

**Week of: March 1, 2020**  
**For the Record...**

Bible Study:76  
Sunday Worship: 190  
Sunday Evening: n/a  
Wednesday: 215

Weekly Giving: \$9,675  
Weekly Budget: \$14,818  
YTD Giving: \$130,654  
YTD Budget:\$ 133,343

### Our Ministers

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### WELCOME TO WEST SIDE!

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  
2300 West "C" Street  
Russellville, AR 72801

Office Information:  
Phone: 479-968-1121  
Email: office@westsidear.org  
Jenifer's hours Mon-Thurs 9-3, Fri 9-12

### Sermon Notes



Sunday  
March 8, 2020

Nursery:  
Charlotte French  
Calleigh Whitford

Kids For Christ:

2yr. olds -  
Grace Miller  
Emma Jernigan

3 & 4yr olds -  
Beth Donnell

K-2nd grade -  
Marissa Roberts

Puppets:  
Addison & Avery  
Hixson

Greeters:  
North -  
Lloyd & Kristin Sawyer

West -  
Bill & Margaret Grant

East -  
Rex & Betty Chambers

Communion:  
Table 1 -  
Herb Taylor, Ashley  
Young, Mike Spurlock,  
Wesley Tucker, James  
Strother

Table 2 -  
Bobby Wortham, Matt  
Strasser, Jerry Yates,  
Zach Taylor, Alex  
Pipkin

# WEST SIDE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

### The Witness of the Martyrs

by Tim Tripp

Revelation is a fascinating read. There is so much fantastic imagery throughout. One scene that always sticks with me is found in Revelation chapter six. It takes place as the seals for the scroll are being opened and unleashing God's fury upon the earth for the evil that was being done there. When the fifth seal was opened, John heard voices and saw "the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained" (v. 9). They were martyrs. Their place in heaven was near the throne of God but under the altar. The altar was where sacrifices were made. They were under the altar because their bodies were consumed upon the altar. They were given white robes and assured that their blood would be avenged (v. 11). They were assigned a prestigious place in heaven for holding to their testimony about Jesus in the face of deadly persecution.

After Revelation was written there were still tens of thousands who faced persecution and death for the sake of Christ over the following 200 years. A few of the Roman emperors were particularly brutal towards Christians. They were beheaded, skinned alive, crucified, burned at the stake, torn apart by wild animals and subjected to other horrible ways of dying because of refusing to renounce their faith in Jesus.

The fact is that when Jesus envisioned the church, he didn't see discipleship as a safe choice. He told his followers that "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me," (Luke 9:23). Also, he said, "any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple," (Luke 14:33). Jesus knew his followers would suffer. Some would suffer worse than others, but every true disciple would suffer in some way for living out their faith.

It was true of the apostles. It was true of the church fathers. In 156AD a man named Polycarp was the Bishop of Smyrna. As a young man he had sat at the feet of the apostle John. His teachings and writings were formative for the Christian movement in his time and beyond. The Romans in charge sent out an order to arrest Polycarp for being an "atheist" because he didn't believe in the gods of Mount Olympus and more importantly, refused to say, "Caesar is god." He was warned by friends and they begged him to escape but he refused. If God willed for him to die for the sake of Christ, he was willing. He was brought before the local Roman officials and given one more chance to renounce Christianity and publicly proclaim Caesar as god but he refused. He was burned at the stake that very day.

In modern times we have seen the numbers of martyrs beginning to rise again. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was martyred by the Nazi's in 1945. We have seen African Christians murdered and their villages burned when Muslim militants take over. Christians in China and Iran are being imprisoned, raped and killed for their faith. The voices are still coming from under the altar.

The witness of the martyrs tells us to remain steadfast and hold firmly to our faith. Even as things get harder in a post Christian world, we must stand firm even if it means we must suffer or die for his name. We see that over the centuries, persecution never extinguishes the flames of the gospel in fact, they are fanned by it.

### Dios Le Bendiga! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

When I was a teenager, I was in the middle of a civil war in my country, and I always needed to be in constant "watch" not to be recruited by the army/police or by the guerrilla. Being a teenager in those days, both sides were looking for young people to enlist them to fight for "the country" or for an "ideology" that was indoctrinated in the minds of many of the young people. Now looking back on those days, I can see myself in the danger of losing my life. Interesting, that today I'm in the same battleground but in the spiritual sense, about two sides: Light and Darkness; Good and Evil. I found myself that I'm still in danger of losing my soul, but with a difference that now I have been recruited by the good army, to be a good soldier and that I need to be constant and diligent fighting against my enemy and not letting him to win my soul. Satan is looking for those souls that are weak, poor and empty to indoctrinate with false doctrine, vanity, envy, greed, money, drugs and more bad stuff that will make the soul, lose the battle and end in eternal condemnation. I'm not a teenager anymore, but the fight is there and will be there until my death. I want to keep fighting for my country "Heaven" because my citizenship is in Heaven now, and my King and Lord, is commanding me to recruit more soldiers for his cause: Salvation. We are in the Lord's army my West Side Family, let us keep fighting for The Lord!

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



WSYM had an excellent Christeens weekend!

We are excited to say WSYM had 6 baptisms since last Saturday.

Jineen Cruse

Rachel Gossett

Faith Martin

Kevin Nochez

Jaden Preuit

Nina Qualls

Thank you to all who helped execute Christeens 2020.

We should release the dates for 2021 soon.

Hey Students!

Join us for  
Midweek service  
Wednesdays @ 7pm.

College Age Share Group Lunch at the Davis house on Sundays! Free food! Bring a friend!

Want to receive text updates?

Text@ccscatu to 81010

## Adult Bible Classes

### Sunday Morning:

Room 2: Janelle Rotation | Minor Prophets  
Room 3: Tripp Rotation | Spiritual Formation  
FC Classroom: Clements Rotation | The Mission of Jesus  
Rock: Clem Rotation | Sermon on the Mount

### Wednesday Night:

Room 3: Covenants  
FC Classroom: A Joyful Journey Ladies Class

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

### Ladies Retreat

The annual Ladies Retreat at Camp Caudle is coming up on March 13th & 14th. Registration is still open, if you have not already done so, please sign up on-line at [campcaudle.org/retreats](http://campcaudle.org/retreats). If you have any questions please see April Ruple or Andrea Henson

### Baby Shower:

You are invited to a baby shower in honor of Matt and Brooke Strasser, March 15th from 1:30-3pm in the Rock. The Strassers are registered at Amazon and Target.

### Freedom Prayer Seminar:

West Side will be hosting a Freedom Prayer seminar April 3rd & 4th. For any questions, or if you would be willing to help with childcare for this event, please see Shannon Walters. To register to attend, visit our website [www.westsidear.org](http://www.westsidear.org) and select "Freedom Prayer" under the Ministries tab.

*You are invited to the wedding  
of*

*Dillon*

*Collins*

*&*

*Cierra*

*Gregory*

*Saturday March 21, 2020*

*2pm at the*

*CCSC*

*Reception immediately following*

## Gathering Times

### SUNDAY

9:00 AM Bible Class  
9:00 AM Clase en Español  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:00 AM Adoración  
5:00 PM Share Groups/ various times and locations

### WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM  
6:30 PM Clase en Español  
7:00 PM Midweek @ CCSC

## Family Illness and Recovery

Carla Ford is at home. Please continue to keep her in your prayers for healing and strength.

Scott Garner, brother-in-law to Jen Wortham, had a heart attack and has been in serious condition. Please continue to pray for his recovery.

Brenda Holmes is recovering from throat surgery. Please pray for a complete and rapid recovery.

Jim Bob Humphrey had some adjustments made on the external fixator on his leg. Please continue to pray for pain relief and complete healing.

Inez Selby is now in long term care at Stella Manor. Room 315. Please remember Inez and the Clancys in your prayers as they adjust to these changes.

### Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Deanna Cole and family in the loss of her niece, Jennifer Fister who passed away last Sunday. Please keep Jennifer's family as well as the Cole family in your prayers during their time of loss.

### Ongoing concerns:

Mary Grice	David May
Jim Bob Humphrey	Patsy Parnell
Mike Loibner	Jimmy Parnell
Joel Tippit	Joe Russell
June Tippit	

## 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 [rvcounseling@gmail.com](mailto:rvcounseling@gmail.com).

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

### Military

Ethan Grace

James Cole, Jr

Micah Hunter

Charles Pitney

Joseph Roberds

Carson Curtis

### Missions

James & Abigail Rucker

WBS Students

Paul & Noemi Crites

### Expectant Mothers

Brittany Loudon

Brooke Strasser

Carlee Schmitt

### Homebound / Nursing Homes

Wanda Bailey - Home

Wayne Nordin - Brookdale 219

Glennette Price - Stella Manor 305

Inez Selby - Stella Manor 315

## A Look Ahead...

3/9: MNFTM at 5:45 in the Family Center

3/12: Celebrate Recovery meal at 6pm in the Family Center followed by worship & break out sessions @ 6:45 // Ladies Bible study 9:30 am

3/13-14: Ladies Retreat at Camp Caudle

3/15: Strasser Baby Shower 1:30-3pm in the Rock