

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

September 13th, 2026



Picnicking with Jesus

820 West Park Street

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We welcome you to this worship service.

Order of Worship

Prelude

All That Thrills My Soul

GRP 132

Announcements

Sharing of Joys and Concern

Greeting

***Call to Worship**

Come, We That Love the Lord

GRP 38

***Lighting of the altar candles.**

***Scripture Reading**

John 6:10-14

Charlotte Sims

***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

In Christ Alone

GRP 106

***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

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

GRP 135

***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

God Is So Good

GRP 52

Scripture

John 6:10-14

Sermon

Picnicking with Jesus

Mark Ledbetter

Altar Call and Prayer

Hymn

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

GRP 611

Postlude

More About Jesus

GRP 137

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

CH – Celebration Hymnal

GRP – Great Redeemer's Praise Hymnal

Prayer List

Brenda and Pat Jones, James and Janice Adams, Vicky Rollins, Chris Kramer, Jr., Ruth Cox, Bill Crenshaw, Beth Major, Matt Abrams, Bobbie Kinser, Louise Rhodes, Jane Reynolds, Van Abbott, JoAnne Cleveland, Honest Gaddis, Kathy and Roland Roberson, Jeanne & Glen Deason, Jerry Jordan, Charles and Janet Akin, Connor Edmondson, Frances Coleman, Jill Bailey, Sarah Hethcox, Janice Snyder, Dustin Bentley, Rachel Hobson, Kent Clifton, Jackie Vigiani, Ashley Williamson, Johnny Jones, Alton Williams, Lynn Shaw, Huey Cannon, Lyndall Jones, Faye Thompson, Susan Vick, Mark Henderson, Shirley Mooney, Debbie McGhee, Irene Beasley, Ken Bradford, Kaitlyn Paceley, Wendy Monroy and her baby, Samantha, Jana Johnson, Barbara Bailey, Randy McDaniel, Brian Smith, Betty Culver, Christopher Keeton, Don and Frieda Gillum, Rhonda Beasley, Linda Hatchett, Cole Ward, TJ Little, Karen Amons, Liam Layton and family, Vicky Avant, John Murphy, Kamryn, Laurie Althoff, Randy Snyder, Jeff Tramble, Sherry Bentley's cousin, Christy, Teresa Austin, Tony Isbell, Linda Carter, Bill Roberts, Mary Deason, Brock and Nan Thrice.

“Laboring Earnestly in Your Prayers”

Colossians 4:12

Epaphras (pronounced Ep·af·**ras**) is not a household name nor a name we often associate with men and women known for their prayer lives, but he is one who caught the Apostle Paul's attention. Epaphras was instrumental in establishing the Colossian church bearing the Gospel and through discipleship, providing them with a firm foundation upon which the congregation's faith and hope rested. His focus was praying that they may become spiritually mature and to be assured of God's will for them. His prayers, however, were not repetition of religious platitudes, but as “laboring earnestly” suggests, his prayers are engaged in agonizing conflict over their hearts and minds. His prayers were emotionally charged in humble intercession on behalf of the congregation.

The famed John Knox is known for his deep concern for Scotland and has been recorded saying, “Give me Scotland or I die.” His son-in-law, John Welsh, also

a pastor, is known for his pastoral concern over his congregation. He is known for his sleepless nights on his face. Concerned about his health, his wife urged him to return to bed. He replied, “O woman, I have the souls of three thousand to answer for, and I know not how it is with many of them.”

If the English proverb is true, “Confession is good for the soul” (based upon James 5:16), then I must confess that I miss the times of such earnest prayer. I confess that I have seen not only the congregations I served experience generous outpourings of God’s favor, but I have seen denominational barriers breached and churches come together in unity for community worship. I am not saying that I am not praying for Wesley Chapel and its needs, but through a series of personal “ups and downs,” my prayers do not have the same agonizing “edge” that I miss and pledge to return.

In doing so, I borrowed a page from Paul’s book, the Roman Epistle. There we find Paul urging the congregation, “by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers for me” (Rom 15:30). “Strive” comes from the same emphasis of Epaphras’ prayer, but in a more intense form. Much of the effects witnessed at the church were the result of intercession by congregational members.

I am not suggesting that one approach to prayer is better than another. Devotional prayer for personal edification is helpful for the soul, a “means of grace.” However, with the issues before us – lost family members, serious illnesses, personal emotional issues, community and national concerns, we need to come before our Lord, and like Jacob, not let go until we receive a blessing. Our families and friends, our church and community, and our nation need us to agonize before the throne of grace in prayer.

Pray for me that I regain the “edge,” and I will pray for you that you, if you do not already have it, will obtain the “edge.” James declares, “The effective prayer of a righteous man [or woman] can accomplish much” (Jam 5:16). Someone has wisely said, “Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.” May hell tremble when God’s people rise from their beds and fall to their knees in prayer, and may the demons groan, “Oh, no! They’re awake again!”



Weekly Calendar

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting Tonight - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.

Administrative Board Meeting

Tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.

Men's Club

Tuesday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m.

ALL-CHURCH
POTLUCK

Join us next Sunday, September 20th!

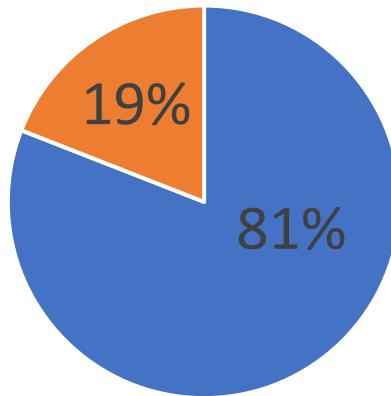
Bring a dish and a friend!

Our turn to help with **Care House** is September 28th, 29th and October 1st.
Please see Staci Sherer to sign up.

Foundation Camapaign Update

Paid
\$10,510.00

Owe
\$2,475.20



■ Paid ■ Owe

Vision Statement

Connecting Congregation and Community
with Jesus Christ
through the Presence and Power
of the Holy Spirit!

For your convenience, a QR code has been provided for our giving page
if you prefer to tithe and/or donate by card.
Be sure to choose which funds you are giving to. Thanks!

