



Rooted in Faith! October 2026

The story continues!!

Message from the Pastor

The Story Continues!!

From Giants to Kings: Where We've Been and Where We're Headed

Don't forget God. Don't stop seeking God. Don't leave God; He has never left you.



Looking Back at September

September marked the halfway point of our journey through *The Story*, and every chapter kept circling back to the same truth: remembering who God is and what He's done isn't optional. It's the guardrail that keeps us from slowly replacing Him with whatever feels familiar.

We watched Israel demand a king, not because God had failed them, but because they wanted to look like everyone else. We saw Saul settle for partial obedience and call it close enough. And we cheered as David faced down Goliath with nothing but a sling and complete trust in God, only to watch him, in a season of success, build a giant of his own that nearly cost him everything.

Together we've been learning how to defeat the Goliaths in our lives, and just as importantly, how to keep from building new ones in their place.

Heading Into October

This month, we pick up the story with David's son and watch what happens to a kingdom when its leaders forget, stop seeking, and walk away from God. Our three themes carry right through.

1. Don't Forget God. Solomon started strong. Given the chance to ask God for anything, he asked for wisdom, and God gave it in abundance, along with wealth, peace, and the honor of building the Temple in Jerusalem. He truly had it all. But over time, Solomon let his heart drift toward the gods

of the people around him. He didn't fall in a day; he forgot a little at a time. Even the wisest man who ever lived wasn't immune to building a Goliath out of his own blessings.

2. Don't Stop Seeking God. After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam had a choice: listen to wise counsel or do things his own way. He chose the harsh path, and the kingdom tore in two. The northern tribes followed Jeroboam, who quickly set up his own places of worship so the people wouldn't need to go to Jerusalem. It was easier, closer, and more familiar, and it led a nation away from God. When we stop seeking Him, we don't stop seeking altogether; we just start chasing substitutes.

3. Don't Leave God. He Has Not Left You. As king after king led the people deeper into idolatry, God didn't walk away. He kept sending messengers. Elijah stood on Mount Carmel and showed a wandering nation that the Lord alone is God. Even as the northern kingdom spiraled toward its end, God kept calling His people home. That's the heart of this month: no matter how far we drift, He is still pursuing us.

You Belong Here

No experience is necessary. Whether you've never opened a Bible or you've studied it for years, this is a great time to jump in as we head into the back half of *The Story*.

Since starting our new service times on July 5, we've continued to be intentional about removing barriers so people can find their way to Christ and to a church home at McKendree. We truly believe in come as you are. Some people wear suits; some wear jeans and a T-shirt. Some women wear dresses; some wear jeans. God doesn't care what you wear. He cares that you're there.

We'd love to see you on Sunday!

New Service Times:

10:00–10:30 AM — Sunday School

10:35–11:30 AM — Worship Service

Following Worship — Fellowship Time

Join Us for Sunday School — 10:00 AM, Right Before Worship!

The Story, a 31-week journey through the entire narrative of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. And Sunday School is where it all starts each week, right before our worship service!



We currently offer three classes:

- **Elementary-Aged Class**
- **Middle and High School-Aged Class**
- **Adult Class**

Each week will focus on a distinct chapter of God's story, woven together using the major themes and scriptures of the Bible to help us see the bigger picture of who God is and what He has been doing since the beginning of time.

Jump In Anytime

Here's the best part: you don't have to start at week one! Because each week stands on its own as a unique focus, this series is perfect for jumping in anytime, whenever you're able. Whether you're looking to start coming to church for the first time, getting back into the habit after time away, or wanting to dive deeper into a faith you've walked for years, there is a place for you in this series. The Story is great for all levels of experience, from those brand new to the Bible to those who have read it cover to cover. We'll be exploring it together in Sunday School and Worship, and we encourage you to keep digging into it at home as well.

Come join us as we continue to go through The Story! We can't wait to walk through this story together, and we'd love for you to join us, whatever week you're able to start!

What's Happening in October!

McKendree Happenings — October 2026

Cans for Communion On the first Sunday of each month, bring non-perishable food items to donate to Cornerstone Food Pantry.

Art Class Every Tuesday, 1:00–3:00 PM

Admin Council after Church on October 18th

Choir Practice Thursdays at 4:00 PM

Sunday School 10 AM on Sunday Mornings

Blood Drive @ McKendree October 24th 9-2PM.

Church Annual Meeting November 22nd

Sunday School

Our three Sunday School classes continue throughout October, meeting from 10:00–10:30 AM, ahead of our 10:35 AM service. Attendance has been wonderful this summer — thank you for making Sunday School a priority even during the busy season!

McKendree hosted Linked on a Mission in August!

Linked on a Mission!

On August 15th, over 100 youth from neighboring churches came together for one powerful truth: it didn't matter WHERE we worshiped, all that mattered was WHOM we worshiped!

We were honored to host this year at McKendree! This event had been going strong for 5 years, rotating between churches across KW, and we had the joy of hosting again before it was set to move on to another church for a



couple of years. If your church hasn't been part of this before but you'd love to join in, please reach out. We'd love to link arms with you!

We worshiped together, ate and had fellowship together, joined in prayer, and served in the community. Hands in the dirt. Bags packed, clothes folded. Boxes carried. Conversations started with people we'd never met before.

On Sunday, we preached on what it means to be part of a chain, and how each link is critical. God intended us to be in community, stronger together.

Think for a second about everything that had to happen for that one morning to work. Someone organized it weeks in advance. Someone opened their doors and trusted us on their property. Someone was in the kitchen before sunrise. Someone ran the cables and led worship. Someone was praying over it all, covering people they hadn't even met yet. And then people actually showed up and served.

Every one of those was a link. And here's the truth about a chain: it didn't matter how strong 99 links were. If one broke, the whole thing would fail. No organizer, no event. No hosts, nowhere to serve. No cooks, no strength for the work. No prayer, no covering. No volunteers, no hands to do the serving.

That wasn't a flaw in how we do mission. That was the design. God never intended one person to carry it all. He links us together on purpose, so the mission depends on the whole body, not a single hero.

This generation had me SO excited for God's kingdom. Churches coming together as one family, one body, one mission. We were stronger together. Linked on a Mission!

We were so grateful for everyone involved, but especially our planning team, who truly showed the power of community!

Want your church to be part of the next rotation? Send us a message, we'd love to connect!

[#LinkedOnAMission](#) [#StrongerTogether](#)





Come and join the Choir! All levels welcome!

Practices in September will be held Thursdays at 4:00 PM - Please reach out to Lynn Barbour with any questions!

McKendree Church Preschool is off and running in year #2!



Back to School Items- Great time to buy some McKendree Gear!
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McKendree Methodist Church

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