

## For the Record...

Bible Study:	117	Weekly Giving: \$	14,365
Sunday Worship:	374	Weekly Budget:	16,237
Sunday Evening:	97	YTD Giving: \$	715,116
Wednesday:	184	YTD Budget: \$	795,613

## Our Ministers

Josh Clem  
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## Our Shepherds

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## Our Staff

Krysta Allen  
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Jenifer Hurt  
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## For our visitors:

If you have any questions, if you want to get involved with our church, or if you just want to meet some of our leaders, please stop by the Starting Point kiosk in the lobby. We'd love to meet you and answer your questions. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

*West Side Church of Christ*  
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## Our Deacons

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## Winter Solstice and the Light of the World

by Tim Tripp

Let me say this and then explain. I am all in on Christmas. There are many reasons why people, even Jesus followers, reduce Christmas to little more than a cultural holiday. For many, it is about Santa Claus and Rudolph and red and green decorations. I'm not against any of those things per se, but for me, brandishing secular icons will never take the place of celebrating sacred flesh. Let me address a couple of the reasons people give for treating a religious celebration of Christmas with skepticism and then give my main reason for taking it seriously.

First, people (non-Catholics) are skeptical because Christmas is a "Catholic" holiday. It is true that no formal celebration around the birth of Christ is known to have happened before early in the 4th century. That would have been when Christianity went from being an outlawed and persecuted religion to becoming the state religion of the Roman empire. Granted that there were several things that took place then that are considered dubious by non-Catholics like definition of the church hierarchy (Popes, priests, etc..) and the mingling of church and government. However, there were several positive and useful things that took place then too. The books of the New Testament were vetted and canonized (declared genuine and authoritative for Christian governance and doctrine). Property and resources were given for church buildings to be built in most communities (which during the dark ages became bastions of hope for many of the desperately poor of the world). Neither the compilation of the writings that were chosen nor the building of church buildings were 'authorized by the New Testament' but they are certainly important objects and activities that did then and even now play a considerable role in the genuine faith of believers. I put a celebration of Jesus' birth in that category.

The second reason some are skeptical is because December 25th is an unlikely date for the birth of Jesus. We were not given the date of Jesus' birth or even the time of year. December is winter in that part of the world and shepherds would not likely have been out in the fields with their sheep then. Even those who set the date for celebrating the day of Jesus' birth did not believe that was a likely 'literal birthdate' for Christ. No one knows for sure why 12-25 was chosen but some of the writings around the time it was set seem to suggest a symbolic rationale for the odd dating. It was intentionally put on what was then considered the Winter Solstice. It was the shortest day of the year and Jesus, being the light of the world, came in darkness to bring light to the world. In the absence of a literal date, I'm fine with the "darkness to light" reasoning. December 25th it is!

My main reason for celebrating Christmas as a religious holiday is the incarnation. God entering human flesh. The tender story of how Jesus was born is touching and human. The fact that God came to live with us as a man is supernatural and beyond amazing. I know that there is no command to celebrate Jesus' birth but on that night God's angels celebrated it with common shepherds and told them to spread the word. I believe the example of their celebration is all I need to praise God for his most precious gift and use it as an opportunity to keep spreading the good news. You do what you feel is right but that is why I celebrate the birth of Emmanuel and why I will never take Christ out of Christmas.

### DIOS LE BENDIGA! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

It's a wonderful and beautiful blessing when you are part of a family that is always there to give special care when those difficult or wonderful moments come! My West Side Family is a such a place! Our Lord and God has and continues to bless this family. My family and I, are looking to grow spiritually even more, serving and working with all of you my West Side Family.

God is ALWAYS Good!

DIOS LE BENDIGA HERMANOS Y HERMANAS EN CRISTO.

Sunday,  
Dec. 15, 2019

This week's helpers:

Nursery:  
- Joy Johnson  
- Susan Lewis

KFC: Christmas Program Today

2 year olds:

3 & 4 year olds:

K - 2nd grade:

Puppets:

Greeters:

North:  
Judy Lamb

East:  
Clay and Candy Reed

West:  
Keith & Velda Frazier

Communion:

Table 1:  
-Zac Dailey, Donnie Baker,  
Lonnie Abbott, Rick  
Butler, David Davenport

Table 2:  
-Larry Duvall, Dale Brooks,  
Rocky Clancy, Danny  
Davis, Brady Bunch

Sign up for WS emails at [westsidear.org/subscribe](http://westsidear.org/subscribe)

To give: Text 84321 or go to [westsidear.org/give](http://westsidear.org/give)



Children's Ministry Grades K - 5 Meets Sunday at 9 AM and Wednesday at 6:30 PM.



Teaching Team Leaders:

Holy Word Studios: Lee and Andrea Henson  
Noah's Arcade: Dale and Christina Brooks  
Museum: Brent and April Ruple  
Creator's Canvas: Hensons



>December 8: Middle School 6th - 8th Grade Christmas party Lunch in Cornerstone.  
>December 15: 9th - 12th Grade Christmas Party Lunch in the Cornerstone.  
>December 18: FAMILY NIGHT\_ Meal and Worship together in the Cornerstone 5:30pm - 7:30pm. Parents and Students encouraged to be together.

CHRISTEENS: A variety of planning and work meetings are taking place from now till the event. Please let Mark know how you can be of assistance.

Wednesday nights the Gym/Cornerstone opens at 5:30, Bring your homework, dinner, and hangout.

HOMEWORK FOR SUNDAY CLASS:

1. READ JOHN CHAPTERS 1-10
2. Write some thoughts or questions about the reading
3. Bring your bible to class!

Hey College Students!  
Good Luck on those Finals!

We hope you have a great Christmas Break and look forward to seeing you in 2020!!

**Gulf Coast Getaway**, a christian conference for college students is coming up **Jan. 17th -20th.** Cost is \$160

For more info on how to register visit [ccscatu.org/gcg](http://ccscatu.org/gcg)

Want to receive text updates?

Text@ccscatu to 81010

## Adult Bible Classes

Sunday Morning Adult Classes:

Room 2: Tripp Rotation | Spiritual Formation  
Room3: Clem Rotation | Sermon on the Mount  
FC Classroom: Janelle Rotation | Minor Prophets  
Rock: Clements Rotation | The Mission of Jesus

Wednesday Night Adult Class(es):

Room 3: A Life of Covenant

FC Classroom: A Joyful Journey Ladies Class

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

### Monday Night For The Master

West Side Family, as this year draws to an end and most of us are focused on holiday fun and family let's be mindful also of the needs around us that continue during these times.

Our MNFTM meal program feeds the homeless and provides snacks for the dialysis clinic all year long in addition to providing a meal each week for our own.

Currently our pantry is depleted and we need to restock for the new year. Please consider helping us in our efforts to continue blessing others by providing the needed items listed below. Or, if you prefer making a monetary donation for the purpose of restocking the pantry, this would help ensure that our pantry items are always fresh.

A little help goes a long way!

Thank you in advance for your support, and for being the hands and feet of Jesus!

### Ongoing needed items are:

Fruit cups  
Individual unsweetened applesauce  
Cans of Tuna packed in water ( not oil)  
Ritz ctackers (short stacks)  
Little Debbie snacks- any kind

### Friendship Cafe:

Today is the last day for Friendship Cafe this year. If you would like to volunteer to bring muffins and /or donuts in 2020, please see Cindy Jones. **Even if you have participated this past year, please let Cindy know if you plan to continue.** This will be a brand new rotation.

## Gathering Times

SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY
9:00 AM Bible Class	6:30 PM
9:00 AM Clase en Español	6:30 PM Clase en Español
10:00 AM Worship	
10:00 AM Adoración	7:00 Midweek @ CCSC
5:00 PM	Share Groups/ various times and locations

## Family Illness and Recovery

Linda Harrell has been struggling with illness for the past several weeks. Continued prayers for her recovery are appreciated.

Truman Hill continues to battle ongoing health concerns, and is unable to leave the house at this time. Please keep Truman and Jan in your prayers as they face daily trials with illness.

Pat Kee is doing well following hip replacement surgery. Please keep her in your prayers for a full and rapid recovery.

Clay Reed will have 3 more rounds of intense chemotherapy for precautionary measures. Please keep Clay in your prayers for strength during these next several weeks of treatment.

Joe Russell is at St. Mary's Rehab following a recent heart attack and receiving a pacemaker and defibrillator. Please continue to pray for Joe in his recovery.

### Happening Today:

**KFC Christmas program**  
**"Twas the Night Before Christ's Birth"**

**High School Christmas Party & Lunch in the Cornerstone**

**25th Anniversary Celebration in honor of Aris and Carina Ortiz at 6pm in the Family Center.**

**All are invited. Please come and celebrate with us!**

## RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

West Side Church of Christ has partnered with Paul Senn of River Valley Christian Counseling to provide high quality, affordable, Christian counseling to the River Valley. Hourly fees are based on the client's income and services will be provided regardless of the income/insurance situation of the client.

If you would like more information, please contact Paul Senn at

479-219-3019 or [rvccounseling@gmail.com](mailto:rvccounseling@gmail.com).

You may also visit [www.westsidear.org/rvcc](http://www.westsidear.org/rvcc) for more information.

### Shut-in & Nursing Homes

Madge Alverson - Atkins 311

Wanda Bailey - home

Mirl Helms - Stella Manor 221

Wayne Nordin - Brookdale 219

Glennette Price - Stella Manor 305

### Missions

James & Abigail Rucker

WBS Students

Paul & Noemi Crites

### Military

Ethan Grace

James Cole, Jr

Micah Hunter

Charles Pitney

Joseph Roberds

Carson Curtis

### Expectant Mothers

Brittany Loudon

Brooke Strasser

## A Look Ahead...

MNFTM will not meet on Monday Dec.23rd. or Monday Dec. 30th.

There will be no classes on Wednesday Dec. 25th or Wednesday January 1st.

Celebrate Recovery will not meet Dec. 26th, but will have a New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31st 7pm-midnight in the Family Center. There will be a regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 2nd.

The office will be closed Dec. 24-27th and will reopen Monday Dec. 30th.