



BEECH STREET  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2025

# CHURCH MESSENGER

MONTHLY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

● Sunday School: 9:30am ● Worship Service: 10:30am ● Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00pm



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Welcome to August. It seems like summer vacation always goes by too fast. Somehow three months off feels like only three weeks, and suddenly we find ourselves standing in the school supplies aisle at Wal-Mart anticipating the beginning of another year or starting to plan ahead for fall's seasonal activities. As communities gear up for school, August presents as a perfect time to consider knowledge. Christian knowledge, in its essence, is a multifaceted understanding of God, Jesus Christ, and the Christian faith, encompassing both intellectual and experiential dimensions. It involves knowing God's will, embracing Christ's teachings, and applying them to daily life, leading to a transformed character and a deeper relationship with God.

### Seeking Wisdom & Understanding-

We acknowledge God as the ultimate source of wisdom and actively pursuing knowledge and understanding through prayer, scripture, and a humble heart. This pursuit includes recognizing one's own limitations and relying on God's guidance to make wise decisions and navigate life's challenges.

### Giving Generously-

Using one's abilities and gifts to serve others and glorify God, emphasizes the importance of recognizing and utilizing one's unique talents for the benefit of the community and the advancement of a greater purpose. It's about more than just possessing talents; it's about actively employing them in a way that reflects one's faith and values.

**Beech Street Christian Church: A place to call home. Please contact us or visit at:**

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- 606-324-1067
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- email: [BSCC.ashland.ky@gmail.com](mailto:BSCC.ashland.ky@gmail.com)
- <https://www.facebook.com/BeechStreetChristianChurch>



## A Message from Our Minister

There is one common denominator that you can find in every growing church regardless of denomination, nationality, or size. That common denominator is that people are not afraid to believe and trust God. Here are three very common principles to keep the church moving forward as we trust God:

1. Don't get comfortable...It's okay to be comfortable, but when you hang out there too long, it can be dangerous, because you stop trying new things. You were made for something more than merely avoiding failure. There is something inside you that wants to walk on water—to leave the comfort of routine existence and abandon yourself to the high adventure of following God. Join or start a small group; invite a neighbor out to lunch, etc.

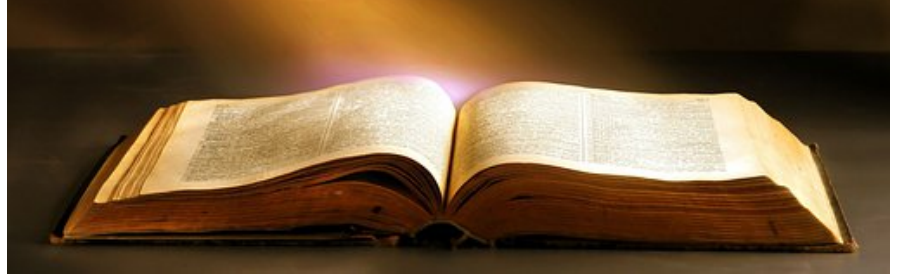
2. Keep on dreaming...Dreams inspire, challenge, and grow people and groups of people. You'll never dream bigger than the dreams God has for you or our church. And once you quit dreaming, you start dying. Dreams and visions keep us moving forward. Ask God to help you imagine a new ministry, or a new connection with people around you that you don't yet know. Nothing starts happening until somebody starts dreaming.

3. Take risks...You can't succeed at anything without some measure of risk. Playing it safe never grows anything. The call of God always involves risk-taking. We are called to walk by faith and not by sight. This is especially true for the church, because we are a faith-based living organism. Don't take foolish risks but take risks that give God room to do what only God can do through you and His church.

Bravely step into new territory. Reimagine what could be. Ask bold questions: What is God longing to do through me, or through us now? Where are the needs in our community? Who within our congregation has an untapped gift, a fresh idea, or a passion waiting to be unleashed? Yeah, trust God and get out of your comfort zone. Dream big and take risks that give God opportunity to work.

Blessings,  
Keith

# God's Sovereignty In All Things



The knowledge of God's teachings can be used to glorify His name in all situations and places as people begin to transition back into end-of-summer routines, including the workplace, classroom, and church. Let's take a look at how.

Acknowledge God's Sovereignty and trust in His plan: The Bible teaches that God has supreme authority and control over all things, even those that seem insignificant to us.

Understanding God's sovereignty can bring peace and perspective, even in difficult situations, as it assures us that He is working all things together for good for those who love Him. Trusting in God's plan means releasing anxiety and relying on His guidance and strength in all aspects of life.

-View Work, Study, and Ministry as Opportunities to Serve God:

- Workplace:
  - Work can be seen as a way to serve God and others, working with excellence and integrity as if working for the Lord, not for human masters.
  - Living out Christian values and demonstrating character and integrity in the workplace can be a powerful witness to others.
- Classroom:
  - Students can pursue their studies with diligence and a desire to learn, recognizing that God has given them the opportunity and the capacity to do so.
  - Students can strive for excellence in their studies, honoring God with their efforts and demonstrating Christ-like behavior in their interactions with teachers and fellow students.

• Church:

- Returning to church provides an opportunity to worship and praise God, fellowship with other believers, and be equipped to serve Him.
- Christians can actively participate in church life, using their gifts and talents to serve others and build up the body of Christ.

-Prioritize Spiritual Disciplines: Setting intentional time for prayer, Bible reading, and reflection is crucial for staying grounded and connected to God amidst busy schedules. Seeking God's wisdom and discernment through prayer and studying His Word can help navigate the challenges and complexities of life.

-Live a Life of Gratitude and Praise: Giving thanks to God for everything, even in difficult circumstances, is a way to glorify Him. Sharing your faith and demonstrating God's love through your actions can inspire others to give glory to God.

-Practice Rest and Self-Care: Honoring the Sabbath principle and taking time for rest and spiritual rejuvenation is essential for avoiding burnout and maintaining a balanced life. Taking care of your physical, mental, and emotional health honors God and allows you to better serve Him and others.

By embracing these principles, believers can live out their faith in the workplace, classroom, and church, bringing glory to God in all that they do.



# Community & Church Events

Community events are crucial for churches as they foster a stronger sense of belonging, build relationships, and extend the church's reach into the wider community. May these events provide opportunities for fellowship, outreach, and spiritual growth, both for existing members and those who may be exploring faith.

FRI  
1

## First Friday

Celebrate the beginning of June in downtown Ashland with live music, vendors, and a car show, at 6pm.

[www.visitaky.com](http://www.visitaky.com)

SAT  
2

## Maker's Market: Downtown Ashland

Shop local. Good food, entertainment, handmade goods: opens at 10am.

Other Dates for August: 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

[www.visitaky.com](http://www.visitaky.com)

TUE  
12

## Boyd County Fair

The fair will run 8/12 to 8/16 at 1760 Addington Road, Ashland, KY 41102.

Gospel Music is on 8/15 at 6:30pm.

[www.boydcountyfair.net/](http://www.boydcountyfair.net/)

SAT  
23

## End of Summer Craft Expo

Boyd Convention and Arts Center.

15605 State RT. 180, Cattlettsburg, KY 41129

Vendors, food, fall crafts, and more.

10:00am-3:00pm

# The Sound (Theology) of Music

Songs are powerful tools for discipleship. Congregational singing is an opportunity to exalt Jesus and exhort the body of Christ. Hymns can significantly enhance Christian biblical knowledge by reinforcing Scripture through repetition, melody, and emotional resonance. Many traditional hymns are deeply rooted in biblical texts and themes, often paraphrasing or directly quoting Scripture. This connection helps believers memorize and internalize biblical truths, sometimes even without realizing it. For example, hymns like "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" draw heavily from specific Bible passages (in this case, Psalm 46), embedding those texts in the minds of congregants in a way that is both accessible and enduring.

In worship, hymns foster a communal expression of faith, uniting congregations in shared praise and devotion. Singing together helps cultivate a sense of belonging and spiritual unity, bridging gaps of age, background, and denomination. Hymns also give voice to a wide range of human experience—joy, sorrow, repentance, hope—allowing worshipers to bring their full selves before God. In this way, hymns not only educate but also inspire and sustain the spiritual life of the Church. Over time, regular exposure to biblically sound hymns can build a strong foundation of scriptural understanding, especially when accompanied by teaching and reflection. In this way, hymns act as both a catechism and a devotional tool, shaping the believer's knowledge and love of God's Word.

# God In His Wisdom

I knew my mother might be a little disappointed. After all, since my early childhood she wanted me to pursue a specific college degree. After looking at program after program, the Lord gave me a desire to go in a different direction. This wasn't the degree she'd hoped for, but it was in a similar field and I could help just as many people. My mind and heart were conflicted, but God ordered my steps, and my mother gave me her full blessing after some reservation. I still remember mom calling me on the first day of classes to remind me it was not too late to change my path. The thought crossed my mind, but I knew it was God who had interrupted my plans. After some amazing years, I look back on that time in college and see why God redirected my steps. Years after my graduation, I'm happy that I chose a different path than she, and even I, had expected.

I can now see that whenever God interrupts our plans, it's always for a greater purpose. The wisdom in Proverbs 19:21 explains it this way: "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." I love that this scripture says we don't just have some plans – we have many plans. I know I do. I have lists, notes and memos full of ideas of things I want to try, books I want to read, and goals I want to accomplish. At times, it can be frustrating knowing that I actually don't have enough time or energy to pursue every plan that comes to my heart. There is no guarantee we'll see our plans come to pass perfectly. This often leaves us to face the sting of what feels like failure when our many plans remain lists in our planners, scribbles in our journals. But what if we choose to look at our unaccomplished or interrupted plans

not as failures but as opportunities? What if God is using what we call "failed plans" for His greater purpose? Think of some of Jesus's disciples. Matthew planned to be a tax collector. (Matthew 9:9) Andrew, Peter, James and John planned to be fishermen, but an encounter with Jesus interrupted those plans for a purpose that would spread the gospel to all nations. (Matthew 4:18-22) Unfulfilled plans are often pathways to God's greater purpose. When our focus is on God's purpose over our plans, we are freed from the pressure they create. We release the urge to do everything at once and the frustration when we realize we can't. Plans are what we intend to do, but the effects of our purpose in Christ grow far beyond our intentions. No matter what plans come to pass – or not – we can always have peace when we know that even if plans fail, God's purpose and wisdom always prevail.





## Give Generously

### Using Our Gifts for Others

All gifts, including intellectual and experiential resources, come from God. Using these gifts wisely and productively to serve others is important. The parable of the talents illustrates the expectation to use what has been given to grow, not to hide or neglect it.

- **Serving Others Glorifies God:** Using gifts to help others and meet their needs glorifies Jesus Christ. These actions reflect God's grace and love, pointing others toward Him.
- **Fulfilling Purpose:** People are God's handiwork, created to do good works, and talents are part of this purpose. Using talents helps fulfill the calling and find joy and fulfillment in aligning with God's plans.
- **Faith in Action:** Using gifts to serve others is a tangible expression of faith, transforming beliefs into positive action. It demonstrates compassion and commitment to making a positive difference in the world.
- **Following Jesus' Example:** Jesus exemplified selfless service, washing the feet of his disciples and giving his life as a ransom for many. People are called to follow His example by serving others with kindness and humility.
- **Building a Thriving Society:** When Christians utilize their gifts and resources for the good of the community, they contribute to a more just and thriving society, guided by God's wisdom and compassion.

Using education, knowledge, experiences, and talents to serve others is a vital expression of Christian faith. It's a way to glorify God, fulfill purpose, strengthen the community, and be a positive influence in the world.



## ROOTED IN CHRIST

Keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. Biblical wisdom comes from God, not from human understanding

### Seek Wisdom from God.

(James 1:5; Proverbs 2:3-5; Proverbs 4:7)

**Living Wisely.** (Proverbs 3:5-6; James 3:17; Ephesians 5:15-17)

### Applying Wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16; Romans 12:2)

**Fear of the Lord.** (Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 1:7)

## Considering Biblical Wisdom in Daily Living

The book of Proverbs is a treasure trove when it comes to understanding the biblical idea of wisdom. It is divided into seven major sections, followed by six collections of proverbs by Solomon and the other authors. So, what is a proverb? Proverbs are simply short, concise sayings, stating a general truth or piece of advice, observation, warning, or prohibition. The Greek translation of the Hebrew, *māšāl*, meaning proverbs, is *paroimiai*, which is close in meaning to *parabolē*, or “parable”, and can also mean a riddle, figure, or warning. The book of Proverbs, then, is a book of instruction. In fact, it is thought that the book of Proverbs was originally used for instruction of young men in the royal court, but eventually became applicable to all within Israel for wise living. As such, wisdom is not something we can attain without being taught. The theological assumption in Proverbs is that such wisdom only comes from God. As one author states, it is “God’s wise council for living”.

**Consider:** To effectively start your day with Proverbs, choose a manageable reading plan, reflect on the wisdom offered, how it applies to your current circumstances. and then apply it to your daily life.

**A Key Take Away:** As the proverbs are applied to life, and wisdom grows, they help to form attitudes and behaviors that over time become habits that bring about the transformation of character.