

Dear Friends,

Over the years a lot of people who call themselves Christians have disappointed me for various reasons. I suppose some choices that John Ortberg made a few years ago caused me to not quote him anymore, but that was a mistake, I think. Let me share something with you from John's book: *The Life You've Always Wanted*, p. 155. Not only has John disappointed me, I have disappointed people. I bet you have, too. I have even disappointed myself, but mistakes of all sorts should not ultimately define us. It really is what we do with them. Do we continue the pattern or do we change the trajectory of our lives and decide to please God first?

“When you're in your twenties, someone once wrote, you live to please other people (that may be right). When you are in your thirties, you get tired of trying to please others, so you get miffed with them for making you worry about it. When you are in your forties, you realize nobody was thinking about you anyway.

One Sunday morning as I was greeting people after church, a visitor handed me his card. ‘I usually attend Hollywood Presbyterian,’ he said, ‘but we're visiting here today. Give me a call sometime.’ I looked at his card: SPEECH INSTRUCTOR.” God has chosen a gift for each of us to possess and use for His glory. We never should compare ourselves to others because that implies God made a mistake with us. Our part in the Body of Christ is so vitally important – not just to have it, but to utilize it.

Ortberg goes on here: “When I catch myself comparing myself with others or thinking, *I could be happy if only I had what they have*, then I know I need to withdraw for a while and listen for another voice. Away from the winds, the earthquakes, and the fires of human recognition, I can hear again the still, small voice, posing the question it always asks of self-absorbed children: ‘What are you doing here?’

Too often I reply to the voice of the whining about some of my own Ahabs and Jezebels. And the voice gently reminds me, as it has reminded thousands of Elijahs before me, that I am only a small part of a much larger movement and at the end of the day there is only one King whose approval will matter: ‘It is the Lord who judges me.’ The voice also whispers, *Do not despise your place, your gifts, or your voice, for you cannot have another's, and it would not fulfill you if you could.*”

I Corinthians 12:4-11 ESV <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

In His Service,

Gary



## Great Lakes Christian College

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January 18, 2023

Dear Friend,

I just returned from my daughter's wedding in Australia. After graduating GLCC, Abby became a missionary there. The trip was amazing but getting there and back is brutal. Somewhere between Los Angeles and Melbourne you have a realization: I've come a long way, but there is still a long way to go.

That's true of Great Lakes Christian College and our financial challenges. We've made progress but there is still a long way to go.

Currently we project a \$299,000 budget shortfall for this school year. Our projected deficit was double that. So, we cut spending. We increased tuition. But the biggest progress has come from the generosity of churches and individuals. In the first six months of this school year giving exceeded our initial budget by 42%. God is good and His people are generous!

I am committed to communicating the good, the bad and the ugly. So here it is: we must wipe out the remaining deficit by June to ensure our continued existence. We could cut salaries. We could cancel scholarships. But cutting already-low salaries would be harsh, especially when we're experiencing 8% inflation. Having already raised tuition, room and board, slashing scholarships is similarly distasteful.

So, I am asking you to join me and the individuals and churches banding together to ensure Great Lakes Christian College continues to prepare students to be servant leaders in the church and world. We could wipe out the College's deficit if:

- Fifteen individuals and/or churches donated \$10,000 each to help us fund the discounted scholarships.
- 150 individuals joined our Log Cabin Society and pledged \$84 a month for the next five years.
- An individual made a legacy gift of \$100,000.

Forgive me if this is too direct, but time is short. Our auditors have given us until February 15 to come up with a balanced budget, so I need to hear from you in the next two weeks. Will you pray about responding to my request? Will you ask God to move the hearts of His people to action? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frank E Weller, President

P.S. "We received the news that GLCC needed additional funds to meet a shortfall. We knew we needed to act as a supporting church. We decided to run a campaign until Christmas Day, and we were not sure what God was going to do. God's people stepped up for our oldest missionary partner and provide \$14,600. We need a Bible college in our region, and we are committed to do our part to make that happen."

-Todd Lackie, Minister, Kenwood Church of Christ, Livonia, MI.

Stewardship Statistics	1/01/23	1/08/23	1/15/23	1/22/23	Total Money And Average Attendance	
	Attendance for in-person services.	42	52	46	54	
General Fund	\$3091.00	\$2459.00	\$2100.00	\$1355.00		\$9005.00
Weekly Budget	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71		\$9858.84
+ or— Budget	\$626.29	(\$5.71)	(\$364.71)	(\$1109.71)		(\$853.84)
<b>Designated Giving</b>						
Birthday Money	\$20.00					\$20.00
Food Pantry	\$100.00			\$25.00		\$125.00
Phyllis Murphy Memorial	\$300.00					\$300.00
Seldon Carsey Memorial			\$225.00			\$225.00
<b>Total Giving's</b>	<b>\$3511.00</b>	<b>\$2459.00</b>	<b>\$2325.00</b>	<b>\$1380.00</b>		<b>\$9675.00</b>

**Prayer List**

Krause's-Pacific Rim Ministries  
 Duane Rupe (stroke/prostate)  
 Shelly Sharp (friend of Peggy's/cancer)  
 Nicholas Nicely (cancer treatments)  
 David Wackler (needs work)  
 Jeremy Forrester (renal failure/dialysis)  
 Marcia Mitchell Olivarez (strength)  
 Shelly Sherman (cancer)  
 Chuck Sackett (bone marrow transplant)  
 David Reynal (prostate cancer)  
 Glen Agner (surgery went well)  
 Pat Sonoras (stage 4 pancreatic cancer)  
 Kenny McIntosh's sister, Beth (health)  
 Marv Nichols (heart surgery went well)  
 John Roberts (rehab to gain strength)  
 Mark Wysocki (skin cancer)  
 Darlean Carpenter (home/healing)  
 Jeremy Prowant (cancer returned)  
 John McKenzie (healing)  
 Russ Harshberger (healing at home)  
 Jennifer Strausbaugh (bone cancer)  
 Jennifer Wackler (health issues)  
 Jan Cavanaugh (car accident)  
 Emily Walston (Stage 2 kidney failure)  
 Jeff Lewis (cancer)  
 Doris Rothenbuhler (healing at home)  
 Reuben Soto (home/better now)

**Prayer list continued:**

John Maxey (healing at home)  
 GLCC (pray for growth) and new GLCC president, Frank E. Weller  
 Linda Weatherbee (healing at home)  
 Julie Chesney (metastatic breast cancer)  
 Leslie (Amber's Dad, broken ankle)  
 Derrick Saylor (not feeling well and sarcoidosis treatments)  
 Pat Fortney (ankle surgery)  
 Steve Parson (prayers for healing)  
 Family of Joseph Pauken  
 Family of Doris Berpolina  
 Family of Seldon Carsey  
 Cindy Wichman (home now)  
 Becky Repasz (radiation treatments)  
 Beth Bellor (Gary & Teresa's friend/ health)  
 Bev Murphy (tendon surgery recovery)  
 Family of Larry Lehman  
 Jack Diehl (cancer)  
 Andrea's sister-in-law, Jessica Sheperd and baby due in June (baby has serious kidney problems)  
 Phyllis Betz (covid)  
 Howard Roberts (covid again)  
 Family of Bill Bostelman  
 Family of Robert Babcock Jr.

**Remember our Shut-ins**

Mary Ann Hillier - B. G. Manor #7  
 Rose Mary Gensen - Arbors of Oregon  
 Peggy Carsey - Brookdale #105

**Those in Service**

Lt. Col. Elijah Ward— Ft. Sill, Ok  
 Ron Burkhart - Stateside  
 Jon Walker - 180th TFW Active duty  
 Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard  
 Luke Millican - USAF  
 Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan

***A Daily Prayer***

*Since God will be my end  
 Let him be my beginning,  
 So that I may now fully live  
 Instead of failing, straying, sinning.*

*—Angelus Silesius*



## SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

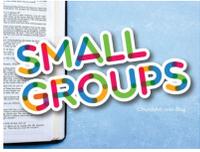
**Wednesdays at 7:00pm**

at the PARSONAGE

continuing the study

**“Life in the Kingdom”**

by Jack Hayford



## BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 7th, 7:30pm



## ELDERS MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 14th, 6:00pm

## GAME NIGHTS THIS MONTH

**February 10th and 24th**

6:30-9:00pm

Bring food  
to share.



Food Pantry is Open

**February 4th and 18th**

10:00am - Noon

*Men's Study Group starts Sunday,  
Feb. 5th, after Fellowship Break.*

*“The Purpose Driven Church” by  
Rick Warren. The study will continue  
the first Sunday each month.*

**February 5th**

**Mission Moment**

**Bowling Green**

**Pregnancy Center**

## February Sermons

February 5	How the Church Should Relate to Her Leadership	1 Corinthians 4:1-21 ESV
February 12	How to Handle Immoral Members	1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ESV
February 19	Judging the Church	1 Corinthians 6:1-11 ESV
February 26	What God Says about Sexual Purity	1 Corinthians 6:9-20 ESV

**Are you ready for cornbread and chili?**

**14th Annual CHILI COOK-OFF**  
**Saturday, February 25th, 6:30pm**



**Make your best chili and compete for the prize!**

**Come and taste all the chili and vote for your favorite.**

**Fun and Fellowship for All!**

**OPEN TO EVERYONE**

## The River of Life

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and U-turns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely turned back south — which raises another point: While most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn't mean we're off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn't mean we're not headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn't mean we're not moving. We might just be taking in more of life's scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.

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Newsletter®

## Going Out of Our Way

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: "If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Further, "whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.

**The Newsletter**  
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## Don't Lose the Key

In *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L'Engle writes: "We have to be braver than we think we can be, because God is constantly calling us to be more than we are, to see through plastic sham to living, breathing reality, and to break down our defenses of self-protection in order to be free to receive and give love." That sounds inspiring, but the moment I stumble, exhausted or overwhelmed, these words no longer encourage. Instead, they read like the work is mine *alone*, and I'm not up for that.

Knowing some of L'Engle's writings on faith, I researched that quote. Turns out it had been chopped off at the knees. Her next words are the key:

"With God, even a rich man can enter the narrow gate to heaven." ***With God.***

I can't respond to God's call to be more than I am, grow in faith, serve my neighbor or "enter the narrow gate to heaven" on my own. But "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26), and whatever Jesus calls me to do, *he* will equip me to do, walking with me all the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

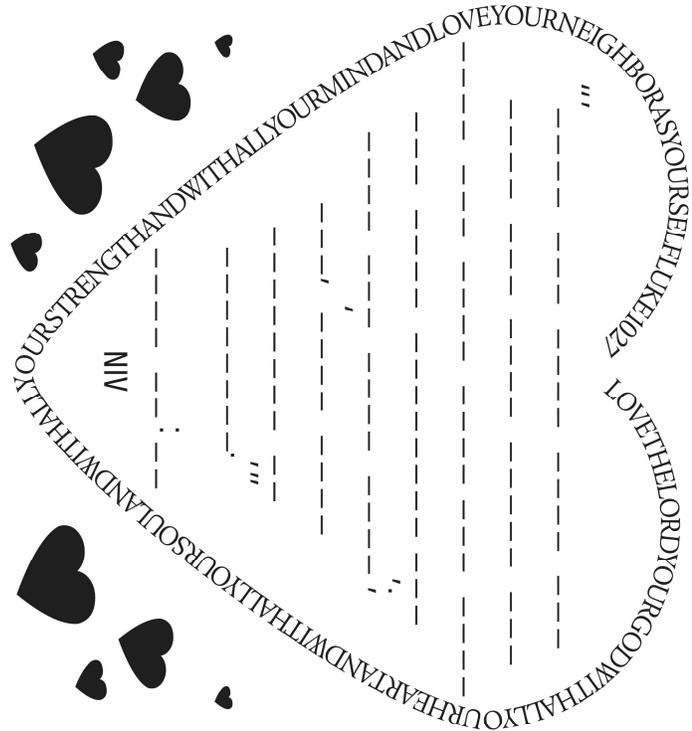


12 Jim Clark  
20 Leighan Yarger  
22 Tanya Tolles  
25 Joann Euler

4 John & Cathy DuBois  
15 Bob & Peggy Walker  
22 Ed & Tanya Tolles

# Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



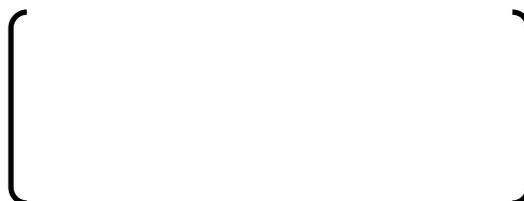
Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength and with all your soul and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV

# FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			7:00pm Small Group "Life in the Kingdom"	 7:00pm Band Practice		FOOD PANTRY 10AM - NOON
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Worship Mission Moment: Pregnancy Center  Fellowship Break  Men's Bible Study		7:30pm Board Meeting	7:00pm Small Group "Life in the Kingdom"	7:00pm Band Practice	6:30 - 9:00PM GAME NIGHT	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.		 6:00pm Elders Meeting	7:00pm Small Group "Life in the Kingdom"	7:00pm Band Practice		FOOD PANTRY 10AM - NOON
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Worship Words with Wackdog  11:00am Adult Sunday School	 President's Day	March news articles due.	7:00pm Small Group "Life in the Kingdom"	7:00pm Band Practice	6:30 - 9:00PM GAME NIGHT	Chili Cook-Off 6:30pm 
26	27	28				
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.	7:00pm LCF					

LET'S BE FOUND FAITHFUL IN 2023

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



March newsletter articles are due February 21<sup>st</sup>

**Sunday Worship Times**

9:30am Worship Service  
11:00am Sunday School



2  
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2  
3

# 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

Email us at: [church@westonchurchofchrist.org](mailto:church@westonchurchofchrist.org)

Website: [westonchurchofchrist.org](http://westonchurchofchrist.org)

Check us out on Facebook

**February 2023**

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.**