

THE CHISEL



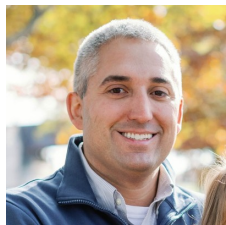
Shaped by Grace. Formed with Christ. Perfected in Love.

CAPSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

VOLUME 1 · SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Why The Chisel?



Grace and Peace to you all from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

Welcome to the first issue of *The Chisel*. A chisel brings to mind work that takes patience, purpose, and care. It is a fitting image for our life together as followers of Jesus. God continues to work within us, shaping our hearts and teaching us to reflect the love of Christ.

Our tagline—**Shaped by Grace. Formed with Christ. Perfected in Love.**—expresses the hope behind these pages: that God's grace will shape our lives, our character will be formed as we walk with Christ, and His love will fill our hearts to overflowing. Each issue will help us carry Sunday's message into the week, make room for prayer, and discover ways to learn and serve together. We will share the joys and concerns of our church family and celebrate the ways God is at work among us.

We saw an opportunity for that shared life at the Middletown Festival. Many offered their time and energy, and we had the privilege of meeting neighbors and welcoming visitors. Let us continue to pray for those connections and look for ways to nurture them.

My hope is that you will find encouragement here—and an invitation to take part. Join a small group, lift someone in prayer, offer your gifts in service, or share a story of God's faithfulness. We each have something to contribute as we grow together. May we be shaped by grace, formed with Christ, and perfected in love as we carry His presence into everyday life.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Andy Bates

IN THIS ISSUE

The Law: Sermon Review & Weekly Prayer **2**

Activities, Prayer Concerns & Praises **3**

SERMON IN REVIEW

“The Law”

Matthew 5:17–20

What does it mean to be truly free? In “The Law,” we explored Jesus’ declaration that He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. God’s commandments reveal our need for Christ and point us toward the freedom found in Him.

Jesus calls us to a righteousness that exceeds outward religious performance. God sees the heart. Our hope rests in Christ, whose righteousness we receive through faith. His grace and the Holy Spirit change us from within.

The Sabbath offers a picture of this freedom: we find rest in Jesus and receive every day as holy. Worship reaches into our homes, work, and relationships as our daily lives reflect His presence.

For Reflection

Where have I treated faith as a checklist rather than a relationship that transforms my heart?

This Week

Each morning, place one burden before Christ. Ask Him to shape your words, choices, and relationships.



Artwork by Sadie Dobson

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Shape My Heart

Gracious Heavenly Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus to fulfill the Law and the Prophets and to draw me into life with You. Forgive me when I settle for the appearance of righteousness while leaving my heart unchanged.

Teach me to depend on Christ’s righteousness rather than my own accomplishments. Through Your Holy Spirit, shape my desires, guide my words, and help me obey You with love.

Lord Jesus, I bring You the burdens I cannot carry alone. Teach me to rest in You and to receive each day as an opportunity to live in Your presence. Let the faith I profess on Sunday shape the life I lead throughout the week.

Make my home a place of grace, my work an offering of service, and my relationships a reflection of Your love. Shape me by grace, form me with Christ, and perfect me in love as I follow You.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Amen. Amen.



COMING SUNDAY PREVIEW

“The Angry”

Matthew 5:21–26

Jesus addresses the anger beneath so many of our actions. What is the cost of staying angry with your brother or sister?

Join us September 20 at 11:00 a.m.

AROUND CAPSTONE

Activities & Events

THIS WEEK

Sacred Threads

Today, September 16 · 10:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

Prayer Gathering

Today, September 16 · 5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

SUNDAY MORNINGS

"Truth Seekers" Small Group

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. · Sanctuary

Children & Youth Programming

Downstairs in Children's Wing
9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Drop-Off & Playtime
9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Choir
10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Lesson
10:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. Pick-Up

Worship Service

11:00 a.m. · Sanctuary

LOOKING AHEAD

Board Meeting

October 14 · 6:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Daytime Small Group



Would a daytime small group work well for you? We're exploring interest in a group that would meet during the day for fellowship and growing in faith together.

Interested? Contact **Roni**

Suggested content for the next volume of *The Chisel* is due by **Tuesday at 9 p.m.** Send your submission to pastor.capstone.church@gmail.com.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Prayer Concerns

Please keep these members of our church family and community in your prayers this week.

Peggy, as she begins chemotherapy—for strength, comfort, and effective treatment.

Kathy B., as she continues to face a chronic lung infection—for healing and relief.

Charolet, as she continues to recover from a broken back—for healing, comfort, and patience.

The Bates family, as they navigate ongoing illnesses—for strength and renewed health.

The visitors we met at the Middletown Festival—that they would feel welcomed and encouraged, and that those connections would continue to grow.

Our new committees: PPR, Finance, and Children & Youth Ministry—for wisdom, unity, and guidance as they serve.

Lord, help us care for one another through prayer, encouragement, and acts of love. Amen.

PRAISES & THANKSGIVING

Grateful for Our Church Family

A Joy to Celebrate

We give thanks that **Bryan D** was able to attend the **Middletown Festival!**

Mission Accomplished

We celebrate a successful outreach opportunity for Capstone at the festival. **A special thank-you to all** who gave time and effort to help.

Your service made it possible to welcome our neighbors and share the love of Christ with our community.



Stay Connected

Scan to follow us on Facebook.
www.capstonecommunitychurch.org
pastor.capstone.church@gmail.com



The Standing Stones

Join us for a wonderful blessing of special music to prepare our hearts for worship this Sunday morning at **11:00 a.m.**