



NOVEMBER 2025 / VOLUME 296

SALTSHAKER

Quote of
the Month

When you come to
a fork in the road,
take it.

- Yogi Berra

Covenant Family Prayer Service November 9, 4:00 PM

On Sunday, November 9, from 4:00-4:45 PM, we will be gathering as a church family for a service of celebration and thanksgiving for God's abundant and lavish faithfulness to our church over the past year. Small groups, Bridge Night, and Youth Group have been canceled that evening so everyone has the opportunity to attend.

There will a church-wide family fellowship dessert immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Childcare will be available through age four.

AVPC NEWS

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR SACRED ROAD MINISTRIES

Christmas is coming soon, and we are again partnering with Sacred Road in their outreach. They deliver shoebox gifts in White Swan and other communities on the Yakama, Warm Springs, and Lapwai Reservations. Christmas Shoeboxes are used as a ministry tool to share with families God's love in Christ Jesus for all who will trust in Him. If you would like to participate, you can pick up a tag from the display in the Welcome Center

BOX GUIDELINES

There should be no money or gift cards in the boxes and boxes are to be UNWRAPPED. Boxes can be cardboard or plastic. We are trying to send 60 shoe-sized boxes to them: 30 girls and 30 boys.

SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS

ELEMENTARY AGE BOYS

- Mini Lego Set
- Action Figures (Superheroes)
- Hot Wheels
- Dinosaur Toys
- Pop-Its/Sensory Toys
- Play Dough
- Mini Nerf Gun
- Candy
- Minecraft Toys
- Superhero Masks/Capes
- Pokemon Cards

ELEMENTARY AGE GIRLS

- Nail Polish/Chapstick
- Disney Princess Toys
- Girly Hats and Gloves
- Hair Accessories
- Bracelet Kits
- Stuffed Animals
- Barbie Dolls
- Art Supplies
- Purses
- Sticker Books/Coloring Books
- Funko Pops

The deadline to get your UNWRAPPED box to the church is November 23. Please include \$10 in a separate envelope or through the QR code below to help cover shipping costs. Be sure to put "Sacred Road Shoeboxes" in the memo line. The shoebox collection area will be the Welcome Center café tables.



AVPC NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We want to express our deepest sympathies to James Tate after the loss of his mother, Patricia Tate, and to Frank Thielman after the loss of his mother, Dorothy Thielman.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 9 – Fellowship Brunch
Prayer Service

November 16 – Fellowship Dinner

November 23-24 – Hanging of the Green

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Connor and Christy Bingham on the birth of their son, Samuel James Bingham. Sam was born on October 13 at 8 lbs 3 oz.



November Birthdays

11/1	Woody Armstrong	11/10	Melissa Parker	11/18	Karl Zier
11/1	Dan Dougherty	11/11	Walker Bobo	11/20	Frances Holmes
11/1	James McCallister	11/11	Art Marxer	11/21	Carol Collins
11/1	Everett Taylor	11/12	Merrie Loper	11/21	Rachael Gray
11/2	Rod Chase	11/12	Joe Putman	11/21	Davis Jackson
11/4	JC Foster	11/13	Carl Jacks	11/21	Thomas Jackson
11/4	Everly McGlothlin	11/13	Mike Oaks	11/21	Mark Weldon
11/4	Molly Faith Shepherd	11/13	Jack Parker	11/23	Julia Taylor
11/4	Ezekiel Putman	11/13	Jeff Schofield	11/25	Juan Dunlap
11/5	Shepherd Edmonds	11/14	Rebekah Gray	11/28	Pierce Gamble
11/6	David Coley	11/14	Amy Grace Shepherd	11/28	Wyatt Nelson
11/6	Molly Parker	11/15	Ginger Jackson	11/29	Graham Jackson
11/7	Hannah Snow	11/16	Layne Savoie	11/29	Benji Parker
11/8	Gretchen Parker	11/16	Shawn Schofield	11/29	Luke Richards
11/10	Welden Gamble	11/18	Frank Thielman	11/30	Justin Armstrong



Pastor's Pen

"God ultimately raises up leaders for one primary reason: His glory...We are all like a turtle on a fence post. If you walk by a fence post and see a turtle on top of it, then you know someone came by and put it there. In the same way, God gives leadership according to His good pleasure."

– Matt Chandler

It is nearing that time of year when we will take to the polls for political elections on "the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November" (yes, it is really written like that!) We will also receive the slate of candidates for election to the offices of Ruling Elder and Deacon as the Session is prepping to interview eligible candidates in the coming days.

I encourage everyone within AVPC to set aside time to pray for each of the names you will see. Ask yourself whether you would trust them to work alongside you on your home and if you would turn to them for advice (great advice from my grandfather about church office). After all, we are tasking them with taking care of God's household, finances, and our collective spiritual direction!

If you don't know who the candidates are or how to vote, set aside some time to meet up with them and also their wives – I know each of the potential candidates would welcome the conversation. We should take the time to know who we are seeking, through vote, for God to place in authority over our individual and collective church lives.

Then as the vote approaches followed by installation Sunday in early January – pray anew for our officers and their families – naming their wives and children (if applicable), leaning into Jesus to protect them as He dynamically directs them to humbly discover Gospel grace amidst the contours of their daily lives!

Kyle Parker

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to elect elders and deacons for the 2026-2028 term on Sunday, December 14, at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. A list of officer candidates will be available soon.

MINISTRY NEWS

GROCERY BOXES FOR REFUGEES

Our Small Groups have the opportunity to serve sojourners in our community by providing groceries for refugees in the Birmingham area. For information and to sign up, please scan the QR code.



ALTADENA PARK

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Park Work Day on October 18! Altadena Park is not only a beautiful venue for us to host events like Trunk or Treat and the Easter Egg Hunt, it's a wonderful resource for our community. Be sure to take some time to enjoy the park this Fall!

BOILER ROOM

As you read in September's Saltshaker, the Boiler Room Ministry is a prayer ministry supporting God's work through our church. Boiler room team members pray each week during each service. They gather in the teacher's workroom in God's House Kindergarten (Room E-6). Some may choose to pray for the first 30 minutes and then return to join the worship service. Others may choose to pray for the entire service. Most use the church bulletin as a guide to pray for our worship leaders and staff as they go through the service. Curious? Come and see! Come join those praying any Sunday. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Stay tuned for further updates in the months ahead.

MISSIONS NEWS



In October we sent Michael MacCaugherty, Jeff Schofield, Abi Bostrom, and Sarah Bishop on a Mission Vision Trip to visit our partner missionaries ministering in Albania and Kosovo. They were able to connect, encourage, and engage with the following partner missionaries that we support through our Faith Promise giving: Besiana Rajta (CRU Albania), Hysen & Esmeralda Kanani (CRU Alabania), Agron & Elona Sopaj (CRU Kosovo), and Doni & Albina Mehmeti (MTW Kosovo). It was amazing to see first hand the kingdom work that we as an AVPC community are partnering with some 5,500 miles away through both our personal involvement and Faith Promise giving.

We are planning to send a short-term mission team to this region (Albania and Kosovo) in the spring of 2026. Pray for the Mission Team as we debrief, download, and begin planning for the details of this short-term trip. There are so many wonderful opportunities to get involved with and we want to ensure that we are coming alongside our partner missionaries well and enabling them to continue to serve and minister in their focus communities.

Thank you for giving and participating in Faith Promise. This thank you comes not only from us and our mission team, but from the partner missionaries we support. Each of them wanted us to personally convey to you their gratefulness for your sacrificial giving, prayers, and support.



MEET OUR NEW MISSIONARY

Tyler Harris - Unbound Grace

A Birmingham native, Tyler grew up in a loving Christian home. After a brutal battle with addiction that began in college, he found freedom in the Gospel through Unbound Grace's ministry. Tyler earned his undergraduate degree from Auburn University and is pursuing an M.Div from Birmingham Theological Seminary. Tyler joined the Unbound Grace team in 2020 to focus on discipleship and outreach to churches needing a recovery ministry for their members. He and his wife, Jordan, have two wonderful boys - Levi and Owen.



Unbound Grace



Unbound Grace builds relationships with individuals, families, and organizations seeking to make sense of the suffering and pain caused by addiction. They aim to help all involved experience grace, healing, and restoration. Visit unboundgrace.life for more information.

Learn More

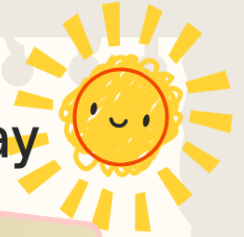
Scan the QR code below to read a full Q&A with Tyler and learn more about him, his family, and his ministry.



avpc.org/wp-content/uploads/Tyler-Harris-Q&A.pdf

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Scenes from Children's Ministry Sunday



AVPC Kids November Happenings

11/2: AVPC Fall Festival at 5 PM!

11/9: NO BRIDGE NIGHT. Joint AVPC Family Prayer Service.

11/16: AVPC PreteenChimes play at Cahaba Ridge at 10:45.

AVPC Kids Bridge Night at 5 PM!

11/23: Pick up your Advent Family Devotional! No Bridge Night.

11/30: AVPC Kids Bridge Night PAGEANT PRACTICE at 5 PM.

AVPC Kids Bridge Night Small Group Serve Schedule:

11/2: Beckett Small Group

11/16: Coley Small Group

Youth Ministry



In our senior high Sunday school class we are looking at the Church. The point is that the Church (capital “C”) is not just somewhere we go, it is not something we do, but it is something that we are if we are followers of Jesus Christ. The reality is that Jesus is not our homeboy, Jesus is Lord. He is the one who took dead people and made them alive. He took a group of people who were not a people, who would have never been in the same social circles at school, and brought them together as one, as a family. Even now, He is the One holding us together, and this crosses denominational lines. I know for a fact that I will be worshipping around the throne in heaven one day with brothers and sisters who do not view the Bible through the lens of systematic theology. While there will be good Presbyterians there (and plenty of them), there will be many who are not.



With that being said, I greatly appreciate our tradition in the PCA, and that is what we have been looking at the last couple of weeks. We have been focusing on the heart of the reformed tradition, as expressed through John Calvin. The goal of knowing these truths is not just to know them, but to allow the reality of what is clearly (I think) taught in scripture to inform our day-to-day lives. As we have been looking at John Calvin’s Five Points, I have been particularly meditating on the idea of the perseverance of the saints. I don’t know about you, but it feels like I have been beaten up for years now (I know our students feel like this in their daily activities). For many, perhaps you don’t feel like you have much strength left to cling to the Lord. Jacob wrestled with God all night and refused to let go, but maybe you don’t feel like you have the strength to maintain your grip. Maybe it feels like you are slipping. Consider the words of Jesus in John 10: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10:27-30). To be in the hands of Jesus is to be in the hands of the Father. You are being held, even when you cannot hold. As Paul reminds us in Romans 8, nothing, NOTHING, can separate you from the Father and the Son. Nothing can snatch you from that strong hand.

Peace,
Clint

Upcoming Events

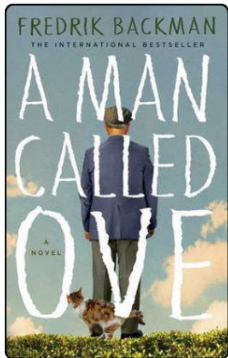
November 8-9: Senior High Fall Retreat

December 3: Junior High Christmas Party

December 10: Senior High Christmas Party



BOOK DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 20



6:30 PM IN THE PRETEEN HANGOUT
A MAN CALLED OVE, FREDRIK BACKMAN

A Man Called Ove is a novel about how a grumpy curmudgeon's life transforms when new neighbors accidentally flatten his mailbox, leading to unexpected friendships and community connections.



Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S RETREAT MARCH 6-8

SPRINGVILLE CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
FEATURED SPEAKER: HOLLY MACKLE

Holly Mackle is the curator of the mom humor collaboration *Same Here, Sisterfriend, Mostly True Tales of Misadventures in Motherhood*, and author of the family Advent devotional *Little Hearts, Prepare Him Room*. She

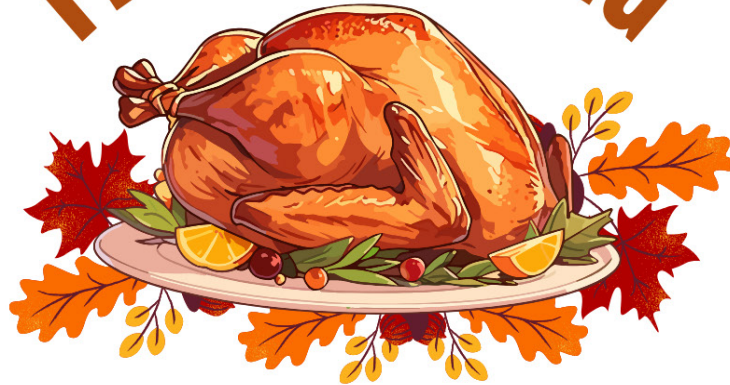


has contributed to The Gospel Coalition, the Better Mom, and the enCourage blog.



YOUNG ADULTS

FRIENDSGIVING



FRIDAY

14

NOVEMBER

Join young adults from PCA churches in the Birmingham area on November 14th for a night of feasting with new and old friends. Details about time and location coming soon!

SESSION/DIACONATE MINUTES

SESSION MEETING • SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

- The Session returned a request for the replacement of the handrails on the exterior staircase outside the church office to the Diaconate for further consideration.
- The Session approved the following requests from the Missions Team:
 - Approval of starting monthly support for Dylan Peters (AVPC communing member) with Cross Cultural Connections at \$500.00 per month, retroactive to January 1, 2025.
 - Approval of starting monthly support for Tyler Harris with Unbound Grace at \$500.00 per month, retroactive to January 1, 2025.
 - Approval of starting monthly support for Corey Jackson with Luke Alliance at \$500.00 per month, retroactive to January 1, 2025.

DIACONATE MEETING • OCTOBER 14, 2025

- The Diaconate unanimously approved the recommendation from the Finance Team to disengage Chaney and Associates as the Church's provider of financial services effective at or about January 1, 2026. In conjunction with this change, the Church will implement Aplos accounting software for fund accounting, reporting, and budgeting purposes.
- The Diaconate unanimously approved a recommendation to change P&C insurance providers to Church Mutual, except for the worker's compensation policy, as soon as reasonably possible to take advantage of lower premiums and deductibles without loss of coverage.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	(\$32,592)	\$112,570	\$148,062	(\$7,537)	(\$75,724)
MISSIONS	\$177,446	\$19,275	\$48,195	\$7,537	\$156,063
TOTAL	\$144,751	\$131,845	\$196,257	\$0	\$80,339