

January 14, 2026

*A Church seeking  
after God's own  
HEART*

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**Special points of interest:**

- **Missions & Bible Studies**
- **Hospitality Schedule**
- **Prayer Requests**

**Mountainside Church**

# THE HEARTBEAT

## “The Real Thing”

I know, the first place your mind when to was to Coca-Cola. It's funny, our minds are programmed to follow a path when we hear a few words, smell a particular smell, or hear a song from the past. They bring up old memories by way of a memory trace. These “traces” are chemically set, and why smells set the strongest memory trace of all. It is the real deal!

What I want to think about is not the real thing, but exactly opposite of that, which is the artificial thing, or that which is not real. I can remember sitting at my grandparents' table when I was young, seeing the bottle of artificial sweetener. My grandmother was diagnosed with Type-II diabetes, and the doctor told her to replace her sugar intake with the over-the-counter sugar substitute. Now we know the earlier versions of sugar substitutes contained saccharin, a chemical linked to cancer in laboratory rats. This research was found only when they administered high doses of course, but what happens to the human body when this substitute sweetener is used in everything – or in high doses? What we know now is a better substitute sweetener can be found naturally in plants called Stevia, which is much safer.

Not all substitutes are better. Take for instance nylon. It is much more comfortable to wear, but is a natural fiber such as cotton a better fiber to use? Get to close to a fire and the answer becomes clear. And what about wool? Sure, there are man-made fibers that can keep individuals warm in cold weather, but there is a reason wool has stood the test of time in northern climates when it comes to coats, hats, and sweaters. Natural fibers just seem to work better than the substitutes.

As our technology increases, we think (no pun intended) opportunities increase across the board. What I mean by that is avenues to attain the same result. Take the analogy of going from point A to point B, say Memphis to Nashville, Tennessee. There is one straight shot on Interstate 40, but there is a multitude of other roads by which one could go from point A to point B, with each one taking a different route. But in all the myriads of routes, each one would end in Nashville, Tennessee and would therefore seem to be successful routes. But what if there were specific conditions placed on the ways the traveler must travel, such as time or location?

There is a falsehood being perpetuated in our society today that there are many avenues by which a person can be allowed to enter heaven. “Oh, I'm a good person, and I know God will let me in.” If this were true, entrance would be performance based, which is the perpetuated lie.

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” As a man attending Harvard asked the Rev. Billy Graham at a huge conference in front of a multitude of people, “Sir, what must I do to attain eternal life?” His answer was the same as Peter's after his great sermon on Solomon's Colonnade. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” It is the age-old answer and is the age-old real thing

## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & ENGAGE



Ken Guzel is looking for new pictures for the church website "gallery" page.

He wants to keep the pictures fresh. Please email pictures to this address [aurorablue.kgg@gmail.com](mailto:aurorablue.kgg@gmail.com)

Note: Keep the number of pictures attached to about 5 in order to limit total file size. He is looking for pictures featuring people and recent or upcoming events.

### Ladies Fellowship Breakfast

We are going to having a fourth Monday Breakfast each month for the ladies. It's at **Debra's in the Village at 8:30 a.m. on January 26.** There is a sign up sheet in the Lobby if you would like to join us. We will meet for food, fellowship and fun!



### Emmaus Men

The Emmaus Men's & GALS Group is meeting the **first and third Monday** of each month in Classroom A. The next meeting will be Monday, January 19 at 8:30am.



### *This Sunday at Mountainside Church-*

*"Artificial Christian"*

*Daniel 12: 1-4*

*Rev. Doug Walker*



## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & ENGAGE

### RE: NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – “14 Signs of the End of Time”

#### Dear Mountainside Ladies –

I am excited to tell you about our new Women's Bible Study beginning...

#### Wednesday January 28, 2026 @ 2:00pm in Classroom B

Pastor Doug has offered to teach our next Women's Bible Study class, and the title is “14 Signs of the End of Time”. This is the same study that he recently completed with our Men's group. It is an in-depth study. Doug has spent a tremendous amount of time and effort to this end, and I hear great things about this study. The subject will captivate and enlighten us in many ways.

If you would like to attend this study, please let me know via email, phone, or text. You DON'T HAVE TO pre-register so please feel free to just show up because we want you to join us regardless.

The first class will begin on Wed. 1/28/26 @ 2pm in our Classroom B.

I am looking forward to seeing you there and think this will be a wonderful time of learning and fellowship.



In Christ,

Karen Rutan

239-293-3888

Kizzy7832@gmail



### New Facebook Page

Please check out our new Facebook page HSVmountainsidemethodistchurch and hit follow. There will be some things posted to that page. Right now, we are trying to show the church service livestream to the new page on Sunday afternoons.



We need 100 followers so that on February 14 we are hoping to go live on the new page and not have to use the old page!

## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & ENGAGE

### Boys & Girls Club Meal Sign-up for January

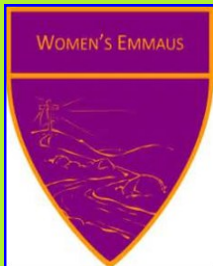
Each month, our Mountainside men's group organizes a meal for the kids at Cedar Mountain Boys & Girls Club. All Mountainsiders are invited to participate in this ministry, so each month we ask for volunteer bakers and servers. The January meal is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21.

This month we will need five volunteers to bake either cookies or brownies (2 dozen each), and three volunteer servers. Goodies should be delivered to the church kitchen by Tuesday, January 20. Servers need to be at the club by 3:00pm on . Serving starts around 3:30pm and is usually completed by 4:30pm. The food will be prepared by our own Terry Crumpler, and will be delivered to the club prior to our arrival.

To sign up for January please contact Stacy in the church office at 501-922-2626, and she will add your name to the list.



**Hospitality team this Sunday is Marilyn Sturges, Bart Langford, Judy Sloan.**



The Women's Emmaus Reunion group, GALS, meet the first and third Monday of the month. We gather at Mountainside Church, 8:30, in classroom B.

### 3M Bible Study

The Mountainside Men Bible study/discussion will return on **Tuesday, January 20 at 8:30am**. All men are invited to attend!





# OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & ENGAGE

## NEWcomers for Women

Are you going through anything NEW in your life and want to meet others in the same situation? We warmly welcome those who have recently moved to beautiful HSV, those who are recently retired or divorced, have had health changes, loss of spouse or are just needing friends. There is no time limit as to how many years you have lived in the Village, and whether you attend church or not ..... All are invited.

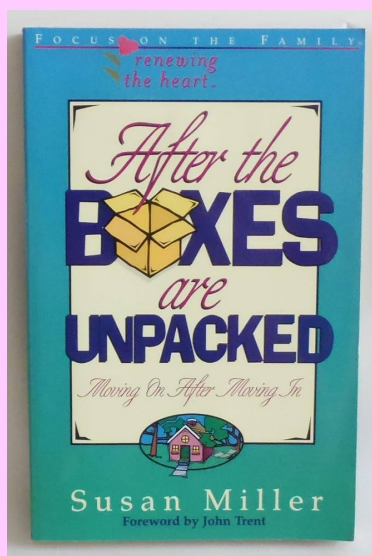
The 40th Village wide, Bible-based ladies NEWcomer class hosted here at Mountainside will start Wednesday, January 28, 10 am till noon with an optional lunch out afterwards. We meet 12 Wednesdays in a row, and end on April 15. We normally have 30 - 40+ women in each class and there have been over 1,000 women in HSV attend NEWcomers at Mountainside.

NEWcomers is dedicated to the spiritual growth and emotional well-being of women who are uprooted by a change in life. Through Biblical teaching, resources, and spiritual and emotional support, we prepare, encourage and equip a women to let go and trust God, start over with hope and move forward in faith.

Each Wednesday is a different topic so if you miss a class or two, that's okay. Dress is very casual don't bring anything except \$15.00 on the first day for the book, *Moving On After Moving In* by Susan Miller. Check her website [justmoved.org](http://justmoved.org) for all the teaching info.

Enjoyable, FUN fieldtrips, shopping in Hot Springs and shopping in downtown old Benton are available for all classmates. Another great car-pool drive is a ladies shopping and luncheon at Lagniappe in Hot Springs.

For questions call Rita Hoover at 501-993-4041 or to register, e-mail Rita at [rhoover0506@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhoover0506@sbcglobal.net)



## **HOSPITALITY 2026 JAN-FEB-MAR**

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01/04 JD & LouAnn Walker, Peggy Dvorek, Pat Vonasten

01/11 Bill & Jo Hoak, Mike & Liz Clarno,

01/18 Marilyn Sturges, Bart Langford, BJ Conner, Judy Sloan

01/25 Judy Sloan, Dorothy Bodine, Scott & Merry Voskuil

02/01 Donna & Bobby Mahle, Robin Williams, Gary Rosson

02/08 Kevin Hoak, Peggy Dvorek, Pat Vonasten, Bart Langford

02/15 JD & LouAnn Walker, Scott & Merry Voskuil

02/22 Kevin Hoak, Mike & Liz Clarno BJ Conner

03/01 Marilyn Sturges, Robin Williams, Gary Rosson, Donna Mahle

03/08 Donna & Bobby Mahle, Scott & Merry Voskuil

## HOSPITALITY 2026 JAN-FEB-MAR

03/15 **Judy Sloan**, Dorothy Bodine, Mike & Liz Clarno

03/22 **Bill & Jo Hoak**, Bart Langford, Robin Williams

03/29 **Kevin Hoak**, Peggy Dvorek, Pat Vonastin, BJ Conner

If you cannot serve on a date, please find a substitute or contact  
Donna Mahle: 512-304-0992 – [donnamahle@att.net](mailto:donnamahle@att.net)

# PRAYERS

## ***Those Needing our Prayers:***

- Shawn Foster
- Joey Dean
- Mallory Seibert
- Carol Willson
- Mary Justina Ackley
- Richard Wood
- Renee McKinley
- Brian Karriger
- Matthew Baker
- Brian Little
- Danielle Herron
- Marcia Wanner
- Elaine Pool
- Joe Woodward
- Ralph & Ronda Haynes
- Michael Elliot

## ***Prayers:***

- The people of Ukraine
- Don Heinz– rectal cancer



***If you would like to be taken off the prayer at home list, please call the church office at 922-2626***

***For our Military and Family in Service:*** *Let us all be mindful of those who have sacrificed and still stand on the front lines so that we may have freedom.*

***For the Leaders of our Nation and State.***

*For additions, corrections or deletions to the weekly prayer list, please email Stacy at [mountainsidechurch@gmail.com](mailto:mountainsidechurch@gmail.com)*