

MAY 2026

The Lampstand

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WEST MILLEN BAPTIST CHURCH



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Keeping Your Lamp Lit

By: Pastor Bob

Greetings, in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ:

This is the first year in many, many years we have not planted a vegetable garden. In years past, planting the spring garden was something we really looked forward to. We got to dig in the dirt—well, Genia dug in the dirt—she’s a lot closer to the ground. I would provide the tilling and rowing. And yes, I’ll hear about that statement. When we were preparing to plant, I would first till the soil to make it soft and easy to work. Then, use the hoe to mound up the dirt to make long rows, so Genia could then plant the seeds. No matter how hard I tried, I never could get the rows straight! But as the plants grew larger, you know what I saw? Those crooked rows were no longer noticeable!

Isn’t this what God does with us when He saves us? We start out crooked, and then little by little as we grow in our faith, God begins to straighten us out—so after a while new people who meet us for the first time can’t believe how crooked we used to be before we surrendered to Jesus. That’s how God uses our testimonies as powerful weapons to draw lost folks to Christ.

Our wonderful and majestic God grows plants from seeds, which must first die, so they can then begin to sprout and give new life; just as He grows our spiritual lives from an initial profession of faith. Then there’s the testing! The Lord brings us trials so we can continue to die to self and die to habits of our old, crooked nature. Our spiritual lives will then sprout, give new life, and become straighter every day, as spirituality develops.

To be crooked means to be twisted, bent, dishonest and corrupt. Before surrendering to Jesus, we are all these things and much more! I love the Book of James. He so vividly helps us understand where and why trials and testings must occur. James doesn’t advise us to react positively if we fall into trials, but when we fall into them. In the college of Jesus Christ (a school we must all go to if we want to become the person God wants us to be), trials are not electives; they are required core classes everyone must attend! These tests aren’t for God’s benefit; He always knows where we are or where we aren’t. They are for us to see if our crooked rows are straightening out.

Trials and testing are intended to:

1. Move us – James 1:2 says, “...count it all joy when you fall into various trials.” This is how we get shocked and rocked from our comfort zones. For every action, there is a reaction. When the trials come, God knows they produce reactions. Our response to the tests is the report card of our spiritual condition. We then have an opportunity to add more fertilizer. Many fertilizers are time-released; giving just the amount needed at the appropriate time to produce lush and fruit-filled plants. Notice I said, “We then have an opportunity;” God provides the trials to allow us to do something about our spiritual growth. If we choose to “sit” comfortably where we are instead of “moving” to apply fertilizer, then we’ve missed an awesome growth experience. The best time-released fertilizer isn’t man-made. It’s the Word of the Loving God! Please move from walking behind your tiller in that all too comfortable place and start digging. Dig into God’s Word!

2. Mellow us - This is what James means in 1:3, “knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” When we plant seeds in our garden, it’s in God’s time for Him to sprout those seeds, allowing tiny green plants to push their little way up through the hard crust of the topsoil, reaching ever upward toward the sunlight. Once you’ve planted, it seems like ‘forever’ to see any green. It requires patience! Then, once all the plants are up, it requires even more patience to wait for the minuscule blossoms to mature, to produce the fruit of the plant—which can then be harvested and placed on our table to enjoy. In this waiting period is when we apply more fertilizer, a continuous supply of life-giving water, and dusting as necessary to keep the insects and diseases away. And so it is in our spiritual lives: we cultivate patience as we’re given trials—to wait on our Father and His timing. To grow a little more by applying the fertilizer of His Word, by trusting He’ll see us through the hard crust because He promises us He will. As we grow ever so slowly, pushing our way upward, His hand is there steadying us, pulling us with His gravitational forces upon our lives, that we might be forever reaching upward toward the Sonlight. The testing is a process; it must continue until full maturity is reached and we become people of outwardly self-evident Christian character. Sorry to be the bearer of bad tidings but to be the very best you can be, and to run the great race and finish with a statement from our Savior, “Well done, good and faithful servant...” (Matt 25:21), the class of trials is one from which you’ll never receive a final report card; because it’s never over! Not in this earthly life!

Our **May prayer is the 2026 National Day of Prayer: May 7 th from 3 to 6pm.**

NDP is for Christians in America to pray for our country, state, local governments, schools, law enforcement, etc. Prayer guides will be available to help you and our visitors focus on what this day of prayer is about. We need many volunteers to prepare & serve food, greet visitors, distribute materials, and pray with visitors, as needed. We will encourage visitors to pray through the prayer guide first, then enjoy a grilled burger with us.

This whole address is fruitless if you've not yet applied the Living Water to the barren soil of your life. If you've never trusted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, the seed of your soul can never give root to new life; it doesn't matter how many trials you go through, you'll never "see" them as anything more than an accusation toward God or someone as trying to "get back at you" for something you think you didn't do in the first place! Give your heart to Jesus, then you'll stop asking "why?" and start asking, "Who?"

'Til next time—"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 1:2)



Upcoming Events

We invite everyone to join us for upcoming events as we grow together in faith, fellowship, and service. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us!



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 7 AT 3-6PM

Join us for the 75th Annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2026. This year's theme is "Glorify God Among the Nations: Seeking Him in All Generations" (1 Chronicles 16:24). Come for a come-and-go time of prayer from 3:00-6:00 PM, lifting up our communities and nation. Free freshly grilled burgers will be provided for all who attend!

BROTHERHOOD & WMU MEETING | MAY 21 AT 7PM

Join us for the Brotherhood and WMU meeting and supper on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7:00PM. Let's come together for fellowship, prayer, and discussion as we continue to serve and grow in our community.

5TH SUNDAY MOVIE NIGHT | SUNDAY, MAY 31 2026

5:00 PM - Supper | 5:30 PM - Movie Showings (FREE to all!)
Children's Movie: KING OF KINGS (A family-friendly animated film that shares the story of Jesus' life in a meaningful and engaging way.)
Youth & Adult Movie (Sanctuary): I CAN ONLY IMAGINE 2 (A powerful sequel that continues a story of faith, redemption, and the impact of God's grace.)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | JUNE 14-18 AT 5PM-8PM

Vacation Bible School is coming, and we couldn't be more excited! Get ready for a week filled with Bible lessons, music, games, crafts, and unforgettable fun for our kids. This year's theme is something special: JUNKYARD REDEMPTION!

"MINUTE MINDERS" WITH PASTOR BOB

Tune in on Facebook to listen to Pastor Bob's morning devotionals!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are currently in need of volunteers for our nursery, Children's Church (AM/PM), and VBS. If you're interested in serving, please see Alexis, Candice, or Eugenia for more information!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS - KIDS & YOUTH

We are looking for volunteers to help provide meals for our kids and youth on Wednesday nights. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer. For more information or questions, please get with Ashley Kinard.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Each Wednesday evening, our deacons and men of the church lead us in a time of Bible study and reflection. It's a great opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship, come and be encouraged midweek!





YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We are excited to announce a new Sunday School class designed specifically for young adults ages 18-29, happening now! This class is a great opportunity to grow in your faith, build meaningful relationships, and dive deeper into God's Word alongside others in a similar stage of life. Whether you're just beginning your walk with Christ or looking to strengthen your foundation, we would love for you to join us. For more information, please see Patrick or Clay.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NEW BELIEVERS CLASS

Beginning May 6, we will be offering a New Believers class on Wednesday nights for anyone ages 15 and up who is new to the faith or looking to better understand the basics of following Christ. This class will focus on building a strong foundation, answering questions, and encouraging spiritual growth in a welcoming environment. If you or someone you know would benefit from this class, we invite you to be a part of it. For more information, please see Patrick or Clay.



Our church was incredibly blessed during the April mission trip to Baxley, where 29 members came together to serve at the Georgia Baptist Children's Home. Throughout the trip, our group worked diligently to paint, clean up fallen limbs, and care for the property, helping create a safe and welcoming environment for the children who call it home. Beyond the physical work, some of the most meaningful moments came from the time spent building relationships, leading a Bible study, sharing God's Word, and simply playing and laughing with the kids. It was a beautiful reminder that ministry is not only about what we do, but how we love others. This trip was a true blessing for everyone involved, as God worked in the hearts of both those who served and those who were served. We are deeply grateful for each person who participated, sacrificed their time, and poured their hearts into this mission. Your willingness to go and serve made a lasting impact, and we thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ.



May 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Young Adult (ages 18-29) Sunday School class begins today!	4	5	6 New Believers Class (ages 15 and up) begins today!	7 National Day of Prayer 3:00-6:00PM	8	9
HAPPY 10th Mothers' Day No Evening Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Senior Day (AM Service) Business Meeting 6:00 PM	18	19	20	21 Brotherhood + WMU (Supper Provided) 7:00 PM	22	23
24 Deacons Meeting 8:30AM	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Fifth Sunday Movie Night 5:00PM						

SUNDAY

9:15 AM BIBLE STUDY (CLASSES FOR ALL AGES + NURSERY)
10:30 AM WORSHIP (NURSERY + CHILDREN'S CHURCH)
4:45 PM CHOIR PRACTICE
6:00 PM EVENING WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY

5:30 PM TEEN + KIDS PROGRAMS
6:00 PM NEW BELIEVERS CLASS + ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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WEST MILLEN
BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord!"