# Westworth Church of Christ



Worshiping Serving Fellowshipping

#### **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 Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Speaker—Max Pratt

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-2; 9-11

Wise Men Followed His Star

Those Who Find The Star of Bethlehem

What Does it Mean to Follow His Star?

## **FAMILY CELEBRATIONS**

From the earliest years of my life, the family has been brought together to celebrate the blessing of Christ's birth. Faith in the Bible's account of the Savior's birth has been honored among my relatives. Precious hours of visiting, playing, eating wonderful meals and sharing gifts fill my mind from childhood to the present with fond memories. I know that many can tell the same tales about the traditions their families have developed and then held on to them for many years.

There are many traditions and such that lead many to be more skeptical and reserve about the celebration of Christ's birth. But there are much more important matters shared in the Scriptures that should move us to share the joy and peace that came when Jesus was born. The heavenly hosts gathered in the night sky to give vocal praise that holy night. The Father's love is indeed great and worthy to be praised. Those nameless shepherds traveled back from their visit to the stable where they found Mary and the baby Jesus. The angel had told them what they would find and declared that that night a Savior had been born in Bethlehem. Those keepers of the sheep filled the night air with their own praises to God for all the things they had heard and seen.

From that night when Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea celebration has been part of earth's history. Angels began the praise by joining together saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." I wonder; besides the shepherds whose praise is recorded, how many others were privy to the original nativity scene? Surely, they too would have praised God for the newborn king. Christ's birth brought the wisemen to worship the Newborn King of the Jews. When they found him, they worshipped and presented gifts to honor him.

In celebrating Christ's birth each year, I reflect upon the spirit of giving to loved ones, caring for the needs of others less fortunate and looking heavenward giving thanks for the Beautiful Star of Bethlehem. What wonderful memories we have shared because Jesus came, and we believe in him as our Savior.

Max

## SEND OUT 2023 WITH 'FAMILY'!

December 31, 6pm—5th Sunday — No 5th Sunday Lunch—rather let's meet 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.

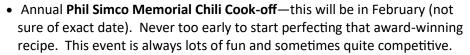
We won't plan to "ring in the new year", but a couple hours enjoying the company of brothers and sisters to set the tone for the new year.



### 2024

- Food Items for Southside Church of Christ food bank Please continue your generosity toward this ministry. The folks at Southside never fail to express deep appreciation for our participation in this work.
- WORDS-OF-WISDOM—A number of signs are available, allowing you to rotate your 'yard' message to passerby's.
   Signs are in the activity bldg.
- 3rd Sunday lunch—We will continue our long-standing tradition of fellowship meals on the 3rd Sunday each month. The next one will be on January 21.
- 5th Sunday lunch—Our additional fellowship meal in each month that has 5 Sundays. The 4 "5th Sunday's" in 2024 are: (2024 is a "Leap Year")

31 Mar 30 Jun 29 Sept 29 Dec



- February is time for the annual **Corporate meeting**. Exact date TBD.
- Ice Cream Supper—During the warm months, we will likely schedule an "ice cream supper". Another "member favorite".
- Anyone is invited/encouraged to plan a fellowship or service event. Our traditions are enjoyable, but "new" is welcomed. If you have a favorite activity or service opportunity, please let your brothers and sisters enjoy it with you.



Trust in the

Lord with all

your heart"

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:

Ernie Brawley—a week-or-so ago, we learned that Ernie had fallen and broke his leg. Surgery was performed on the broken leg and he is currently at Ridgmar Medical Lodge, (6600 Lands End Ct., Ft. Worth 76116)for therapy until the end of the month. He will then be moving into an assisted living facility. He is looking at an extended period during which he will be unable to put any weight on the leg. Please pray for Ernie's comfort during his prolonged recovery.

**Bob & Betty Lane**— Bob will soon have surgery to remove a malignancy behind one of his ears. Following that, plastic surgery will be required. No details are available yet. Betty continues as Bob's primary care giver, even with hospice workers coming by twice each week. Please continue prayers for both Bob and Betty.

**David Burris and Courtney**— David continues to recuperate at home and is still experiencing some issues with swelling and drainage. He reports his latest doctors appointments were good, and his next follow-up is January 8. Please continue prayers for David and Tracy that all David's issues are resolved and healing can continue. **Courtney** suffered a concussion about 2 weeks ago, and is still experiencing headaches as a result. Please pray for Courtney's healing and complete recovery.

**Joyce Gray**—Joyce's condition seems to be deteriorating. She is at home now. 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.

**Sharold Ferris**—Sharold continues to recover from recent surgery on his thumb. Please continue to pray for his overall health.

John and Samantha Jewell et al—Pray for John and Samantha and their efforts on behalf of the young people at York University. Also please pray for Jonah. After his hospitalization for severe depression, he should be back with family by the end of December. He will receive a "General" discharge from the Army. Please continue your prayers for all of the Jewells, as well as the work in Malawi.

Rain—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.
- 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.
- Young people worldwide—Evil abounds in this world and our young adults need continual prayers to resist temptation and recognize the deceit of evil.
- School teachers, administrators and staff as the school year progresses.

Please make known your prayer needs.

#### <u>December Birthdays</u>

Joe Campbell **Curtis Thompson**  Dec 1 Dec 4



Christy Snell Jack Lisle

Dec 26

**David Burris** 

Dec 24

Abe Elizondo

**Dec 29** Dec 31

Darla Thornton

Dec 25

December Anniversaries

Nathan & Andrea Keller Dec 15 **Bob & Betty Lane** 

**Dec 23** 

**Bill & Sherry Jones** Jane & Lee Hall

Dec 30

Dec 31

## Don't forget the weddings!

Andy Jewell & Lauren Chapman will be married December 30, 2023 in Colorado. RSVP to Samantha Jewell via Facebook Messenger for a link to attend the event virtually. Cards for the couple may be sent c/o John & Samantha at 1313 Meadow Lane, York, Nebraska 68467.



Jonathan Dunson & Joslyn Kessler will be married January 6, 2024. Event details and registry for the happy couple can be accessed at:

theknot.com/jonathanandjoslyn

## LUKE 2:4-20

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.











#### **ADDITIONAL STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

#### 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



Scheduled to resume in January.

#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Trustee in charge for January: Curtis Thompson

Date	Today—December 24	
Open	Eric Kreger	
Usher	Bill Jones	
Songs/Close	Eric Kreger	
Prayer	David Keller	
Communion	Mike Lisle	
Bible Story	Max Lisle /	
Kids Church	David & Hettie Keller	
Reading	Sharold Ferris	
Lesson	Max Pratt	
A/V	Christi Kreger	

## COMING WEEKS

Date	Dec 31	Jan 7	Jan 14
Open	<b>Curtis Dunson</b>	<b>Curtis Thompson</b>	<b>Curtis Dunson</b>
Usher	Randy Fetters	Eric Kreger	Bill Jones
Songs/Close	Curtis Dunson	Curtis Dunson	Eric Kreger
Prayer	Max Lisle	Max Lisle	<b>Curtis Thompson</b>
Communion	David Keller	Johnny Box	David Keller
Bible Story Kids Church	5th Sunday— no children's church	David Keller / Blair Montgomery & Sarah Thompson	Max Lisle / Susan Flaherty & Sherry Jones
Reading	Jaedon Snell	John Snell	Sharold Ferris
Lesson	Max Pratt	Max Pratt	Mas Pratt
A/V	Susan Flaherty	Christi Kreger	Randy Fetters

Communion Preparation January: Ann Gray

#### New Member information:

Be sure to add Jane Underwood to your directory.

Jane has been meeting with us several weeks and has expressed a desire to be counted among our membership. Be sure to get acquainted if you haven't already.

Jane Underwood 5732 Dennis Ave Ft Worth, TX 76114 817-907-7243

#### A "Chance" for the work in Malawi

From Samantha Jewell:



"You can help me win a DonorSee contest for a possible extra \$5,000 for the kids in Malawi this Christmas. The money will go to the fundraiser with the most activity over the holiday break. If someone creates a profile at DonorSee.com and donates even a few dollars to projects under "Samantha Jewell", I will have a shot at the prize money for our kids. Leaving a review and 'following' me will also help. "

In order for the donation to count toward the contest in DonorSee, a person must "sign up" in DonorSee and make a donation there. I asked, and Samantha reports that DonorSee does NOT sell donor information.

The projects are listed as HUGS. I was able to find it easily by selecting Malawi in the country drop down list.

The contest is about donor activity, not about a dollar amount, so you can donate as little as \$1 and it will help Samantha's chances to receive the prize to be applied to the work at the school.

Another benefit of reviewing the HUGS DonorSee projects is the opportunity to see the kids individually, especially, those who may be new to the program.

## **Nativity Word Search**

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angels Christmas donkey innkeeper Jesus Joseph

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#### 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.

#### స్థాన్లు Leadership and Logistics అలల

**Minister:** Max Pratt— (325)718-9987

Trustees: Curtis Dunson Brian Flaherty

Eric Kreger Curtis Thompson

Mailing Address: 5728 White Settlement Road

Westworth Village, TX 76114

**Office Phone**: 817-738-7536

Worship Services: Sunday, 10:00 am

Website: www.westworthcoc.org

Email: Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net

Facebook Group: Westworth Church of Christ

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