

THE GRAPEVINE

CW
Church

"I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who live in me while I live in them will produce a lot of fruit, but you can't produce anything without me." John 15:5



Struggle is REAL!!!

"My dear children, I'm writing this to you so that you will not sin. yet, if anyone does sin, we have Jesus Christ, who has God's full approval. He speaks on our behalf when we come into the presence of the Father" 1 John 2:2

Do you think an habitual criminal could remain straight if he had a key to the local bank? oh, he might be able to resist the stacks of money for a day or two. but, eventually, because of his inclination to steal, the temptation would be too great. What about you? What is your greatest temptation, you weakest point? When faced with this temptation day after day, do you have the power to resist it—always? NO! If you take time to study the previous passage in 1 John, you'll see that the nature of all mankind is to sin, to slip and fall—every man, every day—that means even you. What is the point? The point is this: Fallen man does not have the power to become righteous and sinless on his own. You need an Advocate—one who will defend you, clear your name before the Judge, and help you stay straight.

Every one of us will stand before the Judge one day. It will be to our great advantage if our Judge is also our Savior.

Sin is a terrible thing. We see it blazed across the headlines of the news reports every day, murder, mayhem, assault, fraud, cheating, lying, deceit, adultery, divorce, fighting, wars. Sin is

so corrupt and common that every conceivable sin is seen or heard about in one form or another practically every day. Sin is so much a part of human life that we can hardly pay attention to it unless it is some major crime or else involves our own lives and families. Sin is just everywhere. No matter where we turn we see people mistreating others—criticizing, backbiting, and gossiping about them. We see people verbally tearing other people down. We see husbands and wives living together but lacking true love. They are just together, living in coldness and being withdrawn from one another. We see all kinds of selfishness in children and fellow workers. WE see lying, deception, stealing, cheating, and all sorts of sexual immorality. We see people dressing in tight clothes or else exposing parts of the human body in order to attract attention, and then we see all kinds of promiscuity and rapes, assaults and murders. the list of sins and shortcomings in life could fill a book.

Over the next several months we'll take a deeper dive into 1 John 1:10-2:2. Until next time know that there are many who think they *don't*

need a Savior. However, I'm here to tell you that if you leave this world today without knowing Jesus, you'll wish you had met Him while you were here. I look forward to sharing with you the great hope that the Lord has given us through Jesus Christ and the free gift of salvation. Until next time God bless.

Pastor Rob



Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m. in-person or
online @ [https://
www.youtube.com/
user/
ColumbusWestChurch](https://www.youtube.com/user/ColumbusWestChurch)
or @ [https://
www.facebook.com/
columbuswestcog](https://www.facebook.com/columbuswestcog) We
also stream to both
media outlets on
Wednesdays @ 7 p.m.
Join us each week for
Spiritfilled times of
worship. Each day at
noon there is a
livestream of prayer on
Facebook where you
can share praises and
requests. Join us
anytime.

Obedience

verses Willfulness

“Do everything without complaining or arguing.” Philippians 2:14

Have you ever been the victim of murmuring? Do you remember what it felt like? You probably had feelings of hurt and anger and a determination to protect yourself. Maybe you felt like this person:

“Betrayed!” The once transparent member of the neighborhood church was crushed. Sue had been so open to trust other Christians with her personal struggles. She had always been taught to share her burdens, but how could anyone take her personal pain and make it the talk of the church grape-vine? “Never again will I trust my heart with another person,” she vowed. And at that very moment, another member of the body of Christ withdrew into a hard shell of isolation: another victim of murmuring and gossip.

What does it mean to *murmur*? We hear that word quite a bit in the church, but what does it mean? Well, to *murmur* means to mutter, grumble, and complain. It is the quiet, soft, behind-the-back, undertone of murmuring and grumbling. It is the kind of criticism, dissatisfaction, fault-finding and gossip that goes on within small groups or cliques.

Complaining and arguments are not to be allowed in the church. As this verse says; *Do everything without complaining and arguing.* If complaining begins among a clique or even between two people, the spiritual leaders of the church are to deal with it just as Christ laid out. It is not to be allowed to fester. Complaining, unless they are stopped, will lead to arguing and turmoil and divisiveness.

Complaining and arguing are never of God—never!!! This is what this passage and this charge is all about. All things—nothing is left out—are to be done without murmuring and disputes.

Murmuring and disputes were the very sins that brought judgement on so many

Jews in the wilderness wanderings of Israel.

The person who murmur and disputes (complains and argues) is not working at his salvation or deliverance. They are doing the very opposite: they are working to bring judgment on themselves. They are working in their own willfulness.

The results of murmuring are far worse than people ever think. This is the primary reason God forbids murmuring and disputes (complaining and arguing) in no uncertain terms. Murmuring hurts, damages, divides, tears down, misleads people, opposes God’s will, hinders progress, stymies growth, elevates selfish opinion, is self-centered, says “look at me,” pushes people away from Christ and the church.

So, what then should we do? If you read on in Philippians 2 we read that we should *be blameless and innocent.* We’re called to work out our own salvation by working at being pure. We’re called to be blameless: free from fault and censure, above reproach and rebuke. We’re to do this both in the church and in the world. No one is to be able to point to us and accuse or blame us for anything. We are to be clean, unpolluted, spotless, holy, righteous, and pure before the world and God.

We are to work at being harmless. It is the idea of flour or grain passing through a sieve to separate the pure from the impure. It means that our thought and lives are not to be polluted by watching, reading, and listening to worldly and sexual attractions. We’re not to be given over to worldly and sexual attractions. Our thoughts and lives are to be pure, clean, uncontaminated, and unpolluted. How can we do this? By being obedient to the Word of God.

Think of it this way: *The theory that is used for mixing paint at a hardware store is really quite simple: the more colored tint that you add to the can of white paint, the darker the paint will become.*

It only takes a drop of black tint to change the color of pure white to off-white. Once that first drop of tint goes into the can of white paint, it can never be taken out. That can of paint will never be pure white again; it can only get darker.

A Christian can work at being pure. True, sin is sin and that cannot be denied. But unlike the tainted can of white paint, the Christ has hope in this great truth: “Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me: Psalm 51:10

Literally, God makes something out of nothing and gives to people who are truly repentant of their sins a brand new start. In other words, He forgets about the impure can of white paint. “Though your sins be as scarlet, He makes us as white as snow” Isaiah 1:18

From that point on, it is up to us what we do with our *fresh* can of paint. Will we give into willfulness or will we be obedient? Which will you choose?



Treats On Inah

October 31, 2022

Treats on Inah is just around the corner. It has been said quite a bit lately, “Where has summer gone?” Well, it has gone and Fall is here. It is that time of year again when we’ll be reaching out to our neighborhood and creating as safe as an environment as possible for handing out candy for families. You can help us out in many ways. First, pray!!! Pray that the Lord would continue to open up doors to our neighbors, who

have been so receptive to us with this event. Many have asked if we’re going to be hosting again this year.

Second, bring in candy. Each year that we’ve hosted this event it has grown, even the year that it has rained. Last year we estimated over 400 coming down Inah during the hours of the event. That takes a lot of candy. That’s where you come in. You can bring in the candy to help with the cars that have signed up. Many bring their own candy, but several run out before the

evening is over. Let’s not let this opportunity pass us by.

Third, sign up your car and come out to the event. One of the ways that you can help reach our community is to dress up your car, dress up yourself, and come and serve the community. It is an awesome way to laugh, meet some great people and share the Lord’s love on a night that is usually meant for evil.

If you need more information, see Dawn Watts. Let’s saturate our neighborhood for the Lord this year.

Fall Events

Thanksgiving Dinner

Over the past couple of years we've been blessed to have hosted our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Well, mark the calendar because we're hosting it again this year. Friday, November 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. we will be opening up our building to the community and serving them Thanksgiving Dinner.

This year we have the awesome opportunity to partner with the Beacon of Hope Church of Christ in Christian Union Church in serving the community. We partnered with them over the summer with Vacation Bible School and a Back to School Bash. Both events were a huge success in the community with the Back to School Bash serving well over 400 in the community. We're excited about partnering with them again for this dinner.

There are a couple of things that you can do in preparation for this exciting event: 1. Pray. As always we should be praying for souls to minister to. We should be praying for the community and praying for the Lord to send us out and invite them to come in. Then we should be praying for the right words, the right heart attitude, and the right receptiveness to the Good News. 2. Be willing to volunteer. When the sign-up sheet goes up, sign up. Bring that dish. If you're not a cook, sign up to come and serve. Come and meet people. Come and help set up. Come and help tear down. Come and help clean up. There is physical work to be done the day before and the day of the dinner. 3. Show up. Once you sign-up, show up. There are many times that we sign up for things and have good intentions, but then we don't show up. We may think, "Well, there's another congregation helping out so I won't be missed." You're wrong.

Work Sign UP

Most of you know that we normally have a Fall workday in October. Well, that's not going to be the case this year. Because of the busy schedule of the church and of most families this Fall, Leadership decided that it might be better to put out a sign-up list of jobs that need accomplished around the church. What we'll be asking is for individuals, families, or groups to sign up for one or more projects and see them through to completion. If supplies are needed they can be acquired by Dawn Watts or through a member of Leadership prior to you coming and working on your project.

Just as an example, if you are signing up to "deep" clean the bathrooms and are in need of cleaning supplies, Dawn would be glad to show where they are in the Janitor's Office. Or, if we're out of supplies, she will make sure that those supplies are here before your scheduled time to come to the building and clean. If you're coming to do yard work and are in need of a certain tool to trim hedges or some other job in the

You will be missed. Your spirit will be missed. Your physical help will be missed. Your smile will be missed. Your great and awesome attitude will be missed. So, show up. 4. Spread the word. We will have flyers for the event to hand out to people. We'll be posting it on Facebook as well. But there is no greater advertisement than word of mouth. So, open your mouth and start inviting people to come. Offer to go and pick them up. Bring them. Take them home. What a great way to get to know them better, serve them, and minister to them. Use this opportunity to share the Lord with them.

Let's make this year the year that we pack the Multi-purpose room out with people from our community. Let's not come ready to eat, but let's come ready to serve. Remember Friday,

1. Pray, 2. Sign-up, 3. Show up, 4. Speak up!

November 18th at 6:30 p.m. See you there!!!!



yard, if you'll let a member of Leadership know, they'll see to it that, that particular tool is here when you need it.

We're hoping that we can accomplish more tasks by handling Fall cleaning this way. We're also hoping that more people will get involved in helping out around the church and around the grounds by working these jobs into your schedule. We appreciate all the work and support that is given and look forward to seeing all the work get accomplished. Let's *spruce* up the building and grounds for winter.

Family Retreat



During Labor Day weekend 40 of us descended on Lake Hope State Park for a weekend of conferences, campfires, laughing, praying, singing, eating, but most importantly meeting with God. The weekend started out like usual, getting keys, unpacking and gathering around the fire. This year was a little different from the most recent years in



that we had several children with the group. They were riding scooters, talking on walkie-talkies, and running up and down the path from cabin to cabin all evening.

It wasn't long before the hot-dog sticks came out and the roasting began. The food hit the table and everyone had their way of how to cook the "perfect" dog. Everyone shared their expertise and several became the main cooks around the fire. Once the dogs were consumed, which there were plenty consumed, the s'mores were next on the menu. Of course there were the lightly browned ones, the golden brown ones, then there were the "blackened" ones. It was quite the evening.

Saturday, we woke to some passing showers and damp weather. However, it did not hinder our time with the Lord. This year Pastor Rob led us in a study on Ephesians 1, but introduced us to a study he wrote on 1 John 1. The children went off to study nature with Teacher Dawn and came back talking about the bugs, the lake, and how God created us and made each of us special.

After an afternoon of free time, we gathered back at the shelter house for supper and game night. The night air was filled with lots of loud laughter and the smell of awesome food, prepared by Teacher Dawn. As the children were getting tired, the evening started to break up, even though it was obvious that no one really wanted to go back to their cabins. We couldn't hang out at the fire ring that night because of the rain. However, several did get together for games back in the cabins.

Sunday we woke to a new situation that we hadn't experienced in all the years we have been doing the Family Retreat. We had no electric in the cabins. Pastor Rob was the first one up, as usual. He drove down to the shelter house to check on electric there and found out that there was electric there. So, word passed quickly among everyone to bring a coffee cup

down and we'd hang out there until worship, for those that wanted. Several came down bright and early and there is some debate about how many pots of coffee were actually drained before worship service. Now mind you, service was at 10 a.m. and most people came down to the shelter house at 8:30 a.m. It is believed that there were 4-6 pots of coffee drained between 8:30 and 10.

The only issue we had was, right before service started, and we had just started a fresh pot of coffee, the shelter house lost electric as well. Seriously folks, you can't make this up, lol. Thanks to Jesse Kraft and Robert Cornell who pulled their vehicles up to the shelter house, we were able to brew the coffee and plug in the projector and sound bar for worship service. Who says the Lord doesn't provide. Both vehicles had outlets in them that while running they would power what we needed that morning.

Right as worship was ending, the power came back on and we were able to fix Brunch and enjoy the rest of the morning together. That afternoon a group stayed at the shelter house for an afternoon of games, coloring, and just hanging out. Jesse and Andrew had built a fire in one end of the shelter house and we planned on those that wanted to come back in the evening to cook hot dogs and play games.

Sure enough, a good group came down and we built the fire up, roasted hot dogs, s'mores, played games, and had a great time together.

Despite the rain, the power outage, God moved and lives were touched. There was great fellowship and the group grew closer to the Lord and to each other throughout the weekend. We have already reserved the cabins for next year and are looking to expand the amount of cabins that we reserve. So, mark the date now. Get those pennies in your piggybank to cover the cost. It will be the same weekend, Labor Day Weekend. Mark your calendar now!!! We meet at the park on that Friday and come home on that Monday. Don't let another year go by without joining us. There are those who go every year, and every year they are one of the first ones to sign up. Remember this is a first come first serve basis. Don't let this opportunity pass you.



Fall Revival

October means Revival Time is upon us. This October is no different, however, this Fall Revival is going to be a little different. In the past several years we have enjoyed some powerful times of worship with the “5 guys” preaching and fellowshiping with our brother and sister congregations.

Well, this year we’re expanding. That’s right. We’re not going to have five nights of revival services, but seven nights of revival services. The Lord has blessed the 5 Guy fellowship with 2 more brothers and this year we’re going to be sharing with them in the Fall Revival.

So, mark your calendars and set aside the week. October 10-16th is the Fall Revival. We kick off the week on Monday at Hilltop, Tuesday at Faith Community, Wednesday at Kimberly Parkway, Thursday at New Horizons, Friday at West Enon Church of God (where Pastor Earl is Sr. Pastor), Saturday in Springfield, and we end the week right here at CW Church. Each service will start at

7 p.m. and will have a different pastor preaching. Each congregation hosting will have their Praise Team leading. We will also be live-streaming each



Don't Forget

“Remember your Creator when you are young, before the days of trouble come and the years catch up with you. they will make you say, ‘I have found no pleasure in them.’” Ecclesiastes 12:1

Near a village in India an elephant had just finished his bath. Then he filled his trunk with the dirtiest water he could find in the river and went directly down the road to the open window of a tailor’s shop. SWOOSH! He blew the muddy water all over thee tailor, for he had not forgotten the time when the tailor had pricked him with a needle as he playfully put his trunk in the window some weeks before. The elephant remembered.

Perhaps you intended to take out the trash last night, put dirty dishes in the dishwasher, clean up your room, but a friend came over. Or maybe a good TV show came one and your forgot all about the chores you planned to do. Sometimes we forget things we’re asked to do, or mean to do. Many times we make New Year’s Day resolutions but find that before January 1 has passed they are already forgotten.

Nations have special days to remember soldiers, sailors, and others who gave their lives for their country. Without these days, citizens might soon forget those who died to keep their country free.

Our Scripture verse tells us to *remember our Creator*. This is a reminder we all need. We so easily forget the God who made all things because we are so busy with the things He made.

Look around. Open your eyes to the wonderful creation that surrounds you. Remember your Creator

Pastor Watts

