

Prairie Breeze

A Publication of Prairie Baptist Church

Fall 2026

WWW.PRAIRIEBAPTIST.ORG | AN AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Building Community in 2026

"And behold, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20)

By Rev. Dr. Kathy Pickett

Heads up! The fall is full of opportunities to be involved and get involved. We need your volunteer spirit and generosity of time, gifts, community building and prayer moving into this next season. There are many different ways for you to explore places to serve, to offer fresh new ideas, be creative and do your part to help lead and support Prairie's missions and ministries.

My vision and hope for the coming year is to explore and implement community building opportunities that invite others to join us and find a place to belong. There is a growing need among people of all ages to have a place to belong and experience healthy caring relationships. The National Library of Medicine has a recently published finding about this. It can be found at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11941835/>, below is a snippet of studies pointing to this concern:



"In 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General declared a loneliness and social isolation epidemic affecting up to 40% of U.S. adults. The U.S. is not alone, as dozens of countries and cities have developed strategies and/or action plans to address their own loneliness and social isolation epidemics. These global concerns were potentially exacerbated by social isolation policies enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the U.S. advisory, an important assertion was made that "social connection is a fundamental human need as essential to survival as food, water, and shelter". While the advisory outlined a national plan for intervention, it also recognized how little is understood to effectively guide public health in addressing nationwide epidemics of loneliness and social isolation."

For two years at the youth's summer camp, Quest, the adults have heard and learned about this growing concern for children and youth as well. However, the trend started years ago as Robert Putman addressed in his 2000 publication of "Bowling Alone" where he writes, (Cont. on next page)

Cont. from front page.

"...as the twenty-first century opens, American are going to church less often than we did three or four decades ago, and the churches we go to are less engaged with the wider community. Trends in religious life reinforce rather than counterbalance the ominous plunge in social connectedness in the secular community", (pg. 79, Religious Participation, Bowling Alone, 2000).

So what do we do? How do we find a balance in offering community building and relationally connecting activities with serving our missional partner's needs? The church of the past was often accused of being a 'social club' based on membership expectations and a lack of ministry opportunities. Is it possible to imagine and implement opportunities that create spaces of belonging and human connection as part of addressing the needs of this culture and time?

The next piece of this vision is, what role will you play? Do you enjoy hosting special events? What expertise do you have to share, teach, and offer to others? Is there a special interest or guest speaker we might engage with and invite the community to come listen? What if all you bridge players got together and created a learning opportunity – but offered prayer together first – pray and play? I am certified in Prepare/Enrich marital and couples coaching. I've wondered how I could offer a group gathering to our young couples and couples in the community. The opportunities are endless to offer and share with others in fresh creative ways. I hope you will prayerfully consider what you can do to create opportunities for others to find a place to belong. This is not a church growth movement tactic, rather an invitation to create opportunities for all to belong.

- Kathy



Youth Update

The youth have taken a much-needed break in the month of August to allow volunteers to rest and help our students get back into their school year routines!

This Fall, our youth are meeting for several Sundays of volunteer work and some of fellowship activities. We will also have our Annual Chili Cook-Off with the Young Families.

Our youth are all very involved in school and extra-curriculars so if you do not see them around the church, you can always try to see them at some of their events!

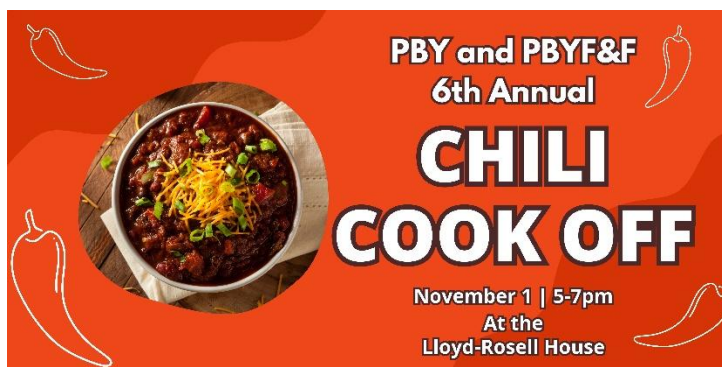
Student Events Fall 2026:

- Autumn – Mill Valley
 - September 11 – Band Night at Football Game
 - October 15 – Football Game Performance
 - December 8 – Winter Band Concert
- Isaiah – SMNW
 - September 2 – 5pm Match at SMSD Soccer Complex
 - September 23 – 5pm Soccer Match
 - October 1 – Orchestra Concert at SMNW
 - October 21 – 5 pm Soccer Match
- Micah – SMS
 - September 12 – Old Settlers Day Parade
 - September 25 – SMS Oktoberfest at 4:30 pm in SMS Gym.

Fall Fellowship Events

Soup is on the menu this autumn! We will once again have our fellowship soup luncheon after worship on October 18. Soups, breads, and desert to enjoy as a church family!

The Youth and Young Families will also be holding their 6th annual chili cook off on November 1st from 5-7pm. Who will win this year? 4-time winner Micah Smith or the 2025 champs Turner and Audrey Lennard?



Home: Martha Fuller; Marilyn Shaw (Michigan)

Avenue 81: Kay Lopez

Brookdale in Shawnee: Martin Wollenberg

Greenwood Terrace: Vera Aurand

Rosewood Place: Nadine Clawson

Tallgrass Assisted Living: Jim and Dottie McCrossen, Dianne Shumaker

The Village at Mission: Ken Cook

Westchester Village of Lenexa: Maxine Cook

The next Breeze deadline is Wednesday, Nov 18, 2026, Please send your information to office@prairiebaptist.org



Stewardship 2026

Along with the needs of creating beloved community is the stewardship of our financial means in order to support ministry and missional opportunities. I have been amazed by Prairie's generosity over the years and your willingness to share your gifts and yourself to be and do church together. For example, a recent note from Rosie at Asbury Food Pantry,

"Even though I don't wear a director's hat, I will always feel the love and warmth within the home of the pantry and the people who make it work. I've watched you and how your contributions have made the pantry grow and be alive. I get amazed when I look and see another great choice made when Prairie decided to support the pantry!"

This is just one example of the ways Prairie's stewardship of giving and showing up make a huge difference in this community. Through your time, talents, and financial gifts, Prairie is indeed making a positive difference in this world. We will explore more about being good stewards of what we have been given beginning Oct. 4 in worship. Scripture has much to say about our faithfulness to God's work on earth as it is in heaven. Pledge cards and other information will be available soon. Thank you!

We will present our promises of financial support in worship on Sunday, October 18.

ABCUSA Central Region Annual Gathering

September 25, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
September 26, 8:00a.m. to 11:30a.m.

What do you do when your best laid plans fall apart at what feels like the last minute? You call on others to help see you through. This is what happened to the Central Region Annual Gathering planning team. I received a call about a month ago from the planning chair sharing their dilemma and asking if Prairie Baptist would help pick up the pieces. Of course we would, was the answer.

Plans are well under way and now we need volunteers to help bring them to fruition. I am counting on our congregation to sign-up and help out in whatever way you might be able to. We need your generosity of time and warm welcome in the following areas; hospitality, coffee set-up, greeting at the doors and remotely from our door access, folks at the registration table, bathroom and trash patrol, child-care, and in the tech booth to help with presentations. At the link below, you will find spaces and places to click the appropriate box and type in your name. Feel free to sign-up for all day or 2 hours. Please pay attention to the time slots. Each area of serving has appointed time slots to the left of names. If you want to volunteer but don't want to deal with the form, please email Kathy Pickett at kathy@prairiebaptist.org. Thank you!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bhV-twUssrOFImVJPWdL7-OP-Z3Uy4NfJicqjrCnlel/edit?usp=sharing>

You will also want to register for the event itself!

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/251034862786160>

2026 ANNUAL GATHERING SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 24

3:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting
 5:30 PM Ministers Council Dinner & Program at FBC Olathe

Friday, September 25

8:30 AM Registration Begins at Prairie Baptist Church
 9:30 AM Session #1
 11:00 AM Lunch
 11:45 AM ABW Meeting- Kristy Engel
 ABMen's Meeting- Jon Good
 1:15 PM Session #2
 2:45 PM Break
 3:00 PM Workshop Session 1
 #1 - Del Rae McCoullough, Church Safety and Security
 #2 - Kristy Engel, IM Global Servant
 #3 - Fun with Bible Baseball, Lois Chiles
 4:15 PM Workshop Session #2
 #1 - Ministry with Senior Adults, Rev. Janet Crowl
 #2 - Church Revitalization, Rev. Chris Prater
 #3 - Paul Wood, Head Hunters Transformed
 5:45 PM Dinner
 6:45 PM Session #3
 8:00 PM Ice Cream Social & CBTS Birthday Celebration

Saturday, September 26

8:00 AM Registration Continues at Prairie Baptist Church
 8:30 AM Devotion- Rev. Daphne Braswell
 9:00 AM Recap of Business Meeting
 Installation of Officers
 9:30 AM Session #4
 10:30 AM Break
 10:45 AM Worship & Communion
 11:30 AM Journey home

Please note that the ABCCR Annual Business meeting will be held via Zoom on September 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

2026 ANNUAL GATHERING

THIS HOPE IS A STRONG AND TRUSTWORTHY ANCHOR FOR OUR SOULS. IT LEADS US THROUGH THE CURTAIN INTO GOD'S INNER SANCTUARY.

HEBREWS 6:19 (NLT)



September 25-26, 2026

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
REV. DR. GREG MAMULA



SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026
 PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH
 KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH

7416 Roe Ave
 Prairie Village, KS 66208

Registration Deadline: September 1, 2026 (Including delegates who are only attending the online business meeting).



September Birthdays:

September 1 Jonathan Chuning
 September 2 Terry Rosell
 Donna Sosna
 September 3 Susan Lohman
 September 8 Audrey Lennard
 September 10 Jim McCrossen
 September 14 Dianne Shumaker
 Rod Webb
 September 15 Robyn Hamilton
 September 24 Sondra Wilson
 Jan Morony
 September 25 Connie Freeman
 September 30 Martha Fuller

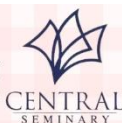
October Birthdays

October 4 Kathy Pickett
 October 8 Joyce Smith
 October 13 Martin Wollenberg
 October 14 Claire Gardner
 Emily Gardner
 October 16 Tami Heitland
 October 21 Maxine Cook
 Annemarie Smith
 October 26 Jim Cook
 October 27 Nina Mai
 October 29 Pat Maack
 Janice Workman

November Birthdays:

November 2 Susan Hocker
 November 4 Susan Maughan
 November 5 Scott Stannard
 November 7 Amy (Hocker) Koop
 November 11 Bernie Richter
 November 14 Joanna Des Marteau
 November 18 Linda Petty
 November 19 Oluoma Obi
 Cole Smith
 November 21 Rémy Des Marteau
 November 23 Sherri Stannard

Celebrate CBTS with Us!



September 6 in Worship

**Dr. Pam Durso will share a word of gratitude
 with us before a small cake reception in the
 hospitality area following worship.**



Taize' Contemplative Prayer Service in Worship

October 25 | 10:15 am | Sanctuary

This service will consist of:

- Simple music
- Scripture
- Prayer
- Silence
- Maybe a poem

There's no sermon for this service.



Upcoming Worship

The season is full of meaningful worship and ministries to consider. Beginning Sunday, September 13, we will join in the world-wide Seasons of Creation focus on "Living Water". We will explore what living water is, discovering hope in creation, and conclude with considering how we can be the "Blessed Ones", in Revelation 22: 1-7.

Stewardship season begins October 4, with pledge Sunday on October. 18. Each week we will consider what we will offer to God's Kingdom Building, God's Mission and Righteousness, and rejoicing in God's Gifts and Glory.

All Saints Day invites us to remember Prairie members, friends, and family who have passed away this past year. We will light candles, toll the bell as members names are read, and then offer a time for anyone who wishes to light a candle in remembrance of a loved one to do so.

Advent and the season of hope, peace, joy, and love begins Sunday, November 29. Advent is not Christmas, rather it is a period of time set aside to prepare and perhaps repair our hearts to receive the love of God more deeply and fully. The season takes us back to the birth of Jesus and invites us to find ourselves in God's story fresh and new. We will explore scripture through the lens of spirituality and how we may be reshaped and reformed by Immanuel, God with us, once again.

WORLD MISSION OFFERING 2026 – FALL SPECIAL OFFERING



WMO gifts are used for mission program support (global servants, international partners, and other ministry supports), for administrative support, and for development costs. WMO gifts support global servants with training and pastoral care, enable IM to address crises when they arise, and so much more.

As the body of Christ, we respond together to the needs around the world—when everyone contributes, no one group carries the full burden of expense. IM does not ask global servants to raise all of the funds they need but comes alongside them in financial support as well as in ministry. When personalized funding falls short, WMO gifts fill the gap and keep global servants in their country of service. Giving to the WMO is the best way to make sure that you support all of IM's ministries.

In supporting the WMO, we work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation. Our world-wide mission endeavors encompass health, medical, educational, discipleship, evangelism, and many other ministries. In doing so, we work to fulfill the words of Isaiah 61:4 to **rebuild** the ancient ruins and **restore** the places long devastated; (and) **renew** the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Rebuilding, restoring, and renewing lives in the process.

We are focusing on the World Mission Offering during the month of September.

YOU MAY MAKE YOUR GIFT TO THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING BY WRITING YOUR CHECK TO: "PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH", MARKED "WMO" IN THE MEMO LINE.



Fall Music Rehearsals

Bells	Choir
Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23	Sept. 9 & 16
6:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

Both groups meet in the Sanctuary

Reach out to Sara McClure with any questions.

Fall Music at Prairie

September music rehearsals are scheduled for both Bells and Choir.

All are welcome to join the choir at any time! Reach out to Music Director, Sara McClure, with any questions.

More Fall music dates and Advent Choir dates will be shared via the Friday email blast.

Sign Up To Participate In Worship This Fall!

Reading scripture is an easy way to get involved with Sunday morning services. There are also opportunities to share the children's time, offer the announcements, and or, participate in serving communion on the first Sunday of each month.

Please use the link to a Google spreadsheet to sign up (or if you have trouble, email Kathy at kathy@prairiebaptist.org with the Sundays and areas of sharing that you are available).

Open the sheet here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16Q2wMyJtrnFa_yFCTLYxiBtJPTklixZLITTHRBxo6gl/edit?usp=sharing



Crafts and Conversation

Sept 14 & Nov 9

Founders Room

COOKIE RECEPTION

After Worship
in Hospitality Area
December 6, 2026

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 21ST ANNUAL
TRANSFORMATION EVENT

Rooted in Equity, Reaching for Justice.

WHEN
**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 29
6:00 P.M.**

WHERE:
**THE LEX
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM**
300 W. 14th St., Kansas City, MO

DELICIOUS DINNER
COMMUNITY EQUITY AWARDS

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
**REV. DR. DIETRA
WISE BAKER**

*Rooted In Purpose.
Transforming Communities.*



MORE²

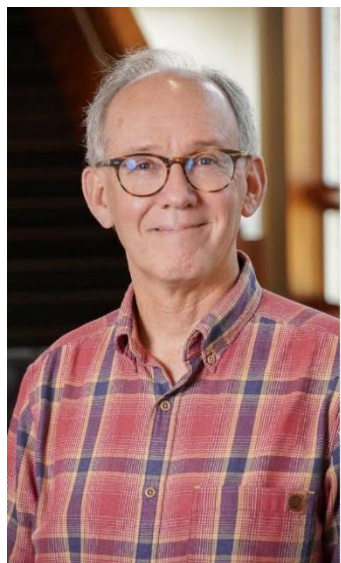
METRO ORGANIZATION FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! SCAN OR VISIT **MORE2.ORG**

INDIVIDUAL TICKET: \$100 | TABLE OF 10: \$1,000



Buttry Center Learning Opportunities This Fall



Justifying War's Violence or Teaching Nonviolence? Two-Part Series

The
Buttry Center
for Peace and Nonviolence

Dr. David May,
Professor of New Testament Emeritus,
Central Seminary

"Justifying War's Violence or Teaching Nonviolence:
How are We to Understand the Bible, as Followers of Jesus?"

Part I: Weaponizing the Bible for Violence –
Thursday, October 8 at 12:00-1:00 pm
(Central time)

Part II. Jesus' Response to Violence –
Thursday, October 15 at 12:00-1:00 pm
(Central time)

Register Here for the Two-Part Series with Dr. May: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/KWFNxebRcq2ZfReSVpREQ>



How a Practiced Religious Freedom Helps Christians Respond to Rising Authoritarianism and Theocracy

The
Buttry Center
for Peace and Nonviolence

Amanda Tyler,
ED of Baptist Joint Committee for
Religious Liberty

Thursday, September 17 at
12 noon - 1 pm (Central time)

Amanda will explain what a practiced religious freedom looks like and how it can contribute to a pluralistic democracy. She will point to examples of advocacy against rising Christian nationalism in public schools and threats to free and fair elections, giving actionable ideas for faith leaders to engage in some of today's most pressing challenges.

Register Here for the event with Amanda Tyler: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/OfAuHzitQdCnrrCfK0e7Ow>

Upcoming Calendar Dates

For a Full List of Calendar Dates, see the Google Calendar Link in the Get Connected Weekly Email or reach out to office@prairiebaptist.org to request a copy.

September:

- 9/1 – Church Guidance
- 9/7 – PBC and PECC Closed for Labor Day
- 9/14 – MORE2 Issues to Action Night
- 9/14 – Crafts and Conversation
- 9/20 – PBY
- 9/21-24 – PECC Bookfair in Fellowship Hall
- 9/22 – PECC Chili Dinner
- 9/25-26 – ABCCR Annual Gathering



October:

- 10/4 – Stewardship Begins
- 10/4 – PBY
- 10/6 – Church Guidance
- 10/12 – MORE2 Issues to Action Night
- 10/18 – Pledge Card Sunday
- 10/18 – Fellowship Soup Lunch After Worship
- 10/18 – PBY
- 10/25 – Special Taize' Worship
- 10/29 – MORE2 Transformation Event

- **November:**
- 11/1- All Saints Day
- 11/1 – Annual Chili Cook Off – PBY and PBYF&F
- 11/3 – Church Guidance
- 11/9 – MORE2 Issues to Action Night
- 11/9 – Crafts and Conversation
- 11/23-27 – PECC Closed for Thanksgiving
- 11/26 – PBC Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 11/29 – Advent Begins

Prairie Breeze

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