HERALD



Join us online or in person as we continue our sermon series, "Blueprint." We hope you will join us.

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 16

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022

571870

Building a Ministry for the Deaf

n one of the most iconic moments in film history, Kevin Costner walks through a corn field and hears the whisper:

If you build it, they will come.

There have been a lot of dreams inspired since that scene from the 1989 film "Field of Dreams," and no better way to describe the step of faith White's Chapel recently made in bringing in Revetta Van Noy to be the hands of Jesus and the face of our Deaf ministry.

"I have basically been training for this my whole life," said Van Noy recently.

"I have always been interested in non-verbal communication. When I was in kindergarten, I was that one kid signing the Christmas Carols at Christmas time that I had



researched and learned on my own."

Van Noy started the Sign Language
Interpreting program at TCC after
graduating from high school a year early
at 17. She initially dropped out due to
circumstances in life, but reengaged in
the program in 2019, when she realized
she would never be satisfied until she
finished Sign Language Interpreting
School. It took her three years and
over 600 hours of internship work to
graduate with two associate degrees
and three ASL (American Sign Language)
certificates.

"I have met people in my past – during my dark days – that were Deaf and experienced how they were treated because they were Deaf and it hurt my heart," she explained. "I would communicate anyway I could, with what sign language I knew, gestures and writing."

Van Noy believes passionately that this is her ministry. "I'm in the ministry of language and accessibility. Ninety-eight percent of Deaf people that die each day, die without the gospel. That is not

DEAF cont'd on page 2









WOMEN'S FALL EVENT

On Sept. 29, about 200 women gathered in Evans Hall for a night of laughter with guest speaker Amberly Neese. Meeting new friends, hearing great stories, and enjoying a delicious chocolate dessert were highlights of the evening.

WC Volunteers Prepare for Agape Meal Return

n agape meal is defined as a 'communal meal shared among Christians,' and the name comes from a Greek term for 'love.' So, what would it look like if we broke bread with others with that in mind?

For about 27 years, Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth has offered a weekly Agape Meal to share love and kindness to homeless guests in the surrounding area. For more than 12 years, White's Chapel has partnered with Broadway Baptist to help serve those in need of a warm meal and a welcoming

place to worship that's easily accessible.
The difference between a soup kitchen

The difference between a soup kitchen and an Agape Meal is its structure - the Agape Meal is one that provides an atmosphere of service and dignity. It allows volunteers to serve guests and greet people, no matter their background. Participants are seated like family members, at tables with linens and dishes. Servers bring food and drinks to each table for convivence. It is a place of love and respect.

According to their website, "Since 1995, Broadway's neighborhood Agape Meal has provided worship and fellowship at a family-style meal for homeless neighbors, church members, and community volunteers. This meal isn't just about feeding the hungry – it's about creating time and space for us to build relationships that celebrate the gifts of all of our neighbors."

On June 2 of this year, Broadway Baptist was able to host its first indoor Agape Meal since the pandemic. Volunteers and guests alike were overjoyed at its return. To keep the risk of COVID at a minimum, they modified

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Taizé - A Wednesday Night Meditative Worship



Rev. Larry Duggins

y the time Wednesday night rolls around, I am ready for a break. I want a moment of peace. I want to connect with God, with family, and with friends. I am ready for Taizé worship.

Taizé is a simple, peaceful form of Christian meditative

prayer. Simple song with lyrics based on scripture and Christian ideals are sung over and over, kind of like a mantra in other forms of meditation. The repetition allows me to settle in, to go deeper because I do not have to focus on what the next words are. I can feel the Spirit, I can hear the people around me, and I can relax into the calming acoustic sounds. Taizé worship is designed to

flow from one song to the next without interruption. There is not a sermon – simply a scripture to focus on during a time of silence. Even the Lord's Supper is offered in silence by a pastor who blesses the bread and juice through gestures and silent prayer. There is an opportunity to light a candle to raise a prayer for a loved one and to participate in prayers

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Winter Coat/Jacket Drive Info



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The Key to Doing the Right Thing is Prayer

By Dr. John McKellar

ichard Foster defined the spiritual disciplines as 'learning to do the right thing at the right time for the right reasons.' Once we understand that the temptations of life are all around us and have decided to base our lives on the truth of Jesus Christ, the struggle begins. Every day becomes a battle between what we want to do and what we ought to do. The Holy Spirit gives us a heightened since of conscience that calls us to consistently do the right thing even when it costs us.

To do the right thing means to take the long view. In a world of short-term gratification, this will set us at odds with the culture. We must resist the pressure of knee jerk reactions. Life comes at us fast. So fast that it's natural to react to life experiences by making the choice that is least painful at the moment. We relieve temporary uncomfortableness with a decision to get out of trouble for the moment. But most of the time, the fast decision is the wrong decision. The easy decision is the wrong decision. The decision that fixes "right now" is the wrong decision.

The key to doing the right thing is prayer. Jesus modeled prayer as a priority. His actions demonstrated that his relationship with God was the basis for ministry. He prayed all night before

important decisions. He slipped away to spend time with God. He sought to nourish his heavenly relationship and in turn could answer the priority question, the only question that really counts: what is the will of God?

Theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, left Germany in 1939 for New York City to teach at Union Theological Seminary. His friends and mentors thought it was wise to spare him the Nazi persecution of the Church. He would be able to return to teach and rebuild Germany after the war. Bonhoeffer sought God's wisdom and he believed that there was only one important question: what is the will of God? He took the last ship back to Germany before World War II began. He was executed in 1945 for his part in a conspiracy to kill Hitler. He could not escape the call to do the right thing, even though it put his life in peril.

To make those long-term costly decisions, we must be guided by those disciplines of prayer, solitude and meditation so that we can build and strengthen our dependence on God. Repeated actions over and over again create habits. Habits practiced over time create character. Then doing the right thing becomes our natural response to life. I love what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said: "That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind. The time is always right to do the right thing."

2022 2021 October \$143,718 Week 1 \$220,137 Week 2 \$215,894 \$176,707 **FINANCIALS** MTD Actual \$436,031 \$320,425 MTD Goal \$398,782 \$362,603 MTD Variance \$ 37,249 \$ (42,178) YTD Actual \$7,423,375 \$6,873,072 YTD Goal \$7,337,491 \$6,639,283 \$ 233,789 YTD Variance \$ 85,884





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Deaf

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acceptable to me. I am actively working to do my part to provide access to God's

"Revetta holds the keys to the kingdom," said White's Chapel pastor Rev. Lori Silvestri, Pastor for Families with Special Needs. "And I mean this quite literally. She is the one who can unlock the Gospel message for the Deaf community who attend White's Chapel. Statistics show that only about two percent of Deaf people have access to the Gospel. That is why it is so important for us to have a deaf ministry at White's Chapel."

While Silvestri is not aware of any members at White's Chapel who are Deaf, she is aware of a few families who have members (including children) who are partially deaf or have hearing differences.

"Not everyone who has a hearing difference uses ASL," she explained. "Once the word gets out into the Deaf community, we expect that we will have some attendees and maybe new members. Providing a path that is welcoming and creates belonging is the first step and that is what our interpreter represents."

If you build it, they will come.

"All of the amazing and sacred aspects of worship that we love and cherish each Sunday – fellowship, our Praise band, the WC orchestra and choir, prayers, shared covenants and creeds, scripture readings, and the wonderful messages from our senior co-pastors – are not accessible to someone who is Deaf or has a hearing difference," she continued. "It makes sense that they have not claimed White's Chapel as their church home and family because they can't receive all of those amazing things that we all love about WC."

She added that, with the addition of an American Sign Language Interpreter, "we are breaking down barriers to accessibility for the Deaf community. This is only one small step in the

process of them finding belonging in this congregation, however. If Revetta holds the keys, then we as a congregation are the ones who open the doors and invite them inside – offering them radical love and hospitality."

Van Noy's ministry is not just one day per week. She is also a substitute interpreter for Arlington ISD, serves as a Virtual Relay Service Interpreter, and works part-time on the weekends at a Comedy Theater. She also does interpretive storytelling at the Southlake Public Library on the first Friday of every month, which is how she and Silvestri met. White's Chapel was host of a few of these local story times over the summer. The two hit it off and immediately started planning how they could do ministry work together.

"We are planning to offer a class at White's Chapel for participants to learn the basics of ASL and another class to learn how to sign hymns," said Silvestri. "We are also planning for a class of ASL Gospel stories."

If there is one thing Van Noy would want everyone in our congregation to know, it would be that Deaf people don't consider themselves disabled. "The only thing they can't do is hear," she said. "They deserve accommodation not pity. Deaf people are three times more likely to be abused or abducted because they are targeted. They need access to God." If you build it, they will come.

Van Noy is grateful to White's Chapel for this ministry. "My kids and I have felt so welcome since the first time we walked into this church," she said. "I learn so much every week, and I look forward to the many things that are in store for White's Chapel, this ministry and myself."

Both women agree that the best way to help the ministry is to spread the word so that more people will have access to the gospel. For additional information, please contact Rev. Lori Silvestri.



Rev. Lori Silvestri | Isilvestri@ whiteschapelumc.com If you work for a business or own one, please read and familiarize yourself with

the ADA Americans with Disabilities Act to accommodate Deaf colleagues and customers.



PASTA ALFREDO: Saute 10 sage leaves in 2 tbsp butter. Whisk in 1 cup each

CREAM CHEESE: Pulse 8-oz cream cheese, 1/3 cup pumpkin,

1 tbsp maple syrup and 1/2 tsp pumpkin pie spice in a food processor.

cooked pasta. Top with grated parmesan.

pumpkin and cream, and a pinch of nutmeg; simmer 5 minutes. Toss with 12-oz

WC CARE & SUPPORT



RESOLVE General Infertility Support Group Second Thursday of Each Month 6 to 8 p.m. | AE Room 3102

Are you experiencing struggles in growing your family? RESOLVE is the National Infertility Association dedicated to ensuring that all people challenged in their family building journey reach resolution through being empowered by knowledge, supported by community, united by advocacy, and inspired to act. Peer-led support groups are a safe space to meet others facing similar struggles. For more information, contact Carrie Moore at moore.carrie.j@gmail.com. resolve.org

Foster, Kinship Care and Adoptive Family Support Third Wednesday of Each Month 6 to 7 p.m. | EH Room 2236

Our support group is a safe space for peers to meet others facing similar situations and learn more about resources for these special populations. Join us monthly for a speaker or topic discussion and peer support. For more information, contact Carrie Moore at moore.carrie.j@gmail.com.

Alzheimer's Support Group Third Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 to 8 p.m. | AE Room 3201

This group is for caregivers dealing with loved ones with dementia. We share experiences while learning about available community resources and ways to cope with long-term caregiving. If you have friends or neighbors experiencing a dementia walk, please invite them to join us. For more information, contact Beth Benson at (817) 416-9871 or Dana Pierce at 817-372-1077.

Common Thread Support Group First & Third Wednesdays | 6 p.m. Room 2233 or Second & Fourth Wednesdays | 10 a.m. Room 2234

This group is for moms who have a child of any age with special needs. We share our experiences in our common journey of parenting a child with a disability while also learning about community resources, advocating for our children, parenting tools and spiritual care for mom. For childcare needs and questions, contact Rev. Lori Silvestri at (704) 737-0447 or lsilvestri@whiteschapelumc.com.



THURSDAY, OCT. 20 | 6 - 7 P.M. | WALTON CHAPEL

Healing Through Prayer and Expectation

"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is anyone of your sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up." (James 3:13-15)

A Service of Healing and Wholeness will be held Thursday, October 20, from 6 to 7 p.m. in Walton Chapel. This service is open to all; registration is not required. Anyone in need prayer for a physical, emotional, or spiritual need, can come to receive prayer or celebrate the prayers God is already in the process of answering. This sacred service includes music, reading of Scripture, and an opportunity to pray with ministers from White's Chapel for those places of brokenness in each of our lives. This service is carefully and prayerfully designed to help focus the hearts and minds of all those who seek God's goodness, mercy, and love for us. It will be a time to center yourself and focus on how God, through Jesus Christ, offers each of us healing and wholeness.

The focus of the service is this very opportunity, a time where those seeking prayer can approach stations with ministers from White's Chapel, where they can experience the laying-on of hands, focused prayer for their specific needs, and an anointing with oil. "Everyone of us has a place inside of us where we need healing and wholeness, whether it be spiritual, emotional, or physical," said Rev. Kyle Roberson, the Pastor for Care & Support. "This service is offered to acknowledge this and, through prayer to the only true source of healing, ask for wholeness for ourselves

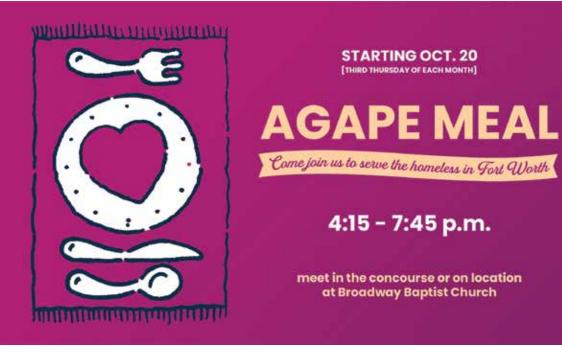
and those we love. Prayer is really, truly

powerful. My hope is that people will come experience that power so that they may share their experience and, in some way, offer healing and wholeness to others."

This service is a joint offering from the Care & Support Ministry and Stephen Ministry of White's Chapel. Stephen Ministers are laypeople trained to provide high-quality, confidential, oneto-one, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. After receiving 50+ hours of training, each Stephen Minister enters one-to-one caring relationships with care receivers where they offer a listening ear and prayerful support for a wide range of issues. If you'd like to enter this type of one-to-one caregiving relationship with a Stephen Minister, please email stephenministry@ whiteschapelumc.com today. Though this service provides a reflective time to gather in prayer with others from the church, it is not the only opportunity to receive prayer for healing and wholeness. There is a Pastor on Call available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year by calling (817) 881-2124. Online Prayer Requests can also be submitted at whiteschapelumc.com 24 hours a day.

"Those seeking a quiet time to center and focus on God, their creator, redeemer, healer, and sustainer can attend this service to reconnect," Roberson said. "I think we all need that. Every one of us need time to reconnect with God and replenish their soul... that's what I think this offers: a time to be still in the presence of God and find that healing, wholeness, and prayerful support."





Agape

Cont'd from page 1

the traditional structure of the meal. While there are currently no table hosts, servers are still active and needed to keep everything running smoothly.

In the past, the Agape
Meal served about 200
people each week. Since COVID-19,
and having to provide food on a smaller
scale, numbers of guests reduced but
have held strong at about 100 guests
per meal. Numbers are expected to rise,
though, as colder weather sets in.

White's Chapel member and volunteer Meridith Watford has been serving with the Agape Meal since 1999. When she first got involved, she would take her two young boys with her so they could experience the ministry firsthand. When her kids got older, they would accompany Watford and her husband when they weren't busy with schoolwork. For her, the Agape Meal provided a place to see God's hand at work and allowed her to build genuine relationships. That's why she continues to volunteer with this community outreach effort today.

"We volunteered all through COVID, while we were handing out meals to go," she shared. "There was a core group of five of us. The guests ate outside on the sidewalk. We got to know them pretty well, as we walked up and down the sidewalk, asking if they needed anything. The clothing closet was closed but as volunteers, we could get the guests immediately what they needed. It was such a feel good; we had their trust and fulfilled their needs every single week."

She also shared her experience working with the Agape Meal around the holiday season.

"At Christmas, Peter Nelson asked me if we could provide 70 stockings," she said.

"We did. With the help of many, we provided stockings, flashlights, playing cards, notebooks & pens, lighters, metal silverware, candy, lip gloss, lotion, hand sanitizer, God is Big Enough bracelets, notes of encouragement, gum, toothbrushes & toothpaste, Advil, cough drops, Christmas cards, and snacks. Those stockings were stuffed! ...The night we were giving them out, we only had 12 guests. I was heartbroken. What a flop. A guest got dizzy and called 911. An

ambulance and a fire truck came. As the paramedics were leaving, I asked them if they wanted a stocking, that would've been seven stockings not shoved in a closet and forgotten. To my surprise he said, 'Yes and we'll take all of them.' I thought, Geesh, that's kind of greedy. I went and asked Peter if that would

be okay and Peter said, 'Yes.' What I came to find out was that they took all of those stockings up and down Lancaster Boulevard – the places where nobody wants to go. Those paramedics took those stockings to

the least and the forgotten. They knew where all of those people lived and hung out on the dark streets. Wow. I am still humbled. **GOD IS BIG ENOUGH.**"

While the Agape Meal is offered continuously each week, White's Chapel has committed to providing volunteers for one meal a month, beginning Thursday, Oct. 20. Leaders within WC's outreach and involvement ministries are excited to bring back this staple as a regular service opportunity. Every third Thursday of the month, volunteers will meet at 4:15 p.m. (near the Welcome doors) to say a quick prayer together. Then, everyone will get on the bus and travel to Fort Worth, where they will help serve the Agape Meal in Broadway Baptist's Fellowship Hall. From 6 to 6:30 p.m., guests will hear opening remarks and enjoy a warm meal. The worship service follows, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Then, WC volunteers return to the bus and arrive back at the church by 8 p.m.

About 15 volunteers are needed for each Agape Meal. Families (kids over the age of 6 years old) and individuals are welcome to participate in this ongoing effort. Please sign up on the



church website or contact Dorothea Christ at dchrist@whiteschapelumc. com for more information.

"God is present at every Agape meal," Watford shared. "It's an

amazing ministry that has changed our lives. It has been going on for 30 years and is held every Thursday except around Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's organized, clean and safe. It's our happy place"

Taizé

Cont'd from page 1

for the challenges in our world. It is a peaceful, blessed way to worship God.

Taizé (say "ta zay") worship originated with a small Christian monastic community in Taizé France, located in the Burgundy region between Paris and Lyon. A young man named Roger Schutz-Marsuche bought a small farm just before WWII to form an Christian community, and soon found himself helping Jewish refugees from occupied France find their way to safety in Switzerland. When the Gestapo caught wind of their actions, Brother Roger and his small group escaped into Switzerland for the duration of the war. When peace arrived, Brother Roger and his followers returned to Taizé,

helping refugees find their way home and beginning monastic worship several times daily. The brothers initially used Gregorian chants in their services, and people flock to Taizé to hear the brothers sing. Brother Roger wanted the visitors to be able to participate in the singing, so they replaced the old Latin chants with simple songs that anyone could learn. They translated the lyrics into many languages, and soon thousands began worshiping in Taizé with the brothers, singing in multiple languages.

At White's Chapel, we have carried this tradition forward for over 10 years. Our talented musicians have written new songs in the style of Taizé for us to share together, and a small, committed group comes together each Wednesday night to join in peaceful worship. We meet in Founder's Chapel on Wednesdays from 6 to 6:50 p.m. Please join us!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

WC Worship Band at Oktoberfest Sunday, Oct. 16 | 3 to 4 p.m.

Come see the WC Worship Band in Southlake Town Square for Oktoberfest! They will be preforming on the Classic Chevrolet Main Stage this Sunday afternoon, Oct. 16, from 3 to 4 p.m. Come out and enjoy worshipping with the community!

APEX Joslin: A Night at the Movies Sunday, Oct. 23 | 7 p.m. | \$25

This is an event that will take you on a musical journey through the soundtrack from the biggest blockbuster movies. From the genius mind of Joslin, a pianist,

composer and producer himself; Come enjoy A Night at the Movies at White's Chapel. Songs will be featured from popular movies and shows - including music from "Gladiator," "Da Vinci Code," "Man of Steel," "Braveheart," and many more!

Seasonal Drinks Now Available At Wesley Cafe

Get a tasty fall drink to celebrate the new season! Specials include: Caramel apple cider, s'mores frappe, pumpkin spice latte, raspberry white mocha, and more!

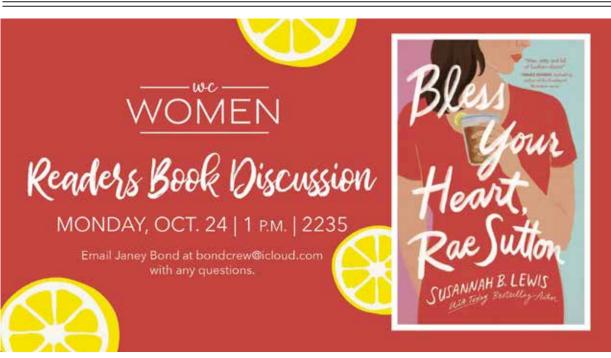


Prayer List

Patricia Adams, Renate Adams, Cindi Arnold, Jack Bair, Carol Barret, Walt Barret, Jerry Barron, Gene Baugh, Joyce Billingsley, Jackson and Grayson Blaylock, Susan Boelens, Mindy Bogan, Dillon Bredvick, Bella Briseno and Family, Jeremy Brown, Gay Bryan, Joe Burns, Bobbie Cameron, Ralph Choppy, Devon Colbert, Deepak Dey, Levi Dietz, Andy Dillon, Stacey Dyer, Bill Dykman, Wilma Dykman, Trey Edwards, Ginny Elder, Linda Evans, Ralph Evans, Charles Forman, Marty Geer, Jake Glow, Jane Grazer, David Gross, Chris Gruenewald, Judith Hallam, Al and Sheila Hansen, Maxie Hays, Art Hill, Karen Hodges, Elyse Huettl, JoAnn Jensen, Josie Jewart, Ziba Johnston, Aubrey Koser, Phil Larson, John McBride, Buddy Mincey, Karen Moxley, Jack and Martha Nanta, Larry Nichols, Merrill and Grace Ottwein, Richard Parker, Cecilia Pecararo, Azor Phelps, Kathy Pierce, Wesley Putnam, Colton and Tammy Quillicy, Kim Rhodes, Lisa Roloff, Dan Russell, Jeri Russell, Terry Satchell, Gail Schmitz, Vickie Smith, Sid Soileau, Gayle Sorenson, Sherrie Stoecker, Lu Swanepoel, Steve Swanston, Janet Sweeny, Carl Teets, Jenny Thornell, Donna Turner, Leslie Westerman, Chris White, Sandy Wilson, Susanne Wisyanski, Angelina. Recent deaths: The Family of Dan Aderman, The Family of Roland Behrends, The Family of Sharon Bilterman, The Family of Connie Bogan, The Family of Karon Cromer, The Family of Vickie Demuth, The Family of Chuck Gordon, The Family of LuAnn Knowles, The Family of Bill Long, The Family of Lafayette Marcum, The Family of Doug Martin, The Family of Nate Peterson, The Family of Scott Snyder, The Family of Jim Thompson, The Family of Cindy Van Cleve, The Family of Linda Ward, The Family of Jean White.

You may submit prayer requests at whiteschapelumc.com/prayer-request.html







OTING INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER 7

PREPARING TO VOTE

To participate in the upcoming church vote, each member will need to:

1) Check your membership status.

People can get 'fast passes' or join the church anytime on/before Monday, Oct. 31 at 5 p.m. Membership Verification Stations are available in the concourse during Wednesday night programming and Sunday morning services. Members can register to vote on Nov. 7, but they cannot become members to vote after Oct. 31. (Please note: Associate Members do not have full voting rights.)

2) Plan to be present on November 7.

Voting will take place on Nov. 7, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on campus. All members must present their photo ID to vote. There will be a line for those with Membership **Verification Cards and another line for** those who have not yet registered. Students who have been confirmed may bring their student ID. People can leave after they cast their vote.

3) Review the instructions and official wording of the electronic ballot:

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

We will be using electronic voting machines provided by Honest Ballot Association. All voting machines feature a touch screen to cast votes.

- 1) To vote, touch the box next to your choice. A check mark will appear. If you make a mistake, touch it again and the check mark will disappear.
- 2) When you are done, touch **CONTINUE** at the bottom of the screen.
- 3) On the **REVIEW** page, carefully review your choice.
- 4) If you want to make a change, touch **CHANGE** to go back to the voting screen.
- 5) If your choice is correct, touch the **CONFIRM** button at the bottom of the screen.
- When you see the word **SUCCESS** in the green bar, your vote has been recorded, and you are done.

OFFICIAL WORDING

The official wording for the vote is:

"Resolved, that White's Chapel United Methodist Church does hereby direct its Board of Trustees to take all steps necessary to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church pursuant to the Church Disaffiliation Resolution between White's Chapel United Methodist Church and the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church dated November 7, 2022."

This vote determines whether or not we will disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. You will be able to vote "YES," "NO," or "ABSTAIN."



means you are voting to disaffiliate from the United **Methodist Church**

V NO

means you are voting to remain in the United **Methodist Church**

V ABSTAIN

means you are choosing not to vote (which will result in a "NO" vote)

ATTENTION -

Although your vote will be recorded as "ABSTAIN," it will count as a "NO" in the poll

