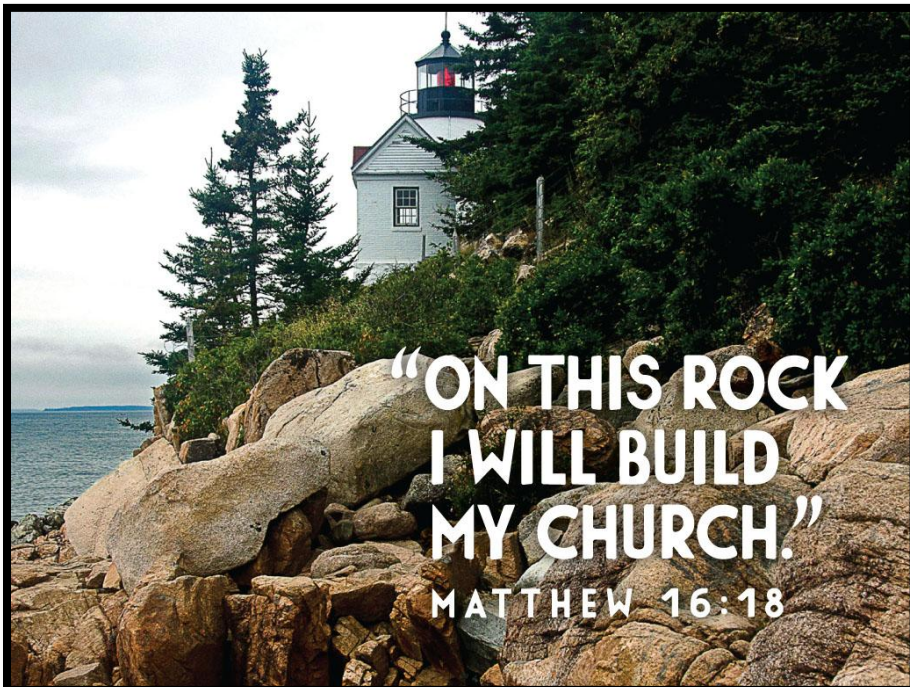


# Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025



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**We welcome you to this worship service.**

## Order of Worship

**Prelude**

Sheltered in the Arms of God

**Musicians**

**Announcements**

**Greeting**

**\*Call to Worship**

We have Come into His House

**CH 224**

**\*Lighting of the altar candles.**

**\*Scripture Reading**

**Sadie Reeves**

**\*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**

Majesty

**GRP 63**

**\*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

Great Are You, Lord

**Musicians**

**\*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

Power in the Blood

**GRP 487**

#### Scripture

**Matthew 16:16-18**

#### Sermon

I Will Build My Church

**Mark Ledbetter**

#### Hymn

I Surrender All

**GRP 607**

#### Postlude

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

**Musicians**

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

## Prayer List

Wayne Entrekin, Jimmy and Jane Reynolds, Brenda and Pat Jones, Fred and Maryanne Pate, James Adams, Vicky Rollins, Chris Kramer, Jr., Ruth Cox, Bill Crenshaw, Beth Major, Glenda Rumsey, Tanner Bowen, Matt Abrams, Bobbie Kinser, Mike Cleveland, Louise Rhodes, Donald Caine, Danny and Alice Collins, Van Abbott, Chris Bishop, JoAnne Cleveland, Honest Gaddis, Kathy and Roland Roberson, Pam Whitman, Jeanne & Glen Deason, Mark Ledbetter, Sheila Pody, Ethan Corbitt, Sammy Andrews, Dustin Bentley, Jeff Thomas and family, Cindy Natali, Tim Heath and family, Perry Duffey, Ann Thompson, Mallory Caine, Janice Adams, Lisa Barnett, Kaye Thackerson, Chuck and Jill Bailey, Ray Stone, Eliette Fillingame and family, Jerry Jordan, Charles and Janet Akin, Laline Bagley, Mitzi Moran, the family of Chris O'Barr, the family of D'Marcus Riggins and the BB Comer Seniors and staff, and Edmondson.



### Prayer Focus: Praying for the Persecuted

Thankfully we do not face persecution in our nation. Government policy includes free expression to practice our faith without government interference, and our judicial system provides recourse against anyone who would infringe upon our rights to assemble for worship or preach the Gospel. There are other nations where such cherished freedoms are denied, and Christians are being persecuted.

Historically, the early church survived emerging from *The Heroic Age* (33-300 AD), a period in which men and women refused to recant their faith in Christ and suffered severe consequences including ostracization, imprisonment, torture, and execution. Stephen is the first recorded martyr (Acts 7) followed by James

(Acts 12:2), Antipas (Rev 2:13), Polycarp (the Bishop of Smyrna, c. 69-155 AD), and others. Under the reign of Roman Emperor Diocletian reign (245-311 AD), at least 20,000 Christians died. Since then, untold numbers of Christians have been persecuted for their faith becoming martyrs rather than recant.

These men and women endured unspeakable terror and for their faithfulness they await in the presence of our Lord (2 Cor 5:6-8; Rev. 6:9-11). Yet, in this present hour Christians have been, and are being persecuted around the world. While we are encouraged by the faith of the martyrs, we should also take courage from the survivors of persecution in this present hour. Stories are told of miraculous deliverances, but with every story of deliverance there are thousands of stories of endurance, those who refuse to recant their faith and suffer the physical pains of affliction, and the emotional pains of depravity and have little knowledge of the welfare of the persecuted or the welfare of the families of the persecuted

Persecution may be motivated by Religious Nationalism, Islamic Extremism, Totalitarian Insecurity, or Secular Intolerance. It may come from a government, organized crime, cultural retribution, the family, and the Church. Further, generally, the most persecuted are churches and congregations that are growing and making an impact in their community, which is especially true in Iran. Most recently brothers and sisters in Africa and India have suffered from the violence of persecutors.

How should we pray?

The Apostle Paul writes when one member of the body suffers, all the members suffer (1 Cor 12:26). We cannot begin to know what our persecuted brothers and sisters are experiencing but our Heavenly Father does. We can pray for their deliverance, we can pray for the Spirit's comfort, and we can pray the Spirit will encourage those who may be growing weak in their faith. We can meet with our Father and intercede on their behalf. We can pray!



### **Weekly Calendar**

Sunday School – 10:00 am

Worship Service – 11:00 am

Sunday Night Prayer Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

### **Bible Study**

**Reclaiming the Mantle:**

**Restoring the Prophet and the Prophecy in the Church**

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

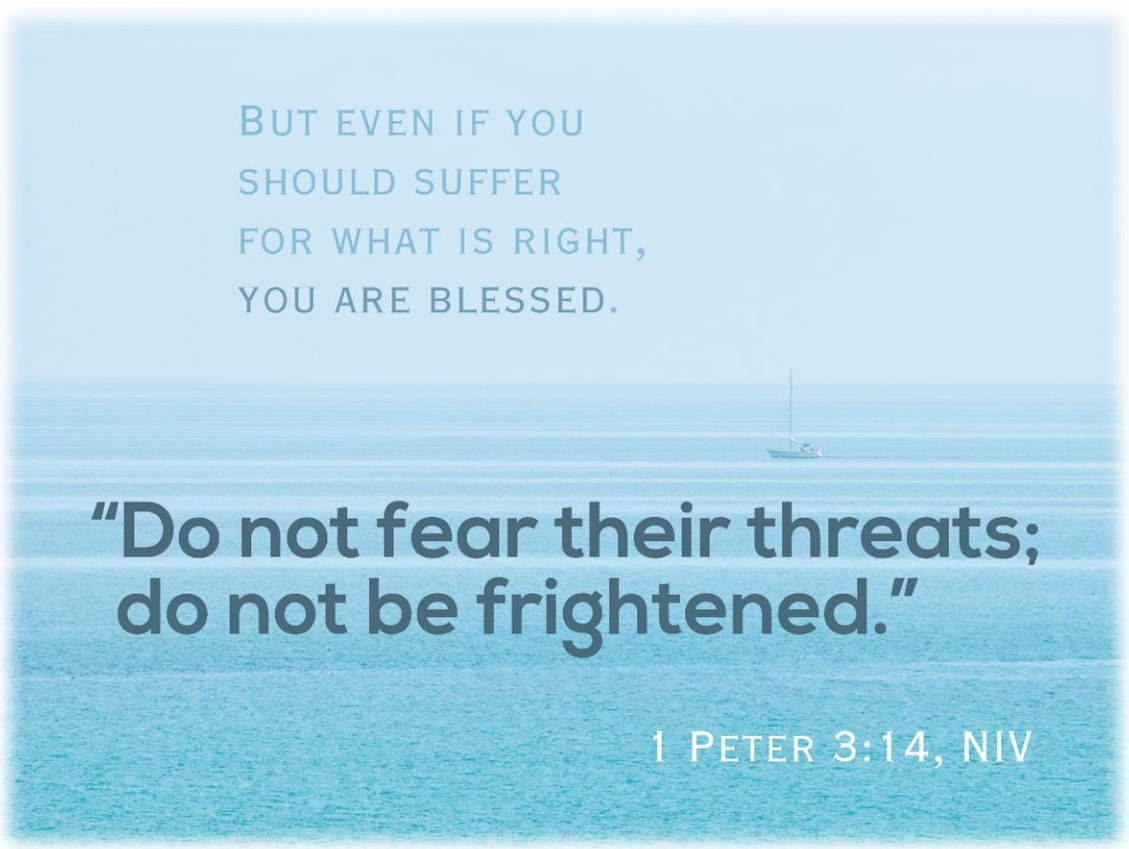
### **Men's Club**

Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

### **Brief Nominations Committee Meeting**

Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

After the Worship Service



BUT EVEN IF YOU  
SHOULD SUFFER  
FOR WHAT IS RIGHT,  
YOU ARE BLESSED.

**"Do not fear their threats;  
do not be frightened."**

1 PETER 3:14, NIV

**CONNECTING CONGREGATION & COMMUNITY WITH JESUS CHRIST!**