

THE CHAPEL MESSENGER

MARCH 2026

A Letter from Pastor Josh

“worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly..”

Chapel friends,

The season of Lent is upon us. I pray we are all growing closer to Jesus and taking on some new spiritual disciplines. Jesus was challenged in the wilderness, He was hungry, and He was tempted. This time is not meant to be comfortable. Death is never meant to be comfortable, and neither is spiritual growth.

Many times, before we grow, we will be challenged significantly. We will be broken in order to be made whole. That is the hope of the resurrection we all strive for. Let us remember we are journeying together with Jesus during this time. He is with us and He is for us. Thanks be to our God!

In Christ,
Pastor Josh

Contact Us

W: chapelchurch.org

P: 717-244-6375

f: @ChapelChurch

Worship

Schedule:

8 AM – Traditional

9:15 – Small Groups &
Sunday School

10: 30 AM – Modern

Join us online on our
Facebook page or
chapelchurch.org

Church Office

Hours:

Monday –Thursday

9: 00 AM – 12: 00 PM

Friday - closed

Prayer Chain:

chapelpt@gmail.com

Worship Updates

March 22 – Combined Worship – 9:00 AM – Sanctuary – no children’s Sunday school – contact your Sunday School teacher for Adult class times

Holy Thursday – April 2 – 6:30 PM - Sanctuary

Easter Services(April 5) Sunrise – 6:30 AM – Pavillion

Combined – 9:00 AM – Sanctuary

Please join us between the services for a time of fellowship with breakfast brunch in the fellowship hall



Mar 1	Sunday Schl 9:15 – 10:15
Mar 5	Youth night 6:30 – 8
Mar 8	Sunday Schl 9:15 – 10:15
Mar 12	Youth night 6:30 – 8
Mar 15	Sunday Schl 9:15 – 10:15
Mar 19	Youth night 6:30 – 8
Mar 22	Check with Ian
Mar 26	Youth night 6:30 - 8



Youth Update:

Hello everyone! Over the last month, we have continued to see growth in numbers in the youth program which is truly a work of the Lord! God is moving in the hearts of the youth and it is a blessing to be a part of what God is doing! We are continuing our study on Mark in March. I think it is very important for us to lay this foundation in the gospel. I would love it if we could be in prayer for the youth as we go through this series. Presenting the Gospel to newer believers is not something that we should take lightly and is foundational to each of our faith!

We meet every Thursday from 6:30pm to 8. This is for grades 7-12. We play games, worship through music, pray for each other, and learn through scripture study. If anyone at any age is curious about what we do during youth group, please join us we would love for you to worship with us! We also meet every Sunday during Sunday school hour. This time is spent teaching how to read Gods word.

Looking forward to April, we will be going on a retreat! Details to come

If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Ian McKinnell at ian@chapelchurch.org

Young Adults!

Young Adults has been going very well! And we are excited to see what God has for this group in the future. The Young adult group is for anyone who is ages 18-25. The young adults meet in B4 for both the 2nd and 4th Saturday evenings starting at 6pm and For Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. For Saturday the small group will include scripture study, discussion and prayer. The young adults will be starting a new study called "In a pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day" If you or someone you know would be interested in something like this please reach out to Ian McKinnell and he will get you plugged in! ian@chapelchurch.org



LOOKING AHEAD...

We have our Easter event coming up on March 28th! This will be a family-style event meaning parents, grandparents, and guardians will be participating. Yes, there will still be an egg hunt, after successfully completing the “escape room” (hints are available). If you are unfamiliar with escape rooms, the idea is there is a “locked” room that requires puzzles of all sorts to unlock it. Our “locked room” is the egg hunt. Families will work on solving different puzzles (ex: sudoku, cryptograms, etc.) that reveal Bible verses leading them to the ultimate puzzle. Unlike years past, there is no direct teaching. **Serving for this event includes stuffing eggs with candy and glow sticks on the morning of the event, guiding families to different areas, monitoring rooms and giving hints as needed.** **Sign ups for volunteers are in the Narthex, outside my office, and in the Parish Building.

VBS will look different this year! We will be trialing a once-a-week evening program for kids 4-12 years old. The day of the week for this program has not been solidified yet. We aim for a 5-week program but this will vary on our volunteers. Our hope is the kids will have more time to go home and truly ponder what they are learning rather than jumping right into another day of learning. Meanwhile our leaders will get the chance to truly form a bond with the kids. It has been shown that kids who feel welcome and safe are more likely to come back to church. **Friends, leaders, influencers, and pastors are all ESSENTIAL for solidifying this healthy relationship. If you are interested in being a part of something different, if you desire to see children worshiping our KING, if your heart is broken over the hurt in this world, if YOU have been hurt and you don't want to see another child go through it – I invite you to serve alongside me. Please reach out to me: 484-264-1621 or maria@chapelchurch.org.**

NEEDS and DONATIONS:

- If you are looking for a wonderful way to serve our King and Savior, consider using your helpful hands and loving heart to teach, assist, or watch our children. We are looking for individuals to hang with the children on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month. Additionally, we are seeking teachers and helpers to assist during Children’s Church. Thanks so much for your desire to help this young generation of disciples feel safe and seen in this chaotic world.
- Donations for the Family Easter Escape include the following:

- Small, individually wrapped candy for stuffing eggs
- Yoggies (Sam's Club)
- Mini glowsticks (1" in size) for stuffing eggs
- Balloon lights for stuffing eggs
- Mini Jesus figures
- Christian bracelets, stamps, stickers, and other non-food items for stuffing eggs

****Many of these items may be found on this Amazon list:**

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PH4N4TJVT09O?ref_=wl_s
hare

****Please put items in bin outside my office!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **March 22nd** – We will have a combined worship service at 9AM. There will be no children's programming or nursery available.
- **March 28th, 11AM** – Set-up for the Family Easter Escape. This includes stuffing eggs, hiding eggs, and preparing the Fellowship Hall for the event.
- **March 28th, 2:30-5PM** – We need helpers to monitor the egg hunting areas, guide the families while they work through the puzzles, and be a friendly and encouraging face.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

From nursery to 6th grade, the children are following the same programming, simply adapted to their age. We are using The Biggest Story, a beautifully illustrated storybook, Bible, and video series that highlights God's faithfulness and always points to "The Snake Crusher" (Jesus!).

The elementary children are enjoying their separate classes as are our teachers! They have been challenged with learning a new Bible verse every week, and they have been doing fantastic! With the classes being separated into an older elementary and younger elementary, we are now able to include 2-6th graders in our upper elementary class for Children's Church.

We had our first commune Sunday this past month and it went so well! The children enjoyed being a part of something that Jesus instructed them to do too!

May we always remember the kids may be little, but in Jesus's eyes, we are ALL the same, and we all look just as little as they do!

Debt Elimination Team (DET) Updates – March 2026

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.” Romans 13:8

“Will 2026 be the year the mortgage is paid in full?” It is a question that has been circulating and one that may very well play out to become a reality! As we ebb ever so closely to breaking into the “less than six-figure-dollar range” and becoming a debt-free congregation, that vision appears to be very much attainable. The Lord has been consistently walking beside and guiding this congregation with an intentional commitment to pay off the debt. **All praise and glory to God!!!** . . . and may **WE** be ever mindful that it is **HE** that, through his faithful followers at Chapel Church, has been in control of the outstanding progress that has been accomplished thus far!!

Ongoing ways to further support debt reduction efforts are:

- ❖ **Make a Joyful Noice (loose change) Campaign:** To date (since inception), **\$2,712** has been donated in loose change and bills. We continue to collect loose change in the “churches” in both the church and parish building.
- ❖ **Scrap Metal Collection** is ongoing. Proceeds from scrap deliveries have exceeded **\$11,000** since the inception of this program. Contact Larry Orwig (717-847-8967) with any scrap metal donations.

UPCOMING:

- ❖ **Community Book Sale – April 17 & 18, 2026:** Here’s your opportunity to donate books, CD’s, DVD’s, puzzles and CARD AND BOARD GAMES!! (Please, no electronic games). Place these items on the shelves inside the Education Wing doorway. **NOTE: It is still not too late for that “kitchen champion” who has a heart to organize a simple-menu kitchen and/or bake sale to step forward. If you feel the Lord nudging you towards getting a few helpers together to collaborate this much desired addition to the Book Sale, please contact a member of the DET Team!**
- ❖ **ABC Event – May 16, 2026** – See separate flyer or contact Deb Fickes for more information on this exciting and much anticipated event.

Traditions Bank mortgage: Current balance as of 2/26/2026: \$109,805.64

\$7,535.35 Less than 1/26/2026 report (\$117,340.99)

Traditions Bank beginning mortgage balance: \$525,893

New Goal: PAID IN FULL

→ 20-YEAR MORTGAGE (240 MONTHS) @ 6.25% - MONTHLY PAYMENT \$3,896

→ Years/months remaining – 2 yrs. 6 months / Balloon repayment plan: 6/26/28 → Interest paid to Traditions Bank since 6/2023: \$57,849

→ Total interest paid since 2012 (several institutions incl. Traditions): \$648,625



A = Auction, B = Buffet, C = Concert

**Chapel ABC Event coming May 16, 2026 to benefit debt reduction!
Mark your calendar now!!! Includes service and item auction, pot-luck banquet and Chapel concert. You won't want to miss this special evening! Signup forms will be in the bulletins also.**

CHAPEL'S ABC EVENING

Service Auction Sign-up

Name:

Phone:

Email:

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE FOR AUCTION (include details/skills offered):

ESTIMATED VALUE OF THIS SERVICE:

8am Choir and Special Music update:

****Choir Practices will resume on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 in the sanctuary.**

Anyone new, who would like to participate, is welcome. All that's needed is ability to relax and have fun and a willingness to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Practices are very informal and laid back. Audio practice files/tracks (in each voice part) are provided also to make at-home practicing easy.

Upcoming Choir singing Sundays:

April 5 (Easter – combined 9AM service)

April 26

May 17

June 14

July 26

Upcoming special music dates are:

March 1 – Dave Hake

March 15 – Bud Warner

March 22 (Combined 9AM worship) - Dawn Snyder

April 12 – LeeAnn Wilt

April 19 – Wendy Tobias

May 3 – Jim and Deb Fickes



Welcome to Missions! Have a need that you want to share with Missions, know someone who may need assistance, want to get involved but you're not sure what opportunities are available... email: missions@chapelchurch.org.

In His Service,

Susan Workinger

Missions Chair



Last month, Chapel helped to support 2 families dealing with medical issues. From prayers, transportation, snow removal, meals, gift cards and household assistance, Chapel was there. Thank you!

Servants, Inc.

👉 Half a Day. A Homecoming Made Possible. 👉

Volunteers came together to install an accessibility ramp for a neighbor who needed it urgently in order to come home. In just half a day, a major barrier was removed—and the door to safety, dignity, and independence opened again.

This ramp represents relief for a family, peace of mind for a caregiver, and the power of a community that shows up when it matters most.

Thank you to the volunteers who stepped in quickly and made home possible. This is what loving your neighbor looks like. 🛠️❤️



Card Ministry

Want to send an encouraging note, thank you card, birthday wishes to friends at Chapel.... be sure to check out the card displays. Cards can be found at the front entrance, Sunday School Hallway and Parish Hall. Thank you, card makers!



Chapel Church Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Chapel Church

Attendees

Arnie Fritzius Ryan Ogurcak

Pastor Josh Wargo Debi Deller

Larry Orwig Chloe Getz

Barry Tobias Bruce Bailey

Dawn Oswald

Guests: Muriel Slenker

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct regular business of the Chapel Church Leadership Council, including approval of prior minutes, review of financial status, facilities updates, and SPRC-related discussions.

Minutes Approval

- The minutes from the January Leadership Council meeting were reviewed.
 - **Motion:** Barry Tobias moved to approve the January meeting minutes.
 - **Second:** Bruce Bailey
 - **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously; no opposition.
-

Facilities Update (Larry Orwig)

HVAC and Building Systems

- Parish building kitchen air conditioning condenser failed late summer 2025. Temporary measures were used through winter.
 - Replacement condenser ordered; estimated cost **\$6,447.31** (subject to minor change).
- Fellowship Hall heating system failure identified in January 2026.
 - Control board replacement completed to restore heat.
 - Final invoice pending.
- Recommendation made to install locking thermostat covers in the Parish Hall, Fellowship Hall, and lounge areas to prevent excessive adjustments and reduce system strain.

Fire Suppression System

- Five-year inspection required for the Parish Building fire suppression system.
 - BFPE scheduled for inspection on February 10, 2026.
 - Estimated cost **\$895**.
 - Additional repairs not anticipated but possible if deficiencies are found.

Grounds and Lawn Care

- Annual lawn service (Yorktowne Lawns): estimated **\$388.72**; service already paid.
- Review of 2025 mowing expenses:
 - Total annual mowing cost: **\$2,577.05**
 - Prior professional service estimate: approximately **\$9,000** annually
 - Net savings: **\$6,422.95**
- Volunteer and staff contributions significantly reduced costs.

Equipment and Maintenance

- **Scissor Lift:** Batteries and charger failed due to overcharging.
 - Replacement needed: four batteries (~\$700) and charger (~\$90).
 - **Motion:** Arnie Fritzius moved to approve replacement of batteries and charger.
 - **Second:** Barry Tobias
 - **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.
- Refrigerator and walk-in freezer in Parish Building show structural separation and insulation failure.
 - Contractor scheduled to assess repairs.
- Sanctuary basement stairwell (rear right) identified as unsafe due to rotting and sinking steps.
 - Area cordoned off.
 - Contractors to provide repair estimates.

Grounds and Exterior

- Roof shingles observed detaching on parsonage building; roof estimated at 15–20 years old.
 - Issue to be monitored for future capital planning.
- Brush overgrowth along parking lot identified as safety and access concern.
 - Proposal to clear brush and reuse chipped material for prayer garden pathways.
- Snow removal:
 - Multiple plowing events in January.
 - Additional emergency plowing required due to drifting.
 - Final invoices from contractor pending. (\$15k - \$20k)

Fellowship Hall Floor Cleaning / General Cleaning

- Fellowship Hall floors identified as overdue for deep cleaning.
 - Floor scrubber confirmed operational.
 - Consensus to pursue interim cleaning using existing equipment before considering professional stripping and waxing.
 - Coordination required with daycare to clear movable items and schedule cleaning with minimal disruption.
-

Finance Update (Debi Deller)

General Fund Status

- End of January general fund balance approximately **\$20,000**.
 - Includes a **\$10,000** gift and **\$8,000** annual giving.
- Additional receipts received in February:
 - **\$10,000** annual gift
 - **\$7,500** annual gift
 - Quarterly contribution received
- Anticipated snow removal invoices expected to significantly reduce available balance.

Conference Apportionments

- First Global Methodist Church apportionment payment begins April 2026.
 - Estimated monthly amount: **\$1,126**.
 - Debi checking to make sure Day Care revenue is not included in the calculation of this amount.
- Previous United Methodist Church apportionments were substantially higher.

Financial Outlook

- Council acknowledged that despite recent gifts, operating margins remain tight.
 - Recommendation made to develop a consolidated “financial radar list” of known and anticipated capital and maintenance expenses to assist with prioritization and planning. Barry will work with Larry on this.
 - Barry shared a suggestion from one of the church members to possibly have a collection box in the first service (like the second service) and discontinue passing the plate. It was decided to continue the current practice for now.
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Signage Update

- Interior signage largely funded by Women’s Ministry.
 - Exterior Parish Building signage options reviewed:
 - Large side-mounted sign (orange): approximately **\$3,165**.
 - Entrance-mounted sign above doors: approximately **\$2,100**.
 - Consensus to request additional visual mockups before deciding placement or phase timing.
-

Sanctuary and Carpet Discussion

- Sanctuary carpet identified as a safety concern due to wear and rippling.
- Replacement estimates reviewed:
 - Partial carpet tile solution: approximately **\$7,400**.
 - Full carpet replacement: approximately **\$28,000**, excluding pew removal.
- Council agreed discussions are exploratory at this stage and will continue gathering information.

Conclusion

The Leadership Council approved prior minutes, addressed multiple urgent facilities issues, reviewed current financial standing, and agreed on several follow-up actions related to maintenance planning, staffing support, and future capital needs. Several agenda items were deferred and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Adult Small Group Study Classes

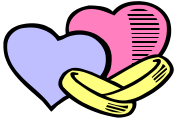
CLASS	CURRENT STUDY	WHEN	WHERE	INSTRUCTOR
God & Bible	Hebrews	Sunday 9:15 AM	Lounge	Muriel Slenker
Crusaders for Christ	The Promise of Heaven	Sunday 9:15 AM	Ed Wing – A4	Various
Families for Christ	Titus	Sunday 9:15 AM	Fellowship Hall	
Women Together	The Power of Jesus' Name	Sunday 9:15 AM	Ed Wing – A6	Marilyn Kotcher
Couples for Christ	Art of Marriage	Sunday 9:15 AM	Basement- Choir Room	Ogurcak \ McCleary
Men's Class	The Power of the Holy Spirit's Names	Tuesdays from 2/24 – 3-31 6:30pm	A4	Ryan Ogurcak, Pastor Josh, Chuck Vucetich
Women's Class	New Testament	1 st & 3 rd Thursday 6:30 PM	Lounge	Hope McKinnell
ROMEO	Men's Breakfast	Monday Morning 9:00 AM	Two Brothers Café	Bill Leight
GEMS	Women's Breakfast	Friday Morning 8:15 AM	Red Lion Corner Café	Mary Ann & Regena
Women's Prayer Group Initiative		2nd & 4th Monday 8:15 AM	Lounge	Gaye Ludwig \ Wendy Tobias
Men's Prayer Group		Monday 6:30 PM	Lounge	
Young Adults	In a Pin with a Lion Day	Sat 6:00 PM & Sunday 9:15 AM	Basement – B5	Ben Wise and Molly Conrad
Movie Study	House of David	Mondays Till 3/16 6:30-8	Youth Room	Ian McKinnell

2026 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Arnie Fritzius		afritzius@comcast.net	(717) 578-9664
Larry Orwig		LO61250@comcast.net	(717) 847-8967
Chloe Getz		csmith730003@gmail.com	
Bruce Bailey		bebbailey@comcast.net	717-244-1987
Dawn Oswald		Dawnoswald43@gmail.com	717-714-8425
Pam Vucetich		chuckandpamv@aol.com	(717) 515-0078
Barry Tobias		bwtobias4@gmail.com	(717) 342-1562
Ryan Ogurcak	Chair	ryan.ogurcak@listrak.com	(717) 449-1971
Debi Deller	Treasurer	debideller@comcast.net	
Josh Wargo	Pastor	josh@chapelchurch.org	(570) 606-5989

STAFF

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Josh Wargo	Pastor	josh@chapelchurch.org	(570) 606-5989
George Bradshaw	Worship Leader-10:30	george@chapelchurch.org	
Maria Gagliardi	Children's Dr	maria@chapelchurch.org	
Ian McKinnell	Dr of Youth & Discipleship	ian@chapelchurch.org	
George Bradshaw	Campus Coordinator	george@chapelchurch.org	
Deb Fickes	Worship Leader-8:00	deb@chapelchurch.org	
Steve Wilt	Media Arts	steve@chapelchurch.org	
Mary Ann Tierney	Admin Asst	maryann@chapelchurch.org	717-244-6375 – ofc
Linda Conner	Nursery Dr	Lindac4@comcast.net	
Cheyenne Fix	Custodian	cheypunmj@hotmail.com	
Dave Keller	Organist		
Jim Fry	Maintenance	Frydaddy36@yahoo.com	
Debi Deller	Treasurer	debideller@comcast.net	



Happy Birthday & Anniversary:

Pam Cunningham	Mar 4	Jerry & Linda Henry	Mar 14
Charlie & Cheryl	Mar 11	Jim & Deb Fickes	Mar 25



Ben Brinton	Mar 1	Ion Groff	Mar 16
Misty Goldstein	Mar 2	Lana Cooley	Mar 18
Tom Whetsel	Mar 2	John McClane	Mar 18
Brooke Gingrich	Mar 3	Pat Miller	Mar 20
David Hake	Mar 4	LeeAnn Wilt	Mar 20
Connie Hussman	Mar 4	Toby Shoff	Mar 24
Dalton Orwig	Mar 5	Nancy Smith	Mar 24
Rachael Conrad	Mar 7	Ruth Poff	Mar 26
Kathy Leiphart	Mar 7	Ernie Smeltzer	Mar 26
Markie Blake	Mar 8	Casey Helmeczi	Mar 27
Jay Goldstein	Mar 10	Dan Cooley	Mar 28
Mary Groupe	Mar 10	Jeremy Orwig	Mar 29
Michael Hengst	Mar 10	Bradd Sprenkel	Mar 30
Addy Bailey	Mar 12	David Bluett	Mar 31
Linda Reinhart	Mar 14	Lyra Schell	Mar 31
Cassie Durham	Mar 16		

TO OUR CHAPEL FAMILY: Thank you for the love and care you have shown us following Jean's recent hip replacement surgery – through meals, cards, texts, calls – it has meant the world to us.

Ron and Jean Chubb

Chapel Church
3050 Cape Horn Rd
Red Lion, PA 17356

Return Service Requested



“ worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly..”

Go to our website

And catch up with what’s happening at Chapel!

Chapelchurch.org