OCTOBER 18, 2026

9:00 AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE CONNECTION.

INTENTIONALLY CONNECTED TO GOD,
HIS WORD, HIS WORLD AND EACH OTHER.

Song Leader
Todd Miller

Christ for the World We Sing

Send The Light

All to Us

Faith Story & Prayer
Junior Lira

In Christ Alone

Communion & Contribution
Greg Brooks

GCS Contribution
Greg Brooks

Highest Place

Shout Hallelujah
Children's Worship Dismissed
GCS Children's Change

A Common Love

"Philemon: On the Basis of Love"
Jordan Guy

Freely, Freely

Announcements
Chris Mitchell

Shepherd's Prayer
Brad Francis

THE VISIT: A MISSIONARY CARE STORY

At the end of his first Corinthian letter, the Apostle Paul says this about the loving attention of three Corinthian brothers in Christ: "They refreshed my spirit" (I Cor. 16:18). He speaks for all missionaries of all times, who share his gratitude because they share his need.

For missionaries, the "Great Commission" can be a "great burden" as well as a privilege. Those who send them out must never forget that. For some things you need more than traditional committees. In 2023, College Church established a Missionary Care Ministry, under the supervision of John Reese and now consisting of seven teams of volunteers who minister to the emotional and spiritual welfare of our sponsored missionaries and their families.

The methods for "refreshing spirits" are simple and familiar, grounded in New Testament doctrine, stated or implied everywhere in Paul's letters, and practiced by the volunteers of the missionary care teams: communicate (encouragement, concern, support, love), give gifts (when appropriate and if you can), and visit when possible.

Here is a story of one visit.

Harding graduates **Michael** and **Sarah Crouch** returned to Searcy five years ago, placing membership at College Church. They soon reconnected with former classmate **Eric** and his wife, **Rachel**, sponsored missionaries in town preparing for a new work in Asia. The two couples, both with young children and common interests, quickly became friends. And early this year, with Eric and Rachel in Asia and Michael and Sarah leading their missionary care team, the Crouches traveled halfway around the world to spend 12 full days with them. What follows are highlights from their visit:

"First, Eric and Rachel wanted a strong care team and helped plan it. So our team (mostly members of the Faithful Families Bible Class) is robust with well-defined goals. We've sent care packages, set up regular video calls, and helped with medical issues."

"It seemed inevitable that we would visit because their circumstances are difficult in many ways. They live very far away in a densely populated urban area. They are raising three children while sharing the gospel in a culture and language not their own, with few English-speaking friends for moral support. But they've developed friendships and have found much to love about the place."



Sarah & Michael Crouch

"We hoped to relieve some of the pressure that comes with the particular demands of their life. We talked a lot, wife-to-wife in coffee shops—about children, school, and everything else—and rested in that way. The husbands went for long walks, with Eric explaining his work, his plans. The two men also took prayer walks. Sometimes Eric engaging with hospitable merchants and working Jesus into the conversation."

GCS SUNDAY

THIS Sunday, October 18, children of all ages are invited to bring loose change or bills to the front of the stage during worship, just before they are dismissed to Children's Worship. All children are encouraged to participate, even if they don't attend Children's Worship.

SHEPHERDING GROUPS

The **Jim Adams/Steve Baber** Shepherding group will meet in Room 100 for a meal on Sunday, October 25, following Bible classes.

The **David Cole/Dan Newsom** Shepherding group will meet at Harding University's Heritage Dining Center for a dutch treat meal on Sunday, October 25, following Bible classes. Members will go through the serving lines in the main dining room upstairs and then meet in Room 208 for their meal.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

The date for the Winter Coat Drive is Saturday, November 14. We are collecting coats and hoodies in the barrels in the Welcome Center. Please bring your clean and gently used or new coats and hoodies as soon as possible. We will need around 50 church members to help at the coat drive. **Click here to sign up.**

BUILD A BETTER BRAIN

Dr. Cody Sipe, professor in Harding's Physical Therapy program and an expert in exercise and healthy aging, will present "Build a Better Brain: Practical Strategies for Improving Brain Health and Fitness" in Room 100 on Thursday, October 22, from 4:00–5:00 p.m. Hosted by the Seniors Ministry, this event is open to all church members.

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY

Kenna Aldrich, The Blossoms 116; **Sarah Ard**; **Karyl Bailey**, visitors welcome, call first; **Gary Barnes; Ruth Anne Barnes**, UH2316; **Maralyn Citty; Lola Crouch; Mary Diles; Bill Pratt; Barbara Garnett**, The Crossings 401; **Evelyn Spann**; **Wanda Spears; Susan Stone; Stan Valentine; Ellen Walker.**

Marilee Coker, wife of **Bobby Coker**, passed away October 14. There will be a visitation on Tuesday, October 20, 12:30 p.m. in the College Church Family Room, followed by a memorial at 2:00 p.m. The church will be providing a meal prior to the service. If you would like to volunteer to help, please text **Laurie Walker**. Marilee was in **Larry Long's** Shepherding Group.

Former member Beckie Weaver passed away August 31. There will be a memorial on Friday, November 6, at 1:00 p.m. in the College Church Auditorium. The church will be providing a meal for the family prior to the service. If you would like to volunteer to help, please text **Laurie Walker**.

FALL ON THE LAWN

Join us THIS Sunday, October 18, from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at Heritage Park for an afternoon of fall fun and fellowship! We'll have hot dogs, corn-hole, a bounce house, a devotional, singing, and our chili cook-off—but we need plenty of chili! Bring your best pot to share, and a prize will be awarded to the winning chili. **Click here to RSVP.**

If you already RSVP'd and said you were not bringing chili, you can still change your response and sign up to bring a pot. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the evening with us! Please note: Our regular 5:00 p.m. service will still be held at the church building that evening.

THANK YOU

From **Phyllis Lamb**

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement. Your calls, visits, food and prayers meant so much to me in my time of sorrow. I am truly blessed to be part of such a loving church family.

FAMILY CONCERNS

Briarwood: **Ellen Brown** 104
Providence: **Harold Norwood** 316
Providence Memory Care: **Beverly Blickenstaff**
The Blossoms: **Rick Boutell** 508
The Crossing: **Eloise Muncy** 211B; **Ken Sallee**, 214B
Ongoing Prayer Requests: **Fannie Amy**; **David Davis**; **Gary Smith**; David Mathews, grandson of **Darren & Kim Mathews**

"THE VISIT," CONTINUED

"We said 'don't cook for us' and took them out to eat a lot. We did projects with them, the kind you save for visiting relatives. We painted their stairwell and the boys' bedroom—covering little handprints on the walls. We helped organize the playroom. Edwin, Wally, and Enoch weren't happy that our kids did not come—they were in the U.S. with Sarah's parents—so to make it up to them, we played lots of board games, and were able to give them more focused attention."

"We were there for two Sundays, and Michael preached once. Their congregation of about 20 meets on the third floor of an apartment building, with heavy air traffic sometimes making it hard to hear. But they talk around the noise. We had tea after services, and the members were so hospitable. They make do!"

"We came home more aware than ever of how 'pampered' we are as Christians in the U.S. It's difficult to be a Christian there. We saw wonderfully dedicated people in that church, who do not have our access to our resources and who know they're in an extremely small minority, yet have devoted their lives to Jesus. We are part of a global church."

"We also saw that Eric and Rachel have built a life there, one with stresses but also rewards. Our brief time with them strengthened our friendship and gave us a clearer understanding of their work. Now, when they email or text us about what's happening, we can picture the people and places they describe. That new clarity has also made us better advocates for them back here in Searcy. We're grateful we went."

At one point, Paul, our prime example of both missionary and missionary care promoter, "longed" to visit Roman Christians, in part so "that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" (Rom. 1:11-12). That's one way to describe the result of the Crouches' visit with Eric and Rachel: mutual encouragement.

But even Paul could not always visit; so he wrote letters; likewise, the bulk of missionary care comes through distant communication. As leader of **Ellen Walker's** team, **Alice Jewell's** chief role is to act as email liaison between Ellen and other team members. **Janice Luna** uses WhatsApp (and her own missionary experience) to "encourage and empathize" with **Sujin Nelson**. **James Howard** maintains regular correspondence with **Billy Strachan** in Scotland because human connection is especially important given the latter's rather isolated situation. Missionary care is a manifold, evolving effort at College Church.

This brief introduction to the ministry has saved until last the best method for "refreshing the spirit" of missionaries. Paul tells the Colossians that Epaphrus "is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God" (Col. 4:12). He tells the Philippians, "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now . . ." (Phil. 1:4-5).

How encouraged Paul is by their support! His prayer rejoices in and cements the bond he feels. Prayer is the vital ingredient for all enterprises. The best way we can show our missionaries that we are their partners is to include the third, Senior Partner, in the process, to "wrestle" in prayer to God—for their work, yes, but also for their spiritual wellbeing.

WEDDING SHOWER

All are invited to a wedding shower honoring Emily Wright, bride-elect of Seth Spraggs, on Sunday, November 1, 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the home of **Laura Burks**, 816 Golf View Drive. Emily is the daughter of **John & Jennifer Wright**. They are registerd at theknot.com and Doorframes. Gifts early, please.

BABY SHOWER

All are invited to a baby shower honoring **Lyric Pinner** on Saturday, October 24, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Room 121. Lyric is the daughter of **Brett & Christina Pinner**. She is registered at babylist and Sassy Stitch. It's a girl!

AREA SHOWERS

All are invited to a wedding shower for Downtown members Hannah Diles and Stone Nix THIS Sunday, October 18, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the coffee lobby at Downtown Church of Christ, 900 North Main Street, Searcy, AR. Hannah is the granddaughter of **Jim & Mona Diles**. The couple is registered at Amazon and Target, and registry information is available zola.com.

All are invited to a baby shower celebrating Lynlea & Hunter Harrington on Sunday, October 25, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the home of Michael & Jill Wood, 115 Fairview Lake Drive. Hunter is the son of Cloverdale members Larry & Susan Harrington and Lynlea is the cousin of **Ethan & Christin Wood.** They are registered at babylist.com.

HST AUDIT PROGRAM

College Church is part of the Harding School of Theology Audit Program. College Church members may audit select classes in the spring for just $75 per class. Please **click this link** for more information. **Click here** to see a list of classes offered.

5:00 PM WORSHIP

Song Leader
Anthony John

Welcome
Kenneth Mills

O Worship the King

We Shall Assemble

Prayer
Dale Huff

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

His Grace Reaches Me

Burdens Are Lifted At Calvary

John 8:1-11
Robert Helvering

"Abundant Grace" (Part 2)
Noel Whitlock

Amazing Grace–My Chains Are Gone

How Deep the Father's Love
Lord's Supper in Room 100

Closing Prayer
David Cole

HIS HOUSE

Donation Requests:

Grocery bags

Children's clothes

Men's small and medium underwear

Men's white socks

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning
8:15 AM | Chinese Church in Heritage Room 210
9:00 AM Worship
10:30 AM Bible Class
Sunday Evening
5:00 PM Worship
Tuesday
9:30 AM Ladies Class
Midweek
4:00 PM Early-Bird Bible Class in Room 100
5:00 PM Women's Intergenerational Study | Room 232
6:30 PM Women's Bible Class Room 234
6:30 PM 1 & 2 Peter | Paul Pollard | Room 236
6:30 PM Textual Bible Class in The Family Room
6:30 PM Singing & Prayer Class | Room 100
6:30 PM 23:6ers | Room 102
6:30 PM Study on Prayer | Eddie Cloer | Room 226
6:30 PM SH and JH Meeting
6:30 PM Hebrews | Harry Riggs | Harding Place
7:15 PM Chinese Church in Heritage | Room 210

FINANCES FOR 10/11/26

Budget for 10/11/2026 - $52,200.00
Giving for 10/11/2026 - $51,659.27
Budget - Week 6 - $324,800.00
Giving - Week 6 - $297,704.06

ATTENDANCE 10/11/26

9:00 AM Worship - 963
Bible Class - 738
Children's Worship - 39
5:00 PM Worship - 281
Sunday Small Groups - 88

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Office Hours - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Closed daily from 12-1 p.m. for lunch
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COLLEGE
CHURCH *of* CHRIST

If you have a request for the bulletin, please submit all information by noon, Thursday prior to service.