

50+ Ministry

+++

**60+ *Legacies***

**Sunday Class**

+++

All Saints Presbyterian Church  
Austin, TX

Led by Rev. Craig Chapman  
[cchapman@allsaintsaustin.org](mailto:cchapman@allsaintsaustin.org)

**\*\*\**NAME TAGS, PLEASE*\*\*\***

**\*\*\**Sit UP FRONT & TOGETHER, PLEASE*\*\*\***

# *Because You Asked*

*Answering Your Questions,  
According to Scripture*

All Saints Presbyterian Church

+++

Austin, TX

Spring 2026

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

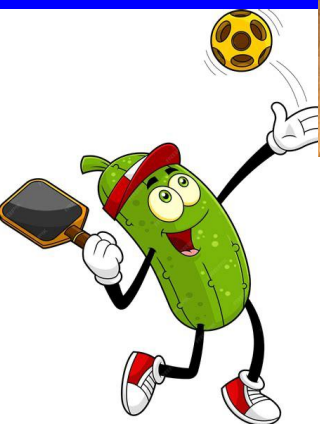
# 50+ Special Events – 2026

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

*“Because You Asked”*

# 50+ Pickleball



## 50+ Special Events

- April 17 (Fri) – Painted Churches Tour & Lunch
  - 8:30 am – 4:30 pm – Schulenberg, TX – **Registration Now Open**
- May 7 (Thu) – Texas Capitol & Governor’s Mansion Tour
  - 9:45 am – 3 pm – Lunch at Capitol Grill
- May 29 (Fri) – Summer Social
  - 6:30 – 9 pm – Betsy & Dave Willis’ home.  
BYOB & Appetizer or Dessert.
- July 4 (Sat) – Patriotic Pool Party
  - 6 – 9 pm – Location TBD. BYOB & Appetizer or Dessert.  
Burgers & Hot Dogs provided.

# 50+ Special Events – 2026

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

*“Because You Asked”*

# HOLY WEEK

## W O R S H I P   S C H E D U L E



PALM SUNDAY

**MARCH 29**

9:00, 10:15, 11:30 AM



MAUNDY THURSDAY

**APRIL 2**

6:30 PM



GOOD FRIDAY

**APRIL 3**

7:00 PM



EASTER SUNDAY

**APRIL 5**

7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 10:50AM

A close-up photograph of green palm fronds, showing the intricate vein structure and the fan-like shape of the leaves. The fronds are arranged in a radial pattern, creating a sense of depth and texture. The colors range from vibrant green to a slightly darker, more muted green in the shadows.

# PALM SUNDAY

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

# REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

Charles Wesley (1744)



# REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

Charles Wesley (1744)

*Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Jesus, the Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
When He has purged our stains, He took his seat above;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come  
And take His servants up to their eternal home:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

**50+ Special Events – 2026**

**Songs of Praise**

**Prayer & Scripture**

*“Because You Asked”*

*3/29/26*

## Romans 8:26-27

*... the Spirit helps us in our weakness.  
For we do not know what to pray for as we ought,  
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us  
with groanings too deep for words.  
And he who searches hearts knows  
what is the mind of the Spirit,  
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints  
according to the will of God.*

(ESV)

# New City Catechism

([thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism](http://thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism))

Part 1—God, Creation & Fall, Law (Q1-Q20)

# New City Catechism

([thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism](http://thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism))

Part 1—God, Creation & Fall, Law (Q1-Q20)

Part 2—Christ, Redemption, Grace (Q21-Q35)

# New City Catechism

([thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism](http://thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism))

Part 2—Christ, Redemption, Grace (Q21-Q35)

Q23: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

A23: *That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.*

# New City Catechism

([thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism](http://thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism))

Part 2—Christ, Redemption, Grace (Q21-Q35)

Q23: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

A23: *That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.*

Acts 2:24

*God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*

John Chrysostom

# New City Catechism

([thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism](http://thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism))

John Chrysostom



# New City Catechism

([thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism](http://thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism))

## John Chrysostom

*Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon hath shone forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death hath set us free. In as much as he was held captive of it, he hath annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He angered it when it tasted of his flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was angered, when it encountered thee. . . . It was angered, for it was abolished. It was angered, for it was mocked. It was angered, for it was slain. It was angered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was visible, and fell upon the invisible. O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the Angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigneth.*



# New City Catechism

([thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism](http://thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism))

Rev. Leo Schuster



# New City Catechism

([thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism](http://thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism))

## Rev. Leo Schuster

*So why is it so important that Jesus as our Redeemer be truly God? Our sin was committed against God. Only God can forgive a transgression against himself. This is why some of the religious leaders in Jesus's day were horrified when he said he forgave sins. They understood the implications of what he said. How could a mere man forgive the sin we have against God? A mere man can't, but God can.*

*Jesus needed to be fully human in order to be our substitute, but he needed to be fully God in order for his obedience and suffering to be perfect and for God's justice to be completely and eternally satisfied.*



# Lesson Series

- 1/11/25 – *Because You Asked* – Infant Baptism
- 1/18 – Guest Teacher: Bill Laughlin—*Barnabas: Son of Encouragement*
- 1/25 – No Class (due to weather)
  
- 2/1 – *Because You Asked* – Angels & Their Abilities
- 2/8 – *Because You Asked* – Angels & Their Abilities – 2
- 2/15 – *Because You Asked* – Angels & Their Abilities – 3
- 2/22 – *Because You Asked* – Modern Israel
  
- 3/1 – *Because You Asked* – Modern Israel – 2
- 3/8– Guest Teacher: Bill Walker
- 3/15 – No Class (Spring Break)
- 3/22 – *Because You Asked* – He Descended Into Hell
- **3/29 – *Because You Asked* – *How to Understand Prayer***
  
- 4/5 – No Class (Easter)
- 4/12 –
- 4/19 –
- 4/26 –

# Lesson Series

- 5/3 – Guest Teacher:
- 5/10 – No Class (Mother’s Day)
- 5/17 –
- 5/24 – No Class (Memorial Day Weekend)
- 5/31 –
  
- 6/7 – Guest Teacher:
- 6/8 –
- 6/14 –
- 6/21 –
- 6/28–
  
- 7/5 - 8/16 – No Class (Summer Break)
  
- 8/23 – Guest Teacher:
- 8/30 – Guest Teacher:

**Because You Asked** – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## **8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer**

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

What is Prayer

Why Pray

How to Pray

*Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

What is Prayer

**Because You Asked** – “How should we understand prayer?”

## What is Prayer

### Billy Graham

*In our modern age we have ... discovered the secret of releasing energy in the atom, which is capable of lighting cities, operating great industries, or destroying entire cities and civilizations. But very few of us have learned how to fully develop the power of prayer... Prayer is more than a wish turned heavenward: it is the **voice of faith** directed Godward. We are to pray not only for our own needs but for the needs of others. We are to pray in times of adversity, lest we become faithless and unbelieving. We are to pray in times of prosperity, lest we become boastful and proud. We are to pray in times of danger, lest we become fearful and doubting. We need to pray in times of security, lest we become careless and self-sufficient.*

**Because You Asked** – “How should we understand prayer?”

## What is Prayer

### Billy Graham

*Prayer...[is not] spiritual magic. It's not like pressing an electric button and expecting an immediate response. We can't manipulate God or dictate to Him. Let us never forget that prayer is not just asking God for things. It's far bigger and better than that. At its deepest level, prayer is **fellowship with God**: enjoying His company, waiting upon His will, thanking Him for His mercies, committing our lives to Him, talking to Him about other people as well as ourselves, and listening in the silence for what He has to say to us. This is what makes prayer so real and precious a thing, especially in times of stress and strain. When we come to the end of ourselves, we come to **the beginning of God**.*

**Because You Asked** – “How should we understand prayer?”

## What is Prayer

### Billy Graham

*Prayer...[is not] spiritual magic. It's not like pressing an electric button and expecting an immediate response. We can't manipulate God or dictate to Him. Let us never forget that prayer is not just asking God for things. It's far bigger and better than that. At its deepest level, prayer is fellowship with God: enjoying His company, waiting upon His will, thanking Him for His mercies, committing our lives to Him, talking to Him about other people as well as ourselves, and listening in the silence for what He has to say to us. This is what makes prayer so real and precious a thing, especially in times of stress and strain. When we come to the end of ourselves, we come to the beginning of God.*

### Corrie ten Boom

*Is prayer your **steering wheel** or your spare tire?*

*Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

Why Pray

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## Why Pray

### **God commands it.**

- 1 Thess 5:16-18—*Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
- God wants for us what He knows we need: ongoing fellowship with Him through a perpetual attitude of prayer.

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## Why Pray

### **God commands it.**

- 1 Thess 5:16-18—*Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
  - God wants for us what He knows we need: ongoing fellowship with Him through a perpetual attitude of prayer.

### **Our prayers please God.**

- Proverbs 15:8—*The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but **the prayer of the upright pleases Him.***

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## Why Pray

### **Our prayers matter.**

James 5:16—*The prayer of a righteous man is **powerful and effective**.*

- Apart from Christ, we are not righteous (right with God). But, united to Christ by faith, we are righteous and, thus, our prayers in the name of Christ, in His will, are powerful and effective.

## *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

### Why Pray

#### **Our prayers matter.**

James 5:16—*The prayer of a righteous man is **powerful and effective**.*

- Apart from Christ, we are not righteous (right with God). But, united to Christ by faith, we are righteous and, thus, our prayers in the name of Christ, in His will, are powerful and effective.

Eugene H. Peterson, *Reversed Thunder*, quoting Pascal's *Pensées*  
*Prayer is as much outer as inner. It is the most practical thing anyone can do. It is not mystical escape, it is historical engagement. Prayer participates in God's action. God gathers our cries and our praises, our petitions and intercessions, and uses them. The prayers that ascend to God now descend to earth. God uses our prayers in his work. "Prayer," wrote Pascal, "is God's way of providing man with the **dignity of causality**."*

# Because You Asked – “How should we understand prayer?”

## Why Pray

### **Our prayers matter.**

- But, some people say: if God is in control of all things (i.e., sovereign), then why do we need to pray?
- The answer is: in His sovereignty, God has ordained our prayers as a means by which events come to pass in His created world. God’s sovereignty affirms our responsibility to pray; it does not contradict it. Through prayer, God has sovereignly given us the privilege to be an instrumental part of what comes to pass.

## Charles Spurgeon

*“True prayers are like those **carrier pigeons** which, though they are sent away, always come back to the place from which they came.”*

- In other words, any legitimate, God-ordained prayer comes from God the Holy Spirit, consistent with God’s Word, to and through the believer, and back to the throne room of God.

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## Why Pray

### **We need His fellowship.**

- God is the Creator and we are His creatures. We are totally dependent on Him. We need Him and we need His fellowship.
- John Stott (*The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*)  
*True Christian prayer is always a preoccupation with God and his glory.*

*Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

How to Pray – 4 A's

**Because You Asked** – “How should we understand prayer?”

## **How to Pray** – 4 A’s

### **1 – Along Two Tracks**

Consider a train. Its wheels must be on both tracks to operate properly. In the same way, our prayers must be firmly on two tracks to operate as proper prayers. What are those two tracks?

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## How to Pray – 4 A’s

### 1 – Along Two Tracks

- **Faith.**

- In all of life, especially prayer, we’re to exercise faith in our God
- Hebrews 11:6—“*Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him*”
- Our prayers are to be like that of a child who runs to her daddy, crawls up in his lap, and tells him what she wants or needs. (See Romans 8:15-16 above).
  - We’re to run our desires, hopes, dreams, & convictions thru the grid of Scripture, then bring them to our Heavenly Father.
- If we only pray, “*Thy will be done*”, we pray *Faithless Prayers*—we fall off the figurative railroad tracks, into the ditch of “faithlessness”

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## How to Pray – 4 A’s

### 1 – Along Two Tracks

- **Faith.**
- **Submission.**
  - In all we do in life, we’re also to exercise submission to God.
  - Matthew 26:42—“*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will but Yours be done*” (also Luke 22:42)  
—Jesus at Gethsemane, when facing His trial and passion
  - Jesus manifests the perfect balance of faith and submission.
  - Prayers without submission (“*Thy will be done*”) fall off the figurative railroad tracks, into the ditch of *presumption*.
  - “*Give me X, Y, Z*” only says: I know what I need and what’s best
  - “*Thy will be done*” only says: God sees all, knows best; I don’t

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## How to Pray – 4 A’s

### 1 – Along Two Tracks

- **Faith.**
- **Submission.**
- John R.W. Stott, *The Letters of John*  
*Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or for bending his will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to his. It is by prayer that we seek God’s will, embrace it and align ourselves with it. Every true prayer is a variation on the theme, “Your will be done.” Our Master taught us to say this in the pattern prayer he gave us, and added the supreme example of it in Gethsemane.*

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## How to Pray – 4 A’s

### 2 – Animated by the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit motivates our prayers.
- Romans 8:15-16—“*You received the Spirit of Sonship. And by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*”
- Romans 8:26—“*The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express*”
  - The Holy Spirit prays on our behalf

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## How to Pray – 4 A’s

### **3 – Attitude of Always**

- 1 Thess 5.16-18—“*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*”
- God wants us to live in an attitude of prayer.
- This also means persistence and frequency.
  - Luke 18:1-8—the persistent widow before the judge
  - Matthew 7:7-8—the Greek tense means: “*ask, and keep on asking; seek, and keep on seeking; knock, and keep on knocking*”

# *Because You Asked* – “How should we understand prayer?”

## How to Pray – 4 A’s

### **3 – Attitude of Always**

- 1 Thess 5:16-18—“*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*”
- God wants us to live in an attitude of prayer.
- This also means persistence and frequency.
  - Luke 18:1-8—the persistent widow before the judge
  - Matthew 7:7-8—the Greek tense means: “*ask, and keep on asking; seek, and keep on seeking; knock, and keep on knocking*”

### **4 – Authentic (Unaffected, Normal) Communication**

- Matthew 6:7-8—“*And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*”

**Because You Asked** – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## **8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer**

# Because You Asked – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## 8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer

### 1 – Failure to Ask

- James 4:2

*“You do not have because you do not ask.”*

- Matthew 7.7-10

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For **everyone who asks receives**, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? if you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things **to those who ask him!**”*

# **Because You Asked** – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## **8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer**

### **2 – Unconfessed or Cherished Sin**

- Psalm 66:16-19

*“Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. **If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.** But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.”*

- *Cherish:* protect, cover, cultivate, harbor ... sin

- Psalm 84:11

*“No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.”*

# Because You Asked – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## 8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer

### 3 – Doubt

- James 1:5-8

*“...let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him **ask in faith, with no doubting**, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

- Proverbs 3:5-6

*“**Trust** in the LORD **with all your heart**, and do not lean on your own understanding.”*

# *Because You Asked* – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## 8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer

### 4 – *Wrong Motives*

- James 4.2-3

*“You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”*

- John 14.13-14

*“Whatever you **ask in my name**, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”*

- *‘in my name’* = knowing Jesus would want this

# Because You Asked – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## 8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer

### 5 – Unforgiveness in Your Life

- Mark 11.25-26

*“Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, **forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.**”*

- Like a parent of children

**Because You Asked** – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## 8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer

### 6 – **Ignoring Hurting People**

- **Proverbs 21.13**

*“Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.”*

**Because You Asked** – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## 8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer

### 7 – **Being a Bad Husband** (... or Wife)

- 1 Peter 3:7

*“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, **so that your prayers may not be hindered.**”*

- Father/Parent of a daughter/child

# Because You Asked – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## 8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer

### 8 – His Plan is Better

- Isaiah 55:8-9

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

- God sees the full story and may be doing something we can’t yet see.

- Romans 8:28

*“We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*

# Because You Asked – “Why doesn’t God answer my prayer?”

## 8 Reasons God Might Not Be Answering Your Prayer

### 8 – His Plan is Better

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

*”To keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

- Matthew 26.39

*”He fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*

- Thru God’s “no,” his plan may be for a much better “Yes and Amen”—here, salvation, redemption, restoration to all

Next Class – April 12, 2026

Prayer