



FAMILY NEWS

April 12, 2026

Classes

Auditorium Class: Andy Scott

Teens: Arpoika Daniels

4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner

1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes

Nursery: Miranda Hays

Sermons

AM: Arpoika Daniels

PM: Evening Bible Study



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

Next Sunday on Search: Apr 19-Power In The Blood

The Scriptures teach us that life is in our blood. If we wish to be atoned for our sins, then blood must be poured out. The Lord Jesus shed His blood that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday

Joshua 1-3 & Matthew 9:1-17

Monday

Joshua 4-6 & Matthew 9:18-38

Tuesday

Joshua 7-9 & Matthew 10

Wednesday

Joshua 10-12 & Matthew 11:1-19

Thursday

Joshua 13-15 & Matthew 11:20-30

Friday

Joshua 16-18 & Matthew 12:1-21

Saturday

Joshua 19-21 & Matthew 12:22-50

²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

Don't just attend church.
Love the church.
Serve the church.
Give through the church.
Invite people to church.
Worship Jesus with the church.
Encourage the church.
Participate in the church.
Be the church.

Church:

the body of Christ

a human connection of love,
not a building

a lifestyle,
not a weekly activity

an act of service,
not a service to attend

In Our Hearts:

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. Psalm 55:22 (NIV)

Debbie Ernst suffered a broken ankle while playing with her great grandson at the park on Thursday, April 2nd. She had surgery to repair the damage on Friday, April 3rd. The surgery went well.

Sara Shelton, daughter of Andy Scott, Clancy Phillis, Beverly Ramsey, Larry Waddell, Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, Pat Joslin, sister of Sue Alexander, LaRohnda Jones, niece of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell

Let's remember our shut-ins: *Peggy Malone*

Gospel Meeting: The Highland Church of Christ in Tecumseh will be hosting a Gospel Meeting beginning April 15th and running through the 19th. The service will begin each evening at 6:30 and will be followed by a cookie fellowship. The theme for the series of lessons from Glenn Colley will be *Authentic Christianity*.

A Big Thanks: Thank you to Donna Hardin and Janet Waddell! Each week these wonderful ladies keep our pews straightened, neat, and supplied with attendance cards and sharpened pencils! Be sure and let Donna and Janet know how much we appreciate their willingness to serve our congregation and the Lord in this work!



Congratulations!

Steve Johnson will be recognized as a 2026 East Central University Distinguished Alumnus at the ECU Foundation Hall on Friday, May 1st!

Every day won't feel holy.
But worship anyway.
Pray anyway.
Open your Bible anyway.

AN ENCOURAGING WORD

AN ENCOURAGING WORD

John 1:1-4

Let us take just a moment and look at what the first four verses of the Gospel of John teach us about Jesus, the Word who became man (John 1:14).

1. **(verse 1) In the beginning Jesus** was there when, (Genesis 1:1) *"God created the heavens and the earth.*
2. **Jesus was with God**, that is Jesus was with Deity, that is the Father and the Holy Spirit (who Himself is mentioned in the second verse of Genesis One.) Jesus was with God, then it goes on to say,
3. **Jesus was God.** Jesus was Himself deity, the Holy Son of God.
4. **(verse 2) Jesus was in the beginning with God.** When everything started Jesus was already there, Himself also being Eternal, and all powerful -
5. **(verse 3) All things came into being through Jesus**, (Hebrews 1:2) *"in these last days [GOD] has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."* Jesus made the sky, the seas, the earth, the mountains, the grass, flowers, and all living creatures, including mankind just like the Father wanted Him to do. We are all one family, each one of us descended from Adam and Eve whom Jesus created.
6. **apart from Jesus nothing came into being that has come into being.**
7. And finally, in **verse 4** the scripture says, **"In Jesus was life"** and it still is. It is only in believing and in fully-lovingly-obediently-trusting Jesus with all our hearts, that we can receive the life God made available to us as through His grace, the gift of His Son Jesus. That truly is AN ENCOURAGING WORD.

For the Master's Cause,
Andy Scott

Shepherds

One of the great metaphors in Scripture used of leaders is that of a shepherd, a keeper of the sheep who cares for, protects, pastures and feeds the flock. This was one of the earliest occupations (e.g., Abel in [Gen 4:2](#)). It was the chief occupation among the patriarchs. Abraham ([Gen 12:16](#)), Jacob ([Gen 30:31-40](#)), Rachel ([Gen 29:9](#)), and Moses ([Exod 3:1](#)) are noted as caring for sheep. Among the most well-known shepherds was David, who was tending sheep when Samuel came to the house of Jesse to anoint David as the next king of Israel ([1 Sam 16:11-13](#)). Later, shepherds came to Jesus at His birth ([Luke 2:8-20](#)). Shepherds are found throughout Scripture (it's a term used over 200 times), and this concept is significant in understanding the relationship of people with God and one another.

Shepherds led sheep to food and water (e.g., [Psa 23](#)). They watched over their flocks at night ([Luke 2:8](#)) and protected them from other beasts who might harm them (e.g. [1 Sam 17:34-35](#); [Amos 3:12](#)). Sometimes they might gather the sheep into caves for protection ([Zeph 2:6](#)) and even kept count of them ([Jer 33:13](#)). If too weak, the shepherd would pick the sheep up and carry it (cf. [Isa 40:11](#)). In Jesus' parable, a shepherd would go after a lost sheep and, upon finding it, carry it back rejoicing ([Luke 15:3-7](#)). Shepherds were vital to the health and well-being of the flock.

The concept of a shepherd was used of kings and leaders in the Old Testament. When David was anointed as King, he was told, "You shall be shepherd of My people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel" ([2 Sam 5:2](#)). The prophets referred to Israel's leaders as shepherds. Jeremiah gave this scathing rebuke to unfaithful shepherds: "'Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!' declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: 'You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD'" ([Jer 23:1-2](#)). Ezekiel was told to prophecy against the shepherds of Israel: "Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them" ([Ezek 34:2-4](#)). These rebukes give insight into their responsibilities to feed, strengthen, heal, and care for the sheep.

The greatest Shepherd of all is God ([Psa 23](#)), and seen in Jesus Christ, the "Good Shepherd" ([John 10:1-18](#)). God demonstrated the qualities that shepherds are to have in the greatest possible ways. Isaiah 40 describes God coming in might for His people, then says, "He will tend his flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in his arms; He will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young" ([Isa 40:11](#)). Concerning Jesus, though the Chief Shepherd and Overseer of our souls ([Heb 13:20](#); [1 Pet 2:25](#); [5:4](#)), He is also the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world ([John 1:29](#)). In the end, "the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" ([Rev 7:17](#)).

We should not be surprised that elders in a congregation are referred to as shepherds. Peter, who had been told by Jesus to "feed" and "tend My sheep" ([John 21:15-19](#)), gave this exhortation: "So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory" ([1 Pet 5:1-4](#)).

The work of elders is the serious work of shepherding, attested to by Scripture from beginning to end. Paul told the Ephesian elders, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for (shepherd) the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" ([Acts 20:28](#)). As those who are under shepherds, we are to help make this task a joyful one: "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you" ([Heb 13:17](#)).

- Doy Moyer

Minister:

Arpoika Daniels
(cell) 405-380-6167

Administrative:

Lynn Grimes
(office) 405-382-0548

Elders:

Jack Mattingly , Sr.
(cell) 405-380-2510

Syd Morgan
(cell) 405-380-7406
(Home) 405-382-3404

Andy Scott
(cell) 405-287-8580

Deacons:

Ken Crane
Jim Grimes
Steve Johnson
Jerry Renner
Bob Swearingen

**Worship & Bible Study
Schedule**

AM

Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class

Sunday 10:30 - Worship

PM

Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study

Worship Workers

April 12

In Charge: Steve Johnson (405-380-5013)

Welcome AM: Syd Morgan

Song Leader: Steve Johnson

Opening Prayer: Jack Mattingly

Closing Prayer: Syd Morgan

Lord's Supper & Offering AM: Bob Swearingen

Lord's Supper & Offering PM: Jim Hardin

Scripture Reading: Andy Scott

Heritage House

Thursday, April 16

Sue Alexander &
Debbie Ernst

April Nursery Attendants

April 5 - Debbie Crane

April 12 - Ginger Posey

April 19 - Ashley Noey

April 26 - Kay Lashley

April Worship & Bible Class Greeters

North Doors: Paul & Sue Alexander

South Doors: Bob Griggs & Alan Morgan