

Prayer Requests

Margaret Helms is in Baptist Rehab and is slowly getting better. Please continue to pray for her strength and complete healing. Still no visitors at this time.

Carol White's sister-in-law's tests have come back negative so far regarding her heart problems. Prayers for answers to help resolve her issues.

Ongoing

Bob Clark, Tami Robinson, Jarra Family, Oliver Blankenship, George Reed, Mellicent Crain, Dale Lamberson.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Children's Christmas program, "Going to Bethlehem" is coming up a week from Sunday, on December 18th, during morning services. All children in KFC who are participating in the program, please meet in the large KFC room at 9:00am during Bible class on Sunday, December 11th, and December 18th for stage practice. Any questions, please reach out to Susan Taylor.

Family Soup Potluck

December 18th, following the Children's Christmas Program and morning services, bring your favorite soup, cornbread or crackers, or a dessert and stay to enjoy family time with your West Side family. Drinks will be provided.

There will be no classes on Christmas day, New Years day, or on Wednesday, December 28th. Please take this extra time to be with family, focusing on what Christmas is truly about.

Dinner Church

Our last Dinner Church of the year will be next Wednesday, December 14th at 5:30. A reminder that donations are always appreciated to go towards reimbursing families that purchase food to prepare the meal. Please come out and join us, and then be looking for more info. soon, as we make plans to continue this into the new year.

Volunteers Needed

Aris is looking for some volunteer teachers to help with the Citizenship, English, and Spanish classes starting in January. Please reach out to him via text at 479-970-4548 for more information.



All Arbors gift bags are due this Sunday, December 11th. Please turn these gifts in to the Friendship Cafe that morning. We will be delivering those bags to the Arbors on December 23rd. Everyone is invited to pass out gifts and sing Christmas carols at the Arbors at 1:30 that day. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Jones.



We are planning a special worship on December 25th, focusing on Jesus's Birth, filled with songs, and a message, along with a memorable ending to our Christmas service that you will want to be a part of.



"A SWEET FRIENDSHIP REFRESHES THE SOUL."
PROVERBS 27:9

Sunday December 11th

Jenifer Hurt 2 doz donuts

Paulette Cooper 2 doz donuts

Baristas: Zac and Kathryn Smith

Sunday December 18th

Charli Horton 2 doz donuts

Deanna Cole 2 doz donuts

Baristas: Cindy Jones, Jenifer Hurt



No cookie schedule for the month of December, but will start back up in January.

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to John and Carol Lee on the birth of another precious grandson! Aven Lee was born on December 2nd, and joins big brother, Isaiah. Proud parents are Jay and Cara Skinner. Welcome little one!

— HAPPY —
Retirement

We want to wish a very Happy Retirement to Richard Loveland! He retired on November 17th, after 32 years working for Entergy at ANO. Congratulations on a job very well done!



KIDS CORNER

by *Kaitlin McCormick*

This month in KFC, friends Bob the Builder and Believer Beaver are helping us learn about our gracious God.

Main Idea: The best gift God ever gave us was His Son, Jesus. Immanuel, God with us.

Bible Verse: "By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" – Eph.2:8

Song: Oh, come let us adore Him

Other Scriptures: Matthew 1:21-23, John 3:16

Reminder: Please drop your kids off in their KFC classrooms before worship next Sunday in preparation for the Christmas program!

Sunday 12/11 Worship Volunteers

Leader: Grayson Taylor, Bass: Keith Moore, Tenor: Preston Abbott, Alto: Brittany Loudon, Soprano: Lizzy Grice, Opening Prayer: Ronald Roberson, Communion Thought: James Strother, Elder/Closing: Tracy Taylor, Crows Nest: Brandon Grice

Sunday Morning Adult 9am Bible Classes Winter Quarter Schedule

Room 2 - Hebrews

Room 3 - Sermon on the Mount

ONLINE CONNECT CARD

We would love to connect with you! Please fill out our Online Connect Card at...

westsidear.org/connect



Shepherds

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Last Week

Class - 138

Worship - 271

Wednesday Night

Bible Study - 89

Giving: \$ 16,107

Weekly Budget:

\$13,380

YTD Giving:\$ 586,393

YTD Budget:\$ 642,258

Ministers

Tim Tripp

Senior Minister

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Mark Hixson

Youth Minister

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Grayson Taylor

Campus Director

College Ministry

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Grayson.renewatu@gmail.com

Aris Ortiz

Hispanic Minister

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Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

God Manifested in the Humble by Tim Tripp

December 11, 2022

I am amazed when I read in scripture the times that God speaks to people through angels and telling them that God thinks they are awesome. What a message! God who created the universe and all that is in it, singled a human being out and sent a messenger to say, "God thinks you are awesome!" I don't know how I would respond to that, but we are given a glimpse of how they did. I can think of at least three occasions where it happened and we get a description of the response.

The first time it happened was with Gideon. Israel was being oppressed by the Midianites. Gideon was hiding while threshing some grain to keep it from being stolen by raiders when an angel appeared to him (see Judges 6). The angel's greeting was amazing in its irony. He said, "*The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.*" Gideon's response was incredulity. In the conversation that followed, Gideon replied, "*How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh and I am the least in my family.*" Which apparently was what made him the perfect candidate to save Israel. He realized his weakness and when God saved Israel through him, there could be no doubt that deliverance was from God.

The next person to have a visit from a complimentary angel was Daniel (Daniel 10). Daniel was standing on the bank of the Tigris River when he saw a man standing before him. The man was dressed in linen with a gold sash. His face was like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches and his voice was like the "sound of a multitude." When Daniel saw him, he was so terrified that he passed out. The man revived him and he said, "*Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you,*" (v. 11). He would reveal to Daniel future wars and the succession of the Kingdom leading up to Rome and the Messiah who would overwhelm it all. Daniel was but a Jewish captive in a foreign land but God had lifted him up and worked through him to God's glory.

The last person is Mary, the mother of Jesus. The angel Gabriel came to her when she was but a teenager. His first words to her were, "*Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you,*" (Luke 1:28). We know nothing about her up to this point. We assume she was a good person and that her heart was set on pleasing God. She didn't argue or question the angel's message but simply said, "*I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.*" The message was scary. She would become pregnant. And no reasonable explanation was given as to how that would happen. Yet she simply submitted herself to God's will, whatever that meant.

God didn't appear often before the mighty. He didn't often speak to the wealthy, the powerful nor the strong – and when he did it was usually not good news. His greatest compliments and praise were for people who were ordinary, plain and unimportant by the world's standards but in God's eyes, they were something else. When God made his appearance, he appeared as humble, he came to a humble family, in humble circumstances. He spent time with humble people and Jesus himself complimented humble people.

The message here is that you may not see yourself as a world changer, as a person of great strength or wisdom but if your heart is set on humbly pleasing God and you surrender yourself to his will, God thinks you are awesome. Because of Him, that is what you are.