

# Remembering Mandisa: A Life of Faith, Struggle and Victory

[The recent passing of Mandisa Hundley](#), known to many as simply Mandisa, has left a hurt in the hearts of family, friends and fans worldwide. As authorities continue their investigation into her unexpected death, the focus remains on celebrating her remarkable life—a life marked by faith, resilience and triumph.

To date, the Franklin, Tennessee, Police Department has ruled out any “suspicious or criminal activity.”

*The Franklin Police Department is continuing to investigate the death of a woman found inside a Beamon Dr. residence last Thursday evening.*

*Over the weekend, a medical examiner identified the deceased individual as Mandisa Hundley, 47.*

*At this time, there is no indication the...*  
[pic.twitter.com/DheG38KqSi](https://pic.twitter.com/DheG38KqSi)

– Franklin Police Department (@FranklinTNPd) [April 22, 2024](#)

Born in California, Mandisa Hundley’s passion for music led her to Fisk University in Nashville, where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in music in 2000. Her talent didn’t go unnoticed; soon after, she found herself working as a session and backup vocalist for renowned artists like Trisha Yearwood and Shania Twain.

In 2005, Mandisa captured the nation’s attention with her audition on “American Idol.” Throughout the competition, she

not only showcased her incredible gospel vocals but also stood firm in her Christian faith. Despite facing criticism, notably from Judge Simon Cowell about her weight, Mandisa responded with grace and forgiveness, saying, "I've forgiven you and that you don't need someone to apologize in order to forgive somebody."

Her resilience and faith continued to guide her through life's challenges. Mandisa openly shared her struggles with weight, which she described as "a hindrance my whole life." Yet, she turned these challenges into opportunities for growth, using them as motivation to lead a healthier lifestyle. Her faith played a pivotal role in this transformation, teaching her about obedience to God and viewing her body as a temple.

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However, Mandisa's journey was not without its trials. She faced personal losses and traumas that tested her faith and led her into a three-year depression. Yet, with the support of friends and faith communities, she sought counseling and gradually found her way back to joy and purpose.

In 2022, Mandisa released her memoir, "Out of the Dark: My Journey Through the Shadows to Find God's Joy," where she courageously detailed her struggles with depression. Through her book and interviews, she aimed to spark conversations about mental health and encourage others to seek help and support.

Her music also reflected her journey of faith and resilience. Songs like "It's Not Over," sung with Jasmine Murray and Rita Springer, served as anthems of hope and encouragement. Mandisa believed that God was still writing her story and that He was not done with her yet.

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“God’s grace is sufficient, and His power is made perfect in my weakness,” she often said, echoing the comforting words of 2 Corinthians 12:9. Mandisa’s life exemplified the transformative power of faith, forgiveness and perseverance.

[While we mourn the loss of this talented artist,](#) we also celebrate her legacy—a legacy of faith, struggle and victory. Mandisa’s life serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the sustaining power of faith in God.

As we remember Mandisa, let us hold onto the hope and comfort found in the words of Psalm 34:18: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Mandisa’s many fans around the world can find solace in knowing that she is now in the arms of her Savior, experiencing the eternal joy and peace she so deeply believed in.

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*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **God’s Miracle Protection Amid Missile Bombardment**

In a recent interview with Charisma News, Byron Stinson shared his firsthand experience of [God’s protection over Israel during a missile attack from Iran.](#)

Stinson, currently in Israel, recounted the event, saying, “When Iran sent missiles into attack Israel just a few days

ago... I slept nine hours, and when I got up, it was the most peaceful morning that I've experienced here in a long time."

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Despite the ongoing threats and attacks, Stinson emphasized his unwavering faith in God's protective hand over Israel. "I've been here in Israel for many years, and there's been many attacks of rockets... but what I look for is how many actually hit something. In 2014, out of 5,000 rockets, only one hit something," he shared.

Stinson is also deeply involved in bringing red heifers to Israel, which have garnered global attention. He sees these red heifers as a physical manifestation of biblical prophecies. ["The red heifers, this perfect red heifer, caught the world's attention..."](#) God intends to bring about a physical kingdom of God on Earth," Stinson says.

While many hoped the red heifer ceremony would occur soon, it has faced delays. Yet Stinson remains optimistic about its occurrence in the future. He stressed the importance of global unity and understanding between Jewish and Christian communities, saying, "We're called by the Word to be one tree... These physical things are there to help us start really delving back into the Torah and understanding Hashem, the God of Abraham."

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Stinson and a team from Oral Roberts University are working on live-streaming the red heifer ceremony to the world. He believes this event will be a pivotal moment aligning with biblical prophecies. "I just had... a gentleman from Oral Roberts University... they intend to help us livestream the event when it happens to the entire world," Stinson shared.

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## **Government Educators Putting Homeschoolers in Their Sights**

Johns Hopkins School of Education's upcoming launch of a "Homeschool Hub" has stirred apprehensions among homeschooling advocates, particularly those with a Christian viewpoint favoring homeschooling over public schools.

Financed by supporters of taxpayer-funded private and home education, the new initiative has been seen as a move toward greater government oversight of homeschooling. The United Nations has urged governments to use tax money to support "non-state education providers" to enforce "equity" goals and national testing.

The Newman Report highlighted leaders' concerns about this development, describing it as a "clear and present danger" to homeschooling.

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As reported by Alex Newman with Harbingers Daily, "The reason why leaders of the homeschooling movement have been largely

united on the issue is simple. They believe control and regulation by government will be the inevitable result of taxpayer money—especially since this is what the historical record shows. Concerns about dependency and expanding the size and scope of government exist, too.”

Dr. Angela Watson, the hub’s creator, stated, “We need a better understanding... My hope is that the Homeschool Hub will help fill these needs.” This comes despite existing resources like the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) and the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI), which oppose government involvement in homeschooling.

The hub aims to “remove barriers to rigorous research, increase transparency and encourage evidence-driven policy.” Critics caution that “transparency” often means more surveillance and control.

The website also raises concerns about “unregulated” homeschooling, mentioning risks of “indoctrination” and conservative Christian parents possibly “isolating” their children.

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On Apr. 25, the Homeschool Hub will host an event titled “Beyond the Traditional Classroom: The Rise of Homeschooling and Its Impact on Education in America.” Panelists include university officials, a World Bank adviser, a Washington Post education reporter and a senior U.S. Department of Education official, none of whom are participants in the homeschooling sector.

Johns Hopkins’ partnership with EdChoice, a group advocating for “school choice” and tax funding for homeschooling, adds to the concerns.

As homeschooling gains momentum amid a failing and hostile public school system, debates over government funding and regulation will likely persist, keeping homeschooling advocates on alert.

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## **Gov. Ron DeSantis Says No to Satanic Temple in Schools**

The U.S. Bill of Rights, Amendment I: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

With the freedom of religion a part of the bedrock on which the United States of America was built, the battle taking place between Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) and [The Satanic Temple](#) is nearly certain to go to the court system.

But what exactly are they fighting over?

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Recently, DeSantis signed into law HB 931, “establishes a statewide school chaplain program” according to the Florida government.

*Today I was proud to sign HB 931, which gives schools the authority to allow volunteer chaplains to come to campus and offer counseling support for students, with parental consent.*

*I also signed HB 1317, which authorizes school districts to allow civic and patriotic... [pic.twitter.com/bknbPahSN9](https://pic.twitter.com/bknbPahSN9)*

*– Ron DeSantis (@GovRonDeSantis) [April 18, 2024](#)*

Parents will be involved and the program is voluntary, but the caveat is that DeSantis recently said, publicly, that TST will not be allowed in schools.

“Some have said that if you do a school chaplain program, that, somehow, you’re going to have satanists running around in all our schools. We’re not playing those games in Florida,” DeSantis says. “That is not a religion. That is not qualified to be able to participate in this. So, we’re going to be using common sense when it comes to this. You don’t have to worry about it.”

The Associated Press reported on Apr. 25, 2019, that TST had provided them “with a notice it recently received communicating its new tax-exempt status. The letter used a code that classifies it as a ‘church or a convention or association of churches.’”

“This should be of significant concern to anybody, regardless of their own religious views,” TST co-founder Lucien Greaves told Fox News Digital. “Worse, in signing HB 931 into law, the governor simply announced, from the podium at a press conference, that satanists were to be considered unqualified for the school chaplaincy program while citing no legal theory to support his view.”

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In the wake of his public rebuke of TST, their executive director of operations, Rachel Chambliss, has challenged DeSantis to a public debate over freedom of religion.

Satanism has been making headway in being displayed in government, with several states displaying satanic imagery on their capitol grounds in recent months.

[As Charisma News reported](#), Navy veteran Michael Cassidy tore down the satanic image in the Iowa state capitol and is currently facing hate crime charges for it.

Though Gov. DeSantis is not alone in his thinking, with the IRS' designation of TST as a religious organization, the protection of the First Amendment will almost certainly play the deciding role in the expected future lawsuits.

But if the conflict does go before the court system, it would be up to the DeSantis team to prove that the IRS made a mistake in TST's designation and in turn, keep Satan's influence out of Florida schools.

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## **'Jesus March for Israel' Coming to Columbia University**

The spiritual warfare taking place in America is in full-swing, and [the nation is suffering the repercussions](#) of adopting ungodly morals and ethics.

By turning against the principles of the Bible which this nation was founded on, violence, crime and corruption have taken hold in the United States and is fighting to maintain its grip.

In response to this, Christian worship artist Sean Feucht has announced a “Jesus March for Israel” to be held on Thursday, Apr. 25, at 6:30 p.m.

The location is none other than a member of the once prestigious Ivy League, Columbia University in New York.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Feucht shared the few details about the upcoming event, such as time, place and mission (worship, prayer and blessings).

*JESUS MARCH FOR ISRAEL* □□□□□□

*Columbia University – NYC*

*Thursday, April 25th @ 630pm*

*Stand against Antisemitism.*

*[Worship, Prayer & Blessings]* [#LetUsWorship](#) [#HoldTheLine](#)

*SPREAD THE WORD!*

*– Sean Feucht (@seanfeucht) [April 22, 2024](#)*

Waving Palestinian flags and many carrying the symbol of Hamas, [radical, terror-supporting extremists](#) have effectively shut down the university campus with students and faculty currently operating remotely, and as of Monday morning, riot police have arrived on scene removing some of the protesters.

Currently, supporters of the riots, as well as the mainstream media, have attempted to paint the anti-Semitic actions of the students and outside agitators as peaceful. Meanwhile, videos

of the rioters reveal their calls for more events like the Oct. 7, massacre which saw over 1,200 Israelis brutally murdered, countering the “peaceful protesters” claims.

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## **Joseph Z Unveils Prophetic Insights for 2024 and 2025**

In an episode of “Table Talk” hosted by Joni Lamb, guest Joseph Z shared prophetic insights the Lord revealed to him for the years 2024 and 2025.

Z shares that 2024 will be a year of justice, encouraging believers to persevere even in challenging times. Z introduced the concept of “diamond seeds” as a divine reward for those who have faithfully served and sacrificed, even when their efforts go unnoticed.

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Additionally, Z mentioned hearing phrases like “the roar, the war and more,” indicating potential challenges ahead. He emphasized that this could be a pivotal time for America, presenting a renewed opportunity for national repentance and

spiritual renewal, or facing significant trials.

Furthermore, Z noted a shift from an era of grace to an era of mercy, attributing this change to the recent overturning of the Roe v. Wade ruling in favor of principles aligned with Christian values.

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Here is a breakdown of the words that Z received from the Lord to share in the upcoming season:

1. Diamond Seeds: "I began to see people that had sowed in tears. People that had paid the price when nobody was looking. How their character was through a difficult season, difficult times. I began to watch them press in and pass test after test after test when nobody was applauding, nobody was there. Whether it was sickness, whether it was hardship, whether it was relational, whether it was financial. And the Lord began to speak to me and say, these are like seeds that go in the ground under great pressure and duress but they will come back like if you put coal in the ground it'll come back as a diamond, and they're diamond seeds," Z shares.
2. The Valley of Decision: Z shared that the Lord showed him a door opening and after a short period of time, the door would slam shut, and this is indicative of what is heading for America. "The Lord said that will be the valley of decision where America, specifically America, will either go the way of Nineveh or it'll go the way of fire, but either way America will change. It'll either repent and repair, or it'll bow to its knees through fire, but there will be a new America," Z says.
3. Mercy in light of Roe v. Wade: "We've gone from a time of grace to a time of mercy because of Roe v. Wade being

overturned,” Z explains. “That there was a federal overturning of Roe v. Wade and because of that, the Lord said federally I will hold this together with mercy. Mercy...the nation does not deserve it, but God has seen many people turning to him and saying “Help Us Lord.” People getting baptized [and] turning to the Lord. He hears that.”

4. The Rise of the Maccabees: Just as in the time of the Maccabees, Z shares that there will be those who take a stand against the onslaught of darkness trying to take over the land. New voices will be raised up by the Lord and will say “no more” to the evil that is saturating cultures around the world.
5. America has one more round: “Young lions are coming and that’s generation Alpha. Alpha’s coming. Generation Alpha, they’re not going to be like some of the other people that have played patty cake with the way the world has run things. They’re not going to get all caught up in the minutia of ignorance and ideologies that just make people weak. Generation Alpha is going to live up to its name. ...They [are] going to roar...and they’re going to come through this, and it’s going to be powerful. They will be the thing that induces the Reformation,” Z says.

[This article was originally posted on Charisma News.](#)

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# News Media Mainstreaming Adultery, Diminishing Marriage

In a recent bewildering article, Fox News, which often prides itself on offering to the right side of the political spectrum faith-based content, has decided to publish an article extolling the virtues that adulterers hold fast to (just not marriage).

Fox News did a deep dive into the world of Ashley Madison, a website for married people to cheat on their spouses, and examined a recent survey conducted by the online adultery service whose slogan is ["Life is short. Have an affair."](#)

Perhaps in an attempt to mitigate the image of those who cheat either once or perpetually in their marriage, the article highlights all the areas where the participants in the survey wouldn't cheat, demonstrating that "See? They aren't such bad folks after all."

Except the Bible has strong words for those who would wade into the waters of adultery.

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Let's start with arguably the most prominent and to-the-point verse in the Bible on adultery: Exodus 20:14. It says, and I quote, "You shall not commit adultery." A bit on the nose, as it is one of the Ten Commandments and gives us an in-depth look at how God views such acts.

Moving forward, the Bible also provided us with examples of the judgment that comes on those who commit such acts, and what better example is there than David, a man after God's own

heart?

David not only committed adultery, but was the mastermind behind the murder of Uriah, the husband to Bathsheba and the woman with whom David committed adultery with. Second Samuel 12 shows us that after Nathan the prophet pronounced the Lord's sentence upon David, he turned a repentant heart before the Lord. While the Lord of course forgave David, he still suffered a punishment for his actions, both murder and adultery, and the life of his child was taken.

But sadly, this article that Fox News is promoting to untold numbers of people, as it is one of the largest news corporations in the world, diminishes this harmful act and lists activities the cheaters on Ashley Madison wouldn't cheat on before cheating on their marriage (taxes, job applications, phone provider and much more).

Is marriage worth less than changing phone providers or regular coffee order?

The article even quotes Ashley Madison chief strategy officer Paul Keable saying that "going through an affair resulted in a stronger marriage with their spouse, opening up the lines of communication and ultimately improving their lives both sexually and emotionally.

"What surprises more than anything, is that society continues to hold onto the belief that monogamy should be the default setting for all marriages," Keable says.

That's because this nation was founded on Christian morals and beliefs, Paul.

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Here's a short list of what the Bible says about monogamous

and biblical marriage some can't quite seem to understand:

- Hebrews 13:4: "Marriage is to be honored among everyone, and the bed undefiled. But God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers."
- Proverbs 6:32: "But whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does it destroys his own soul."
- 1 Corinthians 6:9: "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals..."

Not to mention the words of Jesus who addressed adultery as well as the Levitical laws which holds a harsh punishment for adulterers. (Hint: it's death.)

The writer of this article may have never had the intent of promoting adultery in this way, but intentional or not, it does. It also degrades the sacred institution of marriage, which as anyone who has been paying attention to culture for the last few decades, has been under constant attack alongside the nuclear family.

[Satan wants to destroy the institution of marriage](#) and replace it with his own warped and corrupted version of that which God ordained. As these days present darker practices than the times before them, we know that the Word of God is as true today as it ever has been, and the world is in desperate need of the truth and righteousness held within it's pages.

There is hope to be found in Jesus Christ, and with Him comes a cleansing of our sin and unrighteousness. But just as David experienced, there also comes a time of judgment when we turn away from the tenets of God and instead embrace the path of destruction.{eoa}

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# IHOPKC Officially Announces Shuttering of Ministries

International House of Prayer Kansas City (IHOPKC) has officially announced via [press release](#) the staggered closure of ministries in the wake of the sexual and spiritual abuse scandal involving founder Mike Bickle.

[While reports the day prior](#) to the press release had originated from emails and audio from IHOPKC sources, the organization has confirmed that certain closures are happening:

*After much prayer and deliberation with the Board, we have come to the conclusion that we will wind down many of the ministry and training expressions of IHOPKC, including IHOPU, Forerunner Church, CEC, and Internships. Our ongoing focus as a ministry will remain on the 24/7 prayer room and intercession for Israel.*

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The press release confirms that the reasoning for this is the unmitigated disaster that has been the revelation and response to the abuse suffered by those at the hands of Bickle, and the loss of funding as a result of it:

*Some might ask how we got to this point. To be clear, this is more than a response to the crisis of the last six months. After thorough examination of all aspects of IHOPKC, we have*

*determined that the need for reform and change is vast. Therefore, we are taking a course that is deliberate and intentional, though not easy.*

*The financial and personnel losses have not been without consequence, yet they are only a part of the deeper issues we must address in order to continue night and day prayer for future generations. The governance and structure of a Mission Base with a church, ministry school, ministries and hundreds of staff have been strained for several years and need reform. We believe now is the opportune time to address those challenges through a transition and reorganization process.*

Stating that the call for 24/7 prayer remains, Executive Director Joseph Taylor explained in the release that the prayer room will be the primary focus for the foreseeable future, and the closings of the other areas of ministry will be done in stages:

*This ministry has produced much fruit over the years, and we are profoundly grateful for those who pioneered, sowed, labored and believed in this people's calling –a call that still remains. In the immediate season, it is clear that we need to focus on the prayer room as our primary assignment as the Lord gives us grace.*

*We are still navigating the details as many areas wind down. Not all ministries or areas will be on the same timeline, so this will take time. We are in a volatile environment, but we're working day by day with the Board to finalize details and timelines.*

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Finally, Taylor assures the public that details on this major

transition will be forthcoming in the days ahead as the timeline becomes more clear:

*We care deeply about the IHOPKC staff, our local community, partners, friends abroad and our relationships with the international community and Israel. We plan to continue to share what we do know and communicate in the days ahead as details become clear.*

As God brought restoration and healing between Joseph and his brothers who sold him into slavery (Gen. 50), so too do we pray that God brings about the same [restoration, healing and justice for this community, the victims](#) and all of those affected by this tragic series of events, and turns what the enemy meant for evil, into good.

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*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Reports: IHOPKC to Close Amid Ongoing Bickle Scandal**

Recent reports indicate International House of Prayer Kansas City (IHOPKC) [will close amid the sexual and spiritual abuse scandal](#) involving founder Mike Bickle.

A recording from IHOP University an internal email from IHOPU President Matt Candler refer to the closing, according to The Roys Report. The recording reveals that the ministry is losing hundreds of thousands of dollars a month, partly due to the many donors closely connected to Bickle.

“We began to accrue some pretty significant financial challenges, with our expenses outpacing our revenues by about \$500,000 a month... with no end in sight,” IHOPKC Forerunner Church Pastor Isaac Bennett says.

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As the leadership prepares to close IHOPKC, they plan to launch a new ministry, according to Bennett, with the closing to be “staggered.”

“The leadership believes the best way to resolve the issues is to close IHOPKC as an organization and transition to a more missional church structure in the future. This would still include night and day prayer and worship within a church context. It would also mean far fewer compensated staff members and a larger pool of volunteers,” the email reads.

IHOPKC has not made any formal announcements, and requests for comments from various media outlets have not been returned.

“We are seeing this present era... coming to an end, and [the Lord beginning a new era,](#)” Bennett can be heard saying in the recording. He also acknowledges that despite IHOPKC’s efforts to address the scandal, they have been unable to avoid the legal liabilities arising from allegations of mishandling abuse claims within the ministry.

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Bennett further reveals the drastic measures required to sustain IHOPKC at its current capacity, such as reducing the paid staff by 90%, leaving only 50 staff members where there once were 500.

“We are at an impasse,” says Bennett. “There’s no other way

forward. So, the Lord is kindly inviting us into a new era.”

The closure will reportedly encompass all IHOPKC ministries, including their camps, IHOPU and church.

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# Megachurch Pastor Chuck Swindoll Stepping Down

Accomplished Christian author and [pastor Chuck Swindoll is closing a huge chapter](#) in his life effective May 1.

The elders at Stonebriar Community church in Frisco, Texas, [put out a statement](#) that Swindoll will be stepping down as the senior pastor of the church, and Dr. Jonathan Murphy, the chair and professor of Pastoral Ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary, will step into the role.

Swindoll will then become the Founding Pastor and remain on the board of elders.

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“In these roles, Pastor Chuck will continue to preach God’s Word at the pulpit on Sundays, while Jonathan will shepherd our day-to-day ministries and fill in at the pulpit when requested. Pastor Chuck will continue to serve as mentor and advisor to Jonathan, and at the appropriate time in the future, Jonathan will then assume primary pulpit duties,” the

announcement says.

According to the statement, this transition has been two years in the making, and led by a prayer effort to search for the Lord's will in the matter.

"We believe the Lord has gone before us in this decision from the beginning. Two years ago, as some of us elders gathered to pray, we talked about considering Jonathan as a candidate for the future role of Senior Pastor," the statement continues.

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As the elders moved forward in faith, they found out that the Lord had already fit the pieces in place for a smooth, and intentional, transition for Stonebriar leadership.

"When we approached Pastor Chuck with the idea at that time, we were happy to find out that he had already been mentoring Jonathan for the past several years, and he excitedly agreed that Jonathan would be a great fit for the position. We then extended a letter of intent to Jonathan, and he gladly set his expectations to become our Senior Pastor in the future. In March of 2024, after prayerful consideration, Pastor Chuck and the entire elder team unanimously decided that now is the time for Jonathan to step into his new role," the statement adds.

While many leadership transitions have caused ruptures within church communities, Stonebriar Community Church and its leadership have demonstrated that [seeking the Lord first in prayer and submission](#) is the best way to move forward into a new season.

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