

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

The Witness

JUNE 2019
VOL 105 #06

"REMEMBER RENEWAL"

Pastor's Corner - Over the years a number of people have joined our congregation during the month of June. You can recognize them in worship services by their golden ribbon. On the first Sunday of each month, those celebrating an anniversary are recognized in the worship service, and we use a brief litany to dedicate them to God once more. Those celebrating an anniversary membership renewal in June:

♦ Hall, Patty	Baptism	June 02, 1946	73 Yrs
♦ Hoppas, Gary	Baptism	June 27, 1948	71 Yrs
♦ Anderson, Linda	Baptism	June 28, 1953	66 Yrs
♦ Graybeal, Lawrence	Baptism	June 28, 1953	66 Yrs
♦ Halloran, Alene	Baptism	June 28, 1953	66 Yrs
♦ Boles, Francis	Baptism	June 06, 1954	65 Yrs
♦ Foster, Connie	Baptism	June 06, 1954	65 Yrs
♦ Jackson, Freda	Experience	June 05, 1955	64 Yrs
♦ Adamson, Kay	Baptism	June 22, 1958	61 Yrs
♦ Gordy, Diane	Baptism	June 22, 1958	61 Yrs
♦ Mansfield, Tom	Baptism	June 22, 1958	61 Yrs
♦ Mansfield, Virginia	Letter	June 22, 1958	61 Yrs
♦ Hunter-Reedy, Karen	Baptism	June 22, 1958	61 Yrs
♦ Anderson, David	Letter	June 15, 1966	53 Yrs
♦ Kirby, Janice	Baptism	June 15, 1966	53 Yrs
♦ Kirby, Karen	Baptism	June 15, 1966	53 Yrs
♦ Nolan, Perry	Baptism	June 15, 1966	53 Yrs
♦ James, Donald	Baptism	June 01, 1969	50 Yrs
♦ Mansfield, Jan	Baptism	June 28, 1970	49 Yrs
♦ Spano, Marianne	Baptism	June 13, 1971	48 Yrs
♦ Cottril, Nancy	Letter	June 17, 1972	47 Yrs
♦ McCullough, Mark	Baptism	June 17, 1972	47 Yrs
♦ Romig, Kenneth	Letter	June 17, 1972	47 Yrs
♦ Smith, Brady	Letter	June 17, 1972	47 Yrs
♦ Stevenson, Martha	Letter	June 28, 1973	46 Yrs
♦ Cookson, Dorothy	Baptism	June 16, 1974	45 Yrs
♦ Cookson, Frank	Baptism	June 16, 1974	45 Yrs
♦ Smith, James	Baptism	June 16, 1974	45 Yrs
♦ Johnson, Jennifer	Baptism	June 15, 1975	44 Yrs
♦ Dittman, Susan	Baptism	June 27, 1976	43 Yrs
♦ Hersh, Lonna	Baptism	June 15, 1980	39 Yrs

Continued on next page...

WORSHIP WITH US!

Worship God with us on the Christian Sabbath: Sunday! Prepare for Worship by reading these texts:

- ♦ **June 02 - Eastertide #7**
***Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97**
Revelation 22:12-21
John 17:20-26
- ♦ **June 09 - Pentecost**
***Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104**
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-27
- ♦ **June 16 - Trinity**
Proverbs 8:1-31; Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15
- ♦ **June 23 - General Time**
1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39
- ♦ **June 30 - General Time**
2 Kings 2:1-14; Psalm 77
Galatians 5:1, 12-25
Luke 9:51-65

SUNDAY WORSHIP
@ 10:30 AM

*During Eastertide a reading from Acts of the Apostles is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible to focus on the history of God's global mission movement.

♦ Kolbek, Lorraine	Baptism	June 15, 1980	39 Yrs
♦ Kolbek, Richard	Baptism	June 15, 1980	39 Yrs
♦ Hickman, Ron	Baptism	June 14, 1981	38 Yrs
♦ Bretsnyder, Jeff	Baptism	June 11, 1982	37 Yrs
♦ Adamson, Robert	Experience	June 10, 1984	35 Yrs
♦ Brinkley, Georgiana	Letter	June 09, 1993	26 Yrs
♦ Brinkley, Juanita	Letter	June 09, 1993	26 Yrs
♦ Brinkley, Veronica	Letter	June 09, 1993	26 Yrs
♦ Metcalf, Edward	Letter	June 11, 1997	22 Yrs
♦ Suerel, Elizabeth	Letter	June 11, 1997	22 Yrs
♦ Fowler, Laura	Baptism	June 29, 1997	22 Yrs
♦ Hunter, Aaron	Baptism	June 20, 1999	20 Yrs
♦ Longstaff, Ernie	Baptism	June 20, 1999	20 Yrs

Please offer them your congratulations and rejoice with them in the celebration of another year of giving and service to God through West Side Baptist Church. If you have information for a missing member, please contact the Church Office.
Blessings, Pastor Ivan

BABY CLOSET - A big thank you to everyone who donated size 5 diapers to the Baby Closet for Mother's Day. We received several boxes of diapers. This will help keep our supply available to our families. ~ Pat Carreno



CAN YOU HELP with the FOOD PANTRY? – Clarence is asking for help with Harvesters on Wednesday afternoon's from 2:30 – 5:30 pm. We need people to help set it up and help with the distribution of food. Please let the office know if you are interested in helping.

APRIL 2019 REPORT - We are at 33.3 % of our budget year. The income for April was \$15,874 and to date totals \$111,016 or 41.45% of the year. Our expenses for April totaled \$19,426.76 and to date totals \$10,344.41 or 41.2%.

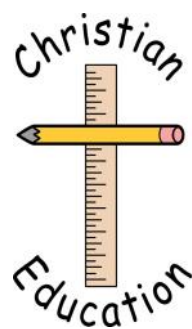
Our net income for the year is \$671.60 which includes \$20,000 transferred from our investments earlier this year.

Our checking account at the end of April was \$12,828.41. This includes \$3,915.03 in the Youth Fund and \$1,099.50 in the Major Building Repairs gifts. Thanks to all of you who are supporting either or both of these funds – Youth and Building Repairs.

We currently have \$8,051.79 left in the Capital Campaign checking account and \$18,549.05 in the Money Market Fund. This was a campaign the congregation approved in 2008 and by 2009 had raised more than \$400,000. Now, 10 years later and with elevator and mission expenses this year and next, we will be close to exhausting that fund. With our aging building and long range needs, I believe we need to consider creating a new Capital Campaign. Therefore, I have asked the church council to discuss starting a new campaign later this year to be completed in 2020. If the council agrees, first steps would be to name a campaign committee and to identify the long range needs for our church.

Let me know if you have any questions. ~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CINEMA - Begins June 2nd. All classes will meet together this summer for food, flicks, fun and fellowship on Sunday mornings. Breakfast treats will be served at 9:00. Film viewing will begin at 9:15. We will then have small group discussions and be finished in plenty of time for worship service. We had a great response last summer and hope you will join us this year for another season of fellowship, as we watch different films and discuss them from a Christian perspective. Our first movie will be a family musical, "The Greatest Showman" about P.T. Barnum



SUMMER CAMP - We have 8 students and 1 sponsor the church is helping send to camp this summer. They have worked this spring on Christian service projects to earn their scholarships. They have visited shut-ins, written appreciation letters, taken baked goods to the fire and police stations, helped at our Harvesters food give-away, made posters promoting VBS, and helped at WWW. Two will be attending camps at Crosswind and the others will go to Quest at Green Lake. Congrats to all of them for a job well done.

VBS - Please mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School to be held July 15-19. This will be half days with both breakfast and lunch served. This is for children who have completed Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th grades. Volunteers will be needed, so please watch for more details soon and consider how you might help with this important summer mission of our church.

Alice Payne, C.E. Coordinator

“Hate and Violence Cannot Defeat Love and Faith”

A Pastoral Letter to the American Baptist Family by Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, ABCUSA General Secretary

This is what the LORD says: “Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.” (Jeremiah 22:1-3)

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

In the past six months, American synagogues in Pittsburgh and Poway have been attacked and members killed by hate-filled gunmen. In both cases, anti-Semitism was a motive. In New Zealand, two Muslim mosques suffered horrendous loss of life at the hands of a white nationalist, while in California a driver intentionally targeted Muslims and has been charged with eight counts of attempted murder. In January, a bombing of a Catholic church in Jolo, Philippines, killed twenty people. On Easter morning, hundreds of Christians were murdered and injured in a coordinated set of bombings throughout Sri Lanka. Since March 26, three African-American churches have been burned down in Louisiana.



In response, we “mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:15). As American Baptists, we stand in sincere sympathy with all people who suffer violence, injury and harm, regardless of religion, race, gender, culture or ethnicity. We oppose terrorism, violence and hateful ideologies. The Gospel of love surely shall triumph over evil.

Yet, as a committed follower of Jesus Christ, I confess that my heart feels troubled and unsatisfied with mere expressions of sympathy to those who have suffered loss of life, injury and heartache. My soul yearns for wisdom regarding how I as an individual, the Church as the body of Christ, and our wider society might creatively and constructively work to prevent future tragedies of the sort we have been experiencing. Recognizing that all violence will not be eradicated until the culmination of human history, we nevertheless remain committed to living out the virtues of the reign of God in prophetic anticipation of the coming Kingdom of Christ.

What can we do to make our world more resistant to anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, anti-Christian and racist prejudices?

As Baptists, we may begin with the bold re-assertion of a core theological conviction that has characterized our spiritual movement for four centuries. Based on the Biblical understanding that all human beings have been made “in the image of God” (Genesis 1:27), we assert that all people are living souls, and thus everyone’s life is of infinite worth. Paul preaches about this in Athens, saying that God “gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one ancestor God made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth” (Acts 17:25-26). The human race is united, even in our ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, no ideological agenda that promotes hate or violence can be compatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. From a Baptist perspective, the affirmation of the infinite value and dignity of every individual necessarily leads to our promotion of individual freedom, social justice, and political equality.

Based on this core conviction, Baptists (as well as other people of faith and good-will), have a right and a responsibility to expect – and indeed demand – that our religious, cultural and political leaders promote and model the ideals that make for a free and safe society. The gradual acceptance of anti-Semitic discourse, such as the shameful New York Times’ cartoon that was published last week, emboldens those who may act on that ideology through violence. In the United States and Europe, leaders from both the political left and right have made anti-Semitic assertions. The political establishments have tolerated such hateful statements and these offenders suffer few if any punitive consequences. Indeed, I am amazed at how silent religious leaders have been in this regard; some may criticize political opponents, but strangely rationalize the same hateful discourse when the politician or leader shares their political viewpoint or party. Followers of Christ risk betraying our faith principles when we offer excuses or vote for politicians who make anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, anti-Christian or racist assertions.

On all levels, inter-religious friendship and co-existence needs to be strengthened. People from all religious backgrounds should take responsibility for how their own actions may unwittingly or intentionally contribute to the rise of hatred and prejudice that we see across the globe. Some individuals and terrorist organizations seek to justify their acts of violence and hate on religious grounds and they hope for support from people that share their religious views. I believe religious leaders from all faith traditions have the responsibility to repudiate all forms of terrorism, and to make it clear that people and groups that pursue terrorism cannot gain the support of our faith communities. Furthermore, we can affirm that even though we may not agree with one another on theological matters and doctrine, we are committed to living alongside each other in peace, harmony, mutual respect and freedom.

In 1935 in London, Rev. Dr. J. H. Rushbrooke, the general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, rejected anti-Semitism and offered the “hand of sincere friendship” to the British Jewish community. His words served as a powerful repudiation of Hitler and Nazism. Today, as American Baptists, I hope that we all might embrace similar opportunities to reach out to our neighbors who come from other religious backgrounds; let’s offer our “hand of sincere friendship” to them as a demonstration that hate and violence cannot defeat love and faith.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer

General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

Serving as the hands and feet of Christ

Letting Go of Cross Wind



Dear Central Region Family,

May 6, 2019

A few weeks ago, I read some words from St. Augustine who said, “God wants to give us something but cannot, because our hands are full – there’s nowhere for God to put it.” At the time, I began to think about a number of different situations where these words apply to my life.

For years, the Central Region Camp and Conference Corporation, which oversees and directs the operation of the Cross Wind Conference Center, has faced difficult financial realities. Cross Wind has gradually accumulated over \$400,000.00 in operational debt over the past 25 years while having a director who diligently and faithfully works to manage the facility yet takes no pay for his services. A large expenditure for an elevator (\$150,000.00) plus winter operational expenses when activities at Cross Wind slow down contribute to our negative cash flow. Our hands have been full with these very difficult financial realities.

On April 26, 2019, the Central Region Camp and Conference Corporation made the difficult decision to begin the process of putting the Cross Wind Conference Center in Hesston, KS, on the real estate market. This decision came after months and years of discussions. The decision was brought to the Central Region Board Meeting on May 3, 2019, and the Central Region Board affirmed this decision. There are currently no offers for the property. We don’t believe this decision will affect any planned events at Cross Wind for 2019. Until the property is sold, we will continue to use the facility as we have in the past and encourage your ongoing support and involvement in the ministries that happen through Cross Wind.

Cross Wind has been instrumental in how God has shaped the faith of so many in the Central Region. It will always remain holy ground for us, but it seems God is wanting to put new opportunities in our hands. In order for that to happen, we must be willing to let go of Cross Wind.

The Central Region Camp and Conference Corporation and Central Region Board has wrestled with this decision in admirable ways. They have been prayerful, thoughtful, creative, and realistic. Please continue to pray for them as we move ahead. Thank you for your faithfulness to God through this impactful ministry.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Gregg L. J. Hemmen, Executive Minister

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

5833 SW 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66614

Phone (785) 272-7622



DOORSTEP - Please join Doorstep, Inc. at the **NEW Topeka Day of Giving**, Wednesday, **June 12th** at the Topeka Performing Arts Center from 2:00pm - 8:00pm.



The Topeka Performing Arts Center has invited local non-profits to gather in one place to boost awareness of what the organizations have to offer! Join us at the event, visit your local non-profits, and make a donation to any one you choose. Doorstep will have a table available with information on our services, how you can help & volunteer opportunities.

You can also make a donation directly to Doorstep at our table this year. Or go online and make a donation through PayPal at: www.DoorstepTopeka.org under the Donate tab. Please note your member congregation on all donations.

***This event is different from Topeka Gives that we have participated in the past six years. There will be no match money donated at this year's event, and we will take in our own donations at our table. Doorstep has used these funds in the past to help us get through the summer months with services and agency expenses. Please consider giving during this event to help Doorstep as we continue helping

COMMUNITY RUMMAGE SALE - The Ministry of Outreach and Evangelist will host a Community Rummage Sale in the parking lot on Saturday, June 15 from 8:00 am to Noon. Call to Reserve a table at (785) 223-4241 for a donation.

Still looking for counselors to assist during the invitation/response portion of the service. Training will be provided.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES - Although school is out, the children at Meadows Elementary will be needing our help before school starts again in a couple of months. Along with two other entities, West Side will be filling 60 backpacks with school supplies for children in need. These supplies will be presented at Meadows Elementary from 8 a.m. until noon on 10 August 2019 at a back to school event. Please start obtaining these items during the Summer and turning them in to the Church Office. A 2018-2019 Supply List will be posted on the bulletin board and will be updated with the new list when available. Thank you!

~ Jack Janway, Coordinator

RIDE TO CHURCH - The Council has updated the time the van leaves on Sunday mornings because we have more people to pick-up. The Church Van will leave the Church on Sundays at 8:00 AM. **If you or your children would like a ride a church please call Harry Carpenter, bus driver at (785) 608-3937 [no text messages] before 9:00 pm on Saturday.** Please be ready and waiting at your door. The driver will honk twice and wait no more than five minutes before leaving to pick-up the next passengers. The van will not return for a second pick-up on the same day. Call Harry for more information or questions.



OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

FRUIT & VEGETABLE FOOD PANTRY - Free bread, fruits, and vegetables on **Wednesdays** from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, while supplies last at West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St, Topeka.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY: Clients must be currently living in the Topeka area (zip code 66601-66619). **ID**

REQUIRED: Clients must bring a government issued **PHOTO ID**. **RESIDENCY REQUIRED:** Clients must bring a recent piece of US Mail with the client's **NAME** and **CURRENT ADDRESS** as proof-of-residency. **INCOME GUIDELINES:** None.

HOUSEHOLDS: One household per address.

BAGS: Clients are encouraged to bring reusable grocery bags. **HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE:** The building is handicapped accessible with ramps and elevator. **PARKING:** Park on the north side of the church, enter north-west doors. Call the Church Office at (785) 223-4241 for weather-related closures or more information. *All food is available at no cost.

April Pantry Report: 973 individuals (480 adults, 362 children, plus 131 senior citizens) in 292 families were able to receive for free 5,081 pounds of bread, fruit, milk, vegetables, and other items from the Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry. **The Pantry will be CLOSED on Wed., May 29 for Memorial Day observances.**

Y-T-D totals: 3,117 individuals (1,500 adults; 1,240 children plus 346 senior citizens) in 865 families have received 17,915 lbs of free food in 2019. *All food is available at no costs.

~ Jack Janway,
Coordinator





4th Esther Carrier
 5th Jan Pukach
 10th Cathy Goodnow
 13th Jared Cripe
 15th Amy Cripe
 18th Helen Bloom
 19th Karen Kirby
 19th Becky Poe
 22nd Larry Dell
 28th Matthew Payne



9th Ernie & Judy Longstaff
 21st Brice & Colleen Smith



Summer Time



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

Find these words in the puzzle. Words are hidden → and ↓.

AUGUST	JULY
BALL	KIDS
BEACH	OUTSIDE
CAMP	PLAY
FRIEND	POOL
HOT	SUNNY
ICE CREAM	WARM



Father's Day is an occasion to mark and celebrate the contribution that your own father has made to your life.



As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Father's Day Word Search

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19. Can you find these words that have to do with dad?

ATHLETIC	FUNNY
BRAVE	GOLF
DAD	KIND
DADDY	SPORTS
ESPN	TENNIS
FATHER	TIE
FISHING	TOOLS
FOOTBALL	

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


"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,"





June 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING (OGHS) - The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is our American Baptist denomination's response to worldwide disaster relief and development. One Great Hour of Sharing in cooperation with other denominations, is a channel for national and international aid in times of crisis. West Side Baptist Church receives the OGHS Offering in June and throughout the year when there is a disaster. Give generously - and sacrificially - to help flooding in the Midwest and disaster relief around the world.						1 1 pm Worship Team Practice
2 9:00 Summer Sunday School Cinema 10:30 am Worship	3 9-11 am Baby Closet	4 5:30 pm Ladies Night Out @ Freddy's 5:30 pm Men's Night Out @ Freddy's 6 pm Men's Chorus	5 10:30 Bible Study 3:30 Food Pantry 5-7 pm Baby Closet	6 1-3 pm Baby Closet	7 <div> Am. Baptist Women's Ministry (ABWM) Rally at Cross Wind Conf. Center, Hesston </div>	8 1 pm Worship Team Practice
9 Pentecost 9:00 Summer Sunday School Cinema 10:30 am Worship	10 9-11 am Baby Closet	11 6 pm Council Meeting 6 pm Men's Chorus	12 10:30 Bible Study 3:30 Food Pantry 5-7 pm Baby Closet No Choir	13 1-3 pm Baby Closet	14	15 8-12 Community Rummage Sale 1 pm Worship Team Practice
16 Father's Day 9:00 Summer Sunday School Cinema 10:30 Worship 2:00 pm Mission Meeting (HH)	17 9-11 am Baby Closet	18 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6 pm Men's Chorus	19 No Bible Study 3:30 Food Pantry 5-7 pm Baby Closet No Choir	20 1-3 pm Baby Closet	21 8 am Life Screening	22 1 pm Worship Team Practice
Pastor at International Ministries Board Mtg in Virginia Beach						
23 Trinity Sun. 9:00 Summer Sunday School Cinema 10:30 Worship	24 9-11 am Baby Closet 6 pm DAR	25 6 pm Outreach Mtg (HH) 6 pm Men's Chorus	26 No Bible Study 3:30 Food Pantry 5-7 pm Baby Closet No Choir	27 1-3 pm Baby Closet 6 pm NIA Mtg	28	29 1 pm Worship Team Practice
Youth, Youth Leaders, and Pastor at Quest Leadership Camp, Green Lake Conference Center, Wisc.						
30 Youth Sun. 9:00 Summer Sunday School Cinema 10:30 Worship	<div>  <div> One Great Hour O F S H A R I N G </div> </div>					

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED
www.wsbctopeka.org
Topeka, KS 66606
1008 SW Fourth Street
West Side Baptist Church

The Witness is published monthly *free of charge* at 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka Kansas, 66606. Submission deadlines is the third Tuesday of each month to office@wsbctopeka.org. The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister. Lynda Cokeley, Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content and publication spacing. Send address corrections and subscription requests to West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, KS 66606. Phone: (785) 233-4241. Fax: (785) 233-1988
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm , Monday – Friday.

**GIVE TO THE
One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING
Una Gran
HORA
PARA COMPARTIR**

Dear American Baptist Family,

Everywhere we turn, it seems there are communities in conflict and chaos around our world. We hear of families being separated from their homes or each other because of disasters. Maybe it is because of a volcanic eruption in Indonesia, or because of wars and political turmoil in Syria and East Africa, or because of violence in Central America. Daily we hear of such news and our hearts pull us toward God.

In the midst of suffering and uncertainty, God pulls us, calls us, uses us to be compassion. We, the Church, are called to be God's compassion at work in the world, helping to rebuild and create a better world for all.

The world we are being called to create may seem beyond what we can imagine. But it is a world that God can imagine.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing we are creating, together, a world where families have access to clean water, education and medical care — where they can find new homes without persecution; it is a world where there is shalom. And you are making that possible. You are making what God imagines for this world a reality.

Thank you for your generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Together we are transforming lives in ways that are more than we can imagine.

In grateful partnership,
Lisa Rothenberger-Winter
World Relief Officer
American Baptist Churches USA

