

## A Moment with the Pastor

*(This is an article from “Desiring God” “Emotions Make Terrible Gods: Taking Control of Our Feelings” by Greg Morse)*

We live in an emoji world where self-expression and “being the true you” hold highest priority — no one can tell us how to feel. We quickly, even reflexively, lend our smiley, sad, crying, surprised, or mad faces via text or comment. And short of rolling on the floor, we deem it better to express any and all emotions rather than hold back and become “fake.” No other options exist. Our unfiltered emotional life can, and some say should, extend to any and all persons — spouses, parents, or strangers included. Some even commend yelling at God when upset. In all, the assumption stands: you are your emotions — for better or worse. To repress them is to repress yourself.

But such has not always been the case.

As C.S. Lewis articulates in *The Abolition of Man*, men such as Plato, Aristotle, and Augustine have reasoned that our emotional responses, rather than being fixed dispositions, could (and must) be trained. “The heart never takes the place of the head: but it can, and should, obey it.” Emotions can be appropriate or inappropriate, just or unjust, rational or irrational, and therefore must be expressed and repressed accordingly. Sadness, for instance, is rightfully expressed when we lose a loved one. Sadness is wrongfully expressed when, weighed down by envy, it slouches us in our chair at yet another friend’s wedding.

God commands obedience “from the heart” (Romans 6:17) — the vessel we often judge as ungovernable. He tells us what to fear and what not to fear (Luke 12:4–5); what we must and must not delight in (Philippians 4:4); what we must abhor (Romans 12:9); that we must never be anxious (Philippians 4:6); and how we can and cannot be angry (Ephesians 4:26).

When we only deal with our actions, we are left with moralism, not Christianity. Outward conformity in behavior alone is meaningless when inside we are full of emotional uncleanness (Matthew 23:27). God searches hearts (Romans 8:27), and He offers a transformation of the heart. He commands new emotions, and by His own Spirit, He gives what He commands. This is great news: we are not left to be enslaved to our emotions.

How does he teach us to love, hate, and feel in line with godliness? He gives us four helps.

1. His Son, 2. His Spirit, 3. His People, 4. His Word

God gives us the wonderful gift of emotions to color life. He is a feeling God, and those made in his image are not robots. But while feelings are wonderful servants, they are terrible gods. When they flow — ungoverned by God’s Spirit and God’s Reality — they make us threats both to others and to ourselves.

In a world given to untethered emotions and cold apathy, a world impassioned by trivial things and unfeeling about eternity, we have a stunning opportunity: to let our reasonableness be known. We can live for God’s glory in God’s world as citizens of the next, loving what he loves, hating what he hates, living, laughing, and crying in such a way as to reflect the highest Reality: God is. He is at hand, and he keeps those in perfect peace whose minds are stayed not on their feelings, but on him (Isaiah 26:3).

Stewardship Statistics						Total Money And Average Attendance
	3/29/26	4/5/26	4/12/26	4/19/26		
Attendance for in-person services.	52	76	52	52		58
General Fund	\$2077.00	\$3159.00	\$1457.00	\$1222.00		\$7915.00
Weekly Budget	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00		\$11420.00
+ or— Budget	(\$778.00)	\$304.00	(\$1398.00)	(\$1633.00)		(\$3505.00)
<b>Designated Giving</b>						
Birthday Money		\$108.00				\$108.00
Lehman Memorial			\$100.00	\$100.00		\$200.00
Food Pantry	\$517.00					\$517.00
Gala				\$100.00		\$100.00
<b>Total Giving's</b>	\$2594.00	\$3267.00	\$1557.00	\$1422.00		\$8840.00

**Prayer list**  
 John and Sara Roberts  
 Sue Snyder (brain cancer)  
 Gloria Snyder (cancer in vocal cords)  
 Jamie Thomas (health issues)  
 Nora (Jacob's 14yr. old niece/scoliosis)  
 Jeff Frost (cancer dormant as of 4/5/26)  
 Jai Krause  
 Hannah Euler (recovery from cheerleading accident)  
 Sherry, friend of Mary Ann (cancer)  
 Paul Kuzio (dialysis every 2 days)  
 Julianna's grandmother (aneurism in brain)  
 Pray that world leaders have wisdom to make wise decisions in current situation in Middle East.  
 Dave Boswell (bladder cancer)  
 War victims  
 Richard Saylor (started chemo again)

**Prayer list cont.**  
 Joe Bridges (back surgery went well/now 4-6 weeks of rehab)  
 Tom Wilson (praise - breathing better)  
 Pat Beeker/Sue Mazey's sister (pancreatic cancer - lung problems)  
 Linda Fortney (Broken Ankle)  
 Janice Sweet (stroke)  
 Andrew Strickland (healing)  
 Barry (pacemaker)  
 Family of Mary's relative (food pantry patron)  
 Larry & Nancy Frost (bronchitis/lung related)

**Remember our Shut-ins**  
 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  
 McNeil Snyder - USAF/Georgia  
 Wynter Anderson - Army Nat'l Guard  
 Hunter Braun - USAF  
 MSgt Deidra (Anderson) Braun - USAF

**A Prayer for Open Hearts and Minds**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, in you is the fullness of light and wisdom. We ask that you enlighten our minds through the work of your Holy Spirit. Clear away distraction and doubt, and help us turn our full attention to you.

Give us grace to receive your Word with reverence and humility. Shape our hearts so we may listen not only with our ears, but with willing spirits, ready to be taught and transformed. Remind us that true understanding does not come from our own insight or effort, but from your truth revealed to us in love.

As we hear and reflect on Scripture today, draw us closer to you. Strengthen our faith, deepen our trust and guide us in the way we should go. May your Word take root within us and bear fruit in our lives, bringing honor to your name.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, through whom all wisdom and grace are given. Amen.

**Message from LAKE JAMES CHRISTIAN CAMP**

**1880 W 275 N, Angola, IN**

**SPRING SERVICE DAY**

**Saturday, May 16, 9:00am - 12:00pm**

Join us on a crisp spring morning to prepare the camp for summer! Volunteers will be tasked with helping our staff rake leaves, pick up trash, sticks, gravel, and other debris. The camp will provide a light lunch at Noon. RSVP 260-833-2786

You are invited to a **"NIGHT OF INSPIRATION"** May 16 or 17, 5:00-7:00pm. RSVP 260-833-2786

LJCC, through prayer and planning, are moving forward in faith to improve and update their current facilities through the Inspire Initiative. Pamphlet with more information is on the bulletin board by the stairs.

**Fellowship Break**

Sunday, May 3rd, after Worship  
Hosted by The Higley's

**Men's Mentoring**

follows Fellowship Break.

**Board Meeting**

Tuesday, May 5th, 7:30pm

**Food Pantry is Open**

May 2nd and 16th  
10:00am - Noon

**Friday Game Night**

May 8th and 22nd  
6:30 - 9:00pm

**Small Group Bible Studies at the church**

**Wednesdays at 7:00pm continuing our study of the 'Gospel of John'**

**Ladies Christian Fellowship**

May 18th at 7:00pm

**Monthly Prayer Meeting**

*1st Wednesday each month*

**Wednesday, May 6, 6:00-6:45pm**

Pray for anything and anybody.  
You are welcome to come whenever you are able during this time frame.  
This takes place before Small Group Bible Study.

**Welcome to our first movie night of the year!**

**Friday, May 15, 7:00pm**

**"Do You Believe?"**



It will be held in the Sanctuary due to unknown weather conditions.



- ⇒ Junior/Senior High
- ⇒ Saturday, May 2nd and 16th  
5:00 - 6:30pm
- ⇒ At the Anderson's
- ⇒ Dinner - Games- Lesson

**Evangelism Class**

**Saturday, May 2nd and 16th**

**9:00 - 9:45am**

Jacob will lead a discussion on evangelism.



**5th Sunday Singspiration**  
**Sunday, May 31, 6:00pm**  
**8221 Main St., Neapolis**

If anyone needs a ride, speak up.  
 We'll make room for you. If anyone  
 wants to perform, talk to John.

### Bowling Green Pregnancy Center Needs

In case you couldn't attend the fundraising gala, but want to help the BGPC, here are a few current needs. The list may change. You can always check with the BGPC to ask about their current needs. 419-354-4673

#### Boutique Items

Utensils  
 Plates  
 Sippy cups  
 New small toys  
 New teethers  
 New rattles  
 Diaper bags

#### Clothing needs - all for boys

Newborn pants & shorts  
 0-3 month Pajamas, pants & shorts  
 3-6 month pants & shorts  
 6 month lightweight sleepers  
 9 month pants & shorts

#### Items on Amazon Wishlist

Stroller \$125.99 & \$126.99  
 Car Booster Seats \$29.99  
 Car Seat \$99.99  
 Bouncer Seats \$29.99 & \$34.99  
 Baby Toys \$7.99  
 Pacifiers \$8.99

Sippy Cups \$7.99  
 Enfamil \$32.47 - \$129.88  
 Ointments \$4.49 - \$7.87  
 Bassinettes \$139.89  
 Diapers  
 Easy Ups

### The Taste of Our Words

I try to watch the words I say,  
 And keep them soft and sweet;  
 For I don't know from day to day,  
 Which ones I'll have to eat.



## Grateful for Those Who Gave All



We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## Stirring Up a Life With Meaning

When Winston Churchill once dined at a prestigious London restaurant, he tasted his soup and promptly sent it back to the kitchen. "It has no theme," he complained.

A good soup, he insisted, should have a theme. The same can be said of many things that matter: a good book, a meaningful concert, a memorable film, a powerful sermon, a beautiful work of art.

It is also true of a good life.

Joan of Arc, the French martyr, declared, "God must be served first." That was her theme. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he desired to know nothing among them except Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 2:2). That was his theme. Again and again, we see that every truly devoted Christian lives with a central, guiding focus — an overriding theme.

That realization invites a personal question: What is ours?

Pastor and psychologist Dr. Curtis Nigh offers this challenge: "If the heart does not have a noble or goodly theme, then it develops an anti-theme." In other words, if we do not intentionally shape our lives around what is good and holy, something lesser will quietly take its place.

To be a Christian is to embrace a compelling, Christ-centered theme. It shapes our priorities, our decisions, our relationships and our hope. It is not simply an idea we admire — it is the heartbeat of a life lived for God.

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## **An Unusual Answer to a Mother's Prayer**

Linda Jo Peters of Terre Haute, Indiana, felt her "worry button" get pushed when her daughter, Esther, called from college with an unexpected plan. Esther explained she wanted to go camping alone in a park in southern Illinois. She needed quiet time to think and asked her mother for Bible verses to read as she prayed about her future.

Linda knew Esther felt strongly about going, even if it made her uneasy. After the call ended, Linda dropped to her knees and began what she later called "a dialogue with God." She closed her prayer with a simple surrender: "I guess you want me on my knees that weekend."

And that is exactly where she stayed.

The morning after Esther's first night at camp, she called home. She was safe, she said, and no one had come near her tent. All night long, however, a skunk had wandered nearby, circling the campsite.

Later, Linda reflected on the moment with quiet confidence. "There was no way anyone with evil intent would have approached Esther's tent," she wrote, "while the power of prayer, in the form of a black-and-white critter, was circling it."

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## **When the Spirit Turned Fear Into Courage**

When Jesus was arrested, his apostles fled in fear. Peter, shaken and afraid, found himself denying that he even knew Christ. Christ's followers hid in confusion and grief, feeling brokenhearted and hopeless.

Then, on the Jewish Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came mightily upon them. Suddenly, they were empowered. Immediately they were galvanized. Right then and there, they were filled with enormous courage. Boldly, forthrightly, not far from the site of the crucifixion, they began to proclaim that Christ had been raised from the dead and that he was most certainly the long-awaited Messiah.

The fire of the Holy Spirit burned so vividly within them that people from all over came to see and hear what the apostles were claiming. Peter told them the story of Christ as best he could. Then Peter offered his hearers the opportunity of becoming Christ's followers. Amazingly, three thousand people responded to the offer at that very minute (Acts 2:41). We call that event the birthday of the Church.

Suzanne de Dietrich writes this about Pentecost in *Free Men*: "A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community. People gave their hearts to God and shared their possessions with their brothers and sisters in Christ. These believers could not keep silent. Their joyful freedom broke down every wall others tried to place around them, and no prison could silence their witness."

The power of God upon them and within them was truly astounding.

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- 3 Ed Tolles, Jr.
- 3 Braxton Strickland
- 11 Carol Krause
- 12 Lee Higley
- 20 Gaylyn Finn
- 25 Susan Brown

20 Steve & Sherry Murphy

## GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

**What you need:**

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



**What you do:**

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV  
But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

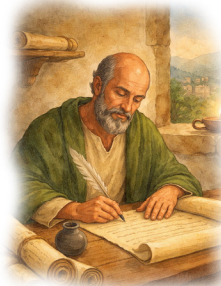
## Christian symbol

**CEDAR TREE** — A species of ever-green used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.



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## Bible Quiz



Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

Answer: A (Romans 16:22)



# MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 - 9:45am Evangelism Class 10am - noon Food Pantry 5-6:30pm Youth Group at the parsonage
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
9:30am Worship Birthdays and Anniversaries Fellowship Break Men's Mentoring		7:30pm Board Meeting	6:00-6:45pm Prayer Meeting  7:00pm Small Group Bible Study	7:00pm Band Practice	6:30 - 9:00pm Game Night	
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S. 			7:00pm Small Group Bible Study	 7:00pm Band Practice	7:00pm Movie Night "Do You Believe?"	9:00 - 9:45am Evangelism Class 10am - noon Food Pantry 5-6:30pm Youth Group at the parsonage
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.	7:00pm Ladies Christian Fellowship		7:00pm Small Group Bible Study	7:00pm Band Practice	6:30 - 9:00pm Game Night	
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.	 <b>Memorial ★ Day ★</b>		7:00pm Small Group Bible Study	7:00pm Band Practice		
<b>31</b> 9:30am Worship Larry Garzony preaching 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S.  6:00pm 5th Sunday Singspiration at Neapolis						

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



June news articles are due May 19

**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

**May 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.**