



A "wretch" who found "Amazing Grace!"

In his early years John was nurtured by a devoted Christian mother. She dreamed that her only son would grow up to become a preacher. However, she died when John was a child, and he followed his sea-captain father to a sailor's life.

John did not care for the discipline of the Royal Navy: he deserted ship; he was repeatedly flogged, and eventually he was dishonorably discharged. He had had enough of religion, England, and the Royal Navy. So John headed for regions where he could "sin freely." John ended up on the western coast of Africa, in the center of the barbaric slave trade.

John found a place where he could freely sin, but he was in the middle of people who also sinned freely. His employer was a callous slave trader who sinned freely as he bought and sold people created in the image of God. It should have been no surprise that John Newton found that his employer who embraced a life of "sinning freely" mistreated him.

John's life during this period bore the appearance of the Prodigal Son. He was "a wretched man who labored in a plantation of lemon trees on the Island of Plantains. His "clothes had become rags; he had no shelter from the elements. John had to beg for roots to calm his hunger."

After more than a year of such treatment, John managed to escape from the island, this was in 1747. In 1748 John was serving on a ship that was battered by a storm. John had been reading the Bible and *The Imitation of Christ*, and during the life-threatening voyage he turned his life back towards Jesus Christ.

In the years that followed his spiritual return to God, John devoted himself to the reading of God's Word. God's Word enlightened him to horrors of slavery. John grew to loathe slavery, and he eventually devoted his life to crusading against it.

John preached against evils of slavery. He preached about the grace of God to save a wretch. Newton also wrote hymns, and many of his hymns were autobiographical. Today, John Newton is best known for writing the hymn, "Amazing Grace!"

In his old age, friends gently suggested to John Newton that he should retire due to his poor health and failing memory. He replied, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: *That I was a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior!*"

WORSHIP CENTER – Derek McNamara

7/12/26 Adult Class FLC2, *The Enlightening Holy Spirit*, **Ephesians 1**

7/12/26 Sermon, Our LORD Reigns, **Psalm 146**

JULY PRAYER FOCUS

Father, we ask that you unite us in love and purpose as we embrace the call to make and mature disciples through sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, Amen.

“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.”

1 Corinthians 1:10

PRAYER REQUEST

Ashley Ainsworth (Rhonda Reece’s Daughter) is in an unpredictable situation and is asking for prayers in this difficult time.

SYMPATHY

Kailey Black passed away. She is the daughter of Darren & Julie Schroder. Darren is the pulpit minister at Godley Christ of Christ. As an organ donor, Kailey’s final gift will bless eight families. Visitation is scheduled for Friday, July 10th from 6 to 8 pm at Crosier-Pearson. The funeral is scheduled for Saturday, July 11th at 10 am at Crosier-Pearson.

Candy Wright’s brother passed away Monday, July 6, 2026. She is thankful he is at peace and no longer suffering. Prayers for the family.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

Melody Baker, Tanya Bryant, Emmett Crowell’s friend, Steve Curlee, Annette Dill (Daughter-in-Law of Dallas & Darla Dill, Diane Dill, Donna Edwards, Lu Gilter’s Aunt, Barbara Jones, Jack and Diane Magness, Richard Nunn, Joshua Stevens, Terri Stevens, Ellen Triplett, Ray Triplett, Ralph Vaquera, Christy Warenskjold, Scott Warnack, Jimmy Way, Kent Williams, Becky Wilken, Candy Wright’s brother, Rick Yates, Susan Yates, Elderly and Homebound members. World Bible School at Westhill. Bring a Friend Sunday

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 2, Bring a Friend Sunday

July 12-15	VBS.
July 15	VBS Hot Dog Dinner, FLC
July 18	Men's Prayer Breakfast, FLC, 8 am.
July 19-22	WSM – Camp Courageous.
July 23-25	Craft Retreat, FLC, 9 am
July 26	Ashlyn Bradshaw, bridal shower, Giles home, 1:30-3 pm.

PRESCHOOL

For the month of July, we will be collecting unscented wipes. There is a collection bin in the foyer.

WESTHILL STUDENT MINISTRY

- **DNOW** has been a blast! Our students have been working through the theme "Connected," looking at the lives and examples of Elijah, David, and Paul. If your student is attending, ask them how they're learning to reconnect more deeply with God.
- **Camp Courageous** (2nd-5th grades) is coming up soon! If you registered your student, be on the lookout soon for an email with all the last minute reminders. If you haven't signed your student up yet but don't want them to miss out on this awesome camp, do that today!
Link: <https://bit.ly/wsmcc26>. There is more information available at the link.
- **WSM is ready for VBS!** A reminder- each night after VBS concludes, the teens will meet in the back corner of the auditorium to debrief and prep for the next day. After that, the interns will have different activities each night for teens who can stay a little later to play and hangout.



Day 1
Luke 5:1-11
Jesus is the Way

Day 2
Matthew 14:22-33
Jesus is with me

Day 3
Luke 23:32-45, 55-56
Jesus is Alive

Day 4
Act 2
Bottom Line: Holy Spirit Helps Me

Memory Verse:
"Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, 'I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life'" John 8:12

New Things at VBS

- Pre K & Kinder will be in the main building & 1st - 5th will be in the FLC
- That means we need more helpers
- Every Participant will get a VBS bag for all there goodies!
- All Helpers will be wearing our Westhill Green shirts or Silver Eagle Shirts

Sign up to Help & be a part of the FUN
Assignments will be sent out in early July!



Work Days for decorating-
June 27, 28, July 5 & July 11

Want to Help with snacks- Sign up Here!
SNACKS FOR VBS!



If you have any questions or need anything don't hesitate to reach out to Katie Easdon @ 817-776-3705



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

July 12 Katie Easdon & Harper Shaw.

July 19 Camille Shaw & Waverley Shaw

KINGDOM KID'S HELPERS - JULY

Kyle Edmonds, Naomi Davis, Graham Allen and Emma Wilkin.

JULY 5, 2026

AM Worship	294
Bible Classes	161
Westhill Offering (Week of 07/05)	\$13,504
Weekly Budget Needs	\$11,500
Giving: Venmo@Westhill-ChurchOfChrist.	

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday: Bible Classes for all ages 9 am; Worship 10 am.

Silver Eagles, FLC 3, 3 pm.

Tuesday: Silver Eagles, F LC 3, 3 pm.

Wednesday: Bible Classes 7 pm.

STAFF

Dr. Derek McNamar	Preaching Minister
Jesse Muniz	Youth & Family Minister
Russell Crook	Counselor
Alberto Gamboa	Custodian
Michelle Anderson	Finance Secretary
Gary Patterson	Communications Director
Whitney Ellis	Preschool Director

SHEPHERDS

Larry Brightwell
Russell Cashion
James Cordell
Russell Crook
Brent Easdon
Mike Glover
Aaron William



**Make & Mature
Disciples**