



STILLWATER CHURCH

"People helping people love and serve Jesus!"

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Message from Pastor Mike Hoppe

The Most Desired Spiritual Gift

Can you answer this Bible trivia question: According to Paul in the New Testament, which gift of the Spirit should Christians desire the most? Is it teaching? Preaching? Evangelism? Or maybe baking an amazing pound cake like Mary Cleveland? (Now *that's* a special gift!)

All of these are wonderful and important, but Paul points to one spiritual gift above the rest. He writes, "Eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy" (1 Corinthians 14:1).

Prophecy is one of the Holy Spirit's most powerful gifts and yet, one of the least understood.

One more trivia question: What are the three key characteristics of New Testament prophecy? Paul explains, "The one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging, and comfort" (1 Corinthians 14:3). You can remember these three words with the simple acronym **SEC**: Prophecy **Strengthens**, **Encourages**, and **Comforts**.

The Father speaks to his people so they can know their God-given value, identity, and worth in his Kingdom. Prophecy involves God communicating with two people, one who gives the prophetic word and the other who receives it. Leaders with this spiritual gift within the early church "said much to encourage and strengthen the believers" (Acts 15:32). Their Spirit-inspired words built up the community and kept faith strong through difficult times.

Today, this gift is just as vital as it was then, and maybe even more so. We live in a world filled with voices that tear down, discourage, and distress. But prophetic words, inspired by the Holy Spirit, have the power to do the opposite. They build up, uplift, and bring peace.

So, I encourage you to **eagerly desire the gift of prophecy**. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and use you to strengthen, encourage, and comfort others. Your words, spoken under His direction, can defeat the enemy's lies and empower God's people for greater works.

May our Stillwater family become a place overflowing with prophetic grace—where every believer strengthens, encourages, and comforts one another in the love and power of the Spirit.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
 - Tuesdays - Tuesday Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Room
 - Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
 - Wednesdays - Wed. Night Dinner & Program, 5:30-7:15pm, Fellowship Hall
 - Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6pm, Sanctuary
 - **Oct. 31 - Trunk or Treat, 6pm**
 - Nov. 2 - All Saints' Day & Time Change
 - Nov. 9 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
 - Nov. 14 - Club 345, 6-8pm
 - Nov. 16 - Missions Team Meeting, 12pm, Choir Room
 - Nov. 19 - Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, 5:30pm
 - Nov. 22 - Basic Disaster Response Training, Crawford Chapel, 7470 Moffett Rd, Mobile, AL 36618, 8:30am-3:30pm
-

TRUNK OR TREAT



Join us on October 31 for Trunk or Treat and lots of family fun! Trunk or Treat will be from 6-7:30 pm followed by games and fun in the Fellowship Hall. We will have hot dogs, s'mores, hay rides, pumpkin painting and more!

LOTS of help is needed for Trunk or Treat!

We currently have 18 trunks for this Friday, and would love to have 8-10 more! If you would like to have your vehicle in Trunk or Treat, please message Betty at 251-604-0949. We are expecting 150-200 children at Trunk or Treat! Vehicle set up begins at 5 pm and Trunk or Treat will be held from 6-7:30 pm. Activities (including food, pumpkin painting, games and fun movies for kids) will be going on in the Fellowship Hall until 8:30 so that those hosting trunks can have a chance to join in the fun!

Help is also needed with hayrides, s'mores, prepping/serving food, pumpkin painting, games, set up, clean up and simply greeting those who will be visiting our campus for Trunk or Treat. Message Betty to volunteer or just show up ready to have some Halloween fun!

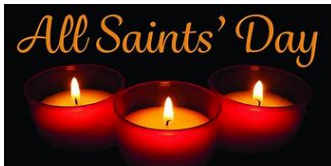


Wednesday Night Dinner and Program

Dinner: Join us for dinner on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. First time guests and college students always eat for free. Meal cost: \$9/adults, \$7/children, \$28/family max. Please sign up on the Sunday connection cards or contact the church office.

Studies: Starting at 6:00pm, all ages have great opportunities, including nursery, elementary school, middle school, high school, and adults.

What's for dinner this week? Spaghetti, salad, bread & desserts!

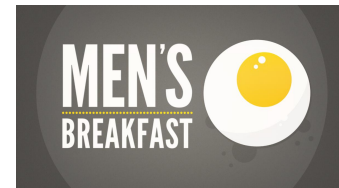


All Saints' Day, Nov. 2

All Saints' Sunday is Nov. 2. We will recognize loved ones who have passed away since last November. Please submit names of loved ones who have passed away to the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com. Family members may be present to light a candle on Sunday morning in their memory.

Men's Breakfast, Nov. 9

All men of the church are invited to Men's Breakfast on Nov 9 at 7am in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is a freewill donation, and we enjoy casual conversation and a short devotion. Join us Nov. 9!



Basic Disaster Relief Training

Basic Disaster Response Training is coming to the Mobile Area on November 22, 2025, at Crawford Chapel, 7470 Moffett Rd, Mobile, AL 36618, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Please click the link below to register:

<https://destin-methodist-church-81933.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3213404>

November Sermon Series "Thessalonians: Faith in Uncertain Times"

Life feels uncertain, but God's saving work is sure and complete. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul shows us how God's grace meets us at every step: calling us before we knew Him, making us new in Christ, growing us in holiness, and filling us with His perfect love. Join us as we discover how the God who began a good work in us is faithful to carry it through, even in uncertain times.



- Nov 9 "Chosen and Called" 1 Thess 1:4-8a

- Nov 16 "Turning from the World, to God" 1 Thess 1:9-10, 2:13
- Nov 23 "Growing in Love and Holiness" 1 Thess 3:11-13
- Nov 30 "Saved to the Uttermost" 1 Thess 5:23-24

Kids Korner



The Early Learning Center's Fall Festival is just around the corner, and we would love your help to make it a fun and memorable event for our preschool families! We are currently in need of donations of hay bales (for decorating and photo spots); pumpkins (any size!) and individually wrapped snacks and treats. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up, run activity stations and clean up after the event. The Fall Festival is Friday, October 31 from 9 - 11 am. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please call the ELC office (251-675-2904) or email us at linden@stillwaterchurch.com.

Thank you for supporting our ELC!

GOURMET APPLE

Fundraiser

Support our Preschool
by purchasing a handmade
gourmet caramel apple!

Each apple is made fresh
and beautifully wrapped.
Perfect for a gift or a fall
treat!

Ingredients: Apple, Chocolate, White
Chocolate, Caramel, & Pecans

Order deadline: Nov 6th
Pick up: @
Stillwater ELC
415 McKeough Ave
on Nov 10th

Contact Us - Text or Call



251-751-8230

251-525-1262

Cash App

\$StillwaterELC

venmo

@StillwaterELC

\$15



Student Ministry Update

Winter Impact Retreat - Only 9 spots remain on our winter youth retreat! All others will be placed on a wait list. Our youth are going to "Impact Weekend" at the Gulf Shores Beach Retreat, Feb. 6-8, 2026. We are joining together with other churches for amazing worship, games, speakers, and more. Check out the link below. The total cost to register is ONLY \$40 (thanks to our bake-sale auction money!). This is an incredible deal, and it will be an amazing experience. Please reach out to Lorna at 678-613-1938 or lornamm@comcast.net for information or to register. Paperwork must be turned in by Oct. 29, and registration fee must be turned in by Dec. 7. Click [HERE](#) to watch their promo video.



Weekly Opportunities for Students

Wednesday Night Dinner and Studies

5:30pm dinner and 6pm studies

Sunday School - Every week, 9:30am

Student Gathering - Every week, 4-6pm

For more information contact Travis Grimes at travis@stillwaterchurch.com.



Missions Team November Focus

Dumas Wesley Troy Drive-- Our November project will bring smiles to children's faces right in our Mobile area. Bring in new toys and bikes throughout November. These gifts will go to the Dumas Wesley Center and make Christmas special for families in need. For more information, contact Betty Moye at betty@stillwaterchurch.com.

Christmas Shoeboxes--Thanks to all who helped with Operation Christmas Child! Shoeboxes to fill with gifts are still available in the lobby this week and are due back this Sunday morning.

Interested in being a part of the Stillwater Missions Team for 2026? We would love to talk to you about what that entails and our part in serving the mission of the church. Contact Stephanie Moye at smoye427@gmail.com for more information.

Stillwater Resale Store

5104 Hwy 43

Satsuma, AL 36572

Phone: 251-800-9928

Website: www.stillwaterchurch.com/stillwater-resale/

Stillwater Resale is a store with a mission, and we need your help! LOTS of hands are needed to keep the store organized and running smoothly. Workers are needed during the following times each week:

- Tue-Wed, 8:00-Noon & 1:00-4:00pm
- Thu-Fri, 7:30am-6:30pm (the days are divided into 3 shifts)
- Sat, 9:00am-2:30pm & 2:30-5:00pm

Please consider giving 3-4 hours each week. We need people to clean, sort, price, organize, greet, move heavy items, repair items...there is a job for every skill level!!

A weekly sign-up sheet is located on the ledge in the church lobby or call Kim Smith (936-777-4019) or Betty Moye (251-604-0949) to sign up.

Another way to serve is through donations. We need a constant supply of nice, used furniture for the store. If you or someone you know is getting new furniture or simply needs to move out some furniture, please consider donating to Stillwater Resale!

Stillwater Resale

NEW

STORE HOURS

BEGINNING OCTOBER 23RD, 2025

THURSDAY	9AM - 6PM
FRIDAY	9AM - 6PM
SATURDAY	9AM - 4PM

*Donations accepted during store hours

Located at 5104 US-43, Satsuma, AL, 36572



Backpack Ministry

Our Backpack Ministry feeds hungry students at all four of the Saraland schools. We need your help to pack bags, deliver bags on Fridays, and to donate food items throughout the school year.

Sign-up sheets for packing bags and delivering bags are available at the Welcome Desk in the church lobby.

Food items needed include ravioli, spaghetti-o's, soup, pop tarts, Vienna sausage, canned chicken, canned tuna, fruit cups, pudding cups, jerky sticks, small boxes of raisins, small packages of cookies, cheese crackers, breakfast bars, Ramen Noodles, instant grits and oatmeal packets, macaroni and cheese cups, and juice boxes. No items with peanut butter are needed due to allergies. Donated items can be dropped off in the lobby at our missions table. Thank you for serving students who require food assistance on the weekends.

Holiday Food Drives

Throughout the holiday season, many groups and organizations of all kinds like to organize food drives for the needy. Please consider the Stillwater Ministries as a recipient of such generous donations. All food donations stay right here in our community to serve the neediest among us. We even invite groups to help distribute that food if they would like so they may see how their giving makes a real difference.

You may give directly to this ministry by clicking [here](#) with "Food Pantry" noted on the memo line. Your gift helps touch the lives of people needing nutritious food, prayer, and a listening ear.



November Birthdays

11/02 Paige Brown, Michael Milner
11/03 Joyce Boshell, Judy Callen
11/04 Stone Brown, Pat Eagan
11/05 Stacey Boutwell, Taylor Coxwell
11/06 Zak Ingram, Donna Latusek, Carol Spencer
11/07 Jarod Billingsley
11/09 Vickie Smith, Ryan Sullivan
11/11 Cindy Middleton
11/12 Sherry Robbins
11/13 Amanda Hasiak
11/14 Pat Bryant, Tony Feaster, Cynthia Mead
11/16 Jenn Nabholz
11/17 Nathan Ott
11/18 Barbara Bunker
11/19 Meryl Grider, Julia Mae Sullivan
11/20 Morgan McCann
11/21 Becky Downing, Richard MacPhail
11/22 Mary Squires
11/24 Linda Burr
11/25 Melanie MacPhail
11/26 Philippa Feaster
11/28 Luvenia Spotswood
11/29 Lynda Massey
11/30 Lauren Robbins





Thanks to all who provide weekly meals and snacks for our Student Ministries and Vibe Ministries! We appreciate you!



Our Kids Ministries are full of children each Sunday morning and Wednesday night--a great blessing. Thank you to our outstanding KidMin leaders!



Each Wednesday night, we celebrate multiple "D-Groups" (discipleship groups) who meet to grow in faith, discuss scripture, and pray for one another.

Joys and Concerns

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

~ Angelina and Josh Crownover on the birth of their baby girl, Charlotte.

Weekly Prayer List

To submit a prayer concern or a praise to be shared on our weekly prayer email, or to sign up to receive our weekly prayer emails, please contact the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com.

Telephone: (251) 675-2728
Email: info@stillwaterchurch.com
Website: stillwaterchurch.com

To give online, click [here](#) or scan the QR code below!





Try email marketing for free today!