



CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE

CLASS OF 2026
GRADUATION
CEREMONY

May 1, 2026

River Oaks Community Church
1220 Brown School Road
Maryville, Tennessee

CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 6PM



GRADUATION PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Graduates

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Elena Nelson

SENIOR TRIBUTE

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Justin Daggett

DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS

Parents of the Graduates

BENEDICTION

Thomas Mendez

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATES

Elena Nelson



Class of 2026

ELIJAH BARNES

EVALEENA CAREY

CARRINGTON DAGGETT

AEDAN GARVIN

JOHN KNAPP

JACOB McCARTHY

THOMAS MENDEZ

GRAYSON SERRANO

CALEB SHINGLETON

Class of 2026

Elijah William Barnes

Elijah, a lifelong homeschool student, has taken several dual enrollment classes with Johnson University and has an impressive 4.0 GPA. He has excelled particularly in math and the sciences, demonstrating both discipline and curiosity in his studies. Outside the classroom, Elijah plays soccer with the Knoxville Ambassadors and has also developed remarkable musical talent, earning superior ratings for three consecutive years from the National Federation of Music Clubs for his piano solo performances.

Known for his uncanny ability to recall obscure facts and share them at the most unexpected times, Elijah brings both intelligence and wit to every conversation. Though his careful driving habits—always at or below the speed limit—sometimes test his father’s patience, they also reflect his steady and thoughtful nature. After graduation, Elijah plans to attend Carson-Newman University, where he will pursue degrees in business and music, continuing to blend his analytical skills with his creative passions.

Evaleena Taylor Carey

Evaleena is graduating with an honors diploma. She has earned straight A’s in 10 dual enrollment classes and is nearly done with her prerequisites for her degree program—all while working multiple jobs, including being a PDO teacher, Program Assistant with Thrive Ministries, and a tutor. To say she has worked diligently is an understatement!

Growing up, Evaleena participated in theater, performing in 12 musicals. Although she was too young for her dream role of Elsa, her favorite role was being Elsa's singing snowflake in Frozen. Her passion has always been music. She has played piano for over 12 years, studied voice for 5, and recently added guitar. She also enjoys music theory and feels called to use her gifts to lead others in worship.

After turning 18, she plans to pursue the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at South College, with a concentration in OB/GYN. Her long-term goal is to serve in a pregnancy resource center.

Class of 2026

Carrington Regina Daggett

Carrington took on a heavy course load this year to achieve her goal of graduating early. She loves swimming and was a City Finalist in multiple events. She was a junior coach and works as a swimming instructor. She also enjoys drawing, playing bass, and shenanigans with friends.

Carrington developed an interest in medicine helping her father in cleft clinic while she was a missionary in Kenya. She has spent the last year beginning her nursing degree and is anticipating completing that degree in 2027. She also plans to continue to expand her swimming instructor business.

Carrington would like to thank her dad for supporting her medical ambitions and for encouraging her faith. She'd like to thank her mom for being her best friend as she's grown up and for shaping her into the young woman she is today. She is eternally grateful and excited to go through this new stage of life with them.

Aedan James Garvin

Aedan has been involved in Cornerstone Cooperative from its inception and especially enjoyed archery club and pottery classes. He loves animals, and his hobbies include skateboarding, fishing, playing guitar and piano, and being the quintessential middle child. He also enjoys traveling and has been on three mission trips to Tanzania, where his family is involved with the ministry of International Evangelism Outreach.

During this school year, Aedan completed private pilot ground school and aced the FAA Private Pilot Airplane knowledge test. Currently he is training to earn his private pilot license and plans to pursue a career as a commercial pilot.

Aedan would like to thank his mom and dad for homeschooling him from the beginning, raising him to know and love Jesus, and not forcing him to go to college. He would also like to thank his grandparents for their love and support. Most importantly, he thanks the Lord for the gift of salvation and for directing his paths as he seeks God's will for his life.

Class of 2026

John Stephen Knapp

John has had a front-row seat at Cornerstone since its very beginning and has enjoyed being part of so many memorable and fun co-op moments. Whether engaging in thoughtful theological discussions, studying chemistry, spinning the pottery wheel, dissecting fish, taking guitar lessons, or making coffee in café class, he has embraced a wide range of experiences with curiosity. In addition to working diligently at his job, he has enjoyed spending time playing football and basketball, fishing, and scouting sports cars, making the most of the opportunities and freedom that come with home education and interest-based learning.

In his final semester, John stepped into a leadership role, heading up the chapel worship team. He faithfully prepared and led with a heart to honor the Lord, demonstrating humility, dedication, and a servant's heart. His humble and steady presence, along with his magnetic smile, brings joy to friends near and far, reflecting kindness, encouragement, and a genuine care for others.

This June, John will embark on his third mission trip as he heads to Brazil. His time serving the Lord in Tanzania and Honduras has ignited a passion for service and a growing faith marked by obedience and trust. Looking ahead with anticipation, he is excited for the Lord to guide and direct his steps in this new season of life.

Jacob Evan McCarthy

Jacob is the son of Evan and Rebecca McCarthy. He has been homeschooled since kindergarten. Jacob is a dedicated and hardworking student. He especially enjoyed being part of the archery club, where he honed his skills and developed a strong sense of focus and discipline.

Outside of school, Jacob enjoys reading, staying active in his youth group, and hanging out with his friends ...(and his cats). This fall, Jacob plans to attend the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) to pursue training in the Pipefitting and Plumbing program.

Jacob is grateful for his family, friends, and mentors who have supported him along the way.

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Thomas William Mendez, Jr.

Tommy has served as the worship leader for the high school youth group throughout his senior year. He has a deep passion for evangelism and a real heart for the lost, always looking for ways to share the Gospel and point people to Jesus. While finishing high school, Tommy has been working hands-on in the electrical field and plans to either start his own electrical business one day or join a union outfit to build a strong future.

Tommy is thankful for his family, his church, and the opportunities God has given him. One of his favorite memories is leading worship and watching God move in the youth services. He lives by the words of Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”

Grayson Paul Serrano

Grayson began his education at home from the beginning at age 6. During his elementary years, he enjoyed art, reading, and making comic books. He has always loved music and started playing piano, singing, and playing guitar in his early teens. He recently began involvement in music production.

Grayson has enjoyed athletics since he could walk, starting with flag football and some years at soccer, baseball, and basketball. He broadened his academics by being a part of Cornerstone Co-op the past 3 1/2 years. While at Cornerstone, he has been on the worship team and participated in many fun, academic activities. He is also involved at Calvary Knoxville, has served in VBS, and went on mission trips to Tanzania and Honduras. He has done in-state missions for hurricane relief and local evangelism.

Grayson is praying and seeking for what God has for him next. He is excited for what God reveals this coming year!

Class of 2026

Caleb Benjamin Shingleton

Caleb has been involved in Cornerstone Cooperative for the last 3 years. His academic achievements include accumulating 15 college credits through Bryan College and finishing well with a 3.88 dual enrollment GPA!

His hobbies include working on engine (and transmission) swapping his RX8, drawing, creative writing, and being an amazing big brother.

He plans to attend TCAT for their HVAC program in fall of 2026.

He would like to thank his dad for encouraging him to take risks and helping him to take on big projects. He would like to thank his mom for persevering in teaching him, and his Grandma Dini for encouraging him in his creative writing. Most of all Caleb would like to thank Jesus for this life and the hope of eternal life.

*Let no one despise your youth,
but be an example to the
believers in word, in conduct,
in love, in spirit,
in faith, in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12*

To our beloved Graduates,

It has been a true blessing to walk beside you and witness the work God has done in your lives. We have seen you grow not only in knowledge, but also in wisdom, faith, and character. God has uniquely created each of you with purpose and intention, and it has been our joy to watch your gifts develop and your faith take root.

As you step into this next season, remember the words of Proverbs 3:5–6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Hold fast to His promises, remembering that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.

You are stepping into a world that desperately needs Jesus. You have been equipped, prepared, and called for such a time as this. Let your light shine before others!

Wherever your journey leads, stand firm in your faith and walk in His purpose. Go into the world as lights for Christ, confident that He goes before you. Live faithfully, go boldly, and never be ashamed of the Gospel.

We are praying for you and cheering you on always. We send you out with confidence, knowing God has great plans for your lives.

With love,

Your Cornerstone Family

