

HERALD



Please join us online or in person this weekend as we continue our sermon series "Hope is Here." We hope to see you soon!

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 29

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

571870

Arts Academy provides Adventure In After School Programming

By Leilani Barrera

At White's Chapel, we're dedicated to creating a warm, inviting space because we believe that supporting children starts with a positive environment. WC Kids is designed to help kids grow into their best selves. An accepting space helps kids feel comfortable learning, expressing themselves, and talking openly with those they trust. This environment nurtures social-emotional growth, encourages critical thinking, creativity, and social awareness, and enhances cognitive and motor skills.

"Students not only explore creativity but also learn how to reflect the character of Christ in all they do."

WC Kids offers Arts Academy for children 5 and under, providing a warm space to explore creativity, make friends, and discover what sparks their joy. The program emphasizes fun, inclusivity, progress, and collaboration, stressing that every child belongs regardless of talent.

"For years, Arts Academy has been a place where kids are free to explore their interests, build community, and just have fun," says Erin Schechter, WC Arts Academy Coordinator, "[all] without

ARTS cont'd on page 2



You Can Do This!

By Sam Robbins

William McRaven is a retired four-star admiral. He also served as commander of U.S. Special Operations Command and later as chancellor of the University of Texas system. In 2014, he addressed graduates at UT and reflected on his journey to becoming a U.S. Navy SEAL. SEAL training, of course, is widely regarded as some of the toughest in the world.

In that speech, McRaven shared a story about resilience that has stayed with me. He said...

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PURE JOY

Kerstin Yates enjoys the "best part" of our last mission trip to Kenya: being surrounded by children. An informational meeting for this fall's Kenya mission trip is scheduled for this Sunday, January 25.

Chandler's Hope

Workshop Explores Elements of Addiction and Recovery

By Debbie McKellar

Elements of Addiction/Recovery
Thursdays, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12
5:30–7 p.m.
Evans Hall Room 2233 (Second Floor)

Addiction rarely affects only one person. It weaves itself into families, workplaces, friendships, and faith communities, often leaving loved ones unsure how to respond or where to turn. An upcoming workshop offered through Chandler's Hope seeks

to address that reality with honesty, compassion, and hope.

A new three-week workshop, *Elements of Addiction/Recovery* is designed for anyone impacted by addiction—whether personally or through someone they love. The workshop creates a space for learning, reflection, and supportive conversation.

One of the series' facilitators, Shannon Luce, brings both professional training and lived experience to the

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Come and See: Kenya Mission Trip Information Meeting Fall 2026

Jan. 25 | 12:15–1:15 p.m.
Evans Hall Room 2129

There are moments when a mission trip is less about what we bring and more about what we are invited to witness. An upcoming information meeting offers just such an invitation—an opportunity to come and see what God is doing in Kenya and to prayerfully consider being part of a hands-on mission trip planned for this fall.

The Fall 2026 Kenya Mission Trip Information Meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 25, from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Evans Hall Room 2129. The meeting will be led by Ken Nelson and will include special guest Bishop Joe Kamau, director of the Kenya churches and resident pastor, who will share firsthand insight into the ministry and communities the team hopes to serve. Whether you are actively considering going or simply curious to learn more, this gathering is designed as a welcoming, no-pressure opportunity to explore what participation might look like.

Ken Nelson speaks from deep experience. Over the years, he and his wife, Sharon, have participated in numerous White's Chapel mission trips open to the congregation, just like the upcoming Kenya trip. Each journey offered a unique opportunity to serve, learn and grow in faith while working alongside fellow church members.

Those trips have taken them to Uruguay, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, Ghana, Belize and additional locations across the United States—painting schools,

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Ministry Seeks to Educate in Fight Against Human Trafficking

By Debbie McKellar

Human Trafficking 101
Training Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 28 | 6 p.m.
AE Room 2234

Some ministries arrive quietly—without banners or headlines—yet carry a weight that settles deep in the heart once you learn they exist. Human Trafficking Outreach at

White's Chapel is one of those ministries. For many in our church family, awareness begins with a single step: Human Trafficking 101.

This foundational training opens eyes to a reality that is often hidden in plain sight. Human trafficking is not a distant or abstract issue; it is a modern form of slavery and the second-largest criminal industry in the world, surpassed only by drug trafficking. It thrives on force, fraud and coercion, exploiting people—often children—for labor or sexual

purposes. And while it is uncomfortable to acknowledge, it happens far closer to home than most of us realize.

White's Chapel partners with the Poiema Foundation, an organization committed to preventing sexual exploitation through education, community engagement and survivor restoration. Poiema's mission is rooted in a simple but powerful belief: sexual abuse and exploitation should never be tolerated, and survivors deserve safe

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CAF and WC Missions Update
Mental Health Tuesdays Information



Joyful Noise
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Trafficking

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housing, trauma-informed care and unconditional love as they move toward healing.

For Melissa Zimmerman, one of White's Chapel's ministry leaders, the call to get involved became personal after learning about a local case in April 2022. A 15-year-old girl from North Richland Hills was abducted from the American Airlines Center. It took 10 long days for her parents to find her. She was eventually located in Oklahoma City—after her photo was discovered on a prostitution website.

"She was only 15," Zimmerman said. "That story really hit home for me."

Though her aunt had encouraged her to learn more about Poiema for years, it wasn't until Zimmerman attended Human Trafficking 101 that everything shifted.

"Once I went through the training, I knew I had to do something," she said.

With encouragement from White's Chapel leadership, the ministry officially launched in January 2023, beginning with Human Trafficking 101 and followed by outreach training. Since then, the group has continued meeting monthly, quietly and faithfully doing the work of awareness and prevention.

Human Trafficking 101 is not designed to overwhelm or frighten participants. Instead, it equips them with knowledge—what trafficking is, how it operates and why awareness matters. The training also highlights practical ways communities can respond, beginning with education.

Through monthly outreach, White's Chapel volunteers visit local businesses in Southlake and Grapevine, distributing posters of missing children. These posters are placed in storefront windows or employee breakrooms, serving as a visible reminder that someone is looking for these children and that the community is paying attention.

Volunteers also gather information

for partner organization 4TheOne, which uses that data to help build cases involving traffickers and locate missing children—one of the most vulnerable populations to exploitation.

Across Poiema's 18 participating campuses, this simple but intentional outreach has helped locate 396 missing children. Of the 58 cases worked in the recent past by Poiema, 58 children have been found!

Despite the seriousness of the work, volunteers are never placed in unsafe situations.

"We only speak with employees," Zimmerman explained. "We don't interact with missing children, and if anything feels off, we contact the police. Our goal is education."

Beyond outreach, Poiema also operates a safe house for women recovering from trafficking. There, survivors receive therapy, life-skills training, mentoring, educational opportunities and spiritual care, including Bible studies. Volunteers are always needed to support this vital work.

Currently, about 10 White's Chapel members are involved in the ministry, but the need continues to grow. Each outreach team requires four volunteers per vehicle, and additional routes could be covered with more hands and hearts willing to serve. The doors are always open for more volunteers.

Human Trafficking 101 is offered regularly at White's Chapel, as well as via Zoom through Poiema Foundation on the second Thursday of each month. For those curious, concerned or simply wanting to learn more, the training is a meaningful place to begin.

Sometimes awareness begins with listening. Sometimes it begins with learning. And sometimes, it begins with saying yes to a training that gently but firmly invites us to see—and respond—with compassion.

For more information, contact Melissa Zimmerman.

Melissa Zimmerman
zimmerman.five@gmail.com

HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101: AWARENESS AND HOW TO COMBAT



Wednesday, Jan. 28

6 p.m. | AE Room 3103

Please register online at whiteschapel.org.

For more information please contact Melissa Zimmerman | zimmerman.five@gmail.com

WEEKEND PREACHING SCHEDULE

SANCTUARY

- Sun.** 8:20 a.m. | Traditional
Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner
- Sun.** 9:30 a.m. | Contemporary
Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner
- Sun.** 11 a.m. | Foundation
Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner

THE FOUNDRY

- Sat.** 5:30 p.m. | Contemporary
Rev. Sam Robbins
- Sun.** 11 a.m. | Foundry Service
Rev. Sam Robbins

WALTON CHAPEL

- Sun.** 9:30 a.m. | Traditional
Rev. Lori Cotton

HERALD

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Arts

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pressure, competition, or the need to be perfect."

This academy offers three programs for children, tailored to age and interests. First, the Arts Academy Variety program is a low-pressure environment where kids explore art, science, cooking, LEGO building, and inventing in 10 weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The rotating schedule ensures students and teachers have fresh, engaging experiences.

"It's the perfect way for kids to 'dip their toes in the water' and explore different hobbies to see what they might want to pursue more deeply as they grow," says Schechter.

Arts Academy's Broadway Bound is a second feature of the program— "a dynamic class designed just for young performers ready to take the spotlight," says Schechter. In this program, students will "explore music, dance, and singing, while building confidence and skills needed for theater." Students in first through third grade who are passionate about performing arts are invited to join this class!

Every week, the ROCK comes alive with a tasty snack and an enriching short devotional, helping to focus the hearts

and minds of each performer. This class will teach theater skills and culminate in a final performance at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, with friends and families invited to celebrate together.

Finally, Art's Academy Preschool Dance offers a shorter class for ages three to five, from 2:30 to 3 p.m., giving our tiny dancers a chance to explore basic dance styles. The instructor includes worship of God in each lesson. No special shoes are needed, but children should bring water bottles and wear comfortable clothes.

Aside from Preschool Dance, every class includes a short devotional and a snack, making the Arts Academy a warm space to nurture your child's creativity and strengthen their faith.

"Students not only explore creativity but also learn how to reflect the character of Christ in all they do," Schechter says. "It's a joyful, Christ-centered experience that helps children discover who they are and who God created them to be."

The registration fee is \$50 per student per class. Registration is first-come, first-served, open until the class is full capacity. Spots fill quickly, so parents are encouraged to register early.

For further information, class start times, and requirements, see our website or contact Erin Schechter.

Erin Schechter | eschechter@whiteschapel.org

Musings

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"The ninth week of SEAL training is referred to as Hell Week. It is six days of no sleep, constant physical and mental harassment and one special day at the Mud Flats. The Mud Flats are an area between San Diego and Tijuana where the water runs off and creates the Tijuana sloughs—a swampy patch of terrain where the mud will engulf you. You paddle down to the mud flats and spend the next 15 hours trying to survive the freezing-cold mud, the howling wind and the incessant pressure from the instructors to quit. As the sun began to set that Wednesday evening, my training class was ordered into the mud. The mud consumed each man till there was nothing visible but our heads. The instructors told us we could leave the mud if only five men would quit—just five men and we could get out of the oppressive cold. Looking around the mud flat, it was apparent that some students were about to give up. It was still over eight hours till the sun came up—eight more hours of bone-chilling cold. The chattering teeth and shivering moans of the trainees were so loud it was hard to hear anything. And then, one voice began to echo through the night—one voice raised in song. The song was terribly out of tune but sung with great enthusiasm. One voice became two, and two became three, and before long everyone in the class was singing. We knew that if one man could rise above the misery then others could as well. The instructors threatened us with more time in the mud if we kept up the singing—but the singing persisted. And somehow, the mud seemed a little warmer, the wind a little tamer and the dawn not so far away."

I love the spirit of those young men. They chose to stick together. They refused to give up. They were determined to keep their commitment—even if that meant singing in the mud all night long.

That's toughness. That's resolve. And it's something we all need—especially this time of year.

By late January, most of us could use a fresh dose of that kind of determination. We've made commitments. We've taken on resolutions. But a few weeks in, the passion we started the year with has begun to fade. The excitement has worn off and the work feels heavier. This is the moment when we have to decide whether we'll keep going; whether we'll stay in the mud and the rain just a little longer.

That doesn't mean we'll be perfect. We won't be. We'll mess up. We'll stumble. We may even find ourselves drifting back toward old habits from time to time. The key isn't that we never slip up. The key is that when we do, we get back up and try again.

In many ways, that's the story of the Old Testament. The people of Israel fail again and again. They worship a golden calf. They beg to return to bondage in Egypt. They complain. They bicker. They turn on one another. Over and over, they struggle to keep the promises they make.

And yet, God never gives up on them.

Each time they fall, God pursues them with grace—offering a hand, helping them stand, and inviting them to begin again. Because that's who our God is: a God of compassion, mercy, and steadfast love.

So, if you've gotten off track with one of your commitments this year, if you've lost your footing and feel like one of those young men in the mud flats, ready to quit—that's okay. But don't stop.

Get back up. Try again. Sing even louder.

You can do this.

CAF

Classic Adult Fellowship

Happy New Year from CAF

Classic Adult Fellowship, or CAF, had a ball in 2025. From monthly movies and luncheons as well as special trips off campus together, ages 55+ enjoyed fellowshipping and experiencing fun together in many ways.

The December luncheon was so much fun from playing games, a visit from "Mrs. Claus," great food, and the best fellowship. We hope to see everyone at one of our events in 2026!

Upcoming Events

Consult the CAF Winter/Spring Newsletter for detailed event information but hope to see everyone at our next luncheon.

- CAF Country Classics - Boots and Bling January Luncheon**
January 30 | 11 a.m. (doors open at 10:15 with check-in at 10:30)

Evans Hall

Wear your best "cowduds" and a little bling to celebrate the Fort

Worth Stock Show and Rodeo being in town. We'll enjoy chicken fried steak with all the "fixins" as well as hear live country and western music. Learn a couple of line dances and let's ring in the new year together! Register online, email, or call Laurie Williams.

- CAF Monthly Movie—Soul on Fire**
February 5 | 1:30 p.m.

Rawlins Hall

A boy survives a life altering accident and turns his scars into a bright future. Watch a movie together with fresh popcorn, drinks, candy, and fellowship! FREE!

Classic Adult Fellowship is open to the community. Church membership is not required, so bring friends and share in the fellowship!

Laurie Williams, Director
lwilliams@whiteschapel.org



Kenya

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digging trenches, constructing gazebos, rebuilding homes, drilling water wells, packaging disaster relief supplies and partnering with local ministries to meet tangible needs.

In Guatemala, they worked alongside Stove Builders of Guatemala to construct safe, smoke-free cooking stoves, replacing dangerous indoor open-fire cooking that causes severe respiratory illness. In Ghana, their work included medical mission efforts, construction of a church pavilion and the drilling of 36 water wells—each one continuing to provide clean water long after the team returned home. In Baldwin, Louisiana, they packaged disaster recovery supplies at the Sager Brown Depot for the United Methodist Committee of Relief.

Yet across all those destinations, Nelson says one experience stands out consistently.

"In every place we've served, one of our greatest joys has been spending time with the children," he said. "Playing games, laughing, talking—just being present with them. Their joy, resilience and spirit stay with you. It's one of the strongest reminders of why we serve."



Looking Ahead to Fall 2026

Plans are now underway to return to Kenya in fall 2026, with hopes of beginning construction on a new church in Ol Kalou, just outside Gilgil. The work will

be hands-on and service-oriented, including digging trenches, shoveling, moving materials by wheelbarrow, laying rebar, clearing weeds and dirt, and hauling rock. In addition, the team may assist with painting and light construction projects at the local school and help work the farm located on the campus.

No construction experience is required—just a willing heart, a strong work ethic and a desire to serve.

Because this is the first informational meeting, only three spots—reserved for team leaders and a pastor—are currently filled. All other spots remain open. Early expressions of interest are encouraged, as advance planning is important for securing flights and accommodations.

The January meeting will cover the mission's vision, anticipated projects and practical details, with time for questions and conversation. As plans continue to take shape, more specific needs and tasks will be identified.

Nelson is clear when asked if he would go again.

"Definitely," he said. "You help build a place of worship, support education and sustainability, grow in faith through service and experience the beauty and culture of Kenya. And you come home changed."

If you feel even a small nudge of curiosity, this meeting is the perfect place to begin.

Come learn. Come ask questions. Come see what God may be inviting you to build.



A First Look at Kenya

Their connection to Kenya began with a previous "Come and See" visit to Gilgil—a trip designed not to build or repair, but to listen, observe and learn. From the moment they arrived, Nelson recalls being struck by the beauty of the country—not only its landscape, but its people.

That first visit offered a glimpse of the work Bishop Kamau has been faithfully building for years. The group visited a boys' and girls' school where students have the opportunity to graduate and pursue college or university education. The school is largely self-sustaining, supported by gardens and cattle, and it was inspiring to see staff and students working the land together.

They also learned about additional ministries that have grown from this foundation, including a girls' soccer team—two of whose players now compete on the Kenyan national team—a volleyball team and a medical clinic that serves the surrounding community. Bishop Kamau's heart for outreach is especially evident in his ministry to impoverished areas around Gilgil. He has planted several churches, shepherds a growing congregation and oversees a radio station that reaches nearly 1 million people. His outreach also extends to Maasai communities living several hours outside Gilgil.

Where Children and Community Meet

During their visit, Nelson and Sharon spent time with children both



WC MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Filling the Gap

Every Tuesday (through May)

10:30–11:15 a.m. | Concourse

The Filling the Gap food ministry provides weekend food to at-risk students at O. H. Stowe, Van Zandt-Guinn, Bellaire, Grace E. Hardeman, and T.A. Sims. The food is bought locally, packed by volunteers on Tuesdays, and then delivered to the designated schools on Fridays. Nutritious items are included and packaged in a way that children can prepare the food themselves.

Volunteers meet on Tuesdays from 10:30–11:15 a.m. (immediately following Tuesday morning Bible Study) to help pack food for approximately 435 at-risk students (assembly line style).

On Fridays, volunteers meet at the school to load grocery sacks into backpacks for the students to take home. Volunteers must complete a background check. Those wanting to assist may contact Rev. Lori Cotton.

Rev. Lori Cotton | lcotton@whiteschapel.org

- Serving Dinner with Love**
Third Saturday of the Month

4:15–7 p.m.

The Morris Foundation Women & Children's Center

The Morris Foundation Women & Children's Center in Fort Worth provides immediate shelter to families in need and helps them find a place to call home.

Each month, volunteers meet at White's Chapel by the concourse "Welcome" doors at 4:15 p.m. to ride the church bus or meet the group at the shelter at 5 p.m. Parking spots are provided in a gated lot.

At the shelter, volunteers will serve dinner while providing love, encouragement, and fellowship.

This is a family-friendly opportunity. Children must be at least 12 years old and accompanied by a parent to participate.

For additional information, please contact Robin Cassell.

Robin Cassell | rcassell53@att.net

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FEB. 5

O.H. STOWE ELEMENTARY

FEB. 12

GRACE AT MUSTANG STADIUM

FEB. 19

BELLAIRE ELEMENTARY

FEB. 21

T.A. SIMS ELEMENTARY

FEB. 26

GRACE E. HARDEMAN ELEMENTARY

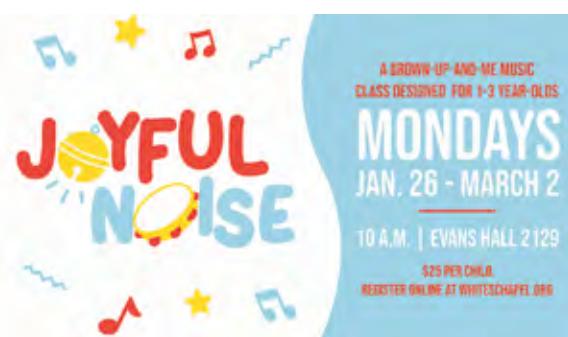


SCAN TO SIGN UP OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WHITESCHAPEL.ORG.

We partner with the Tarrant Area Food Bank to provide groceries to families in need throughout our community. For more information or questions, please contact Jared Smith at jsmith@whiteschapel.org.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Joyful Noise

Mondays, Jan. 26–March 2

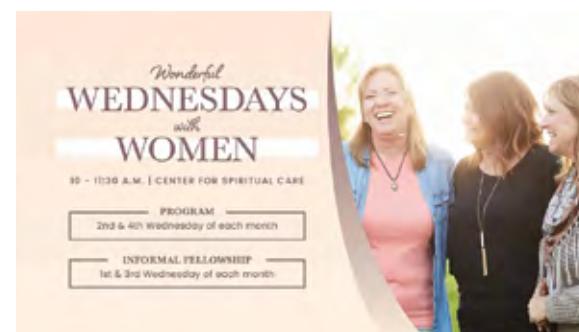
10 a.m. | Evans Hall Room 2129

A grown-up-and-me music class designed for toddlers ages 1–3 years old. We will sing, play instruments, dance, and make a joyful noise to the Lord! This is a six-week class and cost is \$25 per child. Adult participation and registration is required by going to whiteschapel.org.
Sarah Bryson | sbryson@whiteschapel.org

The group discussion in this class is open, insightful, and reflective. Together we all begin to see how evident God's presence is in these selected titles. Each week, a movie will be assigned for you to watch at home and then the group will discuss the film the following week.

All are welcome to join this 4-week class. Materials will be provided, no book purchase required. Register online.

Rev. Victor M. Resendiz
vresendiz@whiteschapel.org



Wonderful Wednesdays with Women

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month

10–11:30 a.m. | Center for Spiritual Care

Wonderful Wednesdays with Women is welcoming all ladies 50+ who are searching for a sisterhood community of like-minded women dedicated to God and one another with a focus on spiritual growth. The group gathers weekly for Scripture-based lessons and discussions on today's struggles and challenges, plus guest speakers, prayer, and fun activities! WWW ladies are discovering how to live a Christ-centered life and share our faith and love of our Lord.

Pamela Ebbert
pebbert600n@gmail.com
Tracy Christensen
tchristensen@whiteschapel.org



Contemplative Discussion on Films

Begins Jan. 27 | 10:30 a.m.

EH Room 2234

Can we see God's presence in the movies that we watch? Rev. Victor Resendiz believes we can. He has selected four films that essentially tell stories that consist of grace, redemption, kinship, inner healing and other elements that everyone can relate to.

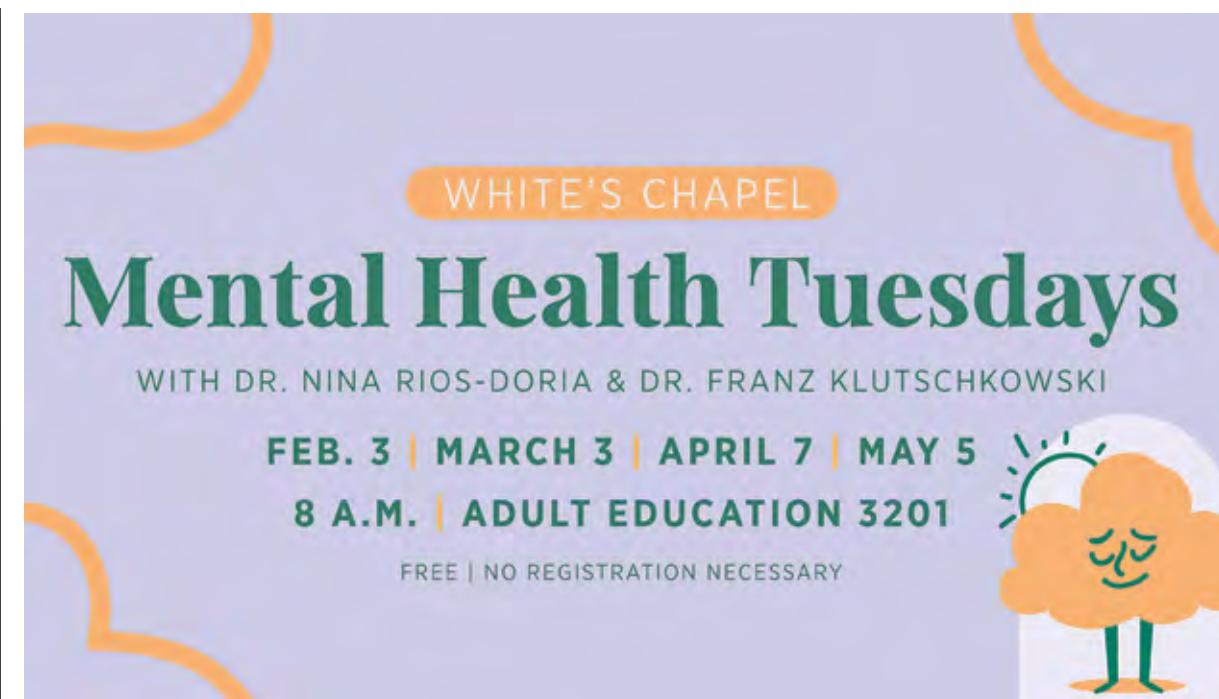


Prayer List



Malta Akins, Brayden, Gaye and Sandy Anderson, Roland Anderson, Meryl Babcock, Brent Bedgood, Nancy Bradley, Bobbie Cameron, Andrew Campbell, Lola Cobb, Ruth Cochran, Carolyn Cockerell, Bill and Jimmie Nell Cook, Gary Cooper, Susanna Cunningham, Sam D., Elizabeth Davis, Carol Dominiec, Jim Dougherty, Anna Ericson, Ralph Evans, Frank Forcelli, Brandi Yellock Frugé, Don Gardner, Morris Gates, Shelly Gillette, Alice Hall, Buddy Hall, Tiffany Hall, Joy Holekamp, Jim and Donna Houston, Marc Howland, Michelle James, Helen Kimble Kutch, Connie Lamb, Ashley Barret Leder, Mona Lewis, Sharon Martin, Tycie Max, Tex McCarthy, Sue McNutt, Jeff Miller, Dave Mueller, Charmayne Myers, Olivia Mysliwiec, Bobby Phipps, Helen Post, Joe Preston, Norma Resendiz, Eddie Robertson, Jane Robertson, Johnnie Ruth Rogillio, Ashton Rone, The Schulers, Paul Sikes, Patsy Smith, LeGrand Spradley, Julie Stapleton, Donna Stngle, Steve Swanston, Cyndi Tait, Barry Wahrmund, Jan Walls, Joe Watford, Martha Weaver, Carley West, Liz West, Lynn Will, Luke Williamson, Vicki Winn, Melinda Witt, Mark Wolfe. Recent Deaths: The Family of Bobbie Barnes, The Family of Jill Burr, The Family of Ron Fant, The Family of Renee Nicole Good, The Family of Patrick Green, The Family of Joanne Johnson, The Family of Carmello Mega, The Family of Thomas Q. Robbins, The Family of Ken Thomason, The Family of Frederick Timmerman, The Family of Larry Turner, The Family of Linda Wallace.

Submit names via QR code or www.whiteschapel.org/prayers.html.
(Names will remain on this prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise notified via QR code or www.whiteschapel.org/prayers.html.)



Join Dr. Nina Rios-Doria and Dr. Franz Klutschkowski from the White's Chapel Counseling Center for Mental Health Tuesdays. Each month, Rios-Doria and Klutschkowski will share a short talk (about 20 minutes) on a practical mental health topic and provide helpful tools you can use in your daily life. Afterward, there will be time for open Q&A and discussion. Whether you're looking for strategies to strengthen your emotional well-being or simply want a supportive space to learn and connect, this workshop can benefit you. Come as you are and take a step toward greater peace and resilience. No registration necessary.

Nina Rios-Doria | drninacoach@gmail.com

Chandler's

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conversations. Luce grew up in a family shaped by addiction, loving a father who ran a business and was, for many years, a "functional alcoholic." As is often the case, the family spent much of their time reacting—adjusting routines, managing emotions, and responding to unpredictable behavior.

Like many children of addiction, Luce once directed her frustration toward her mother, believing she should have intervened differently. With time and perspective, she came to recognize a pattern common in many families affected by addiction: enabling born out of love, fear, and the desire to hold things together.

Through her involvement with Chandler's Hope, Luce says she has gained a deeper sense of compassion—not only for those struggling with addiction, but for the spouses, parents, children, and friends who feel overwhelmed and unsure how to help. "So many people are at a loss," she has shared. "They love someone deeply and don't know what to do."

That understanding shapes the heart of the *Elements of Addiction/Recovery* workshop. Addiction, Luce notes, impacts every family in some way, whether openly acknowledged or quietly carried. The workshop encourages participants to replace shame with empathy and self-blame with understanding.

Central to the experience is the reminder that hope exists at every stage of the journey. Participants are encouraged to show up honestly and vulnerably, allowing others to walk alongside them. The facilitators emphasize that healing does not happen in isolation; it happens in community.

Faith is also part of the conversation, though the workshop does not offer easy answers. Luce acknowledges that addiction often brings outcomes no one would choose, testing faith and trust along the way. The workshop makes room for that tension, recognizing that faith can be especially difficult when

prayers seem unanswered or loss feels overwhelming.

Luce is currently walking closely with a longtime friend who lost her son to a drug overdose four years ago on Christmas Day. That experience has shaped Luce's passion for creating spaces where grief and addiction can be addressed together with honesty and care. She hopes future Chandler's Hope offerings will include classes specifically for families facing the devastating aftermath of addiction loss.

The *Elements of Addiction/Recovery* workshop will be facilitated by Luce alongside Rev. Victor Resendiz and other trained leaders. Their combined backgrounds include criminology, leadership development, mental health coaching, and years of professional facilitation, along with personal experience navigating addiction and recovery. This blend allows the workshop to address addiction as a complex human issue—one that affects people differently and requires compassion rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

In addition to special workshops, Chandler's Hope offers open support gatherings every Wednesday evening. These weekly meetings are available to anyone—those struggling with addiction and those walking with a loved one. The gatherings focus on conversation, prayer, and mutual support, reinforcing the belief that no one should have to navigate addiction alone.

"Human beings are complicated," Luce has observed. "What helps one person may not help another, and that can be especially hard within families." Through education, shared stories, and community support, Chandler's Hope seeks to grow understanding—and through understanding, compassion.

The upcoming workshop is an invitation to step into that space: to learn, to listen, and to discover that, even in the midst of addiction, there is hope.

Registration is available online or by scanning the QR code. There is no charge for the workshop. All are welcome.

Additional questions may be addressed to Resendiz.

Rev. Victor Resendiz
vresendiz@whiteschapel.org



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