November 2026 Newsletter

Westside Community Church

Carving Light from Shadows

As the days grow shorter, the air turns cold, and the shadows lengthen, November naturally turns our thoughts toward Remembrance Day—a time to remember that peace is bought at a profound cost.

When we look back at history, we must not romanticize war or minimize the suffering of those caught in its wake. War is brutal, chaotic, and devastating. During the World Wars, soldiers facing trauma in muddy trenches looked for ways to hold onto their humanity. They hammered "trench art"—delicate vases and crosses—out of spent brass shells and scrap metal using pocket knives and makeshift tools. These keepsakes were products of the darkest days, fashioned from the very objects designed to kill. It wasn't professional studio art; it was raw, improvised, and born out of necessity—a stubborn desire to reach into the wreckage and carve a little light out of the shadows.

Scripture is unflinchingly honest about this kind of darkness. Throughout the Psalms, David and other writers didn't put a happy spin on their pain; they cried out from deep pits, staring grief in the face. But woven through those raw laments is a deliberate choice to remember—dragging God's past faithfulness into the present dark, trusting that night and light are both alike to Him (Psalm 139).

Sometimes, life feels like a trench—like we're under fire from all sides. Looking around in the midst of stress, grief, or brokenness, there are no conventional tools or fine materials, just what's in our hands and the raw, unrefined pieces of right now.

And right now is exactly where Jesus meets us. He stepped straight into the gritty reality of our pain, into our deepest dark, and promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Throughout Scripture, God invites us to build monuments of remembrance out of what we've survived—stacking up the stones of His past faithfulness so we have something solid to stand on, and anchoring our hope in the One who walks beside us through it all.

JOIN US FOR THE WCC ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF, NOVEMBER 15!

Everyone is invited to a FREE Chili lunch, even if you can't make it to church. Spread the word to your family and friends!
Bring your Chili entry before the 10:30am church service to enter into the tasting contest.

> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.
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> John 1:5 NLT

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Men's Breakfast
Humpty's
205 Scenic Dr S
Nov 14, 9-10am

Young at Heart
Nov 12,
10:30am-12pm

Young Adults Get-Together
Nov 15 & 29,
8-10pm

WCC Chili Cook-Off
Nov 15,
12:45-1:45pm

WOW Glitz and Glam
Nov 17, 7-8:30pm

WEEKLY

Weekly Prayer Meeting
Mondays 7-8pm
Fridays 7:30-9am

Alpha 2026
Mondays
6:30pm

WOW Ladies' Bible Study
Tuesdays, 7pm

Big Group - Small Group Bible Study
Wednesdays, 7pm

Mothers and Munchkins
Thursdays
10-11:30am

WCC Youth
Fridays 7-9pm