

HERALD



More Than a Promise. A Way of Life.

By Drs. John McKellar and Todd Renner

When we joined the church in our Methodist tradition, we promised to **UPHOLD** the Church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Five simple promises. Five little words. But taken seriously, they describe a whole way of life.

And here is something beautiful: Upholding is a two-way street.

We pray...and discover a God who meets us there.

We show up...and find a community that carries us when we cannot carry ourselves.

We give...and discover the joy of living with open hands.

We serve...and somehow receive far more than we offer.

We tell the story of God’s grace...and remember that the story is also ours.

We promise to uphold the Church. And by God’s amazing grace, the Church becomes one of the ways God upholds us.

Isn’t that something?

We want to tell you something from the bottom of our hearts. We are continually humbled and overwhelmed by the generosity of this congregation.

We wish you could see what we see—the countless ways God is changing lives through White’s Chapel.

Because of you, extraordinary things are happening in the name of Jesus Christ!

Because of you, children are discovering Jesus’ love. Young people are finding their calling. Adults are growing in faith. Broken hearts are finding healing. People are coming to Christ and being baptized.

Because of you, thousands of prayers are lifted to heaven every week. Somewhere, someone is finding the courage to face another day because somebody at White’s Chapel cared enough to pray.

Because of you, our doors open to people searching for jobs, struggling with addiction, or longing for a place to belong. Our community gathers for concerts, graduations, and celebrations—all opportunities to extend Christ’s hospitality.

Because of you, we pay electric bills, purchase music, teach Confirmation classes, and prepare worship experiences that lift hearts toward heaven.

Some things sound ordinary. But there is nothing ordinary about what God can do through them!

Because of you, families in the mountains of Kenya can mill their own corn, and a new retention pond protects their village from devastating floods.

Because of you, our La Mesa congregation in east Fort Worth is moving into a new sanctuary, and a new church plant in Georgetown is thriving.

Because of you, neighbors without dental care are finding relief from pain.

Because of you, our Mobile Market ministry has delivered more than 100,000 baskets of food across Tarrant County.

Think about that.

Somewhere tonight, a family will have food on the table. A child will know someone cares. A person who had almost given up will discover a reason to hope.

You may never meet them. Never know their names. Never hear their stories.

But because of you, their stories are different.

That’s what happens when God’s people come together!

The Church is not merely another worthy institution. It is the Body of Christ, called to bring His love, hope, and light into a hurting world.

And every one of us has a part to play.

We cannot all give the same amount. But we can all give the same way—with grateful hearts and a desire to put God first. Every faithful gift becomes part of something greater than itself.

As we approach year’s end, our giving is tracking according to projections. However, approximately 30% of our annual budget is received in December. Finishing strong will require everyone’s continued faithfulness.

We ask you to prayerfully consider your year-end giving and your commitment for the coming year.

Not out of guilt. Not out of pressure. But out of gratitude for what God has done and anticipation for what God has yet to do.



We believe God still has new fields for us to plow, new seeds to plant, and new harvests to gather.

Our dream is that everyone who walks onto this campus will say with joy, “This is my church!”

Not simply the church I attend. This is my family. My place to serve. My opportunity to make a difference for Christ.

And that brings us back to that beautiful word: **UPHOLD**.

Think about what it means to uphold someone.

It means to hold them steady when the ground beneath them is shaking. To lift them when they are weary. To stand beside them when life becomes more than they can bear.

And isn’t that exactly what the Church has done for so many of us?

When a baby is born, the Church is there to celebrate.

When a young person stands at the altar to profess faith, the Church is there to rejoice.

When two people promise to love each other for a lifetime, the Church is there to bless them.

And when the doctor delivers the news we never wanted to hear...when the tears won’t stop falling...when we stand beside the grave of someone we love...the Church is there, too.

Praying. Loving. Holding us up.

And someday, when our own journey on this earth comes to an end, the Church will still be here. Still proclaiming the Resurrection. Still telling our children and grandchildren about Jesus. Still reaching out to a world that desperately needs hope.

What a privilege to help build something that will outlive us!

So, dear friends, when we ask you to uphold White’s Chapel with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, we are inviting you into something far greater than supporting a budget.

We are inviting you to help carry the love of Christ into lives you may never see and generations you may never know.

We uphold the Church because the Church has upheld us.

And beneath it all are the everlasting arms of a faithful God, who has upheld us every step of the way.

May we never grow weary of holding up the Church that God is using to hold up the world.

And may those who come after us find it strong, faithful, loving, and filled with the light of Christ.

Together, with grateful hearts and willing hands, let us **UPHOLD** what God has entrusted to us... so that generations yet unborn may discover the same grace that has upheld us.



Praying. Loving. Holding Us Up.



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR GIVING

Why does the commitment of giving cause many of us to squirm a little? Personally, giving a full tithe is never easy, and we don’t always hit the mark. That makes me squirm. Or is it that we focus more on the 10% that we give and less on the 90% that we keep? Giving is so much more.

Giving transforms us spiritually more than I would have ever expected. We started giving regularly as young parents of three after a strong nudge from a couple at a Bible study we attended. And more than 25 years later, we are eternally grateful — not from patting ourselves on the back but from appreciating the change in heart from relinquishing what already belongs to God.

As we uphold our commitment to giving, let’s also consider the tax implications (yes, bringing up taxes causes many of us to squirm a little, too!). The information below summarizes deductions in general as well as different ways to make charitable contributions.

STANDARD DEDUCTIONS & ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS

For most individuals, there are two options for claiming deductions when computing how much of your income is subject to tax — the “standard” deduction and “itemized” deductions. The standard deduction, as implied by the name, is a set standard amount regardless of the amount of tax-deductible items you may have actually had for the year (the standard deduction is inflation-adjusted, and for 2026, this amount is \$16,100 for singles and \$32,200 for married couples filing joint returns).

Alternatively, if you have tax-deductible items (typically mortgage interest, state income and property taxes, and charitable contributions) that exceed the standard deduction, you probably want to itemize your deductions so you get a greater reduction in how much of your income is subject to tax. For those of you who have historically itemized deductions, you have enjoyed an incremental tax benefit from making charitable contributions. Unless your itemized deductions exceed the now-higher standard deduction, this tax benefit is not available in that year.

TAX LAW CHANGE FOR 2026

There was a tax law change for 2026 that will slightly limit the deductibility of charitable contributions. Beginning this year, 2026, your itemized deduction for charitable contributions will only be allowed if, and to the extent that, your contributions exceed 0.5% of your adjusted gross income. I don’t want to get too tax-technical and hope this example helps: If you make \$200,000 a year and tithe \$20,000, assuming you itemize your deductions, your charitable contribution deduction will be \$19,000 (the amount by which your contribution of \$20,000

exceeds the new floor of \$1,000, or $\$200,000 \times 0.5\%$). Note: This limitation does not apply to the qualified charitable distributions from an IRA discussed below.

CASH DONATIONS

Cash gifts are simple, and assuming you can itemize deductions, the tax benefit is easy to determine, as it generally reduces your income subject to tax by the amount of cash you donate. To claim a deduction in 2026, the contribution must be made on or before Dec. 31, 2026.

ALTERNATIVELY — KEEP YOUR CASH!

While cash is easy to donate, cash may not give you the most benefit from a tax perspective.

Two “win-win” ways to donate include donating certain appreciated stock and making qualified IRA distributions. First, donating investments that might otherwise generate long-term capital gains if they were sold may allow you to claim a deduction for the fair market value of the stock without paying tax on the long-term gain as if you sold it. If you are considering harvesting some gains in your portfolio before year-end, this might be a good choice.

Second, if you are over 70%, you may be able to distribute up to \$111,000 from your IRA to the church without including the distribution in income. This amount counts toward your required minimum distribution as well.

ESTATE AND TRUST PLANNING

For longer-term planning, there are even more opportunities to give and benefit your tax situation. While too complex to go into here, there are ways to get current deductions by using charitable trusts or similar arrangements — the income from assets can be used now by the donor, but the assets are committed to the church in the future. We are happy to discuss options with you.

DISCLAIMER

As a tax guy, I probably should use the word “generally” more and have some caveats as the rules are complex. Please keep in mind any record keeping and reporting considerations for your specific types of donations. Also, deductions for donations may also be limited based on your AGI. If you are unsure, ask your tax advisor or the IRS website actually has a publication discussing all aspects in mostly understandable language — simply go to www.irs.gov and search for Publication 526.

With gratitude,
Scott Woods CPA
Chairman, Whites Chapel Administrative Board

WHY GIVE?

As we’ve seen and heard and felt, the Church — filled with the Holy Spirit — has the incredible power to change people and to change the world... and it’s the only thing in the world that does. And when we realize that, when we “own” that — when the church stops being “the church” and starts becoming “my church” — that’s when awesome things start to happen.

That’s when we start to give like we never have before — fearlessly and sacrificially. And it’s not out of guilt; it’s out of love. We give, not to be blessed... but because we

realize that we’ve already been blessed. We give because we want to be a part of something bigger and greater than anything any one of us could do by ourselves. Our financial support of this church — of our church — is important. And y’all know that we don’t talk about money a lot around here because we believe that there are bigger things that need to be talked about... but our financial support is important.

And what we need to understand is that the church is not just one of many charities vying for our support. If we take the Bible seriously (and I certainly pray that we do), God says that it’s critical for us — as an act of faith, as an act of gratitude, as an act of trust — to return to Him his tithe: the first 10th of what we make: realizing that He’s the reason that we make anything

at all. It’s all an act of stewardship: an awareness that none of what we have is ours — not our money, not our stuff, not our time, not our skills... not even our families. They’ve all been given to us by God, and they’ve been entrusted to us for a reason. We are here for a reason, and we have what we have for a reason — a sacred and holy purpose. And something beautiful happens when those two combine: our purpose and our provisions — not feeling compelled by what God wants from us, but inspired by what He wants for us... and for others: for us to be a church of real people making a real difference... a church fired up in the Spirit — diving in, going deep, finding faith and finding life like we’ve never lived before!

WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE

You can give online at whiteschapel.org by debit/credit card and e-checks.



APP

Download the WC Life App from the App Store and select give to enter a one time or recurring gift.



DAF

(Donor-Advised Funds)



STOCK

The White’s Chapel’s Schwab account number is 9368-8214 and the DTC number is 0164 Code 40.



RMD

(Required Minimum Distributions)



CASH

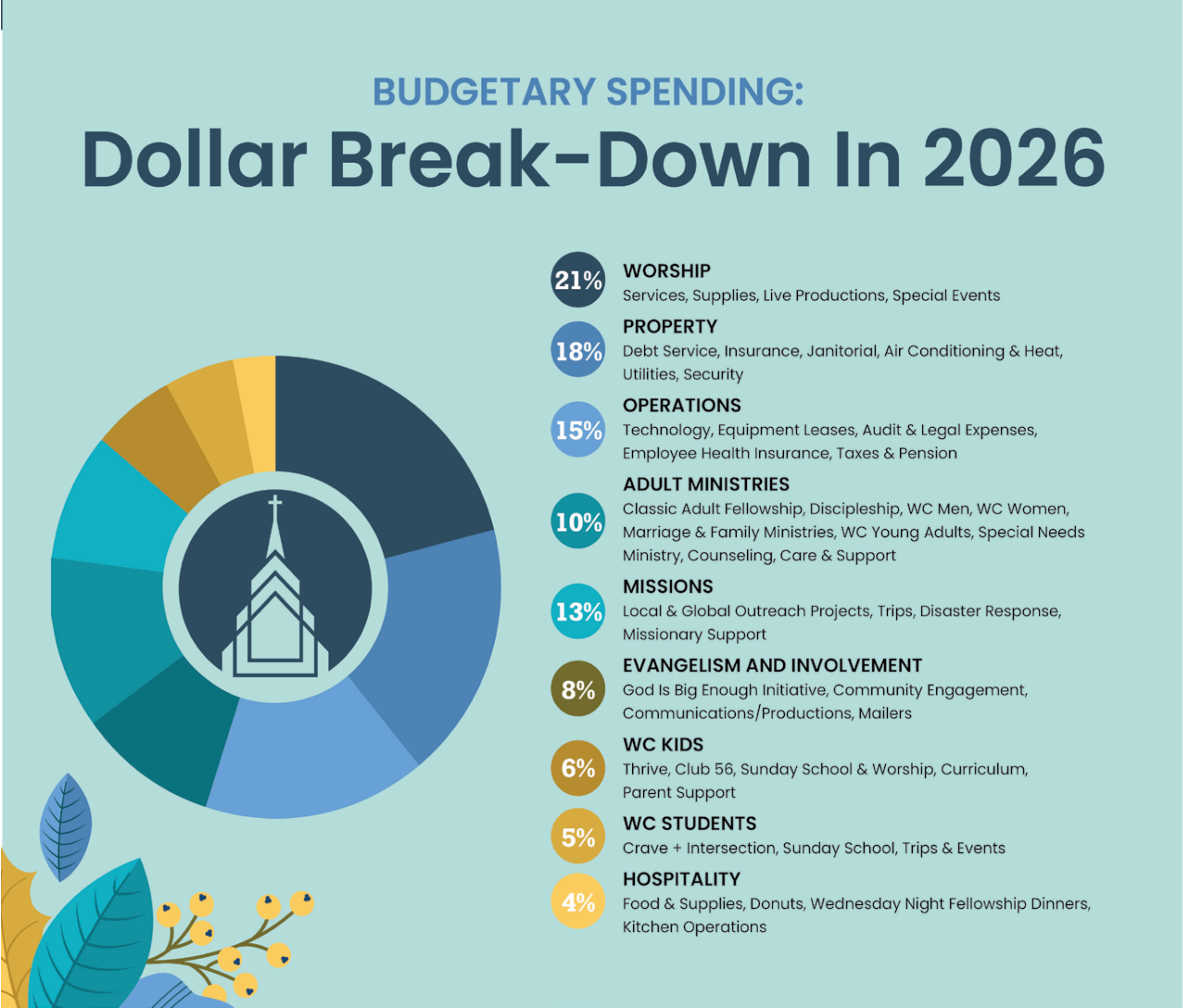
You can bring or mail cash or check. Checks payable to “White’s Chapel.”



TEXT

Text “WCMC” to 77977.

Need Assistance? Contact the Finance Department at (817) 481-4147



Upholding Tomorrow

Dreams & Goals for 2027

The church has never been called to stand still. There are always new people to reach, new needs to meet, new opportunities to embrace and new ways to share the extraordinary love of Jesus Christ. And as we look toward 2027, we believe God is opening doors we haven’t even imagined yet!

We’re dreaming of a church where more children discover the wonder of faith, more families find a place to belong, more neighbors experience the love of Christ and more lives are transformed by the power of God’s grace. We’re dreaming of ministries that reach farther, relationships that grow deeper and opportunities that invite more people to discover the joy of being part of something bigger than themselves.

Of course, dreams don’t become realities simply because we dream them. They take prayer, imagination, courage and a willingness to follow wherever God leads. With that in mind, here’s a glimpse of what we’re dreaming about for 2027.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

- To deepen our partnership with the Methodist Collegiate Church in Africa, strengthening relationships and expanding opportunities for mutual ministry and mission.
- To continue developing the La Mesa Community Center as a vibrant place of worship, fellowship, education and service for our neighbors, including families connected to T.A. Sims Elementary School.
- To strengthen our partnerships with GRACE and other community organizations as we respond to the growing challenges of homelessness, hunger, health and economic insecurity.
- To expand the reach and impact of our Mobile Market ministry, bringing practical assistance and the love of Christ to more families throughout our community.
- To build on the successful launch of our Trinity Service Project, expanding our efforts to renovate and restore homes for at-risk families—creating safer, more secure places to live and renewed hope for the future.
- To create additional opportunities for people of all ages to participate in hands-on mission experiences locally, nationally and internationally.
- To better tell the stories of lives being changed through our missions and outreach ministries—celebrating what God is doing in and through our church and helping congregants see the difference their faithfulness is making.



DISCIPLESHIP

- To develop and share meaningful Bible studies, teaching resources and original curricula that help people engage with Scripture and deepen their relationship with Christ.
- To strengthen our small-group ministries, helping people find communities where they can be known, encouraged, challenged and supported.
- To expand ministries for young adults, singles and young families, recognizing the unique opportunities and challenges of each season of life.
- To continue investing in WC Kids and WC Students, creating environments where the next generation can discover a faith that is both deeply rooted and personally meaningful.
- To expand the reach and impact of our Thrive Ministry, creating even more opportunities for individuals with special needs and their families to experience the joy of belonging, the strength of community and the love of Christ.
- To equip parents and families with practical resources for building strong relationships and nurturing faith at home.
- To continue developing welcoming, safe and inspiring spaces for learning, fellowship and spiritual growth.
- To develop a vibrant recreation ministry that encourages fellowship, promotes wellness and builds meaningful connections with our neighbors—laying the groundwork for an exciting new chapter of ministry when our new gymnasium opens.



WORSHIP

- To continue cultivating passionate, authentic worship experiences in a variety of styles, helping people from different backgrounds and generations find meaningful ways to connect with God.
- To invest in the next generation of worshipers and worship leaders, creating new opportunities for children and students to discover and develop their gifts.
- To encourage families to worship together, and stress significance of corporate worship to children and students.
- To strengthen our online worship ministry, moving beyond simply reaching people digitally toward building genuine relationships and meaningful spiritual connections.
- To expand the reach of WC Music & Worship through creative resources, original content and new opportunities to share the beauty of worship beyond Sunday mornings.
- To continue improving our worship spaces and technology, ensuring that our facilities remain welcoming, accessible and equipped to serve generations to come.
- To cultivate a renewed spirit of invitation, encouraging every member to recognize that a simple invitation can become the beginning of someone’s journey of faith.



EVANGELISM, COMMUNITY & INVOLVEMENT

- To strengthen our efforts to welcome and connect guests and new members, helping every person discover not simply a place to attend but a community to belong to.
- To develop clearer pathways for people to take their next steps in faith, from their first visit to deeper involvement in worship, discipleship, service and leadership.
- To equip congregants to share their faith naturally and authentically through relationships, hospitality and everyday acts of love.
- To navigate the coming months of construction with grace, patience and flexibility—minimizing disruptions while ensuring that White’s Chapel remains a welcoming, vibrant place of worship, ministry and fellowship throughout this exciting season of growth.
- To build stronger partnerships with neighboring congregations and community organizations, recognizing that the work of God’s Kingdom is always larger than any one church.
- To find new ways to serve the changing needs of the communities around us, listening carefully to our neighbors and responding with compassion, creativity and grace.
- To continue nurturing a church culture in which every person understands that they have gifts to offer, a place to serve and a part to play in God’s unfolding story.



THANKSGIVING MISSION

FOOD DRIVE

NOV. 1 – 13

Drop off items at the East Welcome Doors.
Due to our limited delivery box size, please follow packaging size guidelines.
NO GLASS CONTAINERS.

Digital LIST

WC Trains

NOV. 14 - JAN. 10

VARIOUS TIMES | WESLEY CAFE

New York Times Bestselling Author

Gary Sinise

Graceful Warrior

The True Story of a Son, a Father, and a Family Who Carried Each Other Through

An Evening With Gary Sinise

Moderated by Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner.

Thursday, Nov. 12

6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

\$30/person (includes book)

Register online at whiteschapel.org.

WHITE'S CHAPEL

HERALD

Church office—(817) 481-4147

Editor Debbie McKellar

Graphics and Design Susanna Cunningham

Graphics Consultants Alec Hanson & Sarah Hamilton

White’s Chapel Herald USPS 25541 is published weekly except for the second week of March and the week of Thanksgiving, and then changes to alternate weeks beginning the Friday after Memorial Day, changing back to weekly in mid-August, and skips the week between Christmas and New Year, by White’s Chapel Methodist Church, 185 S. White Chapel Blvd, Southlake TX 76092-7308. Periodicals Postage is paid at Grapevine, TX and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: \$10 for one year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to White’s Chapel, 185 S. White Chapel Blvd, Southlake, TX 76092-7308