

THE PROVIDER

VOLUME XXXIX, NUMBER 34



Fairfield church of Christ

1860 Hwy 100
Centerville TN 37033-9400
931-729-5142

ELDERS:

Randal Halbrooks - 931-994-9070
Ronny Pitman - 931-623-9486
Wayne Prince - 931-729-5452
Lafayette Spears - 931-670-4029
Gary Wright - 931-206-9192

DEACONS:

Gary Bailey - *Schedule Events*
931-994-4810
Mike Breece - *Activities*
931-212-2560
Darin Cochran - *Worship*
615-418-3148
Ken Copley - *Education*
931-703-5062
Steve Craft - *Youth*
931-729-5063
Wesley Crowther - *Maintenance*
520-576-4227
Kenneth Jett - *Transportation*
931-994-9508
Adam Jude - *Young Adults*
615-584-9348
O.D. Pratt - *Seniors*
931-994-7244
Danny Roberts - *Security*
931-994-3736
Vance Willis - *Finance/IT*
615-975-3938

Benevolence
931-729-4534

Pulpit Minister:

Mike Kelley - 931-994-1911

Associate Minister:

Josh Copley - 931-994-3944

Youth Minister:

Dalton Thomasson - 931-996-9920

Worship & Bible Study:

SUNDAY

Worship 9:00 AM
Bible Study 10:15 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Family Line:

931-729-9846



Mike's Minute

The older brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son is the “rest of the story.” The lesson the older brother teaches is often neglected... but it is so important. It is a cautionary tale for those of us who consider ourselves “righteous.”

The older brother had many good qualities. He was no rebel. His parents didn't have to worry where he was at night. He was not lazy, but a hard worker. He showed up every day to do the work his father assigned him to do. Every indication we have in the text indicates that he lived a clean, moral life.

However, he had gone to his own “far country” of sin... without ever leaving home.

He was self-righteous. “I have never neglected a command of yours,” he told his father. He was, of course, comparing himself with his sinful younger brother. Sometimes we think we are better than others because we have not committed the same sins as them.

He was judgmental. “This son of yours (notice he didn't claim him as a brother) has devoured your wealth with prostitutes.” Maybe this accusation was true. But the text doesn't say this. Sometimes we assume that others are guilty when we don't know for a fact that they are.

We can go on... he was unforgiving, self-centered, angry, rude to his father, harsh, a joy killer.

Here's what should strike us as the parable ends... when the brother refused to go in and be in the presence of his brother, he also separated himself *from his father*.

Are you at church every time the doors are opened? Good! A hard worker? Wonderful. Living a clean, moral life? Excellent. Keep it up!

But, watch your attitude about the “prodigals” in your life. Invite them to the presence of the Father. Tell them there is forgiveness available if they will just come home to the Father. When they do “come home,” rush to meet them and welcome them.

In Christian Love,

Mike

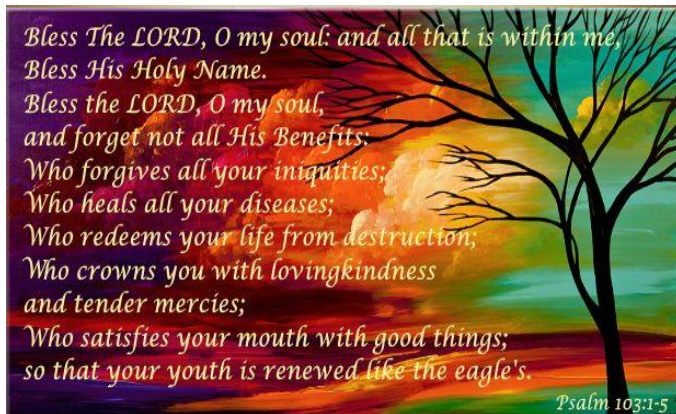



Just Joshin'

It's easy to feel like God is some far-off, distant Being in the clouds. I, myself, have felt that way a time or two in my life. Why would this all mighty, all knowing, and all seeing Being care about me and my little problems? Why would He want a relationship with me? Thankfully, amidst all this doubt, Scripture reinforces the personable nature of our Creator. One that comes to mind is Revelation 3:20. It says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." This motivational message was originally delivered to the church in Laodicea, and the offer is given to us thousands of years later! God is not in another dimension, ignoring us! It's actually quite the opposite. He's knocking at the door. He wants into your heart but you must make the decision for yourself. He will not force it upon you. If your life needs a change then start by dining with the Savior!

To God be the glory,

Josh



Don't Assume...

Recently, I sat down "nose to nose," as I call it, with someone who had made some painful assumptions about me.

Eventually, I asked a simple question:

"How well do you know me?"

After a pause, they answered honestly: "I don't know you at all."

That moment changed the conversation.

I could have focused on the unfairness of being judged by someone who didn't know me. Instead, their honesty invited me to consider a more uncomfortable question:

How often have I done the same thing?

How often have I formed an opinion from a distance, reduced someone to a label, or mistaken one moment in their life for the whole of who they are?

Labels make people easier to sort—but they rarely make people easier to understand. Human beings are far too complex to fit neatly inside our assumptions.

A difficult interaction may be the surface of a struggle we cannot see. An offensive comment may come from pain, fear, misunderstanding, or something that has little to do with us. That doesn't excuse hurtful behavior, but it may invite curiosity before condemnation.

James 1:19 reminds us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

For the next hour, we listened. We talked. We got to know one another beyond the assumptions—and I left grateful for the conversation.

Grateful that honesty created room for understanding.

Grateful that neither of us had to remain trapped in our first impressions.

And grateful for the reminder that before I ask others to see me more clearly, I should consider whether I'm willing to do the same for them.

Who might we understand differently if we paused long enough to ask one more question?

Don't assume. Get closer. Listen.

Nick McNabb
Searcy, AR

Blood of the Covenant

In the Old Testament the Law of Moses was “signed and sealed” with blood, as is our new covenant with the New Testament. We agree and acknowledge Christ’s new covenant, again “signed and sealed” with blood, when we partake of The Lord’s Supper.

Moses went up to Mt. Sinai to receive the new law from God. He then came down and “recounted to the people all the words of the Lord.” Israel replied, “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do.”

The next morning Moses built an altar at the foot of the mountain, “with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.” The young men offered burn offerings and sacrificed young bulls. Moses put the blood in basins “and sprinkled it on the people,” and said, ‘Behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words” (Ex. 24:3-8).

Jesus came to Mt. Zion to become “the mediator of a new covenant and to the sprinkled blood” (He. 12:24). Of the “cup” He offered in the upper room, he said, “this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Mt. 26:28). We “enter the Holy place by the blood of Jesus...having our hearts sprinkled clean...and our bodies washed with pure water” (He. 10:19-22). In the “pure water” of baptism we enter a new covenant with God through Jesus’ sacrifice. Every Sunday, we honor that “sprinkled blood” and our new covenant in the partaking of The Lord’s Supper.

-Dennis Doughty

MEN TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING:

Song Leader: Darin Cochran

Opening Prayer: Buddy Chandler

Scripture Reading: Steve Baker

Scripture: Psalm 103:1-5

Preside Lord’s Supper: Gary Bailey

Left: Wallace Smith **Right:** James Swaw

Jeff Stacks Kenneth Jett

Wes Crowther Boyce Cannon

Norman George Lafayette Spears

Announcements: Darin Cochran

Closing Prayer: Jerrie W Barber

Van Driver: Jack Green (931-994-8317)

SUNDAY EVENING:

Announcements: Gary Basford

Scripture Reading: Adam Jude

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:4-5

Song Leader: Jeff Stacks

Opening Prayer: Steve Atkinson

Lord’s Supper: Edwin Wright, Phillip Coates

Closing Prayer: Boyce Cannon

Van Driver: Jack Green (931-994-8317)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

Announcements: Randal Halbrooks

Song Leader: Ronny Pitman

Opening Prayer: Wayne Prince

Van Driver: Chris Love (931-994-7855)

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

It is the exposure of what man is to
what he ought to become.

It is the knife of conscience removing
that which offends.

It is the medicine of the Great Physician
for tired bodies and weary souls.

It is the hand of a small child seeking
the hand of his Father.

It is the door into abundant life.

It is permitting our bodies to rest
while souls catch up.

It is the book of memories and aspirations.

It is our little soul seeking the bigness of God.

FOR THE RECORD

WEEK OF August 30, 2026

MORNING WORSHIP	240
CONTRIBUTION	\$7,611
2026 WEEKLY BUDGET	\$5,417

Welcome to all our visitors. Please fill out a visitor's card and leave it on the seat so we can have a record of your visit.



Stay in touch with us on social media:

Facebook: Fairfield church of Christ - Field Family

Instagram: fcocfamily

Website: fairfieldcofc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

It was good to see **Cindy Bailey** at Bible study Wednesday night after having surgery.

The deadline has been extended to bring your **MAGI boxes** no later than Sunday, September 13.

There will be a baby shower for **Zach & Anslee Bentley** Sunday, September 6th at 2 pm in the fellowship hall. The baby is a boy and they are registered at Amazon.

Ladies Day will be Saturday, September 12th at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall. The speaker for the day will be Leanne Smith. There are postcards available to pick up for you to invite your friends and family to share in our day. There are sign up lists in both foyers for food sign-up, and a list in the front lobby for table decorations. We will be collecting toiletry items to take to both Middle Schools in the county.

Financial reports for July are available in both foyers.

Men to serve/van driver lists for September are ready to be picked up in both foyers.

Mark your calendars for the Fall Festival which will be Saturday, October 17th. There will be more information coming later.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast meets Tuesday mornings at 6:00 am in the basement.

If you enjoy **quilting**, several ladies meet each Thursday at 9:00 am in the basement to make quilts.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

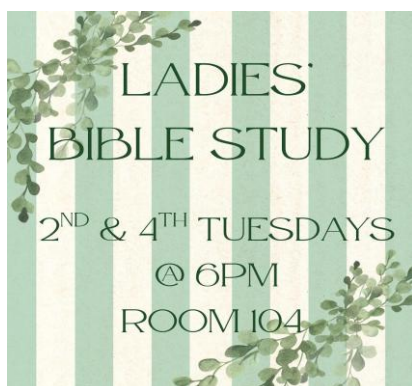
Members: Charlie Lawson (home at her mother's after surgery this week), Chris Kimbro (home), Cindy Bailey (home after surgery last week), Gary Basford (spent a night at the local hospital last week), Connor Peebles (home), Tommie Newsom, Jackson Bates, Lloyd Rochelle, Janice King, Virginia Bailey, Steve Baker, Sharon Rochelle, Brenda Fly, Jeff Rose, Yvonna Caillouet, Woody Woodruff, Dana McCaleb, Brandy Sullivan, Adam Lawson, Marlin & Barbara Lawson, Brenda Carroll, Sherrie Talley, Billy McCoy, Ed Sullivan, Rita Sullivan, Lelia Mae Poore, & Dorothy Weatherspoon

Friends & Family: Ila Fay Jenkins (home), Kathy Coleman (home), Lynda Walton, Walker Wright, Jeff Clark, Kathy Baxter, Elizabeth Click, Susan Dotson, Leah Owens (diagnosed with cancer), Philip Edwards, Hilda Atkinson, Lisa Bozeman, Linda Thomasson, Tammy Boone, Frances McMeen, Mike Avery, Hayes Harrington, Brenda Horner, Doug Gardner (cancer), Regina Elkins, Kathryn Purcell, Randy Pitman, Dottie McClearn, Jimmy Rivers, Sunny Anglin, Mildred Rochelle, Edna Copley, Doug True, Linda Canady, Paul Harvill, Ronnie Carroll, Ryan Edwards, Willie Lawler, Pat Garrett, Cory Patterson, Carolyn Nash, Bryan Williams, Kevin Chandler, David Stewart & Donna Gaspard

Life Care: Faye Rochelle, Willie B Coates, Carolyn Phillips, Cynthia Butler

Shirley Ryan Ability Lab Hospital:

Glenda Dorton (spinal rehab),
355 E. Erie Street Room 2133
Chicago, IL 60611



Sympathy to the family of Jean Qualls. Funeral was Tuesday at Centerville Church of Christ.

Graveside service for Barbara Carpenter, aunt of Lisa Barber and Carol Talley, was/will be Saturday September 5th at 2 pm at Charles Nickell Memorial Park.