Sermon Notes

1Samuel 3:1-19; Psalm 46:10

The Messenger

Weekly Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ
Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, August 24, 2025

Order of Worship

Greeting / Prayer: Mickey McDaniel

Scripture Reading: Chase Tichenor (Psalm 46:10)

Worship Leader: George Hewitt

Communion: Rex Deford

Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Speak, Lord, Your Servant is Listening)

Announcements / Prayer: Ed Tichenor

During Sermon
Nursery: Megan Johnson (Sub: Hanna Redden)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: Tammy Burris

Schedule of Services

Bible Studies: Sunday 9:30am & 5:00pm / Wednesday 7pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Connect with Us

Church Office	(317) 535-1627
Church Text:	(317) 953-5095
Website:	www.whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Email:	info@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Prayer:	PrayerRequest@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Social Media:	www.Facebook.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC_Youth
	www.X.com/@Whiteland_COC
Online Worship:	www.YouTube.com/@WhitelandCOC

Mail In Contributions

Whiteland Church of Christ / PO Box 85 / Whiteland, IN 46184

Leadership

Elders
Stan Davis (317) 507-1936 / Ed Tichenor (317) 412-2416
Minister
Ronnie Hewitt (317) 966-2029

Welcome

Thank you for being with us. Whether you come with faith that is strong or questioning, joy or sorrow, weariness or hope, you are welcome here. This is a moment set apart from the ordinary, where all are invited to pause, breathe, and find meaning together. May this time be for you a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Prayer Requests

Kathy Feldmeier is recovering from an auto accident. A scan has showed she has a 1.5cm mass at the base of her head and neck. She is following up with her doctor. **Tana Kay Marriott** has a court date tomorrow and is also looking for new living accommodations that she can afford. **Helen Shoopman** was given an injection in her knee and was to have an MRI this past Thursday. **Gay Lee Sutton** is dealing with severe back pain. **Blanche Taylor** has been ill and was in the hospital. She is home now recovering. **Wanda Weaver** has fractured her wrist and shoulder.

Long Term Concerns

Samantha Brazel, GayLee's granddaughter, has been moved to a medical residential facility in Denver. **Gavin Brooks,** infant son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues. **Brian Burris,** Richard's brother, is recovering from a heart attack. **Brandon Chance**, Edie Short's nephew, is deployed to Poland. **Susie Crecelous**, GayLee's friend, has bone cancer & lupus. **Cindy Davis** is undergoing radiation. **Pam Dowty,** Ronnie Sutton's sister, has Parkinson's. **Isaiah Echols** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. **Robert Ewing**, GayLee's nephew, has bone & liver cancer. **Gloria**, friend of Hagan's, kidney and heart issues. **Donna Hall** has dementia. **Angie Hewitt** undergoing treatment for severe migraines and is looking for a new job. **Marilyn Hiser** (cancer treatments). **Jamie Jones**, Hagan's nephew, recovering from coronary artery bypass and is on the kidney transplant list. **Neil Kent**, David's brother, has lung cancer. **Pam Lasiter** (ongoing health issues); **Sharon Lasiter** undergoing cancer treatments. **Lynn,** aunt of Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law, has breast and spine cancer. **Clayton Marrott** has intestinal issues. **Leah Raker**, the Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome. **Anthony Ross,** Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis. **Tim Scott**, Cindy Strope's brother, has palsy and is being treated with steroids. **Megan Setser,** Wanda's neighbor, is recovering from brain tumor surgery. **Lonnie Shoopman** has non-Hodgkin lymphoma. **Melissa Stephens**, Gina's daughter, therapy after knee replacement. **Vonnie Stonebraker,** Sowder's neighbor, palliative care. **Delbert Vibbert**, Lougene's nephew, COPD. **Tiffany Waskom**, Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer. **Wanda Weaver**, kidney disease and lupus. **Heather Wiwczaroski**, Eric's sister-in-law, recovering from spine surgery. **Jimmy Wooten** (Parkinson's); **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's).
Shut-In's (Juanita Brunnemer, Polly Burchfield, Sharon Cooper, Moe Handy, Martin Julian, Barb Surber, and Blanche Taylor)

Administration Record

2025 Budget: $178,787.94 Weekly Budget: $3,438.23
Last Week's Offering: $2,806.00
Attendance Last Week 76

Celebrations This Week

Birthday

24th Kaia Smith
27th Lyla Kollar
28th Briar Day
30th Cindy Davis / Derrick Littleton

Anniversary

25th Eric & Lyndsay Trostle (7yrs)

Sister's Day

Our ladies are hosting a Sister's Day on Saturday, September 13th, from 10am-3pm. Lunch will be provided. The Theme is "We are Missionaries," with a focus on the home, in the workforce, and in the world. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the involvement board in the foyer. Please take time to register so they know how much food to have prepared. Also, don't forget to invite others.

Boys to Men Campout

Mark your calendars for the annual campout. This year, it is set for October 10-11. All ages are welcome to join us. There will be more information shared as it gets closer.

Gospel Meeting

The Morgan Street Church of Christ is hosting a fall meeting with Br. Donnie Vick (Shelbyville Road Church of Christ) on September 12-14th. Their theme is: "The Bible and Me!" There is a flyer posted on the bulletin board listing worship times and the church's address.

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

There are new devotionals available on the shelf in the foyer, along with other Christian material for your reading.

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, August 24	Jeremiah 51-52
Monday, August 25	Lamentations 1-2
Tuesday, August 26	Lamentations 3-5
Wednesday, August 27	Ezekiel 1-4
Thursday, August 28	Ezekiel 5-8
Friday, August 29	Ezekiel 9-12
Saturday, August 30	Ezekiel 13-15

Meditation of God's Word

A Fruitful Connection

John 15:5 is one of the most profound verses in the New Testament, spoken by Jesus during His farewell discourse to His disciples. The verse reads: "*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in them will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*" This metaphor, rich with meaning, conveys essential truths about spiritual life, the nature of dependence upon Christ, and the promise of fruitfulness.

The fifteenth chapter is part of a larger section known as the Farewell Discourse (John 13–17), delivered by Jesus on the eve of His crucifixion. These chapters hold intimate teachings, prayers, and reassurances, designed to fortify the disciples in anticipation of His impending physical departure.

The metaphor of the vine and branches is rooted in the agricultural life of first-century Palestine, where vineyards dotted the landscape and wine played both an economic and symbolic role in Jewish culture. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the vine often represents Israel—sometimes flourishing, sometimes failing in its calling to be fruitful. In John 15, however, Jesus transforms and personalizes the image. He is the true vine, and His followers are the branches, dependent upon His life-giving presence.

The vine is the source—the trunk rooted in the soil, draws up water and nutrients. The branches, extending from the vine, receive sustenance only so long as they remain connected. Detached, they wither and die. The word "abide" is translated from the Greek word "meno," meaning to remain, dwell, or continue. In the context of the passage, abiding in Christ is not a passive condition but an active, ongoing relationship marked by trust, obedience, and communion.

When Jesus says, "*Whoever abides in me and I in them will bear much fruit*," he speaks of a reciprocal relationship—a mutual indwelling. The promise is clear: spiritual fruitfulness emerges not from human effort alone, but from a vital connection to Christ. What does it mean, practically, to abide in the vine? Throughout history, Christians have sought to live out this teaching in a myriad of ways. Some of the implications include:

- Prayer and Communion: Abiding involves sustained engagement with God—prayer, meditation, worship, and reflection. Just as branches receive life continually, so believers must continually seek connection with Christ.
- Obedience and Transformation: "Abiding" is evidenced in obedience to Jesus' teachings. It is not merely an intellectual acceptance but an active response—loving God and neighbor, pursuing justice, and turning away from what harms.
- Community and Interdependence: The metaphor is plural ("*you are the branches*"), hinting at the shared nature of spiritual life. Christian growth occurs not in isolation but within the nurturing context of community—a network of branches drawing from the same vine.
- Endurance in Difficulty: The Farewell Discourse anticipates the suffering and uncertainty the disciples will face. Abiding in Christ offers strength, hope, and resilience, especially in times when faith is tested.

John 15:5 stands as an enduring invitation to a life of connection, dependence, and purpose. In a world fraught with division and displacement, the image of the vine and branches beckons us toward rootedness—toward abiding in the One who is the true source of life.

...Ronnie Hewitt