



The Messenger



Westside Christian Church

December 30 2018

Parsons, KS

www.westsideatparsons.com

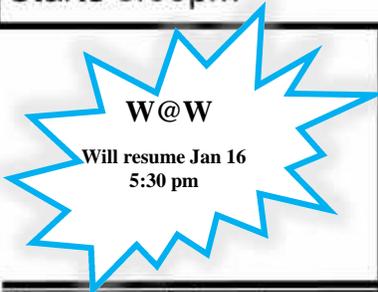
620-421-3533

Future Events

- Dec 31**– New Years Eve Gift Box Distribution 2:00pm
- Jan 6**– Highschool Youth Lunch/Bowling Right after Church
- Jan 16**– W@W starts back up 5:30pm
- Jan 18-19**– OCC Ambassador Rally Jr. High—Highschool
- Jan 20**– Congregational Meeting
- Jan 27**– Financial Peace University Starts 6:00pm



Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join our Financial Peace University group, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future . . . together! Interested? Join us at Westside Christian Church starting January 27th. Feel free to call 620-421-3533 with your questions or sign up at <https://fpu.com/1078525>



Leadership at Westside

Ministers

Doug Baty 778-3919
Chris Ferguson 778-4110

Elders

Jeff Ferguson 778-8911
Ralph Heady 421-0447
Thad Osgood 421-0793

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Follow us on Twitter
[@WestsideParsons](https://twitter.com/WestsideParsons)



Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that your will not grow weary and lose heart.

Heb 11: 2-3

This is the time of year we reflect and look back to see what we've accomplished over the last year. It is also a time to look forward to what God has in store for us this next year. As we consider New Years resolutions, let us keep Jesus uppermost in our thoughts and actions. My prayer is that our church can have a positive influence on our community and that we can make a difference in the lives of our members and those we come into contact with.

We are a family here at Westside and I love being a part of that family. As we move into the New Year we truly need to be rooted in Christ and growing in faith. May these things be demonstrated as we seek to share the love of

Christ in the upcoming year. —*Jeff Ferguson*

DOUG'S DESK

Becoming like Christ



from your
**YOUTH
MINISTER**

In all of the New Testament we are taught to be like Jesus. Jesus was righteous and holy, perfect and good, compassionate and loving, faithful and forgiving. He came to seek and save the lost, to serve, to preach the good news, challenge people to repent, and to offer himself as a ransom for many.

We cannot be just like Jesus in saving people from their sins or atoning for their sacrifices, but we can be made new by him. We can be like Jesus by being transformed by Him, and we can help others do the same.

There are several ways we are made into a new creation. In order for God to make changes in our lives we have to be cooperative. God does not force people into believing any more than he forces you to mature as a child of God. To be made new, God needs our cooperation. Our cooperation into maturity involves at least these three things.

The first thing we have to do is seek God. Jesus used the idea of hunger and thirst. God to seek him out, draw closer to Him and he will draw closer to you. God wants us to seek Him with all our heart. (Jeremiah 29:13) God is eternal in all his thoughts, characteristics and very being, so don't worry, you won't get bored seeking God out. Our desire to seek God should match our love for God. What I am saying is that our seeking out God and loving Him is to get to know Him as a friend, a Savior, and our Father. Don't seek God out just to learn about him and then use Him as a tool to beat someone up with. Our desire for God is for fellowship and understanding, not for selfish ambition. Seeking God will include personal study, sacrifice, and prayer. Seek Him with all your heart.

The second thing seeking God will include is listening. We cannot learn by talking. In fact, we learn very little from ourselves, but we do learn by listening. We need to listen to sermons, listen to God's word and His people. We should also be listening to God's Spirit as he will speak to us and direct us toward what we need to know. God's people may direct us in what things we need to change in our attitudes and understanding to be more like Jesus.

The third thing that our cooperation will involve is making the adjustments. It is one thing to read about them and to hear about them from a sermon or from people, it is quite another to make the changes. Our faith without works is dead and change is hard, but we must do it. We cannot remain the same and mature or grow.

It's the new year! Everything is, well, pretty much the same as before to be honest. But people like to take the new year to start new things. For a few weeks anyway. New years resolutions rarely work due to a lack of real dedication. It's very hard to start a new habit or stop an old one. No wonder it's so hard to be Holy! We won't change our diets, let alone our spirits! Thankfully, Jesus gives us what we need to be made completely new. Second Corinthians 5:17 says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come!" His blood washes away our sins and makes us new. Now unfortunately, it's still ultimately up to us to stop our old ways. He doesn't do it for us. Paul tells the people of Colossae this when they were struggling with casting off their old selves "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator." I want to focus on that last sentence for a minute. Paul says that the new self is being renewed every day by knowledge of the creator. So what does that mean? Learning about God and increasing how much we know about him helps to make us new. How do we learn about God and increase our knowledge of him? You can probably already know the answer. It's the classic Sunday school answer: Read your bible, pray, and go to church. We have the tools we need to be closer to God, we just need to use them. I hope that your new year's resolution this year is to follow God closer.

-Chris-

—Continued from previous column—

Being made new requires change and to change into what Jesus wants us to be we must seek, listen, and alter our behavior.

Join me this New Year as we seek God, listen to his word and adjust our lives to be what Christ wants us to be.

Merry Christmas and let's have a Happy New Year together.

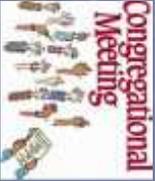
Your brother in Christ and minister,

Doug Baty

Called to Serve-January

January	6	13	20	27	
Communion Preparation	Jeff & Cherie Ferguson	Jeff & Cherie Ferguson	Jeff & Cherie Ferguson	Jeff & Cherie Ferguson	
Greeters	Karen Osgood	Annette Robinson	Judy Wells	Mary Ruth Allen	
Nursery	Shirley Lunday	Randee Baty	Karen Osgood	Clarinda O'Brien	
Communion	Doug Baty	Chris Ferguson	Jeff Ferguson	Thad Osgood	
Ushers	Steve Passwater Jeff Ferguson	Howard Weidert Joel Ferguson	Thad Osgood Kenneth Lunday	Joel Ferguson Howard Weidert	
Serving the Lord's Supper	Seth Weidert Chris Ferguson Bill Longfellow Josh Passwater	Steve Passwater Jeff Ferguson Thad Osgood Alan Meier	Jeff O'Brien Chris Ferguson Joel Ferguson Seth Weidert	Jeff Ferguson Bill Longfellow Josh Passwater Steve Passwater	
Benediction	Ralph Heady	Doug Baty	Thad Osgood	Jeff Ferguson	
Shut-Ins	Jeff Ferguson	Lundays	Jeff Ferguson	Thad Osgood	
Nursing Home				Presbyterian Manor 2:30	

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Georgia Baty	3	4	5
6 Highschool Youth Lunch and 	7	8 Eric Pearson	9	10	11	12 Treva May
13 Elder's Meeting 1:30 pm	14	15 Liz Ferg. Joshua Passwater	16 W@W Resumes	17 Anna Passwater	18 OCC Ambassador Rally for Jr High and Highschool →	19
20 Congregational Meeting 	21 Rhya Pearson	22	23 W@W	24	25 Adyson Pearson	26
27 Financial Peace University begins 6:00pm	28	29	30 W@W JoDee Rea	31 Larry Troester		