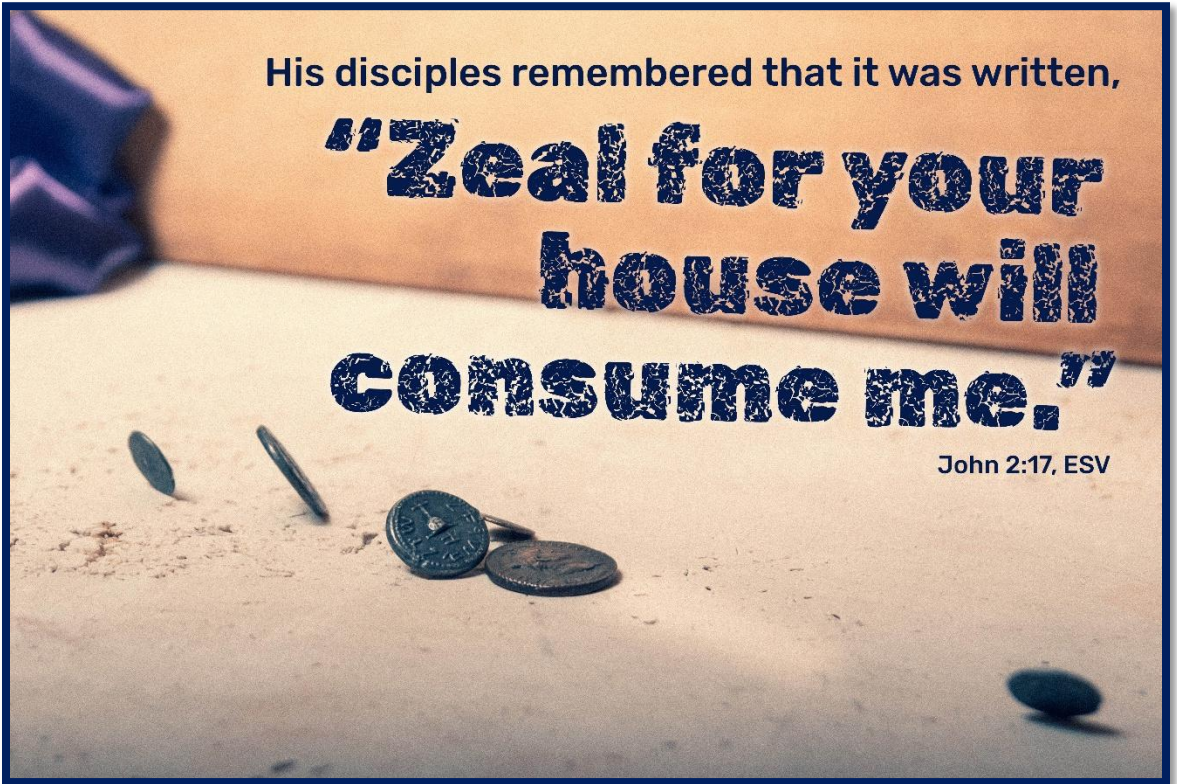


# Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026



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



**Sharing of Joys and Concern**  
**Pastoral Prayer**

**Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

And Can It Be?

**CH 347**

**\*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**

We Have Come into His House

**CH 224**

**Scripture**

**John 2:13-17**

**Sermon**

Zeal for God's House

**Mark Ledbetter**

**Hymn**

God Be with You Til We Meet Again

**CH 232**

**Postlude**

O How He Loves You and Me

**CH 349**

**\*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, Mike Cleveland, 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, Mary Deason, Runt Robertson, Huey Cannon, Lyndall Jones, Faye Thompson, Susan Vick, Millie Adair, Judy Demeers, Zindel Wilkins, and Joe Morton.



## The Apostle Paul's Focus on Prayer

The Apostle Paul demonstrates through his actions and teachings that prayer is vital for every church. Paul shows that no matter how gifted, educated, or motivated a congregation is to serve in God's mission, prayer remains essential. Through prayer we receive insight into the mind of the Lord, guidance from the Holy Spirit, and provision from the Father. Paul's prayer life illustrates God's shelter in the storm, comfort during distress, protection in times of trouble, and an opportunity to praise and thank the One who calls us.

Serving multiple purposes, instructing, correcting, and comforting the congregations, Paul uses language and specific references framing his letters with prayer. He begins with a blessing and concludes with a benediction. He reveals his continual practice of praying for the congregation. Paul's openness about his own prayers provided a glimpse into his heart and thoughts, and he

frequently requested prayer for himself. While prayer is fundamentally a petition, it also reflects what we believe about God's nature.

Paul includes specific prayers for the congregations, prayers whether brief and to the point, or detailed and comprehensive, offered practical examples congregations could incorporate into their own prayer practices. By adopting or adapting these models, congregations could enrich their prayer liturgies and respond effectively to their unique needs. Paul's approach acknowledges the value of Jesus's model prayer for His disciples – The Lord's Prayer, as well as Scriptural prayers rooted in the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms, demonstrating the depth and diversity of prayer within the early church.

Paul illustrates different types of prayers, prayers of petition for God's favor, prayers for intercession, prayers of thanksgiving and worship, all finding their place in the congregation, directing them specifically to a cause or a need. Congregations are admonished to diligently pray for those who are in authority, and for situations the congregation may be facing. Paul's solution regardless of need was prayer.

The early church's focus on prayer points toward a singular purpose: that God's House be recognized as a House of Prayer. The Temple was called the House of Prayer because it represented the House of His Presence, His Worship, His Provision. Each aspect reflects a different facet of God's relationship with His people, demonstrated through the act of prayer.

Foreseeing the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, Jesus declared He would build His House. Following Pentecost, local houses became places for discipleship, fellowship, and prayer. Paul describes these gatherings as Temples of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of the setting—whether in a living room, auditorium, or sanctuary—believers form God's House, coming together in His presence worshipping and praying. We gather and pray and embody the House of Prayer, continuing God's original intention for His House.

We are encouraged to lift up a wide range of needs praying for one another, seeking healing for our sicknesses and restoration for our emotional well-being, provisions, wisdom and guidance, trusting the Lord to direct our steps. We are instructed to pray for those in authority, our President, Congressmen, Judges, Governor, Legislators, Military, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and First Responders. Through these prayers, we stand in the gap for our church and families, our community, our state, and our nation, demonstrating the broad scope and impact of intercessory prayer within the House of Prayer.

Obviously, there is much to pray about! I recall a time in my younger, brasher days I was criticized for “riding the altar”, to which I responded, “If I have to tie a saddle on the altar, I'll ride it till Jesus comes!”

*“For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.” Isaiah 56:7*



### **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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

## **Celebrating 75 years!**

May 31<sup>st</sup>

**Guest speaker:** Bishop Carolyn Moore

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

### **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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

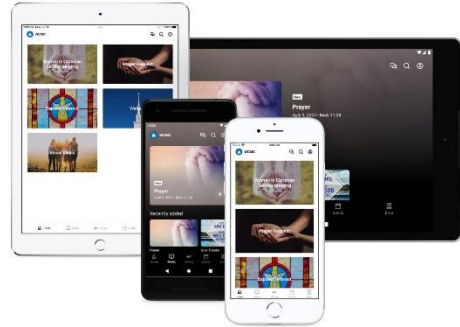


**Connecting Congregation and Community with Jesus Christ!**



Wesley Chapel Methodist Church

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

