NOVEMBER 1, 2026

THE CONNECTION.

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

9:00 AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song Leader
Charlie Collins

Heavenly Sunlight

Redeemed

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Highest Place

Faith Story & Prayer
Billy Strachan

There Is a Redeemer

Communion & Contribution
Drew Mickey

Thank You, Lord

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
Children's Worship Dismissed

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

"1-2 Chronicles: Family Reunion"
Jordan Guy

God's Family

Announcements
Nick McNabb

Shepherd's Prayer
Alan Hardison

AIn't Nothin' Like the Real Thing

AI is all over the news, with defenders and detractors arguing in sometimes existential terms about its benefits and dangers.

The rest of us, including Christians, busy trying to live the lives God has granted us, may be unsure of what the fuss is about, or whether we should care.

We should care. The "capability of computer systems and algorithms to imitate human intelligence" is a big deal. Like all technology, it has power to make our lives better or worse, to do good or evil, depending on how it's used.

For some time now AI has been imitating human mental processes for good. In fields like medicine, business and government, its rapid gathering and analysis of data has yielded greater efficiency and helped people. Even non-tech citizens use AI tools to search the Internet for information, or solve practical everyday problems.

What about the bad? I can't address the big questions about AI, like "Are billionaire tech giants gaining too much power?" But in our daily lives, the "bad" usually shows up as misinformation or malicious content on social media. Less obvious but also dangerous is the addictive power algorithms can exert over users.

As I navigate my own involvement with AI, here are three "principles," borrowed from sources I trust, for thinking about and using AI "in a Christian way" **[click here]**,

I relate to AI as a tool only.

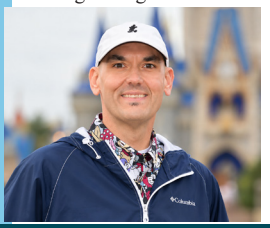
Though it simulates certain human mental tasks, AI is not a person. Though it offers bogus "omniscience," it certainly is not God. In fact, Samuel James says it fits the definition of an idol—created in the image of living things, but not alive. Yet for centuries idolaters have been fooled into substituting things for the living God (Ps. 115:4-8). Research suggests that many users of AI do interact with bots as if they are somehow "alive." I'll use AI for information or to help spread the Gospel, but won't farm out my faith to an LLM just because it talks to me.

I consider how technology is shaping me.

It is tempting to "idolize" an entity that saves our workforce so much precious time. Yet those workers, enticed by recreational uses of AI, spend hours consuming or creating content that ranges from informative, to amusing, to destructive. The effect of time spent like this is not neutral. At best, it is mind-numbing. At worst, it can be soul-changing, crowding out the fruit of the Spirit. Speed and usefulness can't be my only calculations in using this tool. I don't want to lose my thoughtfulness and understanding down some OpenAI rabbit hole.

My mantra: Information is not wisdom; interaction with bots is not community.

AI offers information, but wisdom involves more than quick answers. It begins in "fear of the Lord" (Prov. 1:7), requires lived experience, and depends on a "renewed mind" that learns by working through difficult decisions (Rom. 12:2). Keyboard clicks cannot replace that process. Further, wisdom flourishes best in community. As a disciple of Jesus, in addition to scripture and the indwelling Spirit, I have wise Christians walking along side me, ready to listen and offer counsel.



These principles ultimately derive, of course, from the God of all wisdom and knowledge. Going forward, that should make us feel better about Christians and AI. To quote out of context the title of an old Marvin Gaye song, when it comes to seeking a higher power for answers, "Ain't nothin' like the real thing."

Nick McNabb

SIMPLE SUPPER

Join us for Simple Supper in Room 121 on Wednesday, November 4. To ensure we have the right amount of food, RSVP **using this link** by THIS Sunday, November 1.

CONSTRUCTION IS BEGINNING!

We're excited to take this next step as construction gets underway! Beginning Monday, November 2, the Southwest Entrance/Exit will be closed throughout construction, including during worship services. Please use the far west entrance/exit next to the awning, which will remain open.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during momentous season!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome **Craig & April Kirchgessner** and their children, Otto (age 4) and Monroe (age 2), to our church. They will be in **John Stone/Charles Ganus'** Shepherding Group.

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. Spanish interpreters are especially needed. **Click here to sign up.**

PRAYERS, PRAISE & SYMPATHY

Kenna Aldrich, The Blossoms 116; **Sarah Ard**; **Ruth Anne Barnes**; **Nan Calhoun; Mary Diles; Barbara Garnett**, The Crossings 401; **Bill Pratt; Wanda Spears; Susan Stone; Stan Valentine; Ellen Walker.**

David & Brenda Allen would like to announce the birth of a great grandson, Theodore Luke. He was born on October 10 to Tynneson and Rylan Achesonin of Austin, Texas.

Harold Norwood passed away October 25. He was the father of **Nan Calhoun** and **Karen Corker**. Services were October 31. He was in **Bryan Burks'** Shepherding Group.

Beverly Blickenstaff passed away October 26. She was the mother of **Kyle Blickenstaff**. There will be a visitation on Sunday, November 1, 1:00 p.m. at Powell Funeral Home, followed by a service at 2:00 p.m., also at Powell. She was in David Burks/Keith Cronk's Shepherding Group. The church will be providing a meal for the family prior to the service.

Reggie Reynolds passed away October 27. He was the father of **Gretchen Metheny**. There will be a private family service in Shreveport, LA. He was in **Tom Alexander/John Resse'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.

GCS UPDATE

Sing Hallelujah! Our GCS special offering totals are in and we will be fully funding all requests presented to our church family. $213,088.72 has been received, bringing our total offerings since 2009 to almost $3,500,000.

In addition to our chosen ministries, we had an additional $25,000 in directed gifts received; $20,000 for Westreach and $5,000 for Health Talents International.

On behalf of the children who will attend Expolizo, Kerruso and Tahkodah to be shaped into Christian leaders, we say "thank you." For those preparing to enter the mission field and those who will hear the gospel thanks to your generosity, we sing hallelujah and praise the Lord.

A RIDE FOR ELLEN WALKER

Ellen Walker, longtime missionary to Albania, will be recovering in Searcy for the next several weeks and could use some help from her College Church family. She needs rides to church on Sunday mornings (with room for her wheelchair) and rides to physical therapy on Mondays and Thursdays at noon (walker only).

Ellen would also enjoy visits or an outing for coffee while she is in Searcy. She is staying at 706 N. Pear Street and can be reached at 903-283-6479. Whether you can provide a ride or simply spend some time with her, it would be greatly appreciated!

CCYG

There will be a Nicaragua Informational Meeting THIS Sunday, November 1, immediately after Bible class in the Teen Center. If you or your teen is interested in this trip, please come to this meeting to learn more about it!

LADS TO LEADERS

Registration is now open for families who would like to participate in the 2027 Lads to Leaders Convention, March 25–28. Please register by December 13, 2026. **Click here** to register, or contact **Heather Rollins** with questions.

ASSORTED TOPICS IN PROVERBS

Some have asked for the following topics and passages mentioned in **Jordan's** sermon on Sunday: Sleep (20:13; 3:21, 24), Salary & Money (10:4; 21:20; 23:4-5; 30:8-9), Meddling (26:17; 18:6; 17:14, 19), Anger (30:33; 19:11,19; 16:32), Stress (12:25; 28:1), A Spouse (11:22; 20:6-7), Appearances (12:9; 11:27), Mocking (29:8; 9:12; 14:9), Jokes/Insults (26:18-19; 12:16), Boss/Employee (12:24; 22:29), Haggling (20:14), Strong Drink (20:1; 23:29-35; 31:4-9), House Guests (25:17), Critical Thinking (18:13, 17; 14:15), & Deception (10:10; 6:12-15).

FAMILY CONCERNS

Briarwood: **Ellen Brown** 104
The Blossoms: **Rick Boutell** 508
The Crossing: **Eloise Muncy** 211B; **Ken Sallee**, 214B
Ongoing Prayer Requests: **Fannie Amy**; **Karyl Bailey; Cary Calhoun; David Davis**; **Gary Smith**; David Mathews, grandson of **Darren & Kim Mathews**

FAITHBUILDERS BIBLE CLASS

Tom Howard will be presenting a series of lessons from the Book of James for the Faithbuilders Bible Class in November. Faithbuilders Bible Class meets in Room 100.

WEDDING SHOWER

All are invited to a wedding shower honoring Emily Wright, bride-elect of Seth Spraggs, THIS 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 registered at theknot.com and Doorframes. Gifts early, please.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Join us Sunday, November 8, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. at Midnight Oil Coffeehouse for a come-and-go celebration honoring **Doug & Pam Carpenter's** 50th wedding anniversary, hosted by their sons, Heath and Harrison. Coffee and cake will be served. No gifts, please.

FRENCH MISSIONS

Join the HU Foreign Language Department for a special reception celebrating 60 years of French missions on Saturday, November 7, 10:45 a.m. in Holland-Waller 209 on campus. We will honor **Winfred Wright**, Harding's first French professor (1966), and Robert McCready, current French professor, for their dedication to French missions through study tours and mission programs. All are welcome!

5:00 PM WORSHIP

Song Leader
Jason White

Welcome
Greg Brooks

Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Be With Me, Lord

Prayer
James Ard

Song

Heaven's Road

The Joy of the Lord

James 1:2-5
Parker Weaver

"When Trials Come"
Colton Waller

It Is Well With My Soul

To God Be the Glory
Lord's Supper in Room 100

Closing Prayer
Ed McMullen

HIS HOUSE

Donation Requests:

Pots and pans

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 10/25/26

Budget for 10/25/2026 - $52,200.00
Giving for 10/25/2026 - $33,199.98
Budget - Week 8 - $429,200.00
Giving - Week 8 - $380,306.81

ATTENDANCE 10/25/26

9:00 AM Worship - 931
Bible Class - 790
Children's Worship - 44
5:00 PM Worship - 212
Sunday Small Groups - 161

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Office Hours - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
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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.