

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

July 19th, 2026



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We welcome you to this worship service.

Order of Worship

Prelude I Sing the Mighty Power of God **CH 128**

Announcements

Greeting

***Call to Worship** What a Mighty God We Serve **CH 672**

***Lighting of the altar candles.**

***Scripture Reading** John 5:15-17 **Sherry Reynolds**

***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 There's Within My Heart a Melody **GRP 144**

***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.

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Sharing of Joys and Concern
Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	Moment by Moment	CH 545
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***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	Sweet Hour of Prayer	GRP 440
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Scripture		John 5:15-17
Sermon	“Working with the Father”	Mark Ledbetter

Hymn	I Need Thee Every Hour	GRP 340
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Postlude	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	CH 682
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***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, Tanner Bowen, Matt Abrams, Bobbie Kinser, Louise Rhodes, Jane Reynolds, Van Abbott, JoAnne Cleveland, Honest Gaddis, Kathy and Roland Roberson, Jeanne & Glen Deason, Jeff Thomas and family, Ray Stone, Elliette Fillingame and family, 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, Zindel Wilkins, Mark Henderson, Shirley Mooney, Debbie McGhee, Irene Beasley, Dillon Pody, Ken Bradford, Kaitlyn Paceley, Wendy Monroy and her baby, Samantha, Donald Caine, Jana Johnson, Barbara Bailey, Randy McDaniel, Mickey Grogan, Brian Smith, Betty Culver, Christopher Keeton, and Don and Frieda Gillum.

Prayer Focus: The Prayer of Faith and How Not to Pray

Many, if not most, have read the Apostle James's prescription for healing. He instructs anyone who is sick to call for church elders who are then to anoint the sick with oil in the Lord's name and pray the "prayer of faith," and they will be restored (James 5:14-15). While the details of this prescription are important, for many the issue is what does the "prayer of faith" mean? Many have offered explanations, but we do not have to look far because James defines the prayer of faith in the opening thoughts of the Epistle.

Addressing Jewish believers living outside of Judea who, like those living in Judea, were encountering challenging times chiefly as the result of persecution. Like the Apostle Peter and the author of Hebrews, James addresses their "trials" as "the testing of their faith" (1:1-4, Peter describes as being "tested by fire", 1:7) and encourages them to not allow their testing to

become a time of lamenting or faltering, but an occasion for joy by recognizing the trial is designed to produce endurance and the perfecting of our faith.

James then directs them to pray but pray specifically for wisdom which God is prepared to provide generously without judging us. Godly wisdom is from above and not derived by worldly wisdom which leads to impure thoughts and actions but provides peace (3:13-18). Wisdom is seeing life from God's perspective whose view is not above our troubles but has an empathic ear as Jesus serves as our intercessor (Hebrews 4:14-16). His wisdom defines purpose and direction as we learn endurance (See 1 Corinthians 10:13).

When we pray for wisdom, the Apostle adds this qualifier: "But he must ask in faith without doubting..." James describes the doubter as someone who is "double-minded," an expression recalling Elijah's challenge on Mt. Carmel when he asks, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions," or literally limp on two divided opinions – hobbled faith. Jesus warns we cannot serve two masters without embracing one and forsaking the other (Matthew 6:24). Divided loyalties ensure unanswered prayers. When we are searching for God's wisdom and intervention we cannot embrace both God and the world for answers.

In this same context of "double-mindedness," James provides another disqualifier – asking with the wrong motives (4:2-10). The context of his thoughts is more troubling because he expresses this in terms of contention in the Church brought on by sinful values, attitudes, and actions. Some had imagined they could pray and expect God to respond by providing opportunities for selfish pursuits and pleasures. James does not hold back with his scathing rebuke by calling them "adulteresses," meaning participants in idolatry's sinful practices.

James does recognize the source of their troubles do not come from the trials of persecution but from the devil, the tempter. In this case, the remedy he offers is: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." If we will approach God in repentance, humbling ourselves before Him, "He will exalt you."

James uses a difficult approach to addressing our trials, and more pointed admonishment for removing sin as a roadblock to unanswered prayers, but he does so with our best interest at heart. We must decide: Will we be offended by his counterintuitive approach to prayer when facing trials or offended by his stinging rebuke of sinfulness blocking our prayers, or will we embrace God alone and place our faith and trust in Him? He provides wisdom, deliverance, and healing when we trust Him exclusively.



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 at 5:30 p.m.

Men's Club

Tuesday, July 21st at ACME Sandwich Shop at 5:30 p.m.

We still need a **Care House volunteer** for July 30th.

Please see Mary Deason if you would like to volunteer.



GO.



SERVE.



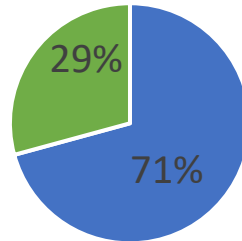
LOVE.



REPEAT.

Goal: \$12,584.30
Raised: \$8,905.00
Deadline: May 2027

Foundation Campaign



■ Raised ■ Need



Sunday, August 2nd

We will pray blessings on all students, teachers and support staff.

To celebrate, the Men's Club will be hosting our annual indoor picnic after worship. The women have been asked to make the desserts. Please see Mike Cleveland or Miriam Kramer with any questions.

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!

