



MASADA

In AD 73, a small band of 930 Jews resisted the might of Rome from a rock fortress called Masada. It rises 1,300 feet above the surrounding desert at the southern end of the Dead Sea. From the top, outlines of the Roman military camps that had cut off all supplies to the Israelites can still be seen. An earthen ramp, built to besiege the fortification, slopes up one side.

When Roman troops stormed the wall and finally broke through, they were met by an eerie silence. The dead bodies of 930 men, women, and children stole from their conquest the thrill of victory. The Jews had deliberately chosen to die "free" rather than to live under the indignity of slavery.

Suicide, even under the most extreme adversity, is not approved by God. Yet those Jewish defenders grappled with a life-and-death issue--one remarkably similar to what we face as Christians. We can choose to die to selfishness and sin by refusing to yield to evil passions and self-indulgence. To yield to sin is to live in bondage.

When modern-day Israelis enter the military, they are taken to Masada to be sworn in. There, with the echo of history ringing in their ears, they vow never to be brought into bondage.

As Christians we have been freed from the bondage of sin and death. We emerge out of the grave of water with every sin washed away by the blood of Jesus. Baptism is not only a cleansing of past and future sins, it is also a pledge to live a new life under a new lord, Jesus.

At our baptism we pledged to live a pure life. A life that is characterized by growth in the fruit of the Spirit and a corresponding decline in the fruits of the flesh.

Purity is not an option for Christians. Our purity was purchased by the blood of Jesus and was sealed by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Yet, we are also involved in this collaborative process. We must renounce the corrupting ways of the world and eagerly embrace the paths of purity. We must surrender to the Spirit's leading as we turn from sin.

So, what TV shows did you watch this week? How much time did you spend on social media? How often did you read your Bible. How's your prayer life?

Grace and Peace
Derek McNamara

WORSHIP CENTER – Derek McNamara

8/2/26 Adult Class FLC2, *The Spirit of Perfect Unity*, **Ephesians 4**

8/2/26 Adult Class Auditorium, *Life as an Outsider*, **1st Peter**

8/2/26 Sermon, *The End of Your Rope*, **Revelation 1**

AUGUST PRAYER FOCUS

Father, as we enter a new school year, we ask that you bless our children, bless our families, bless our teachers, bless those in support roles, bless those in administration.

We ask that this school year we would grow deeper in our knowledge of Jesus.

Colossians 1:9 That we be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

PRAYER REQUEST

Sam Morrel's Cousin Has cancer and needs prayers.

Michelle Pearce's father Is in the hospital in his last stage of Alzheimer's.

On a happier note: Happy 90th birthday to my mom. Praise the Lord.

Michelle Pearce.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

Brailynn Brobbin's friend Recovering from surgery.

Steve Curlee Continued health issues.

Annette Dill (Daughter-in-Law of Dallas & Darla Dill) Continued Health issues.

Diane Dill (Daughter of Dallas & Darla Dill) Continued Health issues.

Cassandra Dulin's Cousins As they navigate this new season after the children's mother passed away a few months ago. Prayers for the family.

Donna Edwards Cancer treatment.

Jack and Diane Magness Health issues.

Rhonda Reece Continued Health Issues.

Joshua Stevens (son of Brad & Terri Stevens) Encouragement.

Terri Stevens (Brad's wife, Caleb's mother) Health issues.

Ellen Triplett Recovering at home.

Ralph Vaquera Health issues.

Christy Warenskjold Health Issues.

Kent Williams Dialysis.

Rick Yates is at Ridgeview room 2091. He would love to have visitors.

Susan Yates Health issues.

Elderly and Homebound members.

World Bible School at Westhill.

Bring a Friend Sunday.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 2, Bring a Friend Sunday

- August 2** Men's Prayer meeting, FLC, 8 am.
August 2 WSM – End of Summer Party 6-8 pm.
August 5 Faith Café, Foyer, 6:30 pm.
August 9 Ice Cream Churn Off, FLC, 6 pm.
August 12 Faith Café, Foyer, 6:30 pm.
August 16 Jordenne Cunningham, baby shower, Larry & Debbie Parker's home, 1:30-3 pm.

THANK YOU

Dear church family;

A heartfelt "*Thank You*" to all who brought food, said prayers, called and texted since my accident. Steve and I felt your love.

Linda Cervas.

PRESCHOOL

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

We have **54 students** for the upcoming fall semester! We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support of our church family. Thank you to everyone who has contributed through monthly donations, financial support, and most importantly, your prayers for the children and families we have the privilege of serving. Your generosity and encouragement make it possible for us to continue our mission, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. Thank you!

Whitney Ellis.

MONEY TREE

David and Madi Faulk are expecting their first child in September. They are stationed with the Marines in Hawaii. We are collecting money for gifts that Christy will deliver when she goes out to meet the new grandchild. Ladies can give money through the month of August. They are also registered at Amazon. You may give the money to Kelli Lehrmann.

WESTHILL STUDENT MINISTRY

- Our **Summer Blowout** is TONIGHT, 6-8pm at the Easdon's home. This will be our interns' last day with us, so we'll pray over them as they return back to school AND over our outgoing '26 grads as they prepare for their next chapter. Don't miss it!
- **Middle School Monday** is tomorrow, 6-8pm at the home of Chad and Katie Allen. We hope your middle schooler can make it!
- Our next **Invite Night** is THIS Wednesday, August 5th. Doors open at 6pm for open gym and dinner, followed by youth group at 7pm. Start encouraging your teen now to invite a new friend to join them as we kick off the school year!
- Next Sunday, August 9th, is the deadline to register and pay for the WSM Fall Retreat! Our retreat will take place September 4-6 at Mt. Lebanon campground in Cedar Hill, TX. Cost is \$100/student. To signup or for more details, use this link: <https://forms.gle/2sP1n5BopEptZX9r7>

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

August 2 Whitney Ellis & Danielle Walker.

August 9 Annie Wilson & Molly Allen

KINGDOM KID'S HELPERS - AUGUST

Molly Allen, Ki Utley, Lenny Hansen & Mckenna George

JULY 26, 2026

AM Worship	312
Bible Classes	161
Weekly Offering (week of 07/26)	\$9,253
Weekly Budget Needs	\$11,500
Giving: Venmo@Westhill-ChurchOfChrist.	

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUMMER SERIES 2026

August 5 th	Aaron Timmons
August 12 th	Freddy Anderson
August 19 th	Lanny Reed
August 26 th	Chuck Reagan

FAITH CAFÉ

During the month of August, we will have the *FAITH CAFÉ* every Wednesday, at 6:30 pm, in the foyer. This is a time to come early and enjoy a dessert before Wednesday evening class. Everyone is welcome.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

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

Silver Eagles, FLC 3, 1 pm.

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

Wednesday: Bible Classes 7 pm.

STAFF

Dr. Derek McNamar

Jesse Muniz

Russell Crook

Alberto Gamboa

Michelle Anderson

Gary Patterson

Whitney Ellis

Preaching Minister

Youth & Family Minister

Counselor

Custodian

Finance Secretary

Communications Director

Preschool Director

SHEPHERDS

Larry Brightwell

Russell Cashion

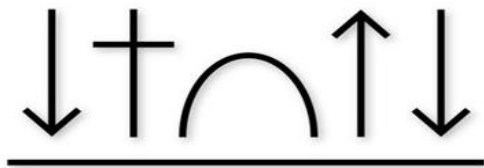
James Cordell

Russell Crook

Brent Easdon

Mike Glover

Aaron William



**Make & Mature
Disciples**