



**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 I have read the Gospels over the years, the belief has grown in me that Christ did not come to found an organized religion but came instead to found an unorganized one. He seems to have come to carry religion out of the temples into the fields and sheep pastures, onto the roadsides and the banks of the rivers, into the houses of sinners and publicans, into the town and the wilderness, toward the membership of all that is here."—
Wendell Berry, *Jayber Crow*

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Sometimes I think we spend a lot of our time as a church trying simply to preserve it - to keep the facility maintained and to stay current with our tithing so that we can pay the bills in order to stay open. All organizations and institutions struggle to do this: to stay alive. This in itself is not the issue.

But when I came across this quote from the poet and writer Wendell Berry I heard the subtle truth of his observation: Jesus WENT OUT "into the fields and the sheep pastures, onto the roadsides and the banks of the rivers . . . toward the membership of all that is here." And he invites us to do the same.

What is the purpose of a church? What is our reason for being?

I would readily suggest that one of our primary reasons for existence is to proclaim the Word of God, and to inspire our members to live out this Word in every circumstance of their lives. I would also submit there is a tremendous power in gathering as a community. We need the courage and the support of one another as we try to live out this faith. We also need to spend time growing this faith - learning about Scripture, studying the history and the meaning of this Word in our lives.

So, as we begin another calendar year, our Church Board will be taking on this basic question: What does it mean to be the church we call Weston Christian? How will we live out the commitment to be followers of Jesus? What will we prioritize in our funding and in our willingness to be involved in the ministries of this church? Big questions. Questions that I hope each one of you will wrestle with as we move forward with the Spirit's powerful guidance.



—Cindy

Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas bonus to me again this year. You're a very special group of people!

Janet



## Christmas with...



### the Bristol Manor Residents

On December 17, WCC members brought gifts and treats for the residents of Bristol Manor. One of our musicians led the group in singing carols, with beautiful piano accompaniment. We also had several other WCC participants.

and

### Hillcrest

On Sunday, December 12, after our Sunday Worship, members of our WCC Hillcrest team gathered downstairs with the young man we're sponsoring to celebrate. We



were also honored to have Hillcrest's social worker and her husband with us. Other team members from WCC also participated. We will continue to walk with this young man as a church sponsor as he navigates the challenges of the Hillcrest program.

## More Scripture Study



There has been an increasing interest in having more group studies on various themes and books of the Bible. Since many of these inquiries have come from those who are at work during the day, please let Pastor Cindy know if you would be available on a particular evening in order to be a part of one of these studies. Several people have offered their homes to host. Let's figure out how to put all this enthusiasm together!

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.



What a glorious day of triumph with our musicians (and guest musicians!) for a day of Advent praise and joy. Our Interim Music Director pulled together original pieces and various carols to truly celebrate Advent and the coming of the Christ child. This event, on December 12, was a highlight of our Advent season. A huge thank you to all who participated and shared their gift of song. What a beautiful and extravagant day of celebration. We are so grateful.

## Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

A dedicated group has continued to meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to pray for the needs of our church and the larger community. New faces are always welcome. The group is considering another time during the week for gathering and would like to encourage everyone to consider setting aside an hour each week for prayer. This has been the group's process: A certain prayer concern is named and the group silently spends 3-5 minutes on each intention. No one is expected to pray out loud or to lead others in their prayer. More than ever, our world needs the power of our combined prayers. Please see Dick Emery if you would like to participate AND if you have a suggestion for another date and time.

A steady group of folks has been gathering for many weeks each Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Prayers of healing are offered for people on our prayer list as well as prayers for the church and the larger world. Do consider setting aside this hour to pray for the needs of our community. All are welcome.

### Wednesday Morning Prayer Group



Weekly, 9:30am



### Message from the new Church Board President...

Just as many of us make New Year's resolutions in our personal lives, Weston Christian Church is no different. In the fall of 2025, the WCC Board ran a congregational survey, which indicated WCC by and large meets the weekly spiritual needs of the congregants. People love the music, the weekly message, and children's programs. Rest assured, we will continue these things in the upcoming year.

Many respondents also said they want to see WCC be the hands and feet of Christ in the community. With all the turmoil and noise going on in the broader world, I propose that we take Pastor Cindy's message this past Sunday to heart and set distractions like social media aside to focus on ways that we can make our little corner of the world the best it can be. After all, we can make the greatest and most immediate impact closer to home. If you become aware of a need in the community, please reach out to Pastor Cindy, myself, or someone on the Outreach committee, and we will see what can be done to connect resources to the need. I am proud of the work we did in 2025 in terms of outreach and would like to see that continue in 2026 and beyond.

Additionally, the apostle Paul points out "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:10). To that end, I hope you all feel called to use your God-given talents or passions to participate in the life of the church.

As we begin the new year, I challenge you to look for at least one additional way that you can help serve the church and our ministries through the course of 2026. If you are unsure of what needs there are and want to talk about opportunities, feel free to reach out to me or Pastor Cindy and we can help match you to your particular skillset.

Peace in Christ,  
Board President

## GRATITUDE

As we enter the new year of 2026 and begin to look forward to how we can best serve our brothers and sisters in need — and the needs are great indeed! — I believe it is only right to stop for a moment to give thanks for all that has gone before, just in 2025 alone.

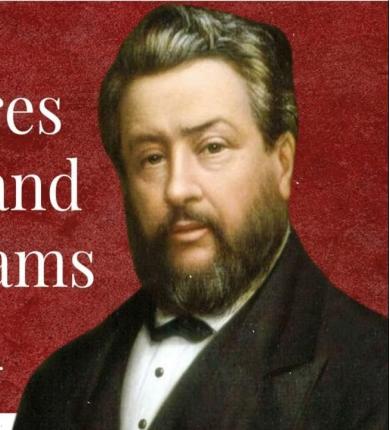
I won't list now all the many ministries that WCC has helped with, just in this last year (see December's newsletter for a quite amazing list of ministries that you helped make possible!). Instead, I want to thank each and every one of you for the many ways you have all made our Outreach Ministry, such a necessary part of what it means to be followers of Jesus, through your caring and compassionate actions. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!

Now, let us go forth to love and serve the Lord! "Thanks be to God!"

Outreach Chair

**God Restores Lost Years and Broken Dreams**

*-C.H. Spurgeon-*



**Chair Yoga**



**WESTON SENIOR COLLABORATIVE**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**"Tea & Talk"**  
10:00 to 10:30 a.m.  
Weston Masonic Lodge  
507 Main St., Weston, MO

**Learn More** [www.facebook.com/WestonSeniorCollab/](http://www.facebook.com/WestonSeniorCollab/)  
[ParkvilleLivingCenter.org/Weston](http://ParkvilleLivingCenter.org/Weston)

**AL-ANON**  
for families & friends of alcoholics

Al-Anon is an organization designed to help **families and friends** of those who struggle with alcohol addiction.

**In-Person** Al-Anon Meeting:  
Mondays, 7:00 p.m. at  
409 S. 7th St.  
(downstairs-north door)  
Leavenworth, Kansas  
**&**  
"Monday Noon Awakenings"  
**Zoom Meeting** Al-Anon Group  
Mondays at Noon  
Zoom Meeting ID: 406 647 1926  
Password: 178998

*You can also search Google for Al-Anon meetings in your area*

## More Gratitude

Your generosity during the holiday season was stunning! Thank you to each person who made the effort to help support one of the many outreach ministries of our church. We received gracious words of thanks from our newest young adult at Hillcrest Ministries for all the Christmas presents given . . . more kind words from our friends at Bristol Manor for the Christmas party and the personal gifts. (See examples of their words below.) Those of you who helped deliver birthday gifts to youth in area social service agencies through Birthday Connections were profusely acknowledged and appreciated. Micah Ministry reached out to us to thank everyone for the meals we sponsored and the huge increase in volunteers over the past year.

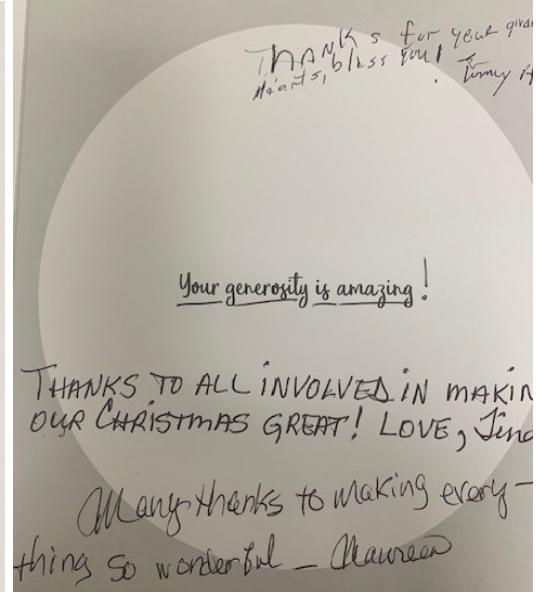
And there is the quiet truth of those locally who received food from the recently organized Weston Food Pantry Partners and those who helped local school families have a good Christmas. We are also grateful for our Church Board who stepped out in faith to allocate \$15,000 for next year's Outreach budget. For all of this, we praise God for the compassionate witness of His Son - a witness of love and mercy to those most in need. We are blessed to be a blessing! Thank you!



Thanks to everyone who made Christmas wonderful for us. And a shout out to the Thomas family also. Love, Linda

Thank you for making a nice Christmas for everyone. Lisa

Thank you so much, I appreciate you all making the residents a wonderful Christmas. I cannot ever thank you enough.  
Rachelle Wood



### "At the Winter Feeder" By John Leax

His feather flame doused dull  
by icy cold,  
the cardinal hunched  
into the rough, green feeder  
but ate no seed.

Through binoculars I saw  
festered and useless  
his beak, broken  
at the root.

Then two: one blazing, one gray,  
rode the swirling weather  
into my vision  
and lighted at his side.

Unhurried, as if possessing  
the patience of God,  
they cracked sunflowers  
and fed him  
beak to wounded beak  
choice meats.

Each morning and afternoon  
the winter long,  
that odd triumvirate,  
that trinity of need,  
returned and ate  
their sacrament  
of broken seed.

(From John Leax, *The Task of Adam*  
(Zondervan, 1985)



# January Church Calendar

| January 2026                                                                            |                                        |                                        |                                          |                                   |                                    |                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Today                                                                                   | <                                      | >                                      | January 2026                             | Month ▾                           | ?                                  | ⚙️                           |
| SUN                                                                                     | MON                                    | TUE                                    | WED                                      | THU                               | FRI                                | SAT                          |
| SUN<br>28<br>● 9:30am Sunday School/S<br>● 10:30am Worship Service                      | MON<br>29<br>● 6:30am Men's Bible Stud | TUE<br>30<br>● 6:30am Men's Bible Stud | WED<br>31<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor - Tr | THU<br>Jan 1<br>● New Year's Day  | FRI<br>2<br>● Bristol Manor-Lunch? | SAT<br>3                     |
| 4<br>1st Sunday-Refreshments<br>● 9:30am Sunday School/S<br>● 10:30am Worship Service   | 5<br>● 6:30am Men's Bible Stud         | 6<br>● 6:30am Men's Bible Stud         | 7<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor - Tr         | 8<br>● 8am Ministerial Alliance I | 9<br>● 8am Ministerial Alliance I  | 10<br>● Bristol Manor-Lunch? |
| 11<br>● 9:30am Sunday School/S<br>● 10:30am Worship Service                             | 12<br>● 6:30am Men's Bible Stud        | 13<br>● 8am WMA - Ministers' Br        | 14<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor             | 15<br>● 1:30pm Women's Bible St   | 16<br>● 1:30pm Women's Bible St    | 17                           |
| 18<br>● 9:30am Sunday School/S<br>● 10:30am Worship Service<br>● 11:30am Church Board M | 19<br>● Martin Luther King Jr. Day     | 20<br>● 6:30am Men's Bible Stud        | 21<br>● 4:30pm Micah Ministry a          | 22<br>● 11:30am Church Board M    | 23<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor       | 24<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor |
| 25<br>● 9:30am Sunday School/S<br>● 10:30am Worship Service                             | 26<br>● 6:30am Men's Bible Stud        | 27<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor           | 28<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor             | 29<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor      | 30<br>● 6:30am Men's Bible Stud    | 31<br>● 1:30pm Bristol Manor |