

For the Record...

Bible Study:	Weekly Giving: \$ 12,286
Sunday Worship:	Weekly Budget: \$ 13,820
Sunday Evening:	YTD Giving: \$ 190,988
Wednesday:	YTD Budget: \$ 193,477

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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
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Office Information:
Phone: 479-968-1121
Email: office@westsidear.org
Jenifer's hours Mon-Thurs 8:30-3, Fri 8:30-12

Sermon Notes



WEST SIDE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

April
11th

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Love Feels Like

by Tim Tripp

Contemporary Christian artist Toby Mac recorded a song years ago that I thought insightful. For those of you who follow the Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) scene you might remember Toby Mac came into the CCM spotlight as a member of the band DC Talk. He invited his old DC Talk bro's to record this song and it has the same vibe of many of their songs back in the day (you may remember "Jesus Freak"). The song is called "Love Feels Like" (listening to it now) and the lyrics speak of the kind of love to which New Testament authors refer when speaking to the relationships between followers of Jesus.

The chorus of the song repeats the phrase: *"poured out, used up, still givin', stretching me out to the end of my limit, this is what love, real love feels like."* It is quite a contrast to the concept of love often portrayed in secular music. A recent song by Keyshia Cole repeats this chorus *"Oh, love. Never knew what I was missin', but I knew once we start kissin' I found love, I found you."* (not intending to criticize the artist here, she has a lovely voice!) In this song, it seems that the measure of true love are the feelings stirred during physical affection. Interestingly, the verses of the song bemoan the fact that her "love" turned to another lover, leaving her devastated.

The contrast could not be more stark. On one hand is a kind of love that is grown in and recognized by the strong emotion stirred in physical affection, the other is love that grows in the fertile soil of difficulty, struggle and sacrifice. One a selfish, "experience in the moment," rooted in physical sensation love and another unselfish, pouring into the other, enduring hardship with commitment love. One shallow, transient and devastating; the other deep, lasting and satisfying.

Scripture clearly encourages followers of Jesus to define love as the unselfish, high commitment variety. In 1 John 3:16, we read, *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."* John portrays love, as demonstrated by Jesus; as a sacrificial love that holds back nothing, not even life, for one another.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, love is recognized by these virtues, *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."* Those do not sound like virtues born out of an evening of exchanged passions. Those are born through sacrifice, pain, hardship, being wronged yet forgiving, and hanging in when it would be so much easier to go. Those virtues require a selfless kind of commitment conditioned by the awareness of God's love, grace and mercy given through Jesus.

While certainly not as appealing as the kind of love which the entertainment industry often represents, real love is far more satisfying, far more complete and far more lasting in the long run.

Christian relationships are to be marked by that kind of love. Christians who want that kind of love must be willing to give that kind of love to others. Another line in the Toby Mac song reads this way, *"Like floating confetti, the beautiful gets messy when the fallout finds the floor. But in the depths of the trenches is the greatest of riches. Love is calling us to more."* This is what love feels like.

Dios Le Bendiga! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

BLESSINGS MY WEST SIDE FAMILY!

Every year we live, we celebrate a birthday, and every year of life, is one year away from our birth-day and one less year of life that we will have. We never think about the years that are left for us to live, but the years of life that we have lived. We have been born to live but in the same, to die and because we do not talk about death so much, it is really a shock for us when someone or we, ourselves are faced with death. Interesting that death is a common part of life- really, end of life- but we don't see it like that. It's scary, sad and negative if we think about it, but God in his infinite wisdom, -and the One who gives life- has designed the end of life as the beginning of the eternal part of life of our soul. The perfect life starts at the end of this imperfect life and God has promised that everlasting perfect life to us through Christ, his Son that we don't need to be afraid of death but anxious waiting for the eternal home in Heaven. God is giving us better understanding about this when we read: Ecclesiastes 7:1 "... and the day of death better than the day of birth" Just thinking about that verse, will make us realize how much truth in it... The Apostle Paul wringing to the Philippians 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain". So, let's celebrate each day of life, as a great gift from the Lord, and one more year that we live, we need to live for the Lord! Happy birthday to everyone...!

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

Our Raising Arrows Children's program is currently suspended until further notice in an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy.



HEY TEENS!!

Bring a friend and join us on Wednesday nights for WSYM at 6:30 in the Cornerstone! Masks required. Safe social distance.

Fireside devos outside at the firepit as weather permits.

Hangout and talk | What's going on
Devotional | Prayer requests



CHURCH OF CHRIST STUDENT CENTER · ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Pork Butt Fundraiser!!

For \$35 you receive a smoked 8+ lb pork butt ready to eat or freeze.

Ready for pickup the afternoon of April 18 @ the Student Center! (more info about pickup closer to time)

Order on our website (renewatu.org/porkbutt) or by calling the student center. For more info visit renewatu.org

Adult Bible Classes

Sunday Morning:

In- Person gathering in the Main Auditorium at 10am

Look for our online Bible Study resources such as the Spiritual Formation series, and study on the Gospel of John, on our

Wednesday Night:

6:30 online class - West Side Church of Christ Facebook page

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

KFC is coming back!

We are so excited to announce that our Kids For Christ program will return **TODAY**, Sunday April 11th, and include children ages 1yr. through 5th grade! We will dismiss during the service as before, and 1-2 year olds will meet in the nursery for a special class, while 3yrs - 5th grade will be in the KFC room.

Can't wait to see you there!

Gathering Times

SUNDAY

9:00 AM Clase en Español
10:00 AM Adoración

In the Family Center

WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM join us online on the West Side Church of Christ Facebook Page

Family Illness and Recovery

Brenda Holmes is home following recent surgery at Mayo clinic. Please keep her in your prayers for a full recovery and complete healing.

Henry Kelley, brother-in-law of George Reed, was recently diagnosed with a lung tumor. More will be determined with additional testing, but please keep him in your prayers as he waits on answers.

Sarah Allen is home and improving after being hospitalized for Covid related pneumonia. Please continue to pray for Sarah and her husband Charlie, who is also now battling a different illness.

Dena Moore is having more health complications involving her heart and related to lymphedema. Please pray for her overall condition to improve, for complete healing. Pray also for upcoming life changes with relocation and adjustment.

Ongoing:

Sharon Johnson – terminal cancer
Chris Johnson - cancer
Maynette Stroud- cancer
Niles Raines - Cancer
Pam Tyree – Covid related complications
Mary Powell – Parkinson's disease

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Ann and family in the recent passing of Richard Humphreys. Please keep everyone in your prayers for comfort, peace, and strength.

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. 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.

You may also visit www.westsidear.org/rvcc for more information.

Those in Nursing Homes / Retirement Centers

Wayne Nordin - Brookdale - Rm 101

Joe Pitney - The Arbors - Apt. 308

Missions

James & Abigail Rucker

WBS Students

Paul & Noemi Crites

Expectant Mothers

Lauren Pipkin

Brooke Strasser

Shelby Burke

Jolynda Bullard

Military

Ethan Grace

James Cole, Jr

Micah Hunter

Charles Pitney

Carson Curtis

A Look Ahead...

April 11th - Kids For Christ returns

April 18th -RENEW Fundraiser - Pork Butt Pick-up