

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS
2026



June 1 – 5
6 – 8:30 PM

Grades K – 8

Weekly Budget Offering Required:
\$7,842.52

Online thru May 24— \$914.50

Budget offering through May 24

Budget Offering: \$21,432.53

Designated: \$706.00

Total Offering: \$22,138.53

MEETINGS IN JUNE:

- Deacon Meeting— Thursday, June 25
@ 6:00 PM
- Finance Team Meeting—Sunday,
June 28 @ 4:00 PM
- Cabinet Meeting—Sunday, June 28 @
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



Where It's All About Jesus

Volume 54 June 2026 Volume # 6
www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com



Sunday, June 21

NO Evening Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for Pastor Bob & Ronda as they travel for the SBC—June 7

ORLANDO

SOUTHERN BAPTIST ANNUAL MEETING



Debbie Byers & Kathy Robbins will be hosting

Women's ministry

Tuesday June 9, at 6 PM

In the Fellowship Hall

Bring non perishable can goods

June 15—19 @ Union University

YOUTH CAMP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hope Unlimited Baby Bottle Campaign

Change for Life

Mother's Day, May 10, 2026

through

Father's Day, June 21, 2026



Bellview Baptist Church

FOOD PANTRY

Saturday, June 20 @ 9 AM

4875 OLD MAYFIELD ROAD, PADUCAH, KY

Mision Trip
July 26—July 31, 2026

ARK ENCOUNTER

Cost for family: \$125 Cost for Single: \$100



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Supporting Life Through Love:

Bellview Baptist Church and the Hope Unlimited Baby Bottle Campaign

By Pastor Bob Whitter, PhD

At Bellview Baptist Church, we believe every life is precious because every life is created by God. From the smallest child still growing in the womb to the oldest saint in our congregation, human life carries value, dignity, and purpose because we are all made in the image of God. Psalm 139:13-14 reminds us, "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Those words are more than poetry. They are truth. They are a reminder that God knows every child before birth and has a plan for every life. That is one reason why our church is honored once again to participate in the annual Baby Bottle Campaign for Hope Unlimited. This year, Bellview has requested 25 baby bottles to help support this Christ-centered ministry that serves mothers, fathers, babies, and families throughout our region. While the bottles themselves may seem small, the impact they can make is enormous. Every coin, dollar bill, and check placed into these bottles becomes part of a greater mission to protect life, strengthen families, and offer hope to those who may feel overwhelmed or alone.

The Baby Bottle Campaign is simple, yet powerful. Families take home a baby bottle, fill it with spare change, cash, or donations, and then return it to the church. Those donations go directly toward helping Hope Unlimited continue its work in Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois. It is one of the easiest ways for churches and individuals to become involved in the pro-life mission while also providing practical support for struggling families.

For many years, conversations about abortion have centered almost entirely on politics and legislation. While laws certainly matter, Christians also understand that ministry must go beyond simply supporting a law. Kentucky has an abortion ban, and many believers, including our church family, support efforts to protect unborn children. However, even with legal protections in place, the reality remains that many women still face unexpected and unwanted pregnancies. Fear, confusion, financial stress, broken relationships, and uncertainty can leave couples feeling hopeless. Some may wonder how they will afford medical care, diapers, baby formula, or even a safe place to live. Others may feel abandoned or pressured by the circumstances around them. That is where ministries like Hope Unlimited become so important. Hope Unlimited does not simply tell people what they should not do. Instead, they walk beside families and help them discover what they can do. They provide encouragement, resources, education, medical assistance, and spiritual guidance in a caring and compassionate environment. Their ministry is built on the belief that every life matters and that every family deserves support and hope.

Their mission statement says it clearly: "Hope Unlimited defends the value of every life through empowering individuals and families to thrive by providing Christ-centered support, medical care for pregnancy, and parenting education." Their vision is equally inspiring: "Hope Unlimited envisions a culture where every life is cherished, families walk in unity, and generations are transformed through a relationship with Jesus."

Those statements are not empty words. They are lived out daily through the work they do in our communities.

Hope Unlimited began in December of 1989 because Christians in the Paducah-McCracken County area recognized a serious need. At that time, there was a crisis pregnancy center in Murray, Kentucky, but the larger population around Paducah and surrounding counties had very few local pro-life resources available. Concerned believers saw young women struggling with crisis pregnancies and knew something had to be done. They wanted to offer an alternative rooted in compassion, truth, and Christian love.



Message from Pastor Bob

One of the beautiful things about Hope Unlimited is that they care not only for the unborn child, but also for the mother and father. In today's world, fathers are often forgotten in these conversations. Yet many young men are also frightened, confused, and uncertain when they discover they are about to become fathers. Hope Unlimited reaches out to men as well, helping them learn responsibility, parenting skills, and emotional support. They understand that strong families require both mothers and fathers to be encouraged and equipped.

This ministry offers many services completely free of charge in a confidential and non-judgmental environment. They provide pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, parenting education, adoption information, and abortion alternative counseling. They also offer post-abortion recovery programs for those who carry emotional pain from past decisions. Their goal is not condemnation but healing through the grace of Jesus Christ. In addition, Hope Unlimited provides programs that help parents prepare for the responsibilities of raising children. Through their Learn to Earn program, clients can participate in educational classes and earn practical baby supplies such as diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, cribs, and other necessities. These programs help remove some of the financial burden that young families often face. Imagine a frightened young mother sitting alone, uncertain about her future. She may not know where to turn. She may feel pressure from others or worry that she cannot provide for her baby.

Then she walks into Hope Unlimited and finds caring people willing to listen, encourage, and help. Instead of judgment, she receives compassion. Instead of fear, she discovers hope. Instead of isolation, she finds support. Hope Unlimited also provides medical care during pregnancy and remains involved throughout the delivery process and post-delivery stages. Their commitment does not end once the baby is born. They continue helping families adjust to the challenges of parenting by providing resources, education, and emotional support.

For some parents, adoption may become the best decision. Hope Unlimited helps connect those families with loving adoptive parents who are ready to provide safe and caring homes. Adoption can be a difficult and emotional choice, but it is also a beautiful picture of sacrificial love and hope for the future. As Christians, we must remember that being pro-life means more than opposing abortion. It means supporting life at every stage. It means helping families when life becomes difficult. It means loving people enough to stand beside them during moments of fear and uncertainty. The church cannot simply speak about compassion. We must practice compassion.

That is exactly why the Baby Bottle Campaign matters so much. Every donation becomes part of a ministry that meets real needs in practical ways. Some donations may help pay for an ultrasound. Others may provide diapers or baby formula. Some may support educational programs for young fathers. Others may help maintain the 24-hour Hope Line that serves individuals in crisis situations. Every dollar becomes a tool for ministry. Statistics tell us that more than 1,126,000 abortions occur in America. Those numbers are heartbreaking. Behind every statistic is a real person, a real family, and a real child. While churches may not be able to solve every problem overnight, ministries like Hope Unlimited prove that local churches and communities can make a tremendous difference when they work together. The pro-life movement must always be connected with compassion, mercy, and support. It is not enough to simply tell someone to choose life. We must help make that choice possible. We must show struggling parents that they are not alone. We must become the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

At Bellview, we are thankful for ministries willing to step into difficult situations and offer biblical help. We are also thankful for the volunteers, board members, employees, churches, and supporters who make this work possible. Hope Unlimited

Message from Pastor Bob

currently operates with a Board of Directors of 9 members, more than 40 active volunteers, and 18 employees serving Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois. Their dedication represents countless hours of ministry, counseling, education, prayer, and encouragement. Their services extend far beyond pregnancy assistance. They offer court-recognized parenting classes, student development programs in local schools, community referrals, and mentoring opportunities that help build self-worth and integrity. They network with local agencies and organizations to ensure families receive the help they need. Through all these efforts, they continually point people toward the hope found in Jesus Christ. One especially meaningful aspect of their ministry is their commitment to availability. Through their 24-hour Hope Line, individuals in crisis can reach someone even outside regular office hours. Emergencies and moments of fear do not always happen during business hours, and Hope Unlimited understands the importance of being there whenever help is needed.

As believers, we should never underestimate the power of small acts of obedience. A handful of coins dropped into a baby bottle may seem insignificant at first glance. Yet when churches across our region come together, those small gifts become life-changing resources for struggling families. God often uses simple acts of faithfulness to accomplish extraordinary things.

The Baby Bottle Campaign also serves as an opportunity to teach the next generation about compassion and stewardship. Children who place coins into those bottles learn that giving matters. Teenagers learn the value of protecting life. Families learn that ministry is not confined to Sunday mornings inside church walls. It extends into our communities where people desperately need hope.

In many ways, Hope Unlimited represents the church functioning as it should. It combines truth with grace. It stands firmly for life while also offering mercy and practical help. It proclaims biblical values while also demonstrating biblical love. The world often presents the abortion issue as a political battle, but for Christians, it is ultimately a spiritual and moral issue centered on the value of human life. Every child is a gift from God. Every mother deserves compassion. Every father needs guidance. Every family needs hope. Ministries like Hope Unlimited remind us that the Gospel speaks to all these needs.

As our church participates in this year's Baby Bottle Campaign, we encourage every member to prayerfully consider how they can help. Some may be able to fill a bottle completely. Others may contribute a few coins at a time. Some may choose to pray faithfully for the ministry, its workers, and the families they serve. Still others may volunteer their time or help spread awareness about the work being done. No gift is too small when placed in God's hands.

We are grateful that Bellview Baptist Church can partner with Hope Unlimited in this important mission. Together, we can help mothers choose life, support fathers learning responsibility, encourage families facing uncertainty, and share the love of Christ with people in desperate need of hope. In a culture where confusion and fear often dominate, ministries like Hope Unlimited shine as lights in the darkness. They remind people that they are not alone, that their lives matter, and that God still offers grace, hope, and a future.

May we continue to stand for truth while also extending compassion. May we continue to defend life while also supporting families. And may we continue to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through both our words and our actions.

The Baby Bottle Campaign may begin with a simple bottle, but through God's blessing, it can become a powerful instrument for changing lives, strengthening families, and saving babies for generations to come.

Pastor Bob

SPOTLIGHT...

The Spotlight

Vacation Bible School: It's Worth It!

Each year, as summer arrives and school doors close for a season, something special begins to take place at Bellview Baptist Church. The church becomes filled with excitement, decorations, music, laughter, busy classrooms, running feet, smiling faces, and most importantly, the teaching of God's Word. Vacation Bible School is more than a yearly event on the church calendar. It is one of the greatest ministries a church can have for reaching children and families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This year's Vacation Bible School was another wonderful reminder of what can happen when a church family comes together with one purpose in mind: teaching children about the love of God. Our VBS brought new adventures, new opportunities, and even some new faces into leadership and teaching positions. While many of our faithful volunteers returned once again to serve, we were also blessed with several new teachers and helpers who stepped into ministry with willing hearts and servant attitudes.

One of the greatest blessings this year was having Tiffany Deweese serve as our new VBS Director. We want to especially thank Tiffany for her dedication, leadership, hard work, and commitment to making Vacation Bible School successful. Anyone who has ever helped organize a VBS understands the amount of planning and preparation involved. There are schedules to arrange, classrooms to prepare, workers to coordinate, lessons to organize, crafts to gather, games to plan, snacks to prepare, decorations to hang, and countless other details that many people never see. Tiffany handled these responsibilities with grace and determination, helping guide this year's VBS with excellence and enthusiasm.

Vacation Bible School is truly a ministry that requires the entire church family working together. While children may see the teachers standing in front of the classrooms or the leaders directing songs and activities, there are many others quietly serving behind the scenes whose efforts are just as important. We want to thank every single person who had a part in making this year's VBS possible.

We thank our teachers who spent time studying Bible lessons and preparing to share God's truth with children in ways they could understand. Teaching children is not always easy. It requires patience,

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES

compassion, energy, creativity, and a genuine love for young people. Our teachers gave their time and hearts so that every child could hear about Jesus Christ.

We also thank our van drivers and transportation helpers who made sure children had the opportunity to attend. Many children might never have the chance to experience Vacation Bible School without faithful workers willing to pick them up and safely bring them to church. These workers perform an important ministry every single day of VBS.

Our craft leaders deserve appreciation as well. While crafts may seem simple to some people, they often become meaningful reminders of the Bible lessons children learn throughout the week. Many children carry those crafts home and remember the truths connected to them long after VBS has ended.

We also want to recognize our recreation workers and game leaders. Children naturally enjoy fun and activity, and recreation time gives them opportunities to build friendships, release energy, and enjoy fellowship in a Christ-centered environment. Some of the greatest memories children carry away from Vacation Bible School are connected to moments of joy, laughter, and encouragement during games and activities.

Music leaders also play an important role in VBS ministry. Songs learned during Vacation Bible School often stay in the hearts and minds of children for years. Many adults can still remember songs they learned during VBS when they were young. Music helps children memorize Scripture, understand biblical truths, and worship the Lord in joyful ways.

There are also many workers who may never stand in front of a class or appear in photographs, but without them, VBS could never happen. We thank those who decorated classrooms and hallways, prepared snacks, handled registration, cleaned buildings, organized materials, prayed faithfully, donated supplies, worked in kitchens, helped with attendance, and quietly met needs wherever they arose. Sometimes the smallest acts of service make the greatest difference.

Vacation Bible School reminds us that ministry is not about one person receiving recognition. It is about the body of Christ working together. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12 that every member of the body is important. In the same way, every volunteer and every worker at VBS contributes to the overall mission of reaching children with the Gospel. Most importantly, VBS is about the children. It is about creating an environment where children can hear that God loves them, Jesus died for them, and salvation is available through faith in Christ alone. In a world filled with confusion, fear, and negative influences, Vacation Bible School provides children with the biblical truth, godly

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES...

encouragement, and Christian fellowship.

For some children, Vacation Bible School may be the only church experience they receive all year. Others may come from homes where the Bible is rarely discussed. Some children arrive shy, uncertain, or struggling with difficulties that many adults never realize. Yet during VBS, they are welcomed, loved, encouraged, and taught that Jesus Christ cares for them personally. That is why Vacation Bible School matters so much.

Many people do not realize that VBS remains one of the largest evangelistic outreaches conducted by churches each year. According to a 2018 article by Lifeway Research written by Jason Brinn titled "VBS: It's Worth It," the impact of Vacation Bible School across churches is truly remarkable. The article reported that 21,376 churches held VBS programs with more than 2.4 million people enrolled. Even more importantly, there were 65,301 salvation decisions reported through VBS ministries. Additionally, 835 individuals made decisions for vocational ministry, more than 160,000 prospects were discovered through VBS outreach, and over seven million dollars were given toward missions.

Those numbers represent more than statistics. They represent lives changed by the Gospel. They represent children hearing about Jesus Christ. They represent families connected to churches. They represent future pastors, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, deacons, and faithful church members whose spiritual journeys may have begun during Vacation Bible School. Many Christians can trace their salvation or spiritual growth back to a VBS experience when they were children. Some remember a teacher who showed kindness to them. Others remember a Bible verse they memorized or a song they sang. Still others remember hearing the Gospel clearly for the first time during Vacation Bible School.

Never underestimate the impact a week of VBS can have on a child's life. At Bellview Baptist Church, we believe ministry to children matters because children matter to God. Jesus Himself placed importance on children throughout His earthly ministry. In Mark 10:14, Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

Those words remind us that children are not merely the church of tomorrow; they are an important part of the church today! Vacation Bible School also strengthens the church Vacation Bible School also strengthens the church family itself. As workers serve together, friendships are built, burdens are shared, and hearts become united around the mission of the Gospel. VBS often brings out the very best in a church because people work together with joy and purpose. This year's VBS brought many wonderful

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES...

memories. There were smiling children singing songs with excitement, classrooms filled with Bible teaching, games played with laughter, crafts created with care, and countless conversations that pointed children toward Christ. There were moments of exhaustion, but also moments of joy. There were long hours of preparation, but also eternal rewards connected to faithful service. As we look back on this year's Vacation Bible School, we want every worker and volunteer to know how much they are appreciated. Your labor mattered. Your kindness mattered. Your willingness to serve mattered. Even the smallest acts of faithfulness can have eternal results when done for the glory of God.

To every teacher who prepared lessons, thank you.

To every helper who assisted children, thank you.

To every van driver who gave their time, thank you.

To every kitchen worker, decorator, music leader, recreation worker, and registration helper, thank you.

And once again, we especially thank Tiffany Deweese for her leadership and dedication as VBS Director this year. Her willingness to serve helped make this ministry possible and helped create a meaningful experience for so many children and families.

As a church, we should never grow tired of investing in the next generation. The world constantly seeks to influence children away from biblical truth, but Vacation Bible School gives churches an opportunity to point children toward Christ and the truth of God's Word. The seeds planted during VBS may continue growing for years to come. A child who attends today may become a faithful Christian tomorrow. A young person who hears the Gospel during VBS may one day become a missionary, pastor, teacher, or church leader. We may never fully know on this side of eternity how much impact Vacation Bible School truly has. But one thing is certain: it is worth it.

Every hour of preparation is worth it. Every prayer is worth it.

Every lesson taught is worth it. Every van ride is worth it.

Every craft, every game, every song, every act of kindness, and every effort to share the Gospel is worth it when even one child comes to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

May God continue to bless the ministry of Vacation Bible School at Bellview Baptist Church for many years to come. May He bless every volunteer who serves faithfully, every family that participates, and every child who walks through our doors. And may we always remember that reaching children with the Gospel is one of the greatest investments a church can ever make.