

# The JOY Journal

TENNESSEE AVENUE  
Baptist Church  
THE JOY PLACE



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### Early Education Center Staff

Jessica Sharrett, Director

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April 2026

Volume 35, Issue 4

## "Weathering the Storm"

April in East Tennessee is a beautiful month. The mountains begin to wake up, the trees start to bloom, and the air feels just a little warmer. But if you've lived here long enough, you know something else about April—it can also be one of the most volatile months of the year. Recently, I read an article from a local meteorologist explaining that April is historically one of the most active months for severe weather in our region. Strong storms can roll in quickly. High winds, heavy rains, and even tornadoes have left their mark on East Tennessee over the years. The skies can go from peaceful to powerful in a matter of moments. And if we're honest, life can feel the same way.

Storms don't just show up in the forecast—they show up in our lives. Some are sudden. Some are prolonged. Some shake us to our core. And the real question is not if storms will come—but how we will respond when they do.

This month, as we celebrate Easter, we are reminded of one of the greatest "storms" in all of history—the days surrounding the arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And what is so powerful is not just what Jesus endured, but how those closest to Him responded in the middle of it.

### When the Storm Hit: Different Responses

When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, the disciples were suddenly

caught in a storm they did not expect.

One moment they were sharing a meal with their Savior. The next, soldiers were arriving with torches and weapons. And what happened?

Some ran. Scripture tells us that the disciples "...all forsook Him and fled." Matthew 26:56b (NKJV) Fear took over. The storm was too intense, too confusing, too dangerous. So they scattered.

Peter resisted... then denied. Peter's story is one many of us relate to. At first, he fought back—literally. He drew his sword in an attempt to defend Jesus. But when Jesus was taken, Peter followed at a distance. And

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## “Weathering the Storm”

under pressure, he denied even knowing Christ—not once, but three times. Peter didn’t leave completely... but he wasn’t standing firmly either.

Some followed and witnessed. There were others who stayed near. John, the beloved disciple, is seen at the cross. The women who followed Jesus stood watching. They didn’t fully understand what was happening, but they stayed close enough to see it unfold. They weathered the storm differently—not perfectly, but faithfully.

### The Difference: Rooted vs. Reactive

What we see in these moments is a powerful truth:

Storms reveal what we are rooted in. Some were overcome by fear. Some reacted emotionally. Some stayed near, even when they didn’t fully understand.

And isn’t that still true today?

When storms hit our lives—whether it’s uncertainty, loss, pressure, or unexpected change—our response often reveals the depth of our roots.

- Are we rooted in circumstances... or in Christ?
- Are we anchored in comfort... or in truth?
- Are we driven by fear... or by faith?

The disciples didn’t all respond the same way—but the story doesn’t end there.

### From the Cross to the Empty Tomb

What makes the Easter story so powerful is not just the storm—it’s what came after. Some who fled... came back. Peter, who denied Christ, was later restored and became a bold proclaimer of the Gospel. The disciples who once hid in fear would go on to turn the world upside down. Why? Because they encountered the risen Christ.

Some followed closely enough to witness the cross.

And because they stayed near... they also experienced the resurrection.

Church family, don’t miss this:

**If you stay close to Jesus in the storm, you’ll also see His power on the other side of it.**

At Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, we are not immune to storms. Some are personal. Some are collective. Some are visible. Others are carried quietly in the heart. But Easter reminds us of this unshakable truth: Our hope is not in the absence of storms—our hope is in the presence of a risen Savior. The same Jesus who walked through betrayal, suffering, and the cross... walked out of the grave victorious. And that means no storm we face has the final word.

So what does it look like for us to weather the storm well?

- Stay close to Jesus, even when you don’t understand.
- Stand on truth, even when emotions are high.
- Remain faithful, even when fear is loud.
- Trust that Sunday is coming, even when it feels like Friday.

Before I close, I want to take a moment to say thank you.

What a joy it has been to see our church family serve so faithfully this Easter season.

- To everyone who helped with our Community Easter Egg Hunt—thank you for reaching out to our community with love, joy, and the message of Christ. Seeds were planted that only eternity will fully reveal.
- To our choir and musicians—your ded-

ication, countless hours of rehearsal, and heartfelt worship in preparing for our Easter musical are a tremendous blessing. You are not just performing—you are ministering.

- To those who canvassed neighborhoods and invited others—thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in a very real way.

Church family, I want to encourage you: If someone in our choir or music ministry has blessed you—tell them. A word of encouragement goes a long way, and it honors the sacrifice they have made for the Lord.

As April unfolds—with all its beauty and all its unpredictability—let it remind us of something deeper:

Storms may come quickly. Winds may rise suddenly. But those who are rooted in Christ will stand. The disciples didn’t all weather the storm perfectly... but Jesus was still faithful to them. And He will be faithful to us.

So whatever storm you may be facing today, stay close. Stay grounded. Stay faithful. Because the same power that rolled the stone away... is still at work in your life today.

He is risen... and that changes everything.

With love and gratitude,  
Pastor Joey Cole



Mark 11:17a (ESV) "...My house shall be called a house of prayer..."

In Acts 12, the church is being persecuted. James, the brother of John, is put to death with the sword and Peter is arrested, bound with chains, and guarded by soldiers while awaiting trial. What was the church's response? Acts 12:5b (NIV) says, "but the church was earnestly praying to God for him." God hears their prayers and sends an angel to rescue Peter from prison. Oh, how this must have increased the faith of the church. The enemy does not want us to believe God answers prayers.

But in Revelation 5:8, we see how God treasures our prayers. He keeps them in bowls in heaven. If God heard the prayers of the early Church, will He not also hear our prayers?

Love in Christ,  
Johnny Hutchins  
TIM TEAM



Dear Church Family,

I'm thankful for each one of you and hope you and your families are doing well!

Please keep our church in your prayers including those on our prayer request list, all our ministries, Sunday School classes and our country. God has blessed us in so

many ways, and I pray that His awesome hand will continue to be on us and help us spread his word and be the church He wants us to be.

Sincerely,  
Scott Frazier



Spring is in the air, and with it comes one of the most meaningful and joyful celebrations in our faith—Easter! This is a special time for us to reflect on the hope, love, and new life we have through Jesus. In children's ministry this month, we're focusing on helping kids understand not just the story of Easter, but the incredible why behind it.

Throughout April, we'll walk children through the events leading up to Easter Sunday—Jesus' love for others, His sacrifice, and the miracle of His resurrection. Our goal is to present these truths in ways that are engaging, age-appropriate, and meaningful so children can begin to grasp how deeply they are loved by God.

#### What We're Teaching:

- Jesus loves us unconditionally

- Easter shows God's plan to bring us close to Him
- Because Jesus is alive, we have hope every day

We'll be using storytelling, crafts, games, and interactive lessons to bring the Easter message to life. From celebrating Palm Sunday with excitement to discovering the joy of the empty tomb, each week will build toward the powerful truth that Jesus is alive!

#### How Families Can Join In:

Easter is a wonderful opportunity to grow together as a family. Here are a few simple ways you can reinforce what your children are learning:

- Read the Easter story together (Matthew 26–28 or a children's Bible version)
- Talk about what Easter means in your own words
- Pray together, thanking Jesus for His love and sacrifice
- Celebrate Easter Sunday with joy and gratitude

#### Looking Ahead – VBS is Coming!

We're already getting excited about Vacation Bible School happening on June 13! Be sure to mark your calendars; more details and registration information will be coming soon. It's always an amazing time of fun, faith, and friendship, and we can't wait for your children to be part of it!

#### A Special Encouragement:

Children may not grasp every detail of the Easter story right away—and that's okay. What matters most is that they begin to understand that Easter is about love, forgiveness, and new life. The seeds planted now can grow into a lifelong faith.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to partner with you in nurturing your child's spiritual journey. Let's celebrate this season together with joy, hope, and hearts full of gratitude!

He is risen—He is risen indeed!

Blessings,  
Miss April  
Children's Ministry Director

*the month of*

**APRIL**

*birthdays*

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Danny Lewis	15 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Padgett	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carmen Frazier
	Jimmy Phipps, Jr.		Patricia Smith	24 <sup>th</sup>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>			Jennie Sutherland		Roger Cox
	Aaron Cole		Samantha Tuzzolino	25 <sup>th</sup>	
	Max Minor	16 <sup>th</sup>			Don Rowland
4 <sup>th</sup>			Jet Cornelius	27 <sup>th</sup>	
	Joshua Thompson	17 <sup>th</sup>			Paul Thompson
5 <sup>th</sup>			Hannah Moore	29 <sup>th</sup>	
	Jerry Feathers		Cade Stevens		Madilyn Vance
	Chris Koserski		Stuart Sutherland	30 <sup>th</sup>	
	Sylvia Rowland	18 <sup>th</sup>			Ronnie Martin
	Taylor Ryan		David Price		
6 <sup>th</sup>		20 <sup>th</sup>			
	Janet Coker		Benny James		
	Ben Cornelius				
7 <sup>th</sup>					
	Celesta Jenkins				
13 <sup>th</sup>					
	Anne Haynes				
	Katie Belle Phipps				
	Zachery Strouth				



*anniversaries*

4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Johnny &amp; Jill Hutchins</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>John &amp; Amie Parker</b>	30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Frankie &amp; Becky Hunt</b>
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Marc &amp; Debra Perry</b>	29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Cody &amp; Olivia Cornelius</b>		<b>Jim &amp; Bambi Rush</b>

*event calendar*

- 1<sup>st</sup> **TACA Parent Chapel**  
Sanctuary 8:15 am
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Kidz Korner**  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm  
(Every Wednesday)
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Youth Service**  
Youth Room 6:00 pm  
(Every Wednesday)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Ladies' Community Bible Study**  
TABC 9:15—11:15 am (Thursdays)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Celebrate Recovery**  
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **GOOD FRIDAY - Church Office,**  
Academy & Early Ed Center Closed
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **GOOD FRIDAY Service / Lord's Supper**  
& Choir Musical Part 2  
Sanctuary 6:00 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Senior Adult Breakfast**  
Golden Corral, Exit 7 9:00 am
- 5<sup>th</sup> **EASTER SUNDAY**  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
Choir Musical Part 3 11:00 am  
NO PM Service or Activities on Campus
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Women's CR Step Study Meeting**  
6:00 pm (Tuesdays)
- 20<sup>th</sup> **Meals on Wheels**
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting**  
Fellowship Hall 8:00 pm - 12:00 am
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Security Team Meeting**  
Fellowship Hall 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> **TACA Athletic Banquet**  
FLB 5:30 pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Widows Ministry Luncheon**  
Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon

# dear CHURCH family

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for the love and concern shown to me during my back surgery and recuperation. The flowers, food, cards, calls, and texts were so appreciated. Our brothers and sisters are so special and my prayers are with you.

**Charlotte James**

Thank you so much for your prayers, all the special cards, the call, texts, and the beautiful plant you sent following the death of my brother, Steve, and David's brother, Linley. Your acts of kindness and love have been such a blessing to us.

**David & Linda Davis**

TABC FINANCES	
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings</i>	
“...try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts... See Malachi 3:10	
2/22/2026 Offering	\$ 9,247.00
3/01/2026 Offering	\$ 29,129.00
3/08/2026 Offering	\$ 11,392.00
3/15/2026 Offering	\$ 9,730.00
3/22/2026 Offering	\$11,325.00
On-line Giving 2/18-3/23/2026	\$ 7,363.45
Period Giving Total	\$ 78,186.45
Total 2026 Offering YTD:	\$ 151,972.84
Bank Balances	
Current Loan Balance	\$ 782,104.16
General Account	\$ 102,099.74
Designated Account	\$ 83,361.76
Daycare / Academy	\$ 79,614.53
Money Market	\$ 22,142.21

## WELCOME

**Cody & Olivia Cornelius**  
Announce the birth of  
**Preston Barnabus Cornelius**


He weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz.  
And was 19" long

*Born*  
February 27, 2026

*Proud Big Brothers:*  
Holston Ben

*Proud Big Sister:*  
June

*Proud Grandparents:*  
Jill & Kent Hatmaker  
Kathy & Stan Cornelius



## TABC Celebration Choir Easter Musical

# HOSANNAS — AND — Hallelujahs



A 3-Part Musical:  
 Sunday March 29                      11 AM  
 Good Friday, April 3                6 PM  
 Easter Sunday April 5               11 AM



Text **JOYPLACE**  
to  
**73256**  
to give via  
text  
message.

**Online GIVING**

Visit [tabaptist.org](http://tabaptist.org) and select the 'Giving' tab ~OR~ Open the Mobile App, select "Church", then "Give".



## SENIOR ADULT BREAKFAST

Senior Adults, join us  
for fun fellowship and great food!!

## Saturday, April 4 9:00 AM



# TACA

## Sword & Shield

APRIL 2026

### KINGDOM LIVING

Dear TABC Family,

Romans 15:5-7 (NIV) says, *“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”*

God has done great things on our campus this school year. It is our prayer that Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy will come together as a school community to live courageously for the Lord, and for our school to be a beacon of hope to all we encounter. Our world desperately needs to see people who are not discouraged or afraid; may we use that testimony to point others to Christ. Our heart is to never be satisfied with where we are as a school, but to continue to seek all that God has for us in the future.

We are inviting you to consider a generous gift to TACA. In the weeks ahead, we will present opportunities to support TACA with a financial gift that fits your budget and blesses our school. By investing above and beyond, you will ensure TACA can continue to teach and train with excellence and equip our young people for Kingdom living!

I am confident that the Lord will bless your giving and return the blessing to you. Please pray about your role in this fundraising effort. By giving to the needs of TACA, you will play an important part in nurturing and training tomorrow’s Christian leaders!

*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”* 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

To God Be All the Glory!

Cindy Beal  
Administrator

**EVENTS**

<b>01</b> APR	<b>PARENT CHAPEL</b> 1ST-3RD GRADE WILL LEAD PARENT CHAPEL.
<b>03</b> APR	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> THE ACADEMY AND EARLY ED CENTER WILL BE CLOSED.
<b>14</b> APR	<b>IOWA ASSESSMENTS</b> TESTING IS SCHEDULED APRIL 14, 16 AND 21, 23.
<b>24</b> APR	<b>SPRING FORMAL</b> CLUBHOUSE AT RACEDAY CENTER TOWER, BRISTOL, TN
<b>25</b> APR	<b>SPORTS BANQUET</b> TACA GYMNASIUM
<b>26</b> APR	<b>SENIOR CLASS TRIP</b> APRIL 28-MAY 1 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, FL.
<b>26</b> APR	<b>TABC FAMILY-GIVING SUNDAY</b> YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A BIG IMPACT!
<b>27</b> APR	<b>TACA FAMILY-GIVING MONDAY</b> YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A BIG IMPACT!



# TACA Sword & Shield

APRIL 2026

A SPECIAL THANK  
YOU TO

TENNESSEE AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**CAMPUS HERO**  
**JOSH  
CREGER**

Thank you Josh for your willingness to help with campus repairs. You make a meaningful difference in our school!



Tennessee Avenue  
Early Childhood Education



Families,

As Easter approaches, it's a good reminder of what this season is really about—the resurrection of Jesus and the hope we have because of it. It's more than just a holiday; it's the foundation of our faith.

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." It's simple and powerful—Jesus is alive, and through Him we have new life.

But our walk with Christ doesn't stop there.

In Philippians 3:10–11 (NKJV), Paul writes about wanting "to know Him and the power of His resurrection..." — not just believe in Jesus but truly know Him and grow in Him daily.

Easter reminds us of both. We celebrate that Jesus rose from the grave, but we're also called into a deeper relationship with Him — one that shapes how we live and trust Him every day.

This is why it's so important that we are intentional about teaching our kids the true meaning of Easter — and something we take seriously at the Early Education Center.

There's a lot that comes with this season—eggs, candy, fun—and those things are okay, but they aren't the focus. Our kids need to know that Jesus died for them and rose again so they could have life. They need to see what it looks like to believe in Him and to grow in knowing Him.

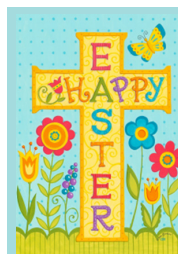
A lot of that comes from using our conversations, our prayers, and the way we live our faith day to day. Those moments matter and stay with them.

As a campus family, let's lean into this season. Celebrate the resurrection, grow closer to Christ, and be intentional about passing that truth on.

Because Easter isn't just something we celebrate, it's something we live.

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett, Director  
Early Childhood Education Center



### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Closed Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Spring Pictures Tuesday & Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>
- Camp Joy and K4 Summer Program Registration Now Open!

**TENNESSEE AVENUE**  
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## COME JOIN US!

### SUNDAYS

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service	6:00 p.m.
AWANA	6:00 p.m.
Youth Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

### Prayer Prompter

*Prayer is to our countenance  
like sunshine and rain  
to spring blossoms.  
Got Glow?"*

See Exodus 34:29-33

### WEDNESDAYS

Evening Worship Service	6:00 p.m.
Kidz Korner	6:00 p.m.
Youth Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

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*All our Worship Services can be viewed live, as well as viewing  
previously recorded services, by visiting [www.tabaptist.org](http://www.tabaptist.org)  
& selecting the 'Live Worship' tab.*

*Our services are also Live Streaming via:  
Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church FaceBook Live  
YouTube  
Boxcast App (on Apple TV, ROKU, Amazon Fire TV)*