

## For the Record...

Bible Study:	Weekly Giving: \$ 12,614
Sunday Worship:	Weekly Budget: \$ 14,818
Sunday Evening:	YTD Giving: \$ 529,694
Wednesday:	YTD Budget: \$ 563,005

### 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

## Early Challenges to Unity

by Tim Tripp

Sunday  
Sept. 27, 2020

Nursery:

Kids For Christ:

2yr. olds -

3 & 4yr olds -

K-2nd grade -

Puppets:

Greeters:  
North -

West -

East -

Communion:  
Table 1 -

Table 2 -

I'm excited that we have begun talking about unity. I have for some time been concerned that we do not put the same emphasis and priority on unity that Jesus did. I see notes in commentaries and mentions in articles and blog posts that confess the fact that the current walled off denominational structure of Christendom is not what Jesus intended but I see little in terms of discussion around what to do about it. In my view, if unity is wanted badly enough, Jesus followers will begin to move towards it. It will not begin by addressing doctrinal or practical differences between groups. It will begin only by addressing attitudes and paradigms about the people in other groups.

In the New Testament, the problem of fair distribution of food to the widows sparked the first action taken by the apostles to head off a potentially divisive issue. The complaint was that the Greek speaking widows were being overlooked in the distribution of food. The church had undertaken the work of helping the helpless. Widows in that day who either had no family or no family willing to help them were particularly vulnerable. It seems that some suspected that the widows who were from the area around Jerusalem who spoke Aramaic received favored treatment as opposed to those who were from outside of Palestine and spoke Greek. The latter were not foreigners but they were not locals either. These ethnic sub-groups represented potential lines of division. The apostles had no intention of allowing division to enter the fellowship of Jesus' disciples and they came up with a plan.

Their plan involved choosing seven men from among the Greek speaking Jews to be in charge of the distribution of food. They allowed the minority group to have authority over the whole process. It was a brilliant solution and apparently worked very well. However, it would not surprise me if the apostles got push back from the Judean Jews for handing the whole process over to a committee with minority roots. The assumption might have been that minority interests will get favored status and the Judean widows will get passed over. It is an understandable concern unless those on the committee were working under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Their solution demonstrates how important it is to prioritize love and unity over majority wishes. When the majority in a community, group or organization consistently gets their way, the group will become increasingly homogenous. Conflict will escalate as the dissatisfaction grows among minority participants who feel their voice has gone unheard. Unity among all sub-groups requires love and relationships that move beyond the potential barriers. It requires group members to be willing to be flexible about getting their way and at times deferring to the goal of allowing diversity to build within the group and unity in love to be the overriding principle.

As the church, we will not be able to accomplish the mission of taking the God's kingdom to the world if the majority pattern for doctrine and practice receives priority over unity and diversity. The love that Christ requires (John 13) compels us to hold lightly our paradigm for doctrine and practice but hold firmly the mandate of love and unity. We may not understand all of scripture just the way it was intended but we can understand this: when Christ was asked to boil all of scripture down to its foundational principles, he narrowed it to two things. Love God. Love Others.

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

by Aris Ortiz

Good morning my West Side Family  
Our world is dying. In any direction, you will find a dying matter about the good, the gentle, the pure. Nature: oceans, Forrest, lands, lakes, rivers. Fires, earthquakes, flooding, hurricanes, heats. Animals dying in vast quantities. Humans: epidemics, pandemics, plagues and all sorts of damages and destruction to humans, environments and climate changes. All of this has a common factor: Humans, and I'm the first one to include myself as a contribution for that. (In so many ways). But God keeps taking care of his creation and by his mercy, this earth is still functioning and doing what God designed to do: providing life to us! We have a new week with us, means a new opportunity to see, understand and do our part to respond the way God intended for us to do: To glorify his name and be obedient to his Son Jesus Christ and live our life daily according to his Will. By doing that, everything will be fine, will be better and will be for ever (in the spiritual sense) perfect! May God bless us and keeps us safe so we can work hard and do his will....not ours. Blessings my 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

College students!

Join us at our weekly events.

Sundays-10:00am House Church at the student center.

Wednesday's-11:00-1:00 free meal.

Wednesday's-RE-Groups times vary.

## Adult Bible Classes

**Sunday Morning:**

Room 2:

Room 3

FC Classroom:

Rock:

**Wednesday Night:**

Room 3:

FC Classroom:

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

*The Elders have decided to postpone the start of share groups from Oct. 4th to a later date. Please be prayerful about these decisions, patient for the outcome, thoughtful about your participation and watchful for new information.*

*Thank you!*

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

### Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Debbie Pitts in the loss of her cousin who was recently hospitalized for Covid-19. Please pray for comfort for Debbie and the rest of the family.

We extend our sympathy also to Jim Betterton in the loss of his cousin Brenda Baeder this past Monday. Please keep the Bettertons and the rest of Brenda's family in your prayers during this time.

## 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.

Sissy Duvall, sister of Patsy Parnell, will begin chemo and radiation therapy soon. Continued prayers are appreciated.

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

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

Matt Cox, 46 yr. old cousin of Jerri Tabor, was recently hospitalized with health complications, including osteoporosis and seizures. He has had several falls over the last year due to seizures and resulting in broken bones. Please keep him in your prayers for healing and for medication to regulate his condition.

Danny Jarra was accepted into a new clinical trial. This will be a quadruple blind study. Please pray that he is a participant given medication which will reverse his condition.

Sharon Johnson, sister of Carol White, received some good news that her tumors are shrinking. Sharon's son Chris is scheduled for a CT scan soon to determine more about his condition. Continued prayers are appreciated.

Renee Bartholomae, niece of Trish Bailey, recently had surgery for ovarian cancer. Results are that more surgery is needed along with chemo. Renee is the aunt of Krista Magness who has been on the prayer list for stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. Please continue to pray for this family.

Update on baby Joel Delgado, Great grandson of Kay Larson and grandson of Amanda Thibodeaux, Scans and scopes came back clear with no serious health threats! He has chronic reflux that he is expected to outgrow, but is otherwise healthy! Thank you for the prayers!

## 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](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...

**9/27/2020: Worship at 10am - in person and online -including virtual KFC**

**9/30/2020: Wednesday night online class at 6:30pm**

**10/4: Worship at 10am - in person and online -including virtual KFC**