Sermon: “Declutter Your Life / Make Room for God”
Hebrews 12:1-2, 2Corinthians 11:3, Matthew 6:33, 11:28; Psalm 46:10; Mark 1:35; Revelation 3:20

The Messenger

Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ

Loving God / Loving People

The Lord’s Day, Sunday, October 4, 2026

Order of Worship

Call to Worship: Rodney Dowell
Scripture Reading: Chase Tichenor (Hebrews 12:1-2)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Randy Sowder
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt (Declutter Your Life)
Announcements / Prayer: Ed Tichenor

Bible Hour During Sermon

Nursery: ?
Toddler: ?
4yr old-Pre-K: Edie Short
K-3rd Grade: Angie McDaniel

Schedule of Services

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

Connect with Us

Church Office (317) 535-1627 Prayer Text Line:(317) 953-5095

Website:	www.whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Email:	info@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Prayer:	PrayerRequest@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
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

Prayer Requests

Karen DeFord recovering from surgery.
Rex DeFord has a couple of upcoming appointments with a Gastroenterologists for a colonoscopy and with a surgeon concerning his gallbladder issues.
Moe Handy is at Community Acute Rehabilitation Hospital, room 202, following knee replacement surgery.
Ronnie Hewitt has been assigned to a cardiologist and has an appointment for November 2nd.
Dan Strope's family are mourning the passing of another aunt.
Cottingham & Smith families, Lavana Tichenor, Eric & Amy, are all traveling this weekend.
Kenna Orr, Charli Denzio's mom, has a mass on her ovary and is also waiting for biopsy results from a mass that was removed from her eye.
Jack & Marsha Brown, Rachel's uncle and aunt, have covid and Jack is in Morristown Rehab.
Kenneth Kingan, grandfather of Ashton Hewitt's roommate at school, has a mass on his colon and his liver.
Augie, 6-year-old son of Seth Tichenor's friend, is in the hospital waiting for another heart transplant.

Long Term Concerns

Rhonda Aliff (Pat Stinson's daughter, lupus), **Suzanne Bielski** (Lonnie & Sonya's doctor, cancer), **Richard Burris** (recovering from neck and discs repair surgery), **Eric Chamberlain** (Logan's dad, bone cancer), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, Hodgkin's Lymphoma), **Tonya Dowell** (health issues), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **Isaiah Echols** (awaiting biopsy report), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Gloria** (Hagan's friend, kidney & heart issues), **Angie Hammitt** (Wiwczaroski's friend, colon & liver cancer, chemo treatments), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Rex & Susan Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues; sister-in-law, severe abdomen issues), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Mary Leachman** (sun poisoning), **Pat Martin** (Amy's dad, Alzheimer's), **Brett Mason** (Rodney & Tonya Dowell's son, Leukemia), **Norma Nelson** (Della's friend, heart & lungs), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Heather Schmidt** (Amy Wiwczaroski's cousin, radiation treatments), **Belle Magill-Shirley** (Wanda's mom, recovering from a mini-stroke), **Barb Surber** (Dementia; Compass Park, Rm 1304), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **Joe Way** (Karen DeFord's nephew-in-law, recovering from infection after reconstructive ankle surgery), **Wanda Weaver** (lupus & kidney disease), **John l , West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Ayden** (Wanda Weaver's 14yr old neighbor, non-Hodgkin's

Cleaning Crew: 4th-10th
(Team 2)

Finance Record for 2026
Weekly Budget: $3,474.56 Last Sunday Offering: $4,028.00

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: AM Bible Study (15); Worship (61); PM Bible Study (12)
Wednesday Bible Study (17)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, October 4	Matthew 7-8
Monday, October 5	Matthew 9-10
Tuesday, October 6	Matthew 11-12
Wednesday, October 7	Matthew 13-14
Thursday, October 8	Matthew 15-17
Friday, October 9	Matthew 18-19
Saturday, October 10	Matthew 20-21

Celebrations This Week
Birthday
7th Sarah Day, Landry Johnson
10th Eric Trostle

Anniversary
None to Report

Announcements

Our Family Potluck Meal is today following worship. Everyone is encouraged to stay and join us.

Gospel Meeting: The Eagle Valley Church of Christ is hosting their Fall Meeting starting today through Thursday, October 8th, with guest speaker: Rick Leach from the Central Church of Christ in Bedford.

Youth Fall Weenie Roast will be Friday, October 16th at the home of John & Rhonda Denzio. There is a sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board in the foyer. For more info, please see Eric or Amy Wiwczaroski.

Women Under Construction: The Morgan Street Church of Christ is inviting our ladies to join them for their Ladies' Day on Saturday, October 17th, from 10am—1pm. There is a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

Moving: Lougene Wooten will be moving to Lexington, KY to an assisted living facility in the next few weeks to be closer to her family.

www.facebook.com/faithappliedddaily

"Up Against the World"

The heart of Jesus is on full display in His prayer the night before the cross. He lifts His eyes toward the Father and speaks about His disciples—ordinary men who would soon face extraordinary pressure. In John 17:14–16, Jesus says something both sobering and strengthening: His people do not belong to the world, and because of that, the world will push back. "*I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world*."

Jesus doesn't hide the reality. When you carry God's word, you will feel friction. Not because you're trying to be difficult, but because light naturally exposes darkness. Truth unsettles falsehood. Grace disrupts cruelty. Holiness challenges the comfortable patterns of sin. The world recognizes that you are different, and sometimes responds with resistance.

But Jesus doesn't leave His disciples trembling. He adds a crucial assurance: "*I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one.*" Jesus does not pray for escape. He prays for endurance, protection, and strength for His disciples to stand in the world without becoming part of the world. That means your presence here has purpose. You are not an accident placed in a hostile environment. You are an ambassador placed in a mission field.

And then He anchors it all in identity: "*They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world*." Your belonging is settled. Your citizenship is secure. Your identity is tied to Christ, not the culture around you. You may feel out of place at times, but you are never out of His care. You may feel pressure, but you are never without His power. You may feel opposed, but you are never abandoned.

So, what do we do when we feel "up against the world"? Stay rooted in the Word: Jesus says the very thing that sets us apart is the thing that sustains us. Stay aware of the enemy: The world's hostility is not just social but is spiritual. Stay confident in Christ: If He is not of the world and you belong to Him, then you share His victory. Stay engaged in the mission: Jesus left you here on purpose. Someone near you needs the hope you carry. The world may push against you, but Christ holds you. The world may misunderstand you, but Christ knows you. The world may oppose you, but Christ has overcome the world. So, walk boldly, walk humbly, and walk faithfully. You are in the world, but you are not alone and you are not of it. You belong to Jesus!

....Ronnie Hewitt