

## A Moment with the Pastor

There is one question that always arises when tragedy strikes; why did you allow this to happen God? Where were you when I lost my job, when my spouse left me, when my child was taken from me, when I got sick? We've all experienced tragedy, whether it was in our own life, or in the life of someone we know.

It doesn't matter if you are a Christian or not, everyone asks the same question, where is the goodness of God in this tragedy?

One man in the bible understood better than any other what it means to face tragedy, Job. When Job was struck with tragedy, it wasn't because he deserved it, or even that he brought it on himself. According all accounts, he was a righteous man. When tragedy strikes, it all starts with our enemy the Devil. Satan entered God's presence with a challenge; take your hand of blessing from Job, and he will curse you.

Job's life was great, he was blessed, loved, and protected, but then God chose to accept Satan's challenge to test Job. God willingly allowed Satan to test Job's faith by giving him permission to take all that Job held dear.

The goodness of God is not in question, but rather the power of the enemy. God did not do this to Job, but he did allow this to be done to Job. We will face tests in our lives; tests of our faith, tests of our love for God, and tests of our trust in God's faithfulness and goodness. James 1:3 "For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow." Psalm 66:10 "For You have put us to the test, God; You have refined us as silver is refined." We want a reason, a purpose behind terrible tragedies in our lives, but unfortunately, sometimes there are no answers except for what Job said in Job 1:21 "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job came to a very important conclusion, God is never wrong, which is why we read in Job 2:10 "Shall we accept good from God but not accept adversity?"

It is true that God is a God of goodness and mercy, but God is also holy and righteous, and as such, must at times test our faith to see if we are sincere in our devotion. It's easy to remind others about the goodness and faithfulness of God, but why is it that when we face adversity, we at times forget all about God's goodness and faithfulness?

When terrible things happen in our lives, we look for God, but so many times we feel as though we are searching in vain. Job 23:8 – 9 "Behold, I go forward but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; when He acts on the left, I cannot see Him; He turns to the right, but I cannot see Him." Job is so lost in the despair of his situation, that he has lost sight of God. Many times, when we face tragedies in our life, we feel so bereft of hope, that we begin to think, and at times speak out loud, that God is not good, but is unfair and unkind. We fall back on the same questions we addressed earlier, "Where is the goodness of God in this tragedy?", and "Why did God allow this to happen to me?"

Job came to one final conclusion, God knows what He is doing, and we simply need to trust and obey, even when we don't understand. Let's come back to the words of Job, "Shall we accept good from God, but not accept adversity?" We are told that God will at times test the sincerity of our faith, by allowing difficulties to arise. Again, this doesn't negate God's goodness, but accentuates God's righteousness, and His desire for us to be righteous. Through tragedy let us fall on the grace and mercy of God, and allow his power to strengthen and restore us.

Stewardship Statistics	5/25/25	6/1/25	6/8/25	6/15/25	6/22/25		Total Money And Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services.	58	56	56	57	56		56.6
General Fund	\$1337.00	\$4002.00	\$1665.00	\$1621.00	\$1245.00		\$9870.00
Weekly Budget	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71		\$12323.55
+ or— Budget	(\$1127.71)	\$1537.29	(\$799.71)	(\$843.71)	(\$1219.71)		(\$2453.55)
<b>Designated Giving</b>							
Birthday Money		\$11.00					\$11.00
Food Pantry	\$300.00			\$780.50			\$1080.50
Parsonage Roof	\$2000.00						\$2000.00
Mud Hens Tickets			\$52.00		\$104.00		\$156.00
Hockey Tickets			\$76.00				\$76.00
Lehman Memorial	\$150.00		\$100.00				\$250.00
<b>Total Giving's</b>	\$3787.00	\$4013.00	\$1883.00	\$2401.50	\$1349.00		\$13443.50

#### Prayer list:

Skylar - Cancer is back  
 Connor Sons  
 John and Sara Roberts  
 Sue Snyder (brain cancer)  
 Shari (sales rep for McKenzie's has terminal cancer)  
 Sara Way Knight (pray for continued strength)  
 Barry Brown (home recovering from stroke)  
 Claire Campbell (cancer came back)  
 Diane Miller (heart issues)  
 Cindy Pratt (cancer removed/healing)  
 Kristin & Tyler Foster (pray for healing)  
 Jeff Frost (cancer/more chemo planned)  
 Faith Clemenson (shoulder replacement 4/16)  
 Jerry Snyder (healing/hand)  
 Gloria Lehman (healing/wrist)  
 Paul Kuzio (kidney failure/John's friend from Wisconsin)  
 Jessica Johnson (chemo, but working)  
 John McKenzie (pray for good health)  
 Donna (Joan Eckhardt's cousin, in hospital with medical issues)  
 Ricky Humphries (kidney failure)  
 Rich Barton (inoperable tumor)  
 John DuBois (pulmonary disease)  
 Lisa Buck  
 Adams family of Weston (2yr. had cancerous kidney removed and cancer treatment is done for now.)  
 Roger Peinert (bone marrow transplant)

#### Prayer list cont.

Gloria Snyder (cancer in vocal chords)  
 Andrew Strickland (heart cath)  
 Andrew Baron (back issues)  
 Bill Way (off dialysis, had heart surgery for leaky valve 6/17, healing well)  
 Cathy DuBois (total knee replacement went well, doing rehab now)  
 Sheryl (friend of Mary Ann/spot found in May was not cancerous, so she is scheduled for surgery 6/9 at Cleveland Clinic for her pancreatic cancer)  
 Linda (Patsy's cousin had setback since kidney removed, in Cleveland Clinic)  
 Nancy Roe (doing better, home in July for 2 wks., then back to FLA for therapy & doctor appts.)  
 Bud Roe (He is healing from the 6/9 hip surgery. Colonoscopy showed blood leakage coming from 2 polyps. Thankfully no cancer detected. Going to the Willows on 6/23 to heal.)  
 Roger Meader (terminal lung cancer)  
 Leeanna Trail (cervical cancer)  
 Lorna Magrum's brother is in Toledo Hospital with stage 2 liver cancer.  
 Middle East conflict  
 Molly Rump (Praise - Paperwork is done, may get surgery scheduled soon.)

#### Remember our Shut-ins

Peggy Carsey - Brookdale #105  
 Phyllis Betz - Home

#### Those in Service

Darryl & Carol Krause (missionaries)  
 Lt. Col Elijah Ward - Carlisle, PA  
 Ron Burkhardt - Stateside  
 Jon Walker - 180th TFW Active Duty  
 Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard  
 Luke Millican - USAF  
 Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan  
 McNiel Snyder - USAF/Georgia

- ◆ As we celebrate Independence Day, we thank God for the blessings of freedom—and the hope we have in Christ, who sets us truly free. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36
- ◆ "Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor without faith."

—Alexis de Tocqueville



**Fellowship Break**  
July 6<sup>th</sup> hosted by the  
*Harshberger's & Higley's*

### **Board Meeting**

Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm

### **Men's Mentoring**

follows  
Fellowship Break.



### **Small Group Bible Studies with Ed Tolles**

Wednesday Nights  
at 7:00pm  
*Book of Acts*

### **Food Pantry is Open**

July 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am - Noon



### **Friday Game Night, July 11<sup>th</sup>**

Bring food to share!  
*Fun for kids and adults alike!*

### **Adult Sunday School at 11:00am**

Jacob is leading the class with a study

**"Discovering the Glorious Gospel".**

We cover a chapter each Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month when we have Fellowship Break & Men's Mentoring.

### **Friday Night Outdoor Movie - July 25<sup>th</sup> when it gets dark!**

Bring your chair or blanket.  
Bring a friend.  
Popcorn and drink provided.



## We're On a Mission to Help



**School Supplies** - We are collecting items for Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. You can pick up a list of needed supplies on the table at the stairs landing.

There is a box in the Sanctuary for donated items. School supplies will be given out on Saturday, **8/2/25** to families with school age children that use the Food Pantry. The collection runs through **7/31/25**. Thanks for helping out.

## Lake James Church Camp

We had several campers that attended in June. We have one camper attending 6/29 - 7/4 and another camper attending 7/20 - 7/24. We encourage you to send cards to the campers to let them know we are praying for them. Camp is a fun and learning experience. We already heard from the June campers about their time at camp.

When addressing your envelope, please add the child's name and session.

Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center  
1880 W. 275 N  
Angola, Indiana 46703  
Attn: *Camper's Name/Session Attending*

Here is a list of our July Campers with dates and sessions they are attending.

June 29 - July 4 - Sharimar Lacott/High School  
July 20 - 25 - Willow Robinson/Pre-Teen Camp 2



## Perspectives on Patriotism



While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."

This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.

*The* **Newsletter** Newsletter

## Holy Ground

For me, there's nothing quite like taking off my sandals in the summer and walking through the grass. But when our sons were infants, neither shared that love of going barefoot. When we'd attempt to lower them to play outside, they'd raise their legs, trying not to touch the tickly, prickly, green ground.

"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned Moses through the burning bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In God's presence, Moses faced a turning point: either resist God's instructions or obey, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Maybe taking off my sandals this summer can remind me that I'm standing in God's presence. I may not hear a booming voice, and I might just be standing at the kitchen sink doing chores. Or I might be at a barbecue, with the opportunity to truly listen to my neighbors. God's presence permeates life's big moments as well as the mundane.

How can you "take off your sandals" and enter what God has for you?

—Janna Firestone

## The Gift of the Bible

Certain parts of the Bible are hard to understand — and even harder to explain to children. But the late Rachel Held Evans made a start, and then coauthor Matthew Paul Turner completed *What Is the Bible?* This picture book can help adults as well as kids receive the gift of Scripture.

The Bible is often described as a library of books. Held and Turner explain that it's also many different kinds of writing: stories, poems, wise sayings, songs, letters. Scripture tells of Creation, good and evil rulers, miraculous events, animals that spoke or brought food to hungry people, even monsters!

The best part, the authors write, is that "in the Bible we meet Jesus, who teaches us new things about God, faith, and ourselves" — above all, that God loves us. "And if a story in [Scripture] is confusing or scary or sad, we can imagine how Jesus, who loves us, might tell us that story."

Bible scholars call this "the canon within the canon." As Christians, we read all other parts of Scripture through the lens of the Gospels, where we meet God *in person*, as Jesus. Similarly, 500 years ago Martin Luther called the Bible "the cradle that holds the Christ." That's a word-picture even children can grasp!

The Newsletter®

## Preventing Blind Spots

About 40% of any vehicle consists of blind spots, which are responsible for an estimated 800,000 accidents each year in the United States. People also have blind spots, and when they're spiritual, they can have tragic consequences.

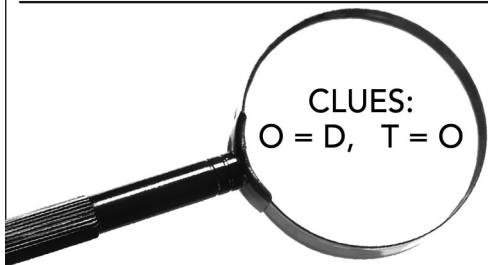
Pastor Rick Warren suggests these steps for discovering and overcoming blind spots:

- Pray, asking God to remind you what is true about him — and about you. "Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life" (Psalm 139:24, NLT).
- Ask some trusted Christian friends or family to point out things in you that you can't see. "Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others" (Proverbs 12:15, NLT).
- Finally, ask Jesus to change you. The Bible says the truth will set you free (John 8:32), and Jesus calls himself the truth (John 14:6). So the closer you are to Jesus, the more he will fill you with the truth. As God's truth helps you see clearly, you'll be less vulnerable to self-deception.

The Newsletter®

# Puzzle!

**For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode Proverbs 27:1, NIV.**


$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{O} & \text{OT} \\ \hline \text{T} & \text{D} \quad \text{F} & \text{DO} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{cc} \text{O} & \text{T} \\ \hline \text{E} & \text{D} \quad \text{B} \quad \text{P} & \text{O} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{cc} \text{O} & \text{T} \\ \hline \text{B} & \text{E} & \text{D} & \text{Y} & \text{O} \end{array}$$

TO O O , O O  
O P U P H H P L    Z P H    G P Y

$\frac{\text{O}}{\text{T D}}$      $\frac{\text{OT}}{\text{F D O}}$      $\frac{\text{O}}{\text{N F D L}}$      $\frac{\text{T}}{\text{L R B O}}$

B T B G U B G E H A F M

Proverbs 27:1, NIV

Answer: Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.  
Proverbs 27:1, NIV



Jane Spoerl  
Samantha Walker  
Taylor Tolles  
Bud Brown  
Patsy Harshberger  
Robert Walker III  
Amber Saylor  
Sherry Murphy  
Jan Zulch

11 Tim & Julia McKenzie  
16 Bud & Kay Roe  
20 Gene & Sue Mazey  
20 Russ & Patsy Harshberger


## Tips for Gardeners

"Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year," said evangelist Billy Graham. "It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul." Without summer, our gardens would disappoint, and without love, our hearts wouldn't bloom.

The warmth of summer and love aren't the only ingredients required for abundant physical and spiritual crops, however. Discernment and persistence ensure fruitful yields in both areas. "Unless we know the difference between flowers and weeds, we are not fit to take care of a garden," advised Clyde Francis Lytle. "It is not enough to have truth planted in our minds. We must learn and labor to keep the ground clear of thorns and briars, follies and perversities, which have a wicked propensity to choke the word of life."

**The Newsletter**






# SHOO fly!

Make this candle to keep uninvited insects from your outdoor summer meals.


**What you need:**


- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help




**What you do:**

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half. Cut off the rounded end of one half so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate. Insert the candles in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the outside of the bottom half. Then place the other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the candle that's between the two lime halves. The flame's heat will warn the flies and create a smell that insects don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when it reaches the bottom lime.





# PUZZLE



## TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

*Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.*

This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. \_\_\_\_\_

A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. \_\_\_\_\_

Having deep understanding and sound judgment. \_\_\_\_\_



A person in charge of military troops. \_\_\_\_\_

A person in authority. \_\_\_\_\_

The season when daylight hours are longest. \_\_\_\_\_

A substance you eat for nutrition. \_\_\_\_\_


When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. \_\_\_\_\_

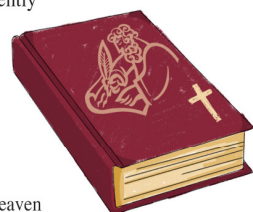
Go to the \_\_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_\_;  
consider its ways and be \_\_\_\_\_!

It has no \_\_\_\_\_, no overseer or \_\_\_\_\_,  
yet it stores its provisions in \_\_\_\_\_  
and gathers its \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

*Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV*



Answers: ant, sluggard, wise, commander, ruler, summer, food, harvest; Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer, food, harvest; Go to the ant, you sluggard; gather its food at harvest.



## Bible Quiz

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven

Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31.)



# JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		7:30pm Board Meeting	7:00pm Small Group Bible Study <i>Book of Acts</i>	7:00pm Band Practice	Independence Day	10am - noon Food Pantry
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am Worship Birthdays/Anniversaries Fellowship Break hosted by the Harshberger's and the Higley's Men's Mentoring follows break.			7:00pm Small Group Bible Study <i>Book of Acts</i>	7:00pm Band Practice	6:30 - 9:00pm Game Night	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.			7:00pm Small Group Bible Study <i>Book of Acts</i>	7:00pm Band Practice		10am - noon Food Pantry
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.			7:00pm Small Group Bible Study <i>Book of Acts</i>	7:00pm Band Practice	Outdoor Family Movie at dark	
Fifth Sunday 27	28	29	30	31		
9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High S.S. and Adult S.S.			7:00pm Small Group Bible Study <i>Book of Acts</i>	7:00pm Band Practice		

## Summer Worship

Sundays in July are for sunshine, fellowship, and worship! Whether you're here every week or dropping in between vacations, we'd love to see you.

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



August news articles are due July 22<sup>nd</sup>

**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: [church@westonchurchofchrist.org](mailto:church@westonchurchofchrist.org)

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

Check us out on Facebook

**July 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.**