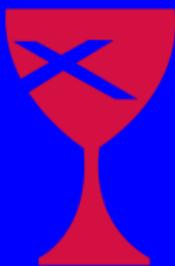


WESTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)



540 Washington Street
Weston, Missouri 64098
Office – (816) 640-2846
WestonChristianChurch@gmail.com
Website: westonchristian.org



Join us Sunday, April 2nd, for a
Hand Bell Concert
performed by
Chalice Bronze
of Raytown Christian Church
3:00 pm at
Weston Christian Church
Love Offering

*Easter Celebration and
Worship Service*
10:30 am, April 16th

*Weston Christian Church
presents...*

*Selections from
"Messiah"*

Join us!



Welcome to WCC's Newest Member...

WCC recently welcomed a new member to our church on March 26, 2017. We're so happy you've chosen us as your church family.



Praying on the Sevens for Lent

Please pray for our congregation and the people on our prayer list seven times a week at either 7:00 a.m. or p.m. (or any time that works for you.) Also, we gave out book marks at church that you may leave in your car, stick on your bathroom mirror or refrigerator, and/or in your cubicle at work to remind you to pray every time you see a seven on a clock (12:07, 2:17, etc.). Pray any prayer you'd like, but if you are stuck for what to pray, just say, "Here I Am, Lord." Let's do this practice together as a congregation for Lent. Also, consider a spiritual discipline for yourself during this sacred time of year.



April Sermons

April 2nd - "Where is God?"
Matthew 23:1-13

Holy Weeks

April 9th (Palm Sunday) - "Hosanna! Crucify! Why?"
Matthew 21:1-11

April 13th (Maundy Thursday) - Service begins at 6 pm and includes dinner for the whole family
Matthew 26:17-35

April 14th - Good Friday - 7:00 pm - WMA
Community Good Friday Service at Church of the Nazarene

April 15th - WCC Prayer Vigil - 6 am to 6 pm

April 16th - Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 am
"Experiencing Resurrection"
Matthew 27:62-28:10

Breakfast - 7:10 am
Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am

WCC Easter Celebration/Worship Service - 10:30 am
Selections from "Messiah"



April 23rd - "Just Literal"
Matthew 27:62-66; 28:11-15

April 30th - "Discipling"
Matthew 28:16-20
(last sermon on Matthew in our series)

Easter Cantata

The Canto Chorale will be performing an Easter cantata, "Behold the Lamb" with several WCC members singing. Dates and locations are as follows:

Sunday, April 2nd - 2:00 pm
Christ Chapel, Platte City, MO
Friday, April 7th - 7:30 pm
West Platte Performing Arts Center, Weston, MO
Sunday, April 9th - 3:00 pm
Wyatt Park Christian Church, St. Joseph, MO

Our identity statement:

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for **wholeness** in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

WCC's Legacy Fund...

You are invited to make a donation of any amount to our Legacy Fund in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Those donations will be listed in the Easter bulletin and will be entered into our Legacy Dedication Book for Easter 2017. Legacy funds are invested. Earnings from the Legacy Fund are transferred to the General Fund to support the church now and into the future. It offers a way for your loved one to continue to contribute to WCC.



Easter Decorations

Do you enjoy crafting? If you do, you're invited to help get decorations ready for Easter. The kids have already been working on this project during Children's Church. We'll finish preparations on Palm Sunday, April 9th, in the afternoon.



The following information was recently received from Tall Oaks...



ATTENTION ALL CHI RHO (6-7th Grade) Campers

There was an error in publishing!

The correct dates for Chi Rho Camp:

Chi Rho Camp (**NOT Music**) is Tuesday, July 4-Saturday, July 8, 2017

Chi Rho **MUSIC** Camp is Sunday, July 30-Thursday, August 3, 2017

To register online go to www.talloaks.org



Journey: Methods

Last month's article described our identity as it has been formed during our two years working with the "Journey." This month's topic is methods we have learned for more effective ministry. Since part of the Journey involves a lot of brainstorming, there is no way to name every method mentioned, but I will describe six things we have learned and one we have un-learned.

First, we had to unlearn the notion that changing ministers, changing music, or changing carpet would transform a congregation and make it healthier. Yes, cosmetic changes do and must happen over the course of the life of a church, because culture changes. Our church life expresses our community's relationship with God, and all relationships happen in cultural expressions. But, cosmetic changes empty of content are useless. Content is what matters now.

This first point seems obvious, but it is a major shift that has happened in my lifetime. For our younger readers I'll explain. When I was a child, "everyone" went to church. You met someone new and you got their name, occupation, where they lived (neighborhood, town) and where they went to church. In those days people who didn't attend church just needed to be wooed a little. "Come, see our renovation/new Fellowship Hall/the new curtains the ladies have made..." would be enough to get people back in the door. Then, you have a "great" event and they enjoy it and decide to come back. If you were running quality programs they were likely to get involved. After all, they felt guilty for not attending church, and they always intended to rear their kids in church. They had just fallen out of the habit.

None of that is true anymore. At all. Next month's article will address what I have learned about the culture we now have. Okay, let's press on with the six methods we have been working with through the Journey: Purpose, Empowerment, Agility, Drop It, Technology, and Communicate.

Keep Purpose Prominent

As individuals we strive to keep Jesus first in our lives. But, for each of us that would look a little different. See I Corinthians 12 for some of the different functions we each fulfill as parts of the body of Christ.

Similarly, all churches strive to keep Christ first, but each denomination and each congregation does that differently, according to our specific abilities, histories, resources, etc. That is why it was important to learn who we are and how to talk about it. See last month's Journey article for our current understanding of ourselves. The talking points are: family church, value high quality music, and we share our lives with each other through food and prayer.

Now we are able to consider new ideas and opportunities in light of our specific identity as a congregation. Obviously, whatever we do is done for the glory of God, for the furthering of Christ's kingdom, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. We also need to ask if a given proposal supports our missions of relationships of care across generations, builds on our tradition of good music, or fits with our emphasis on eating together and feeding others. If it is a cool idea, but doesn't seem to fit us, we can leave it for another time when it might fit better.

People no longer go to church to have something to do, to see friends, or out of obligation. We are a purpose-driven society. We do things that matter, because we don't have times for things that don't. Are our purposes strong enough to keep us engaged? Let me try this for a purpose statement, and you consider, is it strong enough?

The purpose of WCC is to follow Christ and do our spiritual work together across generations, with good music, and around Christ's table in worship, in our congregation, and in the world.

Empower Lay People to Minister

Back in the day, churches functioned in committee structures. These days, committees have become too cumbersome. In a family sized church like ours it isn't reasonable to expect seven people to meet monthly to discuss and plan each ministry of the congregation. Individuals need to have the authority to administrate their piece of the pie. I'd like to use Jeff Elsea as an example of how this works. He is our lay music director. The board establishes a budget for his department, and the congregation approves it. Then, he runs his own program. He manages his budget, orders his music, calls rehearsals, recruits and schedules accompanists, sends music events to Janet in the church office for the bulletin and church calendar, and he runs rehearsals. A lot of people cooperate with Jeff to make music happen, but he has the authority to administrate his program.

Most of our ministries work in a similar way, but we can all wake up and get better at it! I plan to do a much better job of referring people to the right administrator when questions arise about our various ministries. And, I invite our group/committee chairs to administrate their programs with input from their people, but in an agile way. Let's not get stuck in the mud waiting for the next committee meeting and the next board meeting before any action can be taken. Actions can be written up after the fact, and sent to the board president prior to each board meeting. We are congregationally governed, so members of the congregation do the administration of our ministries. The minister administrates worship. If a problem arises, we'll deal with it. If not, let ministry roll.

Be Agile: Prototype

This one is related to 2. We don't have to work out all the kinks and get agreement from everyone to do something. We can start where we are. We practiced this in the Journey with our 30 Day Challenge. We were challenged to do six things in 30 days, and we did! Even in the midst of apple dumpling production and sales, we managed to achieve the goal! How? You just do what you can with what you have *right now*. Start something new with an understanding that it will change and morph, and possibly disappear. That is okay.

We used this method for our "Jazz Service" in January, 2016. We scheduled it, advertised it, recruited musicians, came up with an order of worship, and had our first service of a new type and at a new time. In the 15 months since that first service we have discovered a few things. The Patriotic Service on Sunday morning at 10:30 on Memorial Weekend was our best attended and most talked about of the new services. We like involving kids in service and should use them more intentionally and more often. The Jazz format way of doing prayer has influenced how we do prayer in our Traditional Service. Not bad for just trying something and working with it.

We have also tried a few things that never got off the ground. I won't mention them here, but prototyping is an agile way to try something new without too much baggage about how it must be done "from now on." Doing it "for now" is all we ever really have.

Drop Something Often

We had to drop something in that early 30 Day Challenge. Can you name what it was? I can, and some of you might be able to, but most of us go along just fine without any pain over things whose day is done. At some point a kid realizes he has outgrown his tricycle. He doesn't really know when it happened, but when mom asks if he wants to give it to the little boy down the street, he shrugs and says, "Sure." It may have been his favorite thing when it fit him, but he doesn't need it anymore. There are no tears when we leave behind those things that no longer fit. We can remember the good old days without reliving them. We don't allow our congregation to be bogged down with yesterday's treasures. Appreciate them and let them go.

Think About Technology

This is a new age in the history of the world. We have no records of humans ever living with over-population, efficient global travel, and instant communication across great distances. Our phones, televisions, internet, social media, email, private jets, and personal cars are brand new... most in my lifetime. Nobody knows how to navigate this age of information. There is no ancient wisdom about unplugging. We're writing it now.

How can we use technology effectively in our efforts to follow Jesus together, doing our spiritual work across generations, with good music, and around tables? We might think about some dos and don'ts.

Do

Do offer a way for people to give financially online/from their phones.
Do offer a website and keep it up to date.
Do put video and audio on that website, if possible.
Do provide ways for people to connect with our congregation online: email roster, podcast, Facebook group, Zoom (the technology that allows Margaret to log in and join us during the service. Others can do that, too.), You Tube, blog, and/or anything that might help us interact with people outside of our building.

Don't

Don't substitute professionally produced media presence for real presence.
Don't assume everyone has access to or interest in every media outlet. That will change, soon!
Don't make it hard for people to connect.
Don't do everything online. Some things communicate in that media better than others. People don't want to sit through a video of the backs of heads and poor quality audio of local announcements, for example.

WCC has a technology group that is functioning and could use more help. If you have skills and/or interest in technology, contact Mike Edwards and come on board. Right now we have: Francie manages Zoom. Janet Adams (office assistant) sets up Media Shout, several folks run it during church. Jackson Groves posts flyers, announcements, and pictures to Facebook. Several other people also post to Facebook. Francie posts on You Tube. Janet Adams and Lauren Carpenter take care of our website. We have more work to do with technology, but we are aware and are working on it.

Communicate Seven Ways

Because we live in the Information Age, we all receive more information than we can handle. It is causing stress and illness and feelings of inadequacy and failure. We forget appointments, never realize that an event is coming up, and even lose personal correspondence from people close to us as they drown in a sea of email or Facebook notifications. Communication is both easier and harder than ever before. The Journey recommends we use seven ways to get out our message. In WCC we use Media Shout, the bulletin, the newsletter, Facebook, email, flyers around town/signs, and texting. The idea is that people will find the information in the way(s) that work for them. Most of our communication is electronic, as you can see from that list. So, please help us call those who don't have computers, internet access, or smart phones. Keep communication flowing. Don't assume people know or remember things. Keep telling them.

That is it for this month's efforts to reflect on our Journey experiences. Next month I'll write more about our current culture and what that might mean for ministry.

See you then!
Mary

Coming up...

May 14th—Mother's Day; Local Graduation
June 4th—Pentecost, Guest Speaker

What's happening in...



	9:30 am—Adult Sunday School
	10:10 am—Greeters
	10:30 am—Worship Service
	Tuesdays, 6:30 am—Men's Bible Study
	Wednesdays, 7:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal
	**Thursdays—Tai Chi—5:15 pm - arthritis/balance
	6:15 pm - challenging
4/2	3:00 pm - Hand Bell Concert
4/3	4:30 pm - Micah Ministry at IBCC
4/4	9:30 am - Yoga in Fellowship Hall
4/9	PALM SUNDAY
4/11	7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal (Messiah)
4/13	6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service (includes dinner)
	7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal (Messiah)
4/14	7:00 pm - WMA Community Good Friday Service
	Weston Community Church of the Nazarene
4/15	6:00 am-6:00 pm - Prayer Vigil
4/16	EASTER
	6:30 am - Sunrise Service
	7:10 am - Easter Breakfast
	9:30 am - Adult Sunday School
	10:30 am - Easter Celebration/Worship
4/18	9:30 am - Yoga in Fellowship Hall
4/19	10:00 am - "In His Service" Soup Ministry
4/24	6:30 pm - Regional Board Meeting at East Gate CC

**** Tai Chi cancelled on 4/13 due to Maundy Thursday Svc.**

UMKC Conservatory of Music & Dance PUBLIC PURCHASE

UMKC Conservatory of Music & Dance had the use of new first-class pianos and digital pianos on a no-cost basis for the 2016-17 school year. This ongoing arrangement is provided through a partnership with the Rockley Family Foundation, recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. These instruments, instruments provided to other institutions and instruments made available by our manufacturing partners, will be sold to perpetuate this valuable program and provide scholarship money for music students.

A large selection of grands, baby grands, digital player grands, vertical (upright) pianos, digital pianos, keyboards and orchestral strings will be available. This event will feature instruments from such famous makers as **Steinway & Sons, Yamaha, Seiler, Pramberger, Bardwin, Roland, Kurzweil, Stravari Fine Violins and many others.** Most instruments are less than one year old, include a new factory warranty, are tuned and ready to go.

Delivery and special no-interest financing will be available on site. Moreover, in most cases, a "substantial portion" of your purchase is considered as a charitable contribution to the Rockley Family Foundation and may be **tax deductible***

There are two ways to view and purchase:

1. **BY APPOINTMENT:** You are invited to a special "private sale" on **Thursday, March 30th, Friday, March 31st and the morning of Saturday, Apr. 1st**, along with UMKC's faculty & staff prior to the general public. To secure a time, call: **816-235-6966.**
2. **FINAL DAY:** Final sale day on Saturday, April 1st from 2:00 pm-5:00 pm without an appointment.

This event will be held in the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center, 4949 Cherry Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2229. Metered parking is available in the lot at the corner of 50th & Oak. For directions, please call or link to <http://www.umkc.edu/maps/>



Easter Reflections

With OUR EYES we see
The beauty of Easter
as the earth awakens once more...

With OUR EARS we hear
The birds sing sweetly
to tell us Spring again is here...

With OUR HANDS we pick
the golden daffodils
and the fragrant hyacinths...

But only with OUR HEARTS
can we feel the MIRACLE of GOD'S LOVE
which redeems all men...

And only with OUR SOUL
can we make our 'pilgrimage to God'
and inherit His Easter Gift of ETERNAL LIFE.

~ Helen Steiner Rice

HE IS
Risen!

HE IS RISEN
INDEED!

stlukeca.org

April Church Calendar

Today
<
>
April 2017
Day
Week
Month
4 Days
Agenda
More ▾
⚙️

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School ↪️ 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service 1:30p Museum Hosts	27 4:30p Micah Ministry-Indep. Blvd. Christian	28 6:30 Mens Bible Study	29 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	30 5:15p Tai Chi-Arthritis 6:15p Tai Chi	31 Apr 1	
2 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School ↪️ 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service 3p Handbell Concert-featuring handbell cho	3 4:30p Micah Ministry-Indep. Blvd. Christian	4 6:30 Mens Bible Study	5 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	6 5:15p Tai Chi-Arthritis 6:15p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	7 8 8 Community Prayer Breakfast-CANCELED	
9 Palm Sunday 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School ↪️ 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	10 6:30 Mens Bible Study 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	11 6:30 Mens Bible Study 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	12 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday 5:15p Tai Chi-Arthritis 6p Maundy Thursday Service-family dinner 6:15p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	14 15 7p WMA Community Good Friday Service-C 6 Prayer Vigil	
16 Easter Sunday 6:30 Easter Sunrise Service 7:10 Easter Breakfast 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School +2 more	17 6:30 Mens Bible Study 9:30 Yoga - Fellowship Hall	18 6:30 Mens Bible Study 9:30 Yoga - Fellowship Hall	19 10 "In His Service" Soup Ministry (workers a 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	20 5:15p Tai Chi-Arthritis 6:15p Tai Chi	21 22	
23 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School ↪️ 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	24 6:30p Regional Board Meeting	25 6:30 Mens Bible Study 9:30 Yoga - Fellowship Hall	26 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	27 5:15p Tai Chi-Arthritis 6:15p Tai Chi	28 29	
30 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School ↪️ 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	May 1 4:30p Micah Ministry-Indep. Blvd. Christian	2 6:30 Mens Bible Study 9:30 Yoga - Fellowship Hall	3 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	4 5:15p Tai Chi-Arthritis 6:15p Tai Chi	5 6	