



**weston
christian
church**
(Disciples of Christ)



540 Washington Street
Weston, Missouri 64098
Office—(816) 640-2846
WestonChristianChurch@gmail.com
Website: westonchristian.org
Sunday Service | 10:30 am

A note from Cindy...

The business of a Christian is everywhere and always one: to increase one's fire and let it give light to everyone.
-Leo Tolstoy

Advent is the season of light, despite evidence to the contrary. As Christians we celebrate more light coming into the world. This observation coincided with the ancient feast of Solstice: the longest night, the one day of the year with the least amount of daylight. The early Christians noted this dark season and found that the celebration of the birth of Christ was an event with more cosmic light. So it is we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ *right after* the darkest night of the year.

"God is light. In him there is no darkness at all." - 1 John 1: 5

We do everything in our power to light up our homes, our business districts, our churches. These are actually meager efforts on our part to give witness to the truth of the Light. The much greater witness to the light is within all of us. This power is in our ability to love. Everything else is mere tinsel.

We may have to take several deep breaths when we come across family members, community members, heaven forbid, even church members, who trigger our patience, our capacity to see them as brothers and sisters in need of more love. But this is precisely the place where we need to call forth those deep reserves. We know it ourselves. When we are most cranky, most outrageous, most vulnerable . . . we are also the most in need of graciousness. I pray we will all find more grace, more forgiveness, more heart capacity for love. Beyond extending this grace to one another, I pray we will find "the more" that this season calls forth from us. What lights you up? What is your song?

Howard Thurman once said, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." Amen to this.

Blessed Advent to you,
Cindy



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

*Annual
Congregational
Meeting*

The annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, December 18th, after the worship service. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Church Board and as Elders and Deacons. Please consider serving in one or more of these positions. Your time, talents and gifts are greatly appreciated!

*Christmas Eve &
Christmas Day Services*

Make plans to join us at 8:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve for our candlelight service. We're having it a little earlier, hopefully encouraging more families who would like to attend.



We will have a "Christmas Blessing" service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Christmas Day. (No Sunday school that day.)



*Note from the Church
Office...*

Hi everyone. I wanted to let you know that my husband and I are flying overseas on December 20th for two weeks to visit our son and his family, returning in early January.

The plan is to get the bulletins and MediaShout presentations for that time period finished before I leave. The week we return I'll work Thursday and Friday, January 5th and 6th. The January newsletter may be a little late due to this.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,
Janet



CANTO CHORALE

*Presents for the 2022
Christmas Season*

Saturday, December 17, 2022 3:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church

17385 Highway 371, Platte City, MO 64079

Sunday, December 18, 2022 3:00 p.m.

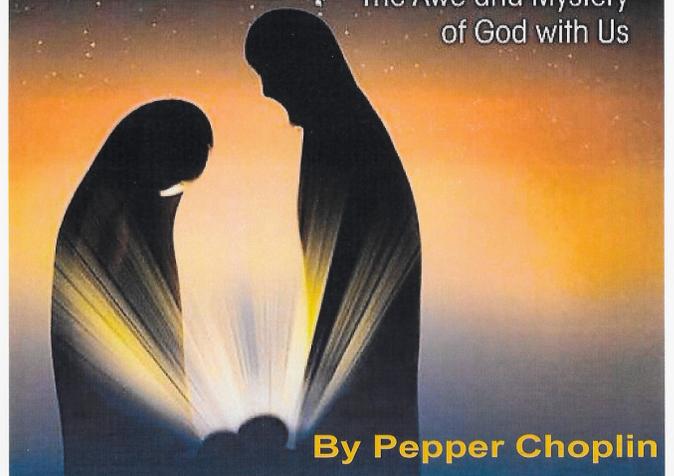
Conception Abbey

37174 State Hwy VV, Conception, MO 64433

For information call 816-522-8934
www.facebook.com/CantoChorale

**Night of the
Father's Love**

The Awè and Mystery
of God with Us



By Pepper Choplin

The Longest Night

The Weston Ministerial Alliance is hosting a service of healing, with a special focus on acknowledging the grief so many have experienced in recent times. This service will be led by area ministers and held at Weston United Methodist Church on Wednesday, December 21, at 5:30 p.m. It is called the "Longest Night" service, also in recognition of the winter solstice and the beginning of more light returning to our world. Those who have been dealing with the loss of a loved one are encouraged to come. These particular lives will be honored and those who are grieving will be welcomed into a deeper prayer of healing and grace.

"Though a door may have closed between us, may we be able to view our lost loved ones with eyes wise with calming grace." - John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space Between Us



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

-John 1:5



Meetings are held at Church of the Nazarene, 19495 County Road H, Weston, MO 64098, three times per month on the first, third and fourth Thursdays from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. westonmoafg@gmail.com (Contact person: Victoria C. - 816-308-9730)



Our "Acts of the Apostles" study meets every third Friday in the church basement. The next sessions are set for **December 9th & 30th at 10:00 a.m.** Join us!

Harvesters Food Pick-Up Truck

If you or someone you know is in need of help affording nutritious food, the Harvesters Food Pick-Up truck is in Weston the 3rd Friday of each month (**this month, December 16th**) from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **The truck will be at 300 Main Street (City Hall).**



While the scheduled hours are 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., it will often start earlier, depending on how quickly they can get it unloaded and organized.

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Henri J.M. Nouwen



Buy Less Christmas From the United Church of Canada

The key to buying less at Christmas is to ask yourself what you have to offer the people you love. We often rely on presents to communicate who we are and how we feel about our family and friends, but can you build closer connections with your loved ones by spending time with them or offering acts of service?

Most people will be delighted by the amount of time you spent thinking of them and preparing your gift. Think of this idea as a spiritual practice, getting you ready for the Christmas event. If you can shrug off some of the frenzy and return to the values of community and simplicity, you will find this Christmas to be rich and full of surprises!



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.

Our Vision

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

- Micah 6:8

Our Mission

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth."

- Acts 1:8

Our Confession

As members of the Christian Church, We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.

O Lord our God, in our great need for light we look to You. The quick flight of our days impels us to look back with regret or ahead with misgivings. There are times when we are baffled by disorder, and times when we come to doubt life's value and meaning. Eternal Spirit, make Your presence felt among us. Help us to find the courage to affirm You and to do Your will, even when the shadows fall upon us. Teach us that You are near to each of us at all times and especially when we strive to live truer, gentler, nobler lives. Give us trust Lord: give us peace and give us light. May our hearts find their rest in You.

Gates of Prayer,
The New Union Prayerbook



For unto us a child is born.

December Church Calendar

<p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am WCC's Sunday School/Sund 10:30am Worship Service 2pm Messiah Performance 2pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 	<p>7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>		
<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am WCC's Sunday School/Sund 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Senior High Lunch/Convers 4pm Women's Book Study 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 4:30pm Micah Ministry at IBCC 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Choir rehearsal 7pm 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Choir rehearsal 7pm 	<p>8</p> <p>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</p>
<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am WCC's Sunday School/Sund 10:30am Worship Service 	<p>12</p> <p>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am WMA - Ministers' Breakfast 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Choir rehearsal 7pm 	<p>15</p>
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am WCC's Sunday School/Sund 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Annual Congregational Met 4pm Women's Book Study 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Longest Night Svc. (WMA) a 7pm Choir rehearsal 7pm 	<p>22</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Christmas Blessing Service 	<p>26</p> <p>Christmas Day (substitute)</p> <p>Christmas Day (substitute)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Choir rehearsal 7pm 	<p>29</p>
				<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Adult Bible Study-Acts of the A
				<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>
				<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc
				<p>17</p>