

## **Brothers and Sisters,**

I want to keep in front of you, our theme for the year: **“Trust in God. He will see you through; glorify His Name in 2022!”** Our hope is found in no one else. Only Jesus can make sense out of this fallen world and provide for us His unique salvation. Many today are losing hope, and I have to admit lately I have had some days filled with negativity. After all, who hasn’t become a little less optimistic, but we need to continue to focus on Jesus and his love and provision.

Jurgen Moltmann was probably a new name in last month’s newsletter, but here is one more quote worth your consideration from: The Source of Life: The Holy Spirit and the Theology of Life “But the ultimate reason for our hope is not to be found at all in what we want, wish for and wait for; the ultimate reason is that we are wanted and wished for and waited for. What is it that awaits us? Does anything await us at all, or are we alone? Whenever we base our hope on trust in the divine mystery, we feel deep down in our hearts: **there is someone who is waiting for us, who is hoping for us, who believes in us.** We are waited for as the prodigal son in the parable is waited for by his father. We are accepted and received, as a mother takes her children into her arms and comforts them. God is our last hope because we are God's first love.”

We spoke about this earth not being our home last Sunday. In fact, Peter says that we are in exile (**I Peter 1:17 ESV**) until Jesus comes for His Bride, the Church. In other words, we should be uncomfortable with the world and its agenda. We are simply sojourners. We need to continue patiently and progress in the way the Lord is leading us and how it is He wants us to be holy for Him.

**This Sunday coming (1/30) at 9:30am,** I will be speaking about **“The Importance of God’s Word.”** I hope you will be here at the church building for corporate worship. We had a large group of our members and friends watching on Facebook Live on 1/23, but if you are able, we would love to see your faces. **Sunday at 6pm, we are hosting a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singspiration.** We will have a great time of worship supplied by our worship team and specials from Delta Church of Christ and Neapolis Church of Christ that I know about. We will share in the Lord’s Supper, and I will be talking about the importance of “caring” for each other in a short devotional. Oh, did I mention refreshments afterward? Invite your friends.

**On Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm,** you will want to join us for our **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off.** The Campus Houses from BGSU and UT are planning on coming again this year. Invite your friends from the community to enjoy the great food, desserts, and fun. There will be gift cards for the top 3 chili entries. This is always a great opportunity to meet new people, and maybe influence them to join us in our witness for Jesus in Wood County.

Continue to pray for our **Weston Church of Christ Community Food Pantry.** Help us get the word out. It is open here at the church building on the first and third Saturdays. **In February, it will be the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 12:00 noon.** If you would like to join us as a volunteer, see me.

Lastly, if you would like to have Bud Roe and I beat you in euchre, you might consider coming to one of our **game nights.** These are held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays from 6:30-9:00pm** and are held in the church basement. There is always great food, desserts, and beverages, and conversation. There are other games to play, but Bud and I play euchre.☺

**II Corinthians 13:14 ESV: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."**

Blessings, and see you all soon,

Gary

Stewardship Statistics	1/2/22	1/09/22	1/16/22	1/23/22		Total Money And Average Attendance
	Attendance for in-person services.	27	45	37	26	
General Fund	\$1452.00	\$3410.00	\$1635.00	\$1195.00		\$7692.00
Weekly Budget	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71		\$9858.84
+ or— Budget	(\$1012.71)	\$945.29	(\$829.71)	(\$1269.71)		(\$2166.84)
<b>Designated Giving</b>						
Birthday Money	\$50.00					\$50.00
Kay Tolles Memorial			\$150.00	\$205.00		\$355.00
Food Bank		\$195.00				\$195.00
<b>Total Giving's</b>	\$1502.00	\$3605.00	\$1785.00	\$1400.00		\$8292.00

**Prayer List**

U.S. government leaders  
 Krause's-Philippines  
 Scott Fouts (home, doing better)  
 Larry Biscarner (Nancy Snyder's brother has prostate cancer)  
 Duane Rupe (stroke/prostate)  
 Doris Rothenbuhler (cancer treatments)  
 Shelly Sharp (friend of Peggy's/cancer)  
 Norm Romaker (heart surgery)  
 Shelly Sherman (home, possible rehab)  
 Norm Murphy (home with health issues)  
 Jim Fouts (in the hospital with lung cancer)  
 Erin Cooper (Stage 4 cancer)  
 Paula Thomas (MRI, still has pain)  
 Janet Riesenbeck (prayers for health)  
 Megan Brown (leg issues)  
 Jeremy Prowant (prayers for health)  
 Julie Chesney (radiation treatments)  
 Grace Barnes  
 Russ Harshberger (continued therapy)  
 Rick Bruielly (healing/pain relief)  
 Jerry Snyder (getting stronger)

**Prayer list continued**

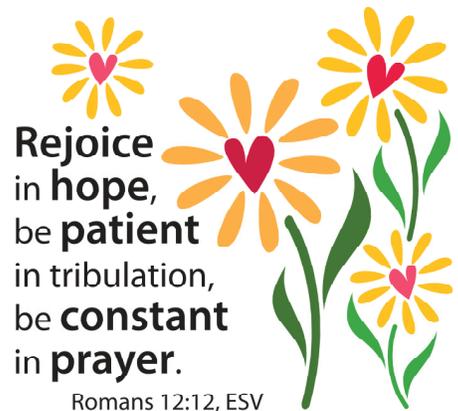
Mary West  
 Kevin Roe (prayers for health)  
 Sandra Metzger - Stage 1 Lung Cancer  
 Carrie Wackler - doing better at home  
 John McKenzie - facial neuralgia (2/23 appointment at Cleveland Clinic)  
 Kim Huffman (cancer/pain)  
 Darryl Krause (a home now since full shoulder replacement on 1/10, but in a lot of pain)  
 Becky Repasz (stomach inflammation)  
 Larry Frost (pneumonia/on O<sub>2</sub> full time)  
 Family of Kay Tolles  
 Linda Hafner (at home now with back brace to help with healing and pain)  
 Family of Ernst Werner  
 Linda & Beth - COVID (Russ's daughters)

**Remember our Shut-ins**

Tom & Mary Ann Hillier - B. G. Manor  
 Rose Mary Gensen - Arbors of Oregon

**Those in Service**

Lt. Col. Elijah Ward – Korea  
 Ron Burkhart - Stateside  
 Jon Walker - 180th TFW Active duty  
 Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard  
 Daryl Trail - U.S. Navy  
 Luke Millican - USAF  
 Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan  
 Gunnar Bontjes - Army National Guard





Tuesday, February 5th @ 7:30pm

**SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY**

**WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00PM**

**AT THE PARSONAGE**

We'll continue the study  
 "Intentional Choices: Discovering  
 Contentment in Stressful Times".

*Blessed is the man who  
 perseveres under trial,  
 because when he has stood the  
 test, he will receive the crown of  
 life that God has promised to  
 those who love him.*

—James 1:12 NIV



Free Little  
 Pantry

**Food Pantry Open**

**Saturdays**

**Feb. 5th and 19th**

**10:00am - Noon**

**Spread the word!**



**Game  
 Night**

**Fridays  
 Feb. 11th and 25th  
 6:30-9:00pm**

**Bring food to share  
 and invite a friend!**

**February Sermons**

February 6	Let the Laity Move Up	1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10
February 13	Chosen by God	1 Peter 2:4-12
February 20	Use Your Freedom Wisely	1 Peter 2:13-17
February 27	Your Reaction to Unfair Treatment	1 Peter 2:18-25

# 13th Annual



**Saturday, February 26th**

**6:30pm till the chili's gone**



## Beyond Candy Hearts and Roses



The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.

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## Faith's Role in Love



In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand."

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: "When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart."

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## God of Love - For, With and In Us

An ancient heresy — that the God of the Old Testament was a God of judgment and wrath, while the God of the New Testament is a God of grace and love — still persists a bit. Yet God is the same God, with the same characteristics, throughout time. Way back in Genesis 3, God graciously sewed garments to clothe humans, although they had disobeyed him. And even in the Gospels, God's anger was evident through Jesus' response to temple moneychangers cheating the poor.

God always works for life and goodness in all things. Sometimes people misunderstand God's ways; sometimes God, like a human parent, uses "tough love." Mick Brooks writes: "The Old Testament is God for us, the time of Christ is God with us, and the age of the Holy Spirit is God in us" (*Every Day With Jesus*, Sept/Oct 2020). That may be a bit simplistic, but it's a good reminder that while God's ways of interacting with us vary, he — the God of Love — does not.

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## No Regrets!

If you've ever regretted a big purchase and wondered if you could return it, you're familiar with the nagging feeling of buyer's remorse. Thankfully, our Redeemer never experienced that. As a church sign proclaims, "When Jesus bought you, he never had buyer's remorse. And he never will!"

To Jesus, the payment of suffering and death was well worth the payoff. "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).

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## Honor Thy Teachers

When President Eisenhower invited James Michener to a White House dinner, the bestselling author replied: "Dear Mr. President, I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers." Instead of taking offense, Eisenhower answered: "In his lifetime, a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents. But a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely."

Fine teachers are indeed worth cherishing, whether they hold classes in churches or public schools, on Sundays or on weekdays. Let us honor and appreciate all teachers, all year long. Thank you for preparing lessons with care, for going above and beyond to meet each student's needs, and for sparking curiosity about God and everything he created. You're a blessing!

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## A Prayer to Our Omnipotent God

Remind us, O God, that you are above us, watching over us as a good shepherd. You can see what we cannot see. Remind us that you are below us, ready to lift us up in our weakest moments. Remind us that you are behind us, to give us encouragement when we feel like giving up. Remind us that you are in front of us, calling us to move forward in faith, even when we can't see how things will work out. Remind us that you are beside us, holding our hands, no matter what we're going through. Remind us that you are within us, closer than each breath we take.

Jesus, thank you for being Emmanuel, God-with-us, and for not abandoning us. Thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit, who comes alongside to help us, even when no one else can. As we remember you, O God, strengthen our hope and restore the joy of our salvation. Amen.

—Malcolm Marler, adapted

## The Right Words for Victory in Jesus

My mom tells a story of me as a preschooler, swinging in our backyard and singing loudly (and off key, I'm sure): "Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He *socked* me and *bopped* me with his redeeming blood." Though that isn't an example of how to effectively share Jesus with your neighbors, the mistaken words might contain a nugget of truth.

In 1939, a stroke partially paralyzed hymn writer Eugene Bartlett. Bedridden and unable to perform anymore, he penned his final, most beloved song, "Victory in Jesus." The actual lyrics read: "O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He *sought* me and *bought* me with his redeeming blood."

It's beautiful to realize that Jesus did indeed seek me out and pay the ultimate price for me. But sometimes I forget — and that's when he "socks me" and "bops me." Jesus loves me too much to let life's chaos and struggles distract me from him and what he's done. Let's all remember to celebrate our victory in Jesus!

—Janna Firestone

# Puzzle!

Answer each statement (based on Matthew's gospel) True or False by circling the letter in the correct column. Then write each circled letter on the appropriately numbered line below to discover why Jesus died.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Jesus healed Peter's wife <i>(Matthew 8:14).</i>	E	<b>(N)</b>
2. Jesus fed the 5,000 with two loaves and five fish <i>(14:17).</i>	R	A
3. At Jesus' Transfiguration, Peter saw Jonah and Elijah <i>(17:3).</i>	M	S
4. The rich, young ruler decided not to follow Jesus <i>(19:22).</i>	T	C
5. Jesus said the temple had become a "den of robbers" <i>(21:13).</i>	I	G
6. Famines and earthquakes are signs of the end of the age <i>(24:7).</i>	V	D
7. Jesus tells a story of the six wise and six foolish maidens <i>(25:1-13).</i>	F	A
8. Judas betrayed Jesus with a secret handshake <i>(26:48).</i>	P	L
9. The Roman governor Polonius interrogated Jesus <i>(27:11-14).</i>	W	O
		<b>N</b>
	3	2
	8	6
	7	4
	5	9
	1	

Answer: N, A, S, T, I, V, A, L, O, salvation

## The Gift of Animals

When God made the animals and gave them to the first human being in the Garden of Eden, though they weren't *precisely* the companion Adam needed, not all was lost. According to Genesis 2, God gave Adam the privilege of naming them all, and when you name something or someone, you bond with that being in a special way. Ever since creation, humans and animals have been connected — often for good purposes, though sometimes not; as the saying goes, "It's complicated."

But on the positive side, Trisha McCagh, a renowned animal communicator, writes: "Animals are the bridge between us and the beauty of all that is natural. They show us what's missing in our lives, and how to love ourselves more completely and unconditionally. They connect us back to who we are and to the purpose of why we're here."

I would say animals also show us how to love other people, nonhuman beings and the earth more completely and unconditionally. And they call our attention to God's creativity. Praise God for the gift of the vast variety of animals with whom we share this planet!

—Heidi Hyland Mann

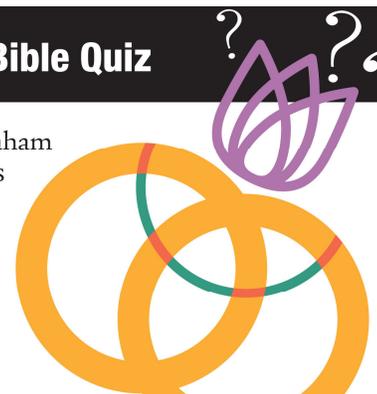
### Mission Moment

**Bowling Green Pregnancy Center**  
**February 6th during Worship**  
**Come and listen to Angel Henry**  
**about what's going on in our area.**

### Bible Quiz

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

- A. Miriam
- B. Keturah
- C. Bathsheba
- D. Tamar



Answer: B (See Genesis 25:1.)



# FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2  GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4	5 FOOD PANTRY 10AM - NOON
		7:30pm Board Meeting	7:00pm Small Group	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice		
6	7	8	9	10	11 	12
9:30am Worship Fellowship Break Adult S.S.  Mission Moment: B. G. Pregnancy Ctr.		6:00pm Elders Meeting	7:00pm Small Group	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice	6:30-9:00PM GAME NIGHT	
13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 	15	16	17	18	19 FOOD PANTRY 10AM - NOON
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.			7:00pm Small Group	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice		
20	21 	22	23	24	25 	26 
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.			7:00pm Small Group	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice	6:30-9:00PM GAME NIGHT	6:30pm
27	28					
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.						

“Trust in God. He will see you through; glorify His Name in 2022!”

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



March newsletter articles due Tuesday, February 22

**Sunday Worship Times**

9:30am Worship Service  
10:45am Sunday School



**Weston Witness**

Minister: Gary L. Wackler, 336-280-5311

Elders: Ed Tolles, 419-409-1622;

John McKenzie, 419-806-5775

Bob Walker, 419-262-8006

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Check us out on Facebook

**February 2022**

Pat Higley, Editor

Church: 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.**