

The HeartBeat

A weekly newsletter for Mountainside Church members OF Mountainside



Sept. 16, 2026

Welcome!

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Mountainside Church

301 Elcano Drive

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(501) 922-2626

Hours: Mon-Tue, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wed-Thur, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

mountainsidechurch.com

This Sunday at Mountainside

"On Guard!" 2 John 7-11



"Surprises"

All throughout our life, we've experienced surprises. As a little child, Christmas morning was full of surprises, that is if you didn't dog-ear the catalog in obvious ways! The presents were wrapped and you wondered, "Which one is mine? Did they get me what was on my list?" There was a distinct feeling in your stomach.

As we grew, our high school days brought many surprises, especially on test-return days! You wondered if you studied enough and were anxious to see how many answers you may have missed. You could tell those students who poured everything they had into studying and those who were less interested in their G.P.A. and more interested in other high school interests (to put it mildly). The feelings on those test-disclosure days were still felt in the stomach, but in a more dreadful way.

Then as we began working, there came the faithful call from the boss somewhere around 2 p.m. on a Friday afternoon asking you to come to their office at 4:30 before leaving for the weekend. The stomach was not just feeling anxious but somehow it learned to tie itself in a knot! For the next few hours, you search your memory trying to determine what the meeting would be about. "Did I really mess up that bad? Am I going to get fired?" There wasn't enough antacid in the world to calm the extremely distinct feeling in your stomach.

Imagine being a woman in the Jewish faith during Old Testament times. You've caught the eye of a handsome gentleman. He expresses a desire to marry. Accepting the proposal and having the ceremony was not the way it went back then. The two fathers would meet to determine the price of the bride, or the dowry. Once settled, the father of the smitten young man would return home and tell his son what it would cost him. He begins to gather, make, scrap, or amass the price agreed upon by the fathers and would then take that to his future father-in-law. It is at this moment the daughter is officially engaged and all other suitors are turned away; there is now a contract. The future husband would return to his home, without his fiancé, and build onto his father's house or build a whole new house for his proposed bride. All along, the bride would wait, bags packed, for her fiancé to come get her. She did not know when he would return, but had to be ready at a moment's notice. The father of the bridegroom would be the one to say, "Son, go get your bride."

This is the way it is for followers of Jesus Christ. One day, when the Father says those faithful words, He will return to get His bride as the place for her (the church) is ready. The dowry price He paid for us – His very life. Those who are not ready will be left behind, those who have not accepted the sacrifice He made in our stead.

Matthew 24:42 says, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." Don't be anxious but be ready because He WILL return when we are least expectant.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & ENGAGE



Calling All Bakers

Pull out your rolling pins and baking pans, we need your sweet skills for two upcoming events:

Cancer Walk: Deliver your goodies to the church by **Sept. 24**. Package Ziplock bags with two items each. Label what type of sweet it is and if it's gluten free or has nuts. Call Jo Hoak at 501-693-7818 with questions.

Fall Arts & Crafts Fair: Sign up behind the fireplace to participate and drop off your baked goods Friday, **Nov. 6** between 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Label your creations and indicate if they contain nuts, are gluten-free, etc. A crew will package items. All proceeds benefit the Mountainside Mission Fund.



All Hands on Deck

We need many volunteers to help clean up the exterior and interior of the church on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. Please sign up behind the fireplace.



Get Your Praise On

Visit mountainsidechurch.com and click on the music note to listen to the music for Sunday.



Crafters and Volunteers Needed

If you're good with a glue gun and have the scars to prove it, we need your help making items to sell at the Mountainside craft booth for the Fall Arts & Crafts Fair, Nov. 7. Call Jo Hoak at 501-693-7818 with questions. We also need volunteers to help facilitate the event. Sign up sheets for different roles are behind the fireplace and you can sign up for more than one task.



Your Hospitality Team for Sept. 20

Thank you Marilyn Sturgess, Peggy Dvorek, and Liz & Mike Clarno for serving!

And speaking of serving, we're looking for big smiles and warm hearts to join the Hospitality Team. Members serve about once every 4-5 weeks. Duties include greeting members and guests, getting guests nametags, handing out bulletins, putting out coffee and snacks, putting out attendance books and more. As Pastor Doug says, "Our greeters make the first impression on our members and guests as they enter Mountainside to worship and fellowship with us." Email Donna Mahle at donnamahle@att.net or call her at 512-304-0992 for more information or to join.

Sign Up To Bring Sunday Snacks

Sign up by yourself or with a friend to bring a favorite sweet treat or breakfast goodie. We need about 6 dozen servings total, so if you team up, that's just 3 dozen each. Please have your goodies at church by 8:45 Sunday morning, and our hospitality team will plate and serve them. Any leftovers can be taken home or, if they're cookies, donated to our monthly Boys & Girls Club meal. Thank you for helping make our hospitality time special!

Prayers



Prayers Needed

As a praying church, we value the importance of lifting those up who need a little help and grace. Please add these people to your prayers this week.

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|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| • Mary Justina Ackley | • Don Heinz | • Jeff & Melissa Owen | • Carol Willson |
| • Matthew Baker | • Brian Karriger | • Elain Pool | • Richard Wood |
| • Jeff Boor | • Jimmy Newell | • Connor Richardson | • Donna Mahle |
| • Joey Dean | • Brian Little | • Mallory Seibert | • Wendy Lenox |
| • Rickie Barnes | • Renee McKinley | • Marcia Wanner | • Don Pappe |
| • Jeff Fox | • Mary Davis | • Travis Blazer | • Bob Boocker |

Other Prayers

- The people of Ukraine
- The entire Middle East
- Our state & national leadership
- Mountainside Church & leadership
- Active Military and Family Members

If you would like to make additions/corrections/deletions to the prayer list, please call the church office at **(501) 922- 2626** or email Stacy at **mountainsidechurch@gmail.com**.

