

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

# The Witness

APRIL 2020 VOL 106 #4

## FEAR OR FAITH

**Pastor's Corner** - Let's be honest: Who knew how to spell "Coronavirus (COVID 19)" six months ago? We all heard reports in December that a new virus was emerging in Wuhan, China (I had to look on Google maps to find Wuhan). More, how many of us foresaw the global crisis this invisible invader would initiate? I had never imagined how quickly nations would close schools, churches, government offices, playgrounds, sporting events, and civic life to prevent the spread of this disease. And, I never dreamed there would be a run on personal supplies like toilet paper.

Yes. I had watched the science-fiction movies about outbreaks, pandemics, disasters, and global diseases. But these were all "entertainment." It never crossed my mind these science-fiction fantasies would become reality-tv! Deeper down, I was really hoping this would never happen in my life-time!

As we stay connected to the internet updates, news flashes, tweets, Facebook posts, announcements and public health orders - there is one thing that is clear: **We are all afraid!** Who among us is not scared for a loved-one, a neighbor, a vulnerable person, our children and grandchildren, and our nation? Yet, while we isolate ourselves and practice social-distancing in our homes, we cannot forget: **Jesus's first disciples were afraid for their lives during**



## EASTER SERVICES Sunday, April 12

**VIGIL** - The joyous day of Jesus' Resurrection begins with an ecumenical Sunrise service **ONLINE** (Old Prairie Town/Ward Meade Park is CLOSED). The sun is predicted to rise at 6:50 am on Easter Sunday.

**BREAKFAST** - The annual church Easter breakfast is cancelled because of the Coronavirus (COVID 19). Enjoy breakfast as a family, then join us for our online worship service.

**CELEBRATION** - An online worship service is planned for 10:30 am on Easter Sunday. Join us!

**HOLY COMMUNION** - Pastor plans to celebrate Holy Communion on Easter. Prepare by baking bread at home or buy a small loaf. He will give instructions during the service. Qs? Call Pastor at (785) 267-0936.

[www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka](https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka)

*Worship  
Online*

*O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the  
rock of our salvation!*

PSALM 95:1

*Join Us!*

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

**West Side Baptist Church Topeka**

**the weeks leading up to Easter, too!** The Gospel of Matthew tells us: “from that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life” (Matthew 16:21). Although they were told bad things were going happen, which of them could have imagined the Passion of the Christ?

We can't blame them! Who among us could have imagined the week which began with a Triumphal Entry parade (now called, “Palm Sunday”) would end with Jesus' arrest, death, crucifixion, and burial in a borrowed grave? Within one week (Holy Week), Jesus would go from public miracle-worker surrounded by thousands of fans to isolated and alone (socially-distanced from everyone because of his arrest). The disciples would go from boldly leading public gatherings to “locked in the Upper Room” because “they were afraid” (John 20:19). The city of Jerusalem would go from accolade and parades to anxiety, fear, and panic. Everyone was wondering: What was going to happen next?

Thankfully, that was not the end of the story...**Easter happened!** God raised Jesus Christ from the dead! And Jesus—now ALIVE again — appeared to his disciples for forty-days (the season Christians call “Eastertide”), reassuring them of his victory, his promises, his Spirit, his presence, and God's continued work in the world! He was reminding his people: **We are not alone even when we are isolated from others!** A theme repeated in Paul's letters from prison.

My brothers and sisters, I know there are a lot of people who are afraid. I do not know if this crisis will be over by Easter. I hope! But one thing I do know: we have nothing to fear! **Christ HAS died! Christ IS risen! Christ WILL come again!** The Church will gather together again some day, on earth or in heaven. Until then, we are called to: **Keep the faith! Practice love and hospitality. Wait for the Lord!** As the Apostle John wrote: “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear” (1 John 4:18 NIV). Resurrection hope!

Easter Blessings,  
Pastor Ivan



**Our Church Finances** – February 2020 Report  
Income for February was \$16,045.92 compared to January \$36,995.64. January was so much larger because of the \$7,940 from our annual distribution from the Topeka Community Foundation (Hill and Wooten estate gifts) and memorials of Juanita Plankinton, Bill Merrifield and Portia Allbert. It also included the \$13,438.75 from contributions deposited directly to our Wells Fargo investment account.

Our expenses for February were \$18,994.59. In January they were \$20,918.00. Our net income for February -\$2,948.67 and in January \$16,077.64. For the year our net income is: \$13,128.97

On the Balance Sheet, the checking account total is: \$53,280.62. This includes the monies in the Outreach, Baby Closet and WWW grants along with monies collected for the new Capital Campaign.

Major projected expense in March will be our Brotherhood Insurance bill for the building of \$8,338 and for Worker's Comp of \$970.

## **EASTERTIDE SEASON**

### **Easter Sunday to Ascension Sunday**

- ♦ **APRIL 5 - PALM SUNDAY**  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 118:1-1, 19-29  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 21:1-11
- ♦ **APRIL 12 - EASTERTIDE 1**  
Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossian 3:1-4  
Matthew 28:1-10  
John 20:1-18
- ♦ **APRIL 19 - EASTERTIDE 2**  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31
- ♦ **APRIL 26 - EASTERTIDE 3**  
Acts 2:14a, 26-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35
- ♦ **MAY 3 - EASTERTIDE 4**  
Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10





As our community and our church members respond to COVID-19, you may not be attending a service or Bible Study in person. I hope you can watch online through the church's Facebook page. The needs of the church will continue through this difficult time so I want to encourage you to continue your giving through a credit card online:

**(<https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>)**

or by mail, West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4<sup>th</sup> St., Topeka, KS 66606.

Your gifts will go into the general fund for the overall expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.) of the church unless you designate either on the memo line of your check or in what you indicate online. Let's pray that we all stay healthy and the health scare doesn't last too much longer.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS CANCELED

The following events have been canceled or postponed to a later date because of the Coronavirus (COVID 19) national health emergency.

- **Baby Closet (Call Office with Requests)**
- **Capital City Men's Chorus practices**
- **Daughters of the Am Revolution meeting**
- **Easter Egg Hunt (April 11)**
- **Get Down and Get Dirty Community Clean Up (April 18)**
- **Good Friday Service at Westside Christian Church (April 10)**
- **Ladies Night Out (April 7)**
- **Maundy Thursday Agape Feast at Potwin Presbyterian (April 9)**
- **Men's Night Out (April 7)**
- **Sharefest Community Day (April 25)**
- **Sunday School classes (meet online)**
- **Ward Meade Neighborhood Improvement Association Meeting**
- **Wednesday Night Community Suppers**
- **WWW Kids Bible Club**
- **Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City (April 3-5)**

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE — "I Love My Church!"** Pastor Ivan and Outreach will be leading a **new member drive** during the month of April. Know someone who may want to join? Come forward or share their information with the Church Office. We will schedule visits and encourage Christians to join.



**MISSION TRIP** - We are planning a mission trip to the Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma from June 1-4. They are in need of people to help organize storage areas, do yard work and perform simple maintenance tasks. No special skills required! Please contact Jim Goodnow at 246-1807 or [jim.goodnow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jim.goodnow@sbcglobal.net) if you have questions or if you would like to go. The signup deadline is May 1st.

**BACK TO BETHEL!** We will once again be providing a meal and message at Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, KS, on each 5th Friday evening. We will meet at the church and leave in the church van no later than 4:00pm. The 5th Friday dates are May 29th, July 31st and October 30th. Please consider helping with this fun and fulfilling ministry. If you have questions, please contact Jim Goodnow at 246-1807 or [jim.goodnow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jim.goodnow@sbcglobal.net)

**DOORSTEP** - Thank you everyone who contributed to our **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation Soup Line** and made the event such a success! We served the highest number to date between attendees, carryout and delivery orders! We had 43 theme baskets which made \$3,369 for the event! In total, we raised over \$18,000 at this year's event!

The month of April traditionally brings Doorstep's Annual Banquet honoring our volunteers, and the quilt drawing. We do not have a place or date set yet, but we have plenty of quilts to choose from for the drawing. With events up in the air due to COVID-19, we will update everyone once we have a hosting congregation and date.

Mark your calendars for Doorstep's **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Walk/5K Run** at Lake Shawnee. The big day is **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm!** Come out and support Doorstep, and get some exercise at the same time! We made over \$6,000 last year, and have a goal of \$9,000 for our third year! Note that we moved it to Sunday afternoon for 2020!



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

**CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED** - By order of the Shawnee County Health Department, on the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the World Health Organization (WHO), and upon consent of the Church Council, the **Church Building and Offices are CLOSED** until further notice. Religious services (including funerals and weddings) will be broadcast LIVE and limited to 10 or fewer persons, and require compliance with all health codes and public health orders including handwashing and social-distancing (families must remain six feet apart). **Lynda and Pastor Ivan are working remotely from their homes.** Call the Pastor's home number if you need to speak with him: (785) 267-0936.

The mail and phone messages are being retrieved regularly. The Church Council agreed to pay all hourly staff for their hours worked plus COVID 19 sick leave (required by the new Families First Coronavirus Response Act), the second significant federal law addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act applies to small businesses including churches: <https://www.churchlawandtax.com/web/2020/march/how-proposed-fmla-changes-affects-churches-coronavirus.html>. ***Thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time!***



## Remembering A Friend

**KENNETH PASLAY** —Family, friends, and our faith community celebrated the life and legacy of our departed Christian friend, **Kenneth Paslay, on Wednesday, March 18, 2020**, at West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th Street, Topeka, KS 66606. No visitation was held prior to the service. The service was broadcast LIVE on the church's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka>). Read more at [www.penwellgabeltopeka.com](http://www.penwellgabeltopeka.com). In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made to West Side Baptist Church or TARC 2701 SW Randolph Topeka, KS 66611.



**ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY** - Lynda is an AMAZING church office administrator! She works hard to keep the church working - including keeping me on task. Help me honor her this year on Administrative Professionals Day - Wed., April 22. Send a card. Give a gift. Call her (she'll like the extra phone calls). Let her know you appreciate her dedication and diligence. ~ Pastor Ivan

**AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING** - WOW! We reached our goal of \$1,500 for the America for Christ Offering. **THANK YOU!** The theme for this year was "Love your neighbor as yourself." In the coming weeks we will learn how our past contributions

have gone to help children in poverty, helped rebuild and renew Puerto Rico, helped organizations resettle displaced persons, provided scholarships, mobilized volunteers, and empowered Community Outreach Ministries. You gave generously and sacrificially!

~Jim Goodnow, Coordinator of Mission

**BIBLE STUDY ONLINE** - Pastor is leading the **Wednesday Morning Bible Study online every week on ZOOM** (Meeting ID: 938 576 0091). Join this one-hour small group study of **"THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW."** Bible studies are free and open to the public. Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/9385760091>.

**CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS** - The Church Camp Scholarship program is underway for all children and youth to earn up to \$100.00 each to help them go to a summer camp. Students

earn points for registering their attendance (text Pastor when you watch the Online Service) AND for volunteering to help others. ***We have not received an official word from the ABCCRegion or Green Lake canceling camps. CAMP REGISTRATIONS and PAYMENT are due Wednesday, April 29. See Pastor today for camp information, registration forms, or to make payment arrangements.***





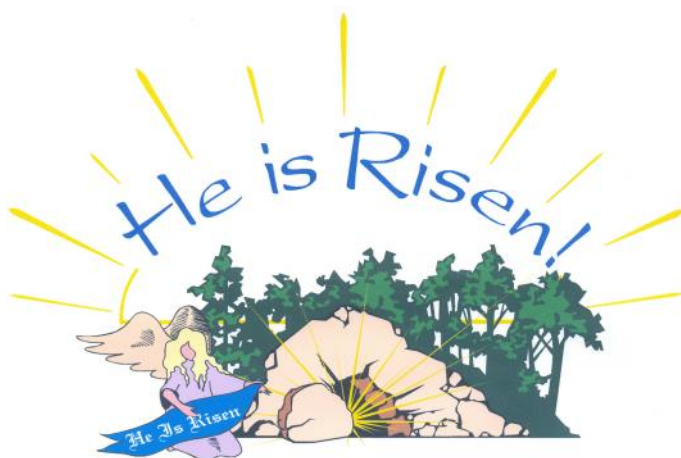
**RIDE TO CHURCH** - Church Building CLOSED by order of the Shawnee County Health Department and consent of the Church Council until further notice. Sorry! No bus rides at this time. We apologize for any inconveniences.



**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY** - The Free Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry is now open every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm in the Parking Lot while supplies last. Please do not park or exit your vehicle. **IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED EVERY VISIT:** Clients MUST provide a PHOTO I.D. with current address (including apartment number, if applicable). If



the address is incorrect, the client must provide a piece of US POSTAL MAIL with name and current address. Clients without identification must see Program Supervisor. Call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 for more information. Equal Opportunity. \*All food is available at no cost. Call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 for more information. **Cash donations needed at this time to purchase needed supplies.** See Jack Janway for more information or details about volunteering.



4th Jared & Amy Cripe  
18th Brian & Lonna  
Hersh



1st Bev McCurdy  
3rd Russ Hunter  
3rd Nancy Cottril  
4th Lynn Reeves  
6th Jessa Greuter  
17th Emily Hersh  
25th Ernie Longstaff  
25th Tamara Eickamn  
26th Adelyn Cripe  
29th Jan Mauck  
30th Harry Carpenter

**EMERGENCIES & HOSPITAL** – If you or a loved one go to the hospital for an emergency or surgery, **the hospital staff and chaplains' office will NOT contact the Church Office or the Pastor.** You or a family member must call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 or Pastor's home at (785) 267-0936. The pastor is willing to visit the hospital and pray before surgeries. Pastor will not be able to visit when he or his children.



Sick &  
Hospitalized







# APRIL

## WORD SEARCH



a d x a l i p c w a i  
y i g b e e d u j n s  
k a a i o l a v t h s  
u m e o h o f d u o e  
f b z i i u f h l i m  
a n c k j a o i i i y  
h d b n g r d o p u i  
a e e e l b i i o j v  
m a g f o o l u d p a  
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b v t o u u n c t o t  
c u n d e r g r a d s  
p a s s o v e r u u e  
e s h o w e r s r y i  
d a t a b f e d u r n  
v b l o o m q f s a i  
e s h p f g z v w x a

### WORDS

showers  
underground  
daffodil  
tulip  
bloom  
taurus  
diamond  
earth  
easter  
passover  
fool



*An Easter Blessing*  
May the resurrection  
of our savior  
be a constant reminder  
of His love and promise  
of eternal life.



"God has a plan for your  
life. The enemy has a  
plan for your life.

Be ready for both and  
wise enough to know  
the difference."



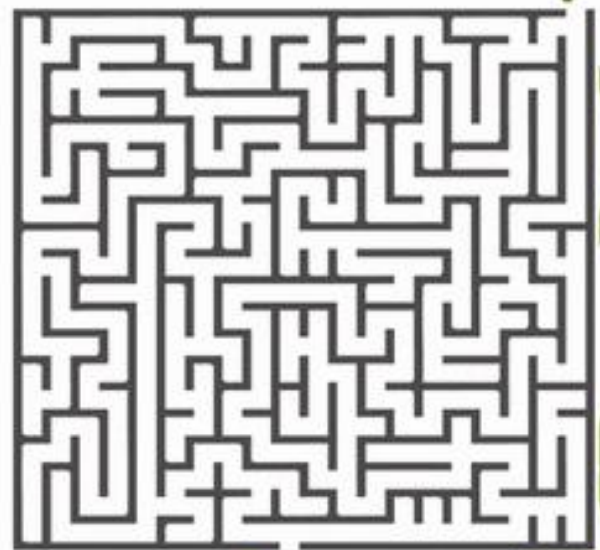
## A Jelly Bean Prayer

**RED** is for the blood He gave  
**GREEN** is for the grass He made  
**YELLOW** is for the sun so bright  
**ORANGE** is for the edge of night  
**BLACK** is for the sins we made  
**WHITE** is for the grace He gave  
**PURPLE** for His hours of sorrow  
**PINK** is for our new tomorrow

A sweet reminder of the true gift given by our saviour... everlasting life.  
May your Easter be filled with blessings as you focus on his love sacrifice.

KEEPEROFTHEHOME.ORG

## Help the Butterfly find the Flower!



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More worksheets at [www.education.com/worksheets](http://www.education.com/worksheets)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 10:30 am Bible Study Online 3:30-5:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team
<b>5 PALM</b> 10:30 am Worship Online	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> No Ladies Night Out  No Men's Night Out	<b>8</b> 10:30 am Bible Study Online 3:30-5:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team
<b>12 EASTER</b> 10:30 am Worship Online	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)	<b>15</b> 10:30 am Bible Study Online 3:30-5:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team
<b>19</b> 10:30 am Worship Online	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Bible Study Online 3:30-5:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team
<b>26</b> 10:30 am Worship Online	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30 am Bible Study Online 3:30-5:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry	<b>30</b>		



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

**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](mailto: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 Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm , Tuesday – Friday.

**RIDE TO CHURCH** - If you or your children would like a ride to/from a worship **call Harry Carpenter, Bus Driver at (785) 608-3937 [no text messages] on Saturday.** The van leaves at 8:15 AM on Sunday mornings for Sunday School. Volunteers are needed to ride along with our driver to transport children on Sundays and Wednesdays. See Harry Carpenter for more information or to volunteer.

**WORSHIP LEADERS: APRIL**

**Acolytes** – Lonna Hersh & David Greuter

**Communion Servers in Service** –

**Communion Homebound Ministers** - See Pastor Ivan to Sign-Up

**Scripture Readers** – Pat Carpenter

**Technology Team** – Tom Mansfield, Brice Smith, and Bruno Sprengs

**Ushers** – Harry Carpenter, Jack Janway, Ernie Longstaff, Doug Mauck  
Clarence Payne

