



April Newsletter 2026

MUSINGS OF OUR PASTOR: I AM BARABBAS

I didn't expect to walk out alive that morning. The chains had already done their work on my wrists. I had made peace, if you can call it that, with the end I knew I deserved. Rome doesn't make mistakes with men like me. I was a rebel, a fighter, a man with blood on his hands. My name was already written with the sentence: death.

Then they came for me. I thought it was time. Another step toward the cross. Another criminal led to his end. But instead, they pulled me out and pushed me forward. The crowd was loud, angrier than I had ever heard it. I couldn't make sense of it at first.

Then I heard my name. They were shouting for me. Not for my execution, but for my release.

I remember looking over and seeing Him. Quiet. Beaten. Crowned with mockery. He stood where I should have stood. Condemned with a calm I didn't understand.

And just like that, it was done. I was free. No defense. No plea. No change in my story. I didn't suddenly become innocent. I didn't earn anything. I simply walked out while another man took my place.

I have spent every day since then trying to understand it. Why Him? Why me?

They said His name was Jesus. Some called Him a teacher. Others said He was more, that He healed, forgave, even claimed to be sent from God. I don't know all of that. I only know what I saw. I saw a man take my cross.

I felt the weight of chains fall from my hands while the weight of the world fell onto His shoulders, and I knew, for the first time in my life, what grace must be. Grace is not a bargain. It is not a second chance you earn by promising to do better. Grace is walking free when you know you shouldn't be. Grace is another man's suffering becoming your release. Grace is the innocent standing silent so the guilty can go home. I was that guilty man. And I walked away.

Freedom like this does something to a man. I do not yet know the path ahead. I do not yet know how to live a different life. But I know this: the man who walked out of that prison cannot remain the man who went in. If grace has truly been given, then it must begin to remake me.

I don't know what you believe about Him. I don't know what you've done. But I know this, if grace could find a man like me in that moment, it can find anyone. Because I was the one they chose, and He was the one who stayed.

That is something I will never outrun. His grace did not end at the prison door. It follows. It calls. It changes.

Woodlands Community Church
5401 Rush Haven Drive • The Woodlands, Texas 77381 • 281-364-1000
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• WCC NEWS AND UPDATES

• NEWS ITEMS:

Prayer Ministry: Our prayer ministry under the leadership of Julie Hill is up and going. There are tables at each side of the front of the sanctuary where you can submit prayer requests before, during, or after the service, as well as the names of unsaved loved ones you would like the prayer team to pray for.

We now have a prayer team but would love to add more prayer warriors. If you are on this team, you will get more emails and texts than the rest of the church concerning prayer requests and praises. Please contact Julie Hill at prayer@wccnaz.org if you wish to be a part of the prayer team.

The prayer room is now open and available for use at any time. You are welcome to pray there before, during, or after church, and even during the week when the office is open. There will be prayer requests posted there for you to pray for and a box for you to add any prayer request that you may have.

Wednesday Night Prayer Service: There is prayer service every Wednesday night at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome. This is a time to corporately give praises for the things God is doing and also to lift up our prayer requests. We especially want to lift up our not yet saved loved ones and the needs of our church family and how WCC can see those around us come to know Jesus. We end our prayer time each week with communion.

Day of Fasting: The first Wednesday of April is the 1st and this will be our day of prayer and fasting as a church. You are encouraged to fast from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. then join us for prayer at the church at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to join us for prayer even if you are not able to fast. Below are some things to pray for:

Praises:

- Karen Coulter/Skillman is doing well after her knee surgery on March 2.
- Cheri Webb is doing well after her hip surgery on March 23.
- Faye Richardson is doing well in rehab after having hip surgery due to a fall on March 16.
- Micah and Jamie Arel have a new baby girl (and Amy has a new grandbaby).
- We praise God for His provision for the painting that has taken place at the church.
- Three people will be baptized on Easter (Londa Spurlock, Jaclyn and Nathan Maglasang)
- 5 month old Baby Yuliana had successful heart surgery repairing 3 holes in her heart.

Individual Concerns:

- Continue to lift Karen, Cheri, and Faye in prayer as they recover from hip surgery.
- Ruth Henshaw has been hospitalized with a lung infection.

- Mike Duncan's mom has gone home to be with Jesus. Please keep the family in prayer as they rejoice that she has left her suffering behind for the presence of her Savior but also mourn that she is no longer with them.
- MeKhi, the son of Melinda Fisher, has gone to basic training in the Navy.
- Genesis Mendoza's grandmother passed away in Venezuela.
- Continue to keep baby Yuliana in prayer as she recovers from heart surgery.
- Jeannette and Don Kentch are in the process of selling their home as they move to Corpus Christy.
- Keep Emily and Thomas Morrison in prayer as they wait for their little one to be born in May.

Corporate Concerns:

- Pray for our Tenebrae service on Good Friday and our Easter Sunday service. May God use these services in powerful ways.
- Pray for the serious situations across our world including Venezuela, Iran, and The Ukraine.
- Pray for the people of Nigeria, especially those who are Christians, as they face persecution.
- Pray for the people of Cuba, especially the fuel shortage and political situation.
- Pray for our Hispanic ministry as Hector Vazquez helps us get refocused.
- Pray for our church leaders that God will give them wisdom and strength as they lead.
- Pray that the new families that have visited in our services will choose to make Woodlands Community Church their church home.
- For the Holy Spirit to draw our unsaved family members to salvation, put people in their lives who will encourage them in faith, and guide us on how we might reach out to them.
- That the Holy Spirit will move in a powerful way in our services through worship and the Word.
- That God would place not yet saved people into our lives and that the Holy Spirit would give us the courage to speak and the right words to say.

Men's Bible Study: Men are invited to come out to the church for a Men's Bible study. In April, the Bible study will meet on Thursday the 2nd and 16th and the 30th from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM. We are studying the book of Romans, and all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Good Friday: We are planning a traditional Tenebrae service on Good Friday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. Tenebrae means darkness and is a way in which we contemplate what Jesus endured on the cross. During the service we will progressively extinguish candles as we follow Jesus from the garden to the grave through scripture. We will end the service in darkness, and we will depart in silent reflection. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early for communion and reflection in preparation for the service.

Easter Sunday: Join us on April 5 as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Because He rose from the dead, we too can be raised to new life in Him. This is a great time to invite family and friends to join us and see what God can do in their lives.

Baptism: There will be a Baptism Service immediately following the Easter Morning Worship Service. This special time of baptism will take place in the Activity Center. If you are interested in being baptized at this time, please see Pastor Mark.

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Family Game Night: The Prime-Time group may host it, but game night is for the entire family. Some people like traditional games and some like more modern games. No matter what your preference of game style, someone will be willing to try it with you. Come out at 6:30 p.m. on April 9th, bring a snack to share, and join in the fun.

Sewing/Craft Classes: Our group of crafty ladies will be meeting on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 1:00 PM. Their main focus will be on sewing; including giving sewing lessons for beginners and those that want to improve their current sewing skills. You may also bring a project of any type that you are currently working on. All are welcome to come and join in the fellowship. They will only meet on April 10th in April due to Girls In Pearls on April 25th.

Fellaship: Men's Fellaship has been moved in April and will meet on Saturday, April 11th, at 8:30 AM at the church. This is a great time to invite a guy friend to join you and meet the men of WCC and enjoy a great breakfast together and a short devotional.

WCCNAZ Kids Fun Run/Walk: Our kids and teens will be doing a fund raiser on Saturday, April 11th for camp. They all have a form to ask friends and family to support them as they walk a mile to get themselves to camp. All the donations that they receive will go into their own account towards their camp registration. The walk will begin at 10:00 AM at the church. We will finish at the church with a picnic celebration. If you would like to sponsor a teen or child, please either talk to them or let Tammy Eby know.

Prime Time Luncheon: The Prime Time Group will be meeting at Plucker's Wing Bar at 11:30 AM for lunch and fellowship on Monday, April 13. Plucker's is located at 151 David J Vetter Blvd, Shenandoah. Come out and celebrate Pastor Mark's Birthday.

Board Meeting: Our church board will meet on Tuesday, April 14th, at 6:30 PM. Please keep them in prayer as they discuss business matters pertaining to the church and ministry items to reach our community.

Young Adult Field Games: All young adults are invited to meet at Terramont Park on Wednesday, April 15th, at 6:00 PM. The plan is to play some flag football or basketball or just hang out together. Grab your tennis shoes and bring a friend and join in the fun.

Crisis Care Kits: Our missions department is currently collecting Crisis Care Kits that will be taken to District Assembly on April 22. These kits are then stored at the Pasadena Church and used to hand out to those who are involved in natural tragedies such as: hurricanes, floods, fires, etc. There are very specific items to put in a bag and have been chosen due to the urgent hygiene needs of the people affected by these events. Please see Lori White for directions on how to fill a bag.

District Assembly: The South Texas District Assembly will begin on Wednesday night, April 22nd at Living Word Church of the Nazarene in Houston. Our District Superintendent, Jeffery Johnson, will bring the message on Wednesday night at 7:00 PM. Starting on Thursday and going till Friday noon, there will be times of elections and reports from the various ministries of the Nazarene Church in South Texas as well as the Global Nazarene

Church news. This is always an exciting time of hearing how God is working locally and globally. On Thursday night, our General Superintendent will bring the message and also there will be an Ordination Service of new pastors. The Assembly will adjourn on Friday around lunch. Our delegates and Pastor will be attending but it is open to anyone who wants to go and get a feel for how much bigger the church is than just our WCC.

Girls and Pearls Luncheon: Ready. Set. Bloom! Tickets are now on sale for Girls in Pearls Luncheon. The tickets are \$30.00 and can be purchased by using the QR code or in the foyer after the morning worship service. The date for the lunch is Saturday, April 25th and it is open to all ladies. Our speaker this year will be Rachel Medlin.

Men in Service: Our men are needed to help serve our ladies at Girls in Pearls. This is a very special time for you guys to show how much you appreciate and love the women in your life. There are lots of ways to help on Saturday, April 25th. Please see Joe Ray if you are able to serve.

Young Adult Game Time: The young adults will be meeting at the church on Sunday, April 26th, at 4:00 PM to play board games. You are welcome to come and stay as long as you want. Bring a friend and join in the fun.

Baby/Children's Day: On Sunday, May 3rd, we will be celebrating all our children from 0-12 years of age. Our littlest members (0-4 years) and their families will be recognized in the morning worship service. Our children 5-12 years of age will have a party after church with food and lots of fun. Please make sure to let all the children that you come in contact with know about this special day in their honor.

Emily and Thomas Morrison Baby Shower: There will be a baby shower for Baby Boy Morrison on Saturday, May 2nd. We want to shower this young couple with love and gifts to welcome this new little one.

South Texas Teen Camp: Teens from all over south Texas will gather at Camp Trinity Pines June 8-11, 2026, for an awesome four days of camp. Teen camp is open to all sixth through twelfth graders. Early bird registration is \$250.00.

Praise Explosion Summer Dance and Creative Arts Camp: This is a free dance and creative arts camp for children ages 7-12 and will be held at Woodlands Community Church (5401 Rush Haven Drive, The Woodlands). The camp will start each day June 15-19 at 9:00 and end at 2:00. Camp Director is Londa Spurlock, owner of Boogie Beez Dance Company. Registration can be done by phone or text at 832-784-2371.

South Texas Kid's Camp: On July 7th, kids from all over south Texas will head to Camp Trinity Pines for four days of fun and learning more about Jesus. Camp is for any child who has completed first grade through sixth grade. The dates for camp are July 7-10th and early bird registration cost is \$275.00 and due by June 21st.

Vacation Bible School: Join us on The Amazing Journey as we journey into God's amazing grace July 13-17. During The Amazing Journey, you are invited onto the set of a television show about teams racing for the prize of a lifetime. As team members, Gene and

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Aaron complete physical and mental challenges. Their story mirrors that of the Israelites in the book of Exodus. During each episode, the kids will be audience members as well as trainees for their own "Amazing Journey." In the process, children will learn that the God of Exodus is the God of today!

Mortgage Fund: In March, \$1,240 was given toward our mortgage payment freeing up that same amount for ministry. You are invited to join us as we continue to faithfully seek God's guidance in our finances.

Church App: We have a church app. You may access this newsletter, our church bulletin, our calendar and much more through our church app. Click on this [link](#) to access it and then download it to your home screen based on your phone's setup procedure. If you need help, see Sidney Arel or Pastor Mark.

Church Calendar: You can add the churches google calendar to your own device with this [link](#). It is updated frequently with information on church events.

●UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 1: Prayer and Fasting

April 2: Men's Bible Study

April 3: Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 5: Easter Service

April 5: Baptism after Service

April 8: Prayer Service

April 9: Family Game Night (by Prime Time)

April 10: Sewing/Craft Classes

April 11: Fellowship

April 11: WCCNAZ Kids Fun Run/Walk

April 12: Pastor Mark's Birthday

April 12: Sacred Marriage Class

April 13: Prime Time Lunch

April 14: Board Meeting

April 15: Young Adult Field Day

April 15: Prayer Service

April 16: Men's Bible Study

April 19: Crisis Care Kits Due

April 22: Prayer Service

April 22-24: District Assembly

April 24: Table Hostess to Decorate

April 25: Girls and Pearls Lunch

April 26: Sacred Marriage Class

April 26: Young Adult Board Games

April 29: Prayer Service

April 30: Men's Bible Study

May 2: Morrison Baby Shower

May 3: Baby/Children's Day

May 10: Mother's Day

June 8-11: Teen Camp

June 15-19: Praise Explosion Summer Dance and Creative Arts Camp

July 7-10: Kid's Camp

July 13-17: VBS: The Amazing Journey

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A calendar with updated event information can be found at wccnaz.org or on the church app.

● WCC MARCH STATISTICS

● FINANCES:

Fully Funded Budget March 2026 - Feb. 2027: \$261,343

Needed Monthly: \$22,000

Income for March: \$21,395 (This figure includes general tithes and offerings only. It does not include Future Fund or items not budgeted like ticket sales.)

Income YTD: \$25,948

Faith Promise Goal: \$22,000

Faith Promise YTD: \$1,290

Mortgage Fund:

Mortgage Fund Received in March: \$1,240

Mortgage Remaining: \$383,107

● MARCH ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School and Discipleship

Sunday School: 40

Discipleship: 32

Total: 54 (Average Unique Participants Each Week)

Participants: 99 (Unique Participants in March)

Worship

WCC In-Person Worship: 76

Estimate Worshippers Online: 9

Total: 85