

## ONLINE CONNECT CARD

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<b>Last Week</b>	Giving: \$11,532
Class - 121	Weekly Budget:
Worship - 300	\$13,380
Wednesday Night	YTD Giving:\$ 366,638
Bible Study -59	YTD Budget:\$ 401,411

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# Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

July 31, 2022

## You Can't Reach Who You Don't Know by Tim Tripp

I've been thinking about starting a camping club for people who don't really like to be outdoors. I thought we could all stay at a nice hotel and rent some conference space that we could arrange like a campsite. We could have TV screens brought in and have each playing beautiful outdoor scenes and have outdoor sounds playing through the sound system. We could have camp style food brought in and eat it together around picnic tables in the conference room. Maybe one night, we could serve fresh fish like it was just caught that day. We could play games in the conference room and talk together about our love of the outdoors. Then when the evening fun is over, we could retire to our hotel rooms, hop in bed and dream of the outdoors while we sleep in the comfort of air conditioning.

Sounds great but at its best, it is pretend camping; trying to capture the fun of it in the comforts of the indoors. Real campers would say, it's just not the same thing.

Sometimes Christians do that when it comes to being on mission. Most people would say that the mission of the church is to reach the lost for Jesus. We preach about it. We sing about it. We take classes on it. Some even attend conferences that show them how to do it. Still, the most common answer when church folks are asked how many people they led to Jesus the past year is zero - none. The most common reason given is not that they don't know how to make disciples. It's not that they don't want to. The most common reason is that they don't know anybody that doesn't believe or have some faith in Jesus. Apparently, most people in church don't have close relationships with people who aren't in church. There may be casual relationships with people that they meet in daily living but nothing deep enough that they can break through the barrier of spiritual conversations without it being terribly awkward.

I understand that. I lived much of my life the same way. I had relationships with those I liked and who for the most part, shared my values and views in life. Building relationships like that is natural and normal. That means building relationships with people who are not like us and do not share our spiritual interests is unnatural and not normal. The only way for those relationships to happen is to be intentional about them.

That kind of relationship hunting will feel unnatural and awkward. Having relationships with people who are not of the same political viewpoint is bound to encounter conflict along the way. That is awkward. Having a relationship with someone of a different race is challenging for the same reason. Differing lifestyles can challenge even casual friendships and make relationships difficult and complicated. Usually, people just don't bother.

However, if our goal is really to reach lost people, we must build relationships with lost people and most of them are not like you and me. Discipleship is about building relationships with people who are not like Jesus and walking with them to become more like Jesus.

How can a person begin to build relationships with non-Christians or uncommitted Christians or fallen Christians? Find a way to spend time with them. Reach out and get to know them. Invest in them. Let the Holy Spirit guide you to talk with them about Jesus. You can't reach who you don't know.

LOVE | SHARE | DISCIPLE

## 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.

We extend our sympathy to Kris Helms and family in the recent loss of her brother-in-law, Manny Baustista. Please keep Manny's wife Laurie in your prayers during this time of loss.

Renee Cawyer is recovering from gallbladder removal surgery. Please keep her in your prayers for a full and rapid recovery.

### Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Tami Robinson  
Norman Shay - Hospice care  
Danny Jarra & family  
Oliver Blankenship  
**Homebound/ Nursing Home**  
Gladys Norwood  
Janis Murphy  
Cathryn Cates  
Betty Grinder  
Wanda Bailey - Stonebridge  
Lynda Lamberson - Legacy Heights

If you know of someone not listed, please let the office know.

### Wedding Shower

Please join us for a wedding shower in honor of Anna Tripp Bray and new husband Taylor on Sunday August 14th at 1pm in the Rock. Anna and Taylor are registered at Milllyns, Target and Amazon.

## A message from Renew

On August 21, we will be having our College Sunday at West Side. We are hoping to have a several TECH students join us for worship as well as a meal to follow! Please make plans to join us at the Student Center after worship to eat and meet our students. You are such an important part of their lives!

Here's where we need your help before that day. We are going to put together gift baskets to give to each student that morning.

All items will need to be put on the Renew table, in the lobby, by August 17. Monetary donations are also welcome! See Grayson or Amanda Taylor to donate.

Thank you for loving our college students and making them feel at home!

### Items needed:

"Pocket sized" tissues  
Mini Bottles of Hand sanitizer  
Ramen noodles  
Pens  
Highlighters  
Laundry detergent  
Dryer sheets  
Candy/Chocolate  
Gum  
Individual packaged snacks/chips/muffins  
Band-aids  
Chapstick  
Bottles of water  
Paper towels  
Disinfecting wipes  
Sticky notes  
Shout wipes/Stain remover



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

## Needed Pantry Items:

Our summer meals for the homeless program is in need of Little Debbie Snack Cakes and Fruit Cups.



Kids Corner 7/31/22

by Susan Taylor

This Sunday is our last week for Little Kid's Worship. We have had so much fun learning about some of the interesting Old Testament characters we all know and love. A special thank you to Jennifer Wortham for planning such great crafts for us every week! We've had so many wonderful adults helping and nurturing our children these past few weeks! It has truly been a great time of learning.

For our last lesson in LKW we will be going into the 'big fish' with Jonah! What did he see? How did it feel? God definitely gave Jonah some things to think about inside that fish for 3 days and nights! Hope to see everyone Sunday!

## KFC - Building the Foundations of our Faith



Construction begins: August 7<sup>th</sup>!

Ages 3 years – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

We just wanted to remind you that KFC classes will resume on August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Can't wait to see you there! 

For information like this and more  
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