate which we'll take with us in October:

Cleaning supplies (laundry detergent, fabric softener, paper towels, napkins, facial tissues, toilet paper)

Personal care items (hand sanitizer, soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products)

School supplies (notebooks, pens/pencils, 3-ring binders)

Miscellaneous (candy, gum)

MMS Guest Speaker

Clay Mitchell from Mountain Mission School will be our Guest Speaker on **August 31**. Following worship at 11:45 a.m. join us for a Fellowship Lunch with Clay.

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Announcements:

Youth Groups

6th—12th Grades: Youth Group has began for the Fall semester! This group is led by our Worship/Student Minister, **Justin Sutherland**, and meets at BCC every Wednesday throughout the semester with some exceptions. See the Café Information Counter for a complete schedule.

2nd—5th Grades: Wednesday Evening Discovery Club has resumed meeting! This group is led by our Children's Director, **Brittany Kurtz**, and meets at BCC every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 6:00—7:30 p.m. throughout the semester with some exceptions. See the Café Information Counter for a complete schedule.

*A new communication system will be used for both Youth Groups. To receive updates for our children's ministry (2nd- 5th grades), text the number (833) 388-3064 with the phrase "sign up for discovery club alerts".

To receive updates for our student ministry (6th - 12th grades), text the number (833) 388-3064 with the phrase "sign up for student ministry alerts".

Mark Your Calendar:

Mitch McVicker Concert @ BCC

Sunday, September 28

6:00 p.m.

(No Cost/Love Offering will be taken)

Children's Ministry Need

Our Children's Ministry is in search of a gently-used rocking chair for a classroom. If you have one you'd consider donating, please email Brittany at: admin@batesvillechristianchurch.org. We appreciate your support!



**There are two
conference tickets
remaining.**

Contact
Laura Cole at
812-363-5959
if interested.



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