

April 5, 2026

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

Cross Cutting

by Kenny Westmoreland

I once saw a cartoon reminiscent of the scene from Mark 8:34 in which the Lord Jesus challenged believers to "take up your cross." Within the cartoon, numerous figures were dragging large crosses.

Each moved slowly under the weight of the oversized burden. Suddenly, a character spoke out and asked, "Is there a way to lift some of this load?" The next depiction showed the cartoon character sawing off a portion of the cross, thereby lightening his load.

From that moment on, the cartoon character (with his "new and improved" cross) moved out ahead until he reached a large crevasse. The huge gap had no bridge, thereby stranding the character. Others arrived, lowered their crosses onto the crevasse, bridged the gap, and then resumed the journey.

Suddenly, the character discovered that his new and improved version did not reach the other side. He found himself stranded. Realizing his mistake, the character fell to his knees in prayer.

This story may be fiction, but it mirrors a common problem: a lack of true dedication among church members. Rather than being devoted to Lord Jesus, some choose to take a non-committal approach. Sadly, the "short cross lifestyle" often leaves people unprepared and unequipped for the tough times.

Such a choice is inconsistent with the words of Christ when he exhorted: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23, NKJV).

The moral of the story: Don't be a cross cutter.

The Encouragement Group meets on Thursday's at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Come serve with us as we reach into our community!

**Sunday Classes 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:10 a.m.
Wed. Services 6:00 p.m.**

Visitors, please take a card from the back of the pew, fill it out, and put it in the offering tray. We are glad you're here and want you to know that you're welcome in the family of Christ that meets here!

Listen to sermons at Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Elders

Danny Brightwell 291-3439
Shelby Qualls 291-7424
David Brightwell 307-5714
Alan Love 870-243-4608

Deacons

Joe Cooper 291-4653
Dalton Grigg 421-6240
Rusty Treat 373-1884

Minister

Ryan Lloyd
217-1109
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR

Family News

- Senior Citizens, if you need help with changing a light bulb or even cleaning up your yard, you can call Anthony Weston at (870) 919-3236. If anyone in the church wants to help get in touch with Anthony.
- Renita Rash had knee surgery. Please keep her and Foster in prayer as she continues to recover.
- We are building an online directory. Please text Ryan a family photo that has a pixel count of at least 1000 x 2000. If you need a picture taken, get in touch with Ryan to set up a time to meet him at the building.
- We are booked at Let's Roll Roller Rink one week from today, April 12th from 4-6pm. We can come in at 3:30pm to set up for food and drinks. We start skating at 4pm. All ages are encouraged to come! Even if you don't skate come out to visit or shoot pool!
- Please save the closest parking spots in the front for the elderly and make sure to not park in the fire lane directly in front of the building.

Opening Prayer.....Danny Brightwell
 Communion Reading.....Shelby Qualls
 Closing Prayer.....Alan Love



APRIL

**Anthony Weston
 Danny Runion**

**David Brightwell
 Tyler Webb**

MAY

**Joe Cooper
 Cash Fowler**

**Dalton Grigg
 Rusty Treat**

Sunday Morning Bible Classes at 9:15 am

2-4 Yr Old	Sandra in Toddler Classroom #1
K-3rd	Jasmine in Classroom #5 & #6
4th-8th	Sally in Classroom #3
9th-College	Ryan in Classroom #7
Adults	David in the Auditorium

Children's Bible Class During the Sermon for 2026

Month	2-5 Yr Old Rm #2	6-8 Yr Old Rm #5&6
January	Lexi & Shayann	Betty
February	Diana	Tamra
March	Rory & Zori	Jamie
April	Zori & Harris	Natalie
May	Brittany & Charlotte	Valerie
June	Brittany & Charlotte	Christie
July	Brittany & Charlotte	Lacey
August	Anita	Trena
September	Lacey	Shayann
October	Carly & Tiffany	Abby
November	Holly & Missy	Natalie
December	Zori & Harris	Diana

1 Corinthians 1:18-23, "The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise." God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense."

Prayer List

Military: Derek & Allison Love **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Nursing Home: Al Gillihan, Debbie Hoskinds, Imodean Webb, Sue Campbell, Barbara Watson, Bill Wiseman, Shirley Hill, Imogene James, Wilma Cooper

Boyde Martin	Deena Shipley	Phyllis Gilbreath	Dorothy Teague
Ruby Patillo	Joe Guiltner	Cornelia Summers	Tim Smith
Asher Vickery	Wayne Crosby	Brooke Partin	Sanyia Austin
Charlotte Cooper	John Young	Regenia Gillihan	Regina Master

April Birthdays

Betty Brightwell 2 nd	Bill Younger 3 rd	Jack Harber 3 rd
Tyler Kelly 4 th	Donna Hill 7 th	Nicole Barnes 8 th
Derek Love 8 th	Tim Grisham 8 th	Imodean Webb 9 th
Lacey Weston 9 th	Eli Parnell 10 th	Carly Webb 11 th
Cleve Weaver 12 th	Melissa Morrison 14 th	Nancy Richardson 15 th
Jack Hendrix 15 th	Rhett Morrison 17 th	Torrey Bishop 18 th
Jasmine Hartgraves 21 st	Francis Gillihan 22 nd	Clint Everett 22 nd
Doug Sipe 25 th	Michelle Smith 26 th	Kenya Wyatt 29 th

April Anniversaries

Dates to Remember

Ladies meet on Monday's at 6p.m.
 Men meet the 3rd Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.
 Potluck every 5th Sunday after services, please bring a dish.

For online giving go to <https://get.tithe.ly/>



Click on "Sign up for free" and create an account

Scan the QR code with your phone camera for quick access

