

The Witness

JUNE 2020 VOL 106 #6

PENTECOST - THE NEW, NEW NORMAL

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”(2 Corinth. 5:17)

Pastor’s Corner - A new normal? It seems like everywhere one turns there is someone talking about a “new normal.” What will life be like after COVID 19? How will our lives return to the usual, typical, and expected patterns of living we enjoyed before the pandemic? Will there be new, permanent, lifestyle changes like wearing masks? There is a lot of guessing and speculating.

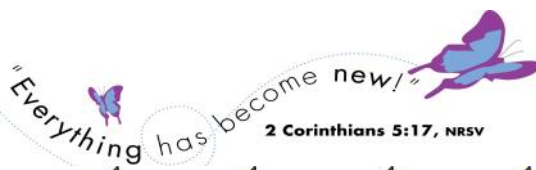
This is not the first “new normal” for many of us. I recently tried to describe to one of my children our American life prior to the 9-11 attacks. She could hardly comprehend life before all of our security/safety measures. You may remember when citizens could walk up to airport gates without going through security. It is obvious to every generation, change is a constant part of life!

Life changed dramatically for the early Church at and after Pentecost! Prior to the outpouring of the promised Paraclete (the Holy Spirit), the followers of Jesus struggled to understand his teachings, follow his orders, and live peacefully with one another. After Pentecost, a new life in the Spirit - a new normal - came upon Jesus’ people. His followers went from a ragamuffin band of misfits to a world changing force for good who loves, shared, and help others (Acts 2). The disciples were emboldened with a unifying passion for evangelism. Crowds converted to Christ. Life in the Roman republic radically changed as everyday disciples took the good news of God’s forgiving love and offer of new life in Christ to the various people groups. This new normal - Life in the Spirit - changed the world forever!

As we move into the Season after Pentecost, we will focus on God’s offer of a new normal - a redeemed life in Jesus Christ. We will spend the summer months asking the tough question:

What is God planning as His new normal in our upside down world?

~ Blessings, Pastor Ivan



WORSHIP WITH US!

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

Twenty-Five Sundays from Trinity Sunday (June 7) until Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 22, 2020)

- ♦ **JUNE 7 - TRINITY**
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20
- ♦ **JUNE 14 - 2nd Sunday**
Genesis 18:1-15
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8
- ♦ **JUNE 21 - 3rd Sunday**
Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1-11
Matthew 10:24-39
- ♦ **JUNE 28 - 4th Sunday**
Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42



REOPEN PLAN – The Church Council voted unanimously on Tuesday, May 12 to adopt “The Strategic Plan to Reopen West Side Baptist Church” (Plan) in voluntary cooperation with the State of Kansas’ “**Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas,**” the Shawnee County Health Department, and our denominational leadership in response to the Coronavirus (COVID 19) national emergency.



On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Kansas issued a new Executive Order (No. 20-34) to revise and implement Phase 2 of “Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas.” Therefore, the Church’s Plan was updated to reflect the changes to the State and Shawnee County plans. **The church building is OPEN to the PUBLIC during Ad Astra PHASE 2 and afterward.** The revised Ad Astra Plan allows community centers, libraries, and other places to open for mass gatherings on or after Friday, May 22, 2020. **Therefore, the Sanctuary will be OPEN for all religious services and the building will be OPEN to classes, meetings, public gatherings, community groups using the building, and community assistance programs.**

Every person on church property must comply with public health orders, hygiene guidelines, and government regulations. **High-risk individuals should consider providing more intensive precautions and should conduct themselves as if they are a significant risk to the high-risk individual, including staying-safe-at-home.** See the Shawnee County Health Department website (<https://www.snco.us/hd>) for more information.

EMERGENCIES & HOSPITAL COVID UPDATE

– If you or a loved one go to the hospital for an emergency or surgery, the hospital will NOT allow visitors - including clergy - at this time unless it is a life-and-death situation. The 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 call the Pastor at Home (785) 267-0936. The Pastor is willing to visit the hospital and pray before surgeries.

BABY CLOSET - Thank you to the Am. Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR) for the kind gift of a **\$750.00 Special Ministry Grant** for the Baby Closet. Congratulations to Pat Carreno for successfully writing and receiving the grant. Thank you Rita Adams for submitting the Special Ministry Grant to the Joy Public Broadcasting Board of Directors who cheerfully gave the Baby Closet an additional **Supplemental Ministry Grant of \$1,500.00.** **We are very grateful for these investments in our community assistance programs!**

TREASURER’S REPORT -

Our income for April was \$10,164.80 and our income to date totals \$76,965.11. This is our lowest monthly income this year even with Easter’s offering of \$5,022.

Every three months we receive a check from Kroger’s for their Dillon's Community Rewards Program. The check anywhere from \$30 to \$60 is a result of individuals who have registered their Dillon's card giving West Side Baptist as their charity. The program started the last half of 2016 and, with the \$39.75 check just received, West Side has received \$872.21 from the program. If you shop at Dillon's and haven't registered your charity, please consider doing so for West Side Baptist. Here is the link: <https://www.dillons.com/community/community-rewards> If you need any help, just ask.

Our expenses for April totaled \$16,934.29 and for the year totals \$85,400.48. We have several people choosing to give their tithe online so we have a new line item 7627 which is the small amount we pay for the credit card Square service charge. To date this year we have paid \$24.58.

Our net income to date is -\$8,435.37.

I notified you last month that our application for the CARES / Paycheck Protection Program was approved by Capital Federal Bank. The \$23,500 was deposited in our capital campaign checking account. As of this week it was used as intended to pay two-months salaries and utilities totaling \$23,500. It will remain as a loan until we fulfill the loan requirements and then the bank will forgive the loan.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

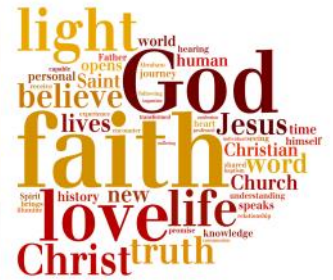
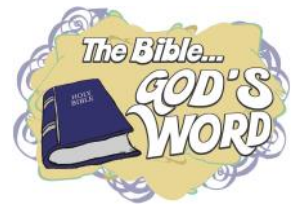
Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

Christian Ed

abccr.org/camping2020/ **FREE! VIRTUAL CAMP**

JUNE 2020

REGISTER NOW



Campers Needed!

Even though we cannot be together this summer, we are still offering camp virtually. Students will meet via zoom starting June 1 and through June 26 for 60-90 minutes once a week.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

- Primary (Grades 2-4)**
Camp Christy TBD
Cross Wind TBD

- Junior (Grades 4-6)**
Camp Christy Tuesday 3 pm
Cross Wind Tuesday 3 pm

- Middle School (Grades 6-8)**
Camp Christy Wednesday 7 pm
Cross Wind Thursday afternoon TBD

- Senior High (Grades 9-12)**
Camp Christy Wednesday 7 pm
Cross Wind Thursday afternoon TBD



The C.E. Committee met the last week of May and discussed several program areas. Due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic our plans are subject to change, but we have tentatively set the following:

- Summer Sunday School Cinema - Beginning August 4, 2020, for one month.
- Opening Night Celebration for WWW – September 2, 2020.
- WWW for fall semester- Beginning September 9, 2020.



The C.E. Committee also decided we would **not** offer a VBS this summer and there will be **no** regular Sunday School classes at church until fall. All summer camps conducted by ABCCR were canceled. We had 4 students earn scholarships to help pay their camp expenses, so those scholarships will be honored and applied to camp fees next year.


We would like to invite you to join the Bible Study led by Pastor Ivan on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in Holmer Hall or by Zoom at 6:30 pm also on Wednesdays. All women are invited to join the Women's Class on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm, led by Rexanne Greuter on Zoom. We appreciate both Pastor Ivan and Rexanne for continuing to prepare and lead these studies during this time.

We are certainly looking forward to a time when we can again enjoy all of our activities in fellowship with one another.
Alice Payne, Christian Education Coordinator



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. 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.

APRIL 2020 PANTRY REPORT: 1,557 Individuals (739 adults, 550 children, and 268 seniors) in 405 families were able to receive 7,782 pounds of free bread, fruits, vegetables, and other items from the Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry at West Side Baptist Church during the month of April 2020. This is a 98.98% increase in the number of individuals seeking help (a 117.82% increase in the number of children being feed) in twice the number of families receiving free food compared to two months ago, prior to the Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic.



BIBLE STUDY – The Ecumenical Bible Study will start again **on Wednesday, June 3, in PERSON at 10:30 AM and ONLINE at 6:30 PM via Zoom.** The In-Person study will be held in Holmer Hall (first-floor parlor). It is limited to 15 participants who practice social distancing, wash hands, wear face masks, and follow other health and safety guidelines. We will continue our study of "The Gospel of Matthew"



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



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

Doorstep Newsletter Article – June 2020

With the COVID-19 restraints on everyone, Doorstep has continued to provide services to our neighbors in need through phone intakes. We have been assisting with food, rent, utilities, prescriptions, dental and gas vouchers. We know we will continue to see more people in need as this continues, and we try to get back to 'normal'. We appreciate those who have donated food and/or money during this time to help Doorstep. The staff and food room volunteers have continued working to help our neighbors.

We are working on opening the clothing room on limited days, and by appointment only, and taking donations. Once we have something in place we will update our volunteers, board members, coordinators, member congregations and the public through our Facebook page... Doorstep Inc. Please Like and Follow us for the most up-to-date information. **Save the date...**

In July, Doorstep will combine our Summer Cash Bash to raise \$20,000 and matching funds, Christmas in July to collect donations for our adopted families, and the Envista Cares Challenge where Doorstep is the charity in July!

Mission Moments

One Great Hour of Sharing

We will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in June. Our goal is \$1,500. This year the monies will go to provide support for families and churches in the midst of the COVID-19 virus pandemic.



sharing resources. changing lives.

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and International Ministries (IM), also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society—on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA—seek One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) COVID emergency support to help families, churches and communities find relief and recovery across the United States, Puerto Rico and countries around the world served by IM.

Funds raised for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico will be utilized by ABHMS as part of an emergency strategic plan—COVID RECOVERY: Renewing Hope and Service—currently being developed to address the far-reaching needs created by the current pandemic. Moreover, OGHS contributions will support American Baptist regions and churches dealing with current challenges as well as those bound to follow in the weeks and years ahead.

Specifically, donations to ABHMS' OGHS appeal will assist with immediate needs, such as unemployment or loss of income, housing, hunger and access to healthcare. Donations will also fund programs supporting the well-being and mental health of faith leaders, congregations and communities. In the current context of social distancing, as churches seek to connect with members through online connections, the need for enhanced technology has emerged in many churches.

OGHS COVID RESPONSE: INTERNATIONAL funds given for global relief will be used by IM to respond to requests by international partners for emergency grants. Gifts will meet immediate needs for feeding, housing and providing healthcare for persons impacted by COVID-19, with particular support for emergent and unmet needs of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrant populations. Funds will also support IM's global partners at risk of suspending vital services to vulnerable members of their communities and will facilitate activities and programs focused on sustainable solutions that address the long-term impact of the pandemic.



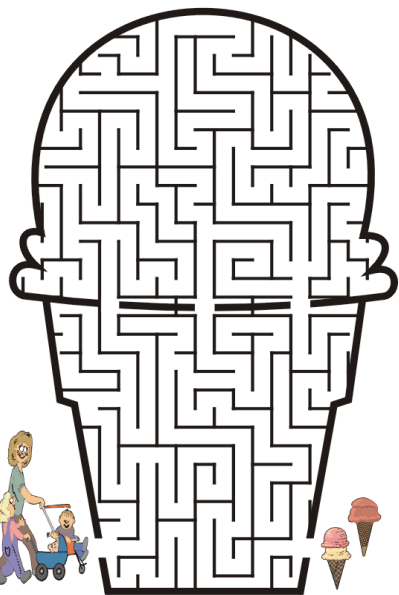
One Great Hour

O F S H A R I N G

Bethel and Murrow

Due to health restrictions and concerns related to the COVID-19 outbreak, we will NOT be going to serve a meal and lead worship at the Bethel Neighborhood Center on May 29th. Instead, we have sent a check to help defray the costs of a meal. Also, we have postponed our work trip to the Murrow Indian Children's home in Muskogee, Oklahoma that was scheduled for June 1-4. At this time, we have not set a new date for the trip. The Mission Committee will continue to monitor and reassess our involvement as our various partner organizations reopen. We will keep you posted!

~ Jim Goodnow, Missions



Father's Day Word Scramble

DIRECTIONS: Unscramble the letters to form the names of ten different words to describe Dad. Then unscramble the shaded letters to answer the riddle.

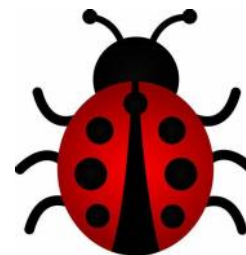
- RFUELAC
- OSDAEHNM
- ONRGTS
- YALLO
- LUEHPFL
- DINK
- RLEECV
- EEVDTOD
- NLILTARIB
- WIES



What do you call a monkey who is just like his father?

!

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Summer Time



Dad, You're a Man of Few Words
With just one look
 my dad said all I needed to hear.
With just one look
 my dad instilled a reverential fear
With just one look
 my dad let us kids know just who was boss.
With just one look
 his pride and love would always come across.
Author Unknown

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

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



June 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 Closed	2 5:30 pm No Ladies Night Out 5:30 pm No Men's Night Out	3 10:30 am Bible Study (HH) 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Online Bible Study	4	5	6 1:00 pm Clean Sanctuary 1:30 pm Worship Team
7 Trinity COMMUNION No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	8 Closed	9 6:00 pm Council Meeting	10 10:30 am Bible Study (HH) 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Online Bible Study	11	12	13 1:00 pm Clean Sanctuary 1:30 pm Worship Team
14 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	15 Closed	16	17 10:30 am Bible Study (HH) 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Online Bible Study	18	19	20 1:00 pm Clean Sanctuary 1:30 pm Worship Team
21 FATHER'S DAY No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Mission Com	22 Closed	23 6:30 pm Outreach Meeting	24 10:30 am Bible Study (HH) 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Online Bible Study	25	26	27 1:00 pm Clean Sanctuary 1:30 pm Worship Team
28 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	29 Closed	30				

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 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: JUNE

Acolytes – Macy Greuter, Becky Poe

Communion Servers in Service –

Communion Homebound Ministers - See Pastor Ivan to Sign-Up

Scripture Readers – Sonia Roling, Marianne Spano

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

Ushers – Chuck Cozad, Dick May, Steve May, Clarence Payne and
Aaron Poe

