

A Moment with the Pastor

("The Fiery Tongue" an article from Ligonier.org) ("Burning Ourselves: The Tongue's Hidden Hurt" an article from insight.org by Andrea Hitefield)

"For some years in the last decade of the twentieth century, much of the state of Florida endured a drought. Normal rainfall levels were far below average causing the foliage to become extremely dry. Restrictions were placed on outdoor burning in several counties because of the fear that one stray spark could cause thousands of acres to become engulfed in flames.

It does not take very much to start a raging fire, just one match or one errant flame can destroy hundreds of acres of trees. So too can the tongue, though it is small in size, it brings great destruction to human beings. We have seen the power of the tongue to direct one's life for good or for ill. By comparing the tongue to a fire, James emphasizes the power of the tongue to cause evil. Few things can cause more harm than hurtful words whether they are carefully planned or spoken thoughtlessly in the heat of an angry moment.

The tongue is able to destroy lives because it is empowered by the fires of hell itself, according to James 3:6. Satan, makes special use of the tongue when he tempts us to lie, slander, gossip, or speak in any way that causes destructive and often irreparable harm to another's reputation or life. We do well to heed John Calvin's warning that the tongue is specially fitted for "receiving, fostering, and increasing the fire of hell."

"Remember," Smokey the Bear warned millions of television viewers, 'Only YOU can prevent forest fires.' But what if Smokey had faced the inferno we carry around with us daily—in our mouths? Maybe his warning wouldn't have centered on misused matches but on combustible conversations. In fact, his public-service announcement may have sounded a bit like the apostle James's: "Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell" James 3:5–6 NIV.

Even with all its benefits, the tongue has power to destroy us. The words we mumble under our breath on our way out the door, the ones we spit out when a driver cuts us off, the ones we hurl when we're on the defensive—all of them can transform us into monsters. Ugly words begin in our minds, slide down our tongues, and fly through the air. Ironically, they can cause the most damage where we least expect it. To ourselves. The sparks we spew sweep back toward us and char our own hearts. And from our scorched emotions, we release even more caustic words. It's a ferocious cycle.

A friend of mine lived consumed by ugly words. Everything, everyone, and every thought demanded her critical analysis. The soup was too cold. A stranger's hat too large. The traffic too jammed. Eventually, her comments infiltrated her heart and altered her actions. Oblivious to the change, she lost sleep wondering if others thought her soup too cold. She changed outfits obsessively. And she often left late for appointments, simply to avoid sitting in traffic. Her muttered critiques injured others, but when her words penetrated her own heart, they seared her relationships and her spiritual life. Her days of gossiping and restless nights of self-criticism, gradually lead to her transformation.

James wrote that the tongue "is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body" James 3:6. Making that principle positive, when we choose to restrain our tongues, we develop habits to restrain our bodies. After all, controlling the tongue is an inner discipline. As we begin to control our inner lives, we can also control our outer lives. Why should we watch what we say? Because others watch what we do. The connection is inseparable.

James encouraged us to prevent verbal fires from burning the forest around us. And yet, he gave no checklist, no tear-out sheet, and no three-step solution. Thankfully, the Bible isn't silent about what we should and should not say.

We should talk less. "When words are many, folly is not far behind" (Ecclesiastes 5:2–3).

We should avoid boasting. "Increased pride hardens the heart" (James 4:16).

We should avoid grumbling. "That includes complaining about our neighbors, friends, spouses, and even ourselves" (James 5:9).

We should pray. "The tongue will not run wild when our mind stays on Christ" (James 5:13).

We should practice patience. "As fallen humans, we cannot tame our own tongues; they are too unruly for us. We must wait as God works on our words and we surrender to Him." (Philippians 1:6)

Our tongue can stir up anger and crush the spirit. But our words can also turn away wrath and promote healing (Proverbs 15:1–4; 16:24). And they don't have to be numerous to be powerful. As Smokey the Bear would say, the responsibility to prevent forest fires—to preserve and conserve—falls on our shoulders.

Stewardship Statistics	9/28/25	10/05/25	10/05/25	10/12/25	10/19/25	Total Money And Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services.	51	52	N/A	54	54	53
General Fund	\$1601.00	\$2980.00	N/A	\$1576.00	\$1995.00	\$8152.00
Weekly Budget	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	N/A	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$9858.84
+ or— Budget	(\$863.71)	\$515.29	N/A	(\$888.71)	(\$469.71)	(\$1706.84)
Designated Giving						
Birthday Money		\$25.00				\$25.00
Food Pantry	\$200.00					\$200.00
Special Event		\$760.00		\$395.00		\$1155.00
Lehman Memorial Camp Fund				\$200.00	\$100.00	\$300.00
Cashed in Church Development Fund (CDF)			\$5145.07			\$5145.07
Total Giving's	\$1801.00	\$3765.00	\$5145.07	\$2171.00	\$2095.00	\$14977.07

Prayer list:

John and Sara Roberts
Sue Snyder (brain cancer)
John McKenzie (pray for good health)
Gloria Snyder (cancer in vocal chords)
Sheryl, friend of Mary Ann (pancreatic surgery, starts chemo again.)
Molly Rump (strength)
Lifewise Academy starting for Otsego School students this year.
Larry Frost (cancer treatments continue)
Jamie Thomas (health issues)
Henry Steiner (health issues due to Adrenal Insufficiency)
Nora (Jacob's 14 yr. old niece/scoliosis)
Jeff Frost (difficult time with chemo)
Lindsey Baker's Father-in-law
Gene Mazey (rest and strength)
Jacob's parents (health issues)
Faith Lewis Clemenson (recovering from shoulder reconstructive surgery)
Rae and Bella (family problems/friends of Taylor and Madison)
Family of Danny Potter (died of a heart attack at 61)
Amber, waitress at Everyday Café (Skin cancer deeper than expected, needs more time off work for treatments.)
Hannah Euler - Update. She is eating now, but not talking yet.
Russ Harshberger (pray for good health)

Prayer list cont.

Family of Donna (Joan Eckhardt's cousin)
Jim Dadisman, friend of Russ (cancer)
Dee, friend of Patsy (car accident victim)
Patrick Henry School "Lifewise" bus driver and others who were injured.
Family of Ron Drylie (friend of Russ)
Family of Danielle (wife of Mike, who is friend of Nate, Jacob's brother) She died of cancer leaving her widow Mike and 4 children.
Jai Krause, grandson of Darryl and Carol (He was attacked & stabbed after he got off the public bus from high school) Update 10/20 - He had blood transfusions & operations to repair wrist and treat several large cuts on his leg. he is home, but has long way to go before his injuries are healed.
Mary Jean Queen, Julia McKenzie's sister (She had a stroke, is home now, but has some struggles to overcome.)
Holli's aunt had a fall.
Jan Zulch fell and broke her hip 10/17, was in surgery 10/19)
Judy's sister in ICU, on ventilator
Gene Mazey (health issues)
Dick Tolles (cancer in both lungs)

Remember our Shut-ins

Peggy Carsey - Brookdale #105
Phyllis Betz - with family in Tontogany
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
McNiel Snyder - USAF/Georgia
Wynter Anderson - Basic Training
Hunter Braun - USAF Basic Training
MSgt Deidra (Anderson) Braun - USAF

November 2, 2025, 2:00am



Join us for
**FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY**

"Christ distributes courage
through community;
he dissipates doubts
through fellowship."
—Max Lucado

Fellowship Break
November 2 hosted by
Melissa Tolles

Men's Mentoring
starts immediately after
Fellowship Break.



Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 4th
at 7:30pm

Food Pantry is Open
November 1st and 15th
10:00am - Noon

Small Group Bible Studies with Ed Tolles
Wednesday Nights at 7:00pm
Gospel of John (video series, verse by verse)



Ladies Christian Fellowship
Monday, November 17, 7:00pm
*We'll be making Christmas Cookie Jars
in the Fellowship Hall for the Food Pantry Clients.*

Friday Game Night
November 14th
6:30 - 9:00pm
Bring food to share!
Fun for kids and adults alike!



**Cookies for
ACT**
BGSU and UT
students are
back and
Active Christians Today is meeting again.
They need cookie donations. If you can
help, please talk to John McKenzie.



Junior/Senior High Youth Group
Saturday, November 8th, 5:00 - 6:30pm
at the parsonage (Jacob & Carol's)

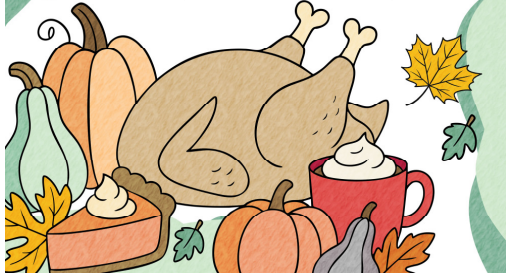
Dinner - Games - Lesson

Youth Gathering



Church Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner

 **Saturday, 11/22, 6:00pm**



- ◇ Sign up sheet for turkeys, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, sides and desserts will be out 11/02.
- ◇ Invite a friend to come along.
- ◇ Come to give thanks and enjoy the bounty God has provided and the fellowship.



2025 Annual Celebration

November 1st @ 4:00pm

Worship - Meal - Board of Elections Voting

RSVP your attendance by calling 260-833-2786 or email info@ljca.org

1880 W 275 N
Angola, IN 46703



2025 Fall Service Day, November 8th, 9:00am - 12 Noon (lunch provided)

Coffee-Cider-Donuts-Devotion before the work starts!

Volunteers will be tasked with helping our staff rake leaves.

RSVP your attendance by calling 260-833-2786 or email info@ljca.org



Sunday, November 30th is the First Sunday of Advent



Giving Thanks for All Things



It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

The
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A Day to Honor Our Veterans

On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."



Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

The
Newsletter Newsletter®

A Thanksgiving Hymn That Sees God's Hand Everywhere

For a hymn that captures the beauty and gratitude of Thanksgiving, All Things "Bright and Beautiful" is a perfect choice. Its lyrics paint vivid pictures — flowers opening in the morning sun, birds singing, golden sunsets, purple-topped mountains and rivers rushing by. It all leads to this joyful reminder: *"He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell: How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."*

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), an Irishwoman with a passion for teaching children about God. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, later collected in *Verses for Holy Seasons*.

But her ministry went beyond music — she spent her life serving the poor, comforting the sick, and caring for the grieving. When she passed away, "a great throng" gathered to remember her, honoring both her faith and the beauty she shared with the world.

The Newsletter

Take Me to the River

God often works in unexpected ways. Just ask Naaman, the army commander in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Stricken with leprosy, he traveled to Israel seeking healing from the prophet Elisha. Instead of an impressive display or a grand ceremony, Elisha sent word for him to simply wash seven times in the Jordan River.

Naaman was not impressed. "Aren't the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel?" he asked. Why bathe in a foreign, muddy river when the clean, sparkling rivers of home were far more appealing? It didn't make sense. Yet what seemed absurd became the very path to his healing.

We may not be told to wade into an actual river, but we all face "Jordan moments" in life — times when God calls us to take a step that feels uncomfortable, humbling or completely illogical. It is in those moments that trust and obedience matter most.

Naaman's story reminds us that God's power is not limited by appearances or human reasoning. Sometimes the action that feels least likely to work is the one that opens the door to blessing. When God invites you to take the plunge, step into the water. You may find healing and hope waiting there.

—adapted from *Homiletics.com*

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Derrick Saylor
6 Norman Tolles, Sr.
13 Carol Clark
17 Nancy Roe
17 Teresa Wackler
20 Shelen Stevens

1 Dave & Cindy Wichman
15 Jim & Carol Clark

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.
Amen.

The Newsletter

Abundant Blessings

There is plenitude in God. That great fact must never be lost or obscured. We must not exchange this immense graciousness for a few scraps of human morality or a few shopworn proverbs. God is a vast reservoir of blessing who supplies us abundantly.

—Eugene H. Peterson, *Traveling Light*

Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order
inside the squares. Then read down the
second column of letters to complete
the hidden phrase below.

FEAST, KHAKI, MOUTH,
ESSAY, LLAMA, ORBIT, CARRY,
UDDER, BRUSH, ITEMS,
~~APPLE~~, LEARN, CIDER

A P P L E



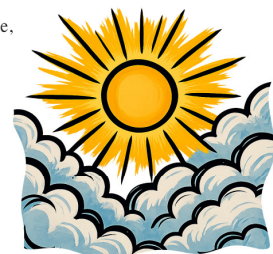
P _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ !

Answer: Praise the Lord!

Bible Quiz

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous



Answer: C (See James 1:17)

Thankful garland

Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

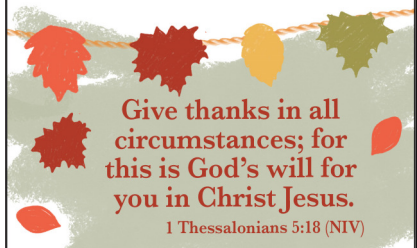
What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



What to do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Loop the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.



Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)



GIVE PRAISE

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled words on the lines below.

1 Give Take Grab	2 peanut praise pear	3 temple house LORD	4 proclaim past present	5 name boy lad	6 ruin destroy make
7 pine acorn known	8 train nations bus	9 done donut muffin	10 Sing Sleep Yawn	11 she him girl	12 sun praise moon
13 tell fast slow	14 red all blue	15 horrible dreadful wonderful	16 acts sisters aunts		

_____ to the _____, _____ his _____;
 1 2 3 4 5
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____
 6 7 8 9
 _____ to _____ sing _____ to him _____ of
 10 11 12 13
 _____ his _____
 14 15 16

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answer: Give, praise, Lord, proclaim, name, make, known, nations, done, sing, him, praise, tell, all, wonderful, acts

Gratitude Shift

When we look at what we want, and then compare that with what we have, we shall be unhappy.

When we think about what we really deserve, and then compare that with what we actually have, we shall thank God.

The Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10am - noon Food Pantry
<i>DST ends 2:00am</i> 2 9:30am Worship Birthdays/Anniversaries Fellowship Break hosted by Melissa Tolles Men's Mentoring follows break.	3	4 7:30pm Board Meeting	5 7:00pm Small Group Gospel of John	6 7:00pm Band Practice	7	8 5-6:30pm Youth Group meets at parsonage
9 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.	10	11 	12 7:00pm Small Group Gospel of John	13 7:00pm Band Practice	14 6 6:30 - 9:00pm Game Night	15 10am - noon Food Pantry
16 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.	17 7:00pm Ladies Christian Fellowship (We're mak- ing Christmas Cookie Jars)	18	19 7:00pm Small Group Gospel of John	20 7:00pm Band Practice	21	22 6:00pm Church Thanks- giving Dinner
23 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S. <i>Leadership Voting</i>	24 Jacob vacation 11/24-12/01	25 December newsletter articles are due.	26 7:00pm Small Group Gospel of John	27 	28	29 Preparing for Advent and decorating the church for Christmas - watch bulletin for time
30 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S. <i>6:00pm Singspiration</i>						

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



December news articles are due November 25

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

November 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.**