

A Moment with the Pastor

(1 Purpose of Children's Ministry – Dr. Murray Lawson) (2 <https://www.barna.com/research/childrens-ministry>)

(1) Most children give their allegiance to the world, i.e. order their thinking, decisions, values and actions in line with popular culture. Even Christian children (saved, committed, born-again, believers) seem to identify more with the world than with Jesus.

One reason why Christian children love the world more than they love Jesus is what they've mainly known or seen at home or in the church is a diluted, tamed, domesticated, or limited form of Christian faith. Another reason may be that we've failed to offer them a faith that is really meaningful and worthwhile. Yet another reason, in the words of Keith White, Chair of the Child Theology Movement, "What if we have misheard or neglected God's revealed teaching about children and childhood?"

God's expectations are always more than we can envision. For years I've felt like God's been saying, "Let my [children]* go!" (Exodus 5:1) *my insert. Children's ministry must and can be far more than what it's been.

Tragically, despite the efforts of thoughtful Christian parents, good Christian schools, and dedicated children's workers, there are significantly fewer children embracing Christ as Lord and Saviour than in previous generations. That is, children are more disconnected from Jesus and His Story than their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents.

All told, if children's ministry doesn't magnify Jesus, then it's not children's ministry! Children's ministry exists to bring children to Jesus so they can be utterly, exclusively and uncompromisingly His. Being totally into Jesus shouldn't be taken lightly – it's a life-and-death decision. Children have to take a stand and answer this question: "Am I for Jesus or against Him?" And then, at this doorstep of faith, children must progress into the ongoing reality of a maturing relationship with Him.

(2) Kids' ministry is a powerful opportunity to form lasting faith in the lives of young people. Yet new data from Children's Ministry in a New Reality, a Barna report produced in partnership with Awana, show the majority of children's ministry leaders feels this ministry is often forgotten by their church.

Walk into any church in the U.S., and you will most likely find an option for children's ministry. Overall, 80 percent of churches have a children's ministry, and 81 percent have a youth ministry, according to congregants.

Children's ministry's ubiquitous presence is tied to its unmistakable priority. It is seen as one of the most important things, if not the most important thing, in a church. Ask anyone—ministry leaders, congregants, parents and guardians.

Nearly two-thirds of children's ministry leaders (64%) go so far as to strongly agree churches cannot grow without an effective children's ministry. Even in decisions about facilities, church plants or building expansions, children's ministry spaces are by far the top consideration.

Likewise, the majority among churched parents of 5–14-year-olds says the children's ministry was "very" important in their selection of their church (62%). Assuming their church can only focus on a couple of programs, a similar majority (61%) says children's ministry would be most important. That's not to say parents don't have priorities in the broader context of a church, including their own experience. Rather, the majority (54%) strongly agrees a kid's time in children's ministry is just as important as a parent's time in the sanctuary.

With all that being said, we need to put a primary focus on drawing children into the church. They are the future of this ministry. So, we need to begin praying fervently about what God is leading us to do in the near future. I love all of you and God bless

Stewardship Statistics	6.28.26	7.5.26	7.12.26	7.19.26	7/26/26	Total Money Given and Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services	49	49	37	51	53	47.8
General Fund	\$1570.00	\$2481.00	\$1241.00	\$1798.00	\$1890.00	\$8980.00
Weekly Budget	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$14275.00
+ or - Budget	(\$1285.00)	(\$374.00)	(\$1614.00)	(\$1057.00)	(\$965.00)	(\$5295)
Designated Giving						
Birthday Money		\$12.00				\$12.00
Food Pantry			\$200.00		\$200.00	\$400.00
VBS Offering					\$460.00	\$460.00
Total Givings	\$1570.00	\$2493.00	\$1441.00	\$1798.00	\$2550.00	\$9852.00

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)
 Paul Cici (home gaining strength)
 Dennis Tolles (chemo hit him hard)
 Jeff Frost (pray for strength)
 Mike Murphy's Uncle Dave (hospice)
 Joyce Grose, Jan's sister (lung issues)
 June Wilson (pray for healing)
 Family of John Ward
 Family of Tom "T.J." Sager
 Family of Gary Duvall
 Family of Richard Henning
 Rick Spural (diagnosed with dementia)
 Ken Altmeyer (colon cancer surgery)
 Laura (Nancy's niece in hospital)
 Tyler Hoiles (surgery to remove brain tumor)
 Linda Weatherbee (recovering from pneumonia)
 Jerry Snyder (home now, but still not feeling well)
 Dee Nuhfer (healing from knee surgery)

Christian Symbol

SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.



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
 McNiel Snyder - USAF/GA
 Wynter Anderson - Army Nat'l Guard
 Hunter Braun - USAF
 MSgt. Deidra Anderson Braun - USAF



In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*

Activities this month:

Fellowship Break

Sunday, August 2, after Worship
Hosted by The Anderson Family

Men's Mentoring

Follows Fellowship Break

Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 4, 7:30pm

Small Group Bible Studies

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

Food Pantry Is Open

Saturday, August 1 & 15, 10:00am – Noon

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, August 16, 12:00 noon

BG City Park, Kiwanis Shelter

Table service, hamburgers and hot dogs and coffee provided. You can bring a dish to share and your own drinks. Hope to see you there!



Movie Night (outside)

Friday, August 21 at dusk, about 9pm

5th Sunday Singspiration

Sunday, August 30, 6:00pm

Victory Chapel United Brethren

Liberty Center U722 County Road 8

VBS Wrap-Up

Wow! We had 5 days of fun. Each day the kids started by singing, praying, learning Psalm 23 and playing games. Then they moved on to completing crafts of all kinds, enjoying snack time and learning all about David. Each day ended with more singing and repeating the verse for the day.

VBS offerings collected were given to the Christian Children's Home of Ohio to help those children take a vacation. Kids and helpers gave a total of \$460.00. What a great contribution to CCHO!

Parents and friends were invited to the last day of VBS for a short program filled with music, seeing the kid's art projects and enjoying ice-cream.

Thanks to all those who attended and helped in anyway. We are looking forward to next year!



Why Me?

When we're faced with unexpected hardship, our first impulse is often to ask, "Why me, O God? Why me?"

Yet when a blessing comes our way, we receive it with gratitude and rarely ask the same question: "Why me, O God? Why me?"

The Newsletter

5th Sunday Singspiration



Victory Chapel United Brethren in Christ is hosting this month. They are located at U722 County Road 8, Liberty Center. Directions from Weston area:

Take SR 109 N to Liberty Center.
Turn left on County Road U.
Turn right on County Road 8.
Church is on your right.

Psalm 100:1-3

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.



Carried and Called to Follow

Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead.

There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.

The Newsletter

It Is No Secret: A Song Born of Transformation

Billy Graham's public ministry gained national attention at the Rose Bowl in 1949, where a remarkable response marked the beginning of a historic movement. He returned to the same venue in November 2004, 55 years later, to commemorate that milestone.

Before the 1949 event, Billy appeared as a guest on a radio show hosted by songwriter and performer Stuart Hamblen. During the broadcast, Hamblen encouraged listeners to attend the meetings at the Rose Bowl. Before leaving, Billy invited Hamblen to attend as well. Though not a Christian at the time, Hamblen agreed. (His wife, however, was a believer.)

That evening, Hamblen did not go forward with others to profess faith in Christ, but he left deeply unsettled. Later that night, he went to Graham's hotel, where he shared his restless spirit. Through Billy's witness and prayer, Hamblen gave his life to the Lord.

Soon after, actor John Wayne asked him, "Stuart, what's this about you hitting the sawdust trail?"

Hamblen replied, "That's no secret, John, what God has done for me. He can do it for you or anyone else."

Wayne responded, "That sounds like a song. Why don't you write one?"

And so, "It Is No Secret (What God Can Do)" was born.

Hamblen later wrote many Gospel songs, once saying, "I try to write music with a spiritual uplift instead of a moral downbeat."

The Newsletter

A Repair for Brokenness



Our lives are marked by brokenness, including broken relationships, broken promises, and broken expectations. Left unattended, these fractures can quietly shape us, hardening into bitterness or resentment.

How do we live with such brokenness without losing heart? We return, again and again, to God's faithful presence. In Him, we find not only comfort but restoration. God does not ignore what is broken. He meets us in it, gently mending what we place in His hands and reshaping what feels beyond repair.

Scripture reminds us, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3, NIV). What we cannot fix on our own, God is able to restore in His time and in His way.

Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and spiritual writer, often spoke of this sacred return, the daily turning back to God where healing begins and hope is renewed. In His presence, our brokenness is not wasted. It becomes the very place where grace takes root and new life begins.

The Newsletter

Save Me a Pew

The world's largest Protestant congregation is Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul. Since its founding in 1958, the church has grown at an extraordinary pace. By 1983, even seven Sunday services could not accommodate all who came to worship, leading to the creation of satellite congregations.

The main sanctuary, located across from National Assembly Building, seats about 26,000 people. Yet the membership is so large that attendees are assigned specific weeks of the month to attend services.

What a powerful witness in a country where only about 30 percent of the population identifies as Christian.

What would it take for your church to face a similar "problem"? And what part might you play in making room for more?

The Newsletter

Who was Bartholomew?

Among the twelve disciples, Bartholomew remains one of the more intriguing figures, known more through connections than detailed accounts. Though he is not named in the Gospel of John, many scholars believe he is the same person as Nathanael, who appears only in John's Gospel.

This connection is often made because Philip introduces Nathanael to Jesus in John, while Bartholomew is consistently listed alongside Philip in Matthew, Mark and Luke. When Nathanael meets Jesus, the Lord declares, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" (John 1:47, NKJV).

Outside of Scripture, early church historian Eusebius provides one of the earliest references to Bartholomew's ministry. He records that Bartholomew brought a Hebrew version of Matthew's Gospel to believers in India. Tradition also holds that Bartholomew preached in regions such as Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt and Armenia.

His death is remembered as a martyrdom. According to longstanding tradition, Bartholomew was either beheaded or flayed alive and then crucified upside down. His life and witness reflect bold faith and enduring commitment to the Gospel.

The Newsletter

The Marks of a Leader

Leaders should aspire to look like small boys in August. If you raise children or grandchildren, you know that by the end of August, they've been running around all summer in their shorts, sneakers and T-shirts. You also know that their knees and their elbows are always skinned, their shins always black and blue, and that they have the marks of the summer's fracas on their faces. A 6-year-old boy at the end of summer is my picture of a leader.

I got that picture from David Hubbard, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Many years ago he told me that leaders need to learn not to inflict pain, but to bear pain. It seems to me that if you're bearing pain properly as a leader, whether you're a preacher, a college professor, a parent or a teacher, you ought to have the marks of the struggle. One ought to have bruised shins and skinned knees.

—Max DePree, *Leadership Jazz*

Puzzle!



Use the Scripture verses below to locate the places in the puzzle. (If a verse mentions more than one place, only one appears in the puzzle, so choose carefully.) Circle each place as you find it.

Answers go: → ↓ ↘

Genesis 2:15	Isaiah 23:1	Luke 24:13
Genesis 11:9	Isaiah 23:2	John 2:1
Genesis 35:1	Isaiah 23:3	Acts 8:5
Exodus 13:18	Jonah 1:2	Acts 11:22
Ruth 1:1	Matthew 3:6	Acts 17:16
1 Kings 18:19	Matthew 4:18	Romans 1:15
1 Chronicles 11:4	Matthew 26:36	

S	I	D	O	N	G	N	I	L	E	S	O
J	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R
E	S	G	A	A	R	C	A	N	A	A	M
R	A	E	T	B	D	C	D	B	E	O	O
U	M	T	H	B	E	T	H	E	L	F	U
S	A	H	E	T	N	E	A	T	N	G	N
A	R	S	N	Y	O	M	N	H	I	A	T
L	I	E	S	R	F	M	T	L	N	L	C
E	A	M	D	E	E	A	I	E	E	I	A
M	F	A	R	S	D	U	O	H	V	L	R
G	H	N	O	A	E	S	C	E	E	E	M
I	J	E	M	B	N	A	H	M	H	E	E
T	O	W	E	R	O	F	B	A	B	E	L

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, Bethel, Red Sea, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, Nile, Nineveh, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Emmaus, Cana, Samaria, Antioch, Athens, Rome

Birthdays

3 Judy Stewart
4 Bob Tolles, Sr.
5 Gloria Lehman
20 Cheryl Garrett
20 Robert Walker IV
27 Jan Finn
31 John McKenzie

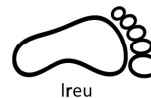
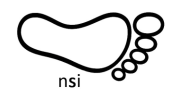
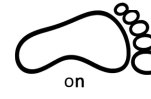
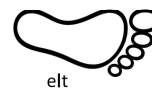
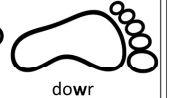
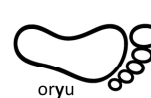
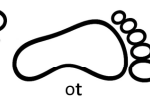
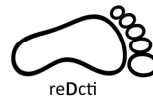
1 Paul & Becky Chamberlin



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."



Bible Quiz



Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."



Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.

Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10am-noon Food Pantry
2 9:30am Worship Birthdays & Anniversaries Fellowship Break Men's Mentoring	3	4 7:30pm Board Meeting	5 7:00pm Small Group	6 7:00pm Band Practice	7	8
9 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	10	11	12 7:00pm Small Group	13 7:00pm Band Practice	14	15 10am-noon Food Pantry
16 9:30am Worship 12:00pm Church Picnic	17	18	19 7:00pm Small Group	20 7:00pm Band Practice	21 Movie outside at dusk (about 9pm)	22
23 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	24	25	26 7:00pm Small Group	27 7:00pm Band Practice	28	29
30 9:30am Worship 5th Sunday No preschool or junior church 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	31 Also, on the 30th is Singspiration at Victory Chapel United Brethren, 6pm, Liberty Center U722 Co Rd 8					

Weston Church of Christ

PO Box 344

13355 Center Street

Weston, Ohio 43569

September news articles are due August 25

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Sunday School



Weston Witness

2026

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

August 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.