November 22, 2026, Vol 3, Issue 45

Let's Connect!

MUSIC CITY WEST
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



Rev. Dr. Kim McLean

Sunday Service:
10:30 am CST
Come visit us at
7840 Learning Ln,
Nashville, TN 37221.
We meet at the
Harpeth Valley Elementary
School in the cafetorium. Follow
the signs to the entrance.
If you can't visit, join us on
Facebook live.
Facebook Link

Email Contacts:
MCWCHURCH@GMAIL.COM
MCWPRAY4ME@GMAIL.COM

Website Link

If you would like to be Baptized or join the church, contact Pastor Kim at MCWCHURCH@GMAIL.COM.

Lori Mahan, Editor
Contributing Editor, Angel Pontier
PHONE:
(629) 867 - 4405

Loving God · Loving People · Loving Life

Prayer

Do you ever think about the things you've always known? Things that were in your life before you reached an age where memory would seal them to your story forever? I remember the first time I played a piano, or heard harmony sung by beautiful voices, but I have no memory of life without music. I remember the moment I wanted my whole life to belong to God, but I have no memory of life without God, and the Bible, and Sundays. These are things I've always known.

I don't remember the first time I ever prayed. I sense that my soul has been in communion with God since the first spark of my being. Prayer is a coming-of-age kind of word to express our intention to connect with God as though it were our idea first. But when you get right down to the brass tacks, God never stopped talking.

I've come to understand prayer as a means of grace. When I was a child, I thought as a child (I Cor 13), but now I know that prayer is not a way to shake the goody tree, it is not a one and done deal, it is not a formula, a script, or even mandatory. It is an ongoing conversation. It is evidence of relationship, or the possibility of one. It is natural as rain.

The word holds different meanings for different people. Sometimes people bring superstition and control into it. I remember hearing someone say that if you say, "I'm catching a cold," it's like a prayer and you'll catch that cold for sure. Someone else said, "Pray a thing once, and trust it is answered. You go against faith if you keep begging." Honestly, I don't think God makes it that hard or risky to talk to Him. A buzzer will not go off and eliminate you if you "get it wrong."

One of my favorite descriptions of prayer is in a little book by Frederick Buechner inspired by the book of Tobit. In the book of Tobit, there is an angel named Raphael whose job is to deliver prayers to God. Raphael wonders why God would want to hear all of the prayers of people when some seem so selfish, but He says the Father insists on receiving every single one. Raphael describes a variety of prayers as fire, snowflakes, stinky, half-hearted, beautiful, powerful, and boring. I guess that just about says it all when it comes to people talking to God. Maybe Buechner is conveying that is okay to come to God just as you are, because if you come to God at all, His loving presence will begin to teach you.

I believe it is best to keep praying. Keep lifting up your heart's desire, keep praying for healing, keep praying hope into every difficult situation. Our Father loves it when we pray. Prayer helps keep a faucet open and the living water flowing.

COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!



THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Bring your favorite savory dish or dessert and enjoy good food, laughter, and togetherness.

THIS SUNDAY
11-22-26

IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH SERVICE

Music City West

November 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30 am Service at Harpeth 3:30 pm Service at Harmony at Bellevue	**2**	**3** 9:00 am - Prayer Group on Zoom 7:00 pm - TPK Bible Talks	**4** 9:30 am - Healing the Wounded Artist on Zoom 5:15 pm - TNDR 12-Step Worship Service	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 10:30 am Service at Harpeth 3:30 pm Service at Harmony at Bellevue	**9**	**10** 9:00 am - Prayer Group on Zoom 7:00 pm - TPK Bible Talks	**11** 5:15 pm - TNDR 12-Step Worship Service	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 10:30 am Service at Harpeth 3:30 pm Service at Harmony at Bellevue	**16**	**17** 9:00 am - Prayer Group on Zoom 7:00 pm - TPK Bible Talks	**18** 9:30 am - Unbound on Zoom 5:15 pm - TNDR 12-Step Worship Service	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 10:30 am Service at Harpeth - **Thanksgiving Potluck! Sign up!** 3:30 pm Service at Harmony at Bellevue	**23**	**24** 9:00 am - Prayer Group on Zoom 7:00 pm - TPK Bible Talks	**25** 5:15 pm - TNDR 12-Step Worship Service	**26** 	**27**	**28**
No Newsletter published this week. Happy Thanksgiving.						
29 10:30 am Service at Harpeth 3:30 pm Service at Harmony at Bellevue 1st Sunday of Advent. 	**30**					

The Editor's Corner

by Lori Mahan



Keep Your Lamp Ready
Matthew 25:1 - 13

I don't question any longer why thoughts and suggestions enter my mind when writing the Editor's Corner each week. I pray, "Lord, what do you want me to write about this week?" and leave it at that. It's simpler because He is faithful and will answer one way or another.

It came to me this week while watching "Tournamenet of Champions: All Star Christmas" on the Food Network...go figure.

I turned off the TV and read Matthew 25:1 - 13, The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids.

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

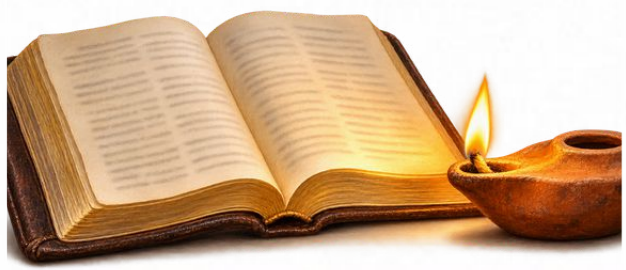
As I sit with this passage, I hear a loving but urgent invitation: do not leave your relationship with Christ for another day. The bridegroom points us to Jesus, and the banquet to the joy of his kingdom. His coming may seem delayed, but the waiting is not wasted time. It is time to know him, trust him, and let his love shape the way we live.

Notice that all ten bridesmaids slept. Jesus is not asking us to live exhausted or afraid. He is calling us to a faith that endures. He does not tell us that the oil represents one particular gift or practice; its place in the story shows the importance of being prepared through the delay. We cannot borrow that readiness from a faithful parent, a pastor, or a friend. Others can walk beside us, but each of us must respond to God's grace.

What might that response look like today? Perhaps it begins with an honest prayer, an open Bible, a long-overdue apology, or a quiet act of kindness. Jesus says, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit" (Luke 12:35, NRSV). James adds, "But be doers of the word" (James 1:22, NRSV, excerpt). ***Readiness becomes visible when the faith we profess becomes the love we practice.***

We do not earn our place at God's table by staying busy. We depend on Christ, remaining close to him as branches depend on the vine (John 15:4-5). We encourage one another and wait with faith, love, and hope (1 Thessalonians 5:6-11). The closed door reminds us that our response matters now. So let us welcome Jesus into our ordinary days, trusting that the One we await is worth waiting for.

May our prayer be simple: Lord Jesus, keep our hearts open, our faith steady, and our lives ready to welcome you. Amen.



UNBOUND

Explore Imagine Create

With Rev. Dr. Kim McLean

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

9:30–10:30 am (CT) on ZOOM

Suggested Donation

$15.00

a CC West

Creative Collective Ministry

MUSIC CITY WEST
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

A POCKET FULL OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

with Jerry Huff



This Week

SAMUEL ANOINTS SAUL

Read 1 Samuel 9:15 - 17. 25 - 27, 10:1 & 17 - 25

"God chooses the right leader for the right time"

Tune in to TPK on Zoom Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm (CST). You'll be glad you did!

zoom

Fall Series

Nov 29 - God rejects Saul as king



The winter quarterly Sunday School Books are now available. If you would like to receive one, please send your request complete with name and address to mcwchurch@gmail.com, subject: Sunday School Book. A $5.00 donation goes to fund this literature. Thank you!


November Memory Verse
2026
give thanks
in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 • NRSV

PART 4 OF 6 • THE STORY

The Birth in Bethlehem

A child is born within the Roman world

Read in the NRSV

Passage summaries and reading connections follow. These summaries are not quotations of the NRSV text.

Luke chapter 2 verses 1–5 Luke introduces Augustus's enrollment decree and describes Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Luke chapter 2 verses 6–7 Mary gives birth, wraps Jesus, and lays him in a manger. The passage gives the humble circumstances without describing the building's layout.

Matthew chapter 1 verses 24–25 Joseph obeys the angel's instruction and gives the child the name Jesus. This adds his response to Luke's account of the birth.

John chapter 1 verses 1–18 John explains Jesus' identity as the eternal Word entering human life. This provides the theological meaning of incarnation without retelling the manger scene.

Read alongside Micah chapter 5 verses 2–5a Micah associates the promised ruler with Bethlehem. Matthew chapter 2 verses 5–6 makes the connection explicit.

Read alongside Second Samuel chapter 7 verses 12–16 and Isaiah chapter 9 verses 2–7 David's enduring royal house and Isaiah's righteous ruler help explain the hope surrounding Jesus' birth. Luke chapter 1 verses 32–33 connects that hope with Jesus.

Empire and local government

Augustus is emperor, and Matthew places Jesus' birth during Herod the Great's reign. Jesus' birth is commonly estimated around 6–4 BC, though the exact year is uncertain. Luke connects the journey with an enrollment ordered by Augustus and names Quirinius as governor of Syria. The well-attested Quirinius census belongs to AD 6, after Herod's death. This creates a historical dating difficulty; proposed reconciliations remain disputed, so no exact census date should be presented as settled.

From Nazareth to David's town

In Luke's account, Joseph travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem because he belongs to David's family. Mary accompanies him. Bethlehem is a small Judean town with a large place in Israel's memory: David came from there. Luke describes the birth while they are in Bethlehem, rather than stating that labor begins the moment they arrive. The Gospels do not describe a donkey, an innkeeper, or the appearance of the building.

The child in the manger

Mary gives birth to her firstborn son, wraps him, and lays him in a manger because suitable lodging is unavailable. A manger is an animal feeding place. The NRSV uses "inn"; scholars debate whether Luke's term refers here to a guest room or lodging space. The precise arrangement is unknown. The account emphasizes humble conditions, and the manger later becomes the shepherds' identifying sign. Neither Matthew nor Luke gives a calendar day for the birth; December 25 is a later celebration date.

PART 4 OF 6 • CONNECTIONS AND UNDERSTANDING

The Birth in Bethlehem

Cross references and their meaning

Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:5–6 connect Bethlehem with the promised ruler. Second Samuel 7 and Luke 1:32–33 connect Jesus with David's royal line. Isaiah 9 contrasts darkness and oppression with the hope of a righteous reign. John 1:14 explains the birth's Christian meaning through incarnation: the eternal Word enters human life. John offers this theological perspective without narrating the manger scene.

Why Matthew Luke Mark and John differ

Matthew and Luke contain the birth narratives, each with a distinct emphasis. Matthew follows Joseph's experience and introduces the Magi and the flight to Egypt. Luke gives fuller attention to Mary, Elizabeth, the shepherds, and the temple witnesses. Mark begins with the preparation for Jesus' adult ministry. John explains the incarnation through the eternal Word. These different openings serve each Gospel's purpose.

The journey and the lodging

The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem was substantial; its exact distance and duration depend on the route. Luke does not identify their transportation, say how close Mary was to labor when they set out, or name relatives who housed them. A room in a family home with an animal area is one possible setting. A separate shelter or another arrangement cannot be ruled out. The manger is certain; the building's floor plan is not.

When was Jesus born

A date around 6–4 BC is a common estimate based partly on Herod's reign. There is no year zero in the traditional BC and AD system. December 25 became a Christian celebration date later, and scholars debate the influences behind its adoption. The Gospels give neither the month nor the day.

The meaning of this part

Rome counts subjects and Herod guards his throne, while Luke directs attention to a newborn in a feeding place. Christians understand this birth as God entering ordinary human vulnerability. The precise chronology remains uncertain, but the narrative's central claim is clear: the Savior has come.

Read and consider

Read John 1:1–18 after Luke 2:1–7. John explains who has entered the world, while Luke describes the humble circumstances in which the child is received.

Historical sources

Luke 2:1–7; Matthew 2:1. Census discussion: bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads/resources/mini-course/birth-of-jesus/birth-of-jesus-conclusion.html. Rulers: britannica.com/biography/Herod-king-of-Judaea.





November 2026

Living in Thankfulness

1 Psalm 100:4 *Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.*	**2** 1 Chronicles 16:34 *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.*	**3** Psalm 107:1 *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.*	**4** 2 Corinthians 9:15 *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*	**5** Philippians 4:6 *With thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
6 Colossians 3:15 *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful.*	**7** Psalm 136:1 *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.*	**8** Ephesians 5:20 *Give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*	**9** Psalm 9:1 *I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.*	**10** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
11 Psalm 118:24 *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*	**12** James 1:17 *Every good and perfect gift is from above.*	**13** Romans 8:28 *In all things God works for the good of those who love Him.*	**14** Deuteronomy 8:10 *Give thanks to the Lord for the good land He has given you.*	**15** Psalm 95:2 *Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.*
16 1 Chronicles 29:13 *Now we give thanks to You, our God, and praise Your glorious name.*	**17** Psalm 30:12 *That my heart may sing Your praise and not be silent. Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.*	**18** Hebrews 12:28 *Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.*	**19** Psalm 92:1 *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, Most High.*	**20** Psalm 103:2 *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.*
21 Isaiah 12:4 *Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known His deeds among the peoples.*	**22** Luke 17:15-16 *One of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, glorifying God and giving thanks to Him.*	**23** Philippians 1:3 *I thank my God every time I remember you.*	**24** Psalm 126:3 *The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.*	**25** Psalm 28:7 *The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.*
26 Colossians 4:2 *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*	**27** 2 Timothy 1:3 *I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience.*	**28** Psalm 116:17 *I will offer to You a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.*	**29** Revelation 7:12 *"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!"*	**30** Psalm 34:1 *I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Let your heart be full of thanks today and always.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Heart Quote

A reflection for the heart

"Reading the Bible has a purifying effect upon your life. Let nothing take the place of this daily exercise."

– Billy Graham –

Studying the Word

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen"

2 Peter 3:18 NRSV



Ukuleles Arrive in Bimini!

The BiminiKids Project



The ukuleles have arrived in Bimini, and the children's smiles show just how warmly they were welcomed! We're grateful God has entrusted Music City West with this ministry. What a joy it is to share His love through music and give these children a chance to make joyful music of their own.

Kids Creative Collective



a special place where kids can learn about God's love through creativity, music, stories, activities, and friendship while parents enjoy worship.

MUSIC CITY WEST CHURCH
HARPETH VALLEY ELEMENTARY SHCOOL
7840 Learning Lane
Nashville, TN 37221

SUNDAY 10:30 AM CST

MUSIC CITY WEST
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Wear the message... Share the mission!

Wrap up Christmas with gifts that share your faith.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FAVORITES



LONG-SLEEVE



ZIP-UP HOODIE



COZY HOODIE



3/4-LENGTH SHIRT



CLASSIC CAP



DISTRESSED CAP



BACKPACK



TOTE BAG



CROSSBODY



MCW LOGO

Find something for everyone.

Thoughtful Christmas presents, everyday favorites, and apparel.

MORE GIFTS TO LOVE



CC WEST T-SHIRT



EVERYDAY TEES



FAITH DESIGNS



JOURNAL



DRINKWARE



FANNY PACK

VIEW ALL ITEMS, PRICES & ORDER HERE.

Scan the QR code to shop the full collection.



Give a gift. Share the message.

MUSIC CITY WEST PRISON MINISTRY

CLOTHING WITH DIGNITY

A simple gift can help someone step forward with confidence.



WE'LL DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS



RESTORE HOPE THROUGH MINISTRY

Why your donation matters

Many men and women leaving prison return to society with little to no wardrobe and often without the financial means to obtain one. Having proper clothing is not just a basic need; it plays a vital role in restoring dignity, building self-respect, and supporting a successful fresh start.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate clean shirts, pants, jackets, dresses, shoes, and other wearable items. Bring clothing to church on Sunday, volunteer with the ministry, or make a financial gift.

LOVING GOD • LOVING PEOPLE • LOVING LIFE

THE NEXT DOOR RECOVERY

LIVES RECLAIMED
STORIES OF HOPE

Think of Others This Christmas

A small gift can bring comfort, dignity, and hope.

MUSIC CITY WEST CHURCH
12-Step Worship Program

Music and Scripture for the women at The Next Door Recovery

Every Wednesday
5:15 p.m. CST

Give Comfort. Share Hope This Christmas.

Your purchase becomes part of someone's story of hope.

See the full list on Amazon
Click here!

MUSIC CITY WEST CHURCH

thenextdoorrecovery.org

TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE A *difference.*



Your support can transform lives and bring hope.

MUSIC CITY WEST
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Donate today and be a beacon of change.
Together we can spread love and kindness.

TITHE.LY
Give Online

Click here for link

Shop our Fundraiser!

Click here for link

venmo
SCAN TO GIVE

Thank you! ♥

Kroger COMMUNITY REWARDS

Click here for link

MAKE CHECKS payable to:

MUSIC CITY WEST CHURCH
645 Old Hickory Blvd
Unit 701
Nashville, TN 37209
Attn: Pastor Kim McLean

Support Music City West Church

WHILE YOU SHOP!

Kroger Community Rewards

Link your Kroger Plus Card to Music City West Church through Kroger Community Rewards, and Kroger will donate a portion of eligible purchases to our ministry **at no extra cost to you.**



IT'S EASY TO ENROLL!

1. Sign in to your Kroger account.
2. Go to Community Rewards.
3. Search for Music City West Church or our organization number.
4. Select our church and click Enroll or Save.
5. Shop as usual and use your Kroger Plus Card.

Together, we can continue *Loving God, Loving People, and Loving Life.*

THANK YOU for supporting the mission of Music City West Church!

CLICK HERE

Did You Know?

FACEBOOK ~ PAYPAL GIVING FUND

A simple way to support Music City West on your birthday is to ask friends and family to make a donation to Music City West instead of giving you birthday gifts.

Many nonprofits provide a donation page where contributions can be made directly in honor of your birthday, ensuring the funds go straight to Music City West.

This turns YOUR celebration into an opportunity to make a positive impact while supporting our Church.

Ask how can I help?

Get INVOLVED.

Your time.
Your talents.
Your heart.

Make a difference.
Change lives.

MCW OUTREACH PROGRAMS

- The Next Door Recovery Worship Volunteers
- Prison Ministry/Clothing donations/Music Volunteers
- Book Club leader/Coordinator
- Celebrate Recovery/Coordinator
- Harmony at Bellevue/Worship Volunteers

MCW MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA

- Send/Share Facebook/Instagram Posts
- Send E-mail Announcements
- Write Thank-you cards
- Event/Service Photographer
- Assistant Videographer
- Promotional Videos/You Tube
- Social Media Promoter

EVENTS

- Coordinator/Setup
- Community awareness promoter

OTHER

- Hospitality Coordinator
- Set-up and Break-down for morning service/Chairs/Literature, Altar, and Snack Tables
- Children's Church Assistant

Loving God, Loving People, Loving Life

Music City West
OUTREACH PROGRAMS

LOVING GOD ~ LOVING COMMUNITY ~ LOVING LIFE



MAKING A DIFFERENCE. CHANGING LIVES.

At Music City West Church, outreach is our heartbeat. Through worship, teaching, prayer, recovery support, and practical help, we bring hope, love, and the transforming power of Jesus Christ to our community.

Together, we are making a difference—one life, one family, one act of love at a time.

TPK Bible TALKS

Tuesdays with Pastor Kim

Tap into the power of faith every Tuesday evening with Pastor Kim McLain for inspiring Bible talks at 7-8 pm (CST).

In person or on Zoom

Click here for link

MUSIC CITY WEST MISSION MINISTRY

CLOTHING DONATION

New & used clothes, shoes, or other wearable items to give, that will serve your help.

Every donation can make a real difference. Thank you for supporting this ministry! Bring all clothes to church on Sunday or Donate 24/7.

Need Prayer?

Join MCW every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am (CST) on Zoom.

mcwpray4me@gmail.com

Click here for link

NASHVILLE RESCUE MISSION

See website for Volunteer opportunities.

Click here for link

UNBOUND

Explore • Imagine • Create

With Rev. Dr. Kim McLean on Zoom

Harmony at Bellevue

Family Serving Families

Bringing a full worship service each Sunday to Harmony at Bellevue, an assisted living facility.

Services start at 3:30 pm (CST).

THE NEXT DOOR RECOVERY

A recovery facility for women where we provide a 12-step worship service, prayer, serve meals, organization and donate needed supplies.





BELLEVUE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

A Bellevue United Methodist Church

Providing weekly food donations to support families in need.