

Dear Faith Family,

We are starting on Sunday mornings a study of the gospel according to Mark. We've just gotten started and I wanted to use this space to answer one more question that I had wanted to cover Sunday, but due to time held off. Mark says in verse one, of chapter one: **The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.** *Isn't this message of God's grace the complete gospel? Why is this only the beginning?* The gospel story or the New Covenant story begins with John as the voice announcing the Savior of the world has landed! He is here and shortly will make Himself known.

John makes clear in the last two verses of Mark 1:1-8 that he is only preparing the way; there is even better news to come. Let's look again at verses 7 and 8: **“And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. (8) I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”** (ESV)

Repentance is necessary. Forgiveness is wonderful. But God is doing much more than offering forgiveness: God is offering these people new life! New power! God offers *Himself!* The indwelling of the Holy Spirit! The gospel of Jesus Christ is not only about the forgiveness of sins. That's the beginning of the gospel. The full gospel is the hope of being God's precious bride: perfect, spotless, Christlike. The full gospel promises that we will be BEING or IN PROCESS of being transformed into His image through the power of the Holy Spirit within us.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the son of God, comes to us in the wilderness of April, 2025. The wilderness of shooting deaths at schools, churches, and malls; slavery moving through the very terminals we use to jet around our country; the callous killings of our brothers and sisters in the Congo; and the wilderness of our own hardened and self-righteous hearts. This gospel proclaims not that you're OK and I'm OK, not that the problems of the world lie with all those other bad people; but the gospel proclaims that God has dealt with sin and death. You can be free. AND that even in this lifetime living behind the enemy lines of this fallen world, you can attain victories over the cancelled sin in your life. With the presence of God Himself inside your soul, even we wildlings can be domesticated! In the Charles Wesley hymn we sing, *“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*, I love the line *“...He breaks the power of cancelled sin.”* This line highlights the idea that forgiveness of sins is not just a legal declaration, but a transformative experience that sets believers free from the dominion of sin. Mark himself had much to repent of: If the conjectures I proposed Sunday are correct, he initially rejected Jesus' call to follow Him. He ran in the garden. He deserted Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey (this we are sure about). But he did repent. And he received God's grace. And God turned this failure into the author of the most widely-translated book in the world. No matter how large your failures, no matter how short of a perfect life you fall, God is ready to accept you, by the blood of our Lord and Savior. Won't you repent? Turn to the God of mercy! This is the beginning of the gospel. The next part is with you...will it be fully realized in you?

Repent! The kingdom of God is at hand!

Repenting Daily Together!
Bro. Todd



Celebrating
Taylor Hollowell & Aaron Warriner
Drop-In Bridal Shower
This Sunday, April 13
from 1:30-3:30 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall

Registered at Amazon



Join us for our monthly potluck
Tuesday, April 22 at noon

Guest speaker: Marquetta Peyton
From Hope of the Delta



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
Church Goal: \$7,000
Received to Date: \$1,200



WCBC COOKBOOK

It is time to share your favorite recipes!!
Pick up a Recipe Collection/Instruction sheet
at the Information-Visitor Center.

Place submitted recipes in the basket by **May 4.**



Vacation Bible School
June 9-13
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
4 year olds thru 6th grade

Registration is now open!



**2025
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

It's time to start collecting items for shoeboxes again. This year it is our goal to put soccer balls in each box. High quality balls with a pump included can be purchased at a cost of \$6.50 per set when purchased in bulk from Western Star Wholesale.

If you or your Sunday School class would be interested in contributing to the purchase of balls and pumps, please contact Susan Wamble at 870-489-8414.



SUNDAY SCHOOL (3-30-25)	267
WEEKLY BUDGET	22,034.72
RECEIPTS	17,941.82
BUDGET TO DATE	286,451.36
RECEIPTS TO DATE	279,054.79

SUNDAY SCHOOL (4-6-25)	257
WEEKLY BUDGET	22,034.72
RECEIPTS	25,898.10
BUDGET TO DATE	308,486.08
RECEIPTS TO DATE	304,952.89



It's CHURCH WORK DAY
Saturday, May 3 at 8 A.M.
Come in your work clothes!

Lunch and drinks provided.



Collection Box
is located behind the
Information-Visitor Center



Check out the Lost and Found Box
behind the Information-Visitor Center.



By Profession:
Wayland Young
2601 Easy St.
White Hall, AR 71602

“And the Lord added to the church.”
Acts 2:47

April 13, 2025 WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 Bible Study
10:45 Morning Worship
with Facebook Live Streaming
5:00 Youth Choir
6:30 Evening Worship
with Facebook Live Streaming



Join the **Evergreens** every
second Tuesday at 1:00 P.M.
for fun and games
in the Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:30 WCBC Youth Ministries
6:15 AWANA
6:15 Mid-week Service
with Facebook Live Streaming
6:45 Adult Choir

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
DURING THE BONUS TEACHING HOUR:**

MARCH 30

Ann Parker
Crystal Ellis
Deborah Williams
Leslie Harrison
Ashley Fallis
Sherry Beckwith
Lynell Bowen
Tabatha Miller

APRIL 6

Abigail Kidd
Michelle Adam
Jodie Garner
Brianna Edwards
Sydney Katayama
Amanda Robinson
Mishelle Sutton

Dates to Remember

DEACONS

April 13
Jeff Golden
692-2770

April 20
Bill Lowry
718-9119



**Sunday,
May 11
Choir Room
7:30 A.M.**

LIBRARY



**Come check out
our selection
of books and
videos for
all ages.**

CALENDAR

April 25-26
Ladies' Retreat

May 3
Churchwide Workday

June 9-13
Vacation Bible
School



June 17-20
Basketball Camp
3rd-6th grade
Cost: \$40

June 29
God & Country Day

June 30-July 4
Youth Camp Siloam

July 12-19
Worship In Action
(Choir Tour)

July 23-26
Character Camp
Cost: \$135



WCBC Pastoral Staff:

Todd Howard, Pastor
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Ben Howard, Children's Pastor
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Chris McVay, Youth Pastor
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WCBC Support Staff:

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Michelle Smith, Secretary
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**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Our purpose.
To Exalt the Savior, evangelize
the sinner, edify and unify the
saints, equipping them for
ministry and service.

