

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

The Witness

AUGUST 2020 | VOL 106 # 8

YEAR OF JUBILEE! RELAX! GOD HAS THIS...

“Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.

The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you. ”

(Leviticus 25:10 NIV)

Pastor’s Corner - Is there anyone else who is pleasantly surprised when Facebook Memories pop-up in their news feed (to see your memories, click Memories on the left side of FB news feed)? My heart stirs when pictures and posts of my family appear from two, three, six, or even eleven years ago (the panoramic header was taken seven years ago from my brother’s back porch in Superior, Montana). Facebook reminds me of the experiencing that have shaped my life like digging buckets of potatoes (Red Russets, Yukon golds, and Kennebec); harvesting, pickling, and preserving vegetables and herbs; holiday celebrations, trips to Yellowstone and Montana; catching my first cut-throat trout; dancing at the Greek restaurant; and picking huckleberries with my brother. The FB Memories help me remember positive times in my life since I am prone to forget or focus on what can be adapted and perfected instead of what is.

A memory which has flashed this summer has been my Sabbatical in 2012 (sorry if you are tired of hearing about England). A sabbatical is “a period of paid leave granted to university teachers, clergy, or other workers for study or travel, traditionally one year for every seven years worked.” My family and I were blessed to spend eight-weeks together in Europe plus four weeks in the US to “rest, renew, and reconnect as a family” thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc. and my congregation.

It was a game-changer for me, specifically when Macy spoke truth into my life. She said, “Dad, I’ve seen you more the last two weeks than I have seen you all my life!” At that moment I decided to shift my focus from work to building stronger relationships with my wife and kids. We made major changes in our lives so we could have more time together as a family. The sabbatical taught me to enjoy the gift of time - even times to rest!

Today, there is a lot of talk in religious circles that our world needs “rest, renewal, and time to reconnect with family.” Americans are burned-out, exhausted, stressed, and (continued)

WORSHIP WITH US!

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

- ♦ **AUG. 2 - Pentecost +9
HOLY COMMUNION
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21**

- ♦ **AUG. 9 - Pentecost +10
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33**

- ♦ **AUG. 16 - Pentecost +11
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:10-28**

- ♦ **AUG. 23 - Pentecost +12
Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20**

- ♦ **AUG. 30 - Pentecost +13
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28**

at their wits ends. Researchers and scientists do not need to tell us what we already know: We are exhausted! All of us need a break— an extended vacation. We all need time to rest!

The good news is ***It's a Sabbatical Year!*** In the book of Leviticus, God told Moses to set aside one year of rest for every seven (where academia developed the idea of the sabbatical). This was similar to God's command to set aside one day every seven for the Sabbath. God's people were to designate every fiftieth year (7 sabbatical years or 7 x 7), as an entire year of rest. God said, "Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you" (Leviticus 25:10 NIV). The Lord gave His people a priceless gift: *unplanned time!*

During this fiftieth year, no work was to be accomplished, no crops were to be planted, no grapes were to be harvested; everyone and everything (including the animals and the land) were to enjoy an extended time of rest. Old Testament scholars tell us this practice didn't happen very often (last celebrated hundred of years before the destruction of the Second Temple). Economies, families, and societies were not able to plan or sustain an entire year with no buying, selling, productivity, or taxes. Today, religious leaders are asking if God is calling (or even causing) the world to rest. **Has the Lord eliminated all of our programs, activities, sports, and delayed the start of school so we could enjoy an extended time to "cease work or movement in order to relax, refresh oneself, or recover strength"?** I know there are plenty of people who want things to go back to

often means "hectic, fast-paced, and task-focused. I know, however, if we give up this time of sabbath rest, we will long for it again. So, don't give up this gracious gift!

I know it is a hard time to live but I pray we will try to enjoy it! It took me ten days to stop thinking about work in 2012 (Yes, I kept track). We were enjoying England but my mind was still back at work, worrying about everything that needed to get done. When I finally stopped striving and relaxed - slept-in and took a long nap - I discovered the space and time my heart, mind, and body desperately needed! Then I learned to reconnect with my family. We also found that our best experiences were times when we did the unplanned and were unstructured.

So, blow the trumpet, take a deep breath, go on a long walk with family or friend, lay down the textbooks, *stop making work the center of your life*, enjoy some time sleeping in the porch swing (safely!), and give thanks for this sabbatical, joyful, Jubilee rest. I am certain God can speak truth into our lives, and this experience can be a game-changer! ~ Blessings of Rest!

Pastor Ivan



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.



OUR CHURCH FINANCES - Your second quarter of giving statement is available to be picked up at the church. We print them each quarter so you can check accuracy but also so you can reflect on how you're supporting our church. The statements will be mailed to those who can't stop by. This second quarter has been a challenge for our church family as we support our church even though we're not always able to attend the services.

We are halfway through our budget year. Our income for June was \$15,316.00. The total for the year to date is \$105,596.06 or 44.5%

Our expenses for June totaled \$18,164.23. The total for the year to date is \$121,173.66 or 46.05%

Our net income to date is -\$42,694.78. Keep in mind that even though our net income is a negative, our balance sheet shows \$39,243.44 in our checking account. Our general checking account has Capital Campaign funds of \$26,602.18 that haven't been transferred to the building fund account. Also, there are \$4,809.26 of Youth Funds, \$2,600 in Outreach and \$3,221.81 in Baby Closet that are also in our checking 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 help pay for salaries and utilities. Only \$874.11 remains to be used. We can be thankful for this federal program that we qualified for during this pandemic. Like many churches, it helped us through tough times when people weren't working and we were unable to have onsite church activities.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



AN INVITATION FROM CHRISTIAN ED....

Please join us for fun and fellowship on Sunday, August 2 as we begin our Summer Sunday School Cinema. We will be viewing and discussing the film "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" over a 5 week period. There will be food and drink served @ 9:00 and the movie will begin @ 9:15. We hope to see you there!



OTHER NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN ED....

Our committee has decided to postpone the opening of Wonderful West Side Wednesdays that we had tentatively scheduled for September. We will continue to discuss the viability of this program over the next few months.

We do hope to return to a schedule of "regular" Sunday School beginning Sept 13. Watch for more details soon.

Pastor Ivan continues to lead a Bible Study on Wednesdays, and Rexanne hosts a women's group study on Tuesdays via Zoom. See the bulletin for details.

~Alice Payne, Coordinator of Christian Education

SIGN UP FOR DOORSTEP'S NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR WALK/5K RUN!

Sunday, October 4th is the date for this year's fundraiser! We are still planning to move forward with the fundraiser this year and make changes, if needed, as time progresses.

You can sign up to participate yourself for \$30 including a t-shirt (deadline September 16th to order a shirt) or sponsor a walker/runner! Those getting sponsors will get a free t-shirt with pledges of \$100 or more. All proceeds will benefit Doorstep, Inc.

Get your family, friends, youth, community groups together and join us this October!



We are excited about this event! It will start/end from shelter houses 1 & 2 at Lake Shawnee. The Walk/Run will start at 2:00pm with celebrity starter, Chris Fisher from WIBW-TV 13 joining us again this year! We will have some entertainment prior to the start and after the walk/run return to the shelter houses for a snacks & drinks!

You can sign up on our website:

www.DoorstepTopeka.org after August 1st.

Sign-up and sponsor forms are also available from the website or congregations.

FOOD PANTRY - Free Fruit and Vegetable Food Pantry on **Wednesdays** from **3:30 to 5:30 pm**, while supplies last. **MOBILE SITE:**



2nd Dick Jr. & Nancy May
14th Larry & Shirley Dell
24th Ivan & Rexanne Greuter
28th Harry & Pat Carpenter

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 mask or face covering to protect the health and safety of our volunteers. Volunteers are needed to serve July 15 and 22. There will be no food pantry on July 29 for a summer recess. Thank you to Harvesters Community Food Network for the charitable donation of \$1,100.00 to our community assistance food programs (kitchen and pantry).**

~ Jack Janway, Outreach

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 electronic mail or downloaded at <https://wsbctopeka.org/> downloads. All services will be broadcast **LIVE on FACEBOOK AND the YOUTUBE**.



6th Dan Decker
15th Randall Carrier
16th Jim Goodnow
17th Wayne Cottril
19th Nelda Janway
19th Hazel Olson–Smith
22nd Kim Maggard
24th Jay Stevenson

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



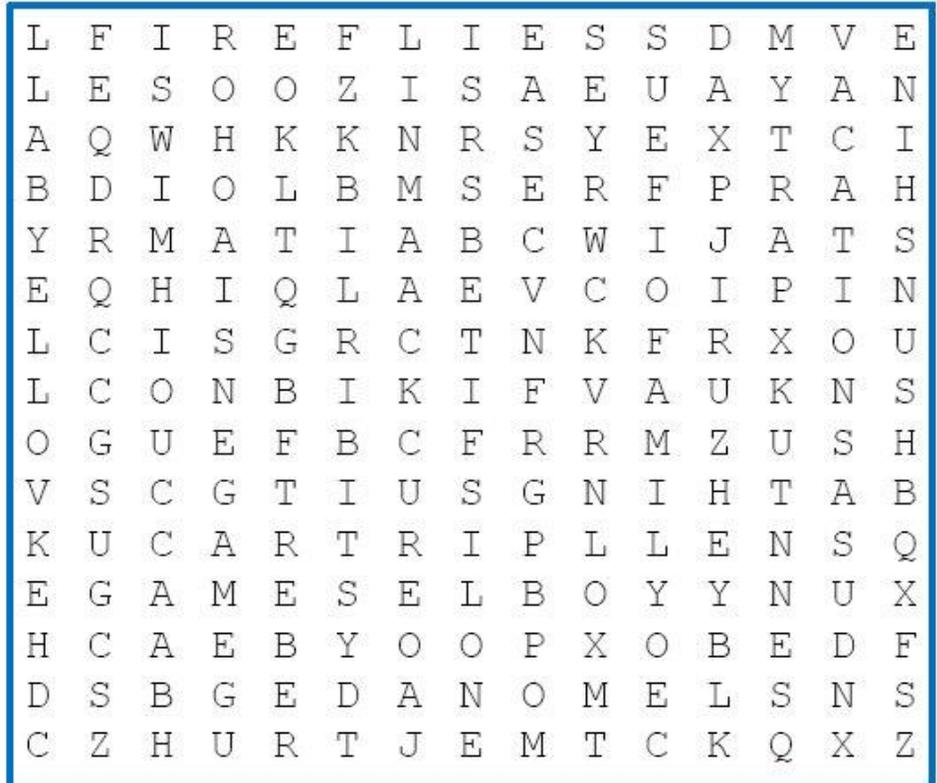
Sick and Hospitalized

NEED - Children's face masks. Cloth. Washable. Reusable. For students at Meadows Elementary and kids in the Ward Meade Neighborhood. Donate at West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, Kansas 66606. Thanks!
~ Pastor Ivan



Summer Fun Word Search

BARBECUE LEMONADE
 BATHINGSUIT PARTY
 BEACH BOAT PICNIC
 CAR TRIP POOL
 CHALK SUNGLASSES
 FAMILY SUNSHINE
 FIREFLIES SWIM
 FIREWORKS TOWEL
 FRIENDS VACATION
 FUN VOLLEYBALL
 GAMES ZOO
 ICE CREAM



Provided By Chicken Scratch NY

WSBC will partner with Potwin Presbyterian, WS Christian, and our neighborhood to collect school supplies for Meadows Elementary before Friday, August 28. West Side Baptist has been asked to collect 75 of each of the following items:

- Backpacks (empty)
- Crayons (8 or 24 ct)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Pencils (#2)
- Zip Lock Bags (quart and gallon size)



Cash donations for supplies will be appreciated.





August 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 1:30 pm Worship Team
2 9:15 am Movie (A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood) 10:30 am Worship Quarterly Business	3 9:00 am Baby Closet	4 No Ladies Night Out No Men's Night Out 6:00 pm Men's Chorus	5 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:00 pm Baby Closet	6 1:00 pm Baby Closet	7	8 1:30 pm Worship Team
9 9:15 am Movie (A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood) 10:30 am Worship	10 9:00 am Baby Closet	11 6:00 pm Council Mtg 6:00 pm Men's Chorus	12 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:00 pm Baby Closet	13 1:00 pm Baby Closet	14	15 1:30 pm Worship Team
16 9:15 am Movie (A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood) 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Mission Mtg	17 9:00 am Baby Closet	18 6:00 pm Men's Chorus	19 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:00 pm Baby Closet	20 1:00 pm Baby Closet	21	22 1:30 pm Worship Team
23 9:15 am Movie (A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood) 10:30 am Worship	24 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	25 6:30 pm Outreach Mtg 6:00 pm Men's Chorus	26 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:00 pm Baby Closet	27 1:00 pm Baby Closet 6:00 pm NIA	28	29 1:30 pm Worship Team
30 9:15 am Movie (A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood) 10:30 am Worship	31 9:00 am Baby Closet					

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: AUGUST

Acolytes – Sage Poe & Aaron Poe

Scripture Readers –

Technology Team – Brice Smith, and Bruno Sprengs

Usher's - Mark Arnold, Don Johnson, Steve May,
Clarence Payne & John Swain

