

# The Witness

JULY 2020 | VOL 106 #7

## ***FREEDOM TO SERVE***

**“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love ” (Galatians 5:13 NLT)**

**Pastor's Corner** - We are almost there: Phase 4. There is light at the end of this viral tunnel: freedom for living! Our society is slowly edging its way through this epidemic to arrive (hopefully) at the end of restrictions. I am looking forward to that joyous moment when we all can enjoy our cherished freedoms: the freedom to assemble, the freedom to associate, the freedom of religious expression...even the freedom to demonstrate and protest. What better time to celebration freedom in America than July?!?

As many Americans emerge from isolation and strict social-distancing (while others wait to resurface after a vaccine), I have asked my friends and colleagues: What are you going to do now that you're free? They say, "spending less, saving more," doing more outdoor things with the family (this may explain why all of the bikes, canoe paddles, and outdoor equipment is gone in retail stores), gardening, finishing the to-do-list, and savoring time with family and friends." Some have said they are enjoying being back to their "normal:" eating at their favorite restaurants, gathering in mass with friends, doing everything previously forbidden (sometimes I don't ask). what will you do with the extra energy, money and time you have reclaimed?

The Apostle Paul wanted early Christians to know: They were free! Jesus Christ's death on the cross of Calvary liberated them from the power of sin, shame, guilt, judgment...the debilitating problem of trying to...



**HOLY COMMUNION** - The Ordinance of Holy Communion will be observed on the second Sunday in July. The Table is open to all persons of faith regardless of church affiliation, membership, or tradition. Gluten-free and home delivery available.



It is  
for  
**FREEDOM**  
that  
**CHRIST**  
has set  
us  
**FREE.**

**Galatians 5:1**

## **WORSHIP WITH US!**

### **THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST**

- ♦ **JULY 5 - Pentecost +5**  
**Genesis 24:34-67**  
**Psalm 45:10-17**  
**Romans 7:15-25a**  
**Matthew 11:16-30**
- ♦ **JULY 12 - Pentecost +6**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Genesis 25:19-34**  
**Psalm 119:105-112**  
**Romans 8:1-11**  
**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**
- ♦ **JULY 19 - Pentecost +7**  
**Genesis 28:10-19a**  
**Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24**  
**Romans 8:12-25**  
**Matthew 13:24-43**
- ♦ **JULY 26 - Pentecost +8**  
**Genesis 29:15-28**  
**Psalm 105:1-11, 45b**  
**Romans 8:26-39**  
**Matthew 13:31-52**



atone for their pasts. Now, free from the law of sin and death, Paul encouraged them to chose to do something with their freedom! They could serve God and others through obedience to Jesus Christ's or they could even go back to the bad behaviors which had enslaved them. Paul wrote them a warning: do not go back into hedonism (the moral philosophy of seeking pleasure and avoiding suffering as the only components of well-being). Instead, they could use their privileged position to pursue a different future: to humbly serve others as Jesus showed us in the Gospels. He wrote:

**“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love ” (Gal. 5:13 NLT).**

As we revel in our freedoms and enjoy our Independence Day celebrations, let us remember, **American Christians have two liberty days:** The 4th of July (our national holiday), and our Decision Day (the day God sets us free by accepting Jesus' forever forgiveness in faith). What will you do with your freedoms? Will you use them for yourself or humbly fill the needs of someone else?

~Sunny Summer Blessings,  
Pastor Ivan



**INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY –** The Church Office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Independence Day holiday. The Office will reopen on Tuesday, July 7 at 8:00 AM.

**VACATION -** The Church Council approved Pastor Ivan's request for vacation over the 4th of July weekend to enjoy a camping trip with his family. Please call the Church Office or his cellphone if you need to speak with him.



**DONALD MORRIS** — Don was a good friend and faithful member of West Side Baptist Church. **His family and friends celebrated his life and legacy on Thursday, June 18 at the Kevin Brenner Family Funeral Home (see video at website: [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com/obituaries/Donald-Morris-23](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com/obituaries/Donald-Morris-23)).** The family asks for memorial contributions to be made to West Side Baptist Church. You may give in worship, in the Church Office, by mail, or online at the WSBC page: <https://west-side-baptist-church.square>.



**BIBLE STUDIES** – Join one or more of our free studies which are open to the public.

**“Gospel of Matthew”** - Pastor leads a Bible Study on **Wednesdays IN-PERSON at 10:30 AM, Holmer Hall, and ONLINE at 6:30 PM via ZOOM** (see email for Meeting ID number and Password).

**Women's Bible Study** is held on **Tuesdays at 4:00 pm online (via Zoom).** Call Rexanne if you would like to participate in this study.





**WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE (ONLINE) - Save the dates! The World Mission Conference is coming to you through five 30 minute Live Stream events on July 14, 16, 21, 23 & 28 at 5:00pm (CDT).** Registration for this free event is required for security reasons. Join us for life-changing storytelling and the latest news and testimonies from IM's global servants, who will help you see with 20/20 vision that God's mission is alive and well around the world.

1. **Tuesday, July 14 – Health & Wellness**
  - **Kristy Engel** (Global Consultant)
  - **Katherine & Wayne Niles** (D.R. Congo)
2. **Thursday, July 16 – Abolition of Trafficking in Persons & Global Slavery and Mission From Everywhere to Everyone**
  - **Jeni Pedzinski** (Thailand)
  - **Katie & Taku Longkumer** (India)
3. **Tuesday, July 21 – Abolition of Trafficking in Persons & Global Slavery, Education and Evangelism**
  - **Annie & Jeff Dieselberg** (Thailand)
  - **Gordon & Lee Ann Hwang** (Japan)
4. **Thursday, July 23 – Theological Education and Health & Wellness**
  - **JD & Rhonda Reed** (Bolivia)
  - **Kihomi Ngwemi & Nzunga Mabudiga** (Haiti)
5. **Tuesday, July 28 – Economic Development, Mission From Everywhere to Everyone and Short Term Mission Engagement**
  - **Ann & Bruce Borquist** (Global Consultants)
  - **Madeline Flores-López** (Dom. Republic)

Register online at:  
[www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)



**SOE**  
STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE  
IN SHORT-TERM MISSION

**FINANCE REPORT -** Our income for May was \$13,356.75 compared to \$10,164.80 in April. The increase was mainly due to our general offerings that were back to more of a “normal” monthly amount. It also includes a \$750 grant for Baby Closet from the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. Thank you ABCCR!

Our expenses for May totaled \$17,692.62 compared to \$16,934.29 in April. In reviewing any additional expenses for the month, we had special light bulbs purchased, postage bought, and two payments on our copier contract – one for April and one for May.

Our net income to date is -\$19,698.46. Our approved 2020 budget has us using some of our investment dollars to balance the budget by this time of the year but we have chosen not to move money out of our Wells Fargo investments at this time. Instead we have “borrowed” from the \$26,104.65 offerings designated for the building fund. When we feel it is smart to move some of our investment funds, then we will transfer the building funds into the Capital Campaign account.

The \$23,500 from Capital Federal Bank for the CARES / Paycheck Protection Program was moved out of Capital Federal into our general fund at US Bank to pay for salaries and utilities.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



# Upcoming Events:

## NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are planning and hoping to host a shortened version (one month) of Summer Sunday School Cinema this year. **Beginning August 2, we will show the movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"**, starring Tom Hanks. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.



"There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind."  
- Fred Rogers

## OUTREACH - The Baby Closet will return to regular hours beginning 1 July 2020.

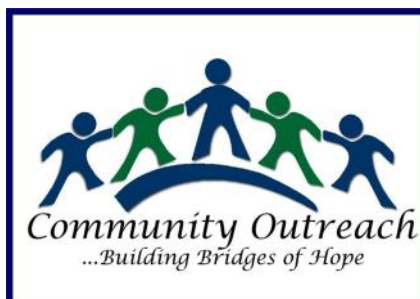
- **Monday** from 9:00 to 11:00 am,
- **Wednesday** from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and
- **Thursday** from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

**The Food Pantry** will be in the garage during July **Wednesdays the 15th and the 22nd from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.** This will allow cleaning of all items used in the garage before moving back inside. Regular service on every Wednesday will begin in August.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank Nancy Ohse, Kathy Frye, Jeannine Miller and others for constructing and providing masks during our pandemic operations. Many hundreds of masks provided safety to both Food Pantry and Baby Closet volunteers as well as our clientele.

I would also like to give our mask enforcement squad (Ivan and Jessa Greuter) a pat on the back for their perseverance in their duties. Many people waiting in line would spot either of them and immediately put on their masks and fasten their seatbelts as well as attend to any other safety item before moving up for service.

Jack Janway,  
Outreach



7th Jay & Marty Stevenson  
27th Clarence & Alice Payne



2nd Don Morris  
2nd Theresa Milton  
6th Jan Mansfield  
8th Doug Mauck  
13th Molly Morris  
15th Virginia Mansfield  
15th Nancy Lindberg  
20th June Cunningham  
29th Sage Poe  
30th Sonia Roling  
30th Dick May Jr.  
31st Fran Seymour Hunter

## 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



Sick and  
Hospitalized

**MISSION MOMENTS** - WOW!!!! Thank you for your very generous monetary gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during June. We actually exceeded the goal after the first Sunday! May our awesome God richly bless you for the outpouring of love and caring you have shown during these challenging times!

**FOOD PANTRY** - Free Fruit and Vegetable Food Pantry on **Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, while supplies last.** **MOBILE SITE:** enter western PARKING LOT from 4th and CLAY Streets; do not park or exit your vehicle. Equal Opportunity. \*All food is available at no cost. **Please wear a face mask or cover** to protect the health and safety of our volunteers. **MAY 2020 PANTRY REPORT:** 1,283 Individuals (674 adults, 426 children, and 183 seniors) in 342 families were able to receive 10,252 pounds of free bread, fruits, vegetables, and other items from the Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry at West Side Baptist Church during the month of MAY 2020. Thank you to Jack and his volunteers for serving an average of 86 families per week, which is thirty more families (60% increase) compared to the months prior to the pandemic.

**GIVING** – Thank you for giving generously during the Coronavirus (COVID 19) national crisis. Please mail your gifts to the Church, drop off in the secure mailbox, or give ONLINE at <https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>.



**ONLINE WORSHIP** - Stay Safe at Home but Pray with the Church! Join us **ONLINE for WORSHIP this Sunday at 10:30 am.** The service bulletin with song lyrics is attached to this electronic mail or downloaded at <https://wsbctoepka.org/> downloads. All services will be broadcast LIVE on **FACEBOOK** AND the **YOUTUBE**.

#### **DOORSTEP NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – JULY, 2020**

This July we are taking all of our summer events and rolling them into one month! We have Christmas in July collections for our adopted families this December, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Cash Bash, and this year Doorstep is the Envista Cares charity for July!



Last December Doorstep assisted 277 households involving 883 individuals with Christmas gifts and food. Each year we celebrate “Christmas in July” to get a jump start on collecting new items for our annual Christmas adoption! Our goal is to help alleviate some of the strain during the holidays by also collecting items mid-year. Doorstep will adopt 260 households with 800+ individuals this December through the Christmas Bureau. Our focus for Christmas in July is household items, health kit items, toys, school supplies, gifts for men and women, sheet sets, and blankets. These are items that are not seasonal, and easy to find this time of year! The families we adopt are in need of basic items. They are so happy to receive a new set of dishes, new sheets, pots and pans, or a crockpot! We give every family a blanket or quilt.

Each school aged child we adopt receives school supplies and a backpack, and each household receives a health kit filled with hygiene products, and wrapped with a new bath towel, hand towel and washcloth! Each child receives one bigger toy as their gift, and other smaller items are available along with games, books, stuffed animals, stocking stuffers etc.

You can bring your Christmas donations to worship in July (if your congregation is open), or to Doorstep, Monday – Friday, 8am – 3pm.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Cash Bash has the same anonymous donor offering up \$8,000 in match money if we can raise \$20,000 during the month of July in donations! And, to make it even better... Envista Credit Union is making Doorstep the Envista Cares charity in July, and will match \$2,500 in donations!

During this rough year of COVID-19, help us have a great July, and push us on through to the end of the year, and the Christmas Store, with your generous donations!

***Thank you to the Benevolence Committee for sharing \$1,000.00 from WSBC's Fellowship Fund in June with Doorsteps, Inc. Funds were used to help our neighbors with basic utility bills and household supplies.***





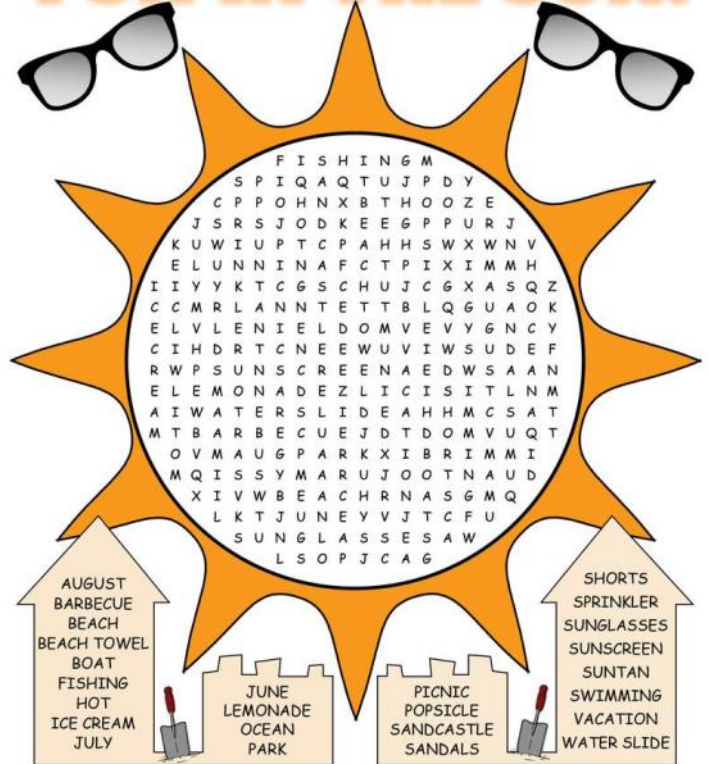
# Happy Independence Day!

## 4th of July Word Search

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## FUN IN THE SUN!



mpmideas.com

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ABLAZE	CROWDS	FEAST	FREEDOM
ANTHEM	DECORATIONS	FLAG	INDEPENDENCE
BACKYARD	BANG	AMERICA	HISTORY
BLAST	BOOM	FIRECRACKERS	LIBERTY
GATHERING	BATTLEFIELD	ROCKETS	NATIONAL
RED	CAMPING	EXPLOSIONS	PARADES
WHITE	DELICIOUS	MUSIC	PATRIOTIC
BLUE	DESSERT	PICNICS	FIREWORKS
CAVALCADE	DEMOCRACY	POTLUCK	FESTIVAL
CELEBRATION	EMOTIONAL		

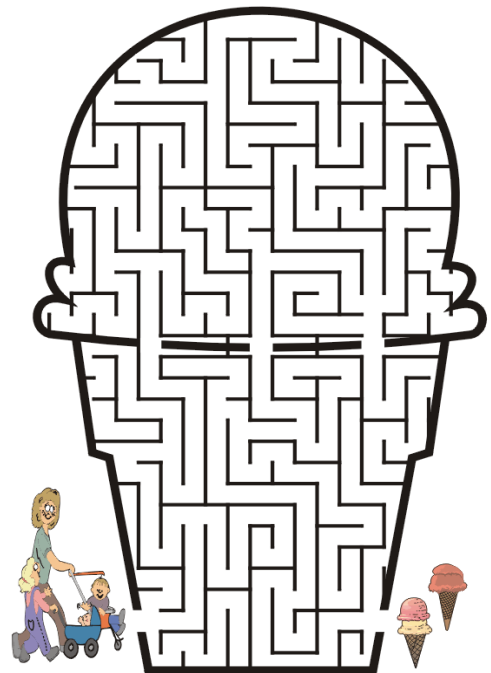


### 1 Peter 2:16

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

One  
Nation  
Under God

Live  
Your Faith





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 Bible Study (HH) 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Closet No Food Pantry 6:30 Bible Study (Online)	2 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet	3 OFFICE CLOSED HOLIDAY	4 
5 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	7 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Ladies Night Out @ 5:30 pm	8 10:30 Bible Study (HH) 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Closet No Pantry 6:30 Bible Study (Online)	9 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet	10	11 10:00 am Worship Com. (HH) 1:30 pm Worship Team
12 Communion No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	13 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	14 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 5:00 World Mission Conf (Online) 6:00 pm Council	15 10:30 Bible Study (HH) 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 Bible Study (Online)	16 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet 5:00 World Mission Conf (Online)	17	18 1:30 pm Worship Team
19 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Mission Mtg	20 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	21 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 5:00 World Mission Conf (Online)	22 10:30 Bible Study (HH) 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 Bible	23 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet 5:00 World Mission Conf (Online)	24	25 1:30 pm Worship Team
26 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet No DAR	28 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 5:00 World Miss (Online) 6:30 pm Outreach (HH)	29 10:30 Bible Study (HH) 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Closet No Pantry 6:30 Bible Study (Online)	30 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet 6:00 pm NIA	31	

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: JULY**

**Acolytes** – Tera Triggs & Pat Carpenter

**Scripture Readers** – Sonia Roling

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

