

A Moment with the Pastor

“America at the Crossroads” By Robert Jeffress from <https://billygraham.org>

In just a few weeks, the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is undeniable that God has blessed this nation richly throughout its history, and it is no coincidence that His blessings followed a founding that was based in large part on principles from God’s Word. Are we a nation that God will still bless?

Our nation is at a crossroads. We look to history and see God’s past blessing as our nation sought to honor Him. We look to Scripture and see God’s future cursing in the end times, when the nations, including America, will follow the Antichrist.

As a country, we face the same choice Israel faced before entering the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy 30:19, God said, “I have set before you, life and death, the blessing and the curse. So, choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants.”

If we want to see God’s blessing on this country, we must do everything we can to share the Gospel with as many people as we can, as quickly as we can. Here are four steps we can take to move our country in the right direction.

First, take a stand. Christians indwelt with the Holy Spirit are the restrainers of evil in this world (2 Thessalonians 2:6–7). We must take a stand wherever God has placed us, including our school boards, city councils, neighborhood associations, schools and workplaces. We are to push back against evil, especially against those who seek to diminish our freedom to worship.

Second, cast a vote. If we care about America, we need to vote. In Biblical times, people didn’t get to choose their kings. But as citizens of the United States, we, the people, have the privilege of electing our leaders. When we go into the voting booth, we have the opportunity to stand for righteousness. There are no perfect candidates, but which one will best fulfill God’s purpose for government?

Third, say a prayer. We should pray for our country and those who inhabit it. In Jeremiah 29:7, God said to the Jews exiled in Babylon: “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare, you will have welfare.” We’re to be concerned about the nation in which we live. Some Christians isolate themselves from the culture, but God said to be involved in the welfare of the city. An intentional way to seek the welfare of those around us is to consistently pray for their salvation. God said in 2 Chronicles 7:14, if “My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Fourth, share the Gospel. The most important thing we can do is share the Gospel. The only way we can change America is by changing the hearts of Americans, and no political party can do that. Both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are corrupt and spiritually bankrupt. Only the church has the answer. If we want to see God’s blessing on this country, we must do everything we can to share the Gospel with as many people as we can, as quickly as we can.

During our nation’s bicentennial in 1976 pastor W.A. Criswell said, “I am a part of the nation. ... And the nation cannot repent unless I repent. The nation cannot believe unless I believe. The nation cannot be baptized unless I am baptized. The nation cannot turn to God unless I turn to God. The nation cannot be saved unless I am saved. The devotion and the fire and the flame must start in me.”

Stewardship Statistics	5.24.26	5.31.26	6.7.26	6.14.26	6.21.26	Total Money Given and Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services	61	46	52	56	51	53.2
General Fund	\$1650.00	\$6136.00	\$2982.00	\$2054.00	\$1420.00	\$14242.00
Weekly Budget	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$14275.00
+ or - Budget						
Designated Giving						
Birthday Money			\$30.00			\$30.00
Lehman Memorial					\$100.00	\$100.00
Food Pantry	\$100.00					\$100.00
Mud Hens Tickets		\$11.00	\$44.00	\$220.00	\$33.00	\$308.00
Concert Tickets		\$54.00		\$86.54		\$140.54
Total Givings	\$1750.00	\$6201.00	\$3056.00	\$2360.54	\$1553.00	\$14920.54

Prayer List

John and Sara Roberts
 Sue Snyder (brain cancer)
 Gloria Snyder (cancer in vocal cords)
 Jamie Thomas (health issues)
 Nora (Jacob's niece/scoliosis)
 Paul Kuzio (dialysis every 2 days)
 Dave Boswell (bladder cancer)
 Molly (healing)
 Tim Blohm (stroke recovery)
 Myra (health/brain issues)
 Gary DuVall (health issues)
 Paul Cici (home gaining strength)
 Dennis Tolles (pancreatic cancer)
 Jeff Frost (pray for strength)
 Larry & Nancy Frost (pray for strength)
 Shari Perry (healing of left eye)
 Mike Murphy's Uncle Dave (hospice)
 Family of Perry Fletcher
 June Wilson (surgery 6/29)
 Family of Richard Saylor
 Joyce Grose, Jan's sister (lung issues)
 Family of Sherry, friend of Mary Ann
 Nancy Snyder (emergency gall bladder surgery – Mercy/Perrysburg)

SHELL — A scallop shell, often shown pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is a Christian symbol of baptism and the washing away of sin. The three drops of water represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

From the earliest centuries of the church, the shell was connected with baptism because it could be used to pour water over a person's head. In a time when many baptisms took place in rivers, lakes or outdoor settings, a simple shell served as a natural vessel, reminding believers that God uses humble, ordinary things to accomplish sacred purposes.

Today, the scallop shell continues to appear in baptismal fonts, church art and Christian design. It quietly proclaims the message of baptism: washed by grace, claimed by God and welcomed into the family of faith.



Remember our Shut-ins

Bud Brown – BG Manor

Those in Service

Darryl & Carol Krause - missionaries
 Lt. Col. Elijah Ward – Carlisle, PA
 Ron Burkhardt – Stateside
 Jon Walker - 179th Air Nat'l Guard
 Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard
 Luke Millican - USAF
 Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan
 McNeil Snyder - USAF/GA
 Wynter Anderson - Army Nat'l Guard
 Hunter Braun - USAF
 MSgt. Deidra Anderson Braun - USAF

Our Awesome God

When our lives are focused on God, awe and wonder lead us to worship, filling our inner being with a fullness we may never have thought possible. Awe prepares the way for God's transforming power within us. This transformation of our inner attitudes takes place as awe leads us into wonder, admiration, reverence, surrender and obedience before God.

—James Houston, *The Transforming Power of Prayer*

Activities this month:

Fellowship Break

Sunday, July 5, after Worship
Hosted by Russ & Patsy

Men's Mentoring

Follows Fellowship Break

Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 7:30pm

Small Group Bible Studies

Continuing in the book of John
Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Evangelism Class

Sat., 18, 9:00 – 9:45am

Food Pantry Is Open

Sat., July 4 & 18, 10:00am – Noon

Youth Group

Sat., July 18, 5:30-7:00pm

Friday Game Night

July 10, 6:30 – 9:00pm

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, July 1, 6:00-6:45pm
This is directly before Bible Study

Movie Night (outside at dusk)

Friday, July 17
"Mom's Night Out"

Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, July 21 - Saturday, July 25
9:00am – 11:00am



Pre-registration Dates

During the Food Pantry Days

Saturday, July 4 and 18

10:00am - Noon

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Tuesday, July 21 thru Saturday, July 25, 9:00am – 11:00am

Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th Grade

At Emerald Crossing, children will journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. Along the way, they'll meet the shepherd-king David and the ultimate Shepherd-King, Jesus Christ. In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids will learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd. They'll discover there is a God who cares for them!



The following is a list of craft supplies needed for VBS. If you can donate any of these needed items by July 10, contact Mary Ann, Lynda or Missy. Thanks.

1. Crayola wide markers
2. Brown Chenille Stems – pipe cleaners
3. Gold Chenille Stems – pipe cleaners
4. Green yarn
5. Orange yarn
6. Brown yarn



Thanks to all the volunteers who signed up to help with VBS. Your time and effort will glorify God by helping the children learn all the love God has for everyone.

Still Worth More Than You Know



A speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, “Who would like this?”

Nearly every hand went up.

“I’ll give it to one of you,” he said. “But first...” He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. “Who still wants it?”

Hands remained in the air.

He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. “How about now?”

The hands rose again.

“My friends,” he said, “you’ve just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20.” Life can feel the same way. We are dropped, crumpled and ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does not change.

In God’s eyes, you are never less than priceless. Clean or dirty, wrinkled or whole, you remain precious to Him. As Isaiah 43:4 says in the NIV, “You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.”

The Newsletter
Newsletter

The Sacred Pace of Rest

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, “You can’t hurry compost for the same reason you can’t hurry love and you can’t hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace.” In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed.

Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God.

In a culture that prizes speed and productivity, stepping away may feel counterintuitive. Yet it is in these still moments that our souls are restored and made fertile for growth. The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.

The Newsletter
Newsletter



God's Bonus Days

An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory “God’s bonus days.” LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life’s unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, “Let’s play hooky, hon. It’s one of God’s bonus days.”

— Marion R. Vuilleumier, *Meditations by the Sea*

Freedom Worth Guarding

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.

The Newsletter

A Prayer for Parents

Heavenly Father,

Make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they say and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting or contradicting them. Help me be as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Let me not tempt my children to lie or steal. Guide me, hour by hour, that I may demonstrate in all I say and do that honesty leads to happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the harshness in me. When I am out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue.

May I ever be mindful that my children are still children, and help me not expect from them the judgment of adults. Let me not rob them of opportunities to grow, to serve themselves and to make decisions. Grant me the wisdom to allow what is good and the courage to deny what may harm them.

Make me fair, just and kind. And fit me, Lord, to be loved, respected and imitated by my children.

Amen.

The Newsletter

They Walked Everywhere

When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, "I'll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk."

A month later, the young man came back. "Son, I'm proud of you," his father said. "Your grades are up, and you've been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn't get your hair cut."

The teenager paused. "Well, Dad, I've been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair."

His father nodded. "That's true. And they walked everywhere they went."



Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

- 1) eiVn _ _ (o) _ _
- 2) ilLy fo teh elaVly
_ _ (o) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 3) abLm fo dGo _ _ (o) _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 4) estMar _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 5) eJuss _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 6) okRc _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 9) voaSir _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 10) doLr _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 11) ishCrt _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 12) ehSprhed _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _
- 14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _ (o) _ _ _ _



What do all these words have in common?

Prince of Peace, Names of God's Son

Birthdays

Gary Wackler
Jane Spoerl
Samantha Walker
Taylor Tolles
Bud Brown
Patsy Harshberger
Robert Walker III
Amber Saylor
Wynter Anderson

Anniversaries

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



PUZZLE

JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise. They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!



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



Answer: Praise the Lord!

About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on.

A well-known verse describes their progress: "So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to _____."

Choose the correct ending:

- A. be protected
- B. work
- C. serve
- D. live



Answer: B (Nehemiah 4:6, ESV)

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6-6:45pm Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Small Group	2 7:00pm Band Practice	3	4 10am-noon VBS pre-registration 10am-noon Food Pantry
5 9:30am Worship Birthdays & Anniversaries Fellowship Break Men's Mentoring	6	7 7:30pm Board Meeting	8 7:00pm Small Group	9 7:00pm Band Practice	10 6:30-9:00pm Game Night	11
12 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	13	14	15 7:00pm Small Group	16 7:00pm Band Practice	17 Movie outside at dusk (about 9pm) "Mom's Night Out"	18 10am-noon VBS pre-registration 10am-noon Food Pantry
19 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	20	21 9-11am VBS	22 9-11am VBS 7:00pm Small Group	23 9-11am VBS 7:00pm Band Practice	24 9-11am VBS	25 9-11am VBS
26 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	27	28	29 7:00pm Small Group	30 7:00pm Band Practice	31	

Weston Church of Christ

PO Box 344

13355 Center Street

Weston, Ohio 43569

August news articles are due July 21

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Sunday School



2026

Weston Witness

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Check us out on Facebook

July 2026

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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.