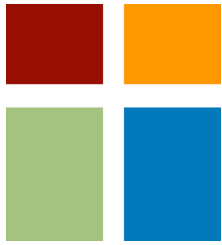


February 2022



# CONCORD COVENANT

*Individual churches united in fulfilling the Great Commission*

*Love the Lord your God*

WITH ALL YOUR HEART,  
WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,  
WITH ALL YOUR MIND

*and love your neighbor  
as yourself*

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## OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

TUESDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

WEDNESDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

THURSDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

FRIDAY | 8:00 AM – NOON

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Pastor's Roundtable** – The February Pastor's Roundtable is scheduled for February 16th at noon. A light lunch will be served, so please RSVP if you are able.

**Men and Boys Wild Game Supper** – The annual Men and Boys Wild Game Supper will be held on March 11th at First Baptist Church, California. This year's speaker will be Royce Railey of Go Fish Ministries. The doors will open at 6pm and the meal will begin at 6:30pm

**Preaching and Leadership Equipping Conference** – The annual Preaching Conference is taking on a new look this year. We have changed the meeting from an annual conference to a biennial conference. Also there has been a name change to Preaching and Leadership Equipping Conference. This conference will be for any church leader or potential church leader that is interested in more effective Biblical preparation for Discipleship (small groups), Music and Evangelism, as well as any men

called to Preach the Gospel. We will be sending more information regarding pre-registration.

The Conference will be held at Concord Baptist Church, Jefferson City, on Friday March 18- 5:30pm-9:00pm (dinner to be served) and Saturday March 19: 7:17 am-12:15 pm (Breakfast to be served).

Cost: Pre-registration - \$20 (now through March 1); Registration after March 1 - \$25; Register at [cbamo.org/ple-conference](http://cbamo.org/ple-conference).

For Questions please contact:

Justin Rich, Co-leader - [richj@missouri.edu](mailto:richj@missouri.edu)

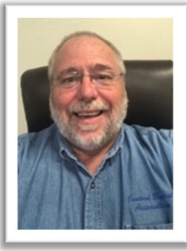
Billy Bolden, Co-leader - [bboldg11@gmail.com](mailto:bboldg11@gmail.com)

or the Associational office at: email: [office@cbamo.org](mailto:office@cbamo.org) or phone: 573-556-0379

**SAVE THE DATE: Concord Builders** – July 10th-15th, 2022. More details will be released as available. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lucy Engelbrecht ([lengel0625@gmail.com](mailto:lengel0625@gmail.com))

**SAVE THE DATE: Children's Camp** – July 17th-21st at Pulaski Association Campground. More details will be released as available. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kari Sullivan ([kari@memorialchurch.net](mailto:kari@memorialchurch.net))

## A WORD FROM OUR DOM:



Dear CBA Family,

February is always a special month. A month that we recognize the love for our sweetheart and family and

friends. But in reality, the love we celebrate is even greater than these loves.

Jesus reminds us of the greater love in Matthew's Gospel...Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' Matthew 22:37. In this passage Jesus was addressing the Pharisees by quoting the greatest commandment. Jesus goes on to share, "This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:38-40. Jesus went from being attacked by the testing questions of the Pharisees, to responding to the attacks with the truth of God's word. And the beauty of God's command is made simple: to Love God with our heart, soul and mind and to love others. The simple truth that Jesus reminds us, to love God completely and to love our neighbors.

As born-again believers in Jesus, we are commanded to love. We are to love God with all of our being, and nothing can ever shift our focus from this command. But we also need to love our neighbors and love all people in an effort to share the love and hope of Jesus.

Knowing the command to love, the next question is how do we do it? Allow me to challenge you during this February of putting God's greatest commands into practice by living love as defined in I Corinthians 13.

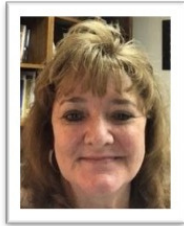
"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" (I Corinthians 13:4-8a)

There are many in our world, nation, state and community that doesn't know the love of God. May we as each church within our association accept the Command of the First and Second commandment of God and Love God and love others. When we love as God has commanded, those without understanding the character of God's love and knowing about the hope of Jesus, will see God's love in action through us.

May we accept that February is the month to celebrate love and look for opportunity to share the Love of God with those whom God draws to Himself. God's blessing as we share God's love and hope for those who are broken and seeking.

In Christ,  
Bro. Alan

## THE EARLS' FRONT PORCH



Hello, I am Paula, wife of your Director of Missions, Alan Earls. I enjoy sharing a little about us, so welcome to our porch.

Memorizing the Bible was a big deal growing up back home in Kentucky. My Granny Ruth and Papa Henny gave me a dollar every week if I could recite a new memory verse. They were so good to explain how important it is to hide God's word in our hearts. They always told me it would help me not to do bad things when the opportunity came along if I knew what God said about it.

**"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude."** (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, ESV). Is one of the first verses I remember memorizing as a young girl.

As I think about Valentine's Day and loving people, I think back to the week I memorized that verse and how my Granny taught me the meaning of it. She said we need to be patient and not expect people who don't have Jesus to act like us who do. We have to show them kindness and goodness in order for them to even want to know our Jesus.

My Granny always said if you gotta toot your own horn "nobody will want to listen." I think she was pretty right about that – really who wants to listen to anyone brag. And my goodness when we think of someone being arrogant let alone rude

back home – well they might as well get back into their car and travel on down the road. My Granny had no use for anyone with those qualities. They could consider themselves lucky if they didn't get a good tanning – and it wouldn't be in a fancy tanning bed. So you see she made learning verses fun and easy.

If you think about memorizing – most verses are pretty easy and it should be fun. It is what Jesus did and taught us to do. He loved and He was oh so very kind and compassionate to everyone always. He did all the things we are supposed to do.

As you think about loving your special someone quote them a verse in their valentine card. Love them like Jesus...after all He is our greatest example of Love.

Until next time, may all your days be full of love and happiness,

Paula

P.S. For a special little friend – Every day is a gift from God! Praise God we have a lot more of them together.

## BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES UPDATE



As the new semester gets underway and several students have been quarantined or diagnosed with Covid, it seems that there will be various adjustments

probably coming this season on campus. I've also been contacted by the International Student Family and they would like to partner in various capacities. Are there any service projects we can invite this group to come help at our local church properties or events? We can love on these students who are offering their help as well as coordinate the stockpile of school supplies and hats and gloves that they are requesting.

I just returned from a Midwest Pastors Leadership Summit in Springfield, Illinois where it was encouraging to connect with several of our CBA pastoral staff. What a treat it was to worship together with several hundred pastors and leaders. I was strongly encouraged during a few breakout sessions as well. One particular area was on Transforming Prayer. I am doing some research on which night works for the students and finding a time and place to begin a weekly prayer group. Additionally, another breakout was convicting in the area of having a faith that truly believes. In order for change to dramatically happen, the leader must believe that God can and will do what He deems best. Otherwise, we can often keep trying in our own power; but, we cannot experience God's Power until we empty all of our own. May we choose to believe in faith and not with fear!

## CBA CHURCH UPDATES

### Church Pastor Updates:

Welcome Pastor Rev. Paul Young who been named the new Pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Russellville, MO. Congratulations and welcome Bro. Paul!

### Churches in Transition:

- Centertown Baptist Church – Interim Shawn Higgins
- Corticelli Baptist Church - Interim Rev Dr. Greg Morrow
- Concord Baptist Church - Interim Rev Dr. Neil Franks
- FBC Jefferson City – Interim Rev Dr. Keith Herron
- Freshwater
- Friendship
- Jamestown - Interim Rev Ken McCune
- Lupus
- Mt. Pleasant, Clarksburg – Interim Rev Steve Sowder

### Pastor Ordination Service

Concord Baptist Association,  
We are excited to invite your church to the ordination service of our pastor, Shawn Dumsday, February 6, 2022. We also extend an invitation to all the ordained officials from the association to participate in the ordination council. The council will meet at 2:00 pm and the ordination service will be held at 3:00 pm at the Prairie Home Baptist Church (418 Main Street, Prairie Home, MO) We invite you to join us in joy for this event.

In Christ,  
Prairie Home Baptist Church



## PASTOR INTRODUCTION: MARK PLAZA



Thanks for the opportunity to introduce ourselves. My name is Mark, and my wife's name is Fay. We moved into Missouri in July of 2021. The Lord called to pastor at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, and we are thrilled to follow His leading.

Calling Vermont my home for most of my growing up years, I found Jesus at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire. My football buddy had been praying for me and reached out to me over dinner, to come with him to the next Campus Crusade for Christ meeting that he was going to. Having just spent a night throwing my Bible across the room while challenging God to show Himself to me as real, I very reluctantly went and heard the good news of Jesus that changed the course of my life. Fay, trusted the Lord at a very young age, praise the Lord!!

Fay and I met at college, graduated, married, had a couple kids, and then went to serve the Lord in the DR of Congo in Central Africa. The start began with serving missionary children at Rethy Academy and then moving into leadership training with men and women following Jesus. What a great opportunity to

reach people for Christ, missionary children, to build local believers, pygmies, all the Lord brought to us. Thanks be to God for this fantastic fruitful time.

A couple kids later, we found ourselves headed to Honduras, Central America to do leadership training. This ministry took me, and sometimes Fay, all over the country teaching and ministering to those eager to learn. These were great years of eager learners, challenging circumstances, and happy memories. My favorite part was seeing believers grow and get plugged into the ministry using their gifts and skills to reach others for Christ.

Going back to the USA, God took us to a few different ministries. We pastored a small mountain church in Colorado, then to a group of believers in northwest Denver. During this time, I also had opportunity to finish my education and receive a doctorate from Gateway Seminary and I also served the homeless community with the Denver Rescue Mission as the director of the Family Rescue Ministry, helping hundreds of families get into housing. Additionally, I've had the exciting opportunity to teach online with Liberty University.

Now we find ourselves in Jefferson City, MO, embarking on a new adventure with a small group of believers. It is a blessing for sure. I am thankful for the man of God that went before me at this special church. Kevin Kohler passed away in November of 2020 and I am seeking to lead this sweet group of believers in their walk with Jesus and hoping to see new faces amongst us. It is a challenge to lead with the legacy that went before me but with an amazing God, all things are possible. (continued on next page)

(continued) I have learned to let God lead and to follow Him through the good times and the bad times. Through the tough times of running out of money in a foreign country, malaria, snake attacks, and guns pointed at my head, among other things our focus must stay on the blessings of God. He has protected us and taken care of us and blessed us with exciting times of seeing people come to the Lord, to others being discipled, leaders being trained, and the homeless finding homes.

I leave you with my life verse from Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV): "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Let us all worship the Lord, be transformed, and glorify the Lord in all that we do. Thanks for taking the time to read a little about us. Please pray for us and feel free to visit us when you get a chance. All are welcome.

Blessings

## **EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER: GOD'S PLAN TO TOUCH YOUR WORLD BY HENRY T. BLACKABY AND MELVIN D. BLACKABY**

Every now and then, a book comes along that makes me wish there was a believer's required reading list. This book would definitely be first on that list. Henry Blackaby and his son, Melvin, talk about the importance of joining together with a body of believers in a local church. "Christians cannot live unto themselves and still

function as God purposed when He saved them. We are born into the family of God, and through Christ we have many 'blood relatives,'" (Blackaby 2002, p 10).

I picked this book up from a free table in the lobby of the Baptist Building in Jefferson City. Having been familiar with *Experiencing God*, it grabbed my attention. Even though it has been around for a while, published in 2002, I found the message extremely relevant for churches today. The Blackabys address Koinonia (fellowship), the covenant relationship, the importance of prayer, how God speaks and works through a church, and being on mission with God through the local church. We learn not only the importance of joining with a local body of believers, but the role that body of believers should fill in the community around them.

Throughout the book, we are continually reminded that the church is the body of Christ and He is the Head of that body. "The greatest truth a church must understand, if it wants to be of any use to God, is that Christ is the Head of the church. It is one thing to believe it theologically; it is quite another to live it practically," (Blackaby 2002, p. 104).

This book is still available from major retailers, Amazon, Christianbook, and Lifeway as well as the Blackaby's ministry website, [blackaby.org](http://blackaby.org). It was retitled and repackaged in 2007 as *A God-Centered Church: Experiencing God Together*. So, if you search for it and this title comes up, they are the same book. I would encourage every believer that this is a book worth the time.



This book review was submitted by Sarah Kennedy. Sarah is a member at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. If you have a book or study you are interested in having reviewed for your ladies' group, please contact the CBA office ([office@cbamo.org](mailto:office@cbamo.org)).

## MISSIONS & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR CHURCH

### Opportunities in Montana:

Bro. Alan will be leading a CBA Vision Trip to Montana. If you or your church is interested in joining us for this partnership exploration, please notify Bro. Alan at [alanearl@cbamo.org](mailto:alanearl@cbamo.org).

### Missouri Baptist Children's Home:

Is your church looking for a mission project or developing an on-going ministry that will make a huge difference in the Kingdom of God and in the lives of children and hurting people? Please consider exploring a partnership, mission or ministry with the Missouri Baptist Children's Home. For more information on the Missouri Baptist Children's Home or how you can become involved, please visit:

<https://www.mbch.org/common/download/public/pub00307.pdf>  
<https://www.mbch.org/index>

The Missouri Baptist Children's Home and its affiliates are making a lasting difference in the lives of children, youth and families. If you are interested in hosting an official representative to speak at your church, please contact Kenny Vawter, Regional Representative at (573) 241-1113 or [Kenny.Vawter@MBCH.org](mailto:Kenny.Vawter@MBCH.org).

### Summer Missions Intern:

The Concord Baptist Association will be opening applications for a summer missions intern. Applicants must be 18 years old. If you are interested in this position, please contact the CBA Office for an application.



### Missouri WMU Missions Celebration:

You are invited to join the Missouri WMU in being relentless through seeking God in prayer, witnessing to others, giving sacrificially and living authentic faith in Christ! This event will be held April 1-2, hosted by Concord Baptist Church. It will feature: missionary speakers, breakout sessions, ministry projects, WMU Age Level Training, MWMU Book Store, Madge Truex Fund Offering, Gift Basket Silent Auction and more.

Early Registration (until March 4th): \$35

After March 4th: \$45

Registration for One Day: \$20

Students (grades 7th-Collegiate): \$15

Saturday lunchbox: \$8/each

Childcare provided, must be reserved by March 4th.

For more information, contact Cheryl Stahlman at (573) 206-9804 or [lagdprov31@gmail.com](mailto:lagdprov31@gmail.com).

**The MWMU is also seeking local volunteers to assist with registration and usher duties. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please contact Becky Hale at [beckyhale829@gmail.com](mailto:beckyhale829@gmail.com).**



## SHARING JESUS WITH OTHERS:

Considering God's Character of love, do you know the gracious love of God that is offered to us through salvation through the power of Jesus Christ? John 3:16 tells us: **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

John 3:16 reveals that God loves His creation and He desires His creation to become His children. The first step we need to take is to acknowledge our sin and to recognize that sin has eternal consequences: **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord."** (Romans 6:23)

We also recognize that God's love provides us a solution:

**"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile —the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** (Romans 10:9-13)

Would you like to accept God's precious gift of salvation and His love? Then say and mean the following prayer: Dear God, I desire to receive your love and offer of salvation through Jesus Christ. I acknowledge I am a sinner and seek your forgiveness for my sins. I choose to turn from sin and turn to Jesus. I believe that Jesus died and shared His blood to pay my penalty. I believe that Jesus died for my sin, was buried and three days later rose from the grave. Today I desire that Jesus become the Lord and boss of my life. Thank you for saving me. In the Name of Jesus, Amen

## AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

### VBS Training/Assistance

Christy Nance, Missouri VBS Promoter, is available to help interested churches plan, lead, follow-up on Vacation Bible School – regardless of the curriculum used. If your church is not currently hosting VBS, she can show you ways to have a great VBS with a minimum number of people and/or financial commitment. If desired, she is available to provide associational training – in person or virtually. If your church is interested in any of these helps, you may email her at [cdnance@swbell.net](mailto:cdnance@swbell.net) or call/text at (314) 795-0676. Additionally, if anyone is interested in our association hosting a training, please contact Alicia at [office@cbamo.org](mailto:office@cbamo.org) so we can look at putting one together.

**Block Party Trailer**

If you are planning a summer outreach event, VBS celebration, etc...the CBA Block Party Trailer is available for churches! It contains a bounce house, popcorn and snow cone machines, as well as a variety of games and evangelism tools. Requests will be taken on a first come, first served basis. An information packet, which includes the reservation form, is available for download at <https://cbamo.org/concord-baptist-association-block-party-trailer/> when you input your contact information and the date you are hoping to reserve the trailer. You may also contact Alicia Amos directly at [office@cbamo.org](mailto:office@cbamo.org).

**For the Church Institute through Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**

The CBA office is excited to introduce you to a new initiative from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS). It is called For the Church Institute or FTC Institute. MBTS through FTC Institute is offering free online courses for who may be seeking theological education. These courses are offered free of charge to anyone within your church that is interested in theological education but is not necessarily after a degree or paying a lot of money. You are encouraged to click on the link below and see what you think. You do not receive seminary credit, however, upon completion of the course you do receive a certificate and are eligible for Continuing Education Credit. For more information, please visit <https://ftcinstitute.squarespace.com/>

**Christian Counseling Available**

The Concord Baptist Association has an ongoing partnership with Still Waters Counseling, LLC. Still Waters Counseling provides Christian counseling in the Jefferson City area. Rhonda Myers, MA, LPC is available to pastors and churches throughout our association. She currently offers Christian Counseling at the Concord Baptist Association office on Friday mornings. If you are aware of anyone in need of Christian counseling, please contact Rhonda Myers by cell phone at (573) 680-3718 or email for an appointment at [stillwaterscounselingmo@gmail.com](mailto:stillwaterscounselingmo@gmail.com)