

A Moment with the Pastor

“A Christmas Story”

Christmas is for love. It is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for reuniting with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly covered packages. But mostly Christmas is for love. I had not believed this until a small elf-like pupil with wide-eyed innocence and soft rosy cheeks gave me a wondrous gift one Christmas. Mark was an 11-year-old orphan who lived with his aunt. She was a bitter, middle-aged woman greatly annoyed with the burden of caring for her dead sister's son. She never failed to remind young Mark, if it hadn't been for her generosity, he would be a homeless vagrant. Still, with all the scolding and coldness at home, he was a sweet and gentle child. I had not really noticed Mark until he began staying after class each day to help me straighten up the room. We worked quietly and with great enthusiasm, not speaking much, but enjoying the solitude of that hour of the day. When we did talk, Mark spoke mostly of his mother. Though he was quite young when she died, he remembered a kind, gentle, loving woman who always spent time with him. As Christmas drew near however, Mark stopped staying after school each day. I looked forward to his company, and the days passed and he continued to scamper hurriedly from the room after class. I stopped him one afternoon and asked why he no longer helped me in the room. I told him I had missed him. With that, his large brown eyes lit up, as he replied, 'Did you really miss me?' You are my best helper, and I so enjoy your company at the end of the day", I explained. "I was making you a surprise," he whispered. "It's for Christmas." And with that, he became embarrassed and dashed out of the room. He didn't stay after school any more after that. Then came the last school day before Christmas. Mark crept slowly into the room late that afternoon with his hands concealing something behind his back. "I have your Christmas present," he said timidly. I looked up to see his big brown eyes wide with anticipation. "I hope you like it." He held out his hands, and there lying was a tiny wooden box. "It's beautiful," I said. "Is there something in it?" I slowly opened the lid to look inside. "Oh, you can't see what's in it," Mark replied, "And you can't touch it, or taste it or feel it, but mother always said it makes you feel good all the time. On cold nights it can keep you warm, and it makes you feel safe when you're all alone." I gazed into the empty box. "What is it, Mark" I asked gently, "What makes me feel good all the time?" "It's love," he whispered softly. "Mother always said love works best when you give it away. So, I'm giving it to you." He turned and quietly left the room. So now I keep the small box made of wood on the piano in my living room and smile as I explain to my family and friends what's in the small wooden box given to me by the brown eyed shy boy in my third grade class. Yes, Christmas is for gaiety, mirth, and wondrous gifts. But mostly, Christmas is for love.

Stewardship Statistics	10/26/25	11/02/25	11/09/25	11/16/25	11/23/25	deposit 11/20/25	Total Money And Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services.	47	59	47	54	57		52.8
General Fund	\$9794.00	\$2966.00	\$1193.00	\$1749.00	\$1560.00		\$17262.00
Weekly Budget	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00		\$14275.00
+ or— Budget	\$6939.00	\$111.00	(\$1662.00)	(\$1106.00)	(\$1295)		\$2987.00
Designated Giving							
Birthday Money		\$36.00					\$36.00
Food Pantry	\$288.00	\$150.00		\$780.00			\$1218.00
Hockey Tickets					\$85.00		\$85.00
Lehman Memorial Camp Fund	\$50.00						\$50.00
Phyllis Betz Memorial				\$100.00	\$200.00	\$675.00	\$975.00
Phyllis Betz Memorial Children candy fund					\$100.00		\$100.00
Total Giving's	\$10132.00	\$3152.00	\$1193.00	\$2629.00	\$1945.00	\$675.00	\$19726.00

Prayer list:

John and Sara Roberts
Sue Snyder (brain cancer)
John McKenzie (pray for good health)
Gloria Snyder (cancer in vocal chords)
Molly Rump (strength)
Lifewise Academy
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)
Faith Lewis Clemenson (recovering from shoulder reconstructive surgery)
Rae and Bella (Update 11/12 - Mother has full custody now.)
Amber, waitress at Everyday Café (Skin cancer)
Hannah Euler (Update 11/12 - She is communicating, but not talking yet.)
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
Victims of UPS plane crash, Louisville
Gene Mazey (home, but weak)
Sheryl, friend of Mary Ann (Treatments are done and cancer is gone.)
Cindy Wichman (recovering at home)

Prayer list cont.

Jan Zulch (hip surgery recovery, therapy at Willows for 2 months; Update 11/12- She is eating and walked 10 feet.)
Tom Zulch (heart issues)
Family of Judy Hope's sister Virginia
Family of Laurie Fouts
Family of Phyllis Betz
Jai Krause and victims of typhoons in Philippines (Update posted by stairs, 11/15)
North Baltimore Church of Christ (minister search)
Family of Skylar Kunz (celebration of life, 11/30, 12-5pm, Olander Park, Nederhouser Community Hall, 6930 Sylvania Ave, Sylvania)
Family of Jim Dadisman

Remember our Shut-ins

Peggy Carsey - Brookdale #105
Bud Brown - BG Manor

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
McNiell Snyder - USAF/Georgia
Wynter Anderson - Basic Training
Hunter Braun - USAF Basic Training
MSgt Deidra (Anderson) Braun - USAF

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.



In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



Fellowship Break
December 7 hosted by
Joann, Bud & Kay

Men's Mentoring
starts immediately after
Fellowship Break.



Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 2nd
at 7:30pm

Food Pantry is Open
December 6th and 20th
10:00am - Noon

No Small Group Bible Studies in December
We will start again in January

**A Gideon Speaker will be at church on
the 7th. We'll take up a Love Offering.**



Ladies Christian Fellowship
*Stay tuned - We may not need
to meet this month! The ladies
can discuss it at church.*

Leadership Nominations

Elder: John McKenzie
Deacon: Dave Wichman
Cast your ballots December 7th.

Friday Game Night

December 12th
6:30 - 9:00pm

Bring a dessert, salad or beverage.
We'll furnish the pizza!



Saturday, December 6th at 6:00pm

Meet around the trees at the
Weston Village Hall for the
Christmas Tree Lighting. The
local churches will lead the
community in singing carols.
Mr. & Mrs. Claus will visit.
Enjoy hot chocolate and donuts.



Come join the singing & community spirit!

We are hosting the Community Christmas Service.

Join us on Sunday, December 7th at 6:00pm.

We'll enjoy festive music, light refreshments and fellowship!

Participants are from Sonlight, United Methodist and Church of Christ.



Everyone is welcome!

Join us on Saturday, December 13th at 6:00pm for an Adult Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange.

The meal will be provided, so please sign up if you're coming so we know how much food is needed. Thanks!



The Weston Methodist Church is having their Annual Christmas Cookies and Crafts available for a donation. Vendors will be there selling their wares.

Sunday, December 14th, 11:30 - 1:30.

Proceeds from this event helps fund their local missions.



Friday, December 19th at 7:00pm

**Come to the church and enjoy a movie
and refreshments!**

"Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

It will be shown in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*Join us at the church on
December 24th at 6:30pm.*

- ♦ *We'll sing praises to the Lord.*
- ♦ *Listen to scripture.*
- ♦ *Share in communion.*
- ♦ *Light the candles.*



Otsego Food Pantry, Saturday, December 6, 10:00am - 5:00pm

This is a "New to You" sale of cookbooks, jewelry, purses and more. Along with the sale, a chili and hot dog lunch will be offered from 11:00 - 1:00pm. Cookies and beverages will also be available, for a free-will donation. This is at the Presbyterian Church, 17700 Beaver St., Grand Rapids. For additional information on the event, please contact Chuck and Tina Thomas at 419-265-7936.



Candles That Tell a Story

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent. Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** Purple, in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, the pink candle represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—
it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

The Angels' Song in Three Words

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words — glory, peace, and good will — still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

Glory. God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

Peace. True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

Good will. God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.

The
Newsletter
Newsletter®

Christian symbol



POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

The
Newsletter
Newsletter®

Jonathan Walker
Robert Walker, Jr.
Courtney Steiner
Julia McKenzie
Richard Saylor
Deb Lehman
Sue Mazey
Charles Roe

Gifts for a King

Bring him thy lovely things;
The joy that conquers care,
The faith that trusts and sings,
The frankincense of prayer.

These for thy gifts to him;
And for his gifts to thee,
The comfort of his steadfast love,
His tender sympathy.



PUZZLE

GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

Directions: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

66



”

Luke 2:11, NIV

Answer: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11, NIV

A. Zechariah
B. Gabriel
C. Simeon
D. Joseph

7

Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)



What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.



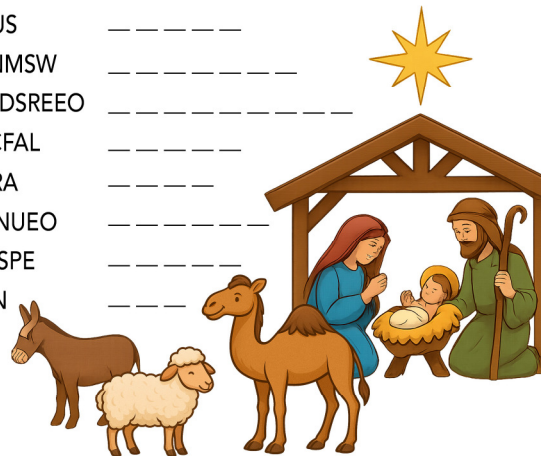
Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
— James 1:17 (NIV)

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHME _____
- (2) NEAGLO _____
- (3) NRMEDAG _____
- (4) ODEKSNY _____
- (5) AMGYR _____
- (6) OHESJIP _____
- (7) EFJSUS _____
- (8) ITEENMSW _____
- (9) SPHHDSREEO _____
- (10) EMCFAL _____
- (11) TLSRA _____
- (12) CSSNUEO _____
- (13) HEVSPE _____
- (14) ENIN _____



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14

"Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we are that he might make us to be what he is."

—Irenaeus, third-century Christian apologist

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

—Calvin Coolidge

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7:30pm Board Meeting		7:00pm Band Practice		10am - noon Food Pantry 10am-5pm Otsego Food Pantry Event 6:00pm Weston Tree Lighting
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am Worship Birthdays/Anniversaries Gideon Speaker/Love Offering Cast Leadership ballots Fellowship Break hosted by Joann, Bud & Kay Men's Mentoring 6:00pm Community Christmas Service				7:00pm Band Practice	6:30 - 9:00pm Game Night 	6:00pm Adult Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S. 11:30-1:30 Methodist Event				7:00pm Band Practice	7:30pm Movie Night at Church "Best Christ- mas Pageant Ever	10am - noon Food Pantry
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.			6:30pm Candlelight Service			
28	29	30	31			
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.			<i>New Years Eve</i>			

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



January news articles are due December 30

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Sunday School



2025

Weston Witness

Minister: Jacob Anderson, 660-998-9059

Elders: Ed Tolles, 419-409-1622;

John McKenzie, 419-806-5775

Bob Walker, 419-262-8006

Email us at: churchofchristweston@gmail.com

Website: www.westonchurchofchrist.org

Check us out on Facebook

December 2025

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.**