

# Heartland

## Baptist Church



### Alex Melton, Senior Pastor

[16] And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" [17] And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Mark 2:16-17

I was reading Mark 2 as a part of Heartland's Bible reading plan and I was struck by this reminder of Jesus spending time with those who were far spiritually from him. While Jesus certainly did not approve of their sin, he also did not cast them off and turn his own heart from them. As we seek to reach our neighbors in the 618, the example of Jesus to have compassion on sinners and eat with them is instructive to us about the need of all people for relationships and how God works powerfully through relationships. I want this example to challenge us to "BLESS" people that God has brought into our lives. BLESS is an acronym that describes how we share the Gospel through relationships.

B stands for "Begin with prayer." Long before we share the Gospel with most people, we begin with a prayer asking God to bring somebody into our lives or for him to soften another's heart. This is why we have the red circles on the 618 boards where you can write down the name of someone that you are praying for their salvation.

L stands for "Listen." My grandma used to say, "God gave you two ears and one mouth for a reason." It was because we need to listen twice as much as we talk. Take time to listen to people and eventually ask questions. You will discover what really ails a person if you listen and ask about 3 good questions.

E stands for "Eat." Jesus built relationships and spoke the truth around tables. Relationships often change before a person's faith changes.

S stands for "Serve." When you have a relationship with another person, you will learn how you can serve them. Listen and look for what they need.

S stands for "Share." Eventually we have to share the Gospel. Romans 10 reminds us that people come to faith through hearing the word of God and the only way for them to hear is through someone else speaking.

Join me this month and in the months ahead by BLESS-ing others in our city!

### Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families

Just wanted to say "Hey there!" to all our new church brothers and sisters, our new church family... so.... "Hey there, y'all!"

Also, just wanted to share a word or two with y'all, too.

— First, Sheila and I are uber excited and thankful for God bringing us to HBC. We are looking forward to serving and worshipping our God with you. And, also, looking forward to getting to know you all and the sweet fellowship of the church and all her people together.

— Second, in my many years and many churches in which I have served and been a part of, coming to HBC is top shelf. There is a longer story behind God moving us here and the satisfaction, joy, expectancy, excitement and opportunity, but let me just share that in all the churches God has called me to, there is no greater feeling we have to being called here than any other church God has called me (us) to.

— Lastly, thank you to all who have shared with us kindness, words of encouragement, the love of the fellowship we have in Christ, and such. We truly appreciate it and look forward to what the Lord has in store for us and all y'all, our new family.

Grace and peace, Bro. Wes

### FELLOWSHIP HALL BATHROOMS—YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The church received a generous donation from an anonymous church member for the purpose of rebuilding the Fellowship Hall bathrooms, and if there is money remaining to replace the Fellowship Hall floors.

We are in the design stage currently and plan on beginning demolition soon. We are planning on doing as much of the work as possible to maximize this generous donation. That is why we are coming to you. We are asking for your help. If God gifted you in a particular skill (demolition, plumbing, carpentry, flooring, electrical, concrete cutting or experience) then we can use your help. This will allow us to maximize the gift given to the church and do a nice job on this project. Contact Mike Harris at 618-972-9145 or mrhharris114@gmail.com or the church office if you can help. We hope to start with demolition within the next week. Pray for the gift to cover the cost of this project and for the health and safety of those doing the work.

### Volunteer Schedule

#### Greeters

##### March 1:

**Connectors:** Karen Harris, Sam Ollenbittle  
**Door Greeters:** Glennita Seal, Jen Haycraft

##### March 8:

**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Susie Kreitner  
**Door Greeters:** Pat Farley, Jo Joyce

##### March 15:

**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Miranda Rendleman  
**Door Greeters:** Evie Pedersen, Avery Pederson

##### March 22:

**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Susie Kreitner  
**Door Greeters:** Brandon & Miranda Rendleman

##### March 29:

**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Sam Ollenbittle  
**Door Greeters:** David & Karen Hickerson

### Nursery & Kid's Church

#### March 1:

**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Susie Kreitner  
**Nursery 10:30am:** **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Miranda Rendleman, Megan Hart, Karen Hickerson, Ryder Hart  
**Kid's Church:** Sandy Stolze

#### March 8:

**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Marsha Anderson  
**Nursery 10:30am:** **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Karen Harris, Kim Collins, Hannah Cline, Savannah Cline  
**Kid's Church:** Jackie Parish

#### March 15:

**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Anna Drury  
**Nursery 10:30am:** Sam Ollenbittle, LuEllen Job, LeAnn Parish, Carole Fredrick, Drea Vatole  
**Kid's Church:** Jack Ollenbittle

#### March 22:

**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Kelli Melton  
**Nursery 10:30am:** Nate Hart, Ronda Jolly, Lisa Pedersen, Hannah Pedersen, Davis Bertels  
**Kid's Church:** Pam Barry

#### March 29:

**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Candace Stutz  
**Nursery 10:30am:** Nate Hart, Ben Huggins, Matt Jolly, Chad Stutz, Rylee Hart  
**Kid's Church:** Pam Barry

**For more information or if you would like to volunteer please contact the church office or:**

**Greeters:** David Ollenbittle III

**Nursery:** LeAnn Parish

**Kid's Church:** Jackie Parish at 618-789-2974

### Deacon Ministry

If you have a need or know of someone who needs assistance, has become ill, hospitalized, or is in need of a ride to church please contact the church office at 618-462-1276 or Ted Burleson at 618-462-3032.

## This Month at Heartland

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:** Join us for our Coffee/Donut Fellowship at 8:45am followed by Small Groups at 9:15am and our Worship Gathering at 10:30am. Sermons are available online at <https://vimeo.com/hbcalton>. Our Worship Gathering is livestreamed on our Facebook page.

**IMPACT GROUPS:** Impact Groups meet on Sunday nights from 5:30-7. We have groups for all ages. Our Men meet in Room 39. Our Women meet in Room 48 and are doing a study of Galatians called "Live Free". Heartland Students (6th-12th grade) meet in Room 31, and Kids (PreK-5th grade) meet in the Children's Wing. Childcare is available in our Children's Wing for babies (age 0-2). Please enter the church through Door "A" (the office door) on Sunday nights. **Impact Groups will not meet on March 22.**

**LUNCH & PRAYER WITH THE PASTORS:** Wednesdays at 11:30am. Bring a lunch and spend some time with our pastors as we eat, pray, and share from the Word.

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS:** March 1—8. Pray for the missionaries, their ministries, and their families. Please see the NAMB calendar for information and prayer suggestions.

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING:** March 1—April 5. The WMU invites you to join in praying and giving to support North American Missions. Pray for God's leading as we are radically generous in giving toward our \$2,500 goal. One hundred percent of the funds given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering go directly to meet the needs of missionaries throughout North America.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY MEETING:** Sunday, March 1 at 12:30pm.

**IRON SHARPENS IRON—MEN'S MINISTRY:** The 2026 Iron Sharpens Iron Conference is on Saturday, March 7 from 8:30am-4:55pm at Concord Baptist Church in St. Louis. This is the same venue where it has been held for the past three years. The speakers for this year are Kyle Reno and Jeff Voth. The web address for the STL conference is <https://rpmfm.org/stl/>. The cost this year is \$25.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME:** Begins at 2am on Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour the night before.

**CHURCH COUNCIL:** Sunday, March 8 at 4pm.

**WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU):** WMU meets on Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30pm. All ladies interested in national/international missionaries, studying God's word, and doing various outreach projects are welcome to join us.

**AHG TRIVIA FUNDRAISER:** Save the date! The AHG Trivia Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 14 from 6-8:30pm in the gym here at Heartland. This is a cash only event. The cost is \$20 per person or \$100 for a table of six. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Please sign up at the Next Steps table. If you have any questions, please see Miranda Rendleman.

**APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The April newsletter deadline is Monday, March 16. Please email your announcements to [office@hbcalton.com](mailto:office@hbcalton.com).

**CULTIVATE-WOMEN'S MINISTRY:** Saturday, March 21 from 11am-1pm. More information is coming soon!

**PRAYER WALK & EASTER INVITE:** God has called us to reach our neighbors and the nations. As we send others across the world, join us on Sunday, March 22 from 4-7pm as we go across and down the street to reach our neighbors right around the church. We will meet at 4:00 for a time of prayer and training before going to pray with our neighbors and invite them to Easter Sunday. Afterwards, we will gather back at the church to eat and talk about what we saw the Lord do.

**DEACONS' MEETING:** Monday, March 23 at 6pm.

**DISCIPLE NOW:** On March 27-29 Heartland is partnering with Calvary Baptist Church in Alton to host Discipleship Now. At this youth event for students grades 6th-12th there will be games, worship, fellowship, and biblical teaching. The cost per student is \$40. To register or find out more details, please contact David Ollenbittle at 618-610-6454.

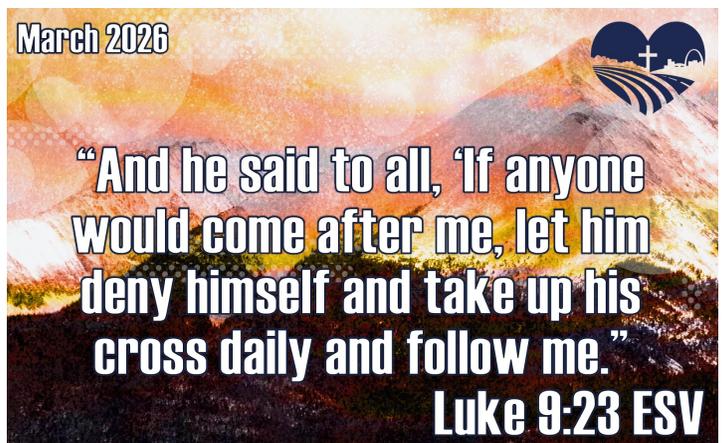
**VBS CLINIC:** Saturday, March 28 from 9am-Noon at First Baptist O'Fallon (1111 E. Hwy 50, O'Fallon, IL). The clinic is free of charge, but you will need to register at [IBSA.ORG/CALENDAR](https://IBSA.ORG/CALENDAR).

**5TH SUNDAY HBC MISSIONS OFFERING:** On Sunday, March 29 we will do a special offering for the HBC Missions Fund. The HBC Missions Fund is used to help Heartland members go to the nations and do work consistent with the Core Missionary Task. On 5th Sundays, we will pass the offering plates. Everything put in the plates will go to the Missions Fund. Tithes and regular offerings will continue to be placed in the black offering boxes.



**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:** If you have not signed up to receive church announcements via text you are encouraged to do so. Scan the QR code or text "Heartland" to 618-268-7020 to receive church announcements via text.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday—Thursday: 8:30am—3:30pm.



1	Michele Kearbey	14	Nancy Cook
4	Lowell Porter	14	Stephanie Warren
5	Don Zugmaier	15	Linda McRoy
6	Dave Job	16	Tori Friend
6	Cindy Sims	17	Arthur Kellum
7	Selma McAdams	17	Lisa Pedersen
8	Maggie Shawback	20	Audrey Perkins
10	Christian Cline	22	Dan Barnes
10	Cami Crane	22	Pat Farley
11	Nancy Denby	26	Kim Collins
12	Davis Bertels		

### COMING UP IN APRIL

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:** Friday, April 3 at 6:30pm

**EASTER—Sunday, April 5**

Breakfast—8:45am Egg Hunt—9:15am  
Worship Gathering—10:30am

**COMMUNITY HOPE CENTER FOOD DRIVE:** April 5-26

**YOUTH WORK DAY:** Saturday, April 11 at 9am

**DISCOVER HEARTLAND:** April 12 at Noon

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS TOWN HALL**

Sunday, April 12 from 3-5pm

**WOMEN'S PRIORITY CONFERENCE:** April 24—25

**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING:** Wed., April 29 at 6:30pm

#### Church Staff

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