

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

The Witness

NOVEMBER 2020 | VOL 106 #11

FAITHFUL · HOPEFUL · LOVING

Pastor's Corner - Throughout our faith journey, we are extended several invitations. From the invitation to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, to the invitation to care for a sick neighbor, to the invitation to bring food to the next church event, our life in a community of faith is full of invitations. During this fall season, our church community is going to be intentional about how we respond to the variety of invitations we receive and how those invitations spur us along in our faith development.

Jesus invites us to bring all that we are and all that we have when we become a fully devoted follower of Christ. It is a sojourn that is meant both to form us more into the image of Christ through the disciplines of study, worship, prayer, service, and generosity; as well as to strengthen us in becoming powerful agents for the good that God is doing in our world.

When we make an intentional decision about what we bring before Christ, we extend a blessing of health and wholeness to all of creation, because we are certain that this is ultimately what God desires. The world is broken and hurting and we are called to be a movement for wholeness among its many fractured pieces. We are called to "Love God" and "Love our neighbors as ourselves." We can be agents of grace if we are generous in our response to the invitations that are presented to us.

Our faithful financial stewardship is one way we are invited to respond to Christ's invitation. Our generosity funds the mission and ministry that we are deploying as a sign that God's Realm is among us. On Sunday, November 1, we will begin an intentional reflection titled **Faithful, Hopeful, Loving** as a preparation for determining our investment in the ministry and mission of our church. The time of study and reflection will culminate on **Commitment Sunday, November 15, in worship**. I hope you will be intentional about responding to this important invitation to be with us, not simply to offer your commitment card, but to join us for the catered luncheon (not a potluck) and the 100th birthday celebration for Grace Goodnow.

God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our community! Your prayers and your participation are keys to helping us advance further on the pathway of discipleship. We know that when the early church gathered, they did so with glad and generous hearts and that there was no need among them (Acts 2). We desire such a spirit of true community to be among us. I look forward to considering with you what it means for us to be **Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving**, as we seek to be faithful disciples in this place.

Thank you for walking alongside me as a part of our loving church family West Side Baptist Church!

Thanksgiving Blessings,
Pastor Ivan

PS. Thank you for appreciating my family and me in October!



THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

- ♦ **NOVEMBER 1**
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
The Message:
"Faithful"
1 Thessalonians 2:9-20
- ♦ **NOVEMBER 8**
VETERANS SUNDAY
"Hopeful"
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- ♦ **NOVEMBER 15**
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
"Loving"
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- ♦ **NOVEMBER 22**
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
The Message:
"Thankful Praise"
Psalm 100
- ♦ **NOVEMBER 29**
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
"Sleeplessly Watching"
Mark 13:24-37

WEDNESDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY
"THE PSALMS"
10:30 AM

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER -

Our income for September was \$10,683.00 and our income total to date is \$149,831.97. September budget percentage for the year is 63.14%.



Our expenses for September totaled \$17,959.61 and total for the year is \$181,071.79. September budget percentage for expenses is 68.81%.

Our net income to date is -\$27,875.54. I transferred in early October \$25,564.00 from our Wells Fargo investment account which was the amount we budgeted to use in 2020. This was the interest we earned in 2019.

At the end of September our checking account total was \$10,478.54. We currently have \$33,974.26 in our checking account designated for the building fund. Other funds in the checking account include \$4,730.87 – Youth fund; \$2,600 – Outreach fund; and \$2,412.19 – Baby Closet.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP DINNER - The Stewardship Dinner will be November 15, 2020 in Fellowship Hall after church. The meal will be catered by Mr. G as it has been in the past. This will be a church meeting about the church budget and your stewardship pledges for our church in 2021. Health policies in effect at that time will be observed.

~ Harry Carpenter, Stewardship

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS – I know this is early, but it's time to order poinsettias in memory of your loved ones to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. You will notice the colors offered this year are slightly different. **ONLY available in 6 ½ inch pots: (Ice Crystal)** All other colors are available in any size. Please indicate the color you want in the size you prefer on the order sheet. Don't forget to include your name and those people you are remembering or honoring. **Please return your poinsettia order and payment no later than November 11. Orders taken after November 11 may have price changes and may not be available in a color or size you want.** You may put it in the offering plate or turn into Lynda in the Church Office



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

Regretfully WWW will not be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner this year. The C.E. Committee will meet November 17 @ 5:30 to discuss plans for 2021. Anyone interested in Christian Education is welcome to join us. Watch for details soon of upcoming Youth fund-raising activities.

~ Alice Payne, C.E. Coordinator

BABY CLOSET - The Baby Closet will be giving out personal care bags to each family that comes in during the month of December. We are asking for donations from our church family to help fill these bags. Items that can be donated include shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotion, band-aids and body wash. There will be a box in the front of the sanctuary for your donations. We are so grateful for your help with our community service project.

~ Pat Carreno



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – It's time to **FALL BACK!** Remember to **set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1**, so you do not come early to Sunday school and worship.

HOLIDAY COLLECTION - During November, we will be asking for donations of **socks, sweatpants, and other warm clothing** for the children who attend Meadows Elementary and for children in the neighborhood. A small tree will be set up in the sanctuary where these items can be placed.



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 mask or face covering to protect the health and safety of our volunteers. Volunteers are needed to serve through the month of August.**

Jack Janway, Outreach

DOORSTEP - Our focus now is this year's version of the Christmas Store. It won't be a Store this year where the clients we adopt through the Christmas Bureau come in and shop for the families. This year we are working even more closely with the Christmas Bureau, United Way, Topeka Rescue Mission and the community by streamlining how we are approaching Christmas adoptions.

Doorstep will still adopt the 260 households and 800+ individuals like before, but what and how we provide food and gifts will change. In 2020, adopted families will receive a \$15 gift card for each family member, our regular Christmas food order, a health kit, and a blanket or quilt.

What we need for Christmas this year is: Towel sets (bath, hand, washcloth), Shampoo/Conditioner, Combs, Bar Soap, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Full/Queen and King Blankets only, and money. We need money to purchase the gift cards, the food, and any of the above items not donated. Where we have asked for items in years past, please send a check or go to our website (www.doorsteptopeka.org) to donate by credit card.

All of the items we have collected to date will be saved for next year. This is the best way to reduce the number of people we need, and the number of people who are working together at one time. We know it is not ideal, but with COVID, nothing is normal this year, and unfortunately, the Christmas Store process will not be either. Please help where you can.



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



ONLINE WORSHIP - Stay Safe at Home but Pray with the Church! Join us



ONLINE for WORSHIP on Sundays at 10:30 am. The service bulletin with songs is on our website under downloads. All services will be broadcast LIVE on **FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE.**



AGAPE BENEVOLENCE FUND

– We receive a benevolence offering for persons in need the **first Sunday of each month after the Lord's Supper.** These funds are shared with members and neighborhood people in need. Please see the Pastor, Church Office, or the Moderator to complete an Application for Assistance.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – The Church Office will be **CLOSED Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27** in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday.



VETERANS DAY – The Church Office will be **CLOSED on Wednesday, November 11** in observance of Veterans Day. The Office will reopen on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 8:00 a.m.



- 1st Mariah Calloway
 1st Nathan Triggs
 1st Hilda Lundgren
 2nd John Swain
 7th Christine Carrier
 9th Aaron Poe
 11th Rita Adams
 11th Judy Longstaff
 15th Grace Goodnow
 18th Brady Smith
 18th Austin Cripe
 23rd Adonis Haskins
 27th Christopher Poe
 30th Brice Smith



- 9th Dan & Chelle Decker
 26th Terry & Becky Poe



Thanksgiving Prayer:

LORD,
 THANK YOU FOR THE BOUNTY OF YOUR
 HARVEST WHICH WE ARE ABOUT TO ENJOY.
 HELP US TO BE GRATEFUL EACH DAY FOR
 YOUR MANY BLESSINGS. PLEASE BLESS OUR
 FAMILY, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE NOT WITH
 US TODAY, OR WHO ARE IN YOUR LOVING
 CARE IN HEAVEN.

IN JESUS' NAME,
 AMEN



GOBBLE
 GOBBLE
 GOBBLE





November



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 	2 9:00 am Baby Closet	3 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Men's Chorus	4 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet	5 1:00 pm Baby Closet	6	7 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
8 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9 9:00 am Baby Closet	10 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Members Mtg 6:00 pm Men's Chorus	11 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet 	12 1:00 pm Baby Closet	13	14 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
15  9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Stewardship Dinner	16 9:00 am Baby Closet	17 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:00 pm Men's Chorus	18 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet	19 1:00 pm Baby Closet	20	21 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
22  9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Hanging of the Greens 2:30 pm Missions Mtg	23 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	24 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg 6:00 pm Men's Chorus	25 No Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet	26  Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
29 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 	30 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: NOVEMBER

Acolytes – Macy Greuter, Lonna Hersh

Scripture Readers – Nancy Cottril

Technology Team – Brice Smith, and Bruno Sprengs

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

