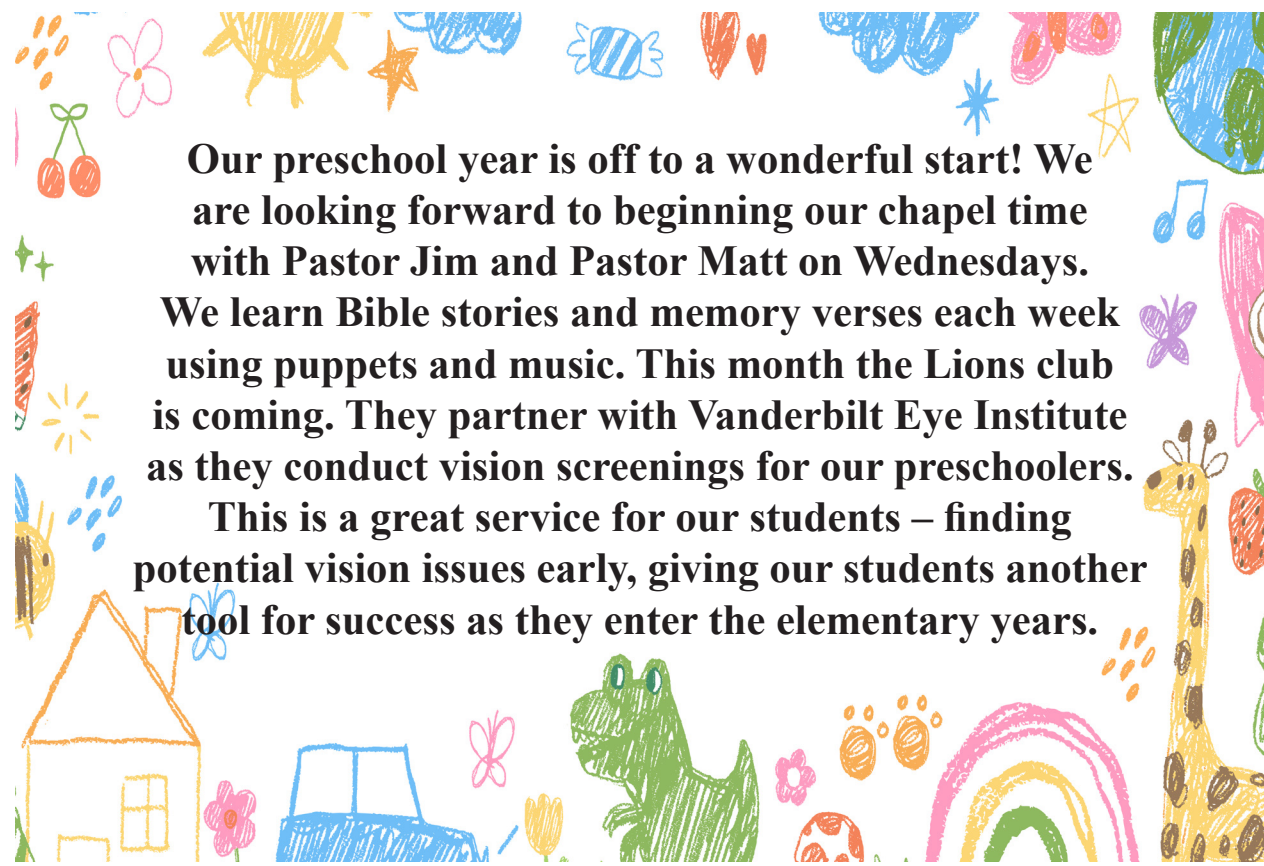




Our preschool year is off to a wonderful start! We are looking forward to beginning our chapel time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Matt on Wednesdays. We learn Bible stories and memory verses each week using puppets and music. This month the Lions club is coming. They partner with Vanderbilt Eye Institute as they conduct vision screenings for our preschoolers. This is a great service for our students – finding potential vision issues early, giving our students another tool for success as they enter the elementary years.

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

Celebrating
**56
YEARS**

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Highland Baptist
Connect, Grow, Serve, Go
THE CONNECTION
SEPTEMBER 2026

The freedom to pray is a wonderful privilege, but faithful prayer is what develops a deep walk with God. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.” That doesn’t mean we spend every moment of every day with our eyes closed. It means we cultivate a heart that continually depends upon God. Prayer becomes as natural as breathing because our relationship with Him becomes the center of everything we do.

One of the greatest weaknesses in the Christian life is that many believers give up praying too soon. We pray about a burden for a few days. Perhaps even a few weeks. Nothing seems to happen, and quietly we conclude that God must not be listening. But Scripture teaches us something entirely different.

Jesus understood our tendency to become discouraged, so in Luke 18 He told the parable of the persistent widow. This woman continually came before an unjust judge asking for justice. At first he ignored her, but because she refused to quit, he finally granted her request. Jesus wasn’t teaching that God is reluctant or uncaring. In fact, He’s teaching the opposite. If an unjust judge eventually responds to persistence, how much more will a loving heavenly Father hear His children who cry out to Him day and night? Then Jesus gives the reason for the parable before He even begins telling it: “They ought always to pray and not lose heart.”

Don’t quit. Don’t stop because you haven’t seen immediate results. Don’t mistake God’s silence for God’s absence. Sometimes God answers immediately. Sometimes He answers gradually. Sometimes He answers differently than we expected. But He is always working for our good and His glory.

Jesus reinforced this same truth when He said, “Ask...seek...knock.” In the original language, each verb carries the idea of continuous action: Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking. Keep trusting. Keep believing. Prayer isn’t about persuading a reluctant God. Prayer is about expressing continual dependence upon a faithful Father.

Think about a farmer. After planting seed, he doesn’t dig it up every morning to see if it’s growing. He continues watering, cultivating, and waiting because he trusts that unseen work is taking place beneath the surface. Prayer often works the same way. While we cannot see what God is doing, He is arranging circumstances, changing hearts, opening doors, closing others, protecting us from things we don’t even know about, and accomplishing purposes far beyond our understanding.

Continued on the next page →

I've spoken with believers who prayed for the salvation of a spouse for twenty years before seeing that prayer answered. Parents who prayed decades for a prodigal child. Missionaries who labored for years before seeing the first convert. Had they stopped praying, they might have missed witnessing God's perfect timing. Remember this: God's delays are not necessarily God's denials. Sometimes God delays because He's preparing the answer. Sometimes He delays because He's preparing us. Sometimes He's accomplishing ten things we can't yet see while we're focused on the one thing we want Him to do.

Faithful prayer doesn't simply change circumstances. It changes us. As we continue bringing our burdens before the Lord, He teaches us patience, strengthens our faith, deepens our dependence, and conforms us to the image of Christ. Prayer is not just about getting answers. It's about knowing the One who answers.

So don't grow weary. Keep praying for that lost loved one. Keep praying for your marriage. Keep praying for your children and grandchildren. Keep praying for your church. Keep praying for revival. Keep praying over decisions, burdens, temptations, and opportunities. Because every prayer offered in faith is heard by a loving Father who always knows the right answer, the right way, and the right time. And when we faithfully persevere in prayer, we discover that while we were waiting on God, He was faithfully working all along.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim



WHAT IS THE GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS?

A legacy of faith. A future of hope.

In 1901, W. C. & Mildred Golden gave Tennessee Baptists a vision for what a unified mission could accomplish. For 125 years, that vision has been fulfilled in communities across Tennessee and among the nations. Together, let's honor **125 years** of faithfulness by writing the next chapter.



Tennessee Baptists contributing through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provide support for Tennessee ministries; sustaining state ministries not funded through the Cooperative Program.

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Deacon of the Week

August 29-Sept 4	Jason Robison
September 5-11	Jonathan Sipe
September 12-18	Mark Smith
September 19-25	Roger Williams
September 26-Oct 2	Stan Smith

Greeters – September 2026

- September 6 – Jimmy/ Kristy
- September 13 – Johnny/ Gayle/ Brian
- September 20 – David/ Diane
- September 27 – Samantha/ Linda/ Kathy

VOLUNTEERS

Needed!

Join our Ministry Center Team

FRIDAYS IN JUNE
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

MINISTRY CENTER

PROVIDE BATHROOM FACILITIES

OFFER WATER

SHARE THE GOSPEL IN CONVERSATION

SIGN-UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICES

Thank you for serving with love!



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

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- S JIM NORMAN

T MATT KOEHLER

A JIMMY GADDIS

F KATHY HASTY

F AMY JACKSON

F ANN SMITH

F MIKE STRINGFIELD
- SENIOR PASTOR

MINISTER OF YOUTH & EDUCATION

FACILITIES MANAGER

NURSERY DIRECTOR

OFFICE MANAGER

DIRECTOR - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as thee." Matthew 19:14 AWANA is starting back in September. Pray for a meaningful year for these children that come to Highland to learn more about Jesus and His love!

September Nursery Volunteers

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

Sunday September 6:

Bible Study: Kelly Farris

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Kelly Farris, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: No Worship Service

Wednesday September 9: Kim Dodson, Carrie Newton

Sunday September 13:

Bible Study: Liz Bond

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: Samantha Norman, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday September 16: Kim Dodson, Kathy Hasty

Sunday September 20:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, David Inocencio, Rick Miller

Evening Worship: Terri Stone, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday September 23: Kim Dodson, Donna Jackson

Sunday September 27:

Bible Study: Liz Bond, Lauren Fults

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Lauren Fults, Steve Stone

Evening Worship: Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday September 30: Kim Dodson, Kathy Hasty

For students, school is an absolute mission field. Every day, their faith in the Lord is seen. It's seen in the choices they make, the things they say, and how they treat others. On top of this, there are assignments, meetings, and obligations that must be met. Helping students navigate these choices and requirements provides opportunities for discipleship. Take time to pray for our students as school brings new opportunities for them to share their faith. Scan this QR code for a quick way to share the Gospel from Dare 2 Share Ministries.



Dads, if you have a son in 1st–12th grade, I want to invite you to be part of this year's camping trip, October 16th–18th at Linden Valley. Camp-O-Ree is the camp for the Royal Ambassadors (RA) program. The RA program provides a Bible-based outdoor learning experience. Meeting missionaries, shooting bows and arrows, obstacle courses, and much more. Scan this QR code to learn more. If you are interested in attending, sign up on the bulletin board by my office.



See You at the Pole is September 23rd! Start praying for this to be a day that students come together and show up to pray for their school, teachers, and classmates. Most meetings start at 7:15 am. Once times are set, I will let parents know. This year's theme comes from Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matt Koehler

Minister of Youth & Education



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
Childrens Church – September 2026 9/6/26 – Matt Koehler, Julie Rogers 9/13/26 – Joanna Koehler, Ryan Robison 9/20/26 – Jonathan Sipe, Coral Leonard 9/27/26 – Mark Raymond, Ann Smith		1	2 AWANA Kick-Off 5:30PM Melissa Martin	3 Brenda Griffin	4 Food Share- Ministry Center 9:00AM-11:30PM	5 Pat Gaddis		
		6 No Evening Worship	7 Labor Day (Offices Closed)	8 PrimeTimers 12PM	9 AWANA Begins 5:25PM Donna Jackson	10 Sue Stevenson	11 Food Share- Ministry Center 9:00AM-11:30PM	12
		13 Deacons Meeting 4:00 PM	14 Rema Bell Karen Purdom	15	16	17 Libby Brown	18 Food Share- Ministry Center 9:00AM-11:30PM	19
		Week of Prayer for Tennessee Missions - September 13-20						
20 Business Meeting 6PM	21	22	23 SYATP	24	25 Food Share- Ministry Center 9:00AM-11:30PM Rose Bouchard	26 Laura Miller		
27 Lord's Supper	28	29	30		Sound Volunteers – September 2026 9/2 & 9/6 – Ben Murray 9/9 & 9/13 – Ben Murray 9/16 & 9/20 – Ben Howell 9/23 & 8/27 – Janice Davis 9/30 & 10/4 – Ben Murray			



Highland's Highlights

Counters for September
Linda Hawkersmith, Kimber Henry

New kids' curriculum coming on September 6th.

Download the free RightNow Kids app to stay connected to what your kids are learning each week.

PrimeTimers

Fellowship. Food. Friends.

Join us for a meal, fellowship and encouragement

September 8th
12:00PM
at the Ministry Center

Hope to see you there!

A GREAT NIGHT TO START AN AWESOME YEAR!

FAITH. FRIENDSHIPS. FUN. FOREVER.

KICK-OFF!

SEPTEMBER 2 • 5:30PM

FOOD | FUN | GAMES

THE NOMINATING TEAM IS

LOOKING for You!

We are looking for members who are interested in serving on the ministry teams of our church.

Your gifts can make a difference!

If you feel led to serve, please let us know!

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another... 1 PETER 4:10