

VERTICAL CHURCH

"If I be lifted up..." ~ John 12:32

NEWSLETTER



March 2025



Welcome to Our Church Newsletter!

Welcome to Our Church Newsletter!

We are excited to share the latest updates on our mission to spread the love and message of Jesus Christ within our community.

First and foremost, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our members for their unwavering support during the planting and building process. Your generosity and dedication have allowed our church and mission team to continue their important work—both within our church walls and beyond.

Recently, Thomas, Kati, Brian (Nip), and Kristy have been faithfully leading our youth ministry each Sunday. This program is designed to deepen young students' knowledge of Christ and inspire a lifelong love for following Jesus.

We are thrilled to announce that next month, we will be hosting a special event led by our pastors, where we will follow in the footsteps of Jesus during His final week on Earth. Starting with His triumphant entrance on Palm Sunday and leading up to His glorious resurrection, this event promises to be an eye-opening and interactive experience that will deepen our understanding of Jesus' final days. See Page 2 for details—we hope to see you there!

Lastly, If you are able to donate your time or resources, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued prayer and support!

Vertical Church

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April 2025



6 April 2025

Celebrate Our 1-Year Anniversary!

Join us on April 6th for a special potluck luncheon at 12:00 PM after the morning service as we celebrate one year of Vertical Church Sevierville!

Please bring your favorite entrée, side, or dessert to share!

If you have any food allergies, please inform the group by April 2nd so we have time to accommodate. To ensure a good variety of dishes for all ages, please connect with Kati about what you plan to bring.

Thank you for an incredible first year—we can't wait to celebrate with you!



27 April 2025

Vertical Youth at Dollywood – April 27th!

Vertical Youth will be volunteering at the Sunday morning chapel service at **Robert F. Thomas Chapel at 11:30 AM.**

After the service, students and chaperones can enjoy the rest of the day at Dollywood! It's sure to be a great day of worship, service, and fun!

Meeting location and time are pending. If you're interested, you **MUST** connect with Thomas or Brian (Nip) by end of service April 20th (Easter) to confirm your spot.

Thank you for supporting our youth!

Holy Week 2025



13 April 2025

Join us for a special evening service at 7:00 PM, as Associate Pastor Thomas Sandifer speaks on Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As He arrived on a donkey—fulfilling the ancient prophecy in Zechariah 9:9.

The crowds welcomed Him waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" On Palm Sunday, Jesus and His disciples spent the night in Bethany, about two miles east of Jerusalem. Bethany is where Lazarus (whom Jesus had raised from the dead) and his two sisters, Mary and Martha, lived. Lazarus, Mary, and Martha were close friends of Jesus and probably hosted Him and His disciples during the days leading up to Jesus' death.

The powerful depiction of the triumphant entry is recorded in Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19.



14 April 2025

Join us for a special evening service at 7:00 PM, where Brother Jeremy Smith will speak.

On His way to the temple, Jesus cursed a fig tree because it had failed to bear fruit. Some scholars believe this act symbolized God's judgment on Israel's spiritually dead religious leaders, while others interpret it as a message to all believers—a reminder that genuine faith is more than outward religiosity; true, living faith must bear spiritual fruit.

When Jesus arrived at the temple, He found the courts filled with corrupt money changers. In righteous anger, He overturned their tables and cleared the temple, declaring: "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." (Luke 19:46)

That evening, Jesus returned to Bethany, likely staying at the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.

Monday's events are recorded in Matthew 21:12-22, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-48, and John 2:13-17.

Holy Week 2025



15 April 2025

Join us for a special evening service at 7:00 PM, where we will all submit to the Lord in praise, prayer and worship.

At the temple, religious leaders, angered by Jesus' growing influence, sought to trap Him with clever questions in an attempt to discredit and arrest Him. But Jesus saw through their deceit.

Later that afternoon, Jesus left the city with His disciples and went to the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem. There, He delivered the Olivet Discourse—a prophetic message about the destruction of Jerusalem, the end of the age, His Second Coming, and the final judgment. As always, He spoke in parables and symbolic language, offering insight into future events.

Meanwhile, Judas Iscariot met with the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of Israel, and secretly negotiated to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16).

After a long and intense day of confrontation and prophecy, Jesus and His disciples returned to Bethany for the night.

The tumultuous events of Tuesday and the Olivet Discourse are recorded in Matthew 21:23–24:51, Mark 11:20–13:37, Luke 20:1–21:36, and John 12:20–38.



16 April 2025

Join us for a special evening service at 7:00 PM, where Brother Jeremy Smith will speak.

The Bible does not specifically mention what Jesus did on Wednesday of Holy Week. Many scholars speculate that, after two exhausting days of teaching and confrontation in Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples spent the day resting in Bethany, preparing for the coming Passover.

Not long before this, Jesus demonstrated His power over death by raising Lazarus from the grave. This incredible miracle led many in Bethany to believe that He was truly the Son of God. It was also in Bethany that Mary, the sister of Lazarus, lovingly anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume, an act of deep worship and devotion.

This day of quiet reflection stood in contrast to the intense events that had unfolded—and those that were yet to come.

Holy Week 2025



17 April 2025

Join us for a special evening service at 7:00 PM, where we will all partake in the washing of feet and the Passover feast.

After sunset, Jesus washed His disciples' feet as they prepared to share in the Passover. By performing this humble act of service, Jesus demonstrated by example how His disciples should serve the church.

As the Lamb of God, Jesus was about to fulfill the meaning of Passover by giving His body and his blood in sacrifice, freeing us from sin and death. During this Last Supper, Jesus established the Lord's Supper, or Communion (Luke 22:19-20).

Late that evening in Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and arrested by the Sanhedrin.

In the early morning hours, as Jesus' trial was getting underway, Peter denied knowing his Master three times before the rooster crowed.

Thursday's events are recorded in Matthew 26:17-75, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-62, and John 13:1-38.



18 April 2025

Join us for a special evening service at 7:00 PM, where Associate Pastor Thomas Sandifer will speak on Jesus' crucifixion.

Good Friday is the most difficult day of Passion Week.

By the 3rd hour (9 AM), Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment. After multiple unlawful trials, He was sentenced to death by crucifixion.

Before Christ was led away, soldiers spit on Him, tormented and mocked Him, and pierced Him with a crown of thorns. Then Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary, and was again mocked as Roman soldiers nailed Him to the wooden cross.

Jesus spoke several statements from the cross. His first words were, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." His last words were, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23 NIV

Then, about the 9th hour (3 PM) Jesus breathed his last breath and died. Afterwards, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross and laid it in a tomb.

Friday's events are recorded in Matthew 27:1-62, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:63-23:56, and John 18:28-19:37.

Holy Week 2025



19 April 2025

Join us for a special evening service at 7:00 PM, where Brother Jeremy Smith will speak on Life with a Savior in the tomb.

Jesus' body lay in its tomb, where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day on Saturday, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m., Christ's body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus.

While His physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation:

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (1 Peter 1:18-19 NLT)

Saturday's events are recorded in Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56, and John 19:40.



20 April 2025

Join us for a special evening service at 7:00 PM, where Senior Pastor Curt Franklin will speak on Jesus' resurrection.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event of the Christian faith. The very foundation of all Christian doctrine hinges on the truth of this account.

Early Sunday morning, several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary the mother of James) went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away.

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. Mark's Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all of the disciples except Thomas, while they were gathered in a house for prayer.

The eyewitness accounts in the Gospels provide what Christians believe to be undeniable evidence that the resurrection of Jesus Christ did indeed happen. Two millennia after his death, followers of Christ still flock to Jerusalem to see the empty tomb.

Sunday's events are recorded in Matthew 28:1-13, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-49, and John 20:1-23.



PASTOR PROFILE:

SENIOR PASTOR

Curt Franklin

We are a church family whose passion is to be able to do life together, in a simple, and sincere way. We are not interested in church as usual. We do not want traditions and performances to overtake the leading of the Holy Spirit's influence in our gatherings both private and public.

Some may call us radical, but at Vertical Church Sevierville we are seeing individuals and families being healed, piece by piece and person by person, through the power of Christ.

These are exciting days for His word, in concert with the Holy Spirit, shall build Vertical Church Sevierville upon a solid rock. Remember even in storms, we believe He still walks on water! My vision for Vertical Church Sevierville is to lead people into a truly new place, somewhere they have possibly never been before. People who speak Jesus while we help them lace up their tennis shoes to go and do the work of the Lord.

God Bless you with "Great Grace" and with this special invitation to come to a truly different experience.

On Easter morning 2024 Vertical Church Sevierville was launched, as a new church plant, through much prayer and confirmation. What the Lord was showing me was a culture and society trying to dissolve true Christian faith and family by replacing it with counterfeit alternatives. My heart is to see a community of followers become a family of disciples and servants. It is amazing to see those that profess to be Christian and yet they do not hold to a Christian worldview. My vision and calling is to lead Vertical Church clearly in the arena of absolutes taken from the Word of God.

My vision is in line with the Lord's vision concerning the white fields that are ready for harvest. We must be willing to "come and see" and "go and tell" to reach the hurting and discouraged world that is all around us. Once they hear the fabulous good news that Jesus loves them and change is possible through a new birth, we will see a harvest of people coming out of darkness and into the light.

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

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