

WESTON
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)



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Weston, Missouri 64098
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Applefest Success and Fun!

*Thanks to teamwork and lots of good leadership, our apple dumplings sold out again this year.
Good job, everybody!*



We are so blessed to have such a dedicated team of hard workers that really care for Weston Christian Church! We thank everyone for their dedication and jumping in to do whatever it takes! Apple dumplings are a big part of the fellowship and friendship at church!

The partnership we have with Platte County Juvenile Authority is such a huge part of our ministry and the kids are doing community service by participating in apple dumplings. They talk about how welcome and how important they feel! We couldn't do it without them or you! This ministry was a huge success in so many ways.

Thank you all!



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.

Jubilee

September 25th

Our Jubilee Celebration Sunday was well attended, with most folks staying for our congregational conversation and potluck dinner. Thanks to our member for the pork and everyone for participating.

The sermon was about the practice of forgiving all debts and allowing debtors a fresh start or a "re-boot." From time to time it is good for church folks to be offered a chance to let go of previous commitments and start fresh. We asked that each of us who calls our congregation home to pray about God's call for our congregation and our individual parts of that call. How much should we pledge for our tithe this year? Is God calling us to give a special "legacy" gift? Are we called to physically work on improvements to our buildings/grounds, or to give a special financial gift for capital improvements? How are we called to support our growing kids and families? Is there a friend or neighbor God is nudging that we need to invite?

Jubilee Worship Service

We continue our "Journey" practice of agility as we allow our music worship service to change and evolve. Our newest incarnation was held on Jubilee Day. Our music ensemble is now named "Grace Notes." Services featuring them are now called "Notes of Grace." For this service, we also had special guest singer. Look for the next Notes of Grace Service on October 30, at 10:30 a.m., with one of our members preaching.



Grace Notes Ensemble



Jubilee (con't.)...Call for Stewardship

Weston Christian Church is people. Even though that is obvious, it may be worth mentioning from time to time. It is the members of the congregation, the regular attenders, the brand new visitors, and the long time, multi-generational families that make us who we are. We don't ask anyone to give beyond the grace God gives them, but we do ask each of us to seriously pray, examine our own lives, and respond out of the gifts God has freely given.

See pages 3 and 4 for our stewardship pledge card and ministries checklist. Pray, fill them out, and please return them by November 13 or November 20. God bless you as you consider your call to ministry among us.



Jubilee (con't.)...Congregational Conversation



After church we heard a three part presentation about the state of our budget, what legacy giving can do for

our long term ministry, and what the future can hold. First, our board president showed us the hard numbers. Giving is down significantly from one year ago. Some long time tithers have died, and their gifts have stopped flowing in. We need to change our budget to reflect actual giving. So, our options are:

1. Spend legacy gifts on monthly budget needs
2. Receive more in the offerings
3. Spend less money (give up full time minister, for example)
4. Invest more money to gain more investment income; comes with risk of market fluctuations
5. Do more fund raising (apple dumplings bring in a significant portion of our budget needs each year)

We called this a congregational conversation, because we need the information to flow both ways. Board members need to hear your thoughts about these options.

Next, Mary brought information from the previous Tuesday evening's meeting with a representative from our denomination's financial ministries department. She explained that people prefer to give legacy gifts when there is a clear policy in place for how those gifts will be used.

Currently we have an "Endowment" that earns income each year. The stewardship committee determines how those earnings will be spent or re-invested. So far the endowment has given college scholarships totaling \$3000. By our rules, up to 50% of earnings can go to the general budget each year, but the principal cannot be spent without congregational action.

We also have legacy gift money invested in non-endowment funds, earning income, and some legacy money in CDs, not earning income. The board needs to set the rules for the money in those accounts. So far we have been spending it as needed for the budget. Our expert recommends that we make a policy protecting the principal. She said it is fine to create a "Permanent Fund" in which legacy gifts are invested and earnings are spent in the general budget. She told us not to "eat our seed corn." By protecting the original gift, the giver keeps giving for the life of the congregation.

That idea makes good sense, but is perhaps too lofty for us right now. We might need a few years of transition. Perhaps we could have a policy of spending up to 20% of legacy gifts in 2017, 10% in 2018, 5% in 2019, and protecting the corpus of all future legacy gifts beginning in 2020, or some version of such a plan. Our expert is coming back to preach at WCC on February 12, and will stay after to visit with us more about legacy giving.

Finally, one member presented a slide show of the many and varied ministries of our congregation. She asked us to see how the congregation is growing in meaningful ministry and how our future is bright. We must not become discouraged about budget concerns. Yes, each of us must pray and respond to God's call on our resources, but we mustn't think the end is near. God is moving in this congregation. Let us trust God and move forward.



*My church is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,
if I invite and bring them.
It will be a church
of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith,
and a church with a noble spirit,
if I, who make it what it is,
am filled with these same things.
Therefore, with the help of God,
I shall dedicate myself
to the task
of being all the things
that I want my church to be.*

2015 Weston Christian Church

– I make a *Difference!* –

Stewardship Pledge

I/we would like to make a difference by offering my/our time and talents to the ministries of the Weston Christian Church in the following areas

Put a **P** in the blank if you want to be a participant in the area.

Put an **L** in the blank if you are interested in Leading or Co-Leading in this area:

If more than one person is included in this pledge, add initials to indicate who is volunteering.

- ☐ Adult education ☐ Bible study ☐ Candle lighter ☐ Children's Church/Education
- ☐ Children's Music ☐ Choir ☐ Congregation Connection & Communications
- ☐ Community/Hospitality Events ☐ Computer – Facebook/Website ☐ Computer
- ☐ CWF ☐ Deacon ☐ Elder ☐ Devotion Line Ministry ☐ Endowment
- ☐ Evangelism ☐ Finance/Stewardship committee ☐ Gardening ☐ Greeter
- ☐ Hospitality ☐ Lay-reader ☐ Legal Issues/Advice ☐ Nursery ☐ Office Volunteer
- ☐ Outreach ☐ Visiting/email/phone to Elderly/sick/homebound ☐ Pastoral Relations
- ☐ Prayer Chain ☐ Property care ☐ Small Group/Prayer group ☐ Sound/Video
- ☐ Soup Service ☐ VBS Vac Bible School ☐ Worship Committee ☐ Youth Group


My favorite way to help: _____

I want try something new in the area of: _____

Name(s) _____

Contact phone/address/email _____

2015 Financial Stewardship – I make a *Difference!*



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I help make it what it is.
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Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes,
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Weston Christian Church

My pledge for 2015 is (Used for budgetary purposes):

\$_____ Per week

\$_____ Per month

\$_____ Per year

Your pledge is 1) tax deductible 2) Can be increased/decreased throughout the year

Name
(optional)_____

Stewardship
Summit
October 29th



2016 Stewardship Summit will be held at Lee's Summit Christian Church from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Bruce Barkhauer, Executive Director of the Center for Faith and Giving will be in our Greater Kansas City region to provide the keynote session. Following lunch there will be a variety of workshop sessions to attend. The Stewardship Summit is sponsored by the Christian Church (DOC) of Greater Kansas City and the Center for Faith and Giving.

Cost: \$25.00/per person,
or \$100 per Congregational Team

**"Journey"
Congregational Gathering**



Our next Journey event as a congregation will be at Pleasant View Christian Church, Sunday, November 6, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. They brought a nice group here when we hosted, so please plan to participate in theirs. We can car pool after church and have a good time together.

We'll know much more about this gathering after our clergy planning time next week. Right now it looks like similar ministry teams from each church will gather with one another to share what works and what doesn't. Examples of ministry teams would be youth work, technology, stewardship, worship, music, food/hospitality, outreach ministries. If you want your ministry included, please send Mary an email before Sunday, October 9.

*Tall Oaks Gala ~ November 11th
Arrowhead Stadium ~ North Club*

Stadium Tours—5:45 pm
Silent Auction & Fellowship—6:00 pm
Buffet Dinner followed by Live Auction—7:30 pm

All for the benefit of Tall Oaks Camp & Conference Center, a ministry of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City
www.talloaks.org

For more information about the Gala call Kenny Funk '913-301-3004

Tall Oaks has served our community by hosting:

1. Specialized summer camps for young persons with Muscular Dystrophy, Juvenile Diabetes, Sickle Cell Disease, Autism & Asperber's Syndrome, Foster Kids and a Grief camp for kids.
2. Many sessions of Christian Summer Camp experiences for children and youth ages 6-18+, camps for Grandparents and their Grandkids.
3. Numerous men's and women's retreats, company business meetings, clergy workshops, family reunions, weddings, school retreats, and college groups.

Reservations:
Ken Mohler
816-444-1553
kmohler@swbell.net

Childcare Reservations:
Stacy Kearney
734-968-9289
stacykearney@yahoo.com

Auction Donations:
Annette Hollingsworth Sherry Radcliff
913-268-1400
mackh@kc.rr.com srad5000@aol.com



Mary's Moment...

I love church. I know I say it most Sunday mornings, but it is true. How do people function without a church family? I can't fathom it.

I've been intimately involved in whatever congregation I've been called to my entire life. First, I grew up with a minister father, attending everything appropriate for my age. Then, I went off to college and found ways to be involved in church there. I never had the common experience of stepping away from church in young adulthood, only to come back later. I never left. Perhaps that makes me out of touch with our friends and neighbors in the outside-the-church world. Or, perhaps that makes me understand the benefits of church involvement. I don't know.

I do know that participating fully in a congregation keeps my mind and heart active in spiritual things. I'm more likely to pray for others as we share our concerns with each other. I'm more likely to read the Bible, or at least hear scriptures read aloud. I'm more likely to serve other people. All of these things help keep my own little me-world in perspective. Problems don't loom as large. I don't feel isolated. Depression is less likely to take hold.

Yes, I've been hurt in church. Sometimes betrayal by Christian friends hurts worse than similar experiences in the world. Sometimes I've let others down in my congregations. I've had highs and lows in church. It isn't all deeply meaningful and beautiful. Sometimes it is hard work. Sometimes it is plum disappointing. But, it is life!

I love each of you and value your involvement in each other's lives. We are not perfect, but we are a whole lot better together than each one alone. Don't be afraid to invite a friend to church. There is life here. Let's do it together.

Blessings,
Mary



FYI - Mary will be attending a "Journey" Clergy event from the afternoon of October 9th through October 11th.

She will then be taking a vacation from October 18th through November 4th.



Mary Enters Spiritual Director's School

It is my pleasure to tell the congregation that on September 16-17 I began a course of study called "Souljourners." The classes are held at St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kansas. It is ecumenical. Several Disciples ministers have had this training.

We meet one weekend per month (Friday-Saturday), September – May, and one week in June for two years. Then, the third year begins with a silent retreat and pre-practicum, followed by nine months of supervised practicum, including three weekend gatherings. When I complete the three year program, I will receive a certificate of completion, which serves as validation that I am a trained "Spiritual Director."

Continued in next column...

Spiritual Director...

Spiritual Directors meet one-on-one or with small groups for intentional listening for the Holy Spirit's guidance in the directee's life. Often times, spiritual directors work in clinical settings beside pastoral counselors and psycho therapists. The work is similar in its confidentiality, personal attention for a one hour session, and healing aspects, but is not medical/clinical in nature. Spiritual direction is not about solving problems. It is about interpreting messages from the Holy Spirit. Many people find themselves in repeating patterns and need help interpreting the spiritual lessons. Spiritual directors ask questions and encourage directees to engage in specific spiritual practices to come to new understandings of what God is doing in them.

I am very excited about this new opportunity for learning and engagement with this ministry! ~ Mary



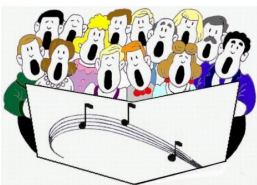
October 2nd - "Bread of Life" - John 6:48-58
(World Communion Sunday)

October 9th - "The Growing Edge" - James 1:1-11

October 16th - "You Are a Jewell" - Matthew 7:1-6

October 23rd - "Aha! The Moments that Shape Us"
Proverbs 2:6
Guest Preacher

October 30th - "Love, The Holy Spirit"
Guest Preacher



Reminder...

There will be four choir rehearsals for our "Messiah" performance coming up in November.

November 11th-7 pm
November 16th-(WOMEN ONLY)-7:30 pm
November 17th-(MEN ONLY)-7 pm
November 22nd-7 pm.

These are in addition to the rehearsals for our regular services.



What's happening in...

October

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*

10/1-2 Weston "Apple Fest"
10/3 4:30 pm - Micah Ministry at IBCC
10/4 9:30 am - Yoga in Fellowship Hall
10/8 8:00 am—Community Prayer Breakfast at Weston Church of the Nazarene
10/9-11 4:30 pm on 10/9 - Mary - "Journey" Event
10/10 Columbus Day
10/18 9:30 am - Yoga in Fellowship Hall
10/19 11:30 am - "In His Service" Soup Ministry
10/24 6:30 pm - Regional Board Meeting at Eastgate CC
10/31 Halloween



West Platte 55+ Senior Center Opened September 29th

Jack and Ruth Ann DeSelms are happy to announce the opening of West Platte 55+ Senior Center, LLC at the Bluejay Complex, 113 Washington Street, Weston, MO.

Hours are 9 am to 1 pm. Entertainment will be speakers, singing, playing cards, dominoes, and bingo.

Our objective is to provide the Weston area senior, 55+, with a meeting area for social interaction and entertainment and share information relating to seniors.



**Tuesday
November 8
2016**



"LISTEN!
The wind is rising, *and*
the *air* is wild with
leaves,
We have had our
summer evenings, now
for **OCTOBER** eves!"

Humbert Wolfe

atthepicketfence.com



New Market Christian Church Ham & Turkey Supper & Auction



Where: New Market Christian Church Fellowship Hall

When: Saturday, October 15, 2016

Time: 4:30-7:00 pm—serving meals buffet style

Price: Donation

Menu: Bone-in country ham, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, noodles, salads, dessert & drink

Musical Entertainment: Matt Snook from 5-7 pm

Auction starts at 7:30 pm

Auction conducted by J&J Auction Service

CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE ~VALET PARKING AVAILABLE

**Miscellaneous
Items**

CRAFTS

**10 tons driveway
rock delivered**

**Blue jean
quilt**

**Gift
Baskets**

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

GIRLS NIGHT OUT



featuring

#1 New York Times Bestselling Author

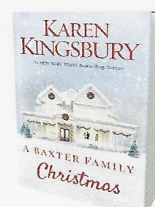
KAREN
KINGSBURY

and special guests

KELSEY &
KYLE KUPECKY



*A night of faith, laughter,
music & inspiration!*



KARENKINGSBURY.COM



Celebrating Karen's new
novel in stores Oct. 25

New Life Church - Oak Grove Kansas City, MO

7 pm ~ Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Ticket Prices: *(Additional fees apply.)*

VIP: \$100.00 *Includes photo opp w/ Karen, signed copy
of her new book, Q&A w/ Karen, early entry & preferred seating!

Preferred: \$35.00 *Includes Q&A w/ Karen, early entry, preferred seating

General Admission: \$20.00

Groups of 10+: \$15.00, plus 1 FREE!



Internet Sales: PremierProductions.com

Ticket Outlet: Church office

Group Sales: PremierProductions.com

For More Information: (816) 690-3514

For Ticketing Questions: Email
support@premierproductions.com



October Church Calendar

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October 2016

Today

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Day

Week

Month

4 Days

Agenda

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Calendar Icons

W

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 Weston CC Jubilee 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	26 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	27 6:30 Mens Bible Study 9:30 Yoga - Fellowship Hall	28 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	29	30 Applefest	Oct 1 Applefest
2 Applefest 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	3 4:30p Micah Ministry-Indep. Blvd. Christian 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	4 6:30 Mens Bible Study 9:30 Yoga - Fellowship Hall	5 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 8 Community Prayer Breakfast-Community Fellowship
9 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	10 Columbus Day (regional holiday) 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	11 6:30 Mens Bible Study	12 8:30 WMA Pastors' Meeting-Weston Cafe 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	17	18 Mary - Vacation 6:30 Mens Bible Study 9:30 Yoga - Fellowship Hall	19 11:30 "In His Service" Soup Ministry 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 Mary - Vacation 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 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	25 6:30 Mens Bible Study	26 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29
30 Mary - Vacation 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	31 Halloween 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:15 WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30 WCC Worship Service	Nov 1 6:30 Mens Bible Study 9:30 Yoga - Fellowship Hall	2 7p Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5