

Westworth Church of Christ

**Worshiping
Serving
Fellowshipping**



The
Westworth
Word

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

If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor's card found on the back of each pew. Your prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. At the close of service you can hand it to any member, place it in the contribution box at the front of the auditorium or simply leave it in the pew and we will collect it.

During the service we will celebrate communion. This is a time that we partake of unleavened bread and juice from the fruit of the vine to remind us what Jesus has done for us. Communion is not only about Jesus' death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is the source of our hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ. (Sacraments are available on the table in the entry foyer.)

Address:	5728 White Settlement Road Westworth Village, TX 76114
Office Phone:	817-738-7536
Website:	www.westworthcoc.org
Email:	Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net
Facebook Group:	Westworth Church of Christ
Minister:	Max Pratt
Trustees:	Curtis Dunson, Brian Flaherty, Eric Kreger, Curtis Thompson

Worship Services:	Sunday, 10:00 am
Men's Group:	1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 pm
Bible Study:	Wednesday 7:00 pm
Ladies Virtual Study:	Thursday, 7pm via GoogleMeet

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

3RD SUNDAY LUNCH

TODAY —is our regularly scheduled 3rd

Sunday Lunch. Always Lots of good food, but the best part is spending time with our Christian Family. Hope your planning to join the fun.



This is a special celebration of 5th Sunday.

Let's celebrate the return of Max and Juanita Pratt. Everyone is so happy they have "come home" and we want to be sure they feel the love and appreciation we all feel for them.

Several local congregations have been invited to join this fellowship meal to welcome our "new" minister and perhaps renew old friendships. (As you prepare your food for that day, please keep in mind that we could potentially have a number of guests.)

There will be a receptacle for Cards of encouragement and welcome that you may want to bring that day for Max and Juanita.

There will also be a \$ Tree for anyone who wishes to participate.

Help spread the word by inviting anyone you know who might like to be here, in case they were missed in the mailing.

Opportunity to Help

Southside Church of Christ has approached us about helping with their food distribution.

As announced last Sunday, Bryan Barrett, one of the ministers (Recovery, H.O.P.E, Small Groups) at Southside Church of Christ stopped by our office and asked if Westworth would like to help with the food pantry at Southside.

He shared that Southside is considered an ‘inner-city’ church and the area around their facility is occupied by many very poor citizens, even



(Photo from Southside Church of Christ website)

a homeless population. They distribute food each week on Tuesday from 10:00 am to Noon. Because of the on-going need, Bryan stated that their pantry is running low and he had set a goal for himself to reach out to

all the Churches of Christ and make a request for help with the needs of their pantry.

As a result, you will see a large box in the North foyer intended to accept your donations for this worthy ministry.

Please consider donating canned goods and dry goods—things that don’t need refrigeration—to contribute to Southside Church as they help those who come to them in need.



If you would like to see more information about Southside Church of Christ’s programs for the community, their web site is:

<https://www.ssofc.org>

Pentecost

Final installment in the series

The three feasts that required all Jewish adult males to appear before the Lord either at the temple, or tabernacle were, the Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles, and Pentecost. The Feast of Tabernacles was in the fall while both Passover and Pentecost were in the Spring. Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles were in remembrance of the Exodus. The Passover was to remember the Israelites fleeing Egypt and the Feast of Tabernacles was to remind them of living in tents for forty years. Both celebrations lasted one week. Pentecost, celebrated 50 days after Passover, was different. It was a celebration of the harvest (Leviticus 23:15-16), and only lasted one day.

The focus of Pentecost, also called “day of the firstfruits” (Num. 28:26), was to give thanks to God for the harvest. Everyone within the borders of Israel was to bring their “free will” offerings to “the place chosen by God for his name” (Deut. 16:10-12). These offerings were to be the firstfruits of the harvest or the firstborn of the herds and flocks. The main part of the ceremony was the presentation of the two loaves made with grain from that year’s harvest. The loaves were to have leaven and salt (Lev. 2:13, 23:17). Each loaf was to contain about three and a half quarts of that year’s finest flour and had to be seven hand widths long, four hand widths wide, and seven fingers deep. These loaves plus two lambs were wave offerings that were given to the priests instead of a burnt offering. Deuteronomy states that the “firstfruits” were part of the Levite’s inheritance (Deut. 18:4).

In addition to the loaves and lambs there were other sacrifices that were required as a burnt offering. These included a young bull, two rams, seven lambs, a drink offering, and a kid for a sin offering. Animal offerings had to be the firstborn of that year’s flocks or herds.

The order of the sacrifices was also important. The first and most important sacrifice was the wave offering of the two loaves. None of the produce of that year could be eaten, or offered until the two loaves were first offered.

Though many believe that Pentecost’s main focus was solely thanking for the harvest instead of a historical event it is interesting that the Hebrew terms for “first fruit” and “first born” come from the same root word. There could also be a connection between Pentecost and the Exodus because in Exodus 4:22 God calls Israel his “Firstborn,” and some scholars

believe that the law was given on Mt. Sinai fifty days after the Israelites escaped Egypt. The same number of days between Passover and Pentecost. If that is true, then the connection is obvious.

It causes one to wonder about the reason God picked Pentecost to start his church.

In A.D. 30, Pentecost gained a new significance. Jesus told his disciples he would return, so they waited. When reading the New Testament, one gets the impression that Jesus' followers numbered the twelve, some women, a Pharisee or two, and a few others. However, while studying Jesus' last days on earth I have come to the opinion that Jesus profoundly influenced hundreds if not thousands of Jews during his life. Consider those large crowds that greeted him when he entered Jerusalem on Sunday. Consider also his fate was sealed at the house of Caiaphas before dawn before anyone could object (Matthew 26:57-68, Luke 22:66). He was very probably on the cross before most people were finished with breakfast. This is not to say that his followers would have tried to free Jesus if they had known what was happening, but rather to say that the religious leaders manipulated the events to avoid any objections. Also, objections become silent at the point of swords and spears.

After his resurrection Jesus did not limit his appearances to a few women, disciples, and apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:6 states that after his resurrection he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at the same time. Though we know nothing about the rumors of his resurrection. We know that the news of his resurrection and accompanying miracles had infiltrated every segment of Jewish society (Acts 2:22). So, while Jesus was appearing to one, two, twelve, one hundred and twenty, or even the five hundred, God was preparing the hearts of thousands of guilty men.

On Pentecost a spiritual explosion took place. Today, we would say it sounded like a tornado, but there was no wind: just the noise. Then tongues of fire which appeared on the apostles as if by magic were followed by the cascading sounds of foreign languages proclaiming the risen Lord. We do not know the site where God bestowed His Spirit on the apostles. That, immediately, after the noise a crowd gathered (NKJV interprets crowd as multitude) indicates that the house was probably near an open area. For, how could Peter speak to thousands in the narrow confines of Jerusalem's streets. Perhaps the house was near the temple, but we do not know. What we do know is that after Peter's sermon the Holy Spirit pierced the hearts of many of his hearers. At end of that glorious day three thousand were bap-

Pentecost—conclusion

tized, and the God’s Kingdom was established on earth.

What does Pentecost mean to us? It is the formal announcement of the redemption of all who follow the risen Lord. As we have seen, the Old Testament required the sacrifice of the firstborn. By examining Isaiah 53:7-9, John 1:29, and Colossians 1:15-18, it is evident that Christ was firstborn in all of creation, that he would take away our sins, and that he was the firstborn from the dead. The writer of Hebrews shows our connection to Jesus, the firstborn, when he states that Christians come “to the church of the firstborn” (Hebrews 12:22-23). In other words, we belong to the “firstborn” of God.

Pentecost required the sacrifice of the firstfruits of the harvest. In the New Testament Paul tells us that we “have the firstfruits of the Spirit (Romans 8:23). This refers to the beginning of our new life in Christ that eventually leads to our eternal home in heaven. James’ words make it even more clear. He writes, “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created,” James 1:18.

When God gave the Israelites his instructions for the sacrifices of the firstborn and the firstfruits, he had his chosen in mind. The first was his Son, the first firstborn. The second was us, and all the redeemed. It seems that not only do we have the firstfruits, WE ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS.

David Keller

Happy Milestones

April Birthdays

Vivian Keller

Apr 5

Johnny Box

Apr 25

Sarah Lisle

Apr 7

Mark Cohen

Apr 26

Susan Flaherty

Apr 21

Tracy Robertson

Apr 27

Andrea Keller

Apr 23

Nita Parker

Apr 27



No April Anniversaries

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

Tuesday - Westworth Men's Group



All men of the congregation, friends, neighbors and family are invited to join the men's group on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month**. Currently they are looking at concepts and ideas in the book:

IN A PIT WITH A LION ON A SNOWY DAY by Mark Batterson

Next Meeting: → May 2, 2023 ← 7pm, Activity Bldg.



It is never too late to join any of the studies and fellowship listed here.



Wednesday Night Bible Study—

Each week @ 7pm—Activity Bldg.

Current study: 1 & 2 Samuel

This is a great opportunity to learn more from God's word and enjoy casual fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ.



Thursdays Women's Virtual Bible Study



Each week — 7:00 pm via Google meet

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

A new study begins May 4:

Gideon—Your Weakness. God's Strength
by Priscilla Shirer

- All ladies are welcomed to join this group at any time.
- Learning and fellowship from the comfort of your own home.
- Book available from Amazon, Mardels, or Lifeway.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Trustee in charge for April: Brian Flaherty

Date	Today—April 16
Open	Curtis Thompson
Usher	Samuel Flaherty
Songs/Close	Curtis Dunson
Prayer	Eric Kerger
Communion	Bill Jones
Bible Story Kids Church	Brian Flaherty / Sherry Jones & Susan Flaherty
Reading	Sharold Ferris
Lesson	Max Pratt
A/V	Randy Fetters

COMING WEEKS

Date	April 23	April 30	May 7
Open	Bian Flaherty	Curtis Thompson	
Usher	Curtis Dunson	Brian Flaherty	
Songs/Close	Eric Kreger	Curtis Dunson	
Prayer	Tom Reynolds	Samuel Flaherty	
Communion	Mike Lisle	Johnny Box	
Bible Story Kids Church	Max Lisle / Sherri Dunson & Tracy Robertson	Eric Kreger / David & Hettie Keller	
Reading	John Snell	Jaeden Snell	
Lesson	Max Pratt	Max Pratt	
A/V	Christi Kreger	Susan Flaherty	

Communion Preparation April : Hettie Keller