

A Moment with the Pastor

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions.

Common New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating more healthily. These are all good goals to set. However, [1 Timothy 4:8](#) instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself?

[Philippians 4:13](#) tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." [John 15:5](#) declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New Year's resolution, it has a chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God-honoring or is not in agreement with God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom ([James 1:5](#)) regarding what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. [Psalm 37:5-6](#) says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun." (Article from gotquestions.org, author unknown)

Stewardship Statistics	11/30/25	12/07/25	12/14/25	12/21/25	12/28/25	Total Money And Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services.	29	56	47	54	49	47
General Fund	\$3650.00	\$2461.00	\$1175.00	\$3225.00	\$2585.00	\$13096.00
Weekly Budget	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$14275.00
+ or — Budget						
Designated Giving						
Birthday Money		\$115.00				\$115.00
Food Pantry				\$2038.75		\$2038.75
Hockey Tickets	\$34.00	\$102.00	\$68.00	\$136.00		\$340.00
Phyllis Betz Memorial	\$75.00		\$25.00		\$500.00	\$600.00
Gideons		\$60.00				\$60.00
Also, on 12/07/25 \$100 given directly to Gideons						
Total Giving's	\$3759.00	\$2738.00	\$1268.00	\$5399.75	\$3085.00	\$16249.75

Prayer list:

John and Sara Roberts
Sue Snyder (brain cancer)
Gloria Snyder (cancer in vocal chords)
Larry Frost (cancer treatments continue)
Jamie Thomas (health issues)
Nora (Jacob's 14 yr. old niece/scoliosis)
Jeff Frost (difficult time with chemo)
Lindsey Baker's Father-in-law
Jacob's parents (health issues)
Russ Harshberger (pray for good health)
Dee, friend of Patsy (accident recovery)
Mary Jean Queen (stroke recovery/home)
Dick Tolles (cancer in both lungs)
Jamaica hurricane victims & recovery
Gene Mazey (home, but weak)
Sheryl, friend of Mary Ann (Treatments are done and cancer is gone.)
Jai Krause
Charles Roe (pray for strength)

Prayer list cont.

North Baltimore Church of Christ
(minister search)
Molly Rump (She is in St. Charles Hospital due to nervous breakdown.)
Hannah Euler (Update 12/14 - She is home, but has to relearn everything.)
Cindy Wichman (recovering at home, prayers for healing and strength)
Jerry Snyder (UTMC for serious ear infection, affecting balance, IV antibiotic)
Jan Zulch (The Willows, room 104, continues therapy, prayers for strength)
Family of Norma Norton, Jacob's grandmother (She passed away Christmas Eve. A memorial service will be in the spring.)
John McKenzie (biopsy near his eye)

Remember our Shut-ins

Peggy Carsey - Brookdale #105
Bud Brown - BG Manor
Jan Zulch - The Willows #104

Those in Service:

Darryl & Carol Krause (missionaries)
Lt. Col. Elijah Ward – Carlisle, PA
Ron Burkhart - Stateside
Jon Walker - 180th TFW Active duty
Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard
Luke Millican - USAF
Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan
McNiel Snyder - USAF/Georgia
Wynter Anderson - Basic Training
Hunter Braun - USAF Basic Training
MSgt Deidra (Anderson) Braun - USAF

January invites us to pause, reflect and begin anew. As we step into a fresh year together, let's draw close to God, celebrate His faithfulness and look forward with hope.

Even when the weather turns cold, our church family stays warm through worship, fellowship, and faith. Be reminded that there's no better place to find warmth than in God's presence and among His people.





Fellowship Break
January 4th hosted by
The Anderson Family

Men's Mentoring
starts immediately after
Fellowship Break.



Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 6th
at 7:30pm

Food Pantry is Open

January 3rd and 17th
10:00am - Noon

Small Group Bible Studies at the church

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

'Gospel of John'

Ladies Christian Fellowship

January 26th at 7:00pm



Friday Games/Potluck

January 9th and 23rd

6:30 - 9:00pm



Annual Congregational Meeting ***Sunday, January 25, after worship***

- * We take a short break after worship.
- * The meeting is held in the Sanctuary.
- * Every family will receive a copy of the 2025 Annual Report.
- * We'll discuss the report.
- * You will have an opportunity to ask questions & give input.
- * If you need child care during the meeting, please inform Pat by January 19th.



Welcome, Youth!

Youth Group

- ⇒ Junior/Senior High
- ⇒ Sunday, January 18, 5:00 - 6:30pm
- ⇒ At the Anderson's
- ⇒ Dinner - Games- Lesson

A Purposeful New Year



The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service.

These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

— C. Neil Strait

What We Really Need

Twelve ministers were on a flight headed to a conference in Seattle when the plane hit a fierce storm. Trying to calm their nerves, they told the flight attendant, "Let the pilot know everything's fine — there are twelve ministers on board!"

A few minutes later, the flight attendant returned from the cockpit.

"Well?" one of the pastors asked with a grin. "What did the pilot say?"

She smiled and replied, "He said he was glad to have 12 ministers aboard, but he would rather have four good engines."

The Newsletter

Christian Symbol



SHIP — The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. While the Old Testament tells of Noah's ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples' fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave — Latin for ship.

The Newsletter

The Foundation of Our Faith



Jesus' resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we'd have no Christian faith.

God's power was at work in Christ's death and resurrection. "It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built," said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

Paul understood that the resurrection was the bedrock of our faith: "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14, ESV). He continued, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17, ESV).

The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Its authenticity means that by faith in Christ, we are reconciled with God.

Billy Graham said the risen Christ is the bridge between us and God: "One of Christ's hands holds the hand of God; his other hand holds ours."

The
Newsletter
Newsletter

Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11,16)

Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)

— Gus Nichols

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn't easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it "the devil's music." Dorsey later joked, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land."

Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him. Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

*"Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."*

Dorsey's song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us, strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.

The
Newsletter

The Book of John is full of JOY.

John 15:1-11 The Vine and the Branches

John 16:20-24 The Disciples Grief will turn to Joy

John 20:19-23 Jesus Appears to His Disciples

In essence, John teaches that true, complete joy (not fleeting happiness) comes from a living relationship with Jesus, bearing fruit for Him, and trusting His promises, even amidst suffering.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Madison Anderson
Sean Arroyo
Sarah Saylor
Mary Ann Hoare
Jacob Anderson
Cathy DuBois
Melissa Tolles
Norm Tolles, Jr.
John DuBois

21 Tad & Leighan Yarger

Wanted: Food Pantry Volunteer to help pack bags.

If you can donate some time
once or twice a month
(on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays,
10am - noon) packing bags,
please see Deb Lehman, Pat
Higley or Joan Eckhardt.
Thanks for your consideration!

SERVANT LEADER
QUILTING SINGING SERVING OTHERS
TRANSPORTATION ALTAR YES TEAMWORK
THANK YOU GUILD READER GIVE
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ACOLYTE
VOLUNTEER
YOU USHERING MENTORING
GREETING
WORKING TOGETHER BEING AVAILABLE
THE HEART OF EVERY CHURCH EVERY WHERE
ANSWERING THE CALL
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS
STEPPING UP
ASSEMBLING SCHOOL KITS
DISCIPLESHIP
THANK YOU FOR
SAYING
YES



TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.
"Translate" the verse below using the code.

CODE	E=△	L=□	R=+
A=■	G=●	M=✂	S=■
B=X	H=◀	N=	SH=☼
D=◀	I=▲	O=⊗	T=♣
	K=	P=□	TH=●

Y
W
F
W
W
U
Proverbs 3:13

Answer: Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding.

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians:

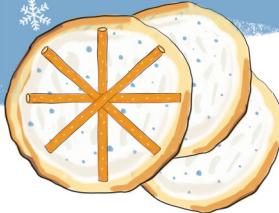
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."



- A) Creation
- B) Beginning
- C) Season
- D) Covenant

Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)


Snowflake SNACK CAKES



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:
Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)

C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)


S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11:26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



"If you live right each day, you will be neither afraid of tomorrow nor ashamed of yesterday."
—E. C. McKenzie

"Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart."
—Joseph Fort Newton

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				7:00pm Band Practice		10am - noon Food Pantry
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30am Worship Birthdays/Anniversaries Fellowship Break hosted by The Anderson Family Men's Mentoring		7:30pm Board Meeting	7:00pm Small Group Bible Study	7:00pm Band Practice	6:30 - 9:00pm Game Night	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.			7:00pm Small Group Bible Study	7:00pm Band Practice		10am - noon Food Pantry
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S. 5-6:30pm Youth Group at the parsonage Annual Reports due			7:00pm Small Group Bible Study		6:30 - 9:00pm Game Night	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30am Worship No Sunday School Annual Meeting after Worship	7:00pm Ladies Christian Fellowship		7:00pm Small Group Bible Study			

Weston Church of Christ
PO Box 344
13355 Center Street
Weston, Ohio 43569



February news articles are due January 20

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Sunday School



2026

Weston Witness

Minister: Jacob Anderson, 660-998-9059

Email Jacob: churchofchristweston@gmail.com

Email church: church@westonchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Ed Tolles, 419-409-1622;

John McKenzie, 419-806-5775

Bob Walker, 419-262-8006

Website: www.westonchurchofchrist.org

Check us out on Facebook

January 2026
Pat Higley, Editor
Church Phone:
419-669-3895

**The purpose of the Weston Church of Christ is to glorify God by reaching the lost,
strengthening the saved and serving as one body for Jesus Christ our Lord.**