



THE MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

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God's Building a Church

63 years later, local church still focused on serving Jesus and loving people



A major renovation project underway at East Barbourville Baptist Church will see the construction of a new, larger sanctuary and expanded classroom space to accomodate the growing congregation. PHOTOS BY CHARLES MYRICK



BY CHARLES MYRICK

A thriving Barbourville congregation seeks to make its table bigger to welcome more people inside its doors by constructing a new sanctuary and refurbishing its remaining facility.

Over the past couple of weeks, crews have carefully removed elements of the older portions of East Barbourville Baptist Church. Heavy equipment took the structure to the ground on Friday, leaving only the existing sanctuary. The sanctuary opened for services in 2000, and now, 25 years later, will be repurposed into classroom space and accommodate 12 new classrooms.

A new 510-seat sanctuary will replace the old fellowship hall, classrooms, and offices. The new structure will cover the previous facility's footprint, not including the family life center, which was completed in 2016.

The new sanctuary will feature comfortable, padded, individual stacking chairs already in use in the family life center. A makeshift sanctuary was set up to serve as a meeting place until the new building is ready.

With the sanctuary consistently seeing capacity crowds on Sunday mornings, the necessity for a new meeting place was obvious. What was not so apparent to most was the structural issues that plagued the old facility. So, in conjunction with the need for more space, the congregation had a mission of making the space safe



At top left, a view of the structure before demolition took place. Above, a makeshift sanctuary was set up in the church's family life center next door, which will house the congregation's weekly meetings until the new facility is complete.

At top right, an aerial view of the demolition just a few minutes into the teardown. Above, the existing sanctuary's interior is being stripped to prepare for renovations that will transform it into a new classroom building.

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CVE Rate Hike Proposed

STAFF REPORT

Cumberland Valley Electric customers will see a rate hike. On Monday, the power cooperative posted a public notice on its website and social media outlining the proposed rate adjustments presented in an application filing with the Kentucky Public Service Commission. If approved, the new rates would take effect on April 23, 2025.

An initial examination of the public notice shows a 3.9% increase.

If approved, some of the most substan-

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Trosper Post Office Looking for New Home

STAFF REPORT

A community post office is looking for a new home.

The Trosper, Ky. post office, currently located at 7814 Ky. 225 in the Trosper community of Knox County, will be mailing a postcard to its customers providing information about a public comment period.

"Due to health and safety concerns at the former facility, the Postal Service is now looking for a new retail location within two (2) miles of the former location," the notice states.

Details of what the United States Postal Service is looking for includes: an existing building, approximately 500 square feet with dedicated parking, or land to lease,

approximately 8,500 square feet, in which the Postal Service can bring in a post-al-owned modular building. Such a facility replaced the dilapidated location that served as the former Girdler post office.

"The relocation project will consist of procuring a suitable substitute location, as close as reasonably possible to the existing location," the statement read.

Invitations for comments on the proposal and request may be sent within 45 days from the delivery of the postcard to the customer to the United States Postal Service, Attn: Trosper, KY, Main Post Office Relocation, P.O. Box 27497, Greensboro, NC 27498-1103.

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