

## SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

### MORNING

Opening Prayer ..... Richard McCool  
 Song Director ..... Jon Raley  
 Sermon ..... Casey Bearden  
 ..... "Lord or Teacher"  
 Scripture Reading ..... Matt Gingerich  
 ..... Acts 2:29-33 (NKJV)  
 Closing Prayer ..... Rick Bird

### Serving Communion (Left | Right):

Gary Good (L)..... Clark Smith (R)  
 Asher Owens (L) .. Michael English (R)  
 ..... Pat Mense (Balcony)  
 Comments ..... Joe Wilson

### EVENING

Opening Prayer ..... Parker Godwin  
 Singing ..... Brody Crider  
 Scripture Reading ..... Chris Davis  
 ..... Romans 10:8-17 (NKJV)  
 Comments ..... Joe Wilson

### Worship Service and Preparation:

Make Comm. Bread ..... Heidi Hudgens  
 Comm. Prep ..... Doss Family  
 PowerPoint ..... Philip Lester  
 Secure Building ..... Jak Gallagher

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director ..... Dawson Hitchcock  
 Opening Prayer ..... Jay Toddy

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class ..... 157  
 AM Worship ..... 242  
 PM Worship ..... 121  
 Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 162

Contribution : ..... \$10,957

2026 Weekly Budget : \$12,036

2026 Avg. Contribution : \$12,788

### TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class ..... 9:00 am  
 Sunday AM Worship ..... 10:00 am  
 Sunday PM Worship ..... 6:00 pm  
 Wednesday PM Bible Class ..... 6:30 pm

## Visitors: Thank you for coming! You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

**Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!**

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday**, by noon.
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of you contribution.



**FOOD PANTRY**  
 Margaret Street CHURCH of CHRIST

- Food Pickup : 5/12/26 @ 9:30 AM
- Preparing Boxes:  
 • 5/13/26 @ 5:30 PM  
 • 5/14/26 @ 9:30 AM
- Distribution : 5/14/26 @ 2:30 PM

### EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



**OWLS BIBLE STUDY**  
 Galatians  
 "Only One Gospel"  
 Every Thursday @ 10:00 AM

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open PayPal for Online Giving

## STAFF

**Troy Spradlin** ..... Preacher / Minister  
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## ELDERS

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**Joe Wilson** ..... 206-8350  
 ..... jaw@wilsonharrell.com

### ELDER CONTACT FOR APRIL:

Primary..... Joe Wilson  
 Secondary ..... Rick Bird

## DEACONS\* & MINISTRIES

Administration ..... Troy Spradlin  
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell  
 Building & Grounds ..... Paul Lipford\*  
 Education ..... Chris Davis\*  
 Evangelism ..... Troy Spradlin  
 Finance ..... Richard McCool  
 Fellowship ..... Jeff Scott\*  
 Involvement .....  
 Lads to Leaders ..... David English  
 OWLS ..... Stephen Fulton  
 Missions ..... Mike Scott\*  
 Visitation .....  
 Kingdom Kids ..... Dane Harrington\*  
 Worship ..... Blake Hatcher\*  
 Youth & Family ..... Casey Bearden  
 ..... Matthew McReynolds\*



Margaret Street  
**CHURCH of CHRIST**

**Welcome! We're glad you are here!**  
 Sunday - April 19, 2026  
 A Bible-based, Christ-centered, Family-focused, Mission-minded church.

## Who Has Supreme Authority In Religious Matters?

by Troy Spradlin

In today's world, the lines between right and wrong often blur, making truth feel elusive. To complicate things further, some people have crowned themselves as the ultimate judges of morality. But who appointed them to this lofty role? What gives them the right to decide for everyone else? When it comes to faith, the waters are just as muddied. So, how can we be sure what is truly correct? Who has the authority to define right and wrong? **Is there a supreme guide over all spiritual matters?** If so, is it the church, a creed book, a charismatic leader, a headquarters, or a council of experts? Who, in the end, writes the rules? Where do we turn for real answers? These questions matter deeply, because the fate of our souls hangs in the balance.

Too often, those searching for answers end up following a self-appointed chieftain, that is, someone who claims to rule over spiritual matters. Others turn to creed books, statements of faith, or church rule books for direction. Still others look to the verdicts of councils, synods, or conventions. The problem with all these is that they rest on human logic and emotion. When we compare these different "authorities," to each other, the contradictions and hypocrisies leap out. The truth is, human wisdom alone cannot bring true unity in matters of faith when so many minds pull in different directions (Jeremiah 10:23). And, as evidenced in our current religious environment, division and disunity prevails.



**There must be a singular authority that supersedes all else to which we can appeal or consult.**

**Such a foundational authority can be found only in the Bible, the Word of God.**

The Bible tells us that religious authority originated with the Creator, God (2 Timothy 3:16,17). Scripture should and must be the center of all decisions concerning matters of faith and religion. I encourage you to read 1 Thessalonians 2:13, then John 17:17 and Psalm 119:160. Understanding the importance of a central authority in all religious matters is such a critical concept for every soul on earth to understand! Knowing the true standard of authority will influence one's eternal destination. This is illustrated in the warning Jesus gave to His followers, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter," (Matthew 7:21). It is our responsibility to seek out and discern what the will of God is. Can His will be found among the decisions of a man, a group of men, or a creed book written by a man? It certainly cannot. But as we have already illustrated, this is not so obvious to everyone.

It saddens me to see how so many flippantly dismiss authority in their spiritual walk. Yet, everyone is capable of recognizing it in their secular lives. For example, when a police officer commands us to stop, he is acting on authority, and we must obey; otherwise, we will suffer the consequences for our actions according to the law. The concept is not difficult to comprehend! So, when it comes to religious matters, why isn't authority understood in the same way? The Bible tells us why. Perhaps the apostle Paul explains it best in 2 Timothy 4:3, certain people simply don't want to adhere to an established, prescribed set of rules, no matter whether it is of divine origin or not. They want what they want, period. But we should all contemplate the words of Jesus, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). Jesus received His authority from the Supreme Authority. It is God who sets the rules and guidelines. We have no right to change His commands.

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# MSYG EVENTS & INFO

**GULF COAST AREA WIDE 2025-2026**

## MIRAGE

IN THE MESSAGE

**APRIL 26 @ MARGARET STREET**

**GULF COAST BIBLE CAMP**  
EST. 1966  
LUCEDALE, MS

## CAMP WORKDAY

**MAY 2**  
7 AM - 3 PM

*Attention YG Parents!*

**2026 SNAC & WEDNESDAY DEVO SIGN-UPS ARE AVAILABLE.**

PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE INFORMATION STATION.

*MSYG*

## Parent / Teen Meeting

May 3 | 4:30 pm | Room 303

*New Parent Orientation @ 3:45*

## WAR ROOM

*YG Prayer Night*

**MAY 6**  
TEEN ROOM

## Graduation BANQUET

**MAY 17TH**

7 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SINGING & PRAYER SERVICE @ 6 PM

**GULF COAST BIBLE CAMP**  
EST. 1966  
LUCEDALE, MS

**Registration is OPEN!**

Early Bird Reg. deadline is May 4.

Teen Week (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade): June 7 - 12

Jr. Week (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade): June 21 - 24

**LEGACY**  
AT FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

YEAR 5 | JULY 16 - 19

Sign up & pay by April 29<sup>th</sup>

# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

### Recent/Urgent Requests

- Pat Ann - Pseudonormal LV, heart damage
- Steve Brown - extreme surg, cancer (Frahm\*)
- Pat Deforest - kidney failure, dialysis
- John Hart Ellis - needs kidney transplant
- Weston Fields - hole in heart (Russell\*)
- Myrna Fuller\* - surgery, broken femur/patella
- Patrick Hamilton - surgery, recover (McGriff\*)
- Henry Hancock - testing in Birmingham
- Matthew Henry\* - damaged eye, healing
- Frank Jelercic - health, prayers (Lola\*)
- Caroline Locklin\* - birth of Audrey!
- Donald McGriff\* - WFH, possible surgery
- Bret Moore - amputation of legs (Sherian\*)
- John Pace\* - tests, health
- Lee Smith - pneumonia (E.Lipford mom)
- Rick Wade - kidney stone surgery (Alonna\*)
- Roxy Wishum - double lung transplant

### Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Wilson Barnes - diabetes complications (Jak\*)
- Cassie Buchanant\* - future surgery, pelvic pain
- Winston Burnham\* - back pain, health
- Janice Carter\* - sprained her neck, recovery
- Kyle Croom - venous insufficiency (Spradlin\*)
- Angela DAlessandro - health issues
- Allen Davis - (C.Davis\* father)
- Louis deLange\* - prayers and encouragement
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire\*)
- Laura Elliott\* - health, prayers for healing
- Torrie Finney - medical (Jak's niece)
- Mike Frahm\* - health, prayers
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace\* sister)
- Barbara Helms\* - daily infusions
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- David Jones - Alzheimer's (Kenya\*)
- Windie Jones\* - pinched nerve in neck
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes\*)
- Brittany Parker\* - health, prayers
- Trish Powell - wayward (Jak\*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott\*)
- Mary Lee Smith - heart issues (McGriff\*)
- Marlene Smith - Alzheimer's (Fulton\* sister)
- Edwina Sumrall - continued prayers
- Ryan Turner - heart issues (Rob's\* brother)

### Cancer

- Ron Bartanen\* - lymph nodes
- Jim Bostwick - (Trevor B's dad)
- Misty Bray - (Bird\*)
- Lilly Cain - bladder (R. Locklin\* sister)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott\*)
- Micki Clopton - (former member)
- Keith Echols - (L.Lester\*)
- David English\*
- Geodee Fred - (C. Bartanen\*)
- Toni Hadder - (member at Pace COC)
- Ambia Kitchen - (Pantry)
- Rebekah Koppin - stage 4 colon (Jeanna\*)
- Mari Krussow - (Overton\*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley\*)
- Aloha Lee - (Lola's\* sister)
- Greg Lewis\*
- Connie Moore - (Fulton\*)
- Donald McGriff\* - chemotherapy : 14 days
- Steve Meados - prostate - surgery (Lanya\*)
- Roy Moulder - (Alonna\*)
- Dee Mulligan - lung (Crystal's\* mom)
- Angelica Rapson - Stage 4 (Smith\*)
- Benjamin Russell - (Susan St.)
- Lewie Joe Smith - (Jeanna E.\*)
- Mike Shaffer - (Pat's\* husband)
- Angela Southerd - breast
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher\*)
- David Walther - brain (English\*)
- Lawanna Wishum - (T.Baxley\*)

### Grieving a Loss

- Mary Lou\* & family - loss of mother, Annie
- Sarah Davis\* and family - loss of mom, Donna
- Davis/Napier families - loss of Jack Davis
- Jeanna English & fam. - loss of mom, Faye
- Myrna Fuller - loss of her daughter
- Good family\* - loss of daughter in law, Mary
- Jennings\* family - loss of brother/uncle, Dale
- Sandra King & fam. - loss of sister, Sherryn
- Rhonda Locklin\* and family - loss of her sister
- Peggy Masoner family - loss of Peggy\*
- Ina Ruth Miller\* family - loss of Ina Ruth
- Sharon & Brittany Parker - loss of Tim Parker
- Jon Raley\* - passing of his mother
- Renee Ray\* - loss of her brother, Willard
- Dot Russell\* and family - loss of Ted
- Andrea Spradlin\* - loss of mother, Joyce
- Joe Taylor\* family - loss of Joe
- Lisa Webb\* - loss of father, James Richard

### Students in College

- Jackson Davis
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn English
- Judsen Jennings
- Jackson Lash
- Ayla Napier
- Hannah Raley
- Lily Weathersbee
- LizAnn Webb
- Elliot Wilson
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

### Expectant Mothers

- Lauren Godwin\* - April 2026
- Emily Hutcheson - April 2026 (Lipford\*)

### Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Ron Bartanen\* - Victorian Manor
- Viola Burgess\* - South FL
- Sherry Davis\* - The Residence (Davis/Napier\*)
- Laura Elliot - homebound (S. Lee\* mom)
- Bobbie Garcia\* - Fort Walton Beach
- Larry Lester - Eden of Crestview
- Lillian Raines\* - The Residence
- Lee Smith - Arcadia, rm.236 (E.Lipford mom\*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton\*)

### Mission Works

- Shanahans\* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

### Military

- Sean Andino\* - Norfolk, VA
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Iran
- Javanta Johnson - NAS Jacksonville Airforce
- Amya Huey\* - Italy
- Cody Fulmer-Shaw - Kuwait (A.Turner\*)

### 2026 Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Joey Stromsness - Baptized, 1/4/26
- Audrey Harrington - Baptized, 1/10/26
- Aaron Burgess - Baptized, 2/3/26
- Hayden Chandler - Baptized 4/4/26

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:**  
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18)



Digital access to our Calendars on your computer or personal device.

Scan this QR Code for the Church Calendar on teamup.com



IN HONOR OF

## Nick Webb & Cherith Pettit

WE WILL BE BLESSING THEM WITH A MONEY WREATH FOR THEIR MARRIAGE IN JUNE! WITH THEIR WEDDING BEING OUT OF STATE, WE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE THE PERFECT WAY TO CELEBRATE THEIR UNION!

Please see Andrea W. or Blisse to contribute now thru Sunday, May 3rd.