

The Messenger

January 2026 Newsletter for Mt Salem-Wyaconda Baptist Association

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A Word from Director of Missions Barry

Christians Encouraging One Another?

Christians should encourage one another because encouragement is a central part of living out faith in community. It helps us to stay faithful, endure hardship, grow spiritually, and reflect the love of Christ to each other. The Bible commands it! Hebrews 10:24-25 urges believers to “encourage one another,” especially as they gather together. Why? Because our faith can sometimes be difficult. We face trials, doubts, temptation, grief, and discouragement. Encouragement helps people keep going. It helps to strengthen relationships and remind believers that they are part of one body in Christ. Encouragement can inspire prayer, obedience, service, repentance, and perseverance. It can bring God’s comfort, and strengthen and restore His people. It protects against isolation, helps in their spiritual growth, and most of all it reflects God’s character in who we are in Him.

Here are 10 meaningful ways to encourage Christians as encouragement helps believers stay faithful, hopeful, and active in their walk with Christ.

1. Pray for them regularly. Let them know you are bringing their needs, family, faith, and decisions before God.
2. Speak words of affirmation. Notice their faithfulness and remind them that their service and testimony matter.
3. Be present in difficult seasons. Listen, visit, call, or send a message when they are grieving, discouraged, or overwhelmed.
4. Serve alongside them. Join them in ministry, outreach, or practical acts of kindness so they do not feel alone.
5. Remind them of God’s promises. Point them back to God’s faithfulness when circumstances feel uncertain.
6. Rejoice with them when they take steps of obedience, healing, forgiveness, or service.
7. Invite them into worship, small groups, meals, and conversations that build community.
8. Model a faithful life. Encourage through your example by showing humility, love, patience, and trust in Christ.
9. Step out and offer some practical help, maybe help provide meals, transportation, childcare, or assistance with everyday needs when possible.
10. Always look for other ways you can encourage one another in the name of Jesus!
Remember “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19)

Barry Pfister, Director of Missions

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Pastors and Wives Prayer Breakfast

We will meet in LaBelle at The Handlebar at 9 am.

Summer Bible Camp 2025 at Camp Inlow

by Jacob Morris, Camp Team Leader

Camp 2026 is over, but what fun it was! Now we are making plans for Camp 2027!

A Music Note

by Mike Kitch, Music Team Leader

We had another great Christian gathering at Ewing Church earlier this month. We had two guest piano players who each played spiritual instrumentals that touched our hearts. Nila graced us as well with her gift of playing the bells. And as she was accompanied by Evelyn on piano, the music was truly heavenly! Guitars, A cappella and congregational singing all made for another spirit-lifting Hymn Sing. September 8th, 7pm at South Union Baptist Church in Maywood will be our next Hymn Sing. Come join the assembling!

Missions Together

Kimbire Thrower, Leader

The missions focus for September is on “Caring for the Broken and Hopeless: Advancing the Gospel through Corporate Chaplaincy” in Jacksonville, FL. There will be classes for all age groups from pre-schoolers to adults. Supper to follow at 5:30 pm.

Hands In Service Sewing Group (because we are HIS)

Violet Brownell, Sewing Leader

We continue to meet our goal of 1,000 eyeglass cases a month! Thanks to all who come to our sewing group work day, and thanks to those who work on the project at home, then bring the finished cases. I will get the word out when we know when we will sew next.

ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
Sep 1 Tue	7:00 PM	Camp Meeting	Camp Planning Meeting at FBC Ewing. Contact: Jacob Morris 573-719-8192.
Sep 5 Sat	9:00 AM	Pastors and Wives Prayer Meeting and Breakfast	Pastors and wives monthly Prayer Meeting at the LaBelle Handlebar. Contact: Barry Pfister at 660-734-2080
Sep 6 Sun	4:30 PM	Missions Together	Age-level missions classes for all ages from Missions Friends to Adults on Mission. Missions focus is on Jacksonville, FL. Carry-in to follow. Meet at FBC Ewing. Contact: Kimbre Thrower 573-288-4759.
S e p 7 Mon		Labor Day	Office closed for holiday.
Sep 8 Tue	7:00 PM	Hymn Sing	Meet at South Union Baptist Church in Maywood. Bring a friend. Contact: Mike Kitch 660-956-5591.
Sep 11-12		DR Training	DR training at Fulton. Go to www.modr.org for more information.
Sep 13-20		Week of Prayer for MMO	Week of Prayer for the Missouri Missions Offering (MMO). Go to mobaptist.org/mmo2026 for more information.
Sep 23 Wed		SYATP	Check with your schools for See You At The Pole (SYATP) activities and times.