

Prayer Requests

Jonah Vanderheiden has improved and is doing better overall, but is still on meds and could use continued prayers.

Lindsey and Alan Spurlock have Covid. They need your prayers for healing, and also for Austin, as he has just recovered from Covid and will be in North Carolina at school for 6 months.

Mellicent Crain, as she begins her radiation treatment soon. Please keep her close in your prayers for the treatments to be easy on her, and for her complete healing.

Phyllis Copeland has been having kidney trouble and will be having a scan soon. She would appreciate your prayers as they look for answers and solutions, so she feels better.

Seth Janelle has been diagnosed with a form of childhood epilepsy. He has started on medication, but they are hoping that he will eventually grow out of it as he gets older. Sweet Seth, and Ben and Sarah could use your prayers as they navigate through this together.

Becky Reaves friend's cousin, Keri Potter has been diagnosed with Stage 3 Cancer, and has requested prayers.

Carol Lee's sister-in-law, Nyoka Flanagan is in the hospital in Jonesboro, and has been unconscious since Monday. Please be praying for the doctors to figure out what is wrong so they can help her.

Kay Larsen's great-granddaughter, Emelia Delgado had surgery Thursday, and everything went well. Please pray for her healing.

Please remember the family of Bill Irving, as he recently passed away and his service was this last Wednesday. Prayers of comfort for them during this time would be appreciated.

Ongoing

Bob Clark, Tami Robinson, Jarra Family, Oliver Blankenship, Mellicent Crain, Lydia Franklin, Margaret Helms.

Dinner Church

Our Dinner Church will start up again this Wednesday, January the 11th and the 18th at 5:30. We have this month covered, but will still be needing people to sign up for future dates each month. Please reach out to us and let us know if you would be interested. A reminder that we ask for donations to help reimburse for the food that was bought to prepare the meal. Come share a meal and fellowship with family. We'd love to see you!

New Classes Starting

We have 2 new classes starting up this month on Sunday mornings. A ladies book study is starting this Sunday, January 8th, at 9am. When coming in the east entrance, it will be in the classroom to the left. We will be studying a Joyce Meyer book, "Loving People Who Are Hard to Love."

Also, in 2 weeks on January 22nd, there will be a College Class starting in The Rock at 9am. There will be various teachers exploring the character of God, and how we learn to live through him. 2 great opportunities to take part in a class!



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

Sunday January 8th

Judy Holman 2 doz donuts
Kathryn Smith 2 doz donuts

Baristas: Zac and Kathryn Smith

Sunday January 15th

Sheri Crosby 2 doz donuts
Donna Frick 2 doz donuts

Baristas: Cindy Jones, Jenifer Hurt



Cookie Schedule will be announced at a later date

CONGRATULATIONS to Nellie Moore on her decision to be baptized on New Year's Eve. We are so very proud of you!

Volunteers Needed

Pat Crosby is looking for people to sign up to help with Security, and also to be a Greeter. Please reach out to him at 886-5407 if you could help out. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, February 5th, Bi-lingual Singing Service at Iglesia at 3pm. West Side, Shiloh, Dover, and Renew are all coming together to take part in this wonderful, uplifting event. You won't want to miss it!



KIDS CORNER

by *Kaitlin McCormick*

Main Idea: God is gracious – he gives us gifts we do not deserve. What are some gifts He has given you this past year?

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: God is so good

There is a new volunteer sheet on the wall outside of the KFC room. If you would like to sign up to volunteer in KFC, please find a date that works for you and fill your name in!

Sunday 1/8 Worship Volunteers

Leader: Gary Jernigan, Bass: Grayson Taylor, Tenor: Ronald Roberson, Alto: Emma Jernigan, Soprano: Sadie Brashear, Opening Prayer: Rocky Jones, Communion Thought: Zach Loudon, Elder/Closing: Tracy Taylor, Crows Nest: Richard Loveland

ONLINE CONNECT CARD

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

westsidear.org/connect



Shepherds

James Cole

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Tammy Wooten

Administrative Assistant

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Last Week

Class - N/A

Worship - 194

Wednesday Night

Bible Study - 90

Giving: \$ 18,835

Weekly Budget:

\$13,128

YTD Giving:\$ 18,835

YTD Budget:\$ 695,780

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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Aris Ortiz

Hispanic Minister

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Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

January 8, 2023

I Want to Get It Right but First Things First by Tim Tripp

I remember as a teenager a friend of mine and I stood in the lobby of our church and talked about visiting a church in town that some friends of ours attended. We knew nothing about it but we thought it might be fun to surprise our friends by just showing up one Sunday. I don't remember what kind of church it was but it was not a Church of Christ. As my friend and I made plans, a man who was a member of our church and had obviously been listening in on our conversation, spoke to us saying, "You guys can visit there if you want but you should know that their worship is invalid to God. He doesn't accept it."

I thought it an interesting comment but I wasn't all that familiar with the Bible and thought maybe he had seen something that I missed. Perhaps the good book did say that "any worship at the church on Main Street in Lancaster, Ohio would not be accepted by God." We never did follow through on the visit to find out what might have caused the concern over their worship. It was probably the fact that they used instruments in their worship that concerned him.

I certainly understand the desire to want to do things the right way and know that it can flow from a sincere desire to please God. However, does my being right (in my opinion) negate everyone else's sincere attempts to understand God's word and please Him as well? I'm not saying that one is as good as the other but I am saying that how we treat those with whom we disagree has equal if not elevated importance when it comes to pleasing God. If I had everything right in terms of doctrine and practice but treated people with whom I disagreed disparagingly and condescendingly, would I not still be wrong? To love God is the greatest command but the second is to love others.

We have been studying the book "[Searching for the Pattern](#)" by John Mark Hicks in our Wednesday night adult class. One of the topics he addressed in his book is the concept of "ecclesiastical perfection" or attaining the perfect church. In the minds of some, the perfect church is one that believes everything just the right way (doctrinal purity) and does everything in the right manner (perfect practice). Hicks does not believe the perfect church exists (nor do I), because churches are filled with imperfect people.

Neither he nor I would suggest that we give up seeking perfection. However, I would challenge that when seeking perfection, we should seek it *first* in the things that we know are weightier matters to God. What would it look like to love perfectly? How could we pursue perfect Christian relationships? What would it look like to strive to deal with conflict perfectly? How can we seek perfect unity? How might we become perfectly humble? How might we perfectly serve the underprivileged in our community? How might we pursue perfect racial reconciliation?

There are more questions I could ask but I think you get the point. I believe that if we pour ourselves and our pursuit of perfection into the more important things, God will lead us to a better understanding of his will on the others. I believe this is the path to unity and as unified believers, we can come as one to seek to perfectly please our God together.

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