

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEETINGS IN July:

- Deacon Meeting—Thurs. July 10 @ 6:30 PM
- Finance Team Meeting—Sunday, July 20 @ 4:00 PM
- Cabinet Meeting—Sunday, July 20 @ 4:30 PM
- Business Meeting—Sunday, July 27 @ 6 PM

Weekly Budget Offering Required:
\$10,107.91

Online thru June 22 -\$3,306.66
Budget offering through June 22

Budget Offering: \$25,890.00

Designated: \$2,813.50

Total Offering: \$28,703.50

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
Travis Ellis, Family Pastor
(731) 636-1097
Sandy Leidecker,
Administrative Assistant
(270) 210-6960

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
Meal – 6 PM



Where It's All About Jesus

Volume 53 July 2025 Volume # 7
www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com

Welcome

Message from Bro. Travis



Hello Church,

I wanted to let you know that we have had a great week in VBS. As I reflect on this week I wonder what makes you stand in awe of just how big God is? Is it when you gaze up into the massive limbs of a giant oak? What makes you stand in awe of just how big God is? Is it when you gaze up into the massive limbs of a giant oak tree or when a summer breeze stirs a field of wildflowers into waves of color? Maybe it's when you pause to take in a spectacular winter sunrise. At Magnified!™ VBS we spent our time discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.

Our amazing God is not only the Creator of all things, but He also cares about His creation, right down to the tiniest detail. And the Bible tells us that people are the most significant part of that creation. God created you and knows every detail about you—right down to the design of your fingerprints and the number of hairs on your head. God cares about everything that happens to you. Our hope is Magnified! VBS encouraged those kids to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God. God made us, cares about us, loves us, forgives us, and is faithful to keep all His promises to us. We can praise God together! We were made to magnify God! I want to thank all my volunteers who made this week so special to all the kids that came. Your excitement and preparation to pour into the lives of these kids really stood out this week. Everywhere I went there were big smiles and kids enjoying all the areas of Bible school. What an awesome experience we had.

Thank you,
Bro Travis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, July 1 @ 6 PM



Home of Linda Bogges

Sunday School @ 9 AM



JOIN US LIVE

SUNDAY
10 AM

WEDNESDAY
6:30 PM

ONLINE SERVICES



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Youth Events

Yes Conference - Feb 7th-8th

Youth Sunday - March 30th
(Lunch & Skating to fellow AM service. Bring \$25)

Glow Bowling @ Superbowl - May 2nd
(7PM-10PM Cost is \$7.50 Per Person)

Summer Swim Parties
(Look for information last week of May)

Centrifuge Camp - June 9th-13th

Youth Sunday - June 29th

Youth Sunday - August 31st

Hearts on Fire - November 21-23



FACEBOOK UPDATES!

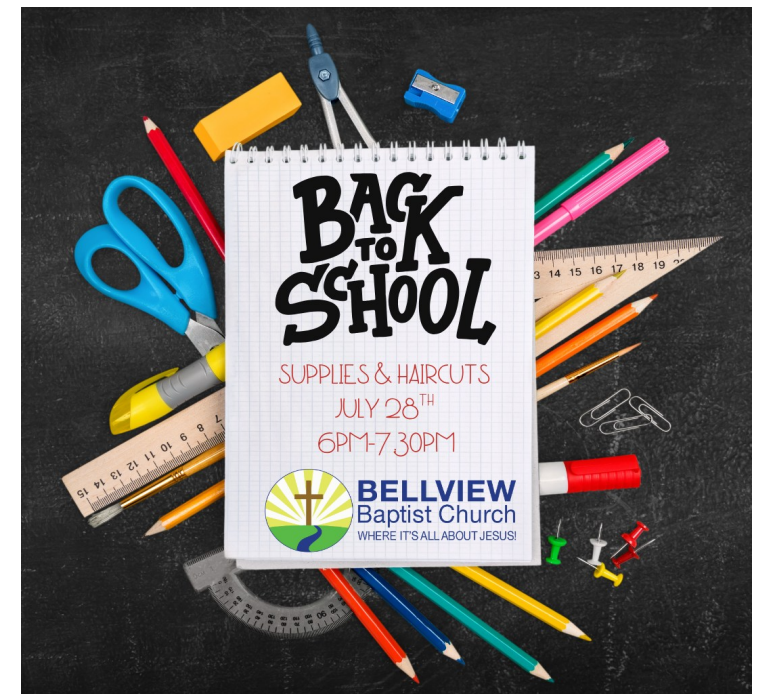
You may catch updates and info about Bellview on our Facebook page daily and weekly... just search @bellviewbaptistpaducah and like our page.

BACK TO SCHOOL

SUPPLIES & HAIRCUTS

JULY 28TH

6PM-7:30PM





Message from Pastor Bob

Bellview Summer Fun: A Season of Faith, Fellowship, and Forward Momentum *By Dr. Bob Whitter*

This summer has been one of the most exciting and spiritually fruitful seasons we've experienced at Bellview Baptist Church in years! From Vacation Bible School to mission trips, fellowship outings, and future revival events, God has truly been at work in and through our church family. We are praising the Lord for His hand in every step we've taken.

Vacation Bible School: A Powerful Start

Our summer kicked off with a tremendous Vacation Bible School. What a week it was! We averaged more than 100 people each night — a tremendous turnout that speaks volumes about our church's outreach and heart for children and families. Laughter, songs, crafts, and Bible stories filled every room, and most importantly, **several people were saved**. That's what it's all about — pointing people to Jesus and celebrating new life in Him! Thank you to every volunteer who helped make VBS a success. Your faithfulness is helping shape the next generation for Christ.

Mission Trip to the Ark Encounter

Next on our agenda is our upcoming **Mission Trip to the Ark Encounter in Williamsburg, Kentucky**. This will be more than a sightseeing trip — it's a unique opportunity to serve and grow. We'll be working at the Ark Encounter and staying at a mission house located on the **Creation Museum campus**.

The cost of the trip is **\$75.00 per person or \$125.00 per family** — a great deal for such a meaningful experience. Everyone going will need to bring **shower items, toiletries, pillows, and blankets**. You'll also receive **three Bellview Baptist Church T-shirts** to represent our church as we serve together. We're excited to see what the Lord will do through this trip and encourage anyone still considering it to jump on board. It's not too late to be part of something unforgettable!

"Coffee with the Pastor" Renamed "Door Openers" again

We're also refreshing one of our cherished traditions. What was once known as **"Coffee with the Pastor"** will now be known as **"Door Openers."** This new name better reflects the purpose of the group: opening doors of connection, discipleship, and ministry. Mark your calendars — **on July 24 at 3:30 PM**, the Door Openers group will head to **Giant City Lodge in Makanda, IL** for a special evening of fellowship. Come hungry, both for food and for rich conversation!

Back-to-School Night: July 28

Our last major summer event will be our **Back-to-School Night on Monday, July 28, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM**. This has

Message from Pastor Bob

become one of Bellview's most impactful community ministries. We will be offering **free school supplies and haircuts to local students**, helping families get ready for a strong start to the new school year. It's one more way we shine the light of Christ in practical and powerful ways. If you know someone who could benefit from this event, invite them to come — and if you're able to help, we'd love for you to serve!

Looking Ahead: Mentoring Conference and Revival

While our summer has already been rich with ministry, the momentum won't be slowing down anytime soon. We are eagerly preparing for two major spiritual milestones this fall:

- **Our Mentoring Conference will take place on Saturday, September 20, from 3:00–7:00 PM.** Our keynote speaker will be **Bro. Rob Patterson**, a seasoned leader and teacher who is passionate about raising up the next generation of disciple-makers.

Bro. Patterson will also lead us in a powerful time of **Revival** beginning **Sunday morning, September 21, and continuing each evening through Wednesday night**, all services beginning at **6:00 PM**. Please begin praying now for God to move in a mighty way during this time.

120th Homecoming Celebration – October 19

Finally, mark your calendars for our **120th Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, October 19, 2025**. What a historic and joyful day this will be as we reflect on God's faithfulness to Bellview through the generations.

- **Bro. Mike Nolen** will be our guest teacher for **Unified Sunday School**.
- **Bro. Brad Walker** will bring the message during our **Morning Worship Service**. There's nothing like Homecoming at Bellview, and we hope you and your family will plan to attend and invite others.

As you can see, our summer has been anything but slow. From salvation decisions to mission opportunities and community outreach, **Bellview Baptist Church is alive with the work of the Lord**. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing. Let's continue pressing forward together — in faith, in service, and in love. See you at the next big event!

Pastor Bob

Announcements

Happy Independence Day



OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 4!

Mission Trip
July 13–19

1:1

\$75 per person/\$125
per family

**Answers
IN GENESIS®**

**ARK
ENCOUNTER®**



**Bring
Your 3**

Join Us at the Altar

SPOTLIGHT.....

Spotlight: Faith, Freedom, and the Fight for Independence

By Pastor Dr. Bob Whitter

As we celebrate America's independence this July, it's easy to focus solely on the famous names of history—Washington, Jefferson, Franklin. But behind the headlines of the Revolutionary War were thousands of everyday believers and local churches who played a quiet, but powerful, role in securing the liberties we now cherish. Independence was not only a political movement—it was a spiritual endeavor. The heart-beat of the American Revolution was pulsed by people of faith who believed that liberty came from God, not man.

The Black Robed Regiment: Preaching Freedom

One of the most powerful forces in Revolutionary America was the clergy. Referred to by the British as the “Black Robed Regiment” because of their long clerical robes, these pastors preached with such fire and conviction that their sermons stirred entire congregations into action. They didn't just preach from the pulpit about heaven; they preached about the God-given right to be free. Men like Reverend John Witherspoon, the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence, believed that tyranny was a sin and liberty was a sacred gift worth defending.

Churches weren't neutral zones. They became training grounds, meeting houses, and sometimes even supply depots. Believers believed it was their Christian duty to support the cause of liberty—not because they worshipped a political ideal, but because they worshipped a God who made all people free.

Churches as Strategic Assets

Local congregations across the colonies—and even west of the original 13—supported the cause through food, funds, and faith. Churches organized aid for soldiers, gave up their buildings to be used for military planning, and often hid supplies from British forces. Women's prayer groups became mobilized support systems, knitting uniforms, preparing rations, and writing letters of encouragement to soldiers on the front lines.

SPOTLIGHT.....

The American Revolution was, in many ways, a grassroots effort—and those roots ran deep into the soil of the local church.

Believers and the Paducah Connection

Though Paducah, Kentucky, was not formally established until 1827, the region that would become Paducah was already inhabited during the Revolutionary War. This frontier land, situated strategically near the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers, served as an important travel and supply route. Though it lay west of most of the formal battles, troop and supply movements often passed through this area as forces pushed into the western frontier and as communication lines were stretched across the developing nation.

Many early settlers and frontiersmen in the Paducah region were believers seeking religious freedom, and they often opened their cabins, barns, and worship gatherings to traveling militias and supply caravans. Historical accounts tell of scattered Methodist and Baptist circuits in Kentucky territory even before official towns were founded. These early believers not only preached the gospel, but they also preached resilience, patriotism, and hope.

Anecdotes have been passed down of how small prayer groups in frontier outposts near present-day Paducah would gather to intercede for the safety of troops moving toward engagements in the southern theater of war. Circuit-riding preachers often doubled as scouts or messengers, using their knowledge of the terrain to guide forces through wilderness paths. The rugged terrain of western Kentucky became safer to traverse because believers opened their homes and churches to assist weary soldiers passing through.

A Legacy of Liberty

Why did so many believers get involved in the fight for American independence? Because they understood that freedom was not just a political ideal—it was a biblical one. Galatians 5:1 declares, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free.” That verse was as motivating then as it is today. They knew that freedom of worship, freedom of conscience, and freedom of speech were not simply gifts from government—they were rights from God.

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES...

It's easy today to take our liberty for granted, but the freedoms we celebrate every Fourth of July were watered by the sweat and sacrifice of faithful Christians. These men and women not only shaped the spiritual life of early America—they also helped shape its future as a nation.

What Can We Do Now?

The war for independence may be over, but the fight for godliness, righteousness, and truth continues. As we honor the past, we also must commit ourselves in the present. Our churches still have a vital role to play in our communities. We may not house troops or hide supplies, but we can still be a voice for truth, a beacon of hope, and a safe place for those seeking real freedom—freedom found only in Jesus Christ. Let us not forget: the hand of God moved mightily through His people in securing our nation's freedom. And He is still at work through the local church today. So, this July, as fireworks light up the sky, let our hearts also be ignited with gratitude—for our freedom, our faith, and our forefathers who dared to believe that liberty was worth fighting for.

Historical Footnote and References:

- The term *Black Robed Regiment* was coined by British officers to describe patriot pastors who stirred revolutionary sentiment from the pulpit.
- Reverend John Witherspoon (1723–1794), president of Princeton and signer of the Declaration, trained many founding fathers in theology and political philosophy.
- Though Paducah was formally founded in 1827, regional settlements existed before that and were influenced by migration patterns during and after the Revolution.
- Methodist and Baptist circuit riders like Francis Asbury and others preached along the frontier, including Kentucky, helping spread the gospel and support for independence.

For further reading:

- *The American Patriot's Almanac* by William J. Bennett
- *Faith and the Founders of the American Republic* by Daniel L. Dreisbach and Mark David Hall

The Light and the Glory by Peter Marshall and David Manuel