

CHAPEL ROCK



# Newsletter



A central graphic celebrating the 250th anniversary. It features a white background with a gold border. On the left and right sides are vertical stripes in red, white, and blue, topped with a blue field containing five gold stars. The text "250th Anniversary" is prominently displayed in the center, with "250th" in a large, bold, blue-to-gold gradient font and "Anniversary" in a smaller, blue-to-gold gradient font. Below this, the text "CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM" is written in a dark blue, all-caps, serif font. Underneath that, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" is written in a smaller, dark blue, all-caps, serif font. The entire graphic is decorated with several gold stars of varying sizes and positions.

Website  
[chapelrock.org](http://chapelrock.org)

Sundays  
9:15 & 11:00 am

On Demand  
[chapelrock.org/messages](http://chapelrock.org/messages)

Events  
[chapelrock.org/events](http://chapelrock.org/events)

# Lead Lines

My favorite thing on the internet right now is watching European soccer fans who are here for the World Cup discover how awesome America is.

It is genuinely delightful watching people from other parts of the world discover the greatest thing about our country, sometimes the things we take for granted: Waffle House at 1:00 in the morning, massive gas stations (cough-Buc-ee's-cough), unlimited free refills, road trips that last longer than some European countries are wide, high school football stadiums bigger than pro arenas in Europe, and the simple joy of standing in front of one of those soda machines with 187 options and thinking, as Yakov Schmirnov used to say, "What a country!" And in July of 2026, we have an especially good reason to reflect on that. This month, the United States celebrates its 250th birthday.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, our nation declared something that still rings with power: "All men are created equal" and are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." John Adams later wrote, "You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make a good use of it." George Washington expressed his hope that this land might become "a safe and agreeable asylum to the virtuous and persecuted part of mankind."

Now, we all know America has never lived up to those ideals perfectly. Our history includes real failures, deep sins, and painful contradictions. But it is ALSO true that the world is **objectively better** because the United States has been part of it. Across 250 years, this great nation has been a place of remarkable freedom, opportunity, generosity, sacrifice, innovation, and refuge. Not perfect. Not even close. But still a gift to the world.

That's why we who follow Jesus have reason to be especially thoughtful. As I have said in our current sermon series in Genesis, the Bible does not treat freedom as permission to do whatever we want. In fact, Scripture gives us a much richer vision. Peter writes, "Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves" (1 Peter 2:16). Paul says it this way: "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13).

That is the Christian vision of freedom. Freedom is not the ability to chase every desire; it is the **uninhibited opportunity to love**. Freedom is the privilege of serving. Freedom is the responsibility to bless others. In the kingdom of God, freedom is never meant to make us selfish; it is meant to make us useful.

So as we celebrate the 250th birthday of our great nation, I hope we will do so with gratitude. I hope we will thank God for the blessings we enjoy here. I hope we will remember the cost paid by those who came before us. I hope we will be honest about the places where our nation still needs healing, humility, and righteousness. But most of all, I hope we will recommit ourselves to using the AMAZING blessings we have been given to bless and better others in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. THAT would be a pretty good birthday gift to America. May God bless you this Fourth of July, and may God bless America.

Leading as I follow,  
Casey

## 20/20/20 Service

Join us Sunday evening, July 12, at 6 p.m. in the Chapel for 20/20/20 - 20 minutes of teaching, 20 minutes of worship, and 20 minutes of prayer. Enter at door #16. Kids are welcome, as this can be a very intentional time of family faith formation.

## Donate Bibles!

Chapel Rock is partnering with Bible Runners to get Bibles into people's hands and the Gospel of Jesus into their hearts. Bible Runners will take and distribute donated Bibles where they are most needed in the world. If you or your family and friends have Bibles to donate, in any condition, please place them in the DropZone bin in the Foyer. To cover shipping costs, please place a \$1 bill as an easily-seen bookmark in each Bible.

**With 96 already collected, our goal is 300 Bibles!**





## Brandon Wells Ministry Resident

**Tell us about your family ...** I am an only child. My dad is an engineer and my mom is a financial advisor. My parents are very supportive and loving, and they are excited to see where this residency takes me, as am I.

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Rochester, New York. (Go Bills 🤔)

**What's your go-to activity when you have free time?** In my free time, I enjoy producing experimental electronic music in Ableton Live, and DJing/mixing songs on my pioneer board as well. I am also a big movie enthusiast and have dabbled in acting, too.

**Favorite restaurant?** El Patron (A New Mexican restaurant in Albuquerque)

**Favorite ice cream?** Anything with chocolate in it.

**Mountains or beach?** Mountains

**Hot or cold coffee?** Both!

**Cats or dogs?** I like both, but I think I'm more of a dog person.

**Summer or winter?** Summer

**Pancakes or waffles?** Pancakes

**Early bird or night owl?** Night owl

I am looking forward to getting to serve in this church within the youth ministry and getting to know the culture of the church and of Indianapolis in general. I am excited to get to know all of you at Chapel Rock and be a part of your congregation!



## Mary Morton Ministry Resident

**Tell us about your family ...** My parents live in Plainfield and have been happily married for over 30 years! I have an older brother in Schererville,

Indiana, who graduated from Purdue, and a little sister going into her junior year at Ball State. My fiancé and I will be married on July 11, after being together for a little over two years!

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up on the west side of Indy very close to Chapel Rock.

**What's your go-to activity when you have free time?** Usually, I'm writing my next book. If I'm not doing that, I'm watching a nostalgic movie or reading a friend's book.

**Favorite restaurant?** I will never turn down Chipotle!

**Favorite ice cream?** Peanut Butter Chocolate or Mint Chocolate Chip

**Mountains or beach?** I do love the mountains!

**Hot or cold coffee?** Hot Coffee no matter what the temperature is outside!

**Cats or dogs?** Forever a dog person!

**Summer or winter?** Winter is my favorite season. (Please don't hate me.)

**Pancakes or waffles?** Waffles!

**Early bird or night owl?** I have slowly become an early bird.

I'm looking forward to meeting new people and being part of a multi-generational church after four years of student ministry!

## Lilly VanHouten, Ministry Resident



**Tell us about your family ...** I am an only child, and my parents have raised me in a Christian household. My mom spends most of her time online running

and contributing to support groups for people with the disease she has, Gastroparesis, and my dad has mostly worked in housing and property management jobs, currently helping to house the homeless.

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, near the Greenwood area.

**What's your go-to activity when you have free time?** I like to draw; paint; crochet; sing; experiment with the piano; act in theatre productions; write songs, stories, and poems; spend time with friends; go on walks; run; meet pets and zoo animals; or simply watch shows or read a book.

**Favorite restaurant?** My favorite "restaurant" is Chick-Fil-A.

**Favorite ice cream?** Chocolate chip cookie dough and mint chocolate chip.

**Mountains or beach?** Beach

**Hot or cold coffee?** I am not really a coffee person.

**Cats or dogs?** I am partial to dogs because my first pet was a dachshund named Frank.

**Summer or winter?** I prefer winter to summer.

**Pancakes or waffles?** Pancakes

**Early bird or night owl?** Night owl

I worked at Chapel Rock once before when I was an intern for Mission Indy, and I am looking forward to being with the wonderful team again. They are cohesive and welcoming and truly take an interest in mentoring those who join. I am also looking forward to working with Zach and the praise band and singing on stage a bit! I hope to grow in my faith through my experience at Chapel Rock and use my talents for God and witnessing.

## 2026 Chip in for Chapelwood

Some of our young friends at Chapelwood Elementary could really use help getting the school supplies they need for a successful school year. Please purchase what you're able and drop your gifted supplies in the bin no later than **Sunday, July 12**. Thank you for your generosity!

- Pencils
- Sharpened TICONDEROGA pencils
- Crayons
- Paints
- Rulers
- Ear buds
- Erasers
- Dry erase markers
- Glue sticks (large)
- Blunt tip scissors
- Hand sanitizer
- Washable markers (thick & thin)
- Post-It notes
- Gallon size plastic bags
- Sandwich size plastic bags
- Clear art boxes
- Colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Sanitizing wipes
- Lunch boxes
- Folders with prongs & pockets
- 4, 6, or 8 packs boxes of tissues
- Ink pens (blue, black, red)
- Plastic, reusable water bottles
- Spiral notebooks
- Pencil bags with zippers
- Black Expo markers
- Pink erasers



### Young Adults Call-Out

Young adults are invited Sunday, July 19, in WC111 during both services to share a time of vision casting and connection. Questions? Contact Cory Hintz at [chintz@chapelrock.org](mailto:chintz@chapelrock.org).

## Mission Indy Summer Group Donations & Volunteers

Mission Indy is hosting over 100 students and adults the week of July 19. Donations help keep it affordable for groups to attend. To see a list of donations needed, go to <https://tinyurl.com/Mission-Indy-Donations>. To volunteer with meal prep, go to <https://tinyurl.com/Mission-Indy-Food-Prep>. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Questions? Contact Mindy Turpen at 317-627-9266.

### Splash Pad Sunday

Our preschool friends and their parents are invited to Williams Park in Brownsburg, 940 Locust Lane, on Sunday, July 26, from 4 to 5 p.m. for a splashing good time!



### Operation Christmas Child

### God Brings Hope through School Supplies Please Make a Difference in a Child's Life!

A six-year-old boy fled his home amidst gunfire in Central Africa. He was miraculously reunited with his family later at an orphanage a month later. The prayers of his mom had been answered! But with no employment, this boy couldn't afford to attend school. Two years later, he received a shoebox containing notebooks, pens, and pencils. God had answered his prayer! Now he could attend school! "My shoebox gave me hope. Still today, I think it was a message, a gift from God."

In the month of July, please purchase any school supply that can fit in a shoebox – help more children continue learning! Ideas include pencils and sharpeners, notebook paper, pens, erasers, calculators, scissors, glue sticks (no liquid glue), crayons, markers, stickers, coloring books, rulers, etc. Please put "OCC school supplies" on your shopping list today! Remember, the Good News of Jesus will also be placed in each shoebox, and that's the best gift of all. All items are collected in the DropZone bin in the Foyer. Questions? Judy Heuss 317-702-0508. As a reminder, soap is no longer accepted.

## Chapel Rockets Seniors Ministry Events

- Thursday, July 2, Rockets Pitch-in lunch at 11:30 a.m. Please bring one or two side dishes to share. Ron Bridgewater will be the guest speaker and singer.
- Wednesday, July 8, Movie Day in the Family Room at 1 p.m. Please bring a movie snack to share. Enter door #3.
- Thursday, July 16, Pitch-in lunch and Bingo at 11:30 a.m. in the Family Room. Please bring one new prize for the Prize Table and a side dish or entree.
- Monday, July 27, Lunch Bunch to The Grill in McCordsville. The bus will leave at 10 a.m. Register in advance by calling Ann at 317-238-0127.
- Wednesday, July 29, Care & Share in the Chapel at noon. Please bring your own lunch and beverage. Enter door #16.



Chapel Rock's Food Pantry operates monthly on the first and third Thursdays. Nearly 400 families are served and five to six tons of food is provided each month. Both monetary and non-perishable food donations are essential. Please write "Food Pantry" on the memo line of checks. Non-perishable food donations may be put in the DropZone bin in the Foyer. Contact Cindy West at 215-570-8578 if you would like to volunteer with the Food Pantry.

## Homeless Ministry Needs

The Homeless Ministry needed items are: baby wipes, socks, t-shirts, deodorant, tooth paste and tooth brushes, shampoo, and body wash. New items may be placed in the DropZone bin in the Foyer.

## Mission Trip to Kenya



Chapel Rock is sending a mission team to Kenya this August. The team will be conducting basic eye chart exams and gifting glasses to enable people to see better. **If you have old glasses and/or readers, they are needed!** Glasses and readers can be brought to the Welcome Desk in July. In combination with hosting a medical clinic at a local school with 600 kids, the team will visit homes and distribute basic medicine cabinet items like pain relievers, rash and antibiotic ointments, cough medicine, etc. Three days will be dedicated to Bible lessons, crafts, and games with the kiddos too.

### Men's Breakfast and Devotion

The men's monthly breakfast and devotion will be **Saturday, July 11**. Coffee and fellowship begin at 7 a.m. with the breakfast being served at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please enter at door #3.



### Summer Bible Reading

Join the Women's Ministry this summer, reading daily through the book of *Genesis* chapters 1 through 11, June 1, through August 7. The reading follows Pastor Casey's sermon series, *Origin Story*. Pick up a copy at the Welcome Desk or scan the QR Code.



**Upcoming events** - watch for information coming soon.

- August - end of summer gathering
- October - shopping trip
- December - Christmas tea

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future if you've recently lost



a spouse, child, family member or friend. In **GriefShare** you'll discover there are people who understand your hurts, emotions and painful experiences! The next 13-week session begins Monday, July 6, with two identical sessions, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Both will be held in room WC 100. Registration and workbook are \$20. Scholarships are available. Register at [grief-share.org/findagroup](http://grief-share.org/findagroup) or email Robin Sweitzer at [robin.sweitzer@gmail.com](mailto:robin.sweitzer@gmail.com). Your friends and family are welcome to join you.

## Inklings in Indy

A regional live mini-conference focusing on the works and legacy of C.S. Lewis and his friends in a congenial atmosphere of fellowship, fun, and accessible scholarship, Saturday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy speakers, workshops, and lost videos. Cost is \$60 and includes deli lunch, snacks, and book table. Register at [cslewis.indy@gmail.com](mailto:cslewis.indy@gmail.com).

## By the Numbers ...

	5/17	5/24	5/31	6/7	6/14	2026 Average Attendance.....
Worship Services – campus	400	0	487	406	415	676 <i>(includes live streaming)</i>
Worship Online – live streaming	198	259	204	177	211	Baptisms for 2026 .....12
In-person & Virtual Small Groups	135	0	99	136	128	Transfers for 2026 .....3
Children/Middle School/High School	127	0	0	104	105	

### Financial Report ending May 2026

⌘ General Fund Offerings – YTD .....\$727,344      ⌘ Missions Funding..... \$75,600

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Website: [chapelrock.org](http://chapelrock.org)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.