

June 5, 2025

DEFENDING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

When I was a child, one of my relatives set out to hike the entire Appalachian Trail. He studied maps, read books, and talked with people who had firsthand experience. He trained hard and prepared thoroughly for the long trek up the East Coast. Along the way, he kept a journal that my parents later printed, a story I’ve always loved reading. But his success didn’t happen by chance; it was the result of careful preparation.

Imagine you’re about to hike the Appalachian Trail. You know the journey will be long and challenging, and the weather unpredictable. But you’ve trained, studied, and prepared for what lies ahead. As you begin your trek, you meet another hiker on the trail who is struggling and uncertain. They notice your steady pace and confident steps, and they ask, “How are you so sure of where you’re going?”

That’s your moment, not to boast, but to share. So, you pull out your map, show them your compass, and explain about the guide who showed you the way. You didn’t get here by guessing. You’ve prepared, you’ve followed a trusted path, and now you’re ready to help someone else find it too. That’s the heart of **1 Peter 3:15**, which says “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

Your hope in Christ isn’t just personal, it’s visible. And when others notice your peace, your purpose, and your perseverance, they’ll ask. The question is, will you be ready to show them the way? That is why Christian apologetics, the defense of the Christian faith, has never been more important. Because apologetics isn’t simply about having all the answers, it’s about being a faithful guide who points others to the truth you’ve already found. It is about being prepared for conversations that matter eternally.

Many in our world today believe that truth is relative, “what’s true for you isn’t true for me.” But Scripture teaches that truth is not fluid, it is certain, and it’s grounded in the nature of God. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (**John 14:6**). That’s an exclusive claim, and it requires courage to share in a morally relative world. Christian apologetics can help us explain why we trust that Jesus is the truth, and not just one option among many. After all, He fulfilled countless prophecies

throughout His life, death, and resurrection, that prove He is the way, truth, and life.

In Jesus’ lifetime, he fulfilled over 300 prophecies recorded in the Old Testament, centuries before He was born. And Jesus fulfills them in stunning detail. For example, **Isaiah 53** describes a suffering servant pierced for our transgressions, written over 700 years before Christ. **Micah 5:2** predicts Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. **Psalms 22** describes crucifixion, and the details surrounding it, centuries before it was used as a method of execution. Jesus didn’t just live a good life; He lived a *foretold* life.

We could even talk about how nature itself speaks of our Divine Creator. The natural world around us is one of the strongest testimonies to the existence of God. **Romans 1:20** tells us, “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse.” From the fine-tuning of the universe to the complexity of DNA, creation cries out for a Creator. Apologetics can bridge science and faith, not to prove God like a math equation, but to show that belief in Him is supported by evidence and absolute truth.

One of the most effective Christian apologists in history would have to be Paul. He never shied away from defending the gospel of Christ. Whether it was before philosophers in Athens or rulers in Rome, he always made a case for Christ. As he wrote in **Romans 1:16**, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”. Unfortunately, in our society, there are many who think a belief in God and faith in Christ means you must check your brain in at the door. But Christianity calls for a thoughtful, informed belief. Jesus Himself said the greatest commandment is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (**Matthew 22:37**). Apologetics is an act of service to God and others, as it uses the mind to honor God and serve others.

In a world full of questions, Christian apologetics provides faithful, reasoned answers. It equips believers to stand firm, reach out, and reflect the truth of Christ with clarity and compassion. It reminds us that faith is not blind; it sees clearly through the lens of truth, reason, and love. So, the next time someone asks *why* you believe, be ready, not to argue, but to invite them into a life-changing truth.

Andrew Spivey

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES  
Sunday Read – Joshua 20-21  
Wednesday Read – Joshua 22

Questions for last week’s reading of;  
Joshua 10:28- 12:24 & Joshua 13-19.

- Questions:
1. Why was there no tribe for Joseph?
  2. What did the tribe of Levi receive instead of land?
  3. What two and a half tribes received their inheritance east of Jordan and why?
  4. What did Caleb receive as his inheritance?
  5. Where was the tabernacle set up?

UPCOMING EVENTS

\* 4:15 Singing class every Sunday\*  
Truth Seekers every Sunday @ 5pm  
June 8 – Widows/Widowers Luncheon  
June 10 – TNT – 6pm Ladies Bible Class – 6:30pm  
June 12 – Elders/Deacons meeting @6:30pm  
June 14 – Clean-up day/outside-9am  
June 15 – Father’s Day  
June 19 – Senior Group -5pm  
June 24 – Ladies Bible Class – 6:30pm  
June 29 – Fifth Sunday Singing-evening service  
July 6 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Singing – Nashville Road @ 2:30

VBS 2025

July 16-19:Wed – Fri 6-8 pm & Sat 4pm

The theme for this year’s VBS is “Dream.” We will be focusing on the story of Joseph, from his time of receiving of the coat of many colors, to what he revealed to his brothers in Egypt. There will be an adult class following the same theme. Every evening the children will go downstairs and experience an Egyptian marketplace. **Saturday, July 19th** VBS will meet at 4pm and after class at 5:30 pm there will be a potluck cookout and games. Please make plans to come and bring your friends and family.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a  
desire fulfilled is a tree of life.  
Proverbs 13:12

ORDER OF SERVICES  
SUNDAY  
June 8, 2025  
9:00 AM  
BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song Leader.....Ben Hutson  
Opening Prayer.....Carl Newby  
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown  
Scripture Reading.....Jon David Senn  
Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett  
Opening Prayer.....Charlie Seals  
Lord's Supper.....Eric Stephenson  
Servers.....J. Sever; K. Veale; C. Nelsen  
N. Kemper; B. Sever; T. Cummins  
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
Closing Prayer.....Tony Butler

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown  
Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett  
Opening Prayer.....Tim Strickland  
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
Lord's Supper.....David Johnson  
Closing Prayer.....Jonathan Senn

WEDNESDAY  
June 11, 2025  
7:00 PM

Welcome.....Bob Brown  
Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett  
Opening Prayer.....Rick Gallagher  
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey  
Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith  
Ushers for May.....A. Williamson/Z. Tooley  
Communion Care for June.....A/S Hosman  
Door Greeters – West Door.....J/L Cherry  
East Door.....L/J Clark  
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Julie Cummins

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL  
Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935  
Church Office.....615-452-3431

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E-mail: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

**SICK LIST**

Larry Hammock, uncle of Andrew Spivey will be undergoing chemo & radiation treatments. Wayne Hunt, cousin of Tim Cummins, had a bone marrow transplant. Chuck Tooley, father of Zach Tooley, home with health issues. Roscoe Smith, father of Brent Smith has started his treatments for cancer. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey had his last radiation treatment.

**PRAYER LIST**

Jack & Anita Cato; Bobbie Stephens; Wanda Seals; Lena Baggett; Stella Messer; Hugh Fulford; Maddie Andrews; Mary Spivey; Jack Ottis & Maxine Cothron; Shauna Lockett; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Sandi Jones; Pat Watson; Frances Catron; Jackie Williams; Pat Crump; Nancy Maxey; Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; Jean McCurdy mother of Olivia Nelsen; Ariel Clift, niece of Tarina Brown; Elaine Reynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

**SHUT-INS**

Jean Deaton, Mary Spivey

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.

**OUR RECORD THIS WEEK**

Bible Study.....	91
Morning Worship.....	166
Sunday Evening.....	81
Wednesday Evening.....	73
Contribution.....	\$8,377.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$7,856.00

**Elders**

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

**Deacons**

Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Adam Williamson	



Phone (615) 452-3431

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Web Site: [www.nashvilleroad.org](http://www.nashvilleroad.org)

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister  
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister  
GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister