

## **From the Heart**

Our church covenant is proudly displayed on our church front wall. The same covenant hangs in so many Baptist churches I have been in. It interests me to know the history of a document that is now 193 years old. If you have not read it in a while, take some time to really read it. Examine the biblical principles and scripture references.

A church covenant is a formal promise among church members outlining their mutual commitments to support one another in faith and practice according to biblical principles. The first paragraph refers to this as we solemnly and joyfully enter to covenant with one another as one body of Christ.

The church covenant was adopted by The New Hampshire Baptist convention of 1833. It was written and later published, in 1853 by John Newton Brown. John was an influential Baptist minister and publisher. It was said that the Covenant, and the Declaration of Faith he wrote, spread across every section of the United States.

John believed it was divinely inspired. He wrote "Let it be compared throughout with the Scriptures, from which alone it professes to be drawn. In its conformity with that Divine Standard lies all its worth, its vitality, its power. May the God of all grace still own it as an instrument of good to the churches, an of glory to Christ."

God made many covenants in the Bible. The rainbow is a reminder to God's covenant that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. The covenant God made with Abraham, and later renewed with David, pointing to the coming of the Messiah. The Old Testament covenants point forward to the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises in the New Covenant through Jesus Christ.

As a member of Westside United Baptist Church, I have seen many examples of members showing reverence and respect for this covenant. Such as walking together in Christian love, promoting its

prosperity and spirituality, and to sustain its worship and doctrines. Let us watch over one another in brotherly love and to remember one another in prayer.

I would have to agree with John Newton Brown that it was divinely inspired!

In the Year of our Lord 2026  
Bro. Jeff Harris

**West Side United  
Baptist Church**



***February 2026***

# Announcements

**14<sup>TH</sup> Valentines day**

**15<sup>TH</sup> Guest Preacher John Robet and Maci**

**Frills singing**

**19<sup>TH</sup> Business meeting**

## Happy Birthday

**2<sup>nd</sup> Allison Harris**

**16<sup>th</sup> Terry Wooten**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Weston Spradlin**

**20<sup>th</sup> Frank Rilley**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Jacob Sutton**

**26<sup>th</sup> Robert Waters**

**9<sup>th</sup> Glenn Coffey**

**26<sup>th</sup> Lisa Whittenburg**

**11<sup>th</sup> Abigail Whittenburg**

**27<sup>th</sup> Don Watters Jr.**

**14<sup>th</sup> Missy Flick**

**28<sup>th</sup> Brenda Tapley**

**14<sup>th</sup> Luke Ledbetter**

**29<sup>th</sup> Chris Patty**



## Happy Anniversary

### Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

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**Tony and Toni Bilbrey got bit by the love bug on  
the 21<sup>st</sup>**

## **Quick reminders**

In efforts to keep our church as beautiful as the people that walk in, we ask no food or drinks to be brought into the sanctuary (water only). If we have missed someone's birthday or anniversary we do apologize. If you would like them to be included, please let Mahalia or Joey Covington know. When we have guest preachers or singers, please take the extra steps to show them our gratitude. Whether that be using the restroom before service, taking the time to formally thank them, or praising the lord as the Holy Spirit leads. It will not go unnoticed.