

September 20, 2026

Office: (615) 794-5267

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southernhills.net

Volume 38 Issue 38



OUR ELDERS:

Dan Cottrell

John Cottrell

Clint Oppermann

Jeff Rhodes

OUR DEACONS:

Joe Burns

Steve Ellis

Jon Ferrie

Ryan Haedge

Matt Lyndoe

Blake McDaniel

Mike Pope

Trey Post

Marv Sowell

Tony Tucker

Thomas Waggoner

Daniel Winkler

OUR STAFF:

Freddie Klein - Minister

Cy Warren - Youth

Mary Grace Warren - Office

office@southernhills.net

Government and the Value of Liberty

Liberty is not merely a political preference. It is connected to what it means to be human. When God gave Israel the Ten Commandments, He began by reminding them, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Exodus 20:2). Israel knew firsthand what oppression meant. When they later turned away from God, He repeatedly allowed them to fall under oppressive rulers (Judges 2:16–19; Deuteronomy 28:28–29, 33). Loss of freedom was a judgment, not a blessing.

The freedom to choose is also repeatedly recognized in Scripture. Moses said, "Choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19). Joshua said, "Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15). Jesus invited people to come to Him (Matthew 11:28), and Revelation ends with the invitation, "Let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost" (Revelation 22:17).

Yet liberty is not absolute. God has given civil government authority to punish evil, approve what is good, and protect people (Romans 13:3–4; 1 Peter 2:13–14). A government may therefore restrict someone's freedom when doing so is necessary to fulfill those responsibilities. It may imprison a criminal, seize property as a lawful penalty, or even administer capital punishment where God has authorized it. But this establishes an important principle: government does not have unlimited authority simply because it possesses power. Every restriction removes some measure of human choice, property, time, movement, or opportunity. Therefore, every restriction requires a legitimate governmental purpose.

The question is not whether government may ever restrict liberty. It certainly may. The question is whether the restriction serves the work God gave government to do. Liberty should not be surrendered casually, because every unnecessary restriction takes something from human beings that God has given them.

- Freddie Klein

AM - The Love of God - John 3:14-17

Children's Bible Time: Front of Auditorium at 5PM

PM - Our Love for God - John 15:7-14

Read the Bible in 1 Year:

Sunday - Ecclesiastes 7-9, 2 Corinthians 13; **Monday** - Ecclesiastes 10-12, Galatians 1; **Tuesday** - Song of Solomon 1-3, Galatians 2; **Wednesday** - Song of Solomon 4-5, Galatians 3; **Thursday** - Song of Solomon 6-8, Galatians 4; **Friday** - Isaiah 1-2, Galatians 5; **Saturday** - Isaiah 3-4, Galatians 6

PRAYER LIST and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for comfort and peace for the **Cottrell family**, in the passing of Joe Cottrell.

Inge Klein has requested prayers for **her brother and his family**, as they go through a difficult period.

Please pray for **Joe Sessions**, a neighbor of John and Julie Cottrell, as he recovers from recently donating a kidney.

Please continue to pray for **Nathan McRady**.

Please pray that **Pam Cost** continues to feel better. She is thankful for the support!

Continue to Remember:

Ralph Hogg, Dave Sweeney, Bill & Wilma Davis, Jim Duty, Joanne Hallford, Beverly Jenkins, Tina Kelso, Richard King, Janice Martin, John & Melba Sims, Jimmy Smithson, Bobbie Wilhoite, Bert Woodroof, Mickey Petty, Kyle Labore, Margret Douglass, Meagan Luczak, Katy Wall and Billie Rutledge

Our Shut-ins: Patricia Marsh

VISITORS: Please fill out a card from the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the collection plate so we may have a record of your attendance. ❤️

Online Giving Instructions

Online:

<https://donate.stripe.com/6oEcQKgAla0HczS000>

App:

Lightpost App



THOSE TO SERVE

TODAY - SUNDAY AM

Ushers: Steve Ellis, Trey Burns

Song Leader: Cy Warren

Reader and Opening Prayer: Ryan Haedge

Scripture: John 3:14-17

Preside at Lord's Table: Daniel Winkler

Serve the Lord's Supper: Bryan Breeden, David T. Sweeney, Clint Oppermann, Randy Hunt

Closing Prayer: Randy Hunt

Nursery Attendants: Libby Read
Rachel Haedge

TODAY - SUNDAY PM

Song Leader: Matt Lyndoe

Reader and Opening Prayer: Jeff Rhodes

Scripture: John 15:7-14

Preside at Lord's Table: Steve Ellis

Closing Prayer: Tony Tucker

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Devotional Speaker: Dan Cottrell

Song Leader: Cy Warren

Opening Prayer: Matt Lyndoe

Closing Prayer: Blake McDaniel

Sound for 9/20 Week: Marv Sowell

Projector for 9/20 Week: Jay Cottrell

THE RECORD

Last Sunday (9/13/2026)

Morning Worship: 128

Sunday School: 63

Contribution Last Sunday: \$5,538.00

Contribution YTD: \$389,043.00

Contribution Goal YTD: \$388,500.00

PREPARE COMMUNION - SEPTEMBER

David & Sharon Broome

COLLECT COMMUNION CUPS - SEPTEMBER

David & Sharon Broome

BUILDING LOCK-UP - SEPTEMBER

Deacons

MONTHLY ELDER CHAIRMAN - SEPTEMBER

John Cottrell

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Please contact the church office to schedule an event.
office@southernhills.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today - Fall Festival Planning

Sep. 24 - Share Group Outing

Oct. 11 - SOS MESH

Oct. 24 - Fall Festival, Trunk-or-Treat

Fall Festival Planning

Today after morning services, we will have a meeting to plan this year's Trunk-or-Treat and Fall Festival.

Share Group Outing

September 24th: Share Group outing to Farmers Restaurant in Columbia. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Adult Bible Classes

Sunday

Auditorium: The Gospel of John - Dan Cottrell

Fellowship Hall: A Shepherd For Broken Sheep Like Me - Daniel Winkler

Wednesday

Auditorium: 1 Corinthians - Dan Cottrell

Fellowship Hall: Christian Ethics - Freddie Klein

Franktown

A sign-up sheet for Franktown is available in the foyer. We invite you to consider signing up for this meaningful opportunity to serve our community.

MISSIONS MEMO...

Michael and Diane Richardson • Lamoni, Iowa

Dear Brethren, this summer has been so fantastic we want to share everything! This is a long overdue picture of our 49 years together. Not often do we take the time to do pictures of us. This one taken at our first granddaughter, Madison's, wedding in August, to Scott Sims. We are so excited for them and love them dearly.

The summer started early in May for us. Diane left for Tanzania with Brian Horner (Nashville, TN) for 15 days. It is a long way and I always wish we could stay longer. The brethren who are students and the directors of the preaching school in Moshi take such good care of us. The towns of Moshi, Arusha, and Mosquito River are far apart. A lot of bad roads to maneuver. We worked in USA River, Kwa Mrombo, Mosquito River, and a couple more congregations. Plans are to go back in October of 2027. They are very welcoming and much work to be done.

Michael went with Wayne Brewer to Zapata, Baja California, Mexico. They have worked down there for a few years. A new congregation is needing help with some building but also evangelism. The old congregation is also growing and needing help.

In July we both went to Costa Rica to three congregations in the northern part. Many studies, many more kids in classes than we have seen in recent years. Especially teens! Which is ideal. Each place is growing and working hard. They all encourage us and show us much love while there.

Our congregation held the annual All Day Meeting in August which has happened for over 100 years. It was well attended. We have had many visitors to the worship service this summer and hope to get some studies going. Levi, a Christian member, went on his first mission trip to C.R. and loved it. He and his brother hope to go next year.

This October Diane will go to Torreon, Mexico with a group with Wayne. Michael plans on making rounds to do reports to our supporters. The farm needs us to catch up this fall. But gardens and crops look very good. Each of you is very special to help us keep busy for the Lord. Bless you all!

In Christian Love,
Michael and Diane Richardson



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Sep. 30 - Super Smash Bros
Tournament**

**Oct. 2 - Lock-Out with Concord
Road church of Christ**



**TBD - Family Devo and
Picnic**

**Sep. 30 - Super Smash
Bros Tournament**

**Oct. 9 - Outing to Nash
Family Creamery**

TIMES SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP - 9 AM
BIBLE CLASS - 10 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP - 5 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE - 6 PM
Classes for all ages

Southern Hills Church of Christ
2508 Goose Creek Bypass
Franklin, TN 37064