

# *76th Annual Berean Christian Conference*

June 27 – July 4, 2026

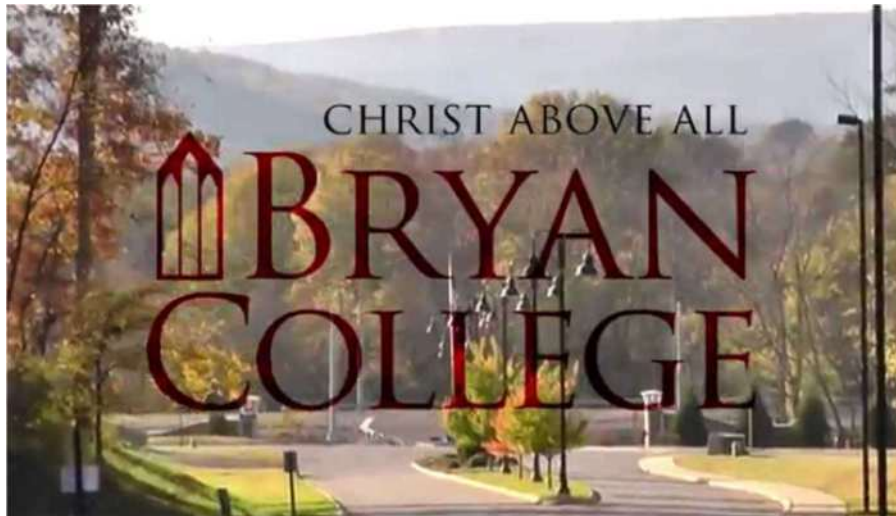
Bryan College

721 Bryan Dr, Dayton, TN 37321



Colossians 3:16

*Let the message of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*



Saturday, June 27, 2026

## *Gratitude for Creation*

*Romans 1:20*

*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen...*

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Noon        | Registration begins<br>Latimer Student Center – Dining Hall   |
| 5:15-6:15pm | Dinner<br>Latimer Student Center – Dining Hall  |
| 6:30 pm     | Worship and Welcome<br>Jarrett Skorup, Conference Chairperson<br>Laura Cannon, Venue Coordinator<br>Welcome to Newcomers – Alexis Schopf<br>Gratitude for Creation - Jarrett Skorup |
| 7:45 pm     | Fellowship and Ice Cream  |

Sunday, June 28, 2026

## *Gratitude for Forgiveness and Salvation*

*Jonah 2:9*

*But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed, I will make good. I will say Salvation comes from the Lord.*

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00-8:45 am  | Breakfast  |
| 9:00 am       | Worship<br>Testimony: Lora Lee Gelles  |
| 9:30 am       | Keynote Message: David Elliott   |
| 10:15 am      | Break  |
| 10:30 am      | Echoes of Gratitude  |
| 12:00-1:00 pm | Lunch  |
|               |  Fellowship, Rest, Recreation                    |
| 5:15-6:15 pm  | Dinner   |
| 6:30 pm       | Worship Service  |
| 6:50 pm       | Evening Message and Panel Sharing Testimonies<br>Message: Brenton Clark<br>Panel: Amanda Adkisson<br>Joe Johnson<br>Tim Schopf<br>Andrew Panella<br>Megan Panella<br>Introduction of Baptismal Counselors: Joe Johnson |
| 7:45          | Vespers  |
| 8:00 pm       | Fellowship and Ice Cream   |

Monday, June 29, 2026

## *Gratitude for His Provisions Physical and Spiritual*

*Philippians 4:19*

*And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.*



|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00-8:45 am  | Breakfast  |
| 9:00 am       | Worship Service<br>Testimonies: Karen LePitre<br>Gavyn Castillo  |
| 9:30 am       | Morning Message: Larry Urbaniak  |
| 10:00 am      | Break  |
| 10:15-11:45am | Interest Groups  |
| 12:00-1:00 pm | Lunch  |
|               |  Fellowship, Rest, Recreation  |
| 5:15-6:15 pm  | Dinner   |
| 6:30 pm       | Worship Service<br>Testimony: Barbara Bechtel  |
| 7:00 pm       | Evening Message: Jeff Cannon   |
| 7:45 pm       | Vespers  |
| 8:00 pm       | Fellowship and Ice Cream   |

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

## *Gratitude for His Guidance and Direction*

*Psalm 32:8*

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 8:00-8:45 am  | Breakfast  |
| 9:00 am   | Worship Service  |
| 9:15 am   | Morning Messages: Joe Johnson<br>Dane Skorup   |
| 10:00 am  | Break  |
| 10:15-11:45 am  | Interest Groups  |
| 11:45   | Conference Photo   |
| 12:00-1:00 pm   | Lunch  |
|  | Fellowship, Rest, Recreation  |
| 5:15-6:15 pm  | Dinner   |
| 6:30 pm   | Worship Service<br>Testimony: Steven Battaglia   |
| 7:00 pm   | Evening Message: Timothy Schopf  |
| 7:45 pm   | Vespers  |
| 8:00 pm   | Fellowship and Ice Cream   |

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

## *Gratitude for Comfort*

### *II Corinthians 1:3-4*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 8:00-8:45 am  | Breakfast  |
| 9:00 – 10:20 am   | Interest Groups  |
| 10:20 am  | Break  |
| 10:30-11:50 am  | Interest Groups  |
| 12:00-1:00 pm   | Lunch  |
| 1:15 pm   | Conference Business Meeting  |
|  | Fellowship, Rest, Recreation  |
| 5:15-6:15 pm  | Dinner   |
| 6:30 pm   | Worship Service<br>Testimony: Joyce Urbaniak   |
| 7:00 pm   | Evening Message: Randy Talarek   |
| 7:45 pm   | Vespers  |
| 8:00 pm   | Fellowship and Ice Cream   |

Thursday, July 2, 2026

## *Gratitude for the Family of God*

*II Thessalonians 1:3*

*We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.*



|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8:00-8:45 am   | Breakfast   |
| 9:00 am        | Worship Service   |
| 9:15 am        | Morning Message: Brent Skorup   |
| 10:00 am       | Break   |
| 10:15-11:45 am | Interest Groups   |
| 12:00-1:00 pm  | Lunch   |
|                |  Fellowship, Rest, Recreation  |
| 5:15-6:15 pm   | Dinner  |
| 6:30 pm        | Worship Service<br>Testimony: Alexis Schopf   |
| 7:00 pm        | Evening Message: Steve Skorup   |
| 7:30 pm        | Baptism Service: Joe Johnson  |
| 8:00 pm        | Fellowship and Ice Cream  |

Friday, July 3, 2026

## *Gratitude for God's Eternal Kingdom*

*John 14: 2-4*

*My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."*

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00-8:45 am  | Breakfast  |
| 9:00 am       | Nursery, Vacation Bible School, and Youth Presentations  |
| 10:00 am      | Break  |
| 10:15 am      | Reflections followed by Communion Service: David Schopf  |
| 12:00-1:00 pm | Lunch  |
|               |  Fellowship, Rest, Recreation  |
| 5:15-6:15 pm  | Dinner   |
| 6:30 pm       | Worship Service  |
| 7:00 pm       | Closing Message: Peter Celauro   |
| 7:45 pm       | The Lord's Prayer  |
| 8:00 pm       | Fellowship and Ice Cream   |

Saturday, July 4, 2026

8:00-9:00 am Breakfast

# *Interest Groups*

*Monday 10:15 - 11:45 am*

**Henry Gmiterek**

**Daniel, the Old Testament Prophets, and Revelation**

How the book of Daniel and some of the other Old Testament prophets help us to better understand the book of Revelation.

**Dawn Kersula**

**God is the Ruler Yet**

We've all heard the trite saying, "Tough times don't last - tough people do." We'll take a practical and tough look at the faith we find in the Book of Ruth, from standing fast in our faith to turning back to God's arms on the days that feel uncertain.

**Andrew and Megan Panella**

**Discerning God's Will**

This interest group is focused on how to navigate Biblical decisions and relationships.

**Clint Oftedahl**

**Order of Operations**

As people designed by God, we all have an order of operations for our lives to glorify Him. Are we losing sight of that? What do we do when our own operations get out of order?



## *Interest Groups*

*Tuesday 10:15 – 11:45 am*

**Alex Alen**

### **Gratitude**

Gratitude is the antidote to envy. We will discuss how to avoid the deadliest of sins among family, friends, and co-workers. James 3: 16 says “For where you have **envy** and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

**Tracie Elliott**

### **Are you Afraid of the Light?**

In this study we will take a deep dive into 1st John, chapter 1. We will look at the lies that keep us lurking in the darkness of sin and unrepentance, and how true fellowship with God and with others is only possible by bringing all of ourselves into the light. Walking in the light is a huge risk, and it’s totally worth it.

**Kerry Skorup**

### **Every Good Endeavor**

Based on the book by Timothy Keller, this workshop invites you to rethink what work is really for. We'll explore how your everyday efforts can reflect God’s character, serve others, and contribute to His greater story.

# *Interest Groups*

## *Wednesday Session 1, 9:00 – 10:20 am*

### **Tim Schopf**

#### **A Bible Study on the Book of Hebrews – Part 1**

This interest group is a two-day study on the book of Hebrews. Part 2 will be on Thursday at 10:15 a.m.

### **Tim and Deb Panella (will repeat in Session 2)**

#### **A Healthy Lifestyle**

What does the Bible say about a healthy lifestyle? What does modern science say about a healthy life style? This interest group is presented from the perspective of both Tim, who is an Oncologist, and his wife Deb, a cancer survivor.

We will be discussing three principles of a healthy lifestyle to include attaining, then maintaining ideal body weight (with or without GLP1/GIP mimetics), exercise type and frequency, and type of foods we should eat. We will discuss how these recommendations are supported by the Bible.

### **Nita and Brook Oftedahl**

#### **I Choose Jesus...But with How Much Passion?**

*So whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* 1st Corinthians 10:31

We are all called to be passionate for Him. We are all created by God with our own unique passions to be used for His work. Are you in a low energy slump, too busy, too committed to other things, too old, too young, don't know if you have any passions?

# *Interest Groups*

## *Wednesday Session 2, 10:30-11:50 am*

### **Larry Urbaniak**

#### **A Thorn in the Flesh**

What exactly was Paul's "thorn in the flesh"? (You might be surprised!) Why wasn't his prayer request answered? How come Paul (who was a healer) couldn't heal himself? How did he deal with it? Do you have a "thorn in the flesh"? What is the lesson we should learn from Paul's thorn?

### **Tim and Deb Panella (repeat of Session 1)**

#### **A Healthy Lifestyle**

What does the Bible say about a healthy lifestyle? What does modern science say about a healthy life style? This interest group is presented from the perspective of both Tim, who is an Oncologist, and his wife Deb, a cancer survivor.

For this interest group we will be discussing three principles of a healthy lifestyle to include attaining, then maintaining ideal body weight (with or without GLP1/GIP mimetics), exercise type and frequency, and type of foods we should eat. We will discuss how these recommendations are supported by the Bible.

### **Alexis Schopf**

#### **Anxious for Nothing**

Stress has become a part of daily life. We worry about our jobs, our relationships, our families, and everything in between. And while there's no lack of remedies for anxiety-from psychology to medication-no solution seems to offer true peace of mind. With so much going on in our lives, is it even possible for us to live worry free? Join me as we dive into John MacArthur's book, *Anxious for Nothing*, and discuss a biblical approach to handling and conquering our anxiety.

## *Interest Groups*

*Thursday 10:15 – 11:45 am*

**Kevin Edwards**

### **God's Promises to Israel and the Church**

Does the Church replace or supersede Israel in Scripture? How is ancient Israel related to modern Israel? What is Zionism? We will study God's promises to Israel in the Old Testament, their relation to Israel and the Church in the New Testament, and discuss their relevance to modern Israel and recent events.

**Tim Schopf**

### **A Bible Study on the Book of Hebrews – Part 2**

This interest group concludes a two-day study on the book of Hebrews.

**Lynnette Larson**

### **Personalizing your Daily Devotions**

Do you spend time with God every day? Good for you! Do you spend time in thanksgiving? In praise? In intercession? In petition? In repentance? In meditation and listening? Do you pray all the types of prayer that growing, developing Christians need to do to deepen their relationship with God? Join me as I walk you through assembling a collection of prayers, readings, Bible passages, songs, poems, psalms, lists, and more, chosen and customized by you, that have more meaning and impact on your daily life as you live to please the Lord. Bring your tablet or phone if you prefer using an electronic device over paper and pencil, like me. I will have notebooks, also.

**Jarrett and Karen Skorup**

### **Hospitality in Hearts and Homes**

God made us to be in community with others, but that can be easier said than done. What steps can we take to build connections with others?

# *Children and Youth Programs – Morning Programs*

## *Note to Parents*

***The ages listed below for each class are guides.*** Parents, you can decide which program is most appropriate for your children. If you feel that your child would benefit more from a higher or lower age class, please feel free to talk to the different directors.

## *Nursery*

**Director: Laurel Clark**

From Sunday through Friday, nursery care is provided during the morning and evening services for infants and toddlers through age two.

## *Vacation Bible School*

**Director: Autumn Battaglia**

VBS runs Sunday – Friday morning for children ages three years to students entering the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The VBS program will track along with the conference theme. This year we are beginning a class specifically for three and four-year old children which will allow this age group to move at a pace that's a little more relaxed and tailored to their developmental stage.

Children will learn rich Gospel truths through psalms and songs from the Spirit so the message of Christ will richly dwell in the youngest attendees. They will leave the conference with a deeper love for God, His people, and with songs of gratitude in their hearts! As always, crafts, snacks, and raucous recreational fun will be included.

## *Middle School*

**Directors: Peter and Elizabeth Celauro**

The Middle School group is for children entering into 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

How do we know God's Word is true? Join us for an exciting week of digging into the foundations of our faith. We'll learn how to think critically, ask honest questions, and discover compelling reasons we can trust the Bible. We'll tackle topics like the evidence for Scripture, the reliability of the Gospel accounts, and how faith and reason work together. You'll leave this fascinating week feeling more prepared to answer the questions posed by a skeptical modern world.

# *Children and Youth Programs – Morning Programs (continued)*

## *Senior High Program*

**Director: David Elliott**

The senior high program is for youth going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade through seniors who graduated in 2026. Our high school students will level up their week at the Berean Christian Conference. The theme for the teen group is centered on ***Win the Day***. They'll discover how small, daily habits can lead to big, God-honoring wins—right where you are. Come connect, grow, and learn how to make every day count!

Sunday - Flip the Script

Monday - Kiss the Wave

Tuesday - Eat the Frog

Wednesday - Fly the Kite and Cut the Rope

Thursday - Wind the Clock

Friday - Seed the Clouds

## *Children's Evening Activities*

**Directors: Andrea & Brandon Marcellis**

Children's evening activities will be provided for all children who attend VBS in the morning. Children will be dismissed from the evening Worship service before the testimony and will remain in Children's Evening Activities until the conclusion of Vespers. (NOTE: *This activity is for VBS children only.* Middle School and High School groups are to remain in the sermon in the evening).

## *Adult Afternoon Bible Studies*

John Sundman will lead an optional afternoon Bible study on the Psalms on Sunday – Tuesday and Thursday – Friday, 4:00 pm. The study will be located in the college library.

## *2025 Conference Directors*

|                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Accommodations                | Laura Cannon and Melissa Cannon |
| Activities Coordinator        | Karen Skorup                    |
| Adult Program Director        | Brenton Clark                   |
| Afternoon Café Director       | Barbara Bechtel                 |
| Background Administrator      | Brent Skorup                    |
| Baptismal Counselor           | Joe Johnson                     |
| Children's Evening Activities | Andrea & Brandon Marcellis      |
| Committee Chairperson         | Jamie Klein                     |
| Conference Chairperson        | Jarrett Skorup                  |
| Ice Cream Coordinator         | Kelly Reif                      |
| High School Program           | David Elliott                   |
| Middle School Program         | Peter and Elizabeth Celauro     |
| Music Directors               | Jamie Klein and Amanda Adkisson |
| Nursery                       | Laurel Clark                    |
| Outreach                      | Alexis Schopf                   |
| Program Secretary             | Randy Talarek, Melissa Cannon   |
| Publicity                     | Kathie Raymond                  |
| Records Secretary             | Kerry Skorup                    |
| Technology Coordinator        | Kevin Edwards                   |
| Transportation – On Campus    | Karen LePitre                   |
| Treasurer                     | Giovanna Johnson                |
| Vacation Bible School         | Autumn Battaglia                |
| VBS Evening Activities        | Andrea & Brandon Marcellis      |
| Venue Coordinator             | Laura Cannon                    |
| Vespers                       | Dawn Sundman                    |

## *Berean Christian Conference Committee*

### Term Expiring:

2026: Melissa Cannon, Jamie Klein, April Skorup

2027: Giovanna Johnson, Kathie Raymond, Jarrett Skorup

2028: Randy Talarek, Brenton Clark, Kerry Skorup

# *General Notes*

**Location:** Bryan College 721 Bryan Dr, Dayton, TN 37321

**Registration:** Latimer Student Center – Dining Hall

**Campus Security:** Details will be on the information sheet in your welcome bag

**Meals:** Latimer Student Center - Dining Hall

**Morning and Evening Services:** Rudd Auditorium

**VBS:** Lower floor of Rudd Auditorium

**Nursery:** Lower floor of Rudd Auditorium

**Middle School Group:** Mercer Hall (room number TBD)

**Senior High School Group:** Mercer Hall (room number TBD)

**Interest Groups:** Mercer Hall (room numbers TBD)

**Ice Cream Social:** Latimer Student Center - Dining Hall

**Camp Blessing Table:** Latimer Student Center - Dining Hall

**Afternoon Café:** Latimer Student Center

**Linens and Towels:** The bed linen package includes a pillow, pillowcase, blanket, and sheets, **but no towels**. [You must bring your own towels, even if ordering a linen package.] Packages must be ordered on the registration form, **two weeks** before the conference.

**Traveling by Air:** If you need transportation to and from the conference or help with travel arrangements, please contact Melissa Cannon (mkcannon2010@gmail.com).

**Emergency:** Rhea Medical Center, 9400 Rhea County Hwy., Dayton, TN 37321