WHITE'S CHAPEL

HERALD

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 22 | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2026 | 571870



Please join us online or in person this weekend as we conclude our sermon series "Wishbone." We hope to see you soon!

Sweet Treats, Joyful Noise

Carols, Cookies & Cocoa serves up Christmas cheer Dec. 6

By Leilani Barrera

"Hark! The herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King."

These opening lines of Charles Wesley's iconic Christmas carol richly capture the joy of Christmas. Like many beloved carols, this timeless song brings people together across generations. Having stood the test of time, many of our favorite holiday songs serve as a cherished source of Christmas cheer, uniting people from all walks of life.

Make this joyful event a holiday highlight and enjoy the timeless tradition of caroling with cookies and cocoa.

That spirit comes alive at White's Chapel's annual Carols, Cookies & Cocoa. Hosted on Dec. 6, this event is now in its 10th year. This caroling celebration will bring the community together for favorite holiday music, hot drinks and desserts. Kids from 1 to 92 are welcome, as is anyone looking for a way to celebrate the Christmas festivities and cheer alongside friends and family.

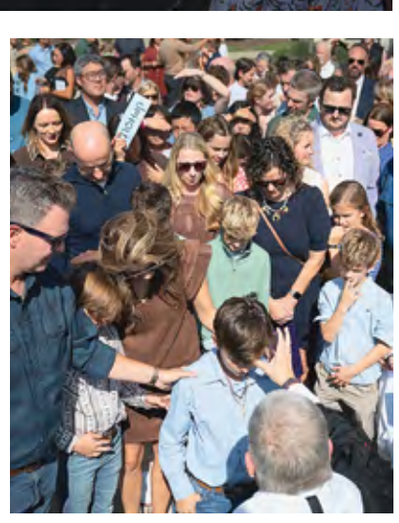
Starting at 5:30 p.m., hot cookies and cocoa will be served, and children's

COOKIES cont'd on page 2









A BEAUTIFUL DAY OF FAITH

White's Chapel celebrated 95 confirmands as they affirmed their faith— a beautiful day filled with joy, promise and the love of their church family.

Boughs of Holly, Hearts of Joy

Hanging of the Greens welcomes the Advent season

Sunday, Nov. 29 | 9:30 a.m. | Walton Chapel

A wreath, a garland, a branch of holly — each adds beauty to the Christmas season. But beyond their familiar place among our holiday decorations, these greens tell a story of faith, hope and everlasting life.

White's Chapel will explore those meanings during its Hanging of the Greens service Sunday, Nov. 29 at 9:30 a.m. in Walton Chapel. Led by the Rev. Steve Lallier, the service will invite members of the congregation to take part in preparing both the worship space and their hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Rooted in the English tradition of decorating homes with wreaths, garlands, Christmas trees and evergreens, Hanging of the Greens brings those familiar customs into the church. As decorations find their places, their symbolism offers a deeper understanding of the season.

GREENS cont'd on page 2

A Tale of Two Thanksgivings

By Dr. Todd Renner

When it comes to presidential history, Pastor John has always been our resident authority. But I guess I've spent enough years listening to his fascinating collection of presidential anecdotes that, apparently, a little of his enthusiasm has rubbed off on me. So, with a grateful nod to my dear friend and brother, please let me share a rather curious footnote from our nation's history.

In 1939, America found itself in the peculiar position of celebrating not one, but two Thanksgivings.

MUSINGS cont'd on page 2



Dreaming of a White's Chapel Christmas

Festival brings day of faith, fireworks and family fun Dec. 2

By Leilani Barrera

White's Chapel is preparing for a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season and one of the year's most beloved events.

On Wednesday, Dec. 2, join us for a day full of festive fun. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to enjoy the magic of Christmas and discover this year's exciting new additions.

FESTIVAL cont'd on page 3

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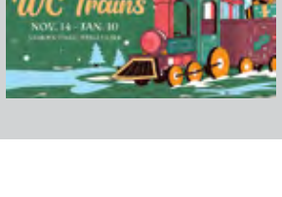

WC Trains

Runs until Jan. 10 | See Page 4

















FALL FEST

What better way to spend a November Sunday than celebrating all things fall? From face painting and pumpkins to riding a "cow," Fall Fest was packed with grins, giggles and a great time for all!

FINANCIALS NOVEMBER

November	2026	2025
Week 1	$299,409	$319,138
Week 2	$238,001	$268,648
Week 3	$282,437	$224,588
MTD Actual	$819,847	$812,374
MTD Goal	$764,150	$747,893
	$ 55,697	$ 64,481
YTD Actual	$10,368,143	$10,158,486
YTD Goal	$10,504,887	$9,863,887
	$ (136,744)	$ 294,599

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. Lori Cotton

Sun. 11 a.m. | Foundry Service
Rev. Sam Robbins

WALTON CHAPEL

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

WHITE'S CHAPEL
HERALD
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Cookies

Cont'd from page 1

crafts will be made available in Evans Hall. Singing will follow in the Sanctuary, led by various instruments and special performers, including children's and youth choirs. A heartwarming Christmas story will also be read aloud, with children enjoying a front-row seat. Every part of this event is made to be magical and enchanting.



"This is such a fun event for all ages!" says Hannah Robbins, WC Kids co-director. "From 1 to 99, everyone enjoys singing classic Christmas songs and getting into the holiday spirit. It's fun to see what's new each year while keeping the traditions we look forward to."

Since its debut in 2017, Carols, Cookies, & Cocoa has become a beloved holiday tradition. The event began when church members asked for a festive seasonal sing-along. The WC music and kids' departments, along with a team of eager volunteers, brought the idea to life, and popular demand has kept it going ever since.

"I remember walking to the service with Pastor John that evening, wondering if anyone would come—or if it would just be him, me, and a few musicians," says Clint Blalock, Music and Worship co-director. "Instead, every row was full, and children sat in the aisles and on the platform steps. The service outgrew Grace Chapel and has been held in the Sanctuary for several years."

Though the service has evolved over the years, its heart remains the same: Christmas carols and sweet treats bring people together. Make this joyful event a holiday highlight and enjoy the timeless tradition of caroling with cookies and cocoa.

If you have questions, contact Robbins, Blalock or Denise Bennett.

Hannah Robbins | hrobbins@whiteschapel.org
Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org
Clint Blalock | cblalock@whiteschapel.org

Greens

Cont'd from page 1

Evergreens have represented enduring life since long before the birth of Christ. Within Christian tradition, cedar represents royalty, while fir and pine point to everlasting life. Holly recalls Jesus' death, and ivy represents His resurrection. Together, these simple elements help tell the larger story of God's love.

The service also offers an opportunity to reflect on Advent, the season of anticipation that begins four Sundays before Christmas and continues through Christmas Eve. Its name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "visit." Marking the beginning of the Christian liturgical year, Advent calls us to prepare for Christ's coming with expectation and hope.



Across centuries and cultures, seasonal traditions have changed, with familiar customs taking on new meaning as generations make them their own. Hanging of the Greens invites worshippers to pause and consider the faith expressed through decorations they may otherwise pass without a second thought.

Families and individuals are encouraged to share in this meaningful service. Come discover the stories within the greenery and welcome the season with a renewed appreciation for the traditions that help us celebrate.

Rev. Steve Lallier | slallier@whiteschapel.org

Musings

Cont'd from page 1

For generations, the holiday had traditionally been observed on the last Thursday of November. But when President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the celebration a week earlier, hoping to extend the Christmas shopping season and stimulate a struggling economy, the nation found itself divided. Some states embraced the change. Others held fast to tradition. What followed was a spirited national disagreement over something as seemingly simple as the date on which we should give thanks.

The controversy was eventually dubbed "Franksgiving," and it took an act of Congress in 1941 to establish the fourth Thursday of November as our national day of Thanksgiving.

There is something wonderfully ironic about a nation becoming divided over a day intended to celebrate its blessings... and, yet, perhaps there's also something beautifully human about it.

We have always been rather adept at allowing the circumstances of life to overshadow its gifts. We notice what is missing before we recognize what remains. We remember the disappointments more readily than the mercies. And sometimes, in our determination to make everything just right, we overlook the extraordinary goodness already surrounding us.

But gratitude invites us to see the world differently.

It reminds us that blessings need not be perfect to be precious, that joy need not wait until every sorrow has passed, and that the goodness of God is not diminished by the unfinished places in our lives.

Perhaps that's why Thanksgiving matters so deeply. It calls us, if only for a moment, to lift our eyes beyond what troubles us and behold what sustains us: the love that surrounds us, the grace that carries us, and the countless quiet mercies that make an ordinary life so extraordinarily beautiful.

After all, Thanksgiving was never really about which Thursday we choose...it's about how we choose to see every other day.

CAF
Classic Adult Fellowship

Fall Classics

Classic Adult Fellowship, the best group around for ages 55 and up, is having a ball this fall. From free movies to monthly luncheons, the group is making new friends and having lots of fun together.

Our October luncheon was a blast with karaoke bingo! Using the online program



Mix Tape Music Bingo, the group listened to clips of favorite songs and located the titles on bingo cards. It's the perfect combination of music trivia and bingo and a great way to relive music from our past.



In addition to fun and games, the costumes did not disappoint! From flamingos to bobby socks, pizza delivery folks, a butterfly with her "netter" and attire from various decades, we had it all! Every table had winners who received centerpieces, gift cards and awesome items provided by our WC Bookstore. This group knows how to have a good time for sure!

On the Calendar
Thankful for Our Veterans Luncheon
Friday, Nov. 20 | 11 a.m.

All veterans and those who love our veterans are invited to enjoy a Thanksgiving feast and share service memorabilia. Those who own service items are encouraged to bring them and share their stories with the group. Tables of honor will display these priceless keepsakes, with time set aside to walk around and view them. Please invite friends and especially veterans to this luncheon.

Email or call Laurie Williams to reserve your spot.

White's Chapel Christmas Festival
Volunteers Needed
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Various time slots
Noon–6 p.m.

Dress up as an angel and share the light of Christ. Every year our group passes out goodies at the festival, and it's such a meaningful way to give back to the church and community. Sign up for an hour, dress in a solid color (most dress in white), and we'll provide the wings, halos and treats. It's a sweet way to kick off the season. Contact Laurie Williams or sign up at the next luncheon.

As several of you requested, a decorating and bow-making class is coming soon! Be on the lookout for a date and time to be added to the church calendar for this holiday decorating class.

Director Laurie Williams
lwilliams@whiteschapel.org
(817) 481-4147







Festival

Cont'd from page 1

Scan the QR code to sign up for volunteering opportunities.

For more than two decades, the WC Christmas Festival has brought the surrounding community together. Families have cherished its whimsical, enchanting atmosphere. With holiday-themed bounce houses, carnival games, animal attractions and tasty food, this festival offers something for everyone.

"The WC Christmas Festival has become a beloved tradition for many families at White's Chapel and throughout our community," said Denise Bennett, WC Kids co-director. "It's a wonderful way to kick off the Advent season, keeping Jesus at the center of our celebrations while enjoying an evening filled with laughter, fun, and fellowship...There are activities for everyone, from rides and games designed especially for children under 4 to attractions that older kids and adults can enjoy."



All inflatables, games, animal attractions and free carnival refreshments, along with free reindeer photos, will open early at 2 p.m. so families with young children can enjoy the full experience before the evening crowd arrives.



The beloved Holly Jolly Trolley is also returning to White's Chapel! Departing Rockenbaugh Elementary School, 301 Byron Nelson Parkway, from 3:30 to 8 p.m., it's not just any ol' ride! Passengers are in for a special treat aboard the trolley, arriving in Christmas style.

Hang on for deer life, because a thrilling new attraction is arriving this Christmas. This year, we're bringing a mechanical reindeer — like a mechanical bull — that challenges guests to hold on for a full eight seconds! Adults can challenge one another and compete for the longest ride. This hilarious addition is sure to attract a crowd and leave spectators doubled over with laughter.

Beyond the festive thrills, White's Chapel goes to great lengths to keep the heart of Advent central. Above all, we celebrate the miraculous gift of our Savior's birth. One way the church does this is through four live Nativity performances at the amphitheater by the pond at 5:30, 6, 6:30 and 7 p.m. Featuring live animals, the performances will help children learn about the Christmas story as they watch it unfold. For families with little ones, Preschool Storytime—a short retelling of Christ's birth—will also be offered by the pond at 3 p.m.

Skip your dinner plans and come hungry, because we'll have it covered! Free popcorn, hot chocolate, cotton candy and other carnival refreshments will be available. Beginning at 4 p.m., food trucks will offer food for purchase, including cheesy pizza, savory tacos, grilled cheese sandwiches and hot dogs. Other kid-friendly favorites will include hamburgers, corn dogs, nachos, funnel cakes and more.

With more than 3,500 attendees each year, the festival is one of the largest events hosted at White's Chapel. And just as Santa needs his elves, we couldn't make this day happen without our volunteers. Each year, about 200 volunteers come together to make it all possible.

"It truly takes a team effort and many helping hands to bring this event to life," Bennett said. "Volunteers help supervise bounce houses, prepare and serve popcorn and hot chocolate, run games, paint faces, and lead countless other fun activities. Beyond helping with the logistics, our volunteers bring the welcoming spirit and joy that make this event so special. Their willingness to serve helps create a fun, safe, and memorable experience for every family who attends."

That spirit of service extends to the WC Med Team, whose dedication helps families enjoy the festivities. In her third year leading the team, Katie Park, a registered nurse and WC health director, partners with security personnel and WC wellness director Alynne River to help keep the church's programs and events fun and safe.

"We work behind the scenes to make it as wonderful as can be," Park said. "Though we have a soft presence, our medical professional volunteers make a big impact. We are a radiant team, ready to bring Christmas cheer and a smile and remind families that they're cared for...We want to see everyone enjoy the most holiday fun!"



For this event, Med Team members will wear yellow lanyards and festive red T-shirts. Their check-in station will offer volunteer information, first aid and child identification wristbands to help reunite families if children become separated from their caregivers. Team members will also answer general questions and assist with other concerns.

With the Med Team ready to lend a helping hand, families can look forward to one final highlight: the fireworks show. Our specially prepared Christmas spectacular will begin at 7:15 p.m. and is sure to leave the entire family looking skyward in wonder. Those tiny tots' eyes won't be the only ones all aglow!

The countdown is on! Soon, we'll deck the halls with boughs of holly. Bring a friend or the whole family, because all we want for Christmas is you! Celebrate the happiest season of all with us.

For more information, contact Hannah Robbins or Denise Bennett.

Hannah Robbins | hrobbins@whiteschapel.org
Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Angel Tree Forest
Gift return deadline: Sunday, Dec. 6

The Angel Tree Forest is a beautiful way to share the light of Christ this Christmas season. The trees are up, tags are being selected, and gifts are being purchased. Angel Tree Forest gifts can be returned under the trees in the concourse through Dec. 6. Convenient curbside drop-off by the east side Welcome doors is available Friday, Dec. 4, 9 to 11 a.m. Please return all gifts to the church by Sunday, Dec. 6, so the gifts can be delivered to our ministry partners. The generosity of our congregation is incredible. Each and every gift is so very much appreciated.



A Light Shines in the Darkness
Thursday, Dec. 17 | 4–7 p.m.
Walton Chapel

Missing someone special this Christmas? Care and Support invites you to a quiet, come-and-go time of prayer and remembrance. Light a candle, remember loved ones and reflect on the hope and light of Christ. All are welcome; registration is not required.



Honduras Adult Mission Trip
Feb. 6–13, 2027
Rancho El Paraíso, Honduras
Honduras Outreach International

Join us as we partner with Honduras Outreach International to support Hondurans in the Agalta Valley at Rancho El Paraíso in central Honduras.

HOI strengthens people through faith and partnership to transform the lives of local Hondurans and the ranch's volunteers. Volunteers will have the opportunity to serve in a range of different capacities, from VBS to local village construction projects. Registration is currently open and will close on Dec. 3. The total cost of the trip is $1,800.

Scan the QR code to register.

For questions or more information, contact Beverly Strait.

Beverly Strait | bcher06@gmail.com





Prayer List

Malta Akins, Edar Alcances, Jackie Allen, Dudley and Ann Barnes, Mike Betts, Linda Bloom, Sherri Bobbit, Jordan Brett, Ryan Burns, Jack Campbell, Scott Chilcutt, Lola Cobb, Carolyn Cockerell, Miles Cook, Bill Cook, Jimmie Nell Cook, Corrina Cooper, Sallie Corbitt, Tracie Crowder, George Derby, Carol and Ken Dominiec, Melodi Doran, Hyett Drum, Nancy Elberg, Jeff Evans, Linda Evans, Ralph Evans, Brody Fisher, Frank Gabriel, Jeff and Leslie Giles, Shelly Gillette, Sharon Gillis, Brenda Glimstad, Richard Goble, Landon Goin and Family, Patricia Goodman, Sheena Hall, Buddy Hall, Mike Hall, Ann Hardy, Bob Harvey, Jon Hassel, Janet Hassell, Gary Hennerberg, Sharon Hill, Bill Hood, Todd Howard, Dixie Hubbard, Jay Humphrey, Eunice Irby, Gay Johnson, Noah Johnston, Marthajane King, Lynda Knorpp, Dolores Kopesec, Jennifer Kopesec, Connie Lamb, Jon Lamb, Eric Larson, Michael Lee, Bob Leonhart, Carol Lloyd, Chris and Erica Lucas, Lori Eagleston Luedtke, Viki Luster, Taylor Lynde, Michael Lyons, Libby Manus, Margaret Massey, Carl Matthys, Jim Maxwell, Kim Maynard, Bill McCrea, Courtney McDougal, Ron McFarland, Sue McNutt, Shelly Mednansky, Ashley Miller, Nancy L. Miller, Jennie Millett, Sarah Morrison, Truman Neid, Gary Nesbitt, Christopher Owen, Oleta Paige, Sandy Panich, Jennifer Parks, Azor Phelps Sr., Dana Pierce, Jim Posey, Bill Preston, Matt Pullin, Brent Ratliff, Davis Rector, Charlie Reynolds, Kathryn Robbins, Angelo Rodriquez, Kirk Rogers, William Rowntree and Family, Darrell Schirmer, Patricia Shelhorse, Peter Smart, Judy Smith, Frank Sprufera, Charles Stahl, Julie Stapleton, Jamieson Stewart, Grey Stinson, Steve Swanston, Harold Swenson, Randy Thomas, Candace Thompson, Krysten Torrez, Faye Townsend, Kevin Townson, Jennifer Vasek, Brad Veach, Tom Walker, Taren Walters, Rick Warner, Sherry Wermuth, Megan and Eric Whitehead, Don Whitten, Barbara Whorton-Farley, Danny Wilkins, John Will, Dianne Willliams, Carroll Willis, Vicki Winn, Melinda Witt, Manny Wittaker, Eveline Zervoulakos, Emersyn, Ezra, Jennifer and Anthony, Theo. Recent deaths: The Family of Dorothy Hurst Anderson, The Family of Mark Cavender, The Family of Sullivan Donahue, The Family of Gary Fazio, The Family of Jennette Forrester, The Family of Joe Fox, The Family of David Lester, The Family of Max McMillon, The Family of Alex Minder, Anita Preston and Family, The Family of Sara Quinto, The Family of Linda Tankersley, The Family of Jerry Tassa, The Family of Sharon Valentine.

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.)







Poinsettias

order form

If you wish to place a poinsettia in our sanctuary during Advent this year, please complete the order form below. The poinsettias are $15 each. You may pick up your poinsettias after the final service on Wednesday, December 24.

Please make checks payable to "White's Chapel Methodist Church" and write "Poinsettia" in the memo portion of your check. Submit form and payment to the church office by Sunday, November 29.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Quantity Ordered: _____ x $15 (each) = $ _____ enclosed

☐ In Honor ☐ In Memory } of: _____

Given by: _____

☐ In Honor ☐ In Memory } of: _____

Given by: _____

☐ In Honor ☐ In Memory } of: _____

Given by: _____

