

The Messenger

April 2026 Newsletter for Mt Salem-Wyaconda Baptist Association

Facebook Page Mt Salem Wyaconda Baptist Association

A Word from Director of Missions Barry

How important is a church's mission statement?

A church mission statement really matters. It gives everyone a clear sense of what the church is all about, helping people understand its purpose and what it stands for. It keeps things focused so decisions and activities fit with the church's core values. Plus, a good mission statement can bring people together and motivate them to move in the same direction.

Sometimes, churches struggle to fully live out their mission statement due to practical challenges. These can include limited resources, change in leadership, or shifting priorities within the congregation. Additionally, a church's activities can drift away from its mission when there isn't regular communication or reinforcement of the statement which leads to confusion or a lack of alignment among members.

To get back to its mission statement, a church should regularly revisit and communicate that statement to its congregation. Leadership can encourage reflection on how current programs and activities align with the mission, and make adjustments when necessary. Engaging members in discussions about the mission and incorporating it into worship, meetings, and outreach helps everyone stay connected to the church's core purpose.

This also applies to our association. Our mission statement is as follows: "Doing together that which we cannot do alone for the cause of Christ."

If we are not working together, then we struggle to do anything, and for the most part, we end up doing nothing. Let us all revisit this mission statement, put aside our differences, and work together. For example, last month we had a movie night! We had 8 churches attend, with over 50 people in attendance. It was good to see the fellowship during this event. Also, we forget that some of our churches are struggling in other ways, and often a little help goes a long way. For example, one of our churches has been without a pastor for over a year, so another church in our association stepped in and is helping them until they have a pastor. This is the sort of "Doing together" that means so much. Let us all start working together for the cause of our Savior Christ!

Pray that we all have a wonderful Easter, and the message from the pulpit will change lives forever!

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Pastors and Wives Breakfast

The pastors and wives breakfast will be April 11 at 9 am at the Ewing Café. Come join us as we fellowship together and encourage each other.

Summer Bible Camp 2025 at Camp Inlow

by Jacob Morris, Camp Team Leader

HLG has agreed to help with church camp. There will be a lot of different things going on this year. We are very excited. Kitchen still needs help. If you are interested in helping in the kitchen, please call Bobbi Morris at 573-719-8324 after 1 pm. Anyone interested in helping with the previously listed openings please call Jacob Morris at 573-231-4266.

A Music Note

by Mike Kitch, Music Team Leader

Our 2026 Hymn Sings got off to a great start at Dover earlier this month. I think the threat of strong storms kept a few people at home, but we still had a good turnout. One thing that stood out for me was that there were more young Christians there than we usually see. Seeing the young ones participate in the playing and singing of Christian songs reminded me of the Proverbs verse “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Music is proven to be beneficial for young people in their ability to learn math and other cognitive skills. Along with devotionals and Christian fellowship, our Hymn Sings are a blessing for Christians of all ages. Our April 14th Hymn Sing will be at Ten Mile. Come join the assembling, and bring the little ones along!

Missions Together

Kimbre Thrower, Leader

We will be having Missions Together in April on Sunday, April 12th beginning at 4:30 at FBC Ewing. We begin in the sanctuary then move to age-level groups followed by an optional carry-in at 5:30. The theme for the month is the Philippines. Come join us; there is something for all ages!!

Disaster Relief News

Jill Feldkamp, DR Coordinator

Our Disaster Relief Team will be cooking 200 meals to distribute with food boxes being distributed at the Lewis County Food Pantry at Canton on May 6th. Hot meal distribution will start at 10AM until gone. Please stop by and visit with us. We try to do this once a year at various towns in our area that participate in the food bank distributions as a way to give back to our community as well as demonstrate the equipment and services that we have available should a disaster occur in our area.

Hands In Service Sewing Group (because we are HIS)

Violet Brownell, Sewing Leader

We will be meeting together to sew for missions at FBC Ewing on April 16 from 1pm to 5 pm. The focus will be on eyeglass cases. And if anyone has preemie or newborn size items for the Mama Tulia Ministry in Uganda, the items need to be given to Kimbre Thrower by the end of June! Cloth diapers in newborn size are greatly appreciated! Contact Violet or Evelyn Scifres for more information about sewing diapers. May we keep our Hands In Service for HIM because we are HIS!

Community Choir

Reported by Cathy Kelso

The Lewistown Community Choir will present “Hosannas and Hallelujahs,” an Easter musical on Sunday, April 26 at 5pm at FBC, Lewistown. Choir is rehearsing Wednesdays at 7:30 pm and Sun at 4:30 pm (no Easter rehearsal). There is still plenty of time to join and sing! This is an easy, joyful musical with an awesome message of the resurrection and the life-changing power of Jesus.

Youth Lock-In

Reported by Lindsay Caudill

On March 20 – and well into the wee hours of March 21 – Providence Baptist Church powered through an unforgettable Lock-In built around Philippians 1:6, reminding everyone that God isn’t done with us yet.

Thirty-one area youth gathered for a night full of energy, connection, and just a few naps. With students representing at least four different schools and several churches, the room quickly filled with new friendships, shared laughter, and a whole lot of personality.

Pastor Kyler Seyfried, along with the Mt. Olivet Worship Team, helped set the foundation through a series of worship and messages that challenged students to recognize how God is actively working in their lives. The night pointed back again and again to one powerful truth: we are all part of God’s ongoing work—one that won’t be complete until Jesus returns.

Even the food joined the theme of the night—served as a “work in progress.” The evening unfolded one course at a time, starting with appetizers, then rolling into games, a full main course, BINGO, dessert, an Amazing Race-style challenge, and finally wrapped up with breakfast and a sendoff challenge from Pastor James Leezer as the sun began to rise. When students weren’t eating or jumping into group activities, you could find them dancing, deep in card games, or laughing until they forgot what time it was.

And while the students brought the energy, nine dedicated adults brought the endurance – braving the all-nighter right alongside them and making the entire event possible.

By the time morning arrived, progress had been made, memories had been built, and one thing was certain—God is still working, and He’s not finished yet.

Check out the Providence Baptist Church Facebook page to see pictures and videos of the fun.

ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2026

Check back to the mowmu.org website for latest updated information throughout the month

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
APR 02 THU		Maundy Thursday (Day of Last Supper)	Remembering the Last Supper. No association meetings.
APR 03 FRI		Good Friday	Good Friday Remembering the Lord's crucifixion. Office closed.
APR 04 SAT		Holy Saturday (Easter Eve and Last Day of Lent)	Pastors and Wives meeting postponed Meeting April 11.
APR 05 SUN		Resurrection/Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday Resurrection Sunday! Worship with your church and family.
APR 05		Missions Together	Postponed to April 12.
APR 07 TUE		RA Congress - Early Registration Date	RA Congress is April 17-18 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. For more information to mowmu.org/rac .
APR 07 TUE	7:00 PM	Camp Meeting	Camp Planning Meeting at FBC Ewing. Contact: Jacob Morris 573-719-8192.
APR 10-11		Missouri WMU Annual Meeting	Meet at South Haven Baptist Church, Springfield, MO. Go to mowmu.org/mc/ for more information.
APR 11 SAT	9:00 AM	Pastors and Wives Prayer Meeting and Breakfast	Meet at Ewing Cafe. Contact: DOM Barry Pfister at 660-734-2080.
APR 12 SUN	4:30 PM	Missions Together	Age-level missions classes for all ages followed by themed carry-in. April missions focus is the Philippians. Meet at FBC Ewing. Contact: Kimbre Thrower 573-288-4759.
APR 14 TUE	7:00 PM	Hymn Sing	Meet at Ten Mile. Come and bring a friend! Contact Mike Kitch 660-956-5591.
APR 16 THU	1:00 PM	Hands In Service Sewing Group	Meet at Ewing from 1-5 pm. Focus on eyeglass cases. Contact Violet Brownell 573-248-8870.
APR 16 THU	6:00 PM	Council Meeting	Team leaders to meet at FBC Ewing to update calendar of events.
APR 16	6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting	Meeting at FBC Ewing.
APR 16	7:00 PM	Executive Board Meeting	Meet at FBC Ewing. All officers, team leaders, committee chairs, pastors, and church Executive Board members invited.
APR 17-18		RA Congress	For boys grades 1-6 for time of campcraft, sports, and other missions activities. Do not have to have an RA club to participate. T-shirts available at an extra cost when registering by 4/7/26. Meet at the MO State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. For details and to register go to mowmu.org/rac .
APR 23 THU	1:00 PM	WMU Meeting	Meet at FBC Canton. Speaker will be Angela Carpenter. Contact: Connie Handyside 660-342-0642.
APR 26 SUN	5:00 PM	Lewistown Community Choir Concert	Meet at FBC Lewistown for Easter concert "Hosannas and Hallelujahs." All are welcome!