

march 13&14 2026

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
BROKEN ARROW 

# heart of the child™

SPUR ONE  
ANOTHER ON  
TOWARD LOVE  
AND GOOD  
DEEDS.

Feb. 10:23-24

PRESCHOOL, CHILDREN'S, & FAMILY MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



# SPONSORS



## Jamie Brown

Missouri Baptist  
mobaptist.org  
f Missouri Baptist Convention



## Karen Kennemur

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention  
sbtexas.com/children  
f SBTC Children's Ministry



## Miranda Collins

Church Forward  
kncsb.org  
f Church Forward



## Emily Smith

Arkansas Baptists  
absc.org  
f Arkansas Kids Ministry Network



## Sarah Hagar

Oklahoma Baptists  
Oklahomabaptists.org  
f Oklahoma Baptist Childhood Ministry  
@okbaptistchildhood



## Delanee Williams

Lifeway.com/kids  
f Lifeway Christian Resources  
@lifewaykids



# WELCOME

## Welcome to the 2026 Heart of the Child Conference!

We believe we are best able to spur one another on toward love and good deeds when we are together in purpose and presence. Here we hope you will not only receive great content but forge lasting connections with fellow laborers in gospel ministry. Our team is praying that you will leave here encouraged and equipped to hold unwaveringly to this hope that we profess.

—Heart of the Child Planning Team

# HEART OF THE CHILD

LET US HOLD  
UNSWERVINGLY  
TO THE HOPE WE  
PROFESS, FOR HE  
WHO PROMISED IS  
FAITHFUL,  
AND LET US CONSIDER  
HOW WE MAY SPUR  
ONE ANOTHER  
ON TOWARD LOVE  
AND GOOD DEEDS.

Heb. 10:23-24

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Preschool, Children, Preteen, Disability Ministry, Family, Leadership	
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Exhibitors</b>	<b>22</b>



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# SCHEDULE

## Friday, March 13

- 8:30-9:00 am Pre-Conference Check-in
- 9:00-10:00 am Pre-Conference Session 1
- 10:15-11:15 am Pre-Conference Session 2
- 11:15 am Lunch on your own
- 12:00 pm HOC Registration/Lifeway Store Open
- 1:00-2:15 pm General Session 1
- 2:30-3:20 pm Breakout 1
- 3:30-4:00 pm Snack/Network Break/Lifeway Store Open
- 4:10-5:00 pm Breakout 2
- 5:15-6:30 pm General Session 2

## Saturday, March 14

- 7:30 am Family Ministry Breakfast
- 9:00-10:15 General Session
- 10:30-11:20 Breakout 1
- 11:20 am-12:00 Lunch (provided)/Lifeway Store Open
- 12:15-1:15 pm Mega Breakout Sessions
- 1:30-2:20 pm Breakout Session 2/Lifeway Store Closes
- 2:30 pm Dismiss

## TRACK YOUR SCHEDULE

### Friday, March 13

Pre-Conference Session 1	Room
Pre-Conference Session 2	Room
Breakout 1: 2:30 pm	Room
Breakout 2: 4:10 pm	Room

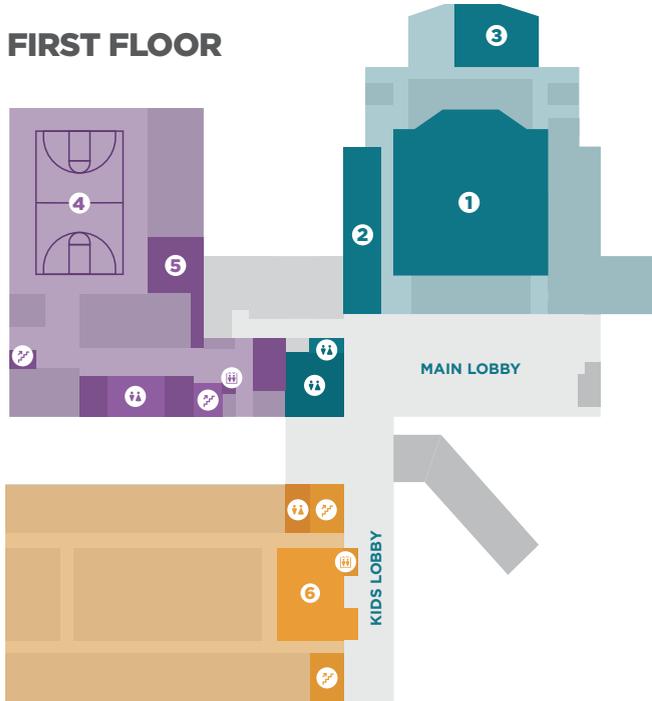
### Saturday, March 14

Breakout 1: 10:30 am	Room
Mega Breakout Session: 12:15	Room
Breakout 2: 1:30 pm	Room

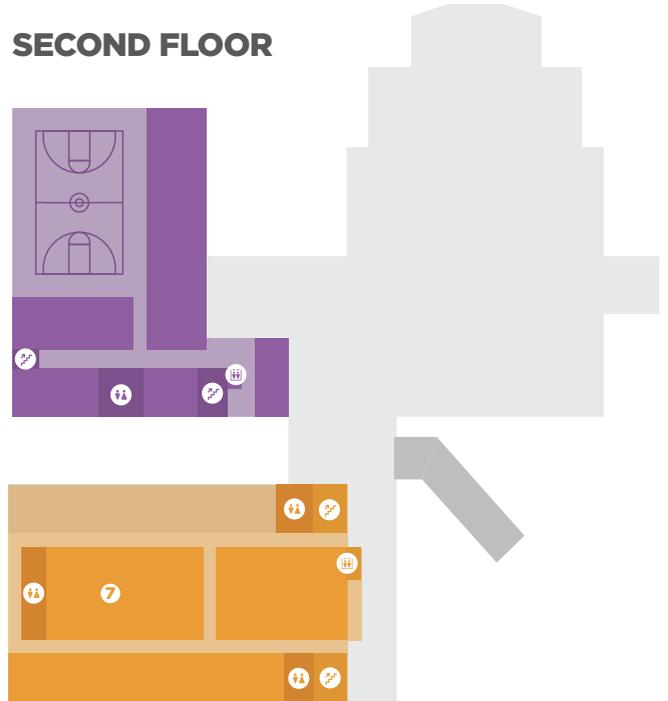


# MAP

## FIRST FLOOR



## SECOND FLOOR



## MAP LEGEND

### Worship Center

- 1 Worship Center
- 2 WC Classrooms
- 3 Choir Room

### Kids Building

- Classrooms  
204 - 215 on 2nd Floor
- 6 ACC
- 7 Kids Theater

### Gym

Classrooms  
101 - 105 on 1st Floor  
201 - 216 on 2nd Floor

- 4 Gym
- 5 Legacy Room

- Restrooms
- Stairs
- Elevators

## STUDENT CENTER

Just west of the main building.



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
B R O K E N   A R R O W



# Family

## ministry breakfast



TICKETS  
REQUIRED

**Saturday • 7:30 am • Student Center**



**Jessica Peck**

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner  
& Professor at Baylor University

### **Emotional Emergencies: Mental Health First Aid in Children's Ministry**

Children today are facing increasing mental health challenges, and ministry leaders are often the first to notice when something isn't right. In this practical, faith-informed session, you'll learn how to recognize signs of emotional distress, respond with confidence and compassion, and offer hope rooted in both clinical connections and biblical truth. Equip yourself to be a safe, supportive presence for kids and families struggling with anxiety, trauma, depression, and other mental health needs.

[sbtexas.com/family](https://sbtexas.com/family)

# THANKS

**The planning team would like to thank those listed for their help with the 2026 Heart of the Child Conference.**

**First Baptist Broken Arrow, Oklahoma**

**Genea Pine, First Baptist Church Broken Arrow, Oklahoma**

**Jessica Grey, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention**

**Lexie Hood, New Beginnings Baptist Church, Longview, Texas**

**Lauren West, Oklahoma Baptists**

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# MAIN STAGE

## **Todd Fisher, PhD**

Dr. Todd Fisher serves as the executive director-treasurer for Oklahoma Baptists. He has pastored at churches across Oklahoma and has been involved in the Southern Baptist Convention on the association, state, and national levels. He has served as assistant professor for Christian preaching at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), adjunct professor for Oklahoma Baptist University, and adjunct professor for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Fisher is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and SBTS.



## **Danielle Bell**

Danielle has over 26 years of KidMin experience discipling and shepherding children and families with the message of Jesus Christ. Danielle is a well-respected leader and trainer in the area of children's ministry and has spoken regionally at local churches and nationally at children's ministry conferences. She has written for The Gospel Project Kids and Awana Brite curriculum. She has also written the leader and student guides for God's Brave Girl and The Gospel God's Plan for Me (Lifeway), and the younger KidMin chapter for Children's Ministry Volunteer Handbook (Outreach). Danielle is the lead instructor for the Children's Ministry Certificate at beadisciple.com. Danielle serves full-time as the minister to children at Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and blogs about ministry and life at dandibell.com.



## **Dr. Nurse Mama (Jessica Peck), DNP, APRN**

Dr. Jessica Peck, a pediatric nurse practitioner with over 20 years of experience, is dedicated to helping families raise holistically healthy, resilient children by guiding parents through difficult moments with grace and hope. A native Texan and clinical professor at Baylor University, she is an internationally recognized nursing leader and former president of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. Passionate about child advocacy and anti-trafficking, she empowers families to support children's physical, mental, emotional, relational, and spiritual well-being. Dr. Peck is also a widely published author, media contributor, and sought-after speaker.



# NEW2MINISTRY

**9-12:30 (lunch included)**  
**Friday (during the Pre-Conference)**

## **Lifeway Kids Team**

A one-day intensive for brand new preschool and kids ministers who've been in their positions two years or less. Lifeway Kids team will share practical information to help you navigate your first years of ministry.





# PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS 1 & 2

**Danielle Bell** ACC

**PARTNERING WITH PARENTS**

Come explore ways to teach truth at home, build bridges from church to home, and offer Christ-centered training for families at church.

**Luke Harding** GYM 211-213

**CREATING A LEADERSHIP PIPELINE**

Your greatest impact on future ministry will be the leaders you help raise up. This breakout will discuss how to identify, develop, and utilize young leaders within your ministry area.

**Shelly Melia** KIDS 204

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: SHEPHERDING KIDS AND PARENTS TO KNOW THE POTENTIAL AND THE PITFALLS**

This session will explore the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on childhood development, learning, spiritual formation, and relationships. Participants will gain greater awareness of AI's influence and leave with practical, actionable suggestions.

**Sandra Peoples** GYM 214-216

**WELCOMING EVERY CHILD: BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE KIDS MIN**

Churches welcome kids with a wide range of needs, including ADHD, autism, learning differences, sensory challenges, and more. This pre-con session will help equip leaders with practical strategies for adapting lessons, managing attention and behavior, and creating a classroom rhythm where every child can learn.

**Lifeway Kids Team** STUDENT CENTER

**NEW2MINISTRY** (Pre-Registration Required)

A one-day intensive for brand-new preschool and kids ministers who have been in their positions for two years or less. The Lifeway Kids team will share practical information to help you navigate your first years of ministry.



# SATURDAY MEGA BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Stephanie Chase** KIDS THEATER

**GIVE KIDS CLARITY IN THE CHAOS**

In a world buzzing with confusion, lies, and half-truths, kids are facing hard topics about identity, marriage, and purity. Now is the time to equip them with solid answers. In this power-packed session, you'll learn how to help kids recognize the truth, overcome the world's mixed messages, and boldly share what they believe and why.

**Dr. Nurse Mama (Jessica Peck)** WORSHIP CENTER

**RISKY BUSINESS: MANAGING EXPOSURE AND PREVENTING HARM**

This session takes a rapid-fire look at today's emerging risks and digital exposures that are contributing to children engaging in risk-taking behaviors at younger ages. Ministry leaders will leave better equipped to support parents with developmentally appropriate strategies, helping position parents as trusted experts in their children's lives. Through the lens of relationship-based "lighthouse parenting," leaders will learn how to set safe boundaries, reduce harm, and foster trust while keeping connection at the heart of protection.

**Shelly Melia, Donna Peavey, Karen Kennemur** ACC

**CHILDREN AND SALVATION PANEL**

Join the panel of childhood education professors as they unpack insights from their newly released book on children and salvation. They will explore how kids understand the gospel, what helps and hinders their response to Jesus, and how churches and parents can faithfully nurture genuine faith without pressure or confusion.

**Chuck Peters** GYM 211-213

**MINISTRY AT THE SPEED OF CULTURE**

Culture is changing fast, and it exerts a strong pull on our kids. In this compelling session, we will discuss the importance of maintaining our focus as we minister to today's kids in a high-speed world.



## preschool

**Debbie Barrett** KIDS 212

### **CLASSROOM CENTERS - WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT?**

Come discover how to set up centers in your classroom and use them effectively.

**Stephanie Chase** KIDS THEATER

### **BIBLE ALIVE! TEACH-PLAY-REMEMBER**

"Bible Alive!" will equip you with creative, practical tools to bring the Bible to life through storytelling, games, songs, visual aids, and interactive activities for preschoolers. Learn how to make lessons fun, memorable, and impactful so kids not only understand Scripture but remember it long after Sunday ends.

**Shelly Melia** KIDS 204

### **BEYOND ALPHA: HERE COME THE BETAS!**

Move over, Generation Alpha, the Beta Generation has arrived. This session will unpack new research about Generation Beta and discuss the importance of understanding the parents of Beta. If you enjoy thinking ahead and learning about new trends, this session is for you.

**Donna Peavey** KIDS 211

### **BEST PRACTICES IN FAITH FORMATION FOR KIDS**

In a rapidly changing world, nurturing the spiritual lives of children requires creativity, intentionality, and a deep understanding of their developmental needs. This session will explore proven strategies and innovative approaches to children's faith formation.

**Kayla Wescoat** KIDS 213

### **YOU'VE ONLY GOT 30 SECONDS**

How can volunteers effectively use the 30 seconds they have with parents at child drop-off and pick-up to equip them to continue faith conversations throughout the week? We must intentionally make the most of the resources we use, the time we have, and the gospel opportunities God gives us each week.



# BREAKOUTS

# session 1

## children

**Caitlin Beauplan** GYM 103

### **LESS IS MORE—BUILDING A MINISTRY CALENDAR**

We live in a fast-paced society. Our kids and families are pulled in a million different directions. Let's talk about the ways that we can maximize our ministry calendars without overwhelming our families with countless events and programming.

**Pam Copeland** GYM 105

### **LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST**

There are many ways of explaining Christ to a child. In this session, we'll consider how to plant gospel seeds thoughtfully—inviting questions and discovery rather than simply supplying answers. We'll also emphasize that leading a child to Christ is more than preparing for baptism; it's about nurturing a growing relationship with Him and a genuine change of heart.

**Lynn Jordan** KIDS 215

### **REVISE, RETHINK, RETOOL: BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITIES**

Come discover ways to create Bible skills games and activities using items you probably already have in leader packs, resource rooms, or your recycle bins.

**Jana Magruder** GYM 205

### **WEARING (AND SHARING) ALL THE HATS OF KIDS MINISTRY**

Children's ministry leaders often find themselves wearing multiple hats—volunteer coordinator, teacher, event planner, tech support, and more. This session explores the multi-faceted nature of the role, helps leaders identify their strengths, and gives practical strategies for managing their weaknesses.

**Brandi Melvin** GYM 101

### **HELP! I'M NEW HERE!**

This session is designed to give tips and tricks to those new to ministry. These tips will help any leader go back to their church on Sunday more confident and more equipped for their role.

**Christy Nance** KIDS 216

### **GAMES AND SCIENCE**

Let's look at spot-on science activities and games that will drive home your lesson, provide application, and reinforce Bible learning.

# BREAKOUTS

## session 1

**Donna Peavey** KIDS 211

### **BEST PRACTICES IN FAITH FORMATION FOR KIDS**

In a rapidly changing world, nurturing the spiritual lives of children requires creativity, intentionality, and a deep understanding of their developmental needs. This session will explore proven strategies and innovative approaches to children's faith formation.

**Carisa Wilsie** GYM 206

### **SEEING BEYOND THEIR BEHAVIOR TO THEIR EXPERIENCES**

This breakout will explore what is happening with our children that results in challenging behaviors at church. By learning about generational poverty, adverse childhood experiences, and childhood trauma, we can better understand the children we serve and respond with greater wisdom, care, and support.

## preteen

**Jeremy Carroll** GYM 203

### **ENGAGING THE UN-ENGAGEABLE PRETEENS**

Preteens are often considered un-engageable and distant—often because of their developmental stage and life transitions. Let's take a deep dive into who preteens are and how best to reach them.

**Ally Freeman** GYM 204

### **PRETEEN ON PURPOSE**

Preteens are in one of the most defining seasons of their spiritual and personal development—and they need ministry that's designed just for them. In this breakout, we'll dive into how to build intentional, purposeful experiences that speak to where preteens are developmentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

**Courtney Ingram** GYM 207

### **PRETEENS, BELONGING & JESUS**

A PB&J sandwich can be made in countless ways, but it remains a classic—nostalgic in part because of its simple, familiar consistency. Preteens are not looking for a club sandwich approach to church; they are seeking basic needs and wants. In this session, we will explore the kind of consistent simplicity preteens expect from their church today.

**Brandi Melvin** GYM 101

### **HELP! I'M NEW HERE!**

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# BREAKOUTS

## session 1

## disability ministry

**Karan Burnette** GYM 210

### **SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDERS IN YOUNG CHILDREN**

This session will introduce how the brain processes information and how sensory experiences shape neural circuitry and neurochemistry, particularly for children with disabilities and those who have experienced adverse childhood events. We will explore practical examples of sensory materials and activities that can help children de-escalate when they are triggered or become dysregulated. Participants will also have the opportunity to view and explore a variety of toys and materials during the session.

**Sandra Peoples** GYM 214-216

### **SUPPORTING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DISABILITY**

Families of kids with disabilities need more than Sunday morning inclusion. They need community, care, and consistent support. In this session, we will discuss how to partner with parents, communicate with compassion, and create systems that help families feel seen, heard, and valued in every season of life. Discover practical ways your ministry can become a trusted source of hope and encouragement for the whole family.

## family

**Taylor Garmon** GYM 208

### **@ THE DINNER TABLE**

This session is designed to equip families to have practical and simple gospel-centered conversations during dinner.

**Martha Harvey** GYM 209

### **WORSHIP IN THE HOME: CREATING A CULTURE OF FAITH BEYOND SUNDAY**

Family worship doesn't have to look like a sermon; it can look like real life. Yet for many families, worship in the home feels out of reach. In this session, we'll explore why family worship matters, why it's often missing, and how ministry leaders can champion it with practical, doable ideas that make faith formation part of everyday life.

**Shelly Melia** KIDS 204

### **BEYOND ALPHA: HERE COME THE BETAS!**

Move over, Generation Alpha, the Beta Generation has arrived. This session will unpack new research about Generation Beta and discuss the importance of understanding the parents of Beta. If you enjoy thinking ahead and learning about new trends, this session is for you.



# BREAKOUTS

## session 1

## leadership

**Billy Hardesty** WC 1-2

### **THE HIDDEN LIFE OF A HEALTHY LEADER**

In this session, you will discover how emotional health, spiritual depth, personal boundaries, and sustainable rhythms protect you from burnout. Whether you are feeling stretched too thin or simply ready to grow, this session will equip you with practical tools and biblical wisdom. Come learn how to cultivate a hidden life that honors God and supports a lifetime of faithful leadership.

**Luke Harding** WC 3-4

### **THE ART OF DELEGATION**

A vast majority of ministry involves delegation. In this breakout, you will learn how to effectively delegate, receive delegation, and why this skill set is so crucial to ministry and influence.

**Jana Magruder** GYM 205

### **WEARING (AND SHARING) ALL THE HATS OF KIDS MINISTRY**

Children's ministry leaders often find themselves wearing multiple hats—volunteer coordinator, teacher, event planner, tech support, and more. This session explores the multi-faceted nature of the role, helps leaders identify their strengths, and gives practical strategies for managing their weaknesses.

**Brandi Melvin** GYM 101

### **HELP! I'M NEW HERE!**

This session is designed to give tips and tricks to those new to ministry. These tips will help any leader go back to their church on Sunday more confident and more equipped for their role.

**Emily Smith** WC 5-6

### **BAND-AIDS@, BOO-BOOS, & SAFETY AIDS!**

Kids like to wiggle, giggle, and squirm, and with this come boo-boos. Let's explore safety aids inside and outside the classroom so they can wiggle, giggle, and squirm in a kid-safe environment.



# BREAKOUTS

## session 2

### preschool

**Debbie Barrett** KIDS 212

#### **GUIDING PRESCHOOL BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM**

Come learn how to set boundaries and guide preschoolers as they explore, learn, and grow in the classroom.

**Caitlin Beauplan** GYM 103

#### **BUILDING FOUNDATIONS THROUGH BABY DEDICATIONS**

Baby dedications are a great way to build a strong foundation and partner with parents as they launch into parenthood. In this session, you'll discover key components you can incorporate into baby dedications—such as parent orientations, programming ideas, resources, and follow-up support—so you can find an approach that fits your church and ministry.

**Ally Freeman** GYM 204

#### **TINY DISCIPLES**

Even the youngest hearts can begin to know and follow Jesus. This breakout focuses on how to teach toddlers about God in ways that are simple, memorable, and developmentally appropriate. You will discover practical strategies for storytelling, worship, and hands-on activities that help little ones connect with God's Word.

**Donna Peavey** KIDS 211

#### **BUILDING SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS THROUGH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRESCHOOLERS**

Preschoolers experience rapid social and emotional growth that shapes how they relate to others, manage feelings, and understand themselves. In this session, ministry leaders will explore key stages of social and emotional development, learn practical strategies to nurture healthy relationships, and discover ways to integrate spiritual truths into everyday interactions.

**Delanee Williams** WC 5-6

#### **THOUGHT IGNITING PRAYER FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

Preschoolers can talk to God. In this session, we'll discuss the importance of prayer; learn how to teach preschoolers to pray, and share practical ideas for using prayer in the classroom with preschoolers.



# BREAKOUTS

## session 2

### children

**Jeremy Carroll** GYM 203

#### **THE POWER OF BELONGING**

Helping kids know they belong isn't just about fun and friendships—it's about opening their hearts to Jesus. In this breakout, we'll explore how a strong sense of belonging builds trust and lays the foundation for faith. You'll walk away with practical tools to make your ministry a place where kids feel at home and encounter the love of Christ.

**Stephanie Chase** KIDS THEATER

#### **HEART CONNECTION: SPARKING A LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS HOUSE**

Kids today crave connection. Learn how to truly connect with kids and create relationships that make kids light up when they walk in the church doors and lean in when God's Word is shared.

**Pam Copeland** GYM 105

#### **THRIVING AND NOT JUST SURVIVING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Join us for an honest conversation on how to ride the waves of highs, lows, and burnout in ministry. Let's talk about strategies to find longevity in ministry as a children's leader and to be encouraged as you serve children and parents.

**Lynn Jordan** KIDS 215

#### **CONNECTING HOW WE TEACH WITH HOW THEY LEARN**

Come be introduced to different learning styles and discover a variety of ways to reach, teach, and guide behaviors specifically appropriate for each child's needs.

**Jana Magruder** GYM 205

#### **SERVING EVERY GENERATION FROM THE KIDS MINISTER SEAT**

From Boomer volunteers to Beta babies, all generations are represented in children's ministry. Learn more about the strategic opportunity for kingdom impact across every generation that can truly align the heart of the church around the mission of the gospel.

**Christy Nance** KIDS 216

#### **MAKE SUNDAY SCHOOL MORE FUN**

Small changes can make a HUGE difference for you and the kids. Add some variety to Sunday morning activities and space with simple steps that add pizzazz to your classroom.



# BREAKOUTS

## session 2

### preteen

**Billy Hardesty** WC 1-2

#### **WHEN KARLA BECOMES KARL: NAVIGATING GENDER CONFUSION IN PRETEEN MINISTRY**

This session is designed to help preteen ministry leaders navigate the growing challenge of gender confusion with biblical clarity and Christlike compassion.

**Courtney Ingram** GYM 207

#### **LAUNCH AND LEAD MISSION-MINDED PRETEENS**

Preteens are not confident in who they are yet, but we can help empower them to do what God has commanded them to go and do. Let's propel preteens to not just do mission projects but to truly live out a missions lifestyle before they even enter the student ministry.

**Kayla Wescoat** KIDS 213

#### **LEADING PRETEENS TO LASTING FAITH**

The preteen years are a pivotal window in a child's faith journey. In this breakout, we'll explore why preteen ministry deserves our full attention and how leaders can guide kids to know Jesus personally, discover their unique gifts, grow in spiritual habits, and join God's mission.

# BREAKOUTS

## session 2

### disability ministry

**Karan Burnette** GYM 210

#### **ENGINEERING THE CLASSROOM WITH VISUAL SUPPORTS TO MAXIMIZE ENGAGEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

This session will introduce visual strategies designed to help all young children participate more fully in learning environments. We will look at practical examples such as visual schedules, task sequences, self-regulation cues, escape communication supports, and emotion cards, and discuss how these tools can be used to promote engagement and understanding for every child.

**Sandra Peoples** GYM 214-216

#### **ENGAGING NEURODIVERSE KIDS IN YOUR MINISTRY**

With the rising number of children who have autism, ADHD, and other neurodiverse diagnoses, churches need to be ready to support their unique needs and engage their interests. This session will share characteristics of neurodiverse kids, explain behavior support strategies, and offer curriculum and activity modifications to keep everyone engaged.

**Carisa Wilsie** GYM 206

#### **HOW TO NAVIGATE AND RESPOND TO THE BIG BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES OF ADOLESCENCE**

This breakout will focus on the science behind brain development and the key to adolescent development of identity formation. The discussion will focus on how to support youth during this time. Participants will learn how to approach conversations with teens about mental health.



# BREAKOUTS

## session 2

### family

**Taylor Garmon** GYM 208

**FAMILY MINISTRY = RELATIONSHIPS**

Come learn how to transform your family ministry from a weekly to-do list to a thriving community.

**Martha Harvey** GYM 209

**BEYOND DROP OFF AND PICKUP: REACHING PARENTS IN TODAY'S BUSY WORLD**

Family ministry isn't just about sending resources home; it's about relationships. Learn how to create thoughtful, effective touchpoints that move your ministry from "drop-off and go" to "discipling together." You'll leave this session with practical strategies, ready-to-use ideas, and digital rhythms that make partnering with parents doable, even in the busiest weeks.

**Carisa Wilsie** GYM 206

**HOW TO NAVIGATE AND RESPOND TO THE BIG BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES OF ADOLESCENCE**

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# BREAKOUTS

## session 2

### leadership

**Danielle Bell** ACC

#### **LEADING WHEN YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE**

In this breakout, we'll explore what it means to lead from the middle, influencing others and advancing your church's mission from a supporting role. We will investigate together how God uses leaders to unify teams; lead up, down, and across; communicate mission; and expand ministry for His glory.

**Luke Harding** WC 3-4

#### **HIRING, FIRING, AND STAFF EVALUATIONS**

This breakout will equip you to lead paid staff positions. Whether you are a pastor, kids minister, weekday preschool director, or a Christian business person, leading paid employees is not easy. This breakout will give you practical skills for leading with clarity, kindness, and Christlikeness, while also maintaining high standards for employment, ministry, and team culture.

**Brandi Melvin** GYM 101

#### **SURVIVING & THRIVING WHEN CHURCH HURT HITS**

Being hurt in ministry can come out of nowhere and leave you feeling done with ministry. This session is designed to encourage, uplift, and help those get back to fulfilling the calling God has placed on the lives of believers.

**Chuck Peters** GYM 211-213

#### **10 ATTRIBUTES OF AN UNSHAKABLE MINISTRY**

The best ministries remain unshaken when unexpected trials arrive (COVID-19, anyone?). We need to be intentional to build our ministries on unshakable ideas that will help them remain strong no matter what circumstances come. This session covers 10 areas to evaluate in your shakability factor to strengthen your ministry.

**Pam Copeland** GYM 105

#### **THRIVING AND NOT JUST SURVIVING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Join us for an honest conversation on how to ride the waves of highs, lows, and burnout in ministry. Let's talk about strategies to find longevity in ministry as a children's leader and to be encouraged as you serve children and parents.

**Jana Magruder** GYM 205

#### **SERVING EVERY GENERATION FROM THE KIDS MINISTER SEAT**

From Boomer volunteers to Beta babies, all generations are represented in children's ministry. Learn more about the strategic opportunity for kingdom impact across every generation that can truly align the heart of the church around the mission of the gospel.

# SPEAKERS

## Debbie Barrett

Debbie has served in kids ministry for over 30 years, the last 27 years at First Baptist Church Inola as children's minister and the last 16 years as the weekday director.



## Caitlin Beauplan

Caitlin is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University where she received her degree in early childhood and elementary education. She spent two years in the public school classroom before moving to Haiti and working as a teacher and field director with Hope Community Project for five years. She has served as the children's ministry director at Concord since March 2023.



## Karan Burnette

Karan serves as executive director of Partners—the University of Arkansas's Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD), an outreach program of the College of Education & Health Professions. After earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education/speech pathology and a master's in speech pathology/audiology from the University of Arkansas, she has spent 40 years in various roles supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



## Jeremy Carroll

Jeremy is the Lifeway Kids Ministry publishing manager for Hyfi, VBS, and Kids Discipleship resources. Before coming to Lifeway, he served in a variety of church staff positions. He currently volunteers in the kids ministry of his church. Jeremy earned a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



## Stephanie Chase

Stephanie is the kids minister at Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston and has served in kids ministry for over 25 years as a teacher, kids



minister, weekday director, trainer, and speaker. She graduated from Texas Tech and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

## Pam Copeland

Pam recently retired as the children's minister at Southcrest Baptist Church in Lubbock, where she served for 35 years. She was called to ministry at the age of 16. Pam also works with the SBTC in leading VBS teams and consulting with churches in Texas.



## Ally Freeman

Ally serves as the kids and family minister at CrossCreek Church in Colleyville, TX. She has over two decades of ministry in churches in Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas, serving on church staff with preschool, elementary, and student ministries, as well as in private school and church weekday learning centers.



## Taylor Garmon

Taylor serves as the Bible drill consultant for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC). Prior to joining the SBTC team, he served on church staffs in Arkansas and Texas.



## Billy Hardesty

Billy has pastored in Arkansas since 2007. He pastored New Liberty Baptist Church in Blytheville, AR, for five years and later shifted his ministry focus to children's ministry, beginning this phase of his ministry at West View Baptist Church in Paragould, AR. During the past seven years, he has served as the preteen pastor and currently serves as the children's pastor at Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas.



## Luke Harding

Luke is lead pastor at First Baptist Church in Clever, MO. Prior to FBC, Luke served as a kids pastor for almost a decade at two previous churches. Luke has also regularly served as camp pastor for CentriKid Camps.



### **Martha Harvey**

Martha has served in ministry for over 17 years in various roles such as worship, youth, adult discipleship, communications, and her favorite—kids and families. She and her husband, Dallas, co-founded their family ministry company, WITH Families, which resources and equips families to bring worship into the home.



### **Courtney Ingram**

Courtney has served in kids ministry for 17 years, the last 14 at Emmaus Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, OK. She is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University.



### **Lynn Jordan**

Lynn recently retired as the children’s ministry coordinator for Capital Baptist Association in Oklahoma City. An Oklahoma University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, she has led children’s conferences for Lifeway Christian Resources and state conventions in Ohio and Oklahoma. Lynn is a writer for Lifeway Christian Resources. Lynn is a Quail Kids Bible Drill leader at Quail Springs Baptist Church.



### **Jana Magruder**

Jana serves as the strategic initiatives director of Lifeway Kids in Nashville. With a background in education, publishing, and ministry, she loves championing the local church to help families disciple kids of all ages.



### **Shelly Melia, PhD**

Shelly serves as the associate dean of the Graduate School of Ministry and professor of childhood education at Dallas Baptist University (DBU). She oversees the Master of Arts in Family Ministry and Master of Arts in Children’s Ministry. Prior to coming to DBU, she served as a children’s minister for over 25 years and is a licensed professional counselor.



### **Brandi Melvin**

Brandi serves as the Children’s Minister at South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, MO. Brandi has a Master of Arts in Christian ministry and has served in the local church for 20 years.



### **Christy Nance**

Christy is the kids worship leader at The Rock Church in St. Louis, MO and serves as the Missouri State Vacation Bible School (VBS) strategist. She has served in many capacities in the church setting, including early education, Christian school, and church administration.



### **Donna Peavey, PhD**

Donna has nearly 40 years of ministry and teaching experience and serves as a professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS). She is also a ministry consultant, writer, and Bible study teacher.



### **Sandra Peoples**

Sandra (PhD candidate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) is the disability ministry consultant for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, an adjunct professor, and the author of *Accessible Church: A Gospel-Centered Vision for Including People with Disabilities and Their Families*.



### **Chuck Peters**

Chuck is the director of Lifeway NextGen, overseeing Lifeway Kids and Lifeway Student publishing. He is the co-author of *Flip The Script: Disrupting Tradition for the Sake of the Next Generation* and host of the ETCH NextGen Ministry podcast.



### **Emily Smith**

Emily serves as the abuse prevention + response consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Emily has served on convention staff with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, church staff in Arkansas, and faith-based organizations in Arkansas and Texas.



### **Kayla Wescoat**

Kayla is the kids minister at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo. She has a heart for seeing parents take on the role of the primary spiritual leader of their family.



### **Delanee Williams**

Delanee Williams serves as a Kids Specialist with Lifeway Christian Resources. She is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Delanee has served in kids ministry for over twenty-five years in churches in Texas, Tennessee, and Wyoming. Delanee is passionate about developing, equipping, and encouraging kids ministry leaders.



### **Carisa Wilsie, PhD**

Carisa is a licensed psychologist and orphan care advocate. She is involved in state efforts to better the lives of children with compromised beginnings in Oklahoma.



# ADVERTISERS



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absc.org  
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swbts.edu  
817-921-8500, Fort Worth, TX 76115

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withfamilies.co

## DEAR MINISTRY LEADERS,

*We want you to know that you are truly seen. Your faithfulness in the small moments—tying shoes, calming tears, repeating Bible stories, praying quietly over a child—matters more than you may ever realize. Week after week, you show up with patience, creativity, and love, planting seeds of faith in hearts that are still learning how to hold big truths. God sees your work, and so do we.*

*You are shaping more than schedules and lesson plans; you are shaping lives. The songs you sing, the words you choose, and the kindness you model are often a child's first picture of who God is. Long before a sermon is understood, your presence teaches them that church is a place of safety, joy, and belonging. Even on days when energy is low or results feel invisible, your investment is making an eternal difference.*

*Thank you for serving with such humility and devotion. Your role may not always be on a stage, but it is at the very heart of the church's mission. Please know that you are deeply valued, deeply appreciated, and never overlooked. What you are doing matters—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.*

**CHURCH  
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KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

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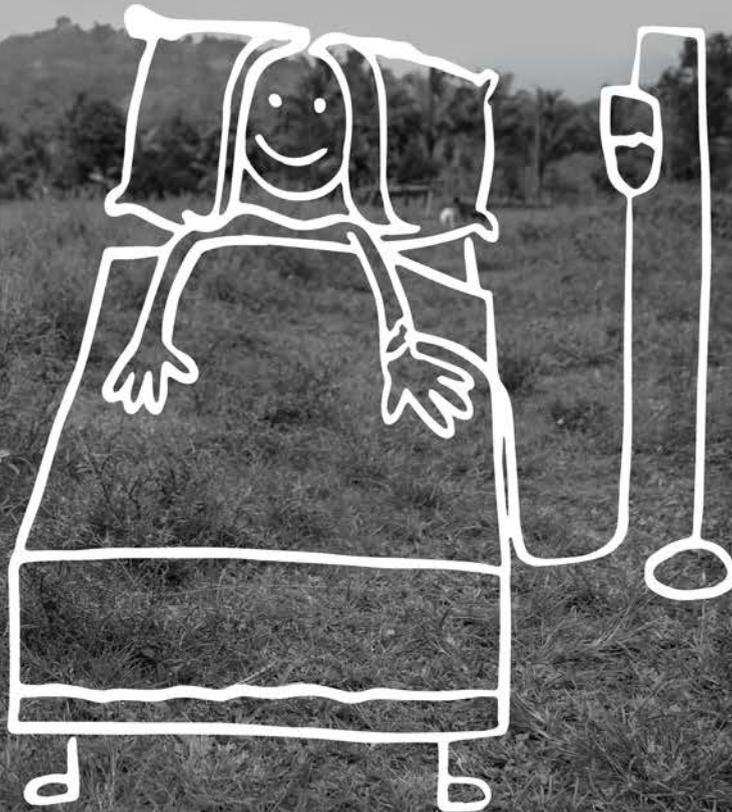
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# Bible Drill

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Bible Drill is a Southern Baptist Convention program involving older children, youth and high school students in systematic memorization and location of certain scriptures. The Speakers Tournament provides opportunities for high school students to write and deliver a four-to-six minute biblical speech on provided topics.

SBC churches are welcome to participate in the regional and state finals competitions provided by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention through Cooperative Program giving.

2026 Green Cycle

**CHILDREN** Grades 4-6

**YOUTH** Grades 7-9

**HIGH SCHOOL** Grades 10-12

**YOUTH SPEAKERS TOURNAMENT** Grades 10-12

**April 10 Regional**

First Baptist Church, Odessa

**April 11 Regional**

North Oaks Baptist Church, Spring

**April 18 Regional**

Cross City Church, Euless

**April 25 Regional**

Flint Baptist Church

**May 2 State Finals**

SWBTS, Forth Worth

[sbtexas.com/bible Drill](http://sbtexas.com/bible Drill)



SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS CONVENTION



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# children's

MINISTRY

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# EQUIP

## conference

**Equipped on Saturday. Effective on Sunday.**

**August 1** CrossCreek Church, Colleyville

**Stop Spinning Your Wheels in Ministry** Are you a ministry or volunteer leader who needs practical, trusted training and resources to effectively lead or disciple others? Join thousands of ministry leaders like you who want to make a lasting impact. Equip is a one-day training event, designed to help maximize your limited time and resources. Transform from being uncertain to a confident ministry leader at Equip 2026.

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A black and white photograph of a family—a man, a woman, and a young child—sitting at a table and eating. The man is on the left, the woman is on the right, and the child is in the center. They are all smiling and looking at each other. The image is semi-transparent, allowing text to be overlaid.

# *Family* MINISTRY LUNCHEON

**September 24** FORT WORTH  
SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

---

Deuteronomy 6 commands parents to teach their children to love and obey God. At this luncheon, we encourage and equip leaders as they teach and train parents how to navigate their Christian homes in our fallen world.

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**Grace Kim**

PhD student, Family and Generational Studies



# disability

## MINISTRY

### SUNDAY

# JULY 12

Making the gospel  
accessible to everyone

Churches of  
**EVERY SIZE**  
can celebrate!

Disability Ministry Sunday is a time to celebrate the gifts that people with disabilities and their families offer our churches when they are included and welcomed into fellowship and have the opportunity for discipleship!

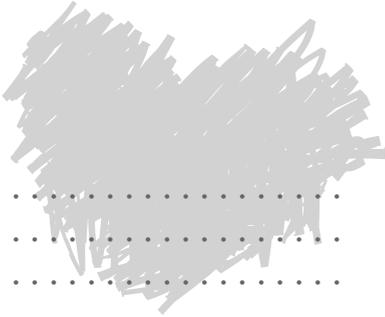
### Here are some ideas:

- Feature a testimony from a special needs family that attends your church
- Have people from your disability ministry serve as greeters, read Scripture, or provide special music
- Find other resources, including a video produced by the SBTC that you can share, at our website.

For more info or to connect, visit [sbtexas.com/disability-ministry](https://sbtexas.com/disability-ministry)

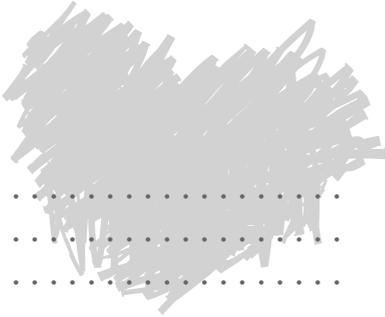


# NOTES



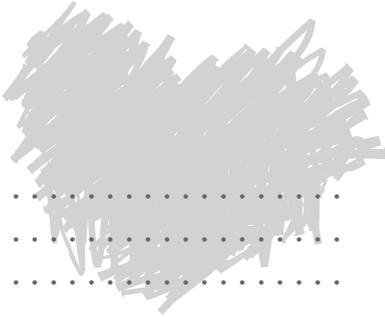
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# NOTES



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# NOTES



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PRESCHOOL, CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

# heart of the child™

THIS IS TO VERIFY



ATTENDED THE 2026 HEART OF THE CHILD CONFERENCE

TOTAL HOURS  
OF STUDY

*Jamie Brown*

**Jamie Brown**  
MISSOURI BAPTIST CONVENTION

*Sarah Hagar*

**Sarah Hagar**  
OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS

*Karen P Kennemur*

**Karen Kennemur**  
SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS CONVENTION

*Emily Smith*

**Emily Smith**  
ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

*Delanee Williams*

**Delanee Williams**  
LIFEWAY KIDS

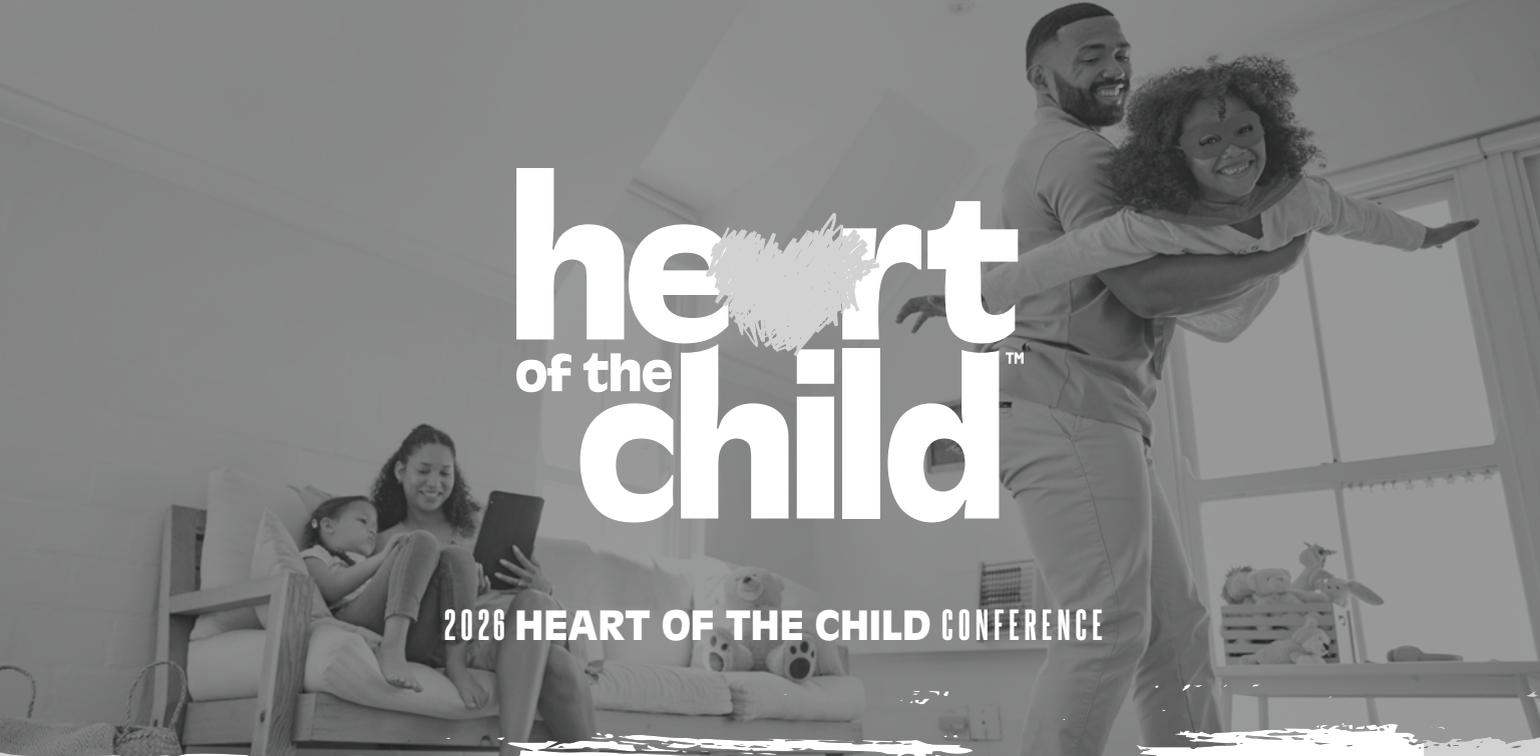
**SPUR ONE ANOTHER  
ON TOWARD LOVE  
AND GOOD DEEDS.**

**Feb. 10:23-24**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
BROKEN ARROW 

**march 13&14**

**2026**



# heart of the child™

2026 HEART OF THE CHILD CONFERENCE

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Pre-Conference Session

---

Speaker

---

Pre-Conference Session

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Speaker

---

General Session

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Speaker

---

General Session

---

Speaker

---

General Session

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Speaker

---

Mega Breakout Session

---

Speaker

---

Breakout Session

---

Speaker

# COMING SOON

## 2028 HEART OF THE CHILD

# heart of the child™

Stay in touch and track the latest details at

[HEARTOFTHECHILD.NET](http://HEARTOFTHECHILD.NET)



LET US HOLD  
UNSWERVINGLY  
TO THE HOPE WE PROFESS,  
FOR HE WHO PROMISED  
IS FAITHFUL. AND LET US  
CONSIDER HOW WE MAY

SPUR ONE ANOTHER  
ON TOWARD LOVE  
AND GOOD DEEDS.

Hebrews 10:23-24

FRIDAY **March 13**

- 8:30-9:00 am Pre-Conference Check-in
- 9:00-10:00 am Pre-Conference Session 1
- 10:15-11:15 am Pre-Conference Session 2
- 11:15 am Lunch on your own
- 12:00 pm HOC Registration/Lifeway Store Open
- 1:00-2:15 pm General Session 1
- 2:30-3:20 pm Breakout 1
- 3:30-4:00 pm Snack/Network Break/Lifeway Store Open
- 4:10-5:00 pm Breakout 2
- 5:15-6:30 pm General Session 2

SATURDAY **March 14**

- 7:30 am Family Ministry Breakfast
- 9:00-10:15 General Session
- 10:30-11:20 Breakout 1
- 11:20 am-12:00 Lunch (provided)/Lifeway Store Open
- 12:15-1:15 pm Mega Breakout Sessions
- 1:30-2:20 pm Breakout Session 2/Lifeway Store Closes
- 2:30 pm Dismiss



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