Sermon Notes: Jesus, the Sinners' Friend

Introduction (Proverbs 18:24)

Point One: Jesus Knows Us Completely (Hebrews 4:14-16; Psalm 23:1)

Point Two: Jesus Is a Friend Who Speaks (John 15:15)

Point Three: Jesus Is a Friend Who Stays (Hebrews 13:5)

Point Four: Jesus Is a Friend Who Saves (John 15:13; Romans 5:8; 2Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 40:2; Phil 4:13)

The Messenger

Weekly Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ
Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, December 28, 2025

Order of Worship

Greeting: Randy Sowder
Scripture Reading: Rodney Dowell (John 15:13-15)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Dan Strope
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Jesus, the Sinners Friend)
Announcements / Prayer: Stan Davis

During Sermon

Nursery: Cindie Cottingham (Sub: Megan Johnson)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: ?

Schedule of Services

Bible Studies: Sunday 9:30am & 5:00pm / Wednesday 7pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Connect with Us

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Social Media:	www.Facebook.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC_Youth
	www.X.com/@Whiteland_COC
Online Worship:	www.YouTube.com/@WhitelandCOC

Mail In Contributions

Whiteland Church of Christ / PO Box 85 / Whiteland, IN 46184

Leadership

Elders
Stan Davis (317) 507-1936 / Ed Tichenor (317) 412-2416
Minister
Ronnie Hewitt (317) 966-2029

Welcome

Thank you for being with us today. May you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Recent Prayer Requests

Cindy Davis is recovering from reconstructive surgery. **Karen DeFord** is struggling with severe hip pain that is affecting her mobility. **Ashton Hewitt** had successful knee surgery on Tuesday. **Virginia Short** received a pacemaker and is in University Heights Rehab, room 811. **Drew Burton** requests prayers for his grandmothers, who both fell recently. **Tammy Bartels**, Amy Wiwczaroski's sister, will have a breast biopsy due to concerns about a mass. **Mitch Davis**, preacher at Heartland, underwent emergency surgery for blood clots in his lungs this past Tuesday. Everything went well and is back home.

Long Term Concerns

Gavin Brooks (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Juanita Brunnemer** (shut-in), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, cancer), **Karen DeFord** (hip deterioration), **Tonya Dowell** (health issues), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Gloria** (friend of Hagan's, kidney & heart issues), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Rex Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues), **Angie Hewitt** (looking for employment), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass & kidney transplant list), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Pam Lasiter** (Lougene's daughter, ongoing health issues), **Sharon Lasiter** (hospice), **Lynn** (aunt of Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law, breast & spine cancer), **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues), **Pat Martin** (Amy Wiwczaroski's dad, Parkinson's, testing upcoming), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Heather Schmidt** (Amy Wiwczaroski's cousin, chemo), **Tim Scott** (Cindy Strope's brother, palsy), **Benny Stephens** (oxygen), **Gayle Stephens** (cancer, tumor is shrinking with treatment), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, palliative care), **GayLee Sutton** (wet macular degeneration), **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Mary Walton** (Regina Anderson's mom, shut-in), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Wanda Weaver** (kidney disease & lupus), **Heather Wiwczaroski** (Eric's sister-in-law, recovering from spine surgery), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son, Parkinson's); **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law, Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's), **Mary Zarecor** (Davis's niece, experiencing low blood count, undergoing tests).

Missions

Jason & Devan Pierce (Resident Missionary @ Freed-Hardeman University); **Caleb Pierce** (Student @ Bear Valley Bible Institute); **Steve & Renee Gaudreau** (India Missions); **Shults-Lewis Child & Family Services**

How do I become a Christian?

Hear the Word (Romans 10:17) / Believe the Word (John 20:31, Acts 16:31) / Repent of your sins (Luke 13:5, 15:7) / Confess Jesus to others (Matthew 10:32-33) / Be Baptized in the name of Jesus for salvation (1Peter 3:21, Romans 6:4-5, Acts 2:37-38)

Upcoming Events

Celebrations This Week

Birthday

31st Gina Sowder
Jan 1st Ladonna Lowe

Anniversary

None to Report

Encouragement Sunday

Next Sunday is encouragement Sunday. Please pray for those you would like to encourage this next week. There are note cards in the foyer you can fill out and have mailed for you.

Morning Glories Ministry Brunch

The next brunch for the ladies is planned for Saturday, January 10th at 10am in the fellowship hall.

Financial Peace University

The next Financial Peace class will begin Monday, January 19th and will run for 9 weeks. For more information, please contact Eric or Amy Wiwczaroski.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The next prayer breakfast for the men is planned for Saturday, January 24th at 9am in the fellowship hall.

Area Wide Singing & Chili Supper

Saturday, January 31st at 5pm

This is our annual area wide. We are inviting sister congregations to join us. We need some help making chili and desserts, as well as bringing condiments for the chili. If you can assist with any of these items, please sign up on the Involvement Board in the foyer.

Cleaning Crew
December 29 – January 3 (Team 2)

Finance Record

2025 Budget: $178,787.94 Weekly Budget: $3,438.23
Last Week's Offering: $6,084.00

Attendance

Sunday: AM Bible Study (22); Worship (77); PM Bible Study (13)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, December 28	Revelation 9-12
Monday, December 29	Revelation 13-16
Tuesday, December 30	Revelation 17-19
Wednesday, December 31	Revelation 20-22
Thursday, January 1	Genesis 1-3
Friday, January 2	Genesis 4-7
Saturday, January 3	Genesis 8-11

Faith Applied: Where Scripture Meets Everyday Life

"Keep Walking by Faith"

There's something powerful about walking. Walking implies movement, direction, intention, and progress. Nobody accidentally walks somewhere. You choose a direction, you take a step, and then another, and then another. But Paul says something unusual in 2Corinthians 5:7, "*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*"

Most journeys depend on sight. Faith's journey depends on trust. Most journeys require a map. Faith's journey requires a Guide. Most journeys rely on what you can see. Faith's journey relies on what God has said. And if we're honest, walking by faith is not always easy. It's not natural. It's not comfortable. It's not predictable. But it is necessary. It is powerful. And it is the only way to experience the fullness of God's purpose.

I want to encourage you to keep walking by faith. Not start walking. Not think about walking. Not walk when it's easy. Not walk when you feel like it. Keep walking. Because the enemy's goal is not to make you run backward, it's simply to make you stop walking forward.

Understand, walking by faith means trusting God beyond what you can see. Paul doesn't say, "We walk by faith and sight." He says, "*We walk by faith, not by sight*." Sight is limited. Sight is natural. Sight is temporary. Sight is influenced by circumstances. Faith is different. Faith is spiritual. Faith is eternal. Faith is rooted in God's character, not your conditions.

Sight says this doesn't make sense. Faith says, "God knows what He's doing." Sight sees the storm. Faith sees the Savior walking on the water. Sight sees the Red Sea. Faith sees the God who parts it. Sight sees the giant. Faith sees the covenant. Sight sees the furnace. Faith sees the fourth man in the fire. Consider the fact that faith is not denial, it's dependence. Walking by faith doesn't mean pretending everything is fine. It means trusting God even when everything is not fine. Faith doesn't ignore reality. Faith invites God into reality. Faith says, "Lord, I don't see how, but I trust You."

Walking by faith requires movement even when you don't have all the details. God rarely gives full instructions. He gives steps. Abraham: "*Go to a land I will show you*." Peter: "*Come*." Joshua: "*March around the walls*." The blind man: "*Go wash in the pool*." God gives steps because faith grows through movement. Faith is a walk, not a leap. Some people think faith is always dramatic: big leaps, big risks, big moments. But Paul says walk by faith. Walking is steady. Walking is consistent. Walking is daily. Faith is not proven in the big moments but it's proven in the everyday steps of obedience.

Faith grows one step at a time. Pray when you don't feel like praying. Worship when you don't understand. Give when it doesn't make sense. Forgive when it's hard. Serve when you feel unseen. Trust when you feel uncertain. Every step builds spiritual muscle. Every step strengthens your confidence. Every step takes you closer to God's promise.

Walking by faith means keeping your eyes on God, not your circumstances. Remember, faith is not about seeing the path, it's about seeing the One who leads. Psalm 119:105 says, "*Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*." A lamp doesn't show the whole road, just the next step. God gives light for steps, not miles. Keep walking by faith!