



Please join us online or in person this weekend as we conclude our sermon series "World's Worst." We hope to see you soon.

What is Lent?

By Debbie McKellar

It’s difficult to believe that we will be observing Ash Wednesday in just a few short days. The traditional service ushers in the season of Lent, which culminates on Easter Sunday. White’s Chapel typically schedules two services on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 5. The services are at Noon and 6 p.m. The latter service will include the White’s Chapel Orchestra and Choir. The name “Ash Wednesday” is derived from the custom of marking foreheads of the faithful with blessed ashes as a sign of penitence and

Ash Wednesday falls on March 5. The services are at Noon and 6 p.m.

humility. Traditionally, ashes are made by burning the leaves of palm branches from the prior Palm Sunday. The practice of marking foreheads with ashes has been a common practice among Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans and Episcopalians in the United States and around the world for centuries. However, Methodist and Presbyterian churches adopted this custom only recently in the latter part of the 20th century. Because so many of the White’s Chapel Community have joined us from different faith traditions, we often hear the question “What is Lent?” It’s a good question, and one I myself had to explore when I joined the Methodist church.

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By Rev. Sam Robbins

I love Ash Wednesday. That may seem strange. I know there are a lot of folks that didn’t grow up with it and I know for some it’s an odd experience having ashes and oil smushed into your forehead while a pastor tells you that you will ultimately become dust one day. Honestly, I get that. Because, growing up it was kind of just a thing I did because it was a part of “being Methodist.” And I never really got it. It always just seemed really sad to me. But now I love it. And it’s all because of one Ash Wednesday service 5 years ago. It was Feb. 26, 2020. It was Ash Wednesday... but it was also my wife’s 26th birthday. And when I first realized

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TODD SUTTLES CONCERT

White’s Chapel’s own Todd Suttles shared his talents with the church community at a recent concert in the sanctuary. The Gaither Vocal Band, of which he is a member, will return in concert to White’s Chapel on March 16.

GRACE is Communion Fund Recipient

Basic Food Staple Provided Through March Offering

For years, White’s Chapel has dedicated at least one communion offering per year for the purpose of furnishing dairy products for the food pantry of the Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange program (GRACE). This year, due to a staggering number of households seeking food, clothing and emergency financial assistance, we are expanding our support to help meet

this growing need. With food prices experiencing higher costs, more and more people are applying for assistance. The non-profit community agency provides services and more to local families in need. Organized in 1987 as a response to the growing need for emergency assistance services in far northeast Tarrant County, GRACE

COMMUNION cont’d on page 2

“Conflicted: How to Win at Tug of War”

2025 Lenten Devotional Available Next Week

“Lent is a season for self-examination and for penitence. It is a season of honest evaluation as we confess who we are... and who we are yet to be. These forty days ask us to go on a journey; they invite us to travel through the darkness of Calvary’s pain that we might celebrate the joy and love of Easter morning in new light and in new life.”

So begins this year’s Lenten study, “Conflicted: How to Win at Tug-of-War.” This will be the 15th year that Co-Pastors Drs. John McKeller and Todd Renner have collaborated on the publication of a Lenten devotional. This year’s study will be a little different. The series will reflect on individuals from the Bible who experienced specific conflicts in their Christian journey; these struggles became the propellant that advanced the Christian faith.

Copies of the book will initially be available at the Ash Wednesday services next week. Additional copies will be placed at information kiosks and various other areas of the church. The books are free.

The daily reflections will also be available in an audible format, narrated by Revs. Sam Robbins and Joy Roberson. “So far I’m really enjoying this year’s

CONFLICTED cont’d on page 2

Something Good Is About to Happen

Gaither Tour Returns to White’s Chapel

White’s Chapel is honored to host the Gaither Vocal Band on Thursday, March 16. When Bill and Gloria Gaither were named "Songwriters of the Century" by the American Society of Composers, Artists and Publishers (ASCAP), they were compared by that organization to another, extremely famous music icon: "The Gaither’s are to Christian music what the Beatles are to pop music."

While that is a huge statement, Gaither songs have become standard fare for churches across all spectrums of American Christianity, including “Because He Lives,” “The King is Coming,” “Upon This Rock,” and “Something Beautiful.” Since the early 1990s, the Gaither Vocal Band has served as a standard-bearer in the world of gospel music. Founded by the legendary songwriter and producer, Bill Gaither, this Grammy-winning vocal group has performed in the world’s most prestigious venues, including the Sydney Opera House and Carnegie Hall. The list of men who have comprised the Gaither Vocal Band over the past 30 years reads like a Who’s Who among the gospel music industry’s best-loved voices, including Steve Green, Larnelle

GAITHER cont’d on page 2

Now & Always

Initial Campaign Pledges Exceed 14 Million Dollars

The Now & Always capital campaign concluded last Sunday with an amazing response. “The preliminary total is that we’re at a little over \$14 million,” said Co-Pastor Dr. Todd Renner Monday morning. “Pledge cards continue to come in.”

CAPITAL cont’d on page 3



Gaither

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Harris, Mark Lowry, Michael English, David Phelps, and many others. Though some of the members have gone on to prestigious individual careers, the Band itself has been recording for over 45 years.

“The group was formed in 1980 on the spur of the moment,” says Artist in Residence, Arnold Rawls. “Their first performance was before a concert with the song ‘First Day in Heaven.’ Bill Gaither and Gary McSpadden of the Bill

identified with the group, including Jim Murray, Mark Lowry, Terry Franklin, Buddy Mullins, Jonathan Pierce, Guy Penrod, David Phelps, Russ Taff, Marshall Hall and Michael English.

A featured favorite in the ongoing Billboard chart-busting Gaither Homecoming Series, the Gaither Vocal Band continues to fill venues across America with a steady tour schedule every year.

“They continue to be popular because they fill a need for an older generation of Christians that like Gospel Music,” added Rawls. “Their music provides solid theology with tunes you can whistle as you go out the door.”



Gaither Trio sung the leads, while Steve Green and Lee Young were the backup singers.”

By the time the group recorded their first album, “Passin’ the Faith Along,” Jon Mohr had been added to the group, with Steve Green and Larnelle Harris being added for the follow-up album, “New Point of View.” Their gospel roots project “Homecoming” in 1991, caused most Southern Gospel fans to welcome the vocal band with open arms. A follow-up recording called “Southern Classics” cemented their relationship with fans.

During the 1990s and into the first few years of the 21st century, the Gaither Vocal Band mastered the art of mixing classic Southern Gospel with Country and Inspirational styles. This gave the group a broad fan base.

Through the years, other artists were

Today, the Gaither Vocal Band roster is comprised of five power-packed voices, including Bill Gaither, Wes Hampton, Adam Crobb, Reggie Smith and White’s Chapel’s own, Todd Suttles. Individually, these men are gifted artists and men of authentic faith. Together they are known around the world for their stunning vocals, innovative harmonies and life-altering message.... a message of grace, hope, and redemption.

The best priced tickets may be purchased from BillGaither.com/tour ranging from \$29 - \$32. While tickets are available through additional vendors, they are reportedly offered at higher prices.

Gaither Vocal Band Concert
Sunday, March 16 | 6 p.m.
White’s Chapel Sanctuary
Doors open 5 p.m.
BillGaither.com/tour



Conflicted

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series,” said Robbins. “I am a sucker for a character study, so I love that each week focuses on one particular person from scripture. I think there is something really valuable that happens when we spend an extended period of time engaging with one person. We see their successes, but we also see where they were ‘conflicted’ and challenged throughout their life.”

The podcast may be accessed through the White’s Chapel website, Apple podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music. White’s Chapel Productions Audio Engineer Andrew Rybak is the podcast editor. Other members of WC Productions assisting in the

publication and production of the Lenten study include Sean Bogan, Susanna Cunningham, Sarah Hamilton, Alec Hanson, Cassidy Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Debbie McKellar, Rachel Moraw, and Kyle Rybak.



WC Website



Apple



Spotify



Amazon Music and Audible

Communion

Cont’d from page 1

demonstrates compassion for those less fortunate by providing assistance to individuals and families in crisis and guidance toward self-sufficiency. Local churches responded to community needs with a plan for distributing available resources through Grapevine's Ministerial Alliance.

GRACE continues to be a centralized, coordinated effort of churches, businesses and individuals donating food, clothing, monetary donations, and even professional services to Grapevine, Colleyville, and Southlake residents, as

well as homeless and transient families in need. Programs have grown to include low cost medical services, transitional housing, and general emergency assistance—such as food, clothing, furniture, financial assistance, information and referrals.

While many other agencies donate various diverse food items, White’s Chapel has been tasked with a specific basic food need. Sunday’s communion offering will be dedicated once again to providing milk for the community organization. All the money received in this offering will go toward this very needed food staple.

All donations to this weekend’s communion offering will go directly to this cause.

FINANCIALS FEBRUARY	February	2025	2024
	Week 1	\$254,413	\$185,335
	Week 2	\$201,584	\$230,149
	Week 3	\$113,021	\$149,531
	Week 4	\$276,656	\$233,658
	MTD Actual	\$845,674	\$798,673
	YTD Actual	\$1,539,625	\$1,532,527

WEEKEND PREACHING SCHEDULE	
SANCTUARY	THE FOUNDRY
Sun. 8:20 a.m. Traditional Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner	Sat. 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Rev. Sam Robbins
Sun. 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner	Sun. 11 a.m. Acoustic Contemporary Rev. Sam Robbins
Sun. 11 a.m. Foundation Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner	WALTON CHAPEL
	Sun. 9:30 a.m. Traditional Rev. Tristan Hunt

WHITE'S CHAPEL

HERALD

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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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TEXAS!

ACROSS

2.) The final battle of the Texas revolution lasted for ----- minutes.

3.) Credited with writing the Texas Declaration of Independence.

4.) Most famous volunteer at the Alamo.

9.) ----- was the commander of the Mexican forces.

11.) The Alamo was initially commanded by Col. James -----.

13.) The Texas Revolution began with the Battle of -----.

16.) Houston told the leaders of Texas' two forts to ---- them.

17.) Sam Houston was named Commander -----.

19.) ----- was one of the few survivors of the Alamo.

20.) When the commander fell ill, ----- took over the command of the Alamo.

DOWN

1.) Texas declared independence from -----.

5.) ----- was the second Texas fort to fall, with more casualties than the Alamo.

6.) This Texan was a Texas president, governor and senator.

7.) Did not follow Houston's instructions to destroy Goliad.

8.) Texas became a state on ----- 29, 1945.

10.) Lt. Col. William B. ----- was second in command when the Alamo fell.

12.) Santa Anna was afraid of -----.

14.) Texas won independence at the battle of -----.

15.) The Mexican army was run by -----.

18.) Remember the -----!



High School Mission Trip
July 13–18

Registration for the High School Mission Trip is now open! This week-long trip will provide students with the opportunity to serve the people of San Antonio, Texas while growing in their faith alongside their peers. All students of the graduating classes of 2025-2029 are welcome to register for the High School Mission Trip. Because space is limited for both trips, ALL students will initially be placed on a WAIT LIST on a first come first served basis and when an adult signs up, five students will be placed on the final roster. If a parent of a student on the wait list registers as a work group leader, their student will automatically be added to the final roster. Registration forms for this trip can be found at wcstudents.com.



Middle School Mission Trip
June 9–13

All students of the graduating classes of 2030-2031 are welcome to register for Middle School Mission Trip. This week-long trip provides students with the opportunity to serve the people of San Antonio, Texas while growing in their faith alongside their peers. Students will stay at UTSA in San

Antonio and then participate in work projects to serve local churches, ministries, and neighborhoods. Visit wcstudents.com for the registration and information packet.

7th Grade Trip
June 2-3

We have a jam-packed schedule for the class of 2031 on this year's 7th Grade

Trip. The trip, which takes place June 2-3, will be two action-packed days of ridiculous fun. Students will travel around the metroplex, going from one adventure to the next. This trip is designed to provide an opportunity for students to become acclimated with WC Student Ministry as they prepare for life as a 7th grader. Every effort is made in helping students connect in friendships with each other and with our Student Ministry Team to lay a foundation of community. Registration for 7th Grade Trip will open on Feb. 26. Upon opening, registration forms for this trip will be found on wcstudents.com.

Leaders

In order for these trips to be a success, more than 75 adults are needed as work group leaders for High School Mission Trip alone! We hope you will consider joining us. We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Work group leaders are responsible for co-leading a team of students with one or two other adults in assigned projects and facilitating group discussion/devotion times (provided). Because we are required to provide one work group leader for every five students, the number of students who can attend this trip is strictly determined by the number of adults who register for this role. This year, to keep work groups small, we will need adult leaders more than ever. If you have ever wanted a shot at being a hero for a week, this is definitely it!! Visit wcstudents.com to register or for more information.



Lent

Cont'd from page 1

The Lenten season is an incredibly historic and symbolic time for Christians. The religious season dates back to Jesus Christ’s life on earth. Though He lives forever in the hearts of his followers, the Lenten season is a direct reflection of the days that eventually led up to his crucifixion. The day Jesus was nailed to the cross in Jerusalem is recognized as Good Friday in modern times.

The Lenten season is six weeks long in the Christian liturgical year. Lent falls each year in March or April, and ***begins*** with Ash Wednesday. This falls on a different date each year, but looking at the calendar, Ash Wednesday will always fall on the seventh week prior to Easter.

The day on which Easter falls each year is in relation to something known as the ***paschal full moon***. This refers to the ecclesiastical full moon that takes place any day after March twenty-first, or the ***Spring Equinox***. While this process begins to sound very confusing, the most important thing to remember is that the specific date of Easter each year is determined by referencing the lunar calendar.

The cyclical movements of the moon dictate the exact date, but essentially, Easter is always on the Sunday that follows the full moon of Passover. All that being said, Easter for the year 2025 is Sunday, April 20.

Ash Wednesday is described as a religious day observed for the sake of recognizing our faults as human beings and taking the time to repent for the sins we have committed throughout our lifetimes. The 40-day fasting season

begins on that day, (Sundays are excluded in the count).

In some Christian communities, followers abstain from eating meat and drinking on Fridays during Lent. This in no way means their faith is stronger or better than someone who doesn’t restrict their intake. Fasting is simply an additional way of paying mind to one’s deep repentance for prior sins, but the decision is optional, and more importantly, it’s entirely personal.

In other communities, Christians commit to fasting in other ways. Many people make a vow to fast from specific foods or habits such as negative thoughts, gossiping, social media, binging shows on streaming sites, alcohol, and much more. New traditions also include adding things to your life for these 40 days such as setting aside time to meditate and pray each day, visiting shut-ins, and doing service. Many go a step further and dedicate money they would have spent on the restricted food or habit to the poor.

There are certain days always observed during Lent: Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and of course Easter. Many of these days are not formally observed in many Protestant faiths.

In short, Lent is a period of preparation in which Christians remember the life of Jesus through prayer and penance, but it is more directly related to his ministry than his death. The scriptural impetus for Lent is the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism. It reminds us of what Jesus went through when he died on the cross to cover our sin. It concludes with the celebration of the Resurrection.

Musings

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that those two things were happening on the same day, I was really disappointed. Ash Wednesday is a solemn day where we enter into the liturgical season of Lent. It’s a day when we mark ourselves with ashes as a symbol of our sin and our communal need for repentance. Needless to say, there’s something kind of paradoxical about celebrating someone’s birth on a day when we also contemplate our own mortality and death.

But the service was beautiful.

It’s one of the most sacred and reverent services we have each year. And my favorite moment is when everyone is called to go to their knees. In that holy moment, we lift up our sins to the Lord.

That day, I heard the sound of hundreds of people dropping down the kneelers installed in the pews. And one by one, people in mass began to bow themselves before our Creator. It gave me the chills. All of these people humbling themselves before God- it just struck me like it never had before.

And so that day, I approached the chancel and I did the same. I asked God for forgiveness for the myriad of ways I fail each and every day. I lifted up my struggles and my temptations to a God who already knows all of them. I soaked in the sort of gloomy atmosphere of the moment and recognized my own brokenness and need for divine grace. I felt the weight of it. I considered the gravity of what Christ did for us on the cross.

And in that moment of somberness... I found something totally new that has forever changed the way I view Ash Wednesday.

I found myself bubbling up with a strange and unexpected sense of joy and gratitude. In the contemplation of my own impermanence and mortality, I realized one huge, unavoidable truth about my life... **I am unbelievably blessed.**

I have so many flaws and inadequacies and yet God has given me so much. I have a job I love, a wonderful community at White’s Chapel, and that day I was getting to celebrate the person I love turning 26. And so, during that Ash Wednesday service in 2020, I was overwhelmed with how genuinely lucky I was to have had 5 years of birthdays to celebrate with this girl... (This year, in 2025, it will be 10 years of birthdays.)

While all that melancholy music played, and as people passed by me, heads turned down in reflection, black gunk on their foreheads, I found myself with the strangest smile on my face. I’m sure it looked so crazy to people walking by me.

But, it dawned on me that those ashes are a reminder of how precious life is and how we should savor every incredible, beautiful moment God gives us.

If you’ve never attended an Ash Wednesday service before, I would encourage you to make space for it this year. Because, maybe just like I did 5 years ago, you’ll hear the sound of kneelers hitting the ground, and you’ll be moved in a way you haven’t been before.

And maybe, like me, you’ll end up with a weird grin on your face, too.



Capital

Cont'd from page 1

The White’s Chapel Congregation has taken a huge step of faith by committing to future church expansion. These contributions will not only support current and future ministries; they also commit to constructing new centers for Youth as well as Community and Spiritual Formation. Updates to the Sanctuary and current Education/Children’s building are also included in the financial plan.

Some of the pledge funds will be available within the year, while others will be collected over the next five years. The campaign was launched in September and has included large informational meetings for the congregation— both in person and online, as well as small group and Sunday school class meetings.

“We are just overwhelmed at the generosity of this congregation,” said Renner, “—overwhelmed but not surprised. This church has always had a heart for the future and a heart for those who are not yet here. We look forward to following whatever and wherever it is that the Lord is leading us. It is a profound honor to serve alongside so many faithful Christian people.”

Change from the 51 Lego banks collected by the Children’s Sunday School classes had not yet been counted when the initial announcement was made. Additional pledges were also continuing to be received in the mail as well as online.

“This was an amazing team effort,” said Renner. “The staff and the lay leaders were just phenomenal; they continue to bless our church in so many countless ways. We are just so thankful for the people that God has brought together at this place called White’s Chapel.”

