

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

# The Witness

JANUARY 2021 | VOL 107 #01

## ***PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S IMPORTANT!***

**Pastor's Corner** - Did you see the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn's planets on the winter solstice (December 21)? Did anyone else marvel as the "Christmas Star" moved from the East to the West? There was tremendous excitement in our backyard as we peered through the tree to see the astrological event of the year. "Was this the sight the magi witnessed?" I wondered. "Pay attention!" I shouted. "This will not happen again for another 400 years." A little voice replied in a surprised tone, "I'll most likely be dead." "That's why we're out here," I replied. "It is a once in a lifetime kind of event."



The Bible is full of references to seasons, cycles (new moon festivals), and marvels in the heavens. God's universe reveals His glory (Psalm 19) and serves as a sign of His work in the world. The Bible tells us that stars, the sun, the moon, and the heavenly hosts will foretell of Christ's coming (Joel 2:31, 3:15; Matthew 24:29, Revelation 6:12) so all people - religious and irreligious - will know the Lord is God of all.

Paying attention can be a struggle for persons with ADHD/ADD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). ADHD is a neurological disorder making children and adults prone to being disorganized, forgetful, absent minded, and focused on the wrong things. What if the Magi, as Zoroastrian astrologers, had been too busy or distracted to pay attention to the stars. Would they be missing from the Christmas story? Thankfully, they were "wise men" who stayed focused on their mission - following the star to find the Christ child to worship him!

The readings from Mark's Gospel this year invite us to pay attention to Jesus, the Messiah. He is the Suffering Servant for his people. He offers rescue to every person who will follow him and receive forgiveness in his name. Will you join me on

the journey as we focus on Jesus this New Year?

Blessings,  
Pastor Ivan



## **THE SEASON AFTER CHRISTMAS**

- ♦ **JANUARY 3 - EPIPHANY**  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Mathew 2:1-12
- ♦ **JANUARY 10—BAPTISM**  
Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11
- ♦ **JANUARY 17**  
1 Samuel 3:1-10  
Psalm 139  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51
- ♦ **JANUARY 24**  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20
- ♦ **JANUARY 31**  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

**WORSHIP WITH US  
AT 10:30 AM  
ONLINE & IN PERSON**



## Our Church Finances

We all recognize that this has been an interesting and in some ways challenging year

for us as a church congregation. Regardless if you have been able to attend Sunday service in person or online on Facebook or YouTube, you continue to financially support West Side. Thank you! It is because of your tithe and offerings we are able to close out the year reaching all of our mission goals and by the end of November receiving \$1,253.77 more than our expenses.

At the end of November our checking account total was \$27,830.17.

Offering envelopes for 2021 have been delayed and won't arrive for a couple of weeks. Please feel free to use any old envelopes you have from this year (just change the date) and we'll get you your new envelopes as soon as we can.

Let me know if you have any questions.  
Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



**MIDWINTER MISSION CONFERENCE - Canceled** - The ABCCR made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Mid-Winter Missions Conference that would have occurred in January 2021 because of concerns related to the pandemic. The executive minister hopes every one understand the rationale and reminds us to stay engaged with our global servants. You can see a full list of our global servants at International Ministries' website at [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org).

## 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



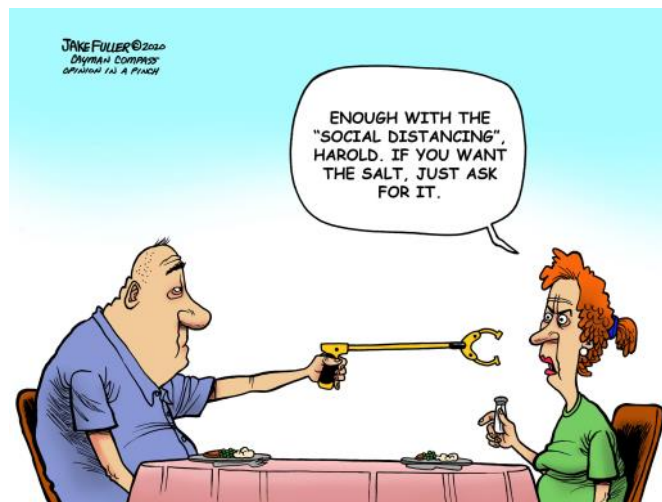
**ONLINE WORSHIP** - Stay Safe at Home but Pray with the Church! Join us



**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.





**DOORSTEP** - We will start 2021 operating the same way we have been in 2020, with phone intakes for services, and appointments for the clothing room.

At this writing we have not distributed our Christmas items yet, however, Doorstep still adopted the usual 260 households from the Christmas Bureau. This is over 800 individuals who will receive food, gift cards, blankets and health kits. We appreciate everyone who sent monetary donations to help with the increased budget to provide the gift cards this year; and, those who donated blankets, towels and hygiene items.

There will be no Operation Soup Line this year as the Board could not figure out a Covid safe, fundraising positive, way to carry out the event. We have asked our regular sponsors to still donate the funds and basically 'sponsor Doorstep' instead of the event this year as to not lose quite so much money by not having the fundraiser.

We will still proceed with SouperBowl Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> with the collection of soup and crackers to help stock our pantry! Please collect these items to bring to your congregation, or to Doorstep.

We cannot stress enough how thankful and blessed we feel to be so supported during this difficult time as we continue to help our neighbors in need the best way possible.

**1 John 3:17-18** But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

**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.**

Jack Janway, Outreach



**ANNUAL REPORTS** – It is that time again for all the Council members to start thinking of what you want in your report. Please submit your report to Lynda in the Church Office

[office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org) by Tuesday, January 12 The **Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31 at 12:00 pm, downstairs.**



**BABY CLOSET** - A big thank you from the Baby Closet for all the donations we received for our Christmas bags given out to each family at Christmas. They are grateful to receive these bags. The mobile distribution for diapers, wipes, formula and ointment has been working good. Families are able to stay in their cars and request items they need. We are open at the north door Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30 pm.

~ Pat Carreno.



**2020 GIVING STATEMENTS** - IRS regulations require all donations for 2020 to be received or postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be included on your charitable giving statement. See Nancy Lindberg if you have any questions. 2020 Statements will be mailed before Jan. 31, 2021.



# JANUARY

COLD  
FROZEN  
GLOVES  
ICICLES  
IGLOO  
MITTENS  
NEW YEAR  
PENGUIN

RESOLUTION  
RUNNY NOSE  
SCARF  
SHOVEL  
SKIING  
SLEDDING  
SNOWBALLS  
SNOWFLAKES



S C S O L D F P G L O V E S R  
K N G N E Z L E V O H S O R E  
I L O E E O V N E S I E C I S  
I D O W O T L G I S E K L G O  
N L M Y B I T U T F R A C S L  
G O W E N A S I N R E L T E U  
Y C E A R P L N M O E F N L T  
L O S R E R N L I Z U W G C I  
U R U N N Y N O S E T O N I O  
I G L O O E S N Y N U N R C N  
S A C R G N I D D E L S F I S

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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1st Wayne & Nancy Cottril  
1st Mark & Betty Arnold



3rd Ethan Sturgeon  
12th Jennifer Blair  
12th Jillian Campbell  
16th Stella Maggard  
18th David Martin

### New Year's Eve

Find each word in the search.  
Words go ↑, ↓, →, and ←.

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

twelve	clock
party	balloons
fireworks	mask
snacks	countdown
celebrate	memories
New York City	music



© 2016 Mom's Learning Corner



Do you have a New Year's resolution yet?



## Happy NEW YEAR

You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.


PSALM 65:11





# January

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

					<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
<b>3</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>4</b> 9 am Baby Closet	<b>5</b> 4:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	<b>6</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	<b>7</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>8</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>9</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
<b>10</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>11</b> 9 am Baby Closet	<b>12</b> 4:30 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	<b>14</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>15</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Wor- ship Committee Meeting 1:30 pm Wor- ship Team Practice
<b>17</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Mission Meeting	<b>18</b> 9 am Baby Closet	<b>19</b> 4:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	<b>20</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	<b>21</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>22</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>23</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
<b>24</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>25</b> 9 am Baby Closet	<b>26</b> 4:30 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	<b>27</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	<b>28</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>29</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>30</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
<b>31</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Annual Meeting			<b>COVID-19 Caution - Events may be canceled, rescheduled, or changed due to the national pandemic. Please call the Church Office or visit the website to find the most current information. We apologize for any inconvenience.</b>			

West Side Baptist Church  
1008 SW Fourth Street  
Topeka, KS 66606  
[www.wsbctopeka.org](http://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.

**BIBLE READING PLAN** - The Navigators have a great Plans for Reading Through the Bible in at Year at [www.navigators.org/resource/bible-reading-plans](http://www.navigators.org/resource/bible-reading-plans) or ask the Church Office for a copy.

#### **WORSHIP LEADERS: January 2021**

**Acolytes –**

**Scripture Readers –**

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

**Usher's -** Jack Janway, Ernie Longstaff, Doug  
Mauck, John Swain, Harry Carpenter

