

Dear Friends,

I know we at the Church of Christ don't formally get involved in what is called "Lent," but certainly the principles of repentance, sacrifice and forgiveness are ideas and practices we might do well to put into practice year-round, much like the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. **We have an opportunity to give a "sacrificial offering" to Great Lakes Christian College on Sunday, April 2, 2023.** Also, on that Sunday, Dr. Frank Weller, who is President of the College, will be speaking in morning worship and then also speaking to our **Men's Mentoring Group** (about 11:30am) on the topic of Leadership.

I want to challenge everyone to get by with less so as to give more as God leads you. John Ortberg writes on pp. 199-200 in his book: *When The Game Is Over: It All Goes Back In The Box* about "The Station."

Robert Hastings takes us on an imaginary train ride that goes something like the following: Tucked away in the recesses of our mind is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long journey that crosses mountains and plains. We are on a train, and out the window is an endless procession of cars motoring down nearby highways, children waving up at us from crossings, cows grazing on distant hillsides, fields of corn and wheat curtsying in the breeze, lakes and rivers, city skylines, and village halls.

But we don't really notice. What we keep thinking about is the final destination. We will arrive at the station to marching bands and waving flags. Once we get there, our dreams will be fulfilled. The jigsaw pieces of our lives will finally be assembled, the picture will finally be complete. In the meantime, we restlessly roam the aisles, checking our watches, ticking off the stops; always waiting, waiting, waiting for the station. Always wishing the train would go faster.

The name of the train is *more*. The name of the station is *satisfaction*.

"When we reach the station, that will be IT!" we cry.

"When I'm eighteen."

"When I buy a new 450SL Mercedes!"

"When I get the next promotion!"

"When I lose enough weight!"

"When we get married and have kids in the house."

"When the kids grow up and get out of the house."

"When I have paid off the mortgage."

"When I can afford a second house."

"When we finally retire and all the pressure is off, then I will live happily ever after."

We keep thinking that a train called *more* will get us to a station called *satisfaction*.

What if trying to pursue satisfaction by having more is like trying to run after the horizon?

Why would we ever expect more to be enough here if this is not our home?

What if the train is called *contentment*? What if the station is called *heaven*?

What if the station is real and is to be the object of our truest and deepest longings? Then we will see God face-to-face. Then our longings for glory, beauty, love and meaning will be fully realized. Then the restless human race will finally cry out, "Enough!"

And God will say, More!"

If humanity would only turn to the truth of the Bible and not listen to pop icons who speak falsehoods to a humanity without God, or heaven or hell. Look at the lyrics to John Lennon's song "Imagine."

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today... Aha-ah...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace... You...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world... You...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

Why would you take your life-plan advice from a non-Christian who doesn't follow the Bible. There is a heaven or hell for everyone. And how could John have hoped to give us directions toward world peace, when his own singing group could not get along? Choose Jesus! **Romans 15:13 ESV** ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

I hope to see you at church especially on Palm Sunday and Easter.
In Christ's love,

Gary

Stewardship Statistics	2/26/23	3/05/23	3/12/23	3/19/23			Total Money And Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services.	49	56	45	49			50
General Fund	\$1803.00	\$3136.00	\$1369.00	\$1617.00			\$7925.00
Weekly Budget	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71			\$9858.84
+ or— Budget	(\$661.71)	\$671.29	(\$1095.71)	(\$847.71)			(\$1933.84)
Designated Giving							
Birthday Money		\$89.00					\$89.00
Food Pantry		\$125.00		\$150.00			\$275.00
Raymond Betz Memorial				\$50.00			\$50.00
Total Giving's	\$1803.00	\$3350.00	\$1369.00	\$1817.00			\$8339.00

Prayer List

Krause's-Pacific Rim Ministries (PRM)
 Noemi and Bhoy - PRM
 Duane Rupe (stroke/prostate)
 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)
 Glen Agner (surgery went well)
 Kenny McIntosh's sister, Beth (health)
 Marv Nichols (heart surgery went well)
 Darlean Carpenter (home/healing)
 Jennifer Strausbaugh (bone cancer)
 Jan Cavanaugh (car accident)
 Emily Walston (Stage 2 kidney failure)
 Jeff Lewis (cancer)
 Doris Rothenbuhler (healing at home)
 GLCC (pray for growth) and new GLCC president, Dr. Frank E. Weller
 Julie Chesney (metastatic breast cancer)
 Pat Fortney (ankle surgery)
 Steve Parson (prayers for healing)
 Jessica Sheperd and baby due in June (baby has serious kidney problems)
 Lisa & Andy Buck (health issues)
 Jan Finn (healing)
 Tonya Dunn (stage 3 cancer/rare type)

Prayer list continued:

Jamie Thomas (home now, vertigo)
 John McKenzie (MRI 3/29)
 Mike Hurd (doing well since heart surgery)
 Vicki Warner (recovering from surgery)
 Russ Harshberger (healing)
 Megan Brown (biopsy benign, still looking for treatment for issues)
 Family of Valerie Rickenberg
 Rachel Teets (lost a lot of weight for unknown reason)
 Frank Marr (stage 4 cancer)
 Family of Raymond Betz
 Steve Hurst (stroke/also pray for strength for his wife Colleen)
 Leighan Yarger (pray for improved eyesight)
 David Underwood (kidney cancer surgery at Cleveland Univ./April 11)

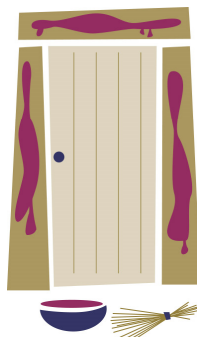


Remember our Shut-ins

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



DOORPOSTS — The image of a blood-marked doorframe is from the Passover account in Exodus. God directed the Israelites to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood signaled that the Destroyer should “pass over” those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY



Wednesdays at 7:00pm
at the PARSONAGE
continuing the study
"Life in the Kingdom"
by Jack Hayford

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, Apr. 4th, 7:30pm



ELDERS MEETING

Tuesday, Apr. 11th, 6:00pm

EASTER BREAKFAST

prepared by the Men of the Church

April 9, 8:30am - 9:20am

Easter Celebration at 9:30am

No Adult Sunday School at 11:00am

No Pre-School - No Junior Church

FOOD PANTRY is Open

April 1st and 15th

10:00am - Noon



Men's Mentoring Group - April 2

after Fellowship Break.

Frank Weller will speak about
Leadership

GAME NIGHTS

April 14th and 28th

6:30-9:00pm

Bring food to share.

April Sermons

April 2	Dr. Frank E. Weller, President, Great Lakes Christian College will speak	
April 9	Do Not Be Afraid - Hurry and Tell	Matthew 29:1-10 ESV
April 16	Paganism and Christianity Are Different	1 Corinthians 10:14-22 ESV
April 23	What Does Freedom in Christ mean?	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 ESV
April 30	Women's Role in the Church	1 Corinthians 11:2-16 ESV

APRIL 2 MISSION MOMENT - GREAT LAKES CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (GLCC)

Dr. Frank E. Weller, President



Volume 68 No. 3 March 2023

The President's Perspective

Dr. Frank E. Weller

Financial Stability and Why it Matters.

Since becoming President, I have focused on developing a sustainable financial model for GLCC. I've traveled thousands of miles and talked with hundreds of individuals about our mission to prepare students to be servant leaders in the church and world.

The response has been overwhelming. **I am excited to announce we will finish this school year with a balanced budget!** Giving to the College is 54% over what we originally budgeted. Eighty-five new members of the Log Cabin Society have committed \$108,959 in new gifts for each of the next five years, and new members continue to join!

Such generosity matters because Christian higher education matters. We all know Christian students who came home from the University at Thanksgiving break and declared, "I'm not sure I believe in God anymore." That breaks my heart. Students need a Christian college where they can ask tough questions and make their faith their own.

GLCC provides that kind of environment. The generosity of churches and individuals fuels it. Sixty percent of lead ministers in the Christian Church will retire in the next 20 years. Who will fill those pulpits? Our vocational ministry graduates. More than half of Americans no longer attend a church. Who will tell them about Jesus? Their coworkers who graduated with our marketplace ministry majors.

Our mission is more relevant and important than ever. And a growing partnership with generous donors will ensure it continues.



EVENT INFORMATION:

Enjoy an evening of dining and fellowship as we are reminded and encouraged to **Press On** in our ministry of serving the women, men and children in our community. In an everchanging world our call to love and serve others remains the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Philippians 3:12-14 says *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I **press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I **press on** toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

For your \$35 ticket, you will receive a four-course meal including a salad, dinner rolls, a main dish with two sides, and a decadent dessert, fellowship with our community pro-life movement, and the opportunity to hear how you can be an active part of Pressing On with us!

Our guest speaker will be TV & Talk Radio Host Mike Slater. Mike's passion is speaking for the Pro-Life movement at Pregnancy Resource Center events. If you would like to learn more about Mike here is a link to his bio:

<https://www.ambassadorspeakers.com/speakers/unique/mike-slater>.

Church members and friends: There is a sign up board in the Sanctuary. Deadline to sign up is April 14th. The meal choice is either chicken or vegetarian. The tables are set for eight people. We filled three tables last year. If you are interested in attending, please sign up soon. If you have questions about the meal or gala, call the Bowling Green Pregnancy Center at 419-354-4673. If you have questions about the sign up, call the church 419-669-3895.

Not Resuscitation — Resurrection!



In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This “escape tower” was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus’ resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God’s power, Jesus didn’t merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples – and us – “Peace be with you.”

—adapted from *Homiletics*

Death Doesn’t Win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.



During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter’s backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter’s foreground means death won’t win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life “isn’t all daffodils,” we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will “give us the joy, and it’s going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well,” added the pastor. “And that just makes me draw closer to God.”

The God Who Hides

Isaiah declares, “Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior” (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn’t our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

“Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ,” said 20th-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant.” So God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during his ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.

The Newsletter

Sharing the Load

In 1969 the Hollies released “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother.” Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, “He ain’t heavy, Father. He’s my brother.” Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been “carried” at some point, and we’ve likely “carried” someone else. The Hollies’ song declares: “His welfare is my concern.” Jesus said it this way: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The load isn’t too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

The Newsletter

Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!

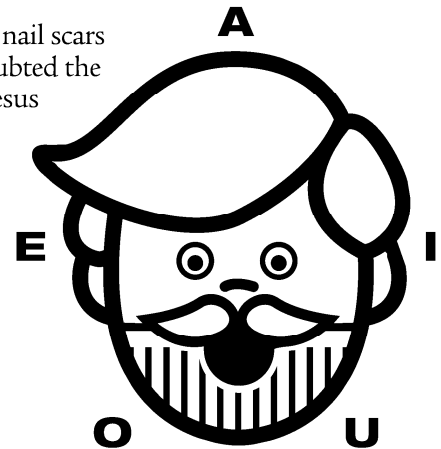


SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:

Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ _ s _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,

y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;

bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t

s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

?? ? ? ?

Bible Quiz

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' _____.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes

Answer: B (See John 13:1-17.)

Birthdays

- 3 Bertsel Roe III (Bud)
- 5 Russell Harshberger
- 11 Duane Miller
- 11 Addison Strickland
- 15 Kay Roe
- 24 Carolyn Higley
- 29 Peggy Walker
- 29 Becky Chamberlain



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

Anniversaries

- 1 Allan & Gloria Hughes
- 6 Mike & Bev Murphy
- 7 Lee & Pat Higley
- 12 Tyler & Kristin Foster
- 27 Ray & Vera DeWitt

Sunday, April 23, 12:00 Noon (after adult S.S.)

Potluck and Planning Meeting

Bring a dish to share. Drinks and tableware provided.

Enjoy a good meal and fellowship!

Let's put our brains to work!

We need to make plans for the Saturday, October 7th
Weston Family Fun Day.



APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 FOOD PANTRY 10AM - NOON
Palm Sunday 2 9:30am Worship Mission Moment/GLCC Love Offering for GLCC Fellowship Break Men's Mentoring NO Adult S.S.	3	4 7:30pm Board Meeting	5 7:00pm Small Group "Life in the Kingdom"	6 7:00pm Band Practice	7 GOOD FRIDAY	8
Easter 9 8:30am Breakfast 9:30am Worship NO Adult S.S. NO Pre-School Class NO Junior Church	10	11 6:00pm Elders Meeting	12 7:00pm Small Group "Life in the Kingdom"	13 7:00pm Band Practice	14 6:30 - 9:00PM GAME NIGHT DEADLINE to sign-up for the BGPC Gala	15 FOOD PANTRY 10AM - NOON
16 9:30am Worship Words with Wackdog 11:00am Adult S.S.	17	18	19 7:00pm Small Group "Life in the Kingdom"	20 7:00pm Band Practice	21	22
23 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S. 12:00pm Potluck and Planning Meeting	24 NO LCF	25 May newsletter info is due!	26 7:00pm Small Group "Life in the Kingdom"	27 6:00pm BG Pregnancy Center Gala Doors open at 5:30pm	28 6:30 - 9:00PM GAME NIGHT	29
Fifth Sunday 30 9:30 Worship 11:00 Adult S.S. No children's church						

LET'S BE FOUND FAITHFUL IN 2023

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

**Come celebrate Easter
with us on April 9th!**

Breakfast at 8:30am

Worship at 9:30am

May newsletter articles are due April 25th

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Sunday School



April 2023

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

Website: westonchurchofchrist.org

Check us out on Facebook

April 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.**