



**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...*

As you look through this month's newsletter, you will notice I have included a quick review of "What Disciples Believe." This short graphic does not tell the whole story, but it does give a very accurate thumbnail sketch of important ideas. At the end of the day, I find that it is the quote from James DeCosta which captures it best: "... we start to realize it all falls to LOVE. We are all an outpouring of God's love, an image of that love to be shared. No matter how hard we try, we are and always have been connected to God."

More than ever, in the complicated and perilous times our world is currently facing, we need to remember to Whom we are connected. I have also included a prayer from the Disciples Peace Fellowship, a national Disciples of Christ organization which daily works for peace and reconciliation throughout the world. Some of you may find this prayer too idealistic - aiming so high in it's hopes and calls for peace - but I challenge each of you to offer this prayer with sincerity and trust. Our faith in Jesus Christ is very much about this holy aspiring. May we never cease in our praying for peace, and in trusting that this peace is possible.

Speaking of aspirations, we are putting plenty of prayerful intention into what more we can be doing with and for our young people. October 22 Worship is being led by our youth. That same evening, we are planning a Halloween costume party at 5 p.m. On Sunday, November 5, Katy West and I are preparing a meal for all parents of young people: preschool through senior high. We will have a short program about what we sense our kids are facing by way of challenges right now. Please plan on joining us for a lively and healthy discussion after our meal: 6 p.m. in our fellowship hall downstairs.

Finally, I want to express my enthusiastic gratitude for all who helped prepare and ultimately sell out our apple dumplings for Apple Fest! Wow! What an outpouring of service and commitment to the ongoing life of our church. This is such a significant fundraiser for us, and also such a ministry of outreach to our Weston community. So proud and encouraged by everyone! Thank you!

-Cindy

## Apple Fest



We send a big thank you to everyone who helped with apple dumplings and Applefest! Without everyone working together, this project would never work! We know that many of you have up time with kids, grandkids, and other important events. Thank you for making this a priority in your service. It requires all of us to jump in and be a part of the team and we are so appreciative of everyone's help! We had so many people tell us that apple dumplings was the only reason they come to apple-fest. One woman grabbed my arm and made me promise we would not stop making these delicious treats! The Apple Dumpling Gang makes a difference!

As a result of everyone's hard work, we raised over \$27,000. About half of that money will be used to fund our youth program, an essential part of our ministry! We are so grateful to Katy West and the amazing work she is doing to inspire our kids!

(Continued on Pg. 2)

### *For Parents of all our Young People...*



Earlier this year, Weston CC brought on Ms. Katy West as our new coordinator of children and youth ministries. Katy and Pastor Cindy are inviting all parents of school age children (preschool through senior high) to a

### ***special soup supper***

that they are preparing.

The date: Sunday, November 5th at 6 p.m. at the church. Katy would like to hear from you personally about your hopes for the spiritual formation of your children. Many ideas have been in the works, but both Pastor Cindy and Katy would like to take some time to listen and to prayerfully consider together, our direction for the near future.

Mark your calendars and please plan to attend.

Some people of faith question the practice of celebrating Halloween. Here at Weston Christian Church we take the view that this holiday, though it has been influenced by a consumer culture, has deep historic roots in Christian tradition.

The name "Halloween" comes from the All Saints Day celebration of the early Christian church, a day set aside for the solemn remembrance of the martyrs. All Hallows Eve, the evening before All Saints Day, began this time of remembrance. "All Hallows Eve" was eventually contracted to "Hallow-e'en," which became "Halloween."

In the Celtic calendar, it was one of the most important days of the year, representing a midpoint in the year, Samhain, or "summer's end". The Samhain festival (pronounced "sow" "en") celebrated the final harvest, death, and the onset of winter, for three days—October 31 to November 2.

Many scholars agree that the commemoration of saints on November 1 originated in Ireland, spread from there to England, and then to the continent of Europe with the rise of Christianity. By the ninth century, the Roman Catholic Church adopted the Celt's Halloween tradition and Pope Gregory IV sent out an official letter of notification urging that Halloween be observed in harmony with All Saints Day throughout the Roman Empire.

With this historic perspective in mind,  
**we will be having a  
Halloween party for all our youth  
on Sunday, October 22,  
beginning at 5 p.m.**

There will be a Costume Contest, with prizes for the Most Creative and Most Original costumes. Games, food and silliness provided. Please feel free to invite your neighbors, your friends, your grandchildren!





Let's all pray for our kids and Katy, as well as for all of those tired backs and sore feet that go with being a member of the Apple Dumpling Gang! Blessings to all! The peelers and mixers have retired for another year!



A separate local group meeting is on Zoom—Mondays at Noon  
Text Nikki at 816-686-7170 for login credentials.



Our young people are helping to sponsor a "cool weather clothing drive" until the end of October. We're asking our friends & neighbors to help with this as well. As you swap out your summer clothes for winter, see if you have cool weather items that are gently used that could be donated downtown every other week in-  
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### **Early** *Reminder About Daylight Saving Time...*



***Daylight saving time ends  
Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 2 a.m.***



**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.



**Disciples Peace Fellowship** grieves the loss of all lives, Israeli and Palestinian alike, from the recent escalation of violence between Hamas and Israel. God's eye extends to the birds of the sky, where even the smallest sparrow is watched over and cared for. The divine recognizes the preciousness of every life. The lives of Palestinians and the lives of Israelis are precious in the eyes of God.

Along with many others, DPF understands that this conflict did not appear out of nowhere but is rooted in an ongoing system of apartheid and a fundamental imbalance of power between Israelis and Palestinians.

Recognizing the complex interplay of collective trauma, despair, occupation, collective punishment, the rhetoric of resistance and the rhetoric of self-defense, DPF reaffirms our commitment to witness to the Prince of Peace and his way of nonviolence.

While we hear that now is an inconvenient time to advocate for peace – that it is not practical and we should accept the ways of retribution and vengeance – we refuse to be silent.

**We encourage all Disciples of Christ** in the United States and Canada to call their elected leaders, urging them to demand an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation of violence, and the re-opening of humanitarian assistance into Gaza.



**Lead me from death to Life  
from falsehood to Truth.  
Lead me from despair to Hope,  
from fear to Trust.  
Lead me from hate to Love,  
from war to Peace.  
Let Peace fill our hearts,  
our world, our universe.  
World Peace Prayer**

*I think we have to ask ourselves what does "I believe in" mean? The Way, the Truth, and the Life has so many names but in the end we start to realize it all falls to LOVE. We are all an outpouring of God's love, an image of that love to be shared. No matter how hard we try, we are and always have been connected to God.*  
-James DeCosta

Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Theologian and Scripture Scholar, is facilitating four two-hour sessions on **Christianity and Sexual Diversity** on Wednesday evenings in October via Zoom, 7-9 PM Central Time. The sessions are repeated In-person and Livestreamed on Thursday mornings in October at Lord of Love Lutheran Church, 8306 E 171st St, Belton, MO 64012, 10 AM to Noon. The sessions will also be offered at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS 66208, October 30, November 6, 13, and 20, 2023 ~ 6:30-8:30 PM.

The sessions explore the interpretations of biblical texts often used by Christians against sexual diversity, especially focused on homosexuality. The biblical texts are examined in light of modern biblical, scientific and sociological studies, which are to be in constant dialogue with relevant and actual human experience of homosexuality and sexual diversity.

All interested persons and faith traditions are most welcome. **To register, email Biagio at [biagio46@gmail.com](mailto:biagio46@gmail.com) When emailing Biagio to register, please specify the time frame: either Wed Evening Zoom sessions or Thursday morning in-person sessions at Lord of Love Lutheran Church. To register for the Monday evening sessions at Village Presbyterian, please go to their website: <https://www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.html> or call the church at (913) 262-4200 and ask for Laura Hobbs.**

## WHAT DISCIPLES BELIEVE



### Baptism

Baptism is a public act by which the church proclaims God's grace, as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We practice Immersion Baptism, but accept the baptismal traditions of other believers.



### The Bible

We are called to study and read scripture for ourselves. Rather than having tests of faith and creedal statements, we critically and thoughtfully study scripture, taking into account the history and background in which it was written.



### Communion

We observe the Lord's Supper weekly. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the living Christ is met and received in the sharing of the bread and the cup, representative of the body and blood of Jesus. The presence of Christ is affirmed and God is proclaimed to be the dominant power in our lives. All people, regardless of church membership, or the form of their baptism, are welcome at the invitation of Jesus.



### Justice

We move to answer God's call for justice, particularly in the areas of care for the earth, the challenges for women and children, poverty and hunger and immigration. We seek to do this work in cooperation with other people of faith.



### Ministry

The ministry of the church is entrusted to all the people of God. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are diverse, and all people mediate God's work to/in the world. In Christ the individual is a member of "a people of God's own possession" (1 Peter 2:9), the "priesthood" of all believers.



### Unity

We are ecumenical; we cooperate and partner with other faith communities to bring about wholeness – healing and justice – in the world. We stay together in covenant as a witness to the world that even when we disagree, we believe all are welcome to the table of Christ. Our spiritual founders were fond of saying, "unity, not uniformity."

# October Church Calendar

Today < > October 2023 Month							?	⚙	⋮
SUN Oct 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7	APPLE FEST		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4:30pm Micah Ministry at IB</li></ul>								
8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
<div>APPLE FEST</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8am WMA - Ministers' Break</li></ul>							
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li><li>11:30am Potluck Luncheon</li></ul>									
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li><li>5pm All-Youth Halloween P&amp;F</li></ul>									
29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li></ul>									

# November Church Calendar

Today

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November 2023

Month

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SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Nov 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li></ul>						
5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4:30pm Micah Ministry at IB</li></ul>	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li><li>11am Coffee/Donuts after C</li><li>6pm Soup Supper-Parents o</li></ul>						
12	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8am WMA - Ministers' Breat</li></ul>	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li></ul>						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<div>Eagle Scout Sunday</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li></ul> <div>2 more</div>						
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am WCC's Sunday Scho</li><li>10:30am Worship Service</li><li>2pm "Messiah" Performance</li></ul>						