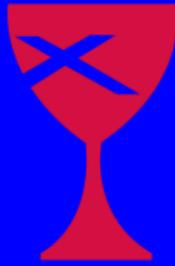


WESTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)



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THE GREATEST GIFT

For many centuries, the church has identified the beginning of the Christmas season with a time for reflection and expectation called Advent.

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival” and when used in conjunction with Christmas, reminds us of the anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. Advent is a time to remind us of the anticipation, expectation, and waiting held over hundreds of years by the people of Israel. Waiting, with patience, for their Messiah and promised King.

We mark Advent in most Christian churches with the display of a wreath. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God. The circle has no beginning or ending, reminding us of God’s mercy – endless and endless. The wreath is evergreen- reminding us of the hope for eternal life.

The four outer candles represent the time of waiting and preparation for the Messiah during the four Sundays of Advent. The candles are traditionally purple or blue, pink, and white and they are lit in the following order; purple, purple, pink, purple, white. The first is called “the candle of hope”. It symbolizes faith in God keeping his promises to humanity. The second candle is called the “candle of preparation”, reminding Christians to “get ready” to receive God. The third, or pink, candle is the “candle of joy”. It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. The fourth is “the candle of peace” which reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to earth and celebrate the announcement of the coming King. The white candle in the center of the wreath is often called “the Christ candle”. It symbolizes the fulfillment of this promise.

The light of the candles reminds us of Christ and prophesy in the Bible that promises his coming.

The Christmas season is a busy, stressful time. Many of us are overwhelmed with obligation and extra work.

Take the time to come to church during Advent. When you see an Advent candle lit, take a moment to pause, take a deep breath, and use that one moment in your busy week to practice the hard discipline of waiting, patience, and expectation of the Joy of Christ.



**Annual Congregational Meeting
December 17th ~ after church**

**EVERYONE is invited to attend
and participate!**



Weston Candlelight Homes Tour December 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Once again, WCC is selling
apple dumplings during the
Candlelight Homes Tour.
This is always a fun and festive
time. If you would like
to help please join us!

RIGHT NOW MEDIA



The Church Board recently opted to continue this service that was first offered in April of last year. At that time, Pastor Mary sent an email invitation to each congregational member inviting them to log-on to rightnowmedia.org and create their own log-in and password to start using these free online resources.

As a user of Right Now Media you can participate in meaningful Bible studies geared to groups or individuals, women’s studies, men’s studies, Youth-oriented studies, children’s programming (such as “Veggie Tales”), marriage enhancement, Biblical finances, History, and the list goes on... Take advantage of this valuable tool to enrich and expand your personal walk with God.

If it’s been awhile since you’ve accessed their website, your log-on still works. If you never completed your log-on process and/or have forgotten your password, you can log-on to their website (above) and click “Forgot Password”. A new, temporary password will be issued and you can complete your log-on process. If you inadvertently deleted Mary’s email, watch your Inbox in December for a new invitation to join! WCC is offering this as a FREE service to WCC members.

A NOTE OF THANKS...

Dear Ones — Thank you so much for the lovely send-off. It was a wonderful meal and I really appreciate your thoughtful cards and gifts. Love you lots! Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love, Mary and Dino



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.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us on Christmas Eve at 10 pm
for our annual Candlelight Service.

Enjoy Candlelight, Carols and
Communion

“Pastoral Piece”

“Christmas Time is Here,
Happiness and Cheer
Fun for all that Children call
their favorite time of year.”



From the song “Christmas Time Is Here” by Vince Girardi

I love the beginning of the Christmas Season. The mood seems a little lighter, even as the temperatures get a little colder. There are office parties and holiday celebrations. Kansas City provides us with some wonderful holiday experiences that have become traditions for many families. The Ballet’s performances of “The Nutcracker Suite” or the KC Repertory Theater’s production of Charles Dicken’s “A Christmas Carol.” Oh, let’s not forget The Plaza Lights.

Locally, we have The Home’s Tour, Christmas Cantata’s sung by church choirs or our own Platte County Canto Choral. It’s often a much anticipated event to visit Fulk’s Tree Farm to select a Christmas tree. Decorating, with lights and ornaments, often bring back happy memories of loved ones and celebrations from our past.

The Christmas season gives us many reasons to be joyful, but for some of our friends and loved ones, the season is anything but joyful. Loss, loneliness, and unpleasant memories, are all reasons that make this season a difficult time for many. If you or a loved one is struggling for whatever reason, here are a few suggestions that may help you find some enjoyment.

Keep your expectations modest. Don’t get hung up on what the holidays are *supposed* to be like or how you’re *supposed* to feel. If you’re comparing your holidays to some abstract greeting card ideal, they’ll always come up short. So don’t worry about holiday spirit and take the holidays as they come.

Do something different. This year, does the prospect of the usual routine fill you with holiday dread rather than holiday joy? If so, don’t surrender to it. Try something different. Spend Christmas day at the movie theater or treat a friend to Christmas Eve dinner at a restaurant. Get your family to agree to skip gifts and instead donate the money to a charity.

Forget the unimportant stuff. Don’t run yourself ragged just to live up to holiday tradition. So what if you don’t get the lights on the roof this year? So what if you don’t get the special Christmas mugs from the crawl space? They are just things. Real joy comes from personal satisfaction

Volunteer. Sure, you may feel stressed out and booked up already. But consider taking time to help people who have less than you. Try volunteering at a soup kitchen or working for a toy drive. Focusing on others is a good way to feel better

Exercise. While you may not feel like you have the time to exercise during the holidays, the benefits are worth it. You can work physical activity into your errands. When you’re shopping, take a few extra laps around the mall. Walk your Christmas cards to the post office instead of driving.

Eat sensibly. When you’re facing a dozen holiday parties and family gatherings between now and New Year’s, it’s hard to stay committed to a sensible diet. But try. Eating healthy may keep you feeling better -- physically and emotionally. On the other hand, don’t beat yourself up if you go overboard on the cookie platter in the break room. It’s not a big deal. Just get back on track the next day.

Lean on your support system. If you’ve been depressed, you need a network of close friends and family to turn to when things get tough. So, during the holidays, take time to get together with your support team regularly -- or at least keep in touch by phone so you can stay centered.

Don’t assume the worst. Don’t start the holiday season anticipating disaster. If you try to take the holidays as they come and limit your expectations -- both good and bad -- you may enjoy them more.

Give yourself a break. All of us have things we regret. Those words we did or didn’t say. Our imperfections or mistakes all too often creep up at this time of year. Let them go. You are only human and there are more good things about you than you realize.

PRAYER. I leave this for last, but perhaps it is the most important coping tool of all. Spending time in prayer helps you connect with our Lord, who loves you unconditionally and understands everything about you. It can be a healing and renewing experience on many levels. Prayer can be a reverent, purposeful action, but it can also be mentally offering gratitude to God or thankful praise for anything that you see or experience that is good.

I want to wish all of you the happiest of holidays in whatever way you chose to celebrate them. May you truly experience the Peace and Love that is offered so generously, by our Lord and others, during the celebration of this Holy Season.

** Suggestions taken from American Mental Health Association

Children/Youth Christmas Program



The Worship committee decided to present the Children/Youth Christmas Program in a little different format this year. Each Sunday during Advent, a young person will perform a monologue, participate in a skit or offer a reading which will be representative of Biblical characters involved in the birth of Jesus. The Skits and Monologues will include music performed during the presentation by soloists or the Weston Christian Church Choir.

December 3—“Just a Candle.” The skit is an informative drama about the tradition of the Advent Candle and explains the significance of each candle and the wreath.

December 10—Monologues from the view point of the Angel who announced the Birth of Christ and Inn Keeper who housed Mary and Joseph in the Stables.

December 17—Monologues as Mary and Joseph. They will be describing their feeling and the circumstances they had to face as the parents of Jesus. We will have a guest soloist for this event.

December 24—Monologue as a Shepherd explaining the Shepherd’s importance economically in that era and the act of faith that prompted the shepherds to go and find the Christ child.



**Community Prayer Breakfast
January 13th**



WCC is hosting!
Everyone is invited to attend.
Let's have a great turnout.



September Attendance:

	3rd	10th	17th	24th
Church	?	33	24	26
Sunday School	?	6	1	1
Children's Church	?	4	7	7

October Attendance:

	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Church	20	26	27	40	49
Sunday School	5	7	7	9	7
Children's Church	1	3	4	7	8

November Attendance:

	5th	12th	19th	26th
Church	31	33	48	28
Sunday School	6	7	7	8
Children's Church	5	5	7	3

**Submit Prayer Requests to
Church Office**

Please submit your prayer requests to the Church office on a weekly basis, either by email or by telephoning the church office at 640-2846. THANKS!!!

December Sermons

December 3rd—Terry Barnes
"Out of Control"
Luke 21:25-28

December 10th—"Be Still"
Psalm 46

December 17th—"Forgiveness"
Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 6:14; Matthew 22:36-40;
2 Corinthians 5:16-20; Ephesians 4:31-32

December 24th (morning service)—Doug Reece
"What Will You Do With Your Gift?"
Isaiah 9:6 (NIV); John 3:16-17 (NIV)
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—candlelight, carols &
Communion

December 31st (New Year's Eve)—Doug Reece
"Chase the Lion"

What's happening in...



- Sundays, 9:30 am—Adult Sunday School
- Sundays, 10:10 am—Greeters
- Sundays, 10:15 am—WCC Church Zoom Meeting
- Sundays, 10:30 am—Worship Service
- Tuesdays, 6:30 am—Men's Bible Study
- Wednesdays, 7:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal

- 12/2-3 Weston Homes Tour-WCC selling dumplings
- 12/5 9:30 am—Yoga in Fellowship Hall
- 12/17 11:30 am—Annual Congregational Meeting
- 12/19 9:30 am—Yoga in Fellowship Hall
- 12/20 10:00 am—"In His Service" Soup Ministry
- 12/24 10:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 12/31 New Year's Eve

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

December Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 ● 9:30am Adult Sunday School ○ 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting ● 10:30am WCC Worship Service ● 2pm "Messiah" with Reception follow	27	28 ● 6:30am Mens Bible Study ● 9:30am Yoga - Fellowship Hall	29 ○ 7:30pm Choir practice	30	1 5pm Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour	2
3 5pm Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour ● 9:30am Adult Sunday School ○ 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting ● 10:30am WCC Worship Service	4	5 ● 6:30am Mens Bible Study ● 9:30am Yoga - Fellowship Hall	6 ● 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9
10 ● 9:30am Adult Sunday School ○ 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting ● 10:30am WCC Worship Service	11	12 ● 6:30am Mens Bible Study	13 ● 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 ● 9:30am Adult Sunday School ○ 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting ● 10:30am WCC Worship Service-Child ● 11:30am Congregational Annual Mee	18	19 ● 6:30am Mens Bible Study ● 9:30am Yoga - Fellowship Hall	20 ● 10am "In His Service" Soup Ministry / ● 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve ● 9:30am Adult Sunday School ○ 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting ● 10:30am WCC Worship Service ● 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Ser	25 Christmas Day	26 ● 6:30am Mens Bible Study	27 ● 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve ● 9:30am Adult Sunday School ○ 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting ● 10:30am WCC Worship Service	1 New Year's Day	2 ● 6:30am Mens Bible Study ● 9:30am Yoga - Fellowship Hall	3 ● 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6

