



A Washington Christian Church Newsletter

November 2025

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To Follow is to Fish

October was pastor appreciation month, and boy do I feel appreciated by you all. Thank you to everyone that gave me a kind word of affirmation, sent a card/gift. I am excited to be a part of what God is doing through WCC!

Yet November is here and we've got some exciting things planned this month! If you haven't picked up a box yet, or haven't donated to our collection tote in the lobby, there's still time to participate! Last year we collected and sent out 441 boxes! Then on Sunday, November 23 we will have our Friendsgiving potluck at the church. This will take place immediately after the worship service. It will be a great time of food and fellowship, and we would love to see you there!

Last month we went through a series on sharing your story. Your story of how Jesus has transformed your life. We talked about how part of following Jesus teaching others to follow Jesus. Remember, it's about relationship. Our relationship with Jesus has changed us to the point that we want to tell others how to have what we have...a relationship with Jesus.

It starts with relational stewardship. Start by praying. Ask Jesus to bring to mind the names of people that you know that don't have a relationship with Jesus yet and write them down. It can be one person, it could be 50. After you've made your list, pray about who you should talk to first. After Jesus tells you who to start with, begin by hearing their story, and keep a few things in mind while you listen:

Pray that you would recognize how God is at work in their life. Keep your phone in your pocket, make eye contact, be attentive and ask open ended questions to make sure that you understand and get more of their story. Listen for significant life events, beliefs, and thoughts or feelings. Affirm them and thank them for sharing.

Once they've share their story, it's time to share your story. Your story will highlight the power of Christ in your life. You should make sure to touch on these four parts:

Your life before Christ—this section should be short. The goal is to give a clear and concise picture of who you were before Jesus.

Realizing your need for Christ—in this part you want to share about the people or circumstances that helped you realize your need for Jesus. Try to avoid “church” words and don’t be vague.

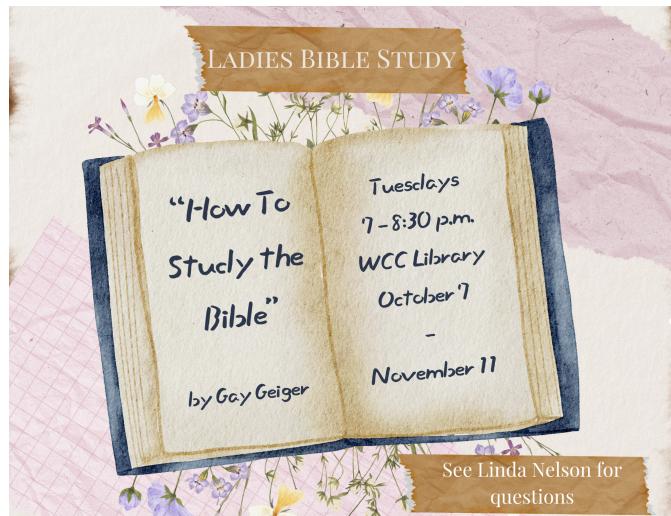
Scripture—Point to the authority and power of Scripture. Share verses that sum up your story of coming to Jesus.

Transformation—This is the fun part! Sharing how your life is different now that you know Jesus. Be careful not to give the impression that following Jesus has made your life perfect and easy, because Jesus promised that life would not be easy. Share about how your motives and perspectives have changed.

To follow is to fish.

-Pastor Eli Sweany

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mon 11/17 4:00 - 6:00 pm Fri 11/21 8:00 - 10:00 am
Tues 11/18 10:00 - Noon Sat 11/22 9:00 - 11:00 am
Wed 11/19 3:30 - 5:30 pm Sun 11/23 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Thurs 11/20 4:00-6:00pm Mon 11/24 8:00 -10:00am

NOVEMBER



2000 lovelies

Called to Serve November 2025 Communion: Norma S.

Date	Comm. Med.	Servers	Greeters Outer Doors	Greeters Sanctuary Doors	Sermon in the Bag	Pianist	Computer Video/ Sound
Nov. 2	Mike M.	Clint S. Anthony S. Adam H. Mike M.	Paul & Susan S.	Tina M.	Lindsey H.	Gay Lynn M.	C: Kelly S. S: Kathy M.
Nov. 9	Marv L.	Rob K. Brody S. Chalmer D. Marv L.	Don & Kaitie W.	Martha M.	Kaitie W.	Gay Lynn M.	C: Deb L. S: Jacob S.
Nov. 16	Curtis S.	Ty S. Kevin K. Jacob S. Curtis S.	Valerie, William, & Jacob	Renee N.	Virginia L.	Dennis P.	C: Kelly S. S: Andrew D.
Nov. 23	Leland C.	Don W. Adam H. Chalmer D. Leland C.	Stanley & Myrna C.	Linda N.	Marlene S.	Gay Lynn M.	C: Deb L. S: Kathy M.
Nov. 30	Paul S.	Coy S. Kevin K. Leland C. Chalmer D.	George & Marilyn C.	Wanda P.	Faith M.	Gay Lynn M.	C: Kelly S. S: Jacob S.

From the Mission Field:

Operation Christmas Child Testimony

I received my shoebox gift in Romania at age 2, the youngest you can be to receive a box. So, I don't remember all the details of what happened. But my older sister would always tell me about the day we each received our shoeboxes and how I came to have my toy car. I loved that toy car. I played with it all the time. I hadn't had a toy like that before. At the time, our idea of a Christmas gift was the orange my father received as a holiday present at his job.

I was born in Romania in the mid-1990s. The fall of communism there a few years before also brought about the fall of the country's economy. My parents had good jobs, as an engineer and teacher, but the crashing economy made it hard for them to even make rent on our dilapidated apartment. Our dinner each day was soup, and we were extremely grateful when we were able to add meat to that once a week.

Basic survival was our greatest challenge. Amid such trying times, I received my Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The harshness of my life was contrasted with the hope and joy I found in this manifestation of God's love. The shoebox I received really ended up being a seed for the Gospel in my life.

My parents had just begun attending the church where my sister and I received our shoebox gifts. The shoebox distribution was a community-wide event. My parents saw how the church was reaching out to its community, believers and non-believers alike, to show them the love of Christ in a tangible way through these shoeboxes. It made a lasting impression on their own walks of faith with the Lord.

A year later, we moved to the United States. I was raised in a Christian home and pretty much grew up in church. At age 10, I committed my life to the eternal God. Somewhere along the way, my toy car got lost in the shuffle. But I still remember it and what it represents.

At first, I just loved the toy car because it was mine. Then, I became intrigued by how it worked. I never really thought about it before, but my interest in figuring out how things work, how things can be taken apart and put back together to work even better, probably started with that toy car. Even as a child, I loved science and was always taking things apart to see how they were built. At first, it was toys. Then, I started taking apart broken computers and fixing them.

Now, I'm studying biomedical engineering at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Essentially, it's about creating devices, such as prostheses and artificial organ implants, to help people. I've realized that God can use whatever career field people pursue to share the love and hope that can be found in Him. Your life—and how God is guiding it and working through it—can be a testimony for Him.

That's my goal—to make things to help people in Jesus' Name. Thank you so much for packing shoeboxes for boys and girls, especially in the age range of 2-4 years old, because the Lord can take your gift and plant a seed for the Gospel in their hearts, like He did in mine.

If you have any questions, need to pick-up empty shoeboxes, or if you're interested in volunteering to help during drop-off hours, please contact Lindsey Hatesohl at 620-357-1286.

Ladies Coterie Highlights

Susan Stewart, President, called our meeting to order with 14 members present. Our prayer list was discussed and Elizabeth Rogge led us in prayer. Devotions was given by Margaret Sweany on how we are often faced with difficult times, but God wants us to turn to Him for love and support. Margaret stated we received a plaque from the "Bikers Across America." Norma Stamm gave the Treasurers Report with a total balance of \$10,885.12 in the Regular Fund and \$189.96 in the Special Fund. Susan stated we purchased a large trash can for the kitchen. Linda mentioned it would be nice to have a wall mirror for the Baptismal Prep Room and if anyone had one they are not needing that could be donated. Linda also stated there were 27 signed up for the Bible Study on Tuesday evening. Susan talked about the purchase of double ovens and one regular stove for the kitchen. We visited about the college boxes and stated we have Malachi Carder, Coy Stamm, Sarah Portenier, and Talena McClellan. Sharon stated that her and Martha are discontinuing the gift bag deliveries and wondering about someone taking them over. No decision made. Margaret stated she wanted each individual to fill out their form for the directory.

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Weekly Events:

Sunday

9:15 a.m. -Fellowship
9:30 a.m. -Sunday School
10:30 a.m. -Worship Service

Church Elders

Paul Stewart- 541.0165 (chairman)
Leland Cook - 541.0353
Mike Manning - 230.6326
Curtis Stamm - 747.7675

Staff

Minister -Eli Sweany
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