Westworth Church of Christ



WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Lord.

If you are looking for a supportive, Bible-based church family, we believe you have found it at Westworth. You are always welcome to be a part of the warmth and loving nature that is shown here. We have a place for you!

If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor's card found on the back of each pew. Any prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. You may hand it to any member, place it in the contribution plate when passed, or simply leave it in the pew for us.

During the service we will celebrate communion. Communion is not only about Jesus' death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is our source of hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ.



Today from the Pulpit REJOICING IN THE LORD OUR GOD

Speaker—Max Pratt

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

"THEY SHALL CALL HIM IMMANUEL"

- Isaiah's Messianic Prophesies
- THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

MATTHEW 1:23

• THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

GOD IS WITH US!

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

I love the signs that display the real reason for our celebrating these holidays. I know that there is far too much commercialization involved in the celebration of the Lord's birth. I know there are many who may in some manner participate in the celebration, but there is no faith, hope or honor to be found in their heart. The world uses the celebration of Christ's birth to make a profit. This is nothing new to our times.

The Lord drove out the animals and turned over the money changer's tables because they were making a profit in God's house. It should never surprise us that the making of a profit will surpass the spiritual. The love of money is indeed the root of all kinds of evil. Jesus spoke plainly that no one can serve two masters. One will be loved and the other hated or one will be cherished and the other despised. We do not know very much about that rich young ruler that came asking Jesus about obtaining eternal life. What we do know is that his money had him.

We get to celebrate Christ's birth because of what it means to us. This season of the year highlights the great gift of God's divine love. The miracle of the virgin birth is the fulfillment of the promise and prophesy that a Savior would come. Man's need for salvation began in the Garden of Eden. The apostle Paul states the absolute truth: "All have sinned and fall short of God's glory" (Rom. 3:23). He quotes what has been written of man: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (Rom. 3:10-12). The old prophet, Isaiah, voiced from ancient times: "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away" (Isa. 64:6).

We celebrate the season because of what the angel has said to Joseph: "She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21). We have reason to celebrate the Incarnation because: "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." (Rom. 5:1-2)

Look to heaven above and rejoice in the Lord that we celebrate Jesus the Son of the Most High, born of the virgin Mary.

Max

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 17—Third Sunday Lunch—With the holidays and knowing that everyone's schedule is packed, we will cancel the December, 3rd Sunday lunch. But we will plan to enjoy this fellowship once again on January 21, 2024.

December 31, 6pm—5th Sunday — rather than lunch immediately following



worship services, let's gather again later in the day and celebrate the new year with games, food and fellowship. Menu will include traditional New Year's Eve "Blackeyed Peas" and any other foods you care to share. Obviously we won't plan to "ring in the new year", but a couple hours enjoying the company of brothers and sisters to set the tone for the new year.

• Food Items for Southside Church of Christ food bank - especially considering the holiday season.

Next delivery will be December 12.

 WORDS-OF-WISDOM—is it time to change your WOW sign for a different bit of Wisdom? There are plenty of signs available in the activity bldg. so you can keep the message fresh for those who may be driving in your neighborhood. Bring back the one you have so others can use it.



Matthew 7:9-12

⁹ "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. John 5:14



Known Prayer needs and requests:

Brian Flaherty and his extended family—Brian reports that his Dad chose to be cremated and at some point in the future, his ashes will be scattered in a nature preserve in the state of Maine.

Joyce Gray—Joyce's condition remains about the same. She is at home now (as of Saturday). Being back at home will present its own set of challenges. Please continue to pray for Joyce and for all those who are caring for her.

Max, Juan and Ann—As they adjust to Joyce's changing circumstances.

David Burris— David continues to recuperate at home. Please continue prayers for David and Tracy that all David's issues are resolved and healing can continue.

Jessica Gunnels—Sarah Lisle's friend— Jessica's condition has been deteriorating in recent weeks. The 'last possible hope' surgery was done on Wednesday and it did not go well. On Friday, Jessica's husband made the heartbreaking decision to quit treatments for Jessica and let her pass. Not sure at this time how long that might take. Please continue your prayers for Jessica and especially her family as they live through this tragic experience.

Sharold Ferris—Sharold is recovering from recent surgery on his thumb. They made the trip home following a trip to Michigan to celebrate his Mom's 90th birthday. However she was unable to attend her own party as she had contracted Covid.

Bob & Betty Lane— Bob remains at home under hospice care. His condition continues to deteriorate. Betty continues as Bob's primary care giver, even with hospice workers coming by twice each week. I know Betty would appreciate calls and words of encouragement along with your prayers.

John and Samantha Jewell et al—Pray for John and Samantha and their efforts on behalf of the young people at York University. Also John & Samantha made the trip to see Jonah, hospitalized with severe depression. Last word is that Jonah will receive a medical discharge and should be home with John and Samantha, Andy and Ben by the end of the month. Please continue your prayers for all of the Jewells, as well as the work in Malawi.

Rain—continues to be short of what will fill the lakes. Please keep this need in your prayers.

Those in assisted living and unable to meet with us:

◆ Dennis McMillion ◆ Pat Straw ◆ Jane Whitley ◆ Joyce Bennett

Known Prayer needs and requests: (continued)

Please include prayers for:

- Israel and Ukraine -Safety of Christian brothers and sisters and innocent civilians in these war-torn areas.
- Church growth and leadership—pray for God's guidance and blessings on efforts to grow the Lord's church. Pray for wisdom for our leaders.
- **Travelers**—Any who may be traveling—especially during the holidays.
- Civil leadership pray for upright leaders at all levels of government.
- Parents—pray for God's guidance and blessing for parents as families strive to navigate these turbulent times
- School teachers, administrators and staff as the school year progresses.

Please make known your prayer needs.

<u>December Birthdays</u>

Joe Campbell Dec 1
Curtis Thompson Dec 4

David Burris

Darla Thornton

Dec 24

Dec 25

Christy Snell

Jack Lisle Dec 29

Abe Elizondo Dec 31

Dec 26

December Anniversaries

Nathan & Andrea Keller Dec 15

Bob & Betty Lane Dec 23



Bill & Sherry Jones Dec 30 Jane & Lee Hall Dec 31

Andy Jewell & Lauren Chapman

This week I received a special wedding invitation and Samantha Jewell asked that I please pass it along to the church.

Everyone is invited:

Saturday, December 30, 2023—4:-00 pm MST Golden, Colorado

RSVP to John & Samantha Jewell via Facebook messenger for a link to the online event.

The couple is not registered, but cards can be sent to: 1313 Meadow Lane

York, NE 68467



STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday - Westworth Men's Group (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)



Current study:

The Apostle Peter—his life & ministry
All are invited to join us in this research. Come
share your knowledge. Help us learn from
Peter's life how we can better serve God.

Next Meeting: → JANUARY 2024 ←7pm, Activity Bldg.

The men's group will break until after the new year.

Wednesday Night Bible Study—Weekly @ 7pm

"Surprising Facts about Church History"

When Constantine became Emperor of the Roman Empire the world turned upside down. Almost three hundred years of suspicion and persecution came to a screeching halt. Not only did Christians have the freedom to worship, but soon Christianity would be the state-religion. However, freedom is never free. On Wednesday night we will

explore the cost of the Christian's new found freedom. It was not exactly what you think it was. David Keller

Thursdays Women's Virtual Bible Study

Each week — 7:00 pm via Google meet Current Study:

<u>Gideon–Your Weakness. God's Strength</u> by Priscilla Shirer

For information regarding materials and access (web-site and passcode) contact:
Tracy Robertson at 817-308-0554— or—
snowgirIntx@yahoo.com



This study is also paused until January, 2024.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Trustee in charge for December: Eric Kreger

Date	Today—December 10
Open	Curtis Dunson
Usher	Eric Kreger
Songs/Close	Curtis Dunson
Prayer	Curtis Thompson
Communion	Bill Jones
Bible Story Kids Church	Brian Flaherty / Susan Flaherty & Sherry Jones
Reading	James Kreger
Lesson	Max Pratt
A/V	Randy Fetters

COMING WEEKS

Date	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31
Open	Randy Fetters	Eric Kreger	Curtis Dunson
Usher	Brian Flaherty	Bill Jones	Randy Fetters
Songs/Close	Samuel Flaherty	Eric Kreger	Curtis Dunson
Prayer	Sharold Ferris	David Keller	Max Lisle
Communion	Johnny Box	Mike Lisle	David Keller
Bible Story Kids Church	Curtis Dunson Sherri Dunson & Tracy Robertson	Max Lisle / David & Hettie Keller	5th Sunday— no children's church
Reading	John Snell	Sharold Ferris	Jaedon Snell
Lesson	Max Pratt	Max Pratt	Max Pratt
A/V	Susan Flaherty	Christi Kreger	Susan Flaherty

Communion Preparation December: Stacey Fetters

What we want you to know about Westworth Church of Christ

We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important message for everyone in the world. Christ's message of salvation is packed with blessings for individuals, families, and community. Our mission is to share His gospel.

Our message comes from the inspired word of God. We teach that we are all sinners, and need saving from our sins. We are not saved by our own goodness or merit, but by the grace of God through our faith and obedience to the Gospel of Jesus. Jesus came to be our savior.

We believe...

- Jesus is the Son of God (John 11:27).
- in the Gospel Invitation (Matthew 11:28-30).
- the confession of our faith leads to our salvation (Romans 10:9-11).
- Godly sorrow turns a person away from sin to living a righteous life (Luke 5:32, 2 Corinthians 7:10).
- Baptism is one's new birth; when we bury the sinful man and rise up into a new spiritual life (Romans 6:3-5, 1 Peter 3:21-22).
- by living a faithful life God is glorified (Hebrews 13:15-16).

You are always welcome here. If you have any questions, or would like to know more about our beliefs please contact any member, call Max Pratt directly, or call the church office or to arrange time with him.

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Minister: Max Pratt— (325)718-9987

Trustees: Curtis Dunson Brian Flaherty

Eric Kreger Curtis Thompson

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Email: Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net

Facebook Group: Westworth Church of Christ

(https://www.facebook.com/westworthcoc/)