



**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday  
**PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5**  
ANN SMITH, Director 455-8642

*Celebrating  
56  
YEARS*

THE CONNECTION (USPS579-240)  
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THE CONNECTION February 2026



Over the next several months, I want to emphasize to you the importance and the power of prayer in your life and the life of the church. I want to begin, though, with Psalm 1, a psalm that never mentions prayer. Instead of focusing immediately on prayer, Psalm 1 directs our attention to the Word of God. So why begin here? That choice isn't accidental, but it's deeply instructive. The foundation of a God-honoring life is a genuine love for God's Word. The answer lies in the heart of the psalm itself. Verse 2 says, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." The blessed person is one who delights in God's Word so deeply that it shapes their thinking, guides their choices, and anchors their life.

Prayer and the Word of God are inseparably linked. One can't thrive without the other. When prayer is separated from the Word, it becomes unfocused and self-centered. When the Word is separated from prayer, it becomes cold and merely intellectual. For generations, God's people have turned to these inspired songs and prayers to voice their praise, confession, lament, and hope. God never intended for His people to choose between the two. When God placed a prayer book in the hands of His people, He chose to begin it with a psalm about loving His Word. So let's look at how prayer and the Word of God are inseparably linked.

First, the Word of God inspires prayer. Scripture calls us to pray, it assures us that prayer matters, and it reminds us of faithful people whose prayers God answered. James 5:16–18 is a powerful example. We're commanded to pray for one another, we're promised that righteous prayer is effective, and we're encouraged by the example of Elijah was an ordinary man who prayed and witnessed extraordinary results. God uses His Word to remind us that prayer is not optional, prayer is powerful, and prayer is for every believer.

Second, the Word of God informs prayer. The Bible teaches us not only that we should pray, but also how we should pray. As you read the Scripture, you learn God's priorities, His promises, and His purposes, and then our prayers begin to align with His will. In Acts 4, when the early church faced opposition, they didn't panic; they prayed Scripture back to God, acknowledging His sovereignty and resting in His plan. Mature prayer is rooted in God's truth, not driven by human fear or emotion.

Third, the Word of God incarnates prayer. What does that mean, "incarnates prayer." It simply means that God's Word brings our prayers to life. Much of our prayers take place quietly and unseen, but God's answers are intended to be visible in changed lives. People don't come to faith simply because we pray for them; they have to hear the truth of the gospel. As Romans 10:14 reminds us, belief follows hearing. That's why Paul urged believers to pray that the Word of the Lord would spread rapidly and be honored.

*Continued on the next page*

The same is true in spiritual growth and moral renewal. As believers, we're sanctified by truth, not by prayer alone. Jesus said in John 17:17, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." Cultures aren't transformed simply by prayer, but by the truth that exposes sin and leads people to freedom: John 8:32 says, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Prayer prepares the way, but truth brings lasting change. That's why we begin with Psalm 1. God's Word inspires our prayers, shapes our prayers, and brings our prayers to life. The Word and the Spirit always go together. The Word without the Spirit leads to dry intellectualism. The Spirit without the Word leads to confusion. But when we approach Scripture in humble dependence on the Holy Spirit, and express that dependence through prayer, God produces spiritual strength, lasting fruit, and a life firmly rooted in Him. That's the kind of prayer life God desires for His people.

Let me encourage you to sign up for our special prayer emphasis called BLESS at <https://tinyurl.com/HBCBless> or by scanning the QR Code in the ad in this newsletter.

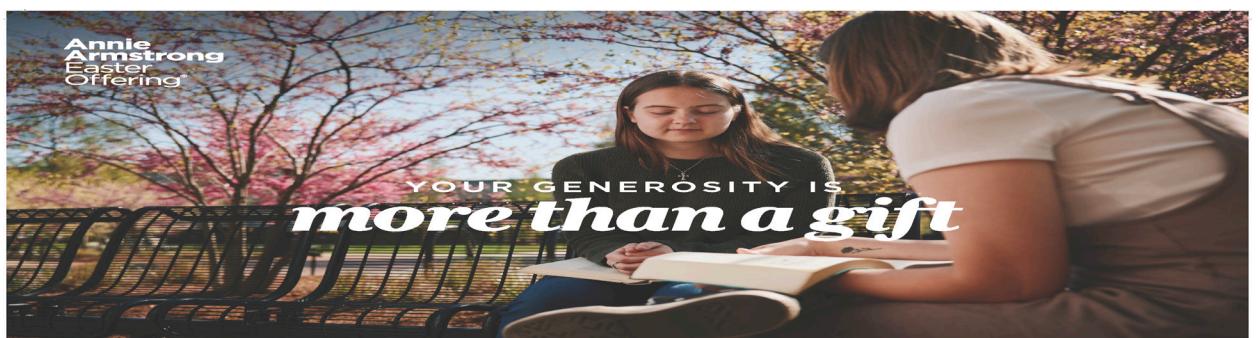
Pastor Jim

## HIGHLAND on MISSION

Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow! The Missions team is grateful that our Highland Family gave so generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We exceeded our goal of \$8,000 with the contributions to date totaling \$8,081.00. Thank you for your continued commitment to impact missionaries and ministries around the world.

Our Missions Team asks that you prayerfully consider serving one Friday morning each month as we partner with the Food Share Ministry out of First Nazarene Church. The hours are from 9:00-11:30am. We are at the Ministry Center to provide restroom facilities, coffee & water, and a friendly atmosphere as people wait for the food distribution. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!! Not sure about this outreach?? Come by on Friday morning and see for yourself!! There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Pastor Jim's office.

Save the date: The Week of Prayer for North American Missions will be March 1-8,2026.  
In His Love, Rema Bell



## Deacon of the Week

Jan. 31 – Feb. 6	Roger Williams
February 7-13	Stan Smith
February 14-20	Steve Conner
February 21-27	Jimmy Gaddis
Feb. 28- March 6	Bradley Rogers
March 7-13	Ben Murray

## Greeters – February 2026

February 1 – Jimmy/ Kristy
February 8 – Johnny/ Gayle/ Brian
February 15 – David/ Diane
February 22 – Samanthia/ Linda/ Kathy
March 1 – Jimmy/ Kristy

## Security – February 2026

Jan. 31 – Feb. 6	Stan Smith
February 7-13	Steve Conner
February 14-20	Jimmy Gaddis
February 21-27	Bradley Rogers
Feb. 28- March 6	Ben Murray
March 7-13	Rick Miller

## HBC Deacon Family Assignments 2025-2026

Group	Deacon
A-BO	Roger Williams
BR-DOU	Stan Smith
DUN-F	Steve Conner
GA-HEN	Jimmy Gaddis
HES-JOR	Bradley Rogers
KI-MOF	Ben Murray
MON-RAY	Rick Miller
RID-SM	Paco Prince
SN-V	Jason Robison
W-Y	Jonathan Sipe
DEACONS	Mark Smith

Ready to Start Being a Blessing to Your Neighbors?



Highland Baptist Church  
PO Box 1195 (808 W Hickory St)  
Tullahoma, TN 37388

WEBSITE: [HighlandBaptistChurch.com](http://HighlandBaptistChurch.com)  
Email: [highlandbaptist@cafes.net](mailto:highlandbaptist@cafes.net)  
Church Phone: (931) 455-0645

Fax: 393-0440

S	JIM NORMAN	SENIOR PASTOR
T	MATT KOEHLER	MINISTER OF YOUTH & EDUCATION
A	JIMMY GADDIS	FACILITIES MANAGER
F	KATHY HASTY	NURSERY DIRECTOR
F	AMY JACKSON	OFFICE MANAGER
F	ANN SMITH	DIRECTOR - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
F	MIKE STRINGFIELD	VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTOR



**The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. Psalm 145:8-9**

## February Nursery Volunteers

Nursery Director – Kathy Hasty – If you are not able to serve on your assigned date then please contact Kathy Hasty.

Sunday February 1:

Bible Study: Kelly Farris

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Kelly Farris, Linda Bolinger

Evening Worship: Rema Bell, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday February 4: Kim Dodson and Kathy Hasty

Sunday February 8:

Bible Study: Liz Bond

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Rick Miller, Julie Rogers

Evening Worship: Samanthia Norman, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday February 11: Kim Dodson and Carrie Newton

Sunday February 15:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: David Inocencio, Kim Dodson, Leah Prince

Evening Worship: Terri Stone, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday February 18: Kim Dodson and Kathy Hasty

Sunday February 22:

Bible Study: Liz Bond and Lauren Fults

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Lauren Fults, Steve Stone

Evening Worship: Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday February 25: Kim Dodson and Kathy Hasty

Our first Vacation Bible School (VBS) meeting will be on February 15th at 3:30 pm. If you know how you would like to serve this year in VBS, please go ahead and let Brittany Howell or me know. This is also a great way to find out how you can get plugged into serving this year at VBS. There are various opportunities to serve and be a part of the team. All new volunteers will need to pass a background check if this is their first time volunteering, as well as take our Ministry Safe Awareness Training. Some of you may need to renew your training. We will go over in detail how that is done at the meeting.

BREAKOUT 1	BREAKOUT 2
Directors: Engage Your Whole Church in VBS *	Directors: Expand Your Gospel Impact Through Follow-Up*
Preschool Overview: <i>Illumination</i>	Preschool Rotations Overview: <i>Illumination</i>
Grades 1-4 Overview: <i>Illumination</i>	Maximize Gospel Opportunities at VBS*
VBX (grades 5-6) Overview: <i>Illumination</i>	Celebrating Leaders - Making Them Feel Seen and Heard*
Steps to an Evangelistic VBS* (Offered both hours)	Steps to an Evangelistic VBS* (Offered both hours)
Student/Adult VBS Overview: <i>Illumination</i>	Student/Adult VBS Extras: <i>Illumination</i>
Special Needs VBS*	Understanding the Kids You Will Teach *
Safety and Security at VBS*	Crafts Overview: <i>Illumination</i>
All Together Now: Multi-Age VBS*	Missions Overview: <i>Illumination</i>
Equipping Buddies and Volunteers to Engage Each Child*	Guiding Behavior at VBS*
Decorating on a Budget*	VBS Tool Bag: Decorating for Any Theme*

This chart lists the breakout sessions available →

Sunday School teachers, we will have a training on March 8th from 12 pm–2:30 pm led by Alan Raughton. Please sign up, so we know how many to expect for lunch (provided) and the training. I will have a sign-up sheet on my bulletin board.

### Getting to know Alan Raughton!

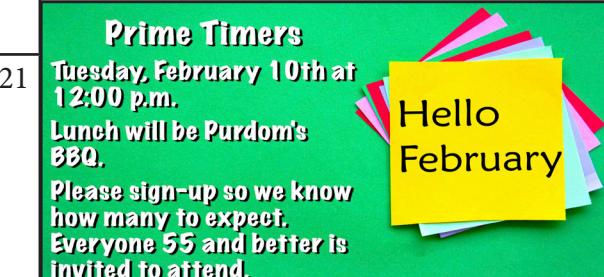
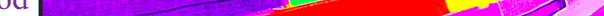


Alan is a national leader who has trained over 70,000 Christian Educators and Sunday School Directors, Teachers, and class leaders. Alan was Director of Sunday School, Director of Church Strategies, and an Adult Ministry Specialist at LifeWay for over 24 years before moving back to the local church. Alan recently retired from Nashville First Baptist Church, where he served as Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship. In addition to LifeWay, Alan has served churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, Florida, and Tennessee! A sought-after Sunday School trainer and speaker, Alan has written and co-written three books on Sunday School in addition to numerous articles on Sunday School and church health.

**PLEASE MAKE THIS A PRIORITY TO ATTEND!**

As teachers, we should always be looking for ways to improve our ability to teach God's word to our classes. It is your responsibility to grow as a teacher and in your ability to study and teach the word of God. This training is open to those who are interested in becoming teachers and learning more about the Sunday School ministry.

Matt Koehler Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Highlands Highlights
1	2 Rodney Harmon Curtis Walters	3 Will Stone	4 Chili Cook-Off sign-up deadline Michael Durham	5	6 Dr. Marc Lee	7 Chili Cook-Off 5:30 PM	Counters for February Linda Conner, Becky Moffat 
8 Deacons Meeting 4 PM	9 Tyler Robinson	10 Prime Timers 12 PM	11 Donna Sanders	12 Eliza-Grace Hood	13	14 Valentine's Day	
15 VBS MEETING 3:30 PM	16 MT. JULIET VBS TRAINING CLINIC SIGN-UP DEADLINE	17 Lucy Myers	18	19	20 Jason Robison	21	
22	23 Stan Smith Sherry Beck	24	25	26	27 Linda Conner	28 Men's Night of Worship REGIONAL VBS TRAINING MT. JULIET Jared Hood	

**Sound Volunteers – January 2026**  
 1/28/26 & 2/1/26 – Ben Murray  
 2/4/26 & 2/8/26 – Ben Howell  
 2/11/26 & 2/15/26 – Ben Murray  
 2/18/26 & 2/22/26 – Andrew Newton  
 2/25/26 & 3/1/26 – Ben Murray  
 Wednesday Nights – Janice Davis

# 2026

# FE B R U A R Y

**Childrens Church – February 2026**  
 2/1/26 – Jonathan Sipe, Ann Smith  
 2/8/26 – Coral Leonard, Ryan Robison  
 2/15/26 – Matt Koehler, Julie Rogers  
 2/22/26 – Brenda Griffin, Rylie Robison

