



# The Messenger

October 2023

## Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

*"The Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association is a network of Churches committed to evangelizing, teaching and ministering to our World."*

*"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints" Hebrews 13:7, 17, and 24*

October has been designated as Pastor Appreciation Month. Hopefully, without being reminded, your church has already thought about ways to appreciate your pastor and church staff. Unfortunately, it may appear that pastors hear more criticism than encouragement these days. No matter how hard a pastor may try to be sincere, many often find fault and criticize. Someone once expressed it like this:

If the pastor is young, they say he lacks experience; If his hair is gray, he's too old for the young people. If he has five or six children, he has too many; If he has no children, he's setting a bad example. If he preaches from notes, he has canned sermons and is dry; If his messages are extemporaneous, he is not deep. If he is attentive to the poor people in the church, they claim that he is playing to the grandstand; If he pays attention to the wealthy, he is trying to be an aristocrat. If he uses too many illustrations, he neglects the Bible; If he doesn't use enough stories, he isn't clear. If He condemns wrong, he's cranky; If he doesn't preach against sin, they say he's a compromiser. If he preaches the truth, he's offensive; If he doesn't preach the truth, he's a hypocrite. If he fails to please everybody, he's hurting the church and ought to leave; If he does please everybody, he has no convictions. If he drives an old car, he shames his congregation; If he drives a new car, he is setting his affection upon earthly things. If he preaches all the time, the people get tired of hearing one man; If he invites guest preachers, he's shirking his responsibility. If he receives a large salary, he is mercenary; If he receives a small salary – well, then they say it proves he isn't worth much anyway.

No wonder you can find the following statistics about ministers from pastoral care inc.:

- **2%** of pastors are thinking of quitting the ministry. **50%** of pastors are age **56+**
- **85%** of pastors believe the mission of the church is to reach the lost, only 42% of practicing Christians do.
- **90%** of pastors report working between **55** to **75** hours per week.
- **80%** believe pastoral ministry has **negatively** affected their families. Many pastor's children do not attend church now because of what the church has done to their parents.
- **78%** of pastors report having their vacation and personal time interrupted with ministry duties or expectations.
- **66%** of church members **expect** a minister and family to live at a higher moral standard than themselves.
- **90%** of pastors report the **ministry was completely different** than what they thought it would be like before they entered the ministry.
- **50%** of pastors state they spend 1 hour in prayer each day.
- **57%** of pastors believe they do not receive a livable wage.
- **75%** of pastors report significant **stress-related** crisis at least once in their ministry.
- **80%** of pastors and **84%** of their spouses have felt unqualified and discouraged as role of pastors at least one or more times in their ministry.

- **52%** of pastors feel overworked and cannot meet their church's unrealistic expectations.
- **40%** report serious conflict with a parishioner at least **once in the last year**.
- **80%** of pastors expect conflict within their church.
- **75%** of pastors report spending 4-5 hours a week in needless meetings.
- **35%** of pastors battle depression or fear of inadequacy.
- **26%** of pastors report being over fatigued.
- **70%** of pastors report they have a **lower self-image now** than when they first started.
- **70%** of pastors do not have someone they consider to be a close friend.
- **57%** of pastors feel fulfilled but yet discouraged, stressed, and fatigued.
- **84%** of pastors desire to have close fellowship with someone they can trust and confide.
- Over **50%** of pastors are unhealthy, overweight, and do not exercise.
- Many denominations are reporting an "Empty Pulpit Crisis". They do not have a shortage of ministers but have a shortage of ministers desiring to fill the role of a pastor.
  - **71%** of churches have no plan for a pastor to receive a periodic sabbatical.

Hebrews 13 gives three commands to church members in reference to their pastor or ministers:

*"Remember him"* – be mindful of him and don't take him for granted.

*"Obey him"* – hear the Word under him; never try to overrule him in your self-will, realizing he is the human authority in the church.

*"Greet or salute him"* – embrace, welcome, love tenderly.

Appreciate your pastor and Pray for your pastor,

Kirk



**MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS WHO LIVE ON MISSION.**

**WMU**® God's mission.  
Our passion.



**Ladies, Mark your calendars for April 11-13, 2024!** The dates are set for Missions Get-Together at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, TN. Make plans to join us!

More details are coming soon with schedule, registration fees, lodging recommendations, etc. Follow TN WMU on social media on TN WMU Instagram, TN WMU Facebook, or TN WMU Twitter to stay updated with the latest information or visit [tnwmu.org](http://tnwmu.org).



Tennessee WMU 135th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm central at the Missions Mobilization Center in Mt. Juliet to celebrate 135 years of Tennessee WMU!

There will be a variety of activities throughout the building so you can come and go at a time convenient to you during the four-hour block of time. Cost is free, but registration is requested to help with planning. Register at the TN WMU website.

### 2023 Tennessee WMU Calendar

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| October 1      | Cooperative Program Sunday   |
| October 18     | GCC: Denver via Zoom, 11:00-11:30 am CT                                  |
| October 19     | Happy 135 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Tennessee WMU                           |
| October 20-22  | RA Camp-O-Ree, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center                   |
| October 22     | Day of Prayer for Baptist Associations                                   |
| November 4     | Tennessee WMU 135 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, MMC in Mt. Juliet  |
| November 6     | Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer                                      |
| November 8     | GCC: Denver Via Zoom, 11:00-11:30 am CT                                  |
| November 12-15 | Summit-Annual Meeting of TN Baptists, Chattanooga Convention Center      |
| November 13    | WMU Gathering during Summit,<br>Love Fellowship Baptist Church 2-4 pm ET |
| December 3-10  | Week of Prayer for International Missions/LMCO                           |
| December 7     | GCC International Missions Week of Prayer via Zoom, 6:00-6:45 pm CT      |
| December 13    | GCC: Denver via Zoom, 11:00-11:30 am CT                                  |



### WMU Gathering at Summit Monday, November 13 Love Fellowship Baptist Church, Chattanooga 2:00-4:00 pm eastern time

Tennessee WMU and Hamilton County WMU/Sisters Who Care invite you to join us for fellowship and inspiration as we hear from missionaries and explore ministry opportunities.

Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect with other mission minded people who share a passion for the gospel, and for missions!

Registration is free but please register in advance to help with planning. Register at the TN WMU website.



## Roof Replacement

In August (21-30) we took a team to Jerome, Idaho, to help Northridge Fellowship replace their shingle roof with a new metal one.



Before with shingles



Complete with metal



Before



After



First day with just a few workers. Doug Elders in the orange shirt.



One side completely stripped the first day



Kirk Casey Laying down synthetic tar paper



Stripped clean, paper down, and ready for metal



Getting an early start before it heats up in the desert



Doug Elders helping to prep the metal



Doug letting go of the metal as Kirk & other volunteers secure it to the roof.



Volunteers from TN and MS helped church members save over \$50,000 in labor costs



Kirk and Doug in front of one spring in the Thousand Springs area of the Snake River, ID.



Everyone deserves a relaxing evening after a fall day on a roof.

## Love Packages Trip: September 18-19

Reminder: We are a collection site for new/used Bibles, Sunday School literature, and other Christian books and publications. Periodically, we take our collected materials to a collection point in Decatur, AL. From there, these materials are shipped around the world to help spread the Gospel and grow disciples.



Bonnie Peterson and Tom Rice separating Sunday School material



Bonnie Peterson, Tom Rice, and Jean Dunn



Jim Dunn finishing a box of reference books



Mission Team: Jean Dunn, Jim Dunn, Tom Rice, Kirk Casey, and Bonnie Peterson

## Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin:

- God picks you from the patch and brings you in. (John 15:16)
- Then He washes all the dirt off of you. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, fear, hate, and greed. (Romans 6:6)
- He carves you a new smiling face. (Psalm 71:23)
- And He puts his light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. (Matthew 5:16)



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Custodial Need - Part-time, flexible hours  
(possible increase of hours in the future)

Call Jose' Barreto at Central Baptist Church  
931-484-8426 M-F 8:00-4:00 if interested.



TN Disaster Relief 2023 Training Opportunities.

See their website for details: [tndisasterrelief.org/events](https://tndisasterrelief.org/events)



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October 7

[Introduction to Disaster Relief, Chainsaw Operation & Safety, and Flood Recovery](#)



[cpbaptists.com](http://cpbaptists.com)

If you haven't seen our CPBA website lately, we have added an option for online donations. The very last option on our menu bar says "Donate to CPBA". If you try this and have any issues, please let us know.

Of course, we still welcome any and all donations through snail mail at our PO Box list at the end of the newsletter.

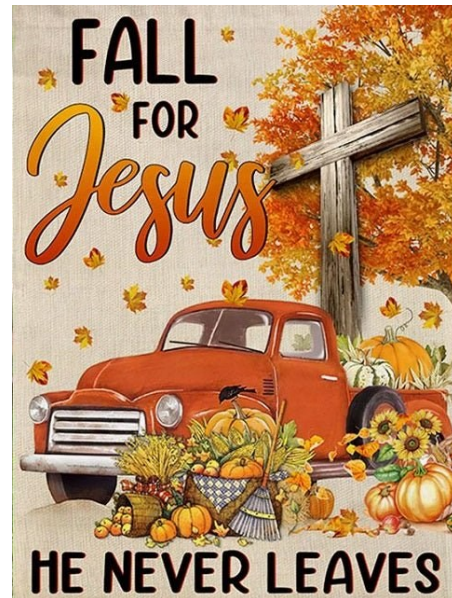


## Items Needed

Does anyone have a locking file cabinet you no longer need? One of our smaller churches could use one. Any size would be appreciated.







### October 2023 At-A-Glance

Oct 1 CPBA Annual Meeting (4PM) & Worship Service (6PM)

Oct 2 Pastor's Conference 10:30 AM  
Mon Speaker: Dr. Danny Sinquefield  
Blue Oval Opportunities

Oct 9-13 FALL BREAK  
Cumberland Co. Schools

Oct 24 Pastors' Conference 10:30 AM  
Tues Speaker: Raymond Phillips

### Looking Ahead to November 2023

Nov 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov 9 WMU Mission Emphasis Meeting

Nov 11 VETERANS DAY

Nov 13 Pastor's Conference 10:30 AM  
Mon @ The Summit

Nov 13-15 Summit—The Gathering of TN Baptists

Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day—CLOSED

Nov 28 Pastors' Conference 10:30 AM  
Tues Speaker: Scott Johnson

## Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

**Office Hours:**

**Mon.-Thurs.**

**9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

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