

Dear Family,

Everyone needs a vacation from work, but due to the COVID issues many of you have been on vacation from the full-experience of in-person worship and study. I hope to see everyone back very soon. This **Easter, on April 4th** we are having a breakfast together “downstairs” at 8:30am followed by morning worship at 9:30am. It would be wonderful to see you then.

It has been over a year since I have taken any vacation. With that said, Teresa and I plan to take two weeks this month of April and go to Florida to see family and make a few stops on the way home. In our absence, I have John Nugent, professor of New Testament at Great Lakes Christian College (**4/18**) and George Brown, now retired from the English Department, also from GLCC, preaching for me (**4/25**). Teresa has Gaylyn and Howard taking care of our Facebook Live worship time.

We are making plans even now to start up a Weston Food Pantry to be housed in the church basement. The men are having a work day toward getting a room set up on **April 10th** from 10am-12noon. We will be making some more plans at that time. And yes, women can help if they desire later. We are planning to be operational two days a month starting in September. Let me know if you have a heart to feed the poor in our community.

May is going to have a few opportunities to support ministry. On **May 20th** the Bowling Green Pregnancy Center is having a Gala. It is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons, and we would love to have you be a part. Sign up at the church on the big flipchart in the sanctuary or give us a call. It is \$30.00 per person. We have waited long enough to get back together with other churches, so on **May 30th** we are restarting our 5th Sunday get togethers. Weston will host this first one back. It starts at 6pm with great fellowship, music, and refreshments after.

Time is such a valuable commodity. Teresa and I have been with you nearly 5 ½ years, and it seems like yesterday we came here. What is even more amazing is that on **June 6th** (Lord willing) we will have been married 50 years. Time flies and it is too precious to waste. It is a gift from God that needs to be invested in the Kingdom. It is time to make some new memories that will sustain us in the time between Jesus’ comings.

(Craddock, *John*, p.94ff) “without some clear doctrine of the continuing and unlimited presence of Christ, the church cannot live. No community of faith can long survive on the thin diet of fond memories of a Camelot, that marvelous time and place when he was here, a time and place that is no more.”

Let’s gather this Sunday and use our time, and lives we have on loan, to glorify God and enrich and encourage each other. **Our Mission Statement needs to be lived out to be effective:**

The purpose of the Weston Church of Christ is to glorify God
by reaching the lost, strengthening the saved and serving as one body
for Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let’s get back to our Father’s business!

Gary

George Brown has recently retired as a professor from Great Lakes Christian College's English Department.



He taught there for 43 years. During this time he has also ministered to twenty-four churches in an interim capacity as well as providing pulpit supply to many congregations.

George has been married to Kathy for 48 years. They have four children and six grandchildren. I have known George for over 30+ years and have always enjoyed and been challenged by his sermons. George is also going to teach the Adult Sunday School when he comes on April 25th.

George's formal education includes a B.A. from my alma mater, Lincoln Christian College and a M.A. from Eastern Illinois University. To give you a flavor of who George is, listen to his comment regarding well-wishes from friends on Facebook: In response to the many complimentary posts regarding my retirement: To borrow from one more pun--Old professors don't retire--they just lose their faculties. And as a prime example, I struggled for a full five minutes yesterday to remember the name of the Manistee River (one in which several of you took a week long canoe trip with me)!

I want to thank the many of you who wrote such kind words, who Honor me with influencing your lives. If by influence, you mean encouragement, I humbly accept the compliment. I tried to see all of you as Jesus does (and I apologize for my astigmatisms). If by influence you suggest a "moral guide", I confess to fumbling with the compass as often as any other seeker, struggling after the steps of the Savior. If by influence you meant my love of deep literature as a way to Truth and you followed that path, thank the authors for laying the stonework. And if by influence you mean that I lifted up Jesus that all might be drawn to Him, I was honored to perform that work. God bless you all. By the way, I am so looking forward to teaching the core literature courses without the ancillary duties performed by my colleagues.

Come hear George talk about a story in Mark 5 on April 25th.



John Nugent is Professor of Bible and Theology at Great Lakes Christian College. He and Beth are happily married and proud parents of Alexia, Sierra, and Alissa.



John graduated from GLCC and also received degrees from Duke, Calvin, and Emmanuel Christian Seminary. John co-hosts the After Class Podcast and has written three books: *Endangered Gospel* (2016), *The Politics of Yahweh* (2011), and a commentary on Genesis 1-11 (2018).

He has also edited several books, published articles in academic journals and popular level magazines, and written Bible lessons for Standard Publishing. He and his family are committed members of Delta Community Christian Church (a network of house churches in Lansing).

Come hear John talk from Hebrews on April 18th.

Stewardship Statistics	2/28/21	3/7/21	3/14/21	3/21/21			Total Money And Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services.	39	48	45	35			42
General Fund	\$1075.00	\$4578.00	\$1817.00	\$1350.00			\$8820.00
Weekly Budget	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71			\$9858.84
+ or— Budget	(\$1389.71)	\$2113.29	(\$647.71)	(\$1114.71)			(\$1038.84)
Designated Giving							
Birthday Money		\$91.00					\$91.00
Dave Apple Memorial	\$325.00						\$325.00
Total Giving's	\$1400.00	\$4669.00	\$1817.00	\$1350.00			\$9236.00

Prayer List

The WORLD for racial reconciliation
 Government Leaders
 All Missionaries
 Scott Fouts (home, but long recovery)
 Dave Warner
 Doris Rothenbuhler (Joann Euler's sis)
 Brooke Harrison (no chemo needed)
 Julie Chesney (cancer spread to bones)
 Kevin & Melissa Comstock (prayers)
 Godrick (5 yr. old with brain cancer/not doing well)
 Charlotte Travis
 Larry Biscarner (Nancy Snyder's brother has prostate cancer)
 Caleb Wisniewski (Hodgkin's Lymphoma)
 Leighan Yarger (healing)
 Jan Finn (healing)
 Duane Miller (No cancer detected 2/19)
 Duane Rupe (stroke/prostate)
 Jane Hankins (pain when walking)
 Jennifer Werner (more blood tests planned)
 Janet Riesenbeck (general health)
 Ed Tankersley
 Kim Huffman (prostate cancer treatments)
 Paula Thomas (back pain)
 Family of Stephanie Barton
 Family of Patricia Hess
 Family of Terry Tschappat

Prayer list continued

Kevin Roe (surgery was successful/healing)
 Jessa (Teresa's 3 yr. old niece/neuro-surgery for twisted arteries in head)
 Russ Harshberger (surgery to remove hardware from leg/April 2)
 Skylar (health improving)
 Vinny Snyder (broke collar bone)
 Jill (Larry Carter's daughter/health improving)
 Bonnie Higley (medical issues)
 Karen Apple (upcoming heart surgery)

Remember our Shut-ins

Joanne Lehman - Wood Haven, Rm 106

Those in Service

Krause's-Australia/Philippines
 Lt. Col. Elijah Ward – Fort Sill, OK.
 Ron Burkhardt - Stateside
 Jon Walker - 180th TFW Active duty
 Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard
 Daryl Trail - U.S. Navy
 Austin Varela - Marines/Stateside
 Luke Millican - USAF
 Gavin Varela - Marines/Hawaii
 Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan
 Gunner Bontjes - Army National Guard/being deployed for a year

Special dates:

- Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021
- Good Friday, April 2, 2021
- Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021



Easter Services

Sunday, April 4th

8:30am

Breakfast in the dining room



9:30am - Worship in the Sanctuary

“Seeing Is Believing, Or Is It?”

John 20:1-18



Please note: There will be no children's church on Easter Sunday. Kids will be upstairs with their families. There will be no Adult Sunday School after worship. Spend some loving time with your families on Easter to celebrate the risen Christ.



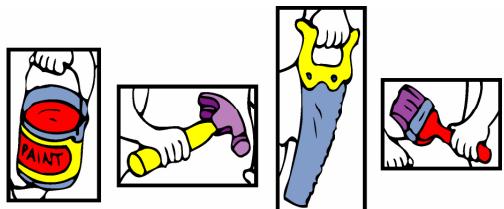
Small Group Wednesdays at 7:00pm

We are studying Hebrews .
Come join us live or on Facebook!

Note: No Small Group on
April 21st and 28th.

Men's Work Day

Calling all men to come to church on Saturday, **April 10, 10am - noon.** We will be getting the room next to the kitchen ready for the upcoming food pantry.



Work Project

Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 6th @ 7:30pm



Men's Mentoring Group

Sunday, April 11th

12:00 - 1:30pm

"Hard Sayings of Jesus"

by F. F. Bruce

April Sermons

April 4	Seeing Is Believing, Or Is It?	John 10:1-18
April 11	The Lord's Prayer	John 17
April 18 (John Nugent)	The Legend of the Golden City: The Sufficiency of Christ in the Book of Hebrews	
April 25 (George Brown)		Mark 5:25-43

Encourage Wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder." For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love."

—Janna Firestone

Believing In

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."

A Grand Entrance

Decades ago, as English actress Gertrude Lawrence waited behind the curtain for a play to begin, the queen upstaged her by arriving at the royal box to much applause. "What an entrance," Lawrence remarked, to which her friend, playwright Noel Coward, replied, "What a part!"



Jesus certainly made a grand entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, entering to adoring shouts of "Hosanna!" But worldly glory and fame weren't his intent. Instead, our Lord knew that his Father had prepared a sacrificial role for him. Jesus handled the adulation with dignity and poise. The humble yet courageous Son of God knew that danger, despair and death awaited - but that he must endure it all to fulfill prophecy for humanity's sake.

The pageantry of Palm Sunday is a stark contrast to the role of Suffering Servant that Jesus faced a few short days later. Yet each event during Holy Week represents victory - for Jesus as well as for his beloved children.

Palm Sunday is a glorious day, so let us wave palms and shout, "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The Savior has come. What an entrance! What a part!

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A Fitting Tribute

When Christ entered into Jerusalem, the people spread garments in the way. When he enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves.

—Augustus Toplady (1740–1778)

Cultivating Kindness

Kind heart are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



An Easter Prayer

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.

The Newsletter Newsletter®

Puzz[e]!

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).

K 1 G S 2 P H 3 F R 4 I C 5 E Y 6 L
W N M D O U Z A Q T B J

“ ‘ H



You into Galilee. There you will see him.”

Answer: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of



Be a Caremongerer

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, a mutual-aid movement dubbed as “caremongering” quickly spread throughout Canada. Within 72 hours, 35 Facebook groups were launched so people could request and offer assistance.

This altruistic effort is essentially the opposite of fearmongering. “We wanted to switch that around and get people to connect on a positive level,” says Mita Hans, who helped set up the first group. The movement, she adds, “spread the opposite of panic in people, brought out community and camaraderie, and allowed us to tackle the needs of those who are at-risk all the time — now more than ever.”

One disabled man in Halifax who received aid through a caremongering group said it felt “like a hug.” That’s intentional, says participant Valentina Harper. “I think it is really showing people there is still hope for humanity.” When the pandemic is history, may we all continue to be caremongerers in our communities.

The Newsletter Newsletter®

Tying Together the Testaments

In most non-English-speaking nations, the holy day of Easter is known by a word derived from the Hebrew word for Passover: *Pesach*. In Greek, it’s *Pasch*; in Latin, *Pascha*; in Spanish, *Pascua*; and in French, *Paques*.

Each spring, Jewish people observe the Passover festival to commemorate how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The Christian observance of the Lord’s Supper (the Eucharist, Holy Communion or the Lord’s Table) originated with Jesus sharing the Passover Seder meal with his disciples the night Judas betrayed him. Jesus connected the exodus story with his own mission: becoming a “Paschal Lamb” to save his people from the slavery of sin and its consequences.

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SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

- "The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies."

—Kate McGahan

- "The earth laughs in flowers."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

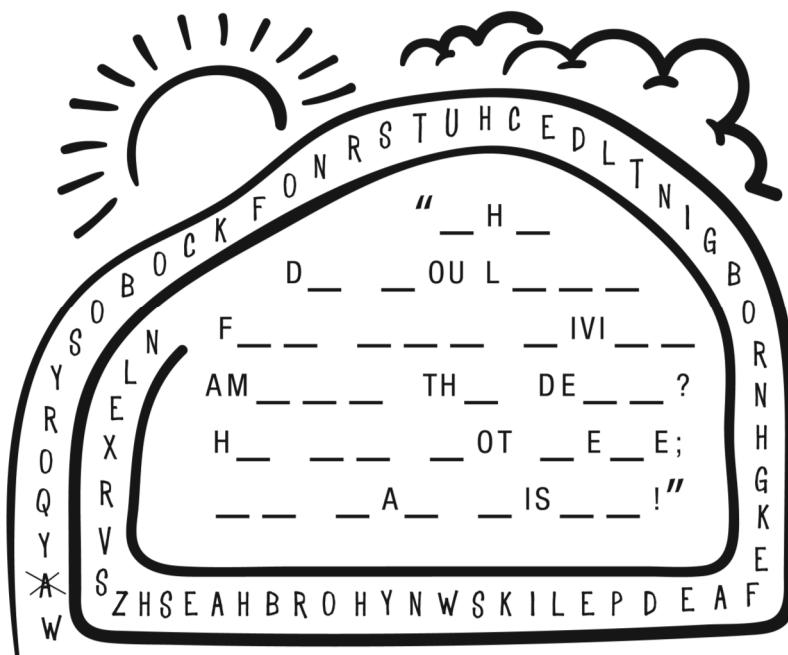


PUZZLE

EASTER MORNING message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

Bible Quiz

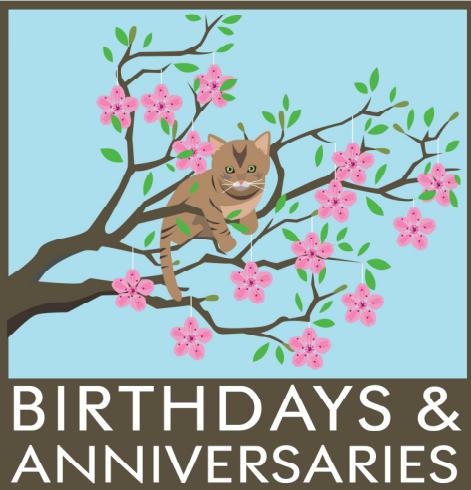
We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)

APRIL



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3 Bud Roe	15 Kay Roe
5 Russ Harshberger	24 Carolyn Higley
11 Duane Miller	29 Peggy Walker
11 Addison Strickland	29 Becky Chamberlain
12 Ron Bechstein	

1 Allan & Gloria Hughes	12 Tyler & Kristin Foster
6 Mike & Bev Murphy	27 Ray & Vera DeWitt
7 Lee & Pat Higley	

Supporting the Otsego Food Pantry

We are still supporting the Otsego Food Pantry until we get our pantry established and running. Juanita checked with them about their current needs. The top three items they need now:

- 1. Applesauce**
- 2. Vegetable Soup**
- 3. Jelly**

We designate the first Sunday each month as “Feed His Sheep”, but you can drop off items anytime. The bushel basket is in the foyer. Juanita makes a trip to the food pantry whenever there is a basket full of food. Thanks!



APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				 7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice	2	3
4 8:30 Sunrise Breakfast 9:30am Easter Worship No Children's Church No Adult S.S. Feed His Sheep	5 Board Meeting 7:30pm	6 Small Group Hebrews 7:00pm	7 7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice	8	9	10 10:00am - Noon Men's Workday to ready the room for the food pantry
11 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S. Men's Mentoring Group 12-1:30pm	12	13 Small Group Hebrews 7:00pm	14 7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice	15	16	17
18 John Nugent (Guest Speaker) 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.	19 May Newsletter articles dead- line	20 No Small Group	21 7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice	22	23	24
25 George Brown (Guest Speaker) 9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.	26	27 No Small Group	28	29	30	

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!

Weston Church of Christ
PO Box 344
13355 Center Street
Weston, Ohio 43569



May newsletter articles due Tuesday, April 20

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service
10:45am Sunday School


April
2021

Weston Witness

Minister: Gary L. Wackler, 336-280-5311

Elders: Ed Tolles, 419-409-1622;

John McKenzie, 419-806-5775

Bob Walker, 419-262-8006

April 2021

Pat Higley, Editor

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Website: westonchurchofchrist.org

Check us out on Facebook

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strengthening the saved and serving as one body for Jesus Christ our Lord.