

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

May 3rd, 2026



That which is born of
the flesh is flesh, and
that which is born of
the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:6, ESV

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We welcome you to this worship service.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Take Time to Be Holy

CH 345

Announcements

Greeting

Kids Kingdom Moment

***Call to Worship**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

GRP 1

***Lighting of the altar candles.**

***Scripture Reading**

Rhonda Ledbetter

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed Assurance

GRP 570

***Affirmation of Faith:**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from which, he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**universal

Sharing of Joys and Concern
Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Open My Eyes, That I May See

GRP 311

***Doxology:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Hymn

I Surrender All

GRP 607

Scripture

John 3:1-7

Sermon

Two Rabbis in the Night

Mark Ledbetter

Holy Communion

Postlude

Like a River Glorious

GRP 48

***Please stand if you are able.**

Prayer List

Brenda and Pat Jones, James and Janice Adams, Vicky Rollins, Chris Kramer, Jr., Ruth Cox, Bill Crenshaw, Beth Major, Glenda Rumsey, Tanner Bowen, Matt Abrams, Bobbie Kinser, Louise Rhodes, Jane Reynolds, Donald Caine, Danny and Alice Collins, Van Abbott, Chris Bishop, JoAnne Cleveland, Honest Gaddis, Kathy and Roland Roberson, Jeanne & Glen Deason, Jeff Thomas and family, Cindy Natali, Perry Duffey, Mallory Caine, Lisa Barnett, Ray Stone, Elliette Fillingame and family, Jerry Jordan, Charles and Janet Akin, Connor Edmondson, Frances Coleman, Jill Bailey, Leslie Hassal, Sarah Hethcox, Colin Pody, Janice Snyder, Dustin Bentley, Rachel Hobson, Kent Clifton, Jackie Vigiani, Brett Kelley, Ashley Williamson, Fisher Camp, Johnny Jones, Anthony Grogan, Alton Williams, Carol Cram, Lynn Shaw, Huey Cannon, Lyndall Jones, Faye Thompson, Susan Vick, Millie Adair, Judy Demeers, Zindel Wilkins, Joe Morton, Mark Henderson, Beckie Hagan, Shirley Mooney, and the family and friends of Mr. McElrath.

Prayer Focus: Expect the Unexpected

2 Corinthians 12:8 (NASB95)

“Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.”

We might imagine that if anyone received an answer to prayer, it would be the Apostle Paul, who taught and encouraged congregations to pray and modeled prayer in his own life and prayed with results. Healings took place, demons fled, and jail doors swung open. He reveals in second letter to the Corinthians, however, persistent prayer does not always result in the thing asked for but in the thing we need. Sharing an intensely dramatic experience in which Paul “heard inexpressible words.” Forbidden to share, Paul would not allow such experience and opportunity for boasting, an attitude he took after an intriguing answer to prayer.

Paul shares he was humbled by what he describes as “thorn in the flesh,” a “messenger of Satan to torment” him. Some speculate the “thorn” refers to a physical ailment, but the context suggests the possibility of an adversarial relationship much like the Israelites encountered when they failed to drive out other nations from the Promised land, and they

proved to be a thorn in their sides (Numbers 33:55). Satan's adversarial role as the "accuser of the brethren" (Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3:1), becomes as strong possibility if Satan's messenger was looking to accuse Paul before God. Paul describes the thorn a "weakness" in forms of insults, outward pressures, persecutions, or troubles from any source for Christ's sake.

Having prayed twice without answer for the thorn's removal, the answer Paul received from his third petition was unanticipated, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." His perceived weakness became an opportunity for God's active presence in Him working out His will through him. His weakness was neither disabling nor disqualifying. Receiving the assurance of God's favor, Paul accepted and embraced the thorn turning any sense of personal pride into opportunity to receive God's grace and boast with thanksgiving giving glory to Christ. God's grace and strength motivated Paul to be content with weakness suffered for Christ's sake, and he concludes, "for when I am weak, then I am strong." He transformed weakness into something designed to keep his pride in check and into an opportunity to witness God's grace, transforming personal pride into opportunities of praise, thanksgiving, and witness.

Rarely do we find appropriate illustrations from Hollywood, but a clip from the movie *Evan Almighty* (randomly popping up on a social media feed on my phone) portrays God as a server in a diner scene attending the wife distressed because her husband said God told him to build an ark, audacious for contemporary times. God (played by Morgan Freeman) responded reflecting a remarkable understanding regarding prayer. Freeman asks if someone asks for patience does God give them patience or present an opportunity to be patient? If someone asks for courage, does God give them courage or an opportunity to be courageous?

Our weaknesses are opportunities for God's grace to work in us and through us to do His will, and rather than lament because God does not answer in a manner in which we ask, we receive the answer we need. So let us join the Apostle Paul saying, "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." With this declaration we send a powerful message to the messenger of Satan: "When I am weak, I am made strong" (vv. 10). Indeed, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).



Amen!



Weekly Calendar

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Study 5:30 p.m.

Administrative Board Meeting

Monday, May 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 10th, we will be recognizing our college graduate, Abby Harris.
Sunday, May 17th, we will be recognizing our high school graduate, Sadie Reeves.

Care House workers are needed from Wesley Chapel on May 18th, 19th & 21st.
See Mary Deason if you would like to volunteer.

Women in Christian Service meets May 12th at 6:00 p.m. The hostesses are Rhonda Ledbetter, Mary Deason and Patience Ward.

It's rib time!

The Men's Club is doing their annual fundraiser. A slab of ribs is \$25.00.

Please sign the sheet in the fellowship hall if you are interested.

They will be ready to pick up on May 23rd from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Our communion offering for April and May will go toward the GMC's General Conference in Johannesburg, Africa this year. The GMC is using this opportunity to serve, witness, and partner with God's work in the host community. They have set a goal to raise \$90,000.00. These funds will help with the following:

- Over 3,000 meals
- Health kits
- A VBS-style experience for children
- Spirit and Truth training
- Local church/community work projects

National Day of Prayer will be observed in
Sylacauga at City Hall by the flagpole.
Thursday, May 7th at 12:00 p.m.

Celebrating 75 years!

May 31st

Guest speaker: Bishop Carolyn Moore

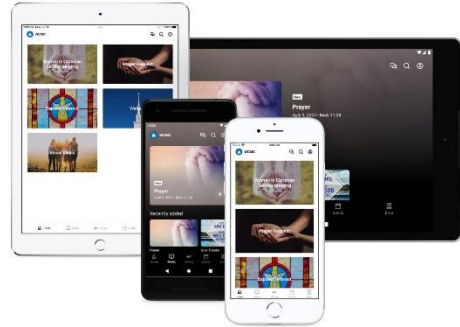
Invite friends, family, and past members to join us!

Connecting Congregation and Community with Jesus Christ!



Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

Available in App Stores



The QR code below will take you straight to our giving page.

