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Last Week	Giving: \$15,529
Class - 115	Weekly Budget:
Worship - 283	\$13,380
Wednesday Night	YTD Giving:\$ 355,106
Bible Study - 68	YTD Budget:\$ 388,031

Shepherds

James Cole

jamescolesr@me.com

Mike Cooper

coopdent@suddenlinkmail.com

Bill Grant

mbgrant@suddenlink.net

Darol Harrison

dh@buildeng.net

Jamie Sorrells

js@sorrellsent.com

Tracy Taylor

jamestaylor728@outlook.com

Shannon Walters

swmt633@gmail.com

Ministers

Tim Tripp

Senior Minister

tim@westsidear.org

Mark Hixson

Youth Minister

mark@westsidear.org

Grayson Taylor

Campus Director

College Ministry

grayson@westsidear.org

Grayson.renewatu@gmail.com

Aris Ortiz

Hispanic Minister

aris@westsidear.org

Support Staff

Krysta Allen

College Ministry Assistant

krysta@westsidear.org

Krysta.renewatu@gmail.com

Jenifer Hurt

Ministry Assistant

jenifer@westsidear.org

office@westsidear.org



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

July 24, 2022

Denominations

by Tim Tripp

I grew up in a Christian family and a largely Christian extended family. My extended family prayed together every time we gathered and there was a lot of discussion around church and Jesus and the Bible. I don't remember there being a lot of arguing about church or Bible even though most of us went to churches of different tribes. I have family in the Methodist Church, some in the Baptist Church, some in the Christian Church, and a few in some form of "Community Church." I have one cousin who married into a Catholic family and her husband is a devout Catholic and a man in whom can be seen the fruits of the Spirit. In my dad's family there was little contention over the type of church they went to and more celebration that they went to church at all. My dad was not raised in a Christian home. His parents were believers but hard work and hard drinking were more of an influence in that home. My grandparents became Christians later in life largely due to the influence of their children. The fact that most of my dad's siblings and their families have Christian roots is no small miracle.

I am grateful that the members of my family have found a walk with Jesus even though their walk is defined a little differently than my own. I am also grateful that my dad worked with a man who was a Church of Christ preacher and became the person who brought my dad and mom to faith. I am thankful for my experience in the Churches of Christ and the community of faith they have provided for me.

What bothers me is the conflict between the clear command of Christ for complete unity among those who believe in him as God's son and resurrected Lord and the obvious division among those who claim to be his followers. I'm bothered by the indifference of most to that reality. I'm bothered by the arrogance of some who seem to feel that unity can only come with agreeing to a certain view of doctrine and polity and by the way, it always happens to be their own view; as if to say, "if everyone would just agree with me, we would be just fine."

As I see it, Jesus' vision for the church was for all believers to be a part of a Kingdom that pushed back the darkness in this world and brought light with it. The Kingdom has more to do with love, humility, sacrifice and service than it does with "who has the most right doctrine" or the best understanding of the Bible. No fruit of the Spirit has anything to do with purity of doctrine, only purity of life.

The fact that we have denominations and that they regularly fight among each other should be a sign that something is terribly wrong. Instead of taking light into the darkness, we have allowed darkness to overtake the light.

It is denominational to think that my church/doctrine/way of doing things is the only one that is acceptable to God. God never asked us to tell him what is acceptable and what is not. It is also clear that God accepts more than he approves of when people's hearts are aligned with his.

God wants an expression of faith in his son to be lived out in the lives of believers not to be written as another version of the law he abolished in Jesus' death on the cross. Because of what Jesus did, the Kingdom should be the ultimate expression of Christianity and not an individual denomination. Only Kingdom thinking expressed through the church aligns with Jesus' command to take the gospel to the whole world.

Prayer Requests

Jerri Tabor is scheduled for shoulder surgery August 4th. Please pray for successful surgery and full recovery with lessened pain which will allow improvement to her overall mobility.

Oliver Blankenship, youngest son of Brian and Leslie Blankenship, is making strides in his recovery following his most recent heart procedure. Please continue to fervently pray for his health, specifically his liver and kidney function at this time.

Please continue to keep Danny and Teyah Jarra and family in your prayers as Danny's ALS is progressing.

Ongoing:
Tami Robinson
Norman Shay - Hospice care

Homebound/ Nursing Home
Gladys Norwood
Wanda Bailey
Lynda Lamberson
Janis Murphy
Cathryn Cates
Betty Grinder

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Needed Pantry Items:

Our summer meals for the homeless program is in need of

Little Debbie Snack Cakes and Fruit Cups. We will continue to provide simple brown bag meals through September.

Thank you for your continued support in donating these items for this outreach program.

Cookout Today at 5pm! Due to the extreme heat, our Summer Sunday Night Cookout has been relocated to the Family Center!

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Buns and Condiments will be provided.

Please bring burger building essentials (lettuce, onion, pickles, tomato) side dishes, desserts and drinks.



Ladies, by now you probably have received a letter in the mail regarding our new Heartfelt Friends Women's Ministry that is set to launch in August. This very special program will prove to be a blessing for all involved! If you have not received a letter, or would like more information regarding participation in this program, please visit the information table in the lobby, or contact Paulette Cooper, Susan Taylor, or Nancy Freeman.

Remember to have those registration forms in by August 1st! Thank you!

Expectant Mothers

Rebekah Spradlin
Sarah Rabb
Alahna James

New Brother in Christ

Congratulations to Keene Freeman on his recent decision to put on Christ in Baptism! Way to go Keene!



Kids Corner 7/24/22
by Susan Taylor

Summer is beginning to wind down and school is right around the corner. Little Kids Worship will continue for 2 more Sunday mornings followed by the return of KFC in August. Please contact Kaitlin McCormick if you would be willing to fill a slot in her rotation for the upcoming months of KFC. There's a place for everyone to help! Parents and grandparents please consider helping out- the children love the adult involvement and it helps to build that community of people we need to raise our children in this world today.

This week in Little Kids Worship we will watch Jonah as he learns a lesson the hard way! Being disobedient comes with consequences but we serve a loving God who never gives up on us! Jonah will face the "big fish" this Sunday! Take a break from the heat and come join us!