



weston
christian
church
(Disciples of Christ)



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



We invite you to join us as the
Weston Christian Church Choir and Guests
perform selections from

Handel's

MESSIAH

Sunday, December 1, 2019

540 Washington Street, Weston, Missouri

2:00 pm

Reception Following

Weston's Candlelight Homes Tour

WCC is once again on the Homes Tour as we welcome guests into our beautiful Sanctuary. We will have live musicians scheduled to perform both days. We do still have some openings so please contact Melissa if you would like to perform. We are desperately in need of people to work in these various areas during tour: **Greeters**—you are the “face” of Weston Christian Church so we definitely need people to greet our tour guests as they first enter the church. You can direct them to the history room or they can sit in the pews and listen to the music. Then direct them downstairs for refreshments or out through the new addition so they can see the tree. **Workers are needed to serve apple dumplings and drinks, to clear and clean tables and someone needs to be in charge of taking money.**

This is a busy time of year but Weston's Homes Tour is a BIG event for Weston and for US. It allows us to share our beautiful church and gives people an opportunity to get to know us as a congregation a little better. There will be a sign-up sheet for both days of the tour on the card table adjacent to the sanctuary. Please sign up to do one of the above tasks. As we did during Apple Fest, if everyone pitches in for awhile the load is easier on us 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.



Presents for the 2019 Christmas Season

Love
Made a
Way

The Journey of Christmas

Mary McDonald and Jay Rouse
Narrations Created by Rose Aspinall

Darrell Willson, Conducting
Orchestra & Choir

- FRIDAY DECEMBER 6 7:30 PM SALEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
30105 Salem Rd, Weston, MO
- SUNDAY DECEMBER 8 3:00 PM WILSON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
with PLATTE CITY COMMUNITY BAND
1501 Branch St, Platte City, MO
- FRIDAY DECEMBER 13 7:30 PM EDGERTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH
201 W Frank St, Edgerton, MO
- SUNDAY DECEMBER 15 3:00 PM WYATT PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2623 Mitchell Ave, St. Joseph, MO
- FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 7:30 PM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
214 Ferrel St, Platte City, MO

For information call 816-522-8934

or visit our Canto Chorale Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CantoChorale

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 15TH TO VOTE ON 2020'S BUDGET



Per the announcement made at church Sunday, November 24th, one of our college students has extended a request on behalf of the Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity for musical toys to be donated to hospitalized children. Our student will be in church Sunday, December 1st, to accept donations and donations can be brought to the church the weekend of December 7-8 for delivery to the campus.



December 15th

will be a busy and important day for us!

The Children's Christmas Program

will be included in the worship service, followed by our annual

Congregational Meeting.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Immediately after the Congregational Meeting, we'll have

Community Christmas Caroling.

Then in the late afternoon there will be a **Holiday get-together for our "Aged to Perfection" and "Rose Vine" groups.**

This get-together will include a meal (provided) and entertainment. This starts at 4:30 pm in the church fellowship hall. **Please RSVP regarding the get-together to the church office.**



A note from Cindy...

The beginnings of Advent —

It is really a tough battle to keep our eyes on Jesus during this busy and often distracting season. Yes, there are great moments to celebrate: the joy of gift giving, the connecting once again with family members and friends, the generosity that is evoked when we remember and care about those who are on the margins. I always feel especially grateful for the beauty of Christmas lights and the reminder that Jesus is the One who brought more light into our world.

So how will we do this season a little differently this year? What expectations and demands can we let go of so that we can be more prepared for the coming of Jesus?

This year in particular, it feels that our nation has become even more deeply polarized by politics and the workings of our government. As Christians, we need new ways to cross this divide with humility and respect for one another. Consider these words from the Letter of James:

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy." (James 3:17)

We could start with this. It certainly would be a countercultural move. We might also consider a new prayer routine, something which keeps our hearts and minds tuned into the truth and beauty of this season. The Church has purchased a few new sets of Advent candles as a possibility. If we run out, we'll get more! The tradition of an Advent wreath for your home is not just a new decorating idea. It's a prayer possibility! You don't have to have a formal set of devotions or an outline of Biblical themes to do this: just light a candle each week and pray.

I have this strong and hopeful image: Advent wreaths ablaze with light and joy - all across our Weston countryside, standing in stark opposition to all that weighs us down.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to you Father in heaven." -Matthew 5: 14-16

— Cindy



The tradition of the **Advent wreath** is a part of our Advent worship here at church, but it is also something that you can celebrate at home. Consider putting together such a wreath for your personal and family prayer time.

You begin with a circle of greenery, as a reminder that God is eternal, without beginning or end. There are four outer candles, three purple or blue ones (the 3rd week is usually rose colored or pink). Week one represents hope, week two - peace, week three - joy and week four - love. Each week of Advent you light one more candle. You can place a white pillar candle in the center, which is lit on Christmas Eve as a reminder that Jesus, the light of the world, has come into the world.

When you light the candles, take a moment to say a special prayer, emphasizing the theme for each week of Advent. This is such a simple, but profound reminder for keeping Christ at the center of Christmas.

Pastoral Pieces

Happy Holidays Everyone!

I am sitting at my desk listening to Christmas Music played in a soft jazz style; some carols, some classics and some originals. All good, enjoyable and comforting. The soft warm light from a glowing fireplace is very relaxing and in this moment it's easy to forget about others whose lives aren't as comfortable or as secure.

We all have different traditions that we use to celebrate Christmas, making it meaningful to each of us in our way. We schedule time to spend with family and friends. We attend special musical productions that only occur during this time of year. There are the beautiful lights and decorations for us to enjoy and the wonderful foods as well. All great ways we celebrate the end of another year.

The Christmas season is a wonderful time and I hope you all can enjoy and celebrate it with gratitude, not guilt. We are so very blessed, and those blessings are intentional. God wants us to feel joyful and happy. I believe taking time to enjoy and acknowledge His blessings is important. When we recognize and acknowledge His goodness to us it makes us want to share with others.

There are a lot of people in need. Yes, many of them have immediate needs for food or shelter. There are families who are employed but because of debt or overwhelming medical bills, they struggle to keep their monthly bills paid and food on the table. There are many of our elderly on fixed incomes and so any fluctuation in their monthly expenses means they must do without something. Still others struggle with the depression and loneliness that often accompanies the holidays when loved ones are no longer present for whatever reason.

I hope this holiday is as joyful and meaningful as any holiday season you have celebrated in the past. I want you to take every opportunity to laugh, love and relish each moment, both sacred and secular. However, I want you to keep your heart and eyes open. Don't get too distracted by all the things we have to get done. There may be someone who you meet or learn about that needs not money or deliverance but just you. Sure, some families need financial assistance, but there are many more just in need of some of your time, your attention or some small act of kindness.

Church, don't be too busy or afraid to give the greatest gift God placed on this earth...the gift of love. Loving others and reaching out to them is the perfect gift we can give back to Him for all He has done for us.

Peace,

Melissa



Blankets & Used Clothing for Micah Ministry...



Cold weather is upon us!

Let us be especially mindful of those who are without permanent shelter and those who are the working poor. We will continue to collect blankets and gently used warm clothing items (all sizes) through the month of December. We will be serving at Micah (Independence Boulevard Christian Church) again on Monday, December 2nd, leaving church at 4:30 pm. If you would like to adopt a family for Christmas, please see Pastor Cindy for more information.



November Sermons

December 1
"Are You Awake?" - Matthew 24:36-44

December 8
"A Voice from the Wilderness" - Matthew 3:1-6

December 15
"Miles to Go Before We Sleep" - Matthew 11:2-11

December 22
"God is With Us" - Matthew 1:18-25

December 29
"The Dark Side" - Matthew 2:13-23



Sundays, 9:30 am - Adult Sunday School
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 4:30 pm - Micah Ministry at IBCC
12/7-8 2-7 pm - Weston Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour
12/11 2:30 pm - "Christ and a Cup of Coffee" Bible Study at Weston Coffee Roastery
12/15 Children's Christmas Program during worship service
Congregational Meeting following worship service
Community Caroling following congregational meeting
4:30 pm (time approximate) Holiday Get-Together for "Aged to Perfection" & "Rose Vine"
12/18 10:30 am - "In His Service" Soup Ministry
12/24 10:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service
12/24 CHRISTMAS
12/26 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal (Thursday)
12/29 WMA Sing-spiration (time to be decided)
12/31 New Year's Eve

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th ~
10:30 pm



The Work of Christmas



When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

By Howard Thurman

December Church Calendar

Today
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December 2019
Month
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SUN Dec 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
First Sunday of Advent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service 2pm "Messiah" Presentation/Reception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Micah Ministry at IBCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Weston Candlelight Homes Tour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am WMA - Ministers' Breakfast 2:30pm "Christ and a Cup of Coffee" 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Reserved-Cortney Yearout 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Children's Christmas Program 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting 2pm Christmas Caroling 4:30pm Holiday Get-together "Rose Valley" 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am "In His Service" Soup Ministry 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 10:30pm Christmas Eve Service 	Christmas Day Christmas Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 		
WMA Sing-spiration - TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 			