

Prayer Requests

Leigh Honnell, mother of Lauren Reed, was discharged from the hospital earlier this week, and hopefully will be traveling home very soon. Continued prayers for good test results, and for their safe return.

Mellicent Crain will be having a lumpectomy on October 14th. Please pray for her complete healing.

Rita Cline, mother of Dena Moore, please continue to keep her in your prayers.

George Reed is in Arkansas Heart Hospital in Little Rock. He is doing better, but prayers for medicines to keep him on the right track and feeling better.

Oliver Blankenship, received a new heart pump earlier this week! Prayers for it to continue to work well while he awaits a new heart. His parents could use extra prayers and encouragement too, for this difficult journey that they are on.

Joel Delgado, great grandson of Kay Larsen, Please be praying for the doctors to find answers that will help him.

We have several battling Covid, and would appreciate prayers.

Ongoing

Bob Clark, Wayne Baker, Ethel Jackson, Tami Robinson, Jarra Family.

Friends and Family Day



Mark your calendars!
Our Friends and Family Day will be October 16th, at Old Post Park, starting at 4, due to it getting dark earlier. Please make plans to attend this fun event!

A Note From Aris:

West Side has a wonderful opportunity for community outreach partnering with Iglesia de Cristo! They will be hosting a training workshop, October 24th - 28th, for anyone interested in learning how to teach English/Spanish, or Citizenship classes to members of the community. If interested, please contact Aris by text to 479-970-4548 for more information.



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

Sunday October 2nd

Nancy Preuit 2 doz donuts
Sue Ann Jernigan 2 doz donuts
Baristas: Zac and Kathryn Smith

Sunday October 9th

Jenifer Hurt 2 doz donuts
Paulette Cooper 2 doz donuts
Baristas: Jenifer Hurt and Cindy Jones



October schedule

10/5 Fall Break

10/12 Deanna Cole/Gail

Davenport

10/19 Brittany Loudon/Sheri

Crosby

10/26 Kim Walters

Please have your cookies ready at Renew each Wednesday at 6pm.



KIDS CORNER

by *Kaitlin McCormick*

We are continuing to build the foundations of our faith by answering the question "who is God?"

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

Main Idea: To be awesome means worthy of our awe, admiration, and praise.
Our God is the most awesome!

Bible Verse: "the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God" -Deut. 10:17

Song: Our God is an awesome God

Tenors Needed!

The worship service team is coming together nicely, but we are still in need of a few people that can sing tenor. Please reach out to Zach Taylor at 479-264-3067, or zctaylor14@gmail.com, if you can volunteer your services for this part. A big thanks to all that have volunteered already!

ONLINE CONNECT CARD

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

westsidear.org/connect



Last Week	Giving: \$ 9,850
Class - 119	Weekly Budget: \$13,380
Worship - 255	YTD Giving: \$ 469,454
Wednesday Night	YTD Budget: \$ 521,835
Bible Study - 66	

Shepherds

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Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

October 2, 2022

MOVEMENT: from Institutional to Missional Epilogue by Tim Tripp

Today is the last of the sermons in the current series. It has been one of the more challenging lesson series I have preached. I struggle with worry sometimes as I plan out these series because I don't want to be guilty of "church bashing" but neither do I want to neglect addressing areas where we could improve. I try to walk the line between offending folks and challenging them. I realize that different people have different sensitivities so I usually try to err on the side of being gentle. That may not always achieve what I want to achieve but at least more sensitive folks are still listening.

The perspective I hope to bring with the series is not that the institutional elements of church are wrong. There are many valuable assets of being institutional. Largely, there is a rootedness that comes with the institutional elements of a church. That rootedness is important in finding the path for the future. The problem emerges when the focus becomes preserving the institution and its closely guarded tenets over and above its mission. That can cause the church to keep its traditions but release its purpose and mission when the two begin to collide.

Let me reiterate, like I have in the series, that there is a core of doctrine and practice that cannot be compromised. Who God is, who Jesus is and how to find salvation in him and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit are examples of things that don't change ever. However, institutionally focused churches typically guard much more than that. They might guard things like member expectations, worship styles, leadership styles, leadership selection practices, hermeneutics, and even building styles and décor. It is important to strive for God-honoring practices on those and other things but when our "off core" beliefs and practices are keeping the unchurched and unbelievers away, it may be time to look at those things through the lens of whether they are they eligible for change even if there is a cost associated.

Staying on mission will always be challenging and costly. Sacrifice will be necessary. If losing people and things associated with the institution must be sacrificed to stay on mission, then I suggest they are a worthy sacrifice. If losing those things allows a church to be more able to send disciples into the world to fight the forces of evil with the weapons of faith and shine light into darkness then that is a good thing. If that church is also able to take former servants of darkness and make them disciples of THE light of the world then that is a good thing as well.

We are responsible for the mission, not for growth. We are never told to build big churches. We are told to be obedient and make disciples. God gives growth to those who do his will. Institutional churches want to attract people to them and assimilate them into the culture of their brand. Missional churches send disciples into the culture of the community to shine the light of Jesus into the darkness and change the culture of the community by living extraordinary lives. They take the world's wounded, healing them through the power of the gospel and send them back into the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

My dream for West Side is to be a church that is sharply focused on the mission of Jesus and that grows through sacrifice to be what God has called us to be.

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