

Newsletter of the Weatherly Heights Church of Christ

Weatherly Weekly

December 27, 2020

2020 Edition, Number 52

Goodbye 2020

Michael W. McLemore

TWENTY-TWENTY began with such promise. Though subtle hushed tones about a virus were being heard from the other side of the world, none of us felt any sense of urgency as the year began. Plans for the year were well laid. Sunday Night Study Series was set to begin, Weatherly Lectures was planned. Our second edition of a summer program was already being written. The annual singing was arranged. And, even our Fall study program was outlined. Then everything changed! If the Lord wills. Well, He didn't!

By March 29th our worship services had gone virtual. Though we were able to resume a social distanced, masked, in-person worship service by summer normalcy evaporated. Now with COVID numbers rising to record highs in every category, including deaths, we are back to virtual assemblies until late January 2021.

We are living in an unprecedented time for the modern era. In many ways our lives will never be the same. We will not soon take for granted the ability to worship together, attend

public Bible class, sing with full-voice and partake of the Lord's Supper from trays passed by our brothers. Twenty-twenty has been a stretch and it has forced us from our comfort zone.

We've been forced to take our faith outside the building. Worship has to be "from the heart" and not "the display," because its private, between me, my family and the Lord. No one is there to be impressed. Isn't that the better way?

In some ways 2020 has enriched the experience; in others we feel a deep sense of loss. Our spiritual senses are heightened for the better, but our deep seated need for community leaves us feeling isolated. As a local church we have been forced to utilize technology, but in the process we have touched hundreds of lives in other places.

Say "Goodbye twenty-twenty." Twenty-twenty-one is coming quickly. Our prayer is that what we lost over these last months will be regained in the new year. Keep the faith. Trust the Lord. Serve Him in any and every circumstance, come what may. ☐

An argument has ensued in recent weeks over the title used to identify a certain political figure's wife. It caused me to reflect and ask, "What makes a person who they are?" How do you identify yourself? Far too many choose to identify themselves by all the wrong things. Some people define themselves by their degree, dress, talents, family, possessions, achievements and,

Identity

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yes, by "their" church.

It is sad but even Christians fall to culture's sway and are trying to be someone God didn't create them to be. As the children of God, we must never lose ourselves and our identity in trivial things. Instead, we must embrace our true identity in Christ.

Our identity in Christ transforms who we are. The apostle Paul was an accomplished citizen of Rome and chief prosecutor of the Jerusalem council. Yet, listen to His take on his identity in Jesus:

"Circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 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 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," *Philippians 3:4-9*.

Apart from Christ he wandered in the world's course. His citizenry and his misguided pursuit of purpose in meeting the expectations of his religious heritage was admired. Jesus changed everything! In Christ, Paul wrote, we are...

FREED, *EPHESIANS 2:1-5*

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul addressed the common plight of all who live apart from Christ – "you were dead in trespasses and sins," 1. The world and its prince, the Devil, rule the lives of men. "Go for the gusto," "Just do it," "If it feels go, go for it!" is the sinners mantra. The passions of the flesh, the desires of the body and the mind act ungoverned. It's all the Devil's trap. People are dead while they live, enslaved by their sins, destined for destruction.

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our

trespasses, made us alive with Christ – by grace you have been saved," 4-5. Christ freed us from the bondage of sin and a ruinous future. By His mighty redemptive power, the chains of sin have been loosed and we've been plucked from the path leading to destruction. We are freed!

FATHERED, *EPHESIANS 1:3-6*

In Christ we are "adopted as sons through Jesus Christ," 5. Before the foundation of the world The Father purposed to redeem all who would turn to Him in faith – "He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will," 5. In Christ, the God of heaven is my Father! Our world, bent in a vain pursuit to save the planet, has failed realize what the children of God are afforded the privilege of knowing, our Father owns it all. This world is our home, provided by His gracious hand, and it will serve our needs for as long as He chooses. The Palmist recorded our Father's claims,

"For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine," *Psalms 50:10-12*.

FORGIVEN, *EPHESIANS 1:7-10*

At great cost the sins of the past have been covered for those in Christ. Guilt and regret, often lugged around for decades like a bag of stones, weigh on the souls of people of every variety. Wealth, prestige, education or accomplishment provide only momentary distraction, but never deliver release. Christ can! Christ will! Christ has! "Through his blood," God's children have "the forgiveness of our trespasses," 7. If this world could only feel what those in Christ are promised: "My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy rains – Unending love, Amazing grace!"

FAMILY, *EPHESIANS 2:11-19*

Our world is divided. It's divided politically. It's divided racially. It's divided culturally. It's divided. But Christ is peace! He is our peace. Most in this world understand all too well what it means to be alienated – separate. It is lonely and feels hopeless. Jesus changes that. Though a Jew, he changed that for the rest of the Gentile world. Jesus came to bring all the world together under one family – "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God," 18-19. Christ is not divided, and in Christ you'll never be alone. You will always have family.

It's not the letters before or after your name that make you who you are. It's Jesus. He is ready to make you a new person, alive, at peace and to give you a place to belong. Will you let Him? ☐

Watch
LIVE!

www.weatherlychurch.com



Weatherly Weekly

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Peggy Coward is better. She is regaining her strength and enjoying her time with family in Arkansas. Mike is in the hospital still. His COVID seems under control. He is to undergo a procedure tomorrow to empty fluid from around his brain. He has been experiencing balance issues for some time. We are praying this will help him. His rehab is going well and he's showing signs of improvement. Their son, **Keith**, is overseeing Mike's care.

Natalie & Henry Frazier continue to recover from COVID. We are praying that the effects will be minimal. Say their name to the Lord as you pray.

Ron Harmon continues his recovery at home after a nasty fall. We are thankful that it wasn't worse. He did have a concussion.

Peggy Shelton is on our list of those for whom we are continuing to pray. We are thankful for the progress that she has made.

Denny & Ellen Freeman, who labored with us at Weatherly some years back, are at different stages of COVID. Denny had to be transported to the hospital yesterday. His x-ray was clear and he was released to return home by late afternoon. Ellen is doing well. Please continue to pray for the Freemans.

Julie Singleton's grandmother, **Madelene Britnell**, remains on our prayer list. She is a long term care facility in Madison. Thankfully her symptoms remain mild to nil.

Jimmy Carter, Kim Barnett's brother, remains in ICU at Huntsville Hospital. He is slowly being brought out of sedation. Pray for him.

Please pray for those who are confined to assisted living facilities and memory care — **Louis Garrett, Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Dot Summers.** ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Betty Reavis **Laura Phillips**
Melvin Godette **Glenda Cavender**
Steven Guice **Dot Summers**

Huy Lu is Baptized

We are all rejoicing in the baptism of **Huy Lu** during the COVID lockdown. We are thrilled to hear this news. The Lu's address is...
4380 Cha La Kee Road, Guntersville, AL 35976

WEATHERLY UPDATES

This Week at Weatherly:

NO PUBLIC ASSEMBLY until January 24th. The elders have determined that in light of the high COVID transmission rates it is best that we refrain from public assemblies until January 24th. This will allow any potential infection during the holidays to reveal itself in our families before we return to the public assembly.

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Join us for Mike's streamed Bible class on **Recognizing Daily Needs** from James.

Sunday morning LIVE STREAM will begin at 10. Mike continues his December series: **Jesus in Action**. His sermon is entitled **He's Alive!** His text is **Mark 16**.

Sunday Evening "Virtual Devo" will begin on Zoom at 7 pm. We will email a link Sunday.

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike will continue his four week exposition of **The book of Jude**. We stream at 7. No public assembly. ☐

DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 27, 2020

12-27	Searcy Hall	12-29	Peggy Coward
12-29	Gene Preston	1-1	Sharon Dubose
1-3	Laura McKnight	1-4	Isabella Hatcher
1-6	Keria Godette	11-9	Wes Caudle
1-7	Bobby Wright	1-11	Elena Hagewood
1-11	Margaret Smith	1-15	Xavier Cole

Don't Rush Life

Michael W. McLemore

Some things just can't be hurried. You can turn the temperature up in the oven, but the cake won't cook right. You can tear pages out of your calendar, but won't make Christmas come any faster.

Relief from this world's problems is in this category. We can do little things to make it more bearable, but ultimately inequity and corruption will still exist — and we will still suffer from them. James said, "be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand," *James 5:8*. As the song goes, "It Won't Be Very Long!"

In the meantime, we need to do as the farmer does: wait for the "early and late rains." He can't speed up the changing of the seasons; he can only wait. Like the farmer, we will see our needs met to some degree in the short term ("early rains"), but we will have to wait even longer for complete satisfaction ("late rains").

It's not accidental that an admonition against brotherly bickering is in this same context, verse 9. It is terribly easy to take our frustrations out on our brethren — who ultimately are a source of relief most times, not a source of trouble. Be patient! Be confident! The Lord will solve all the inadequacies of life, but He will do it "In His Time."

Don't rush life. Live it moment by moment. Buy up the opportunities. In the end the Lord will bless the effort! ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 am
Sunday AM Assembly 10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly 5:00 pm
Wednesday Classes 7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:



Sermon archive or
live stream during
all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill 256 883-0010
Will Starks 256 883-5273

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
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Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Ron Harmon	Kirk Hatcher
David Jacks	Hill Roberts
Collis Terry	Bobby Wright



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Stream ONLY

Sunday, December 27

Sunday, January 3

Welcome:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Song Leader:	Hill Roberts	Hill Roberts
Opening Prayer:		
Scripture Reading:		

Sermon:	Mark 16 Mike McLemore Jesus in Action: He's Alive!	2 Corinthians 5 Mike McLemore 2021: All Things New
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Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
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Songs Leader:		
Opening Prayer:	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM
Closing Prayer:		

Wednesday, December 30

Wednesday, January 6

Songs Leader:		
Invitation:	Streamed Bible Study	Streamed Bible Study
Closing Prayer:		

None

None

2021 Planning Underway

Quarterly Adult Classes

October – December 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Recognizing Daily Needs

Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Jude: Contend with Mercy

Mike McLemore

Serving in December

Serving on the Lord's

Table AM

**** Overseer**

Lord's Supper PM

Communion Prep

Building Lockup

