

## For the Record...

Bible Study:	Weekly Giving: \$ 17,342
Sunday Worship:	Weekly Budget: \$ 14,818
Sunday Evening:	YTD Giving: \$ 502,725
Wednesday:	YTD Budget: \$ 533,372

### 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 8:30-3, Fri 8:30-12

## Sermon Notes



# WEST SIDE

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Unity: Is It Possible?

by Tim Tripp

Sunday  
Sept. 13, 2020

Nursery:

Kids For Christ:

2yr. olds -

3 & 4yr olds -

K-2nd grade -

Puppets:

Greeters:  
North -

West -

East -

Communion:  
Table 1 -

Table 2 -

*This is a reprint of a 2018 article but leads us well into our next sermon series.*

By the end of the first century, Christianity was still a united faith. Not to say that there weren't pockets of challenge to apostolic orthodoxy. Some Jewish Christians were still trying to impose the requirements of the law. Gnosticism was gaining momentum as a false teaching but wouldn't have its organizational momentum for nearly a hundred years. During the intense and often brutal persecution of the second and third centuries, the Christians had little collaboration between churches that were distant from each other. This left Christianity open and vulnerable to false teachers with strong personalities. It was during this time that the Gnostics flourished.

As a new outlook for Christianity dawned in the early fourth century, church leaders (like Eusebius) set to the task of bringing Christianity back together under a single standard for doctrine and practice. They held church councils to discuss doctrine and define a standard for what the church would hold to be true. One of the earliest standardized doctrinal statements was called the Nicene Creed. They also vetted documents that some held to be authoritative writings of the apostles and early church elders while others disagreed. When the dust settled on the disputes they eventually decided upon the 27 books (rejecting many more than that) that now comprise our New Testament. When those involved in these high-level discussions had a disagreement they could not resolve, they called on the Emperor, Constantine in the early days, to settle the dispute. In the fourth and fifth centuries, Christianity set the standard for doctrine, canonized the books of the New Testament and squashed (at times with deadly force) those who insisted on changes or different beliefs. They also established an organizational structure for church leadership that put one man in charge and named him the Pope. That structural integrity held, for better or worse, for more than one thousand years.

By the time of Luther's Reformation Movement (just after 1500AD), many were disgusted with the corruption and greed that had for so long sullied the good name of Christ. Luther was able to free Christians from the corruption of Rome and encouraged the common man to read the Bible for himself. Concurrent with the invention of the printing press, the Protestant Reformation was able to put written materials and Bibles into the hands of anyone who wanted them. Anyone could read and interpret the scriptures for themselves. For the freedom of personal interaction with scriptures, they traded a single standard for faith and practice.

To make a long story short, over then next 500 years, division over doctrine, interpretation of scripture and church practice exploded into acrimony, conflict and bloodshed. The Restoration Movement (started in the early 1800's) from which the Churches of Christ emerged began as an effort to bring Christians together in unity but itself became another group of divided believers.

So, is the unity for which Jesus passionately prayed, even possible? I believe it is, but history illustrates that it will not begin with agreeing on doctrine and practice. It will begin with love; with building loving relationships to all of those who believe on the name of Jesus and loving them with the same love he has for us. Unity is possible if it starts with us.

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

by Aris Ortiz

My West Side Family,  
My prayers are that everyone is being blessed in abundance. Health, Family and joyful moments for each of you that God will bring upon you. For those that have lost a loved one, my prayers are that God will bring comfort, peace and strength on each day that sadness, emptiness and sorrow you will face. Only God and those who have been in the same situation will understand those feelings, those moments but faithful is God, that he has promised to be with us, every day of our life supporting us, providing for us and taking care of us in this journey while we are here in this earth, and this life. Hope, Faith is everything that we need to have in our hearts and the Lord will do the rest for us. God is always in control and he knows each of us and our needs, and for him, NOTHING is impossible!  
May the Love of our Father in Heaven cover your life, your family and all those that you care for.  
Blessings to you me West Side Family!

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.*



Virtual Youth Group

Wednesdays

YOUTH GROUP - ONLINE

Download Zoom app for your device

Link to the meeting will be sent out on Social Media and Remind text.

Hangout and talk

What's going on

Devotional

Prayer requests

Games and Giveaways



CHURCH OF CHRIST STUDENT CENTER · ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

It is our mission as a ministry to passionately renew the call for students to follow Jesus on the college campus and into the world. The college campus is one of the most strategic mission fields in the world, and we strive to impact the lives of students and, in turn, the world by inviting college students into a life based on following Jesus and joining into His mission. To stay up-to-date with our ministry visit [renewatu.org](http://renewatu.org). Want to join our prayer team? Text @pray4renew to 81010.

## Adult Bible Classes

### Sunday Morning:

Room 2:

Room 3

FC Classroom:

Rock:

### Wednesday Night:

Room 3:

FC Classroom:

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

### Job Opportunity

#### *River Valley Christian Clinic*

The administrator of River Valley Christian Clinic is retiring at the end of the year and we are looking for an energetic, skilled communicator and organizer proficient in Excel and Word to succeed her. Grant writing experience would be beneficial. Office hours will be Monday -Thursday 9-3. Attendance at two night clinics per month will be a requirement. Interested applicants should send their resumes to:

*River Valley Christian Clinic,  
1714 State Hwy 22  
Dardanelle, AR 72834*

### Welcome Baby:

Congratulations to Ashley and George Mallory (of Springdale) who welcomed new son Leo Niall on Sunday August 30th. Big sisters are Eva and Rosemary, and proud Grandparents are Kevin and Beverly Mason.

## Gathering Times

*These meeting times are currently suspended*

### SUNDAY

9:00 AM Bible Class

9:00 AM Clase en Español

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Adoración

### WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM

6:30 PM Clase en Español

7:00 PM

## Family Illness and Recovery

Ludy Campbell is having some health complications. Please pray for overall strength and her current condition to improve.

Cathryn Cates remains in rehab at St. Mary's following recent surgery. Please keep her in your prayers for a rapid and complete recovery.

Sissy Duvall, sister of Patsy Parnell, is recovering from tumor removal & reconstructive surgery for oral cancer. Biopsy results revealed cancer in two lymph nodes. She will undergo chemo therapy and radiation treatments. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues to recover and take treatments.

Kenny Freeman was recently diagnosed with Atrial flutter. Please pray that this will be controlled with medication, and no further action will be required.

Judy Lamb is undergoing testing related to blood pressure and abnormal pulse activity. Please pray for correct diagnosis and simple solution if necessary.

Jimmy Parnell will undergo another colonoscopy soon to clarify diagnosis and determine a treatment plan. Please keep him in your prayers.

Dawn Whiting, daughter of Barbara Dunn and mother of Lacey Hines, is recovering from hip replacement surgery. Please keep her in your prayers for a complete and rapid recovery.

Don Via, Father of Jlm Via, is battling cancer. Prayers for spiritual health as well as physical health are appreciated.

## 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](mailto:rvccounseling@gmail.com).

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

### Homebound / Nursing Homes

Wanda Bailey - Home

Wayne Nordin - Brookdale 101

Glennette Price - Stella Manor 305

Inez Selby - Stella Manor 315

Don Todd - Russellville Nursing Center - 317

### Expectant Mothers

Carlee Schmitt

Kaitlin McCormick

Lacey Hines

### Missions

James & Abigail Rucker

WBS Students

Paul & Noemi Crites

### Military

Ethan Grace

James Cole, Jr

Micah Hunter

Charles Pitney

Joseph Roberds

Carson Curtis

## A Look Ahead...

**Please join us  
on West Side Church of Christ  
facebook page  
for a new class series  
"The Letters of John"  
Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.**