

Heartland

Baptist Church



Alex Melton, Senior Pastor

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Few ministries in the life of our church carry as much eternal weight as Next Generations. We saw this at the beginning of August during Vacation Bible School. We see this again each Sunday as God's people care for and teach kids. Every time a toddler takes her first steps toward Jesus in our nursery, or an elementary school child hears the gospel story retold in Children's Church, the kingdom advances in ways we may not see for years or until eternity. These ministries are not babysitting services or convenient childcare options. They are gospel frontlines where young image bearers first encounter the love of Christ through the faithful lessons and tender care of His people.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to those who labor faithfully in this space. Tammy Boren and LeAnn Parish have poured themselves into our preschool ministry by creating an environment where little ones learn that the church is a safe and joyful place. Jackie Parish has led our kids with excellence, ensuring that every lesson points them to the Savior. This work of wiping tears, playing games, and even repeating the same Bible story for the fifteenth time is often unseen by many in the church yet it is profoundly holy labor.

But they cannot do it alone. We need more hands and hearts willing to serve. If you love Jesus and love children, there is a place for you on this team. You do not need to be a seminary graduate or a seasoned teacher; you simply need a willing heart and a desire to point the youngest among us to Jesus. There are opportunities to serve in the nursery with newborns through kindergarteners once a month. We are looking for people to teach or assist in Children's Church. We will train you, support you, and pray for you as you serve.

Consider prayerfully whether the Lord may be calling you to this place of service in the church as you invest in the next generation. A few hours a month in the nursery or Children's Church may shape a child's eternal trajectory. Speak with Tammy, LeAnn, Jackie, or one of our pastors this week and ask how you can serve. The harvest begins with the littlest seeds.

Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families

Church music? Is the future in the past? In the past 30 years a lot has happened in church music: the advent of praise and worship music and praise teams and bands; the loss of choirs and choir music; no more children's and youth choirs; hymnals disappeared; the standard, classic hymns we shelved for only new and modern praise and worship songs; the loss of rich congregational singing in harmony... But, at what cost?

Recent church trends show, perhaps, a recovering of sorts in some churches. In Baptist churches of a more reformed flavor and theological position we are seeing a comeback of some of the losses I mentioned in the first paragraph. I do think that is a good thing.

One that we will be bringing back in the next few weeks is hymnals and printed, sheeted music. We are going to place hymnals back in the pew racks and also a Heartland Baptist Church 2026-27 Songbook. So that those who want to sing harmony, read the melody line, see the rhythm of the song, etc., they will be able to do so.

The Songbook will be a collection of 50 or so songs not in the hymnal. There are songs we sing or have sung often in the last 25 or so years and up to current new songs, like, the Gettys, Shane and Shane, Matt Papa, Sovereign Grace, Jordan Kauflin, City Alight, etc.

Here are four goals as a worship pastor for our corporate worship: 1) sing songs, old and new, that glorify God; 2) sing songs that will encourage and unite the congregation in the deep truths of our God and our faith; 3) encourage and enable melodies and harmonies of praise as we sing together; and, 4) have a core of songs that express our faith and commitment to God and others.

Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

**September 6:**  
**Connectors:** Sam Ollenbittle, Karen Harris  
**Door Greeters:** Jen Haycraft, Glennita Seal

**September 13:**  
**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Susie Kreitner  
**Door Greeters:** Matt & Ronda Jolly

**September 20:**  
**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Miranda Rendleman  
**Door Greeters:** David & Karen Hickerson

**September 27:**  
**Connectors:** David Ollenbittle, Robin Shawback  
**Door Greeters:** Brandon & Miranda Rendleman

Nursery & Kid's Church

**September 6:**  
**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Susie Kreitner  
**Nursery 10:30am:** **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Miranda Rendleman, Megan Hart, Karen Hickerson, Ryder Hart  
**Kid's Church:** Jackie Parish

**September 13:**  
**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Marsha Anderson  
**Nursery 10:30am:** **ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Karen Harris, Kim Collins, Hannah Cline, Savannah Cline  
**Kid's Church:** Pam Barry

**September 20:**  
**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Anna Drury  
**Nursery 10:30am:** Sam Ollenbittle, LuEllen Job, LeAnn Parish, Carole Fredrick, Drea Vatoles  
**Kid's Church:** Candace Stutz

**September 27:**  
**Nursery 9:15am:** Hannah Barnes, Kelli Melton  
**Nursery 10:30am:** Nate Hart, Ronda Jolly, Lisa Pedersen, Hannah Pedersen, Davis Bertels  
**Kid's Church:** Jack Ollenbittle

**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 5:30-7. We have groups for all ages. Our Men meet in Room 39, and our Women meet in Room 48. 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.

**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 6, 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 will be provided for young children.

**GREAT COMMISSION TEAM MEETING:** Thursday, September 3 at 6:30pm.

**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The October newsletter deadline is Monday, September 14. Please email your announcements to [office@hbcalton.com](mailto:office@hbcalton.com).

**MEN’S EVENT – GATEWAY GRIZZLIES:** Men-bring your sons, your grandsons, your nephews, your male friends, to the ballpark on Friday, September 4. The Gateway Grizzlies will be playing the Mississippi Mud Monsters at 6:30pm at Grizzlies Ballpark in Sauget. Please sign up for the outing at the Next Steps table by August 30. Tickets this year are \$5 each. Please contact Ben Huggins if you have questions.

**WOMEN’S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU):** Beginning on September 10, WMU will meet on the second Thursday of each month. September’s meeting will start at 6:30pm with an international meal. For more information, please contact Robin Shawback.

**SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD:** On Saturday September 12 from 9am-Noon we will be partnering with the "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" organization to help build beds that will be delivered to people who need them. This is a family event and is an opportunity to serve our community in the name of Christ. For those interested in serving, please sign up at the Next Steps table.

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS TEAM MEETING:** Sunday, September 13 at Noon. Please sign up at the Next Steps table. If you have any questions or are interested in joining our First Impressions Team, please see Matt Jolly.

**ALL CHURCH WORK DAY:** Everyone’s help is needed on Saturday, September 19 from 8am-Noon. Due to a fair amount of rain, health issues with our members, and lack of a work day earlier this year, our church property has fallen into disrepair. Please bring weed eaters, hedge trimmers, pole saws, clippers and any other tools or gloves that you may need. We can fellowship and make our property beautiful again. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up at the Next Steps table. If you have any questions, please see Mike Harris.

**CULTIVATE – WOMEN’S MINISTRY:** Ladies, join us on Saturday, September 26 from 10:31am-1pm to enjoy lunch, a time of teaching on Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts, and prayer.

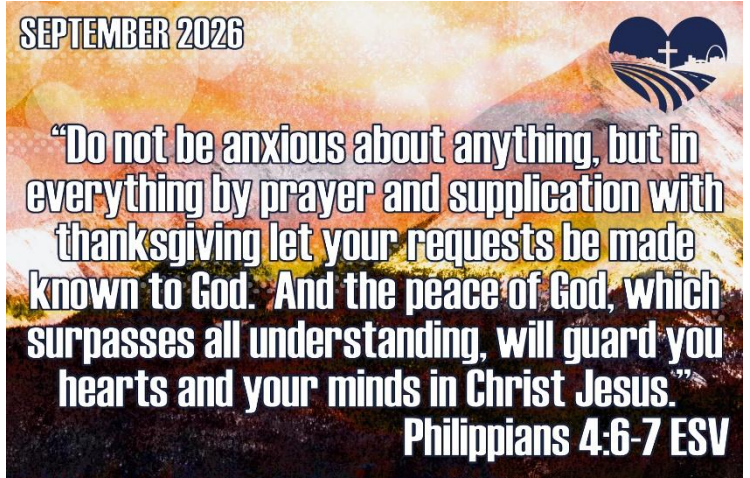
Please sign up at the Next Steps table. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us!

**DEACONS’ MEETING:** Sunday, September 27 at 2pm.



**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, September 7 in observance of Labor Day.



SEPTEMBER birthdays

|    |                    |    |                  |
|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 2  | Bree Vatole        | 13 | Glennita Seal    |
| 3  | T Ollenbittle      | 14 | Ed Ray           |
| 4  | Emmie Hart         | 15 | Owen Staley      |
| 5  | Becky McGowen      | 16 | Jeanne Bowman    |
| 9  | Linda Chapman      | 17 | Hannah Barnes    |
| 9  | Nick Warren        | 17 | Karen Burleson   |
| 10 | Steve Perkins      | 19 | Carol Prater     |
| 12 | Isaac Hart         | 20 | Lyanna Robertson |
| 12 | Nate Hart          | 21 | Hazel Morgan     |
| 12 | David Ollenbittle  | 22 | Pam Barry        |
| 12 | Samuel Ollenbittle | 23 | Drea Vatole      |
| 12 | Jacob Pederson     | 26 | Anna Drury       |
| 12 | Jimmie Witt        |    |                  |

COMING UP IN OCTOBER

PASTOR APPRECIATION, CHILI COOK-OFF & DESSERT BAKE-OFF  
Sunday, October 4 at Noon

COMMUNITY HOPE CENTER FOOD DRIVE  
October 4- 25

WORSHIP NOW – YOUTH EVENT  
Saturday, October 10 from Noon-6pm

BACKYARD BONFIRE– WOMEN’S MINISTRY  
Friday, October 16 from 6:30-9pm

DISCOVER HEARTLAND  
Sunday, October 18 from Noon-1:30pm

TRUNK OR TREAT  
Sunday, October 25 from 4-6pm

Church Staff

Alex Melton, Senior Pastor  
[alex@hbcalton.com](mailto:alex@hbcalton.com)

Wes Hahn, Pastor of Worship & Families  
[wes@hbcalton.com](mailto:wes@hbcalton.com)

Sarah Neuhaus, Office Coordinator  
[office@hbcalton.com](mailto:office@hbcalton.com)