

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**ANNUAL  
BABY BOTTLE  
CAMPAIGN**

Mother's Day  
thru  
Father's Day



Paducah 270-442-1166  
Metropolis 618-524-5730  
[www.hopeunlimitedfcc.org](http://www.hopeunlimitedfcc.org)

**Weekly Budget Offering Required:**  
\$7,842.52

**Online thru March 29— \$1,744.04**

**Budget offering through March 29**

**Budget Offering: \$25,629.06**

**Designated: \$7,838.70**

**Total Offering: \$33,492.76**

**MEETINGS IN April:**

- Deacon Meeting— Thursday, April 16 @ 6:30 PM
- Finance Team Meeting—Sunday, April 19 @ 4:00 PM
- Cabinet Meeting—Sunday, April 19 @ 4:30 PM

Periodical  
**POSTAGE PAID**  
Paducah, KY  
42003

**THE BELLVIEW VISION**  
(USPS 991660)  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
Bellview Baptist Church, Inc.  
4875 Old Mayfield Road  
Paducah, KY 42003-9074

**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor Bob Whitter  
(859) 962-0080

Sandy Leidecker,  
Administrative Assistant  
(270) 210-6960

Matthew Dewese,  
Music Director  
(270) 775-2172

**SERVICE TIMES:**

Sunday Bible Study - 9 AM  
Sunday Worship Service - 10 AM  
Sunday Evening Service - 6 PM  
Wednesday Night Service &  
Children's Activities - 6:30 PM

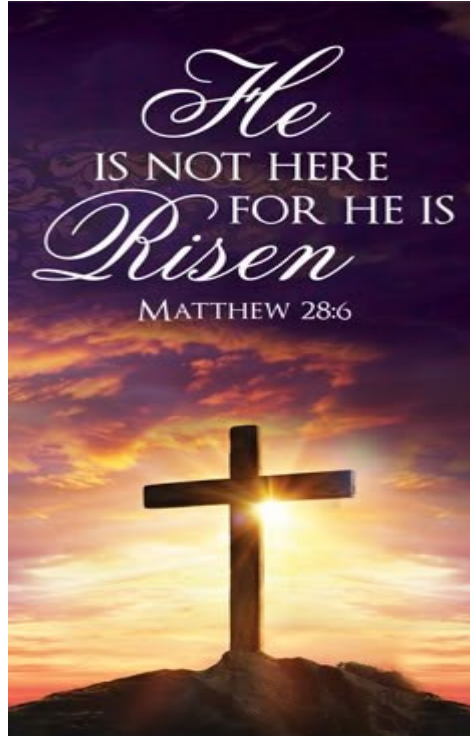


**the VISION**

*Bellview Baptist Church*

Where It's All About Jesus

Volume 54 April 2026 Volume # 4  
[www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com](http://www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com)



*He*  
IS NOT HERE  
FOR HE IS  
*Risen*  
MATTHEW 28:6

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Door Openers Trip



**April 2 – Leaving at 5 PM**  
**Sign-up in the Lobby**

### Easter Egg Hunt

**April 4<sup>th</sup> – 11 AM**

**Candy Donations  
Needed**

#### FACEBOOK UPDATES!

**You may catch updates and info about Bellview on our Facebook page daily and weekly... just search @bellviewbaptistpaducah and like our page.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Bellview Baptist Church*

### FOOD PANTRY

Saturday, April 18, @ 9 AM

4875 OLD MAYFIELD ROAD, PADUCAH, KY

**Bring  
Your 3**

**Join Us at the Altar**

June 15—19 @ Union University

**YOUTH  
CAMP**

\$100 deposit for each student due  
by Sunday, May 3!

## Message from Pastor Bob

As we enter the beautiful spring season, we are reminded that April is a time of new life, fresh growth, and renewed purpose. Just as the earth begins to bloom again, so too should our hearts be stirred toward the work God has called us to do. At Bellview Baptist Church, we are excited to present a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and gospel outreach beginning April 18, 2026.

We will be launching a new study entitled “Share Jesus Without Fear” by Bill Faye. Many of you may remember this study from previous years, and we are thrilled to bring it back with a fresh and practical emphasis. This time, our focus will not simply be on learning the material—but on actively practicing it. Our desire is to move from knowledge to action, equipping every believer to confidently and faithfully share the gospel of Jesus Christ. This study is built on a simple yet powerful concept: evangelism is not about having all the answers or winning arguments—it is about being obedient to Christ and allowing God to work through us. Each week, we will take intentional steps to grow in our ability to share our faith in a natural and biblical way.

We will meet each Saturday at 12:00 noon in the Andy Pegram Sunday School Room. Pastor Bob will be leading Weeks 1 and 3, and Bro. Matt Deweese will be teaching Weeks 2 and 4. This shared leadership will provide a balanced and engaging approach as we walk through the material together.

**Week 1: Overcoming Fear and the “Sin of Silence”** We will begin by addressing one of the greatest obstacles to evangelism—fear. Many believers struggle with the fear of rejection, saying the wrong thing, or simply stepping outside their comfort zone. This week will challenge us to recognize what has often been called the “sin of silence”—failing to speak when God has given us the opportunity.

We will be reminded that success in witnessing is not measured by whether someone accepts Christ in that moment, but by our obedience to share. Our responsibility is to be faithful; the results belong to the Lord.

As part of this week, each participant will be encouraged to identify individuals in their life who need Christ and begin praying for them consistently. Preparation begins on our knees, and we trust God to open doors as we seek Him.

#### **Week 2: Learning to Ask, Not Argue**

In the second week, we will shift our focus to the art of conversation. Too often, evangelism is misunderstood as debate. However, this study emphasizes a far more effective approach—asking thoughtful, probing questions. Using the well-known “Share Jesus Questions,” we will learn how to guide conversations naturally toward spiritual matters. More



## Message from Pastor Bob

importantly, we will learn to listen. Listening demonstrates care, builds trust, and opens hearts in ways that arguments never can.

Participants will have the opportunity to practice these five key questions in a safe and encouraging environment, building confidence for real-life conversations.

### Week 3: Letting the Bible Do the Talking

One of the most powerful aspects of this study is its emphasis on Scripture. Rather than relying on our own words, we will learn to let the Word of God speak directly to the heart.

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV), “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...” It is not our arguments that bring conviction—it is the truth of God’s Word.

During this week, participants will identify and highlight key evangelistic verses in their Bibles. Passages such as Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23 clearly present the need for a Savior and the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. By becoming familiar with these verses, we will be better equipped to guide others through the gospel message with clarity and confidence.

### Week 4: Closing and Following Up

In our final week, we will focus on helping individuals respond to the gospel. Many believers feel uncertain about how to “close” a conversation or invite someone to make a decision for Christ. This session will provide practical guidance through five simple closing questions that lead a person to consider their response.

We will also discuss how to lead someone in a prayer of surrender when they are ready, ensuring that the moment is handled with care, clarity, and biblical integrity.

Just as importantly, we will learn the value of follow-up. Evangelism does not end at conversion—it is only the beginning. New believers need encouragement, guidance, and discipleship as they begin their walk with Christ. This study will help us understand how to come alongside them in those crucial early steps.

## Message from Pastor Bob

This four-week study is more than just a class—it is an opportunity for transformation. It is a chance for each of us to step into the calling that Christ has given to every believer. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 (NKJV), “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”

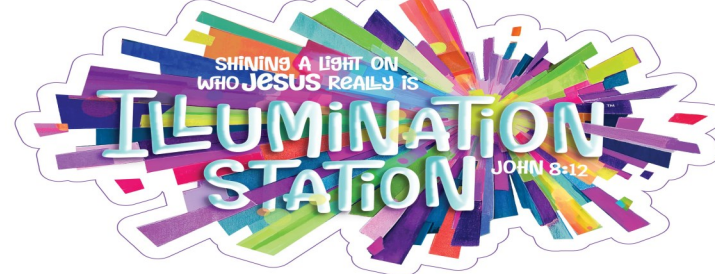
In addition to our classroom time, we will take what we learn and put it into action. Participants will have opportunities to walk in the Forrest Hills area, the Hendron area, and engage with those around them. This includes conversations with neighbors, friends, and most importantly, our own family members. Our goal is not just to learn evangelism—but to live it. At Bellview Baptist Church, we believe that every member can be an effective witness. You do not need to

be a theologian or a seasoned speaker. You simply need a willing heart, a love for people, and a desire to be obedient to God. As April 18 approaches, we encourage you to prayerfully consider being part of this study. Come ready to learn, to grow, and most importantly, to be used by God. Let us not be silent when the world so desperately needs the hope of the gospel.

Together, let us step forward in faith and boldly share Jesus—without fear.

Pastor Bob

## Vacation Bible School June 1 - June 5



6:00 PM–8:30 PM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, May 31 @ 10 AM

## GRADUATE SUNDAY

*Congratulations  
Graduates*



Sunday, May 24 @ 5 PM

## MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC



## Message from Pastor Bob

Love is a word we use often, but rarely do we pause to consider what true love really looks like. In a world filled with shallow expressions and fleeting emotions, the Bible presents us with a love that is deep, sacrificial, and eternal. Nowhere is that love more clearly seen than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If we are searching for undeniable proof of love, we need look no further than the cross – and the empty tomb that followed.

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” This verse does not simply tell us that God loves us – it shows us how He proved it. Love is not just spoken; it is demonstrated. And the greatest demonstration of love in all of history took place on a hill called Calvary.

### **The Day of the Cross: Love Displayed in Suffering**

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was not an accident, nor was it a tragic end to a promising life. It was the very purpose for which He came into the world. From the moment sin entered through Adam, God had a plan to redeem mankind. That plan culminated in the suffering and death of His only begotten Son.

Jesus was betrayed, falsely accused, beaten, mocked, and condemned to die a criminal’s death. He endured the agony of the Roman scourging, where His body was torn open by cruel instruments. A crown of thorns was pressed upon His head, and He was forced to carry His own cross until He could go no further. Yet through all of this suffering, He did not resist. He did not call down angels to deliver Him. Instead, He willingly endured it all.

### **Why? Because of love.**

Every lash of the whip, every drop of blood, every insult hurled His way – He bore it for us. Isaiah 53:5 reminds us, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.” This was not His punishment – it was ours. Yet He took it upon Himself.

As Jesus hung on the cross, the weight of the world’s sin rested upon Him. The sky grew dark, and the earth trembled. In that moment, the holy Son of God experienced the separation from the Father that sin brings. He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46). This was the cost of our redemption.

Still, even in His suffering, Jesus demonstrated love. He prayed for those who crucified Him, saying, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). He showed compassion to the thief beside Him, promising, “Today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). Even in His final moments, His concern was for others. Finally, with a loud voice, He declared, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). This was not a cry of defeat – it was a declaration of victory. The debt of sin had been paid in full. The sacrifice was complete. The proof of love had been written in blood upon the cross.

## Message from Pastor Bob

### **The Silence of the Tomb: Love That Waits**

After Jesus died, His body was taken down from the cross and laid in a borrowed tomb. A heavy stone was rolled into place, and Roman guards were stationed to secure it. To the disciples, it must have seemed like all hope was lost. The One they had followed, the One they believed to be the Messiah, was dead.

Saturday was a day of silence. A day of grief. A day where it appeared that darkness had won.

But even in the silence, God was still at work.

Sometimes in our own lives, we experience “Saturday” moments – times when God seems silent, when hope feels distant, and when we struggle to understand His plan. Yet just as the silence of that tomb was not the end of the story, neither are our moments of despair the final chapter. God is always working, even when we cannot see it.

### **The Resurrection: Love Victorious Over Death**

Then came Sunday morning – the greatest day in history. As the first rays of sunlight broke over the horizon, something miraculous happened. The stone was rolled away – not to let Jesus out, but to let the world see that the tomb was empty. Death could not hold Him. The grave could not keep Him. Jesus Christ had risen!

Matthew 28:6 declares, “He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.” With these words, everything changed.

The resurrection is the climax of God’s love story. The cross proved His love through sacrifice, but the resurrection proved His power over sin and death. Without the resurrection, the cross would be incomplete. But because Jesus lives, we have hope.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:20, “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” Because He lives, we too can have eternal life.

What This Means for Us Today. The proof of Jesus’ love is not just a historical event – it is a present reality that impacts our lives today.

First, it means that we are deeply loved. No matter our past, our failures, or our sins, Jesus went to the cross for us. There is no greater value placed on a life than the value Jesus placed on ours when He gave Himself for us. Second, it means that forgiveness is available. The price has already been paid. We do not have to earn God’s favor or try to make up for our sins. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can be forgiven and made new.

Third, it means that we have hope. In a world filled with uncertainty, pain, and loss, the resurrection reminds us that this life is not all there is. For the believer, there is the promise of eternal life in the presence of God. Finally, it calls us to respond. Love demands a response. Jesus gave everything for us – what will we give in return? He calls us to trust Him, to follow Him, and to share His love with others.

### **A Love Worth Sharing**

## Message from Pastor Bob

As a church family at Bellview Baptist Church, we have been entrusted with the greatest message the world has ever known – the message of the cross and the empty tomb. There are people all around us who are searching for love, hope, and meaning. The answer they are looking for is found in Jesus Christ.

Let us be bold in sharing this message. Let us live in a way that reflects His love. And let us never forget the price that was paid for our salvation.

John 3:16 summarizes it beautifully: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

That is the proof of love.

Not in words alone, but in sacrifice. Not just in death, but in resurrection. Not only in the past, but in the present and for all eternity.

The cross stands as a reminder of how much we are loved. The empty tomb stands as a declaration that love has won.

And because of that, everything changes.

Pastor Bob

## SPOTLIGHT.....

Each year, as the chill of winter begins to fade and the first signs of spring emerge, the Women’s Ministry prepares for one of the most anticipated events on the church calendar—*Splash of Joy*. More than just a gathering, this annual event has become a cherished tradition marked by elegance, heartfelt worship, and a powerful testimony of God’s transforming grace. It is a night where the women of the church, along with guests from the surrounding community, are honored, encouraged, and reminded of the deep and abiding joy found in Jesus Christ.

From its inception, *Splash of Joy* has been carefully designed to reflect both excellence and intentional ministry. Held in early spring, the event embraces a formal theme that sets it apart from typical church functions. The atmosphere is one of beauty and dignity, where every detail—from the décor to the presentation—points toward a spirit of celebration. Yet, what truly makes this evening extraordinary is not Yet, what truly makes this evening

## SPOTLIGHT.....

but the spirit of service and love that undergirds it.

One of the most unique and beloved aspects of *Splash of Joy* is the role played by the men of the church. On this special evening, they take on the responsibility of serving the women with grace and humility. Dressed in black slacks and crisp white shirts, the men present themselves with a polished, formal appearance reminiscent of a fine dining experience. They greet, serve meals, refill drinks, and attend to every need, ensuring that each woman feels valued and appreciated.

This act of service is more than symbolic—it is deeply biblical. It reflects the example set by Christ Himself, who “did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45.) In a world that often overlooks the importance of servant-hearted leadership, this simple yet profound gesture speaks volumes. It reminds everyone present that true greatness in the Kingdom of God is found in humility and service.

While the men faithfully serve behind the scenes, the women are invited into an evening of spiritual enrichment and creative expression. A central highlight of *Splash of Joy* is its commitment to providing high-quality Christian entertainment that is both engaging and edifying. In recent years, the event has featured the gifted dramatic monologist Rita Sweatt, whose performances have deeply moved audiences and brought biblical characters to life in a powerful and unforgettable way.

Through her portrayals of women such as the Samaritan woman at the well, Ruth, Rahab, and most recently Queen Esther, Rita Sweatt has helped attendees step into the pages of Scripture. Her dramatic monologues are not merely performances; they are acts of worship and storytelling that illuminate the struggles, faith, and victories of these biblical women. Each presentation draws the audience into a deeper understanding of God’s Word, making the truths of Scripture both accessible and personal.

For many, these portrayals have been life-changing. Seeing the story of the woman at the well unfold with raw emotion reminds attendees of Christ’s willingness to meet us in our brokenness. The story of Ruth highlights loyalty and redemption, while Rahab’s testimony reveals the power of grace to transform even the most unlikely lives. This year’s presentation of Queen Esther emphasized courage, purpose, and divine providence—timely reminders for women navigating the challenges of today’s world. The journey of *Splash of Joy* has not been without its challenges. In 2020, the event was eagerly anticipated, with Rita Sweatt scheduled to make her first appearance.

However, the global outbreak of COVID-19 forced the difficult decision to cancel the gathering. In 2021, out of continued caution and concern for the health of the community, the Women’s Ministry made the additional decision to pause the event once more. Yet, even in the face of these setbacks, the heart behind *Splash of Joy* remained steadfast. The committee refused to let the vision fade. With prayerful determination, they looked forward to the day when the event could return stronger than ever. And when it did, it was not simply a resumption—it was a revival. The joy of gathering again, of worshipping together, and of celebrating God’s

## SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES...

goodness made each moment even more meaningful.

At its core, *Splash of Joy* exists for three primary purposes. First and foremost, it is an offering of praise to God the Father for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Every song sung, every testimony shared, and every moment of fellowship is intended to glorify Him. The event serves as a reminder that true joy is not found in circumstances, but in a relationship with Christ.

Second, *Splash of Joy* carries a strong evangelistic emphasis. While it is a time of encouragement for believers, it is also an opportunity to reach those who may not yet know Christ. The welcoming environment, combined with the powerful presentations and testimonies, creates a space where hearts are open to the message of the Gospel. Invitations are extended far beyond the local congregation, reaching into the community and across denominational lines.

Third, the event seeks to uplift and unite women from all walks of life. While it is hosted by Bellview Baptist Church, *Splash of Joy* is intentionally inclusive. Women from the West Union Baptist Association (WUBA), as well as from other churches and denominations, are warmly invited to attend. This spirit of unity reflects the truth that, in Christ, we are all part of one body. A particularly meaningful aspect of this inclusivity is the provision of scholarships. The Women’s Ministry is deeply committed to ensuring that financial limitations never prevent someone from attending. Through generous giving and careful planning, they make it possible for any woman who desires to come to do so. This reflects the heart of the Gospel itself—freely received and freely given. A particularly meaningful aspect of this inclusivity is the provision of scholarships. The Women’s Ministry is deeply committed to ensuring that financial limitations never prevent someone from attending. Through generous giving and careful planning, they make it possible for any woman who desires to come to do so. This reflects the heart of the Gospel itself—freely received and freely given.

Over the years, *Splash of Joy* has been blessed with remarkable speakers and testimonies that have left a lasting impact. One such example is Daphne Brooks, affectionately known as “Phoebe” by Brother Larry Davidson. Daphne’s story is a powerful testament to the redeeming grace of God. Once a prisoner, she came to know Christ and experienced a complete transformation. Today, she dedicates her life to leading other women to the same saving faith she has found.

As the keynote speaker in 2018, Daphne Brooks brought a message of hope, reminding attendees that no one is beyond the reach of God’s love. Her story resonated deeply, illustrating that the Gospel is not merely a message—it is a life changing reality. Her presence at *Splash of Joy* exemplifies the event’s commitment to sharing authentic, transformative testimonies. Behind every successful *Splash of Joy* event is a

## SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES...

dedicated team of women who work tirelessly to bring the vision to life. From planning and organizing to decorating and coordinating, their efforts are a labor of love. Their passion for ministry is evident in every detail, and their commitment to excellence reflects their desire to honor God in all they do. But this event is not carried by the Women’s Ministry alone—it is truly a church-wide effort. Men, women, and even young people come together to serve, support, and participate. This unity is a beautiful picture of the body of Christ in action, where each member plays a vital role in accomplishing a shared mission.

As one reflects on *Splash of Joy*, it becomes clear that it is far more than a single evening event. It is a ministry that embodies the heart of the Gospel—service, worship, fellowship, and outreach. It is a place where burdens are lifted, faith is strengthened, and lives are changed. There is a deep sense of gratitude for the women who have faithfully led this ministry year after year. Their vision, perseverance, and unwavering commitment have made *Splash of Joy* a beacon of hope and encouragement within the church and beyond. Their work does not go unnoticed, and its impact will continue to be felt for years to come.

In a world often filled with noise and distraction, *Splash of Joy* offers something rare and beautiful—a moment to pause, reflect, and rejoice in the goodness of God. It is a reminder that true joy is not fleeting, but eternal, rooted in the unchanging love of Christ. As future gatherings are planned and new opportunities arise, there is great anticipation for what God will continue to do through this ministry. If the past is any indication, the best is yet to come. And as each new season arrives, one thing remains certain—*Splash of Joy* will continue to live up to its name, bringing a refreshing outpouring of joy to all who attend.

As future gatherings are planned and new opportunities arise, there is great anticipation for what God will continue to do through this ministry. If the past is any indication, the best is yet to come. And as each new season arrives, one thing remains certain—*Splash of Joy* will continue to live up to its name, bringing a refreshing outpouring of joy to all who attend.

Pastor Bob