



NEWSLETTER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CHILLICOTHE, MO

PRAY FOR VBS: ILLUMINATION STATION

SHINING A LIGHT ON WHO JESUS REALLY IS

The countdown is in the single digits until Vacation Bible School begins, and we couldn't be more excited! Our prayer is that this year's theme, Illumination Station, will shine a clear light on who Jesus really is in the hearts and lives of many children.

Would you join us in praying for VBS? Please pray:

- That boys and girls will come to faith in Jesus Christ.
- That some may sense God's call to serve Him in ministry or missions.
- That our volunteers will be filled with wisdom, energy, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- That every lesson, song, and activity will point children to the truth of the gospel.

Our leaders have been working diligently to prepare for a wonderful week, and we are trusting God to do great things. Families are invited to return on Sunday, June 14, during the morning service as the children share some of the songs they learned throughout the week. We look forward to celebrating all that God has done!



WORLD CUP MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

As you know, the FIFA World Cup is coming to Kansas City. Lord willing, we plan to send a team on Saturday, June 27th to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of fans, teams, and visitors from around the world. Our desire is simple: to share the hope of the gospel with people who may not yet know Jesus Christ.

To help guide your prayers, we have included information about the four countries that Kansas City will host this summer—Algeria, Argentina, England, and Netherlands—as well as Austria, which will play Algeria on the day our team will be serving.

- Algeria is home to nearly 47 million people. Arabic is the primary language, and Islam is practiced by approximately 99% of the population.
- Argentina has a population of around 46 million people and is primarily Spanish-speaking. The country has a Catholic majority, though many also identify as non-religious or Protestant.
- Austria is home to about 9 million people and primarily speaks German. While Catholicism remains the largest religion, the nation is increasingly secular and religiously diverse.
- England has a population of nearly 58 million people and speaks English. Christianity remains the largest religious affiliation, though a growing number of people identify as non-religious.
- The Netherlands is home to around 18 million people and primarily speaks Dutch. A majority of the population now identifies as non-religious, alongside Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim communities.

Please pray for our team and for the teams from other churches who will also be sharing the good news during the World Cup. We ask you to pray:

- For meaningful conversations and open doors to share the gospel.
- For hearts to be softened and receptive to the truth of God's Word.
- For the guidance, boldness, and power of the Holy Spirit.
- For protection, unity, and endurance for each team member.
- That many people from every nation would come to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer as we seek to make Christ known to the nations God is bringing to our doorstep.

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR



A couple of years ago, a friend of mine, a retired pastor whom the Lord continues to use in great ways, shared a prayer strategy he implemented in the church he served. From the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend through Flag Day, they would focus on praying for the persecuted church. I have since adopted this strategy for our church.

There is a dual desire in praying for the persecuted church between Memorial Day and Flag Day. First, we pray for the persecuted Christians to remind ourselves of the freedoms we enjoy in our great nation to worship, not as compelled by the state but as we are convicted by scripture. The background of the Free Exercise Clause in the Bill of Rights not only recognized inalienable rights endowed by our Creator but also established safeguards against governmental coercion, regulation, and taxation that supported the state church, both under the crown and in most of the thirteen colonies, and continued into the earliest days of statehood.¹ As our Baptist Faith and Message says, "... a free church in a free state is the Christian ideal,..." So, we pray for the persecuted Christians because we are not.

Second, we pray for the persecuted Christians, for they are our brothers and sisters. We are reminded in 1 Cor. 12:26a, "If one member suffers, all suffer together." When Christian brothers and sisters, part of the universal church, suffer for Christ, we also suffer.

The ministry Open Doors monitors and reports on global Christian persecution. Open Doors reports that 1 in 7 Christians worldwide are persecuted. There are 50 countries, 315+ million Christians, who face very high or extreme persecution.² How can we not pray for our brothers and sisters?

Each Sunday, we will have a special call to prayer for the persecuted church. We will recognize and pray for a specific people group. This year, we have extended our prayer emphasis to include visitors to the KC area for the World Cup.

The Lord is bringing the people of the Great Commission to our doorstep. Thus, we are taking a 1-day mission trip on June 27, joining with other Southern Baptist churches to share the gospel with our guests in KC. We have an evangelism training session to help with this effort on June 6 from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. You can attend the evangelism training session regardless of your availability for the 1-day mission trip.

Praying for people and being available to share the gospel acts on the declaration of Psalm 24:1; "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." There is not an inch of the world that the Lord does not proclaim, "Mine!"

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

June 1st-5th

Grand Oaks Youth Camp

June 6th

Men's Breakfast

World Cup Evangelism Training

June 7th

Missions Committee

June 8th-12th

VBS

June 9th

Trustee Meeting

Deacon Meeting

June 15th

Golden Heirs

June 17th

2nd Harvest Food Pantry

June 27th

World Cup Outreach Event

June 29th-July 3rd

Grand Oaks Children's Camp

July 4th

Men's Breakfast

July 5th

Missions Committee

July 7th

Monthly Staff

Trustee Meeting

Deacon Meeting

July 8th

Business Meeting

July 12th

Church Council

July 15th

2nd Harvest Food Pantry

July 20th

Golden Heirs

July 26th

Church Wide Picnic

