

HIGHPOINT

A Monthly Update from Fellowship Church · October 2026



LIGHT IN THE DARK

What's Happening...

Check our website for more information

October 4 – Travis York will provide our music, and we will have **Lunch after Service. ALL ARE WELCOMED!**

Halloween Eats and Treats – October 31, Times

We're back for our second year. We'll open about an hour before the county Trick-or-Treat time so you can swing by for some Eats, conversation, and Treats before heading out with the kiddos.

What We are Studying...

Prayers of God's People

A Journey Through the Human Condition

We're walking through a new series called Prayers of God's People — a look at how real men and women in Scripture prayed when life felt heavy, heartbreaking, confusing, overwhelming, or dark. From Moses to Hannah, Hagar to Deborah, Jehoshaphat to the saints in Revelation, we'll see that the struggles we carry today aren't new — and the same God who heard them still hears us. Join us as we learn to pray honestly, courageously, and hopefully in every season of life.

Service Times

Sunday (10am Sunday School, 11am Worship)
Wednesday (6pm Bible Study)

Jesus loves you no matter what so come as you are.

*Our Sunday Service is musically blended and
the message is Christ-centered and Biblically-based*

Missed a Message? Want to watch one again?

Every week's message is recorded in the Pastor's study. Quiet, clear, and easy to follow and uploaded to our YouTube channel. If you missed a Sunday, want to revisit a teaching, or simply prefer listening at home with a cup of coffee, you can watch any message anytime.

Stay Updated

Want reminders, or need prayer? Have a question for the pastor?
Text 833-431-5482 and sign up.

Promise: No spam and you can stop at any time.

Light in the Dark

October is a month when our culture leans into images of darkness — shadows, ghosts, fear, and the spooky side of Halloween. Yet as our feature article shows, Halloween didn't begin that way. Its earliest roots were simple and seasonal: a harvest festival, a change of seasons, a community gathering, and later a day of remembrance.

Over time, people added layers — some fun, some harmless, and some that wandered into darker territory (see the *History of Halloween* on the next page). That's human nature, isn't it? We take what begins simple and wholesome and sometimes twist it into something it was never meant to be. But God's people have always responded the same way: **we bring light.**

Scripture tells us, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:5, WEB) Darkness doesn't win. It never has. It never will. Wherever God's people go, light goes with them — into neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and yes, even into cultural moments like Halloween.

This is why Christians don't retreat when culture gets noisy, and we don't become clanging cymbals of dissent and anger. **Fear isolates. Anger alienates. Neither reflects Christ.** Instead, we walk with quiet confidence, steady hope, and a presence that points to the One who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

So as our community gathers this month — carving pumpkins, handing out candy, hosting Eats & Treats, and enjoying the season — we have an opportunity. Not to fear the dark, and not to imitate it, but to **shine**. To be present. To be kind. To be welcoming. To be the steady, gentle light that shows people what grace looks like in everyday life.

Halloween may have changed over the centuries, but our calling hasn't. We walk as children of the light. We bring hope where others bring fear. We bring peace where others stir anxiety. We bring joy where others chase thrills.

And in doing so, we show our community what the season was always meant to be — a time of gathering, gratitude, and grace. It's a reminder that even in a season filled with shadows, **God's people have every reason to walk confidently in the light.** *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."* (Ephesians 5:8)

History of Halloween

Halloween didn't begin as the candy-and-costume celebration we know today. Its story stretches back thousands of years, beginning with the ancient Celtic festival of **Samhain**, a simple harvest tradition marking the shift from light to winter darkness. People lit **bonfires**, wore **disguises**, and gathered as a community — not to celebrate fear, but to acknowledge the changing season and protect one another.

Centuries later, the **Romans** arrived and blended their own customs with Samhain. Their festival for **Pomona**, the goddess of fruit, introduced the humble apple into autumn celebrations — which is why bobbing for **apples** became a familiar fall game. It's interesting how something so ordinary shaped a tradition that still shows up today.

In the 8th century, the Christian church added another layer when **All Saints' Day** was moved to November 1, creating **All Hallows' Eve** the night before — eventually shortened to Halloween. This wasn't a spooky observance; it was a day of remembrance, reflection, and honoring those who had gone before.

When Irish and Scottish immigrants brought their customs to America in the 1800s, Halloween began to look more familiar. Communities embraced costumes, gatherings, and carved **pumpkins**, turning the old harvest festival into a lighthearted, family-friendly celebration. Traditions like souling and guising eventually grew into modern **trick-or-treating**, rooted more in neighborly connection than mischief.

The “spooky side” of Halloween — haunted houses, scary costumes, and horror themes — came much later. Victorian ghost stories, early American pranks, Hollywood monsters, and modern entertainment all played a part. And like many traditions, some people have taken these elements too far, turning what began as wholesome fall fun into something darker than it was ever meant to be.

Today, Halloween is mostly about **community, family, creativity, and celebrating the season**. Behind the costumes and candy is a long history of harvest, remembrance, and cultural blending — a story far richer than the modern spooky imagery suggests.

If you'd like to read the full, detailed version of this history — including how haunted houses developed, why trick-or-treating took off, and how Hollywood shaped modern traditions — you can find the complete article on our website.

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is a fun night for kids and families, but a little preparation goes a long way toward keeping everyone safe. Here are some easy, practical tips for a smooth evening:

Costume Safety

- Choose costumes that are easy to see in the dark — add reflective tape if needed.
- Make sure masks don't block vision; face paint is often safer.
- Avoid long, trailing costumes that can cause tripping.

Walking & Traffic Safety

- Stick to sidewalks and well-lit streets.
- Cross at corners, not between parked cars.
- Keep phones down while walking — stay alert.
- Younger children should always be with an adult.

Treat Safety

- Only accept treats from homes or events you know and trust.
- Check candy before kids dig in — look for anything unwrapped or suspicious.
- Be mindful of allergies (especially peanuts).

General Safety

- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Stay in groups — never let kids wander alone.
- If driving, go slow and watch carefully for children in dark costumes.

Community Events

- Stopping by safe, supervised events — like our **Eats & Treats** — is a great way to enjoy the evening with food, fellowship, and peace of mind.

Why HIGHPOINT?

The name comes from the National Geological Survey marker directly behind our fellowship hall. Our church sits on the highest point in Anderson County, and we joke that visiting puts you “closer to God” than anywhere else in the county. Of course, elevation doesn't draw anyone nearer to Jesus — but we do hope this little newsletter becomes a *high point* for you and your family.

Where Did the Bible Come From?

Most people know the Bible matters, but many aren't sure **how** it came to be. Was it written all at once? Dropped from heaven? Compiled by one person? The real story is far richer — and surprisingly straightforward.

The Bible Was Written Over 1,500 Years. Scripture didn't arrive as a single book. It was written over roughly **1,500 years** by more than **40 authors** — kings, shepherds, prophets, fishermen, a physician, and a tax collector — across **three continents** and in **three languages** (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek). Yet despite this diversity, it tells **one unified story**: God's plan to redeem His world.

The Old Testament Came First. The earliest portions were written by **Moses around 1400 B.C.**, forming Genesis through Deuteronomy. Over the next millennium, God inspired prophets, poets, and historians to write the rest — Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and more. These writings were carefully preserved on parchment and papyrus. By the time of Jesus, the Old Testament — the **Law, Prophets, and Writings** — was already recognized as **authoritative Scripture**.

The New Testament Was Written in the First Century. The New Testament was written much more quickly, between **A.D. 45 and 95**. James is likely the earliest book, followed by Paul's letters, the Gospels, and other apostolic writings. These circulated among early churches in Greek, forming the foundation of Christian teaching.

How the Books Were Collected. The formation of the Bible wasn't sudden. As each book was written, God's people recognized its authority. The early church affirmed the New Testament based on **apostolic authorship, doctrinal consistency, and widespread use**. By **A.D. 397**, the Council of Carthage formally recognized the **27 books** we still have today. Combined with the Old Testament, we have the complete Bible.

Why This Matters. The Bible is both **human** and **divine** — written by real people in real places, yet guided by God so it communicates exactly what He intended. As Scripture says, *"For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit."* (2 Peter 1:21, WEB)

Knowing where the Bible came from helps us appreciate its **reliability, unity, and purpose**: to reveal God's heart and His plan for redemption. This leads to the next big question — **why are there so many translations?** We'll tackle that in the next issue.

Word Search



BRIGHT

CALLED

CHILDREN

COMMUNITY

CONFIDENCE

DARKNESS

GATHER

GRACE

GUIDE

HARVEST

HOPE

JOY

LIGHT

MARVELOUS

PEACE

RADIANT

SCRIPTURE

SEASON

SHINE

STEADY

TRUTH

WALK

Fellowship Church

Return Address

1253 Denney Drive

Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

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1849 Hammonds Creek Road

<http://www.fellowshipchurchky.org>

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