

Heartland

Baptist Church



Alex Melton, Senior Pastor

"Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain." (1 Timothy 3:8, ESV)

The office of deacon is one of the most vital callings in the local church. While elders are servant leaders devoted to prayer and the ministry of the Word, deacons are the leading servants who lead various ministries, care for widows and the homebound, and attend to the physical and logistical needs of the body. They are the hands and feet of Christ's love, ensuring that our mercy ministry, benevolence, and daily operations reflect the fruit of the Spirit.

October is the time we set aside to identify the men God is raising up to serve in this noble role. Nomination forms will be distributed beginning October 11th. As you pray about who to nominate, look for men who are faithful members of our congregation and whose lives closely align with the character qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. We are looking for men of high moral character, spiritual maturity, and a proven heart for service.

Before you fill out a form, there is a crucial step: you must personally ask the man if he would be willing to serve if elected by the church. If he agrees, write his name on the nomination form and be sure to sign it yourself.

Completed forms are due by October 25th. You can submit them by handing them directly to an elder or deacon, or by dropping them in the offering box.

Selecting deacons is about finding the most faithful men rather than the most talented or popular men in the church. Pray earnestly for the men in our congregation and let us labor together to raise up godly servants who will strengthen and protect the unity of this church.

Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families

Way back when I was at Midwestern Baptist Seminary in KCMO Jim Elliff and his ministry, Christian Communicators Worldwide were based on campus. He was my professor of one of the elective classes we could take on the doctrine and nature of the church.

We were dealing with the belief of the local church being a group of regenerate believers gathered together for worship, ministry and fellowship. I knew that already, that was no profound bit of knowledge. What got me thinking was his essay of the year before that he presented and was published in the Journal of Reformed Theological Seminary: Southern Baptists An Unregenerate Denomination.

That was the bomb drop! But as I read his essay, I got the point. In 2001 just under 16 million people were affiliated with an SBC church. Average Sunday morning worship attendance was about 5.5 million. That's just over 34%. And further, only 12% returned for other ministries or worship involvement within the next week. The point is anywhere from 66%-88% of the SBC church nationwide were regularly, as a practice, not coming to church and her ministries to others. Those kind of numbers do not present a good picture of a people dedicated to worship, ministry and fellowship together.

Many probably would say, "Hey, that was 25 years ago!" And they would be right; it was 25 years ago. But what does that look like in 2026? In our latest published stats just over 12.3 million affiliated as Southern Baptist (that is minus about 3.7 million from 2001). Sunday Morning worship attendance average is just under 4.5 million (minus 1 million). That's just over 36%. There is not the last number available for those who returned later in the week for a mid-week service or ministry event. So, even today, somewhere between 64%-86% of SBC churches nationwide are regularly engaged outside of Sunday AM. Nothing has changed. The numbers are still indicting.

The church, SBC churches need revival and awakening! Here is the link to the 2022 updated full essay: ccwtoday.org/2022/06/southern-baptists-an-unregenerate-denomination

Volunteer Schedule

- Greeters**
- October 4 :**
Connectors: Sam Ollenbittle, Karen Harris
Door Greeters: Jen Haycraft, Glennita Seal
- October 11:**
Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Susie Kreitner
Door Greeters: Matt & Ronda Jolly
- October 18:**
Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Miranda Rendleman
Door Greeters: David & Karen Hickerson
- October 25:**
Connectors: David Ollenbittle, Robin Shawback
Door Greeters: Brandon & Miranda Rendleman

Nursery & Kid's Church

- October 4:**
Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Susie Kreitner
Nursery 10:30am: **TWO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Miranda Rendleman, Megan Hart, Bekah Melton
Kid's Church: Please see Jackie Parish
- October 11:**
Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Marsha Anderson
Nursery 10:30am: **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
Karen Harris, Kim Collins, Hannah Cline, Lexi Hart
Kid's Church: Please see Jackie Parish
- October 18:**
Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Anna Drury
Nursery 10:30am: Sam Ollenbittle, LuEllen Job, LeAnn Parish, Carole Fredrick, Evelyn Vatole
Kid's Church: Please see Jackie Parish
- October 25:**
Nursery 9:15am: Hannah Barnes, Kelli Melton
Nursery 10:30am: Nate Hart, Ronda Jolly, Lisa Pedersen, Hannah Pedersen, Rylee Hart
Kid's Church: Please see Jackie Parish

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

Greeters: Matt Jolly

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 5:30-7pm. We have groups for all ages. Our Men meet in Rm 39. Our Women meet in Rm 48 and are studying Joshua, by Jen Wilkin. Heartland Students (6th-12th grade) meet in Rm 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 October 4 or 25.**

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.

MIDWEEK AT HEARTLAND: All adults and teenagers are invited to join us as we continue our ten-week series titled *Kingdom Citizens in the Prairie State*. On Wednesday nights at 6pm, we will gather to examine what it means to confess "Jesus is Lord" while living as exiles in Illinois. We will spend time singing together, hearing biblical teaching on the issues facing our state and nation, discussing it around the tables, and then spend time praying for one another, our state, and the nation. Childcare is provided for young children.

PASTOR APPRECIATION, CHILI COOK-OFF, DESSERT BAKE-OFF: Sunday, October 4 at Noon. Please stay after our Worship Gathering to honor Pastor Alex and Pastor Wes with cards, letters and gifts. Please sign up at the Next Steps table if you plan on attending Pastor Appreciation so we are able to plan for drinks, etc. We will also have our Men's Chili Cook-off and Women's Dessert Bake-off on this day. Please sign up at the Next Steps table if you would like to participate in the Chili Cook-off or Dessert Bake-off.

COMMUNITY HOPE CENTER FOOD DRIVE: The ladies of the WMU are sponsoring a food drive for the Community Hope Center October 4-25. A blue barrel can be found in the lobby along with a list of their most needed items. Thank you for helping to feed those in need in our community!

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU): WMU's next meeting is on Thursday, October 8 at 6:30pm. All ladies interested in national/international missionaries and studying God's word are welcome to joins us. For more information, please contact Robin Shawback.

YOUTH EVENT – WORSHIP NOW: Saturday, October 10 from Noon-6pm here at Heartland. There will be worship, teaching, food, and games for students in 6th-12th grade. Please see David Ollenbittle III if you have any questions.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Tuesday, October 13. Please email your announcements to office@hbcalton.com.

REGULAR MEMBERS' MEETING REPORT DEADLINE: Tuesday, October 13. Please email all reports for April through September 2026 to office@hbcalton.com.

WOMEN'S EVENT – BACKYARD BONFIRE: Ladies, join us on Friday, October 16 from 6-8pm for a Backyard Bonfire for fun, fellowship, s'mores around the fire, and food. Women's ministry will provide hot dogs, buns, and s'mores. Bring a lawn chair and a side to share! Please sign up at the Next Steps table.

DISCOVER HEARTLAND: Sunday, October 18 from Noon—1:30pm. This is a free lunch for all interested in learning about Heartland and ways to be more involved. Please sign up at the Next Steps table.

CHURCH COUNCIL: Sunday, October 18 at 2pm.

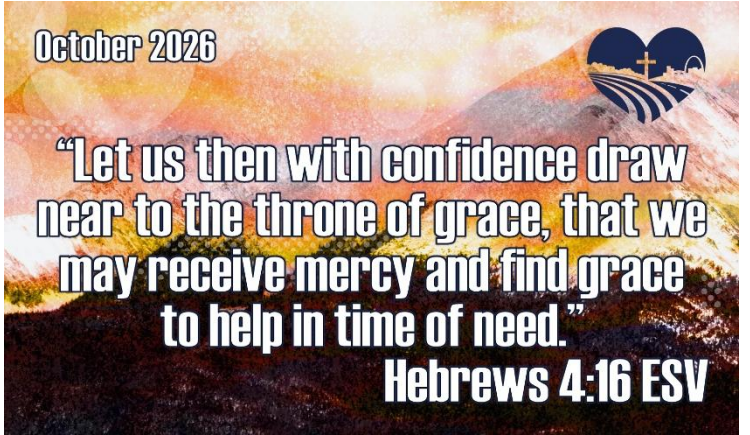
MEN'S EVENT – OLIN SHOOTING RANGE: Saturday, October 24 at 9:30am. More information is coming soon!

TRUNK OR TREAT: Sunday, October 25 from 4-6pm. Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat! We will have candy, hayrides, a petting zoo, and a band. Please sign up at the Next Steps table to host a trunk, to serve in registration, or to serve as a greeter. A bin for candy donations can be found next to the kid's check-in desk in the lobby.



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. The church office will be closed on Monday, October 12 in observance of Columbus Day.



1	Juan Lingow	19	Jackie Parish
1	Kelli Melton	20	Merci Stutz
6	Maud Dean Ewing	22	Trish Condray
8	Ronda Jolly	26	Charlie Livesay
12	Jason Cox	28	Rylynn Wiles
13	Ethna Joyce	31	Graycen Barnes
14	Jim Cassidy	31	Karen Hickerson
14	R.J. Hetge		

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

COMMUNITY HOPE CENTER TOY DRIVE
November 1-29

YOUTH GAME NIGHT
Friday, November 6 from 6-10pm

REGULAR MEMBERS' MEETING
Sunday, November 8 at Noon

CULTIVATE – WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Saturday, November 21 from 10:31am-1pm

THANKSGIVING MEAL
Sunday, November 22 at Noon

Church Staff

Alex Melton, Senior Pastor
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Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families
wes@hbcalton.com

Sarah Neuhaus, Office Coordinator
office@hbcalton.com