

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN TODAY!

**GOOD NEWS!** God loves and yearns to redeem all people. The Bible clearly outlines the way to become a follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** - Admit to God you are a sinner (you have done things that were wrong). Apologize and turn away from your sins towards God (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** - Believe that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross and rose from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a spiritual commitment to be a follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Savior (Rescuer and Redeemer) and Lord (Ultimate Leader). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS** - Tell your family and friends about your new faith in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly announce your decision to be a Christian.

## HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

**COME FORWARD** – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, accepting Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church may request and be accepted into the membership of this church. Upon request to the Pastor, Moderator or at a meeting of the membership, a person may be received by affirmation of the membership based on:

1. **BELIEVER'S BAPTISM**
2. **LETTER OF TRANSFER** or recommendation from a previous Christian church and prior baptism; or a
3. **SATISFACTORY STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN FAITH** and prior baptism

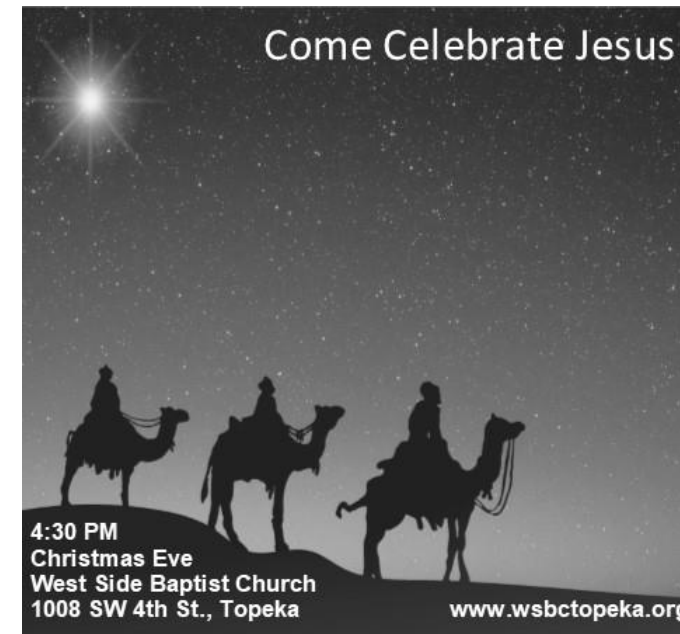
Members shall strive to be faithful to Christian principles as set forth in scripture and support the mission of the church through attendance, prayer, service and monetary giving. The *first step* to become a member is to *come forward* during the singing of the last hymn so you can share your decision with the congregation.

## WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP – *We are happy you are here!*** You will hopefully discover very quickly this is a small, loving church in a big city. If you are looking for a place to belong, make real friendships, and get involved - then West Side is for you! Please speak with me after the worship service if you would like to learn more about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, need personal prayer, or want to request a pastoral visit! Blessings, Pastor Ivan



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** – Come Celebrate Jesus! on December 24 at 4:30 pm at the Candlelight Communion Service. Come enjoy an evening of scripture lessons, candlelight, and carols.

**BREAKFAST ON SUNDAYS** – Sign-up if you plan to attend the free breakfasts on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall starting at 8:30 am. All ages are welcome to eat for free. No breakfast served on December 24 and 31 (Christmas break).



**NEWS IN THE PEWS**

**BABY CLOSET CHRISTMAS BAGS** - The colder weather has brought many families into the Baby Closet for warm clothing and diapers. We served 52 families with 95 children in October; this included 6 new families. We are again filling bags for Christmas for each family that comes in during December. We are asking for donations of **deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo and body lotion**. There will be a box in the front of the sanctuary for these items. Thanks to all for opening your hearts at this special time of year. You all are wonderful!  
Pat Carreno, Coordinator

**BIBLE STUDY** – Come for the free one-hour small group study of the biblical book "**EZEKIEL**" on **Wednesdays at 10:30 am in Holmer Hall**. The Bible study is taught start-to-finish ("lectio continua"), no previous experience necessary. Bible studies are free and open to the public.



**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE – 4:00 pm** We will sing contemporary songs, and Pastor will share a study from the Bible. Come in comfortable, casual clothes.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** – Take Control of Your Money. Get out of debt. Plan for retirement. Financial Peace University is a nine week, easy-to-follow program to help you learn how to get out of debt, create a budget, make wise spending decisions, save for the future, and so much more! Join **Financial Peace University on Mondays, starting January 22, at 6:30 pm in West Side Baptist Church's Holmer Hall. Register in the Church Office or on-line at <https://www.daveramsey.com>**. See Pastor for details.

**FRUIT & VEGETABLE FOOD PANTRY** – Free bread, fruits, and vegetables on **Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm** or while supplies last at West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka. Program eligibility: Households in Topeka area (zip code 66601-66619). ID required: a piece of US Mail with client's name and current address for identification. One household per address. All food is available no cost. **PANTRY CLOSED: Wednesday, December 27 (The week of Christmas/New Year's)**. We have shared 26,000 pounds of food with 1,700 families (6,000 persons) in 2017.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

8:30 am	Breakfast
9:15 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship (S)
4:00 pm	Contemporary Worship Service (S)

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

9:00 – 11:00 am	Baby Closet Ministry
6:00 pm	Capital City Men's Chorus (FH)

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

No Christian Ed Meeting

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

	No Bible Study (HH)
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry (FH)
4:30 – 5:15 pm	Open Gym Time
4:30 – 7:00 pm	Baby Closet Ministry
	<b>No WWW Kids Bible Club and Adult Study</b>
	No Choir Rehearsal (S)

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

1:00 – 3:00 pm	Baby Closet
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### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

No Worship Team Rehearsal (S)

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE**

9:15 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship (S) – Choir Christmas Cantata
4:30 pm	<b>Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Worship Service (S)</b>

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Joe Abby – Healing for health concerns (Pat Abby's husband)  
Mark Arnold – Cancer, chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant  
Albert Carpenter – Healing for health issues (Harry and Pat's son)  
Pat and Harry Carpenter – Healing for health issues  
Susan Carpenter – Healing (Harry and Pat's daughter in law)  
Esther Carrier – Healing for health concerns  
Laura Carrier – Healing for health concerns  
\*June Cunningham – Healing for health concerns  
\*Russ Hunter – Healing for health issues (Fran's husband)  
Mary Lou Johnson and family – grief  
\*Alice Kieffer – Healing for health concerns  
\*Karen Kirby – Healing for health concerns  
\*Reginald Kirby – Healing for health concerns (Stormont Vail)  
\*Etta Landis – Healing for health concerns (Legend at Capital Ridge)  
Ernie and Judy Longstaff - Healing for health concerns  
Hilda Lundgren – Healing for health concerns (Brewster Place Rehab)  
\*Madeleine Martinson – Healing for health concerns  
\*Mae Martin – Healing for health concerns  
Nancy May – Healing for health concerns  
Marie Merrifield – Healing for health concerns  
Rogene Moody – Healing for health concerns  
Don Morris – Healing for health concerns  
Ken Paslay – Healing for health concerns  
Sonny Payne – Healing for health concerns (Clarence Payne's brother)  
\*Juanita Plankinton – Healing for health concerns  
\*Jeffery Runyan – Healing for health concerns  
\*Hazel Smith-Tindall – Healing for health concerns  
Marianne Spano – Healing for health concerns  
Keith Springer – Healing (Marianne Spano's brother)  
Kathy Timpany – Healing for health concerns  
Lola Zab – Healing for health concerns (Marianne Spano's sister)  
US Military personnel and Veterans

*\*Homebound*

**MID-WINTER MISSIONS CONFERENCE** – Register TODAY for the **ABCCR Mid-Winter Mission & Evangelism Conference “Pathways to New Life” on January 19-20, 2018, at Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, Kan.** The event will kick off with a soup and salad bar at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and close with lunch at noon on Saturday. Keynote speaker, Dr. Jeff Johnson, (left) helps congregations get excited about sharing their faith. Missionary Karen Smith will join the group via Skype to talk about the ministry of the New Life Center in Thailand. **Cost: \$25.00 registration (before Jan. 1).** See Mark Calloway or Pastor for more information.



**WWW KID'S BIBLE CLUB – CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE BEFORE NOON TO REQUEST A RIDE TO/FROM CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS.** The doors open for OPEN Gym Time at 4:30 pm. **Supper is served at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (cafeteria).** Bible Studies are offered for children and adults of all ages. See Colleen Smith, Coordinator, for details. **NO SUPPER, WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB, OR ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 AND DECEMBER 27, OR JANUARY 3, 2018.**



**WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE** – Plan now to attend the World Mission Conference this next summer (July 4-8, 2018) at Green Lake Conference Center (American Baptist Assembly) in Wisconsin sponsored by our ABCUSA International Ministries. Registration deadline: June 1.

**YEAR-END DONATIONS** – Please consider giving an End-of-the-Year financial gift by mail or in person. West Side Baptist Church is registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit religious organization under the Internal Revenue Code. Donations may be tax deductible as provided by law. **All donations for 2017 must be received on or before December 31 to be included in your Financial Giving statement.** See our Stewardship Secretary, Bill Merrifield, or Church Treasurer, Nancy Lindberg, with any questions.

## RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING (RMMO)

– West Side will receive its annual offering for **retired ministers and missionaries** during the month of December. Help our denomination say, “thank you,” to all our retired ministers and missionaries this Christmas with a generous gift to the RMMO!



Retired  
Ministers &  
Missionaries  
Offering  
2017

The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God’s service. The offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God’s service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of each year.

We hope congregations will be inspired by the theme this year, *Generous Congregations*. The verse is taken from Isaiah 32:8, ‘But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity’.” Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church.

Please join us in honoring God’s committed servants by donating to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering.

We have received \$425.00 towards our goal of \$1,500.00.

### Christmas Word Search

G	R	E	E	N	A	B	E	S
P	E	A	C	E	D	O	L	L
N	D	M	O	W	M	W	F	A
T	R	E	E	N	M	I	L	K
P	L	R	G	I	F	T	B	A
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
O	C	Y	Y	A	I	N	L	G
O	L	A	T	N	B	E	L	L
K	A	T	H	T	O	Y	E	B
I	U	E	A	A	N	O	S	E
E	S	R	U	D	O	L	P	H
S	C	L	I	G	H	T	S	H

MERRY	TOY	TREE	RED
CHRISTMAS	DOLL	LIGHTS	GREEN
SANTA	BALL	ELF	RUDOLPH
CLAUS	GIFT	COOKIES	NOSE
BELL	BOW	MILK	PEACE

USE THE REST OF THE LETTERS IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR TO FIND THE ANSWER:

WHAT IS RED AND WHITE AND SLIGHTLY MELTED?

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\_\_\_\_\_ 😊

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