



# ***First Family News***

**Love GOD.  
Love Others.  
Change The World.**

**February 2026**

*For God*   
SO LO**V**ED THE WORLD  
TH**A**T HE GAVE HIS  
ON**L**Y  
BEGOTT**E**N  
SON**N** SO   
TH**A**T WHOEVER  
BEL**I**EVES  
**I**N HIM SHALL  
HAV**E** EVERLASTING  
*Life* 

**February 2026  
Worship Opportunities  
Sundays**

9:00 AM Bible Study  
10:00 AM Worship  
6:00 Children, F3, G2

**Wednesdays**

11:00AM Bible Study  
6:30 PM Bible Study  
7:30 PM Choir Practice

**ADDITIONAL FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES**

2/2 BMW @6:30 p.m.  
2/3 Men's Ministry Meeting @6:30 p.m.  
2/9 Prayer Warriors @ 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
2/15 Deacon's Meeting @11:30 a.m.

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**OUR FINANCIAL RECORDS  
January 25, 2026**

General Fund Needed Weekly	\$8,001.02
General Fund Needed	\$32,004.08
Given to Date	\$28,275.00

<b>January 4</b>	Bible Study	81
	Worship	141
<b>January 11</b>	Bible Study	97
	Worship	192
<b>January 18</b>	Bible Study	80
	Worship	150
<b>January 25</b>	*Church was cancelled due to weather*	

**FEBRUARY MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS**

**Children's Church Workers**

**\*\*Please remember to sign up in the Welcome Center\*\***

**2/1**  
Sherra Bowdler

**2/8**  
Jeff & Melissa Hustead

**2/15**  
Felicity Williams

**2/22**  
Donna Padgett & Denise Cato

**Safety Teams**

<b>2/1 Team 1</b>	<b>2/8 Team 2</b>
<b>2/15 Team 3</b>	<b>2/22 Team 4</b>

**Deacon of the Week**

February 1	Leon Addy
February 8	Dale Wiggins
February 15	Dave Reese
February 22	Paul Havird

March is Bible Study and Bible Study Class emphasis month! Please plan to join us for a lite breakfast on Sunday mornings in March at 8:30 a.m. for fellowship with Bible Study attendees. We have a class for everyone! Please be in prayer as we seek, as a church, to study God's Word in our daily devotions and share his Word among believers in a Bible Study class. If you're currently not a part of a Bible Study Class, please consider joining in studying God's Word. Also be in prayer for our high attendance Sunday and catered luncheon on March 29th with as many of you being present and a part of this ministry.

**Memoriam**

John Starr

December 23,1956-  
January 18,2026

**Thank you!!!**

Dear Church Family,

The "Power of Prayer" is awesome. It has an incredible healing power. Thanks for your prayers, texts, and phone calls during and after my surgery.

Thank you and God bless you,

Van Gantt

## **February Birthdays**

2/2 Paula Gambrell  
2/2 Alice Robertson  
2/3 Lynn Long  
2/4 Betty Jean Parker  
2/5 Linda Clark  
2/6 Brixton Ard  
2/10 Harrison Smith  
2/13 Gary Smallen, Maddie Moody  
2/14 Melissa Cogdill, Brittney Herlong, Kay Oxner  
2/15 Lindsey Hair  
2/19 Sarah Brown, Mackenzie Long  
2/21 Corey Stamper, Caleb Price  
2/24 Dale Wiggins, Steve Price  
2/27 Judy Fox Turner

## **February Anniversaries**

2/14 Jim & Jackie Wertman  
2/25 Jeffrey & Melissa Husted



## ***From the first office on the left...***

Hey y'all! It seems every month gets shorter and shorter! I have been busy this month doing year end closing and making sure all the bills are paid! I am so excited about the snow forecasted this weekend! Snow reminds me of a glimpse of Heaven...everything is so pure and peaceful! White makes everything feel so much calmer and cleaner! After this weekend, and hopefully a pretty snow day, I CANNOT wait for spring! Spring is my favorite, I love a good 70 degree day and later sunsets! I enjoy the longer days, walking to get my exercise in on my long driveway as we live back in the woods overlooking our pond! Walking releases so many good endorphins, so good for your soul! My favorite Bible verse comes from Psalm 51:7 "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." This verse is part of King David's prayer of repentance, expressing his desire for spiritual cleansing and renewal after his sin with Bathsheba. The phrase whiter than snow symbolizes the complete purification and forgiveness that God offers, showing His mercy and the transformative power of repentance. As always I am here if anybody needs me; y'all come visit me sometime! I'm the first door on the left!

Love in Christ!

Always,

Laken



## Beverly's Blessing Blog from the Office Upstairs!

Happy February and Happy Valentines Day! I hope you all have been warm and safe these past few weeks. I don't know about you but I'm ready for spring!

This month as we focus on Love, I have been looking through the hymn book and the vast library of music we have to find songs that teach us about God's love. I have picked out a few that I hope you not only enjoy listening to and singing but that you will also reflect on the words as they tell us just how much God loves us. As we worship together through the music, I pray that your hearts will be filled with love and a tangible presence of the Holy Spirit in your heart and life.

God's word also has so many scriptures that remind us how loved we are by God. Jeremiah 33:17 says that **He has loved us with an everlasting love, 1 John 4:10 reminds us that we love because he first loved us** and my favorite verse about the depth of his love for us comes from Romans 8:38,39. Paul wrote these powerful words with great confidence after enduring many trials and conflicts, He said, **For I am convinced that neither life nor death, nor angels or demons, nor things present or things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!** I cannot tell you how encouraging these words are to my heart. Life has not always been fair; I have not always made the best choices but this one thing I know, God Loves me regardless of my human frailties and it is not about what I do or what I have done. It is totally about what He did for me and for you on the cross of Calvary, His love for me and for you is a gift and the essence of who He is and nothing can separate us from His love.

I just want you all to know that I love you from the bottom of my heart, I am so grateful for each and every one of you!! In the words of Paul from Philippians 1:3-5, **"Every time I think of you, I thank God for you. I have joy in my heart every time I ask God to help you. I thank God for the joy we share in telling the good news from the very first day until now."**

We will begin practicing for our Adult Easter Cantata this month on Sunday afternoons at 4pm beginning Feb. 1. The Kids choir will also begin practicing Sunday, Feb.1 at 5pm for their Easter programs as well. Adult Choir practice is every Wednesday evening at 7:30! Please come and join us we would love for you to be a part of all the exciting things God is doing through our music program!

Many Blessings,

Beverly

1 Corinthians 13:13 "And  
now these three remain:  
faith, hope, and love.  
But the greatest of these  
is love."

Ever wanted to  
be apart of an  
amazing team  
that's making a  
dynamic  
difference in  
the life of a  
child?



**Volunteer for Children's  
Church!!**



From the Middle Office

I had the perfect February newsletter article ready to send—just needed a final round of editing and proofreading. But the moment I walked into my first Conclave session on Thursday morning, everything changed.

On the screen were the words: “Whoever wants the next generation the most... will get them.” It stopped me in my tracks. It also brought to mind the reminder in 1 Peter 5:8 that we’re called to stay alert because there are plenty of influences competing for our attention—and especially for the attention of our kids and teens.

Today’s world pulls them in a hundred different directions: phones, friends, activities, schedules. Before long, church can slip into the “if nothing else is going on” category. And when that happens, it becomes easier for them to miss out on the foundation they truly need. So how do we help them stay grounded? We stay involved. We show up. We set the example. We make faith and church a priority in our own lives.

Scripture gives us guidance here too: “Train up a child in the way he should go...” (Proverbs 22:6) and “Let the little children come to me...” (Matthew 19:14). These verses remind us that investing in the next generation matters—and that it’s something we’re all invited to take part in.

I’m incredibly grateful for everyone who serves in our church, especially those who pour into our children and youth. As our ministries grow, so does the need for more helping hands. Our kids and teens are learning, growing, and being shaped every day—by someone. Whoever wants them the most... will get them.

If this resonates with you, I’d love to talk. Maybe you’re not sure where you’d fit, or maybe you’ve been thinking about getting involved but haven’t taken that step yet. Whether it’s teaching, assisting, mentoring, or simply being a consistent, encouraging presence—there’s a place for you, and it truly makes a difference.

The door is open. The need is real. And your involvement could impact a young life in ways you may never fully see. Just stop by the middle office. I’ll be waiting.

~Kelly

# February

1 John 3:16	2 I John 4:9	3 Romans 5:8	4 I Corinth. 13:4	5 I Corinth. 13:5	6 I Corinth. 13:6	7 I Corinth. 13:7
8 I John 4:19	9 I Corinth. 16:14	10 I John 4:8	11 Ephesians 6:24	12 I Corinth. 13:13	13 Hebrews 13:1	14 Peter 4:8
15 I John 4:11	16 Psalm 18:1	17 John 15:9	18 John 13:34	19 Romans 13:10	20 I John 4:21	21 John 15:12
22 Psalm 45:20 Matthew 19:19 29	23 Proverbs 10:12	24 Philippians 1:9	25 John 13:35	26 Romans 12:9	27 Colossians 3:14	28 Hebrews 10:24



**Camp  
Longridge**

**2026**

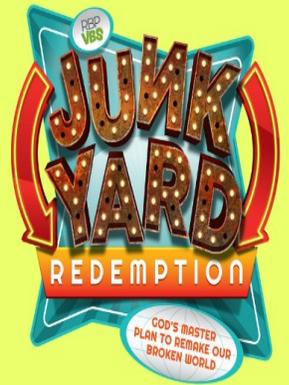
**KIDS WEEK #1  
JUNE 8-12**

**TEEN WEEK  
JUNE 22-26**

**DEPOSIT DUE  
FEB 15TH**

**IT'S GOING TO BE A BLAST!!**

Mark your  
calendars!!



VBS will be  
July 27-31st  
9:00am-12:00pm



We are looking for some really good junk  
for VBS.

We need old signs, hubcaps, milk jugs,  
stop lights, and other things to decorate  
the Welcome Center and Sanctuary.  
We also need "diner" style decor for the  
fellowship hall. Records, table decor, a  
jukebox.....

So look around your house and see what  
you can lend us for the week!

Delight yourself  
in the Lord,  
and he will give you the  
desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4 ESV

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**F i r s t B a p t i s t C h u r c h B a t e s b u r g**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **IT TAKES ALL OF US**

**"From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."**

-Ephesians 4:16

What does it take for the church to grow? Many would say that it takes dynamic worship, great preaching, and exceptional music. Sadly, those may rank as the popular answer for many people but the reality is it takes far more to grow a church than those three things. For this reason, those three things (worship, preaching, and music) are elements of the church. Important elements, no doubt. But still elements. The church, as God intended, is greater than those elements. What about fellowship, stewardship, discipleship, and serving others? Are those less important than worship, preaching, and music?

Understand, for a church to grow numerically and spiritually two important things have to occur. First, Jesus Christ has to be preeminent in everything the church does. It is the goal of the church to lift high the name of our Lord and Savior. To make much of Jesus. Tragically, it is possible to grow a church by programs or personalities without ever making Jesus the priority. When that happens, the growth that occurs is the product of man-made productions rather than a work of God through the power of His Holy Spirit. Even worse, the growth that occurs is fickle growth. Let another church come along with better productions or brighter personalities and many will leave their present church to go to the newer church. It's what I term as "fad growth." It's people going to what they perceive as new and exciting over and against what is spiritually sound and edifying. When a church depends more on personal charisma or gimmicks for growth instead of depending on the Holy Spirit then true, spiritual, God-honoring growth is not occurring. For a church to truly grow it has to come from absolute dependence on God, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, for a church to grow it takes the whole church and not just a select few. The Bible is clear on this point in that we each have a work to do in the Kingdom of God. It's why there are varying gifts and talents found within God's church. So that together we can accomplish more than we ever could alone. That's why there are no talentless people in the church. If the work of the Lord is to be a success, then every member of the church must participate. We have the work of visiting, giving of our time and talents, teaching, caring for children, widows and widowers, and countless other jobs that make the church and it's work successful. It's why the church in the New Testament is never spoken of as "they," "them," or even "I." It is always "us." We must all work together. It's a matter of teamwork.

How are you helping God's church to grow? God does His part, what about us?

In Christ's Abundant Love,

Pastor Henry