Sermon: Following Christ – Take Up Your Cross Daily
Luke 9:23-24; 22:42

The Messenger

Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ

Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, Sunday, August 2, 2026

Order of Worship

Call to Worship: Rex DeFord
Scripture Reading: Ashton Hewitt (Luke 9:23-24)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Rodney Dowell
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt (Following Christ)
Announcements / Prayer: Ed Tichenor

Bible Hour During Sermon

Nursery: Debbie Smith (Sub: Megan Johnson)
Toddler: Lavana Tichenor
3-4yr old: Edie Short
K-3rd Grade: Rachel Hewitt

Schedule of Services

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

Connect with Us

Church Office (317) 535-1627 Prayer Text Line:(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

Recent Prayer Requests

Richard Burris is undergoing physical therapy and taking medication for his slipped vertebrae that is pressing on nerves in his back. He is to follow up with the surgeon on Aug. 17th.
Moe Handy had a cardioversion procedure to deal with A fib, and everything went very well.
Kathy Ashley, Rachel's mom, is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on Tuesday, Aug. 4th.
Elise Short, Edie's mom, will be having gallbladder surgery on Wednesday, Aug. 5th.
Ronnie Sutton is having a heart cath on Aug. 11th.
Pray for the safety and growth of our kids as they go back to school.

Long Term Concerns

Rhonda Aliff (Pat Stinson's daughter, lupus), **Kathy Ashley** (Rachel's mom, scheduled for hip replacement surgery on August 4), **Suzanne Bielski** (Lonnie & Sonya's doctor, chemo treatments for cancer), **Eric Chamberlain** (Logan's dad, infusion therapy for bone cancer), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, recovering from treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma), **Tonya Dowell** (health issues), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Gloria** (Hagan's friend, kidney & heart issues), **Angie Hammitt** (Wiwczaroski's friend, colon & liver cancer) **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Nancy Havens** (has moved to the Greenwood Health and Living); **Rex & Susan Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues; sister-in-law, severe abdomen issues), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Lillian Kelley** (mother of George's friend, Chelsea, hospice), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Flora Littleton** (seizures), **Lynn** (Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law's aunt, cancer in breast, spine, & brain), **Amanda Magner** (former member, bone cancer, recovering from surgery), **Clayton Marriott** (lost his way spiritually), **Pat Martin** (Amy's dad, Alzheimer's), **Brett Mason** (Rodney & Tonya Dowell's son, Leukemia), **Norma Nelson** (Della's friend, heart & lungs), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Heather Schmidt** (Amy Wiwczaroski's cousin, will be starting radiation treatments soon), **Barb Surber** (Dementia; Compass Park, Rm 1304), **Iris Turnmire** (newborn daughter of Dax Turnmire, feeding struggles); **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **Wanda Weaver** (lupus & kidney disease), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Ayden** (Wanda Weaver's 14yr old neighbor, chemo treatments for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma)

Cleaning Crew – 2nd-8th
(Team 4)

Finance Record for 2026
Weekly Budget: $3,474.56 Last Sunday Offering: $4,061.00

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: AM Bible Study (22); Worship (68); PM Bible Study (11)
Wednesday Bible Study (15)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, August 2	Isaiah 23-27
Monday, August 3	Isaiah 28-30
Tuesday, August 4	Isaiah 31-35
Wednesday, August 5	Isaiah 36-41
Thursday, August 6	Isaiah 42-44
Friday, August 7	Isaish 45-48
Saturday, August 8	Isaiah 49-53

Celebrations This Week

Birthday
2nd Ed Tichenor
6th Joel Westberry
8th Debbie Smith

Anniversary
None to Report

Announcements

Encouragement Sunday is Today: There are note cards on the table in the foyer that can be filled out and placed in the container on the table and they will be mailed out for you.
Class Promotion: Today, our kiddos move up a grade. We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of our Bible class times for their families to grow in their knowledge of God. We have classes for all ages and teachers ready to teach.
Bible Hour Teacher's – We are looking for a teacher assistant for Edie Short's class. If you are interested in helping, please see Edie, Ronnie, or Lavana.
Morning Glories Ministry Brunch: The next brunch will be this Saturday, August 8th at 10am.
Ladies Inspiration Day: The Metro Church of Christ is extending an invitation for our women to join them for their Ladies Day, planned for Saturday, August 8th. The speaker will be Laura Hubbard, from the Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ. She will be speaking on the theme: "Bloom Where God Plants You!" There is an advertisement posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.
VBS follow-up: Eric and Amy would like to have a VBS wrap-up meeting on Monday, August 10th at 7pm. We will discuss how things went and what you liked and disliked. This will be very helpful as we begin planning for next year.

www.facebook.com/faithappliedddaily

"This Time, I Will Praise the Lord"

"*And she conceived again and bore a son and said, "This time, I will praise the Lord." Therefore, she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.*" (Gen. 29:35, NASB)

Leah's declaration in the above passage is one of the most powerful turning points in Scripture. It is the moment a wounded woman stops chasing human approval and chooses to anchor her identity in the faithfulness of God. Her words serve as a pattern for every believer who has ever felt overlooked, unloved, or unseen.

Leah's story is soaked in sorrow long before Judah is ever born. She is unwanted by her husband, as Jacob loves Rachel, not Leah. She is used by her father (Laban) as a pawn in a marriage scheme. She is locked in a lifelong comparison with a sister (Rachel) who seems to have everything she lacks. She is trying to earn love through childbearing: "*Now my husband will love me*," she says after her first son (Gen. 29:32). Leah is living the life many people know too well: Trying to win affection. Trying to prove worth. Trying to fix emptiness with human approval. Every son she names is a cry for validation – until Judah.

The phrase "This time" signals a shift. Leah is exhausted from chasing what Jacob will never give her. She is tired of tying her identity to someone else's affection. She is done letting disappointment define her. So, she decides: "This time, I will praise the Lord." Not Jacob. Not circumstances. Not her own achievements. Leah turns her eyes from the man who doesn't love her to the God who never stopped seeing her. This is the moment her story changes, not because her situation improves, but because her focus does.

Her praise is born out of pain. Leah's praise is not naïve. It is not denial. Nor is it the result of everything finally going right. Her praise is defiant faith – worship in the middle of wounds. Praise becomes her protest against despair. Praise becomes her declaration of identity. Praise becomes her anchor when life refuses to cooperate. Leah teaches us that praise is not what you do when life is perfect; it is what you choose when life is painful.

Leah names her son Judah, meaning "praise." And from Judah comes: King David, the psalmists, kings of Israel, and ultimately, Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The Messiah does not come through Rachel, the beloved wife. He comes through Leah, the unloved one. The Savior of the world comes through the woman who said, "This time, I will praise the Lord." God took the praise of a hurting woman and wove it into the redemption of humanity.

Leah's declaration is a call to every believer: Stop letting people define your worth. Shift your focus from you lack to who God is. Choose praise even when circumstances don't change. Trust that God can bring glory out of your wounds. Make a "this time" decision. This time, I won't chase validation. This time, I won't let disappointment define me. Many believers live in Leah's early chapters – striving, comparing, aching for affirmation. But spiritual maturity begins when we say: "This time, I will praise the Lord."

...Ronnie Hewitt