

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It was so good to get back together with our Men's Mentoring Group this month. It had been six months, and I had really missed the men and our sharing together. There have been a few other people I have not seen back at church for the same amount of time. I hope you will feel God's call on your lives to get back to the fellowship. We truly miss you.

I suppose all of us have suffered some sense of loss during this time. Francis Chan's book: *Letters to the Church* is what the men's group has been discussing. The chapter we were in in September was "Crucified." Let me share a few thoughts and quotes from that chapter.

**Philippians 3:8-11 ESV** 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

To give some context here: Paul is in prison and certainly suffered much more than any of us. However, he was willing to risk and suffer for the Church and God's Kingdom, everything if necessary. "Suffering is so important because through it we come to know Jesus more. To know the power of His resurrection. To know the fellowship of His sufferings (Chan)." You have heard the expression about physical training: "no pain, no gain." It seems to me that risk and even suffering is worth it, if we come into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

**I Corinthians 15:19 ESV** 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. Paul realized how idiotic the way he lived would be, if when he died, that was it! "The suffering in his life was proof he believed the first verse we all *probably have* memorized. He knew he would 'not perish (be lost) but have eternal life (John 3:16). This is the good news. He did not have to fear death or suffering (or any loss) and neither do we."

"No man ever saw God and lived. And yet, I shall not live till I see God; and when I have seen him, I shall never die." - John Donne. I do not mean to talk in a reckless way, but if you are in Christ, what can any circumstance do to you in an adverse manner. If we die in Christ, we will live with him forever. Heaven is watching how we will perform during adversity.

**Hebrews 12:1-3 ESV** 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Let's put ourselves in this kind of mind-set. Let's keep heaven in mind and live in light of our reward and His sudden and soon-coming. I hope to see everyone back with us this Sunday as we worship our Lord and await His appearing.

**Gary**

Stewardship Statistics						Total Money And Average Attendance
	8/30/20	9/5/20	9/13/20	9/20/20		
Attendance for in-person services.	55	41	49	40		46
General Fund	\$3336.00	\$1960.00	\$1753.00	\$2425.00		\$9474.00
Weekly Budget	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71		\$9858.84
+ or— Budget	\$871.29	(\$504.71)	(\$711.71)	(\$39.71)		(\$384.84)
<b>Designated Giving</b>						
Birthday Money			\$25.00			\$25.00
Pregnancy Walk						
Video Upgrade (Marvin & Elaine Schultz)	\$5000.00					\$5000.00
Pregnancy Center Walk			\$165.00			\$165.00
<b>Total Giving's</b>	<b>\$8336.00</b>	<b>\$1960.00</b>	<b>\$1943.00</b>	<b>\$2425.00</b>		<b>\$14664.00</b>

**Prayer List**

The WORLD for racial reconciliation  
 Skylar Kunz (doing well)  
 Scott Fouts (home, but long recovery)  
 Shawna Hoffman (Ed's co-worker)  
 Dave Warner  
 Doris Rothenbuhler (Joann Euler's sis)  
 Brooke Harrison (no chemo needed)  
 Jim German (Jan Zulch's brother)  
 James and Karen Lyle  
 Becky Chamberlin (hip surgery recovery)  
 Becky Repasz (healing)  
 Family of Noah Vincent  
 Family of Robert Smith  
 Family of Tom Gordon  
 Ned Wackler (Gary's 93 yr. old uncle)  
 Shelly Walston (hospital)  
 Family of Kim Pugh  
 Kim Huffman (eye injury)  
 Dave Apple  
 Anna Tolles (blood clots)  
 Devin & Stephanie Spencer (recent miscarriage)  
 Family of Rick Chickering (Member of Village View Church of Christ/COVID-19)  
 The President & government leaders

**Prayer list continued**

Heather & Josh Redford (loss of their baby girl on Sep. 3rd)  
 Duane Miller (having lesions removed on right vocal chord on 9/18)  
 Family of Dorothy Euler  
 Louis Vega  
 Bob Tolles (stress test)  
 Family of Rusty (Landon's uncle)  
 Russ Harshberger (rheumatoid arthritis)  
 Linda Fortney (health issues)  
 Victims of the hurricanes  
 Family of Phyllis Pickering (John DuBois's sister)  
 Julie Chesney (breast cancer, also mass on uterus/John's coworker at BG Manor)  
 Kevin Roe (surgery on left foot 9/24 at Cleveland/off work for 3 weeks)

**Remember our Shut-ins**

Janiece Stage - Heritage, Scott Hall 2  
 Joanne Lehman - Wood Haven, Rm 106

**Those in Service**

Krause's-Australia  
 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/Japan  
 Luke Millican - USAF  
 Gavin Varela - Marines/Hawaii  
 Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan

**Holy Mysteries**

Dwell in the wonder of these two gifts of God: that God made us in his very image (Genesis 1:26), and then — “much more”! — that Christ came to earth as a human being (Philippians 2:7).  
 Ponder and savor how poet John Donne (1572-1631) describes these mysteries:  
 “Twas much, that man was made like God before, But, that God should be made like man, much more.”

**The Newsletter** Newsletter®

Tuesday, October 6th at 7:30pm

**board  
meeting**



Thursdays at 7:00pm  
"Let It Rise" BAND PRACTICE

Wednesdays at 7:00pm



Join us at the church as we continue the study of the Thessalonian letters.

**Otsego Pantry Needs**

They contacted us with the following needs:

- Dish Soap
- Toothpaste
- Men's Deodorant



**Learning from Autumn Leaves**

Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor - mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

—MaryAnn Sundby

**Men's Mentoring Group  
Sunday, October 11th**

We will eat lunch and look at chapter 8 of "Letters to the Church" by Francis Chan. Pray for all the men participating in this spiritual mentoring.

**October Sermons**

October 4	Life Down at the Pool - Jesus Offers Life	John 5:1-18
October 11	What Motivates You?	John 5:16ff
October 18	What Can We Learn from Jesus' Ministry?	John 6:16-21 and Matthew 14:22-35
October 25	Are You Hungry? I Am the Bread of Life	John 6:25-69

## Just Be — and Be Still

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: “I am a human being, not a human doing. It’s okay to just *be* sometimes.” Many of us get anxious if we think we’re not *doing* enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it’s not a waste of time to just be: “To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most.”

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus’ spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and “do.” Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It’s sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just *be*. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God’s presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. “In quietness and trust is your strength” (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

## Truth + Love

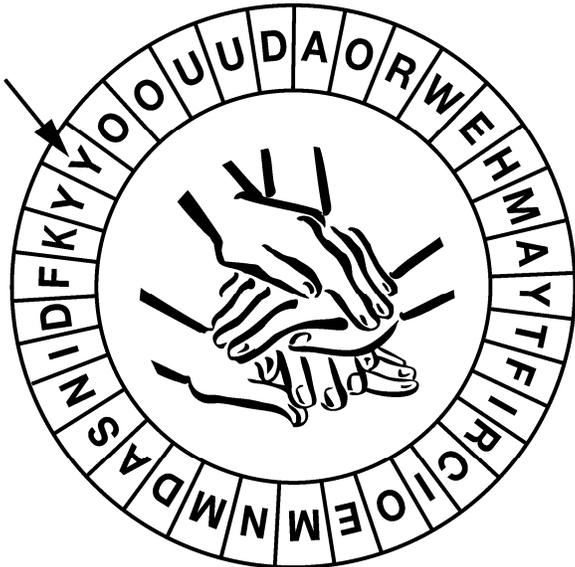
Ravi Zacharias, who recently died at 74, was a religious skeptic until age 17, after a suicide attempt landed him in the hospital. A visitor brought a Bible to Zacharias, who eventually became a vigorous defender of the faith.

When asked about his work, he told the *Christian Post*, “Truth must always be undergirded by love. My [parents] used to say, ‘If you cut off someone’s nose, there is no use in giving him a rose to smell.’ If Christian apologetics cuts off the listener’s nose, there is no use in giving them the sweet aroma of the Christian message. You have to do it undergirded by love. You learn this as a parent. You can hammer something into your child’s head, and when they leave they extract it and fling it away. But if you sow it with seeds of love, it will remain in their hearts permanently. So the truth of Christ is both true and relevant undergirded by love.”

**The**  
**Newsletter**  
Newsletter®

# Puzzle!

Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below to discover what Jesus says about his friends.



“ Y \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.”

JOHN 15:14, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command.” John 15:14, NIV

- Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you’re doing the impossible.”

—Unknown

- Nothing [is] more truly artistic than to love people.”

—Vincent Van Gogh



# A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

*Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.*

**WORD BANK:** sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
2. Contains what’s needed to grow a plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
3. To plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sharp part of a plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is harvested. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
6. To dry up and shrivel . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
7. Person who plants . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
8. The earth a plant grows in. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

“But the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> falling on good \_\_\_\_\_<sub>8</sub> refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub>, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> n.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, crop, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, crop, sow

## Bible Quiz

In Jesus’ parable about people who hear and live by God’s words, on what did the wise man build his house?

- A. rock
- B. sand
- C. grassland
- D. soil that was free of rocks



Answer: A (See Matthew 7:24-27.)

- 1 Scott Apple
- 2 Willow
- 5 Nancy Snyder
- 8 Debbie Lee
- 12 Dick Philips
- 22 Ed Tolles
- 22 Lindsey Baker
- 22 Joanne McKenzie
- 27 Cindy Wichman



### Christian Symbol

**PLOW** - This farming implement is mentioned frequently in the bible, often with verses about the harvest. Plowing symbolizes preparing the heart to receive God's truth, or the "seed" of God's word. The plow also represents commitment; Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62, NIV). The prophet Elisha burns his plow to show his commitment to answer God's call (see 1 Kings 19:21).



### Loved For Who We Are

When I was a child, my parents loved me not because I was good but because I was ... their child. I loved them, and wanted to please them, but their love of me did not have to be earned.

Neither does the love of God. We are loved because we are his children, because we are. If we feel that we ought to be loved because it is our due, or because we deserve it, the less we will truly feel the need of God's love; the less implicit will be our trust; the less we will cry out, *Abba!*

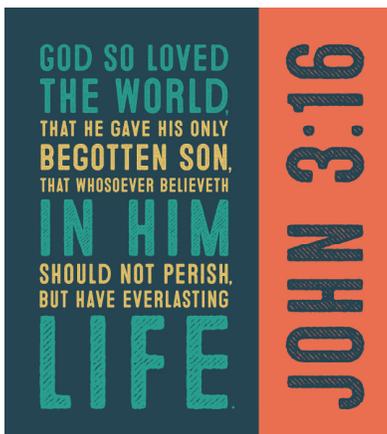


—Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on Water*

### The Best Medicine

Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, "My best prescription for head and heart is that 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"

That Bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. "What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity," he said of John 3:16. "It is the Bible itself!" After repeating the words of that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, "They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!"



# OCTOBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				7:00 Let It Rise Band Practice		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S. <b>IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND FACEBOOK LIVE</b> Mission Moment is Mountain Mission School with Russ Harshberger		Board Meeting 7:30pm	7:00pm Small Group at the church Thessalonian letters	7:00 Let It Rise Band Practice		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S. <b>IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND FACEBOOK LIVE</b>  Men's Mentoring Group 12-1:30pm			7:00pm Small Group at the church Thessalonian letters	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S. <b>IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND FACEBOOK LIVE</b>		November Newsletter articles due	7:00pm Small Group at the church Thessalonian letters	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30am Worship 11:00AM Adult S.S. <b>IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND FACEBOOK LIVE</b>			7:00pm Small Group at the church Thessalonian letters	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice		

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



November newsletter articles due Tuesday, October 20

**Sunday Worship Times**

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



# 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

Email us at: [church@westonchurchofchrist.org](mailto:church@westonchurchofchrist.org)

Website: [westonchurchofchrist.org](http://westonchurchofchrist.org)

Check us out on Facebook

**October 2020**

Pat Higley, Editor

Church: 419-669-3895

**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.**