

Unfortunately, AI is creeping into the realm of what people consider conversations. We hear it all the time, people having conversations with "AI." But what does that actually mean? That is a much longer article! So that is where my struggles begin. Years ago, I had a member of the church I was serving walk into my office with Amazon gift cards. They said here you sent me an email and said you needed these, but I didn't feel comfortable emailing pictures to you. Long story short, it was the origin of a scam that is still going on today. Bots troll websites and other forms of information for email addresses and phone numbers, and then send messages to those contacts, even using the names and sounding real! It is usually something along the lines of "I'm in a meeting and can't talk right now, but I need your help." Trust me, I would never send that message asking for gift cards. I have seen this scam hit several churches in our area, including our conference offices. This is just the tip of the iceberg with how convincing some of the systems out there sound. I don't want you to be alarmed, just aware. We are watching out for these things, and we just want you to be aware.

As we roll out new technologies at church to improve communication, we are looking for ways to keep information private yet useful! We want to share all the good things going on, just as Jesus told the Samaritan woman and the man freed of the Demons, "Go and tell, we want to go and tell!" As we encounter new frontiers and ways to share the message of Love and Jesus, we want to reach everyone we can. So, send a card in the mail, call someone, send them an email or a text, but also take the time to go and visit.

See you soon!

Pastor Glenn

OUTREACH

Red Cross Blood drive

WCUMC

Friday, May 8, 2026

From 1-5

You can pre-register at www.americanredcross.org

You can also just come in that day and give without a reservation,

but registration will save you time

Prayer List:

Rick Reid	Terry Wharam	Brenda Price	Andy Price
Judy Harvey	Lowell Thomason	Anne Thomason	
Katie Astorino	Marie Crawford	Phyllis Ackerman	
Claude Baker	Ralph Walker	Roy Davidson	Nancy Bradshaw
Ainsley Foster	Michael Evans	Donna Chisholm	Monica Bowling
Janice Simmon's family			



NURTURE

May is a very busy month for WCUMC:

May 8th Blood Drive

May 10th Mother's Day- Ladies wear hats to church

May 16th Spring Festival

May is also the month for graduates

May 24th Celebrate Memorial Day -for those who gave us freedom

No Sunday luncheon in May

Contact Susan Costley with questions.

In Need of:

-Donations for the Spring Festival are as follows:

*Boxes are accepted

*Children items and Household items

Monday, May 11 – Thursday, May 14

9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 4:00 – 6:00 pm

*Reminder: We're not accepting adult clothes, shoes, and accessories. We are accepting children's clothes, shoes, and toys

- We will be collecting books for Ettrick's summer reading program, check with Brenda if you have any questions (May 3 collection)



WESLEY CHAPEL FAMILIES IN WORSHIP EVENT SCHEDULE

March 29 th	Palm Sunday –“Hosanna” Easter Egg Hunt & Hotdog Lunch
May 31 st	Summer Kick Off/VBS Kick off
June 8 th – 11 th	Vacation Bible School- “Rome! Paul the Underground Church” 5:30 pm Dinner/6:00 pm Programing
August 16 th	Back-to-School Bash
October 31 st	Trunk-or-treat
November 8 th	Veteran Day Celebration –“Generation of Gratitude”
December 13 th	Christmas Pageant –“The Not-So-Silent Christmas”
February 14 th , 2027	Valentine’s Day –“The Greatest Love Story”
March 21 st ,2027	Palm Sunday –“The King is Here” Easter Egg Hunt

ANNOUNCEMENTS



-Seniors have been invited Thursday, May 14th to Colonial Heights Wesley UMC at 10:00 am for a blessed event with Brain Howerton, contact Anne Taylor 804-712-8411 for details

May 2026

CHIMES

Wesley Chapel

United Methodist Church

“ A Christian family growing in faith, serving in love.”

804-590-1837 wesleychapelumc.va@gmail.com wesleychapelumcva.org

Sometimes I get questions that make me scratch my head. These questions usually require a little extra thought before I respond. Recently, I was asked for my opinion on Artificial Intelligence. Years ago, I started working in the field of computers and networking, which gave me my perspective on the conversation about AI. In 1995, I saw the budding of something new: the Internet and Internet Explorer. The idea of information at our fingertips was so compelling (and still is). I remember search engines like Dogpile, Yahoo, and then, yes, of course, the eventual launch of Google. That said, the validity of the information was always in question, and I always asked people whether they had checked their facts. So, I still ask that question: where is AI polling the information from, what sources are the sites compiling information from, and most importantly, did you ask the question in a way that AI can understand you? The reason I am bringing this up is that AI is not going away!

I think AI has its place, and we have a lot to learn about it and from it. That does not mean that I am not a fan of AI; it just means that I see it as a tool. My basis is this: I believe AI will never replace human conversation. Sitting around a table talking to friends, face to face. It is how the Gospel spreads. Personal interactions allow us to see how people hear what we say. It is easier to see someone's shift in body language when you are talking to them, so you can tell when they have questions. Yes, I even do this on Sundays as I'm preaching, scanning the room for expressions that may indicate confusion or curiosity about what I said. Many times, in the Gospels, we find Jesus explaining his teaching to the disciples, especially the parables.

TRUSTEES

We have finished the new A/C installation for the education wing of the church. We are moving forward with a closet enclosure to hide the new ductwork. We also got a new dumpster lock. Please make sure that when you use it, you lock the dumpster when you leave and put the key back when you are finished. Also, we heard from some members that the ADA panels on some bathroom doors were not working, so we took the opportunity to perform maintenance and repair the switches. They are now fixed. If you have any challenges using them, please let us know.

A couple of projects that should be completed by the time this letter is published, but may still be in progress, we are moving the teleprompter and camera from the center of the aisleway, so it is easier to come forward for communion, offering, and children's moments. We are also updating our emergency response kits to include some additional items.

If you see any other needs around the church, please let the Trustees know.
Mike Crawford

UMMEN

The Methodist Men of Wesley Chapel will meet on May 18th at 6:00 PM at Lowell Thomason's Club Shed . This will be our last meeting before our break for the Summer and then we will resume meeting in September. All men of Wesley Chapel are welcome to attend!



WOW

ETTRICK ELEMENTARY VOLUNTEERS

Etrick Elementary needs to have 19 picnic tables stained. All supplies will be provided...volunteers needed! If you are available to help, please contact Brenda Price 804-720-3013.

POTLUCK LUNCH & INFORMATION SHARING

Mark your calendar for June 14!

Join us for a delicious potluck lunch, followed by an informative session with Crater Hospice representative Bill Humphries.

Bill will share helpful insights for those who are currently caregivers—or may become one in the future. Don't wait for a crisis to arise. Learn about valuable resources, gain practical knowledge, and be better prepared for what lies ahead.

We hope you'll come for the food, fellowship, and meaningful information

FAMILIES IN WORSHIP!

We are so excited that our next families-in-worship service is on May 31st! Come prepared to sing some of our favorite Childhood songs (so the Kids can join in!) and some of our favorite hymns as adults! We will have lots of fun learning about The Letters of Paul as we ask, "Whose been reading my mail?" The kids will meet Lydia, Julis, Theophilis, and, of course, PAUL! Which they will get to meet during Vacation Bible School! So, make sure to bring all the young kids so they can be part of and enjoy worship with us on May 31st at 10am.

Speaking of Vacation Bible School, don't forget that it is **June 8-11**, and dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. We will have 5 learning opportunities each night, Bible lessons, crafts, music, Roman games, and a science station! If you are interested in volunteering, please see Terri Riggs or Pastor Glenn. We have lots of ways that you can help. We may even be dropping into classes and asking for volunteers soon!

SEE YOU SOON AND GOD BLESS YOU!



WORSHIP

We met on April 15th to review Easter Week services and activities and worked further on plans for coming events. May is a busy month with Mother's Day on the 10th, Ascension Sunday on the 17th, both Memorial Day Sunday and Pentecost are the 24th. On the 24th we will decorate one side of the stage area for Memorial Day and the other side for Pentecost. We will include a Birthday Cake to commemorate the birthday of the Christian Church, and we will have a special table set up to remember those we lost in battle May 7th a group will go to the Petersburg Home for Women where LIGHTHOUSE will sing with the residents.

The Worship Team values your feedback on music selections, and we will have a survey for you to make suggestions. The choir and other music groups will take a break in July and August and we will feature solos, etc. Andi Jacobson is directing a special 250th anniversary celebration. It will be held at Wesley Chapel on Friday, July 3rd at 7:30 p.m. Several of the Wesley Chapel family will participate. We will meet again on Tuesday, May 19th at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to help with the Worship Team, please contact Anne Bardo or Glenn Riggs



YOUTH

It is hard to believe that we are about to wrap up the school year! As we approach the summer, our last Youth meeting will be on May 20th at 6:00 pm. On that night, we will have an end-of-the-year party, and we would love any kids who will be moving up to the 6th grade to join us so we can spend some time together.

Also, we have some great summertime events planned. We are going to Kings Dominion on July 9th (all ages are invited). We are planning a trip to see the Chili Peppers baseball team play (again, everyone can join us!). We will have more details soon!

Don't forget to come and visit our youth table at the Spring Festival to learn about all the missions we are part of and the fun things we are doing!



You are invited to enjoy a fun-filled day at Kings Dominion

When: Thursday, July 9th RSVP by July 1st

Please see Pastor Glenn for registration details.

Notes From the Office:

-May 31 is Graduation Sunday!

Please send

-1-3 pictures of your graduate

-where the graduate has graduated from

-any future career plans

Wesleychapelumc.va@gmail.com

By May 17th



2026 Spring Festival
May 16th 7am-1pm
-Volunteers are needed
-Children and Household items
excepted
Contact Babba Mann
mannr1@comcast.net