



# The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

## SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- ♦ FEB. 7 - Epiphany 5  
Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39
- ♦ FEB. 14 - Epiphany 6  
Transfiguration Sunday  
2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

## THE SEASON OF LENT

- ♦ FEB. 17 - ASH WED.  
Lent Begins
- ♦ FEB. 21 - LENT 1  
"THE PROBLEM"  
Sermon Series Begins  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15
- ♦ FEB. 28 - LENT 2  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

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

## THE DELICIOUS TASTE OF BUTTER

**Pastor's Corner** - Has anyone shoved a bite of food into your mouth and then said, "*It's an acquired taste*"? Humas was the thing for me. The chickpea-based paste became a new staple I discovered in the Holy Lands. We were not allowed to eat butter during certain meals because of Kosher laws. So, I learned to substitute humas for its place (most of the time). I acquired an affinity for Israeli humas.

The ten-days of "no butter or dairy while eating meats" showed me how much I had become accustomed to having the solid sweet cream. When I got home, Rexanne asked me what I wanted for supper. "A stick of butter," I replied. I missed its delicious taste (and Dr. Pepper)! I appreciated it more after I restrained myself from eating it on the visit to the land of Jesus.

Christians can think of fasting – abstaining from something - as a punitive exercise, and a frustrating one, like keeping New Year's resolutions. You may have been taught to give up an item for Lent to show how you can suffer for Jesus. Sadly, this was misinformation! The season of Lent (the forty-days prior to Easter, not counting Sundays) was originally a time to mirror Jesus' devotion in the wilderness, and to learn how to overcome temptations. The Council of Nicaea (AD 312) affirmed



Lent as a special time for new converts to prepare for baptism and for repentant Christians to rededicate one's life to Jesus. It was declared a "fast" to help Jesus' followers focus on his suffering and passion (not ours) as a way of anticipating the "feast" of the Resurrection. We fasted, not to punish ourselves or prove our faith, but to build up the anticipated joy of its return. It was a positive exercise of eschatological excitement, not a punishment! Like all human traditions, Lent was only good if it leads one back

ABSENCE  
MAKES  
THE HEART  
GROW  
FONDER

English Proverb



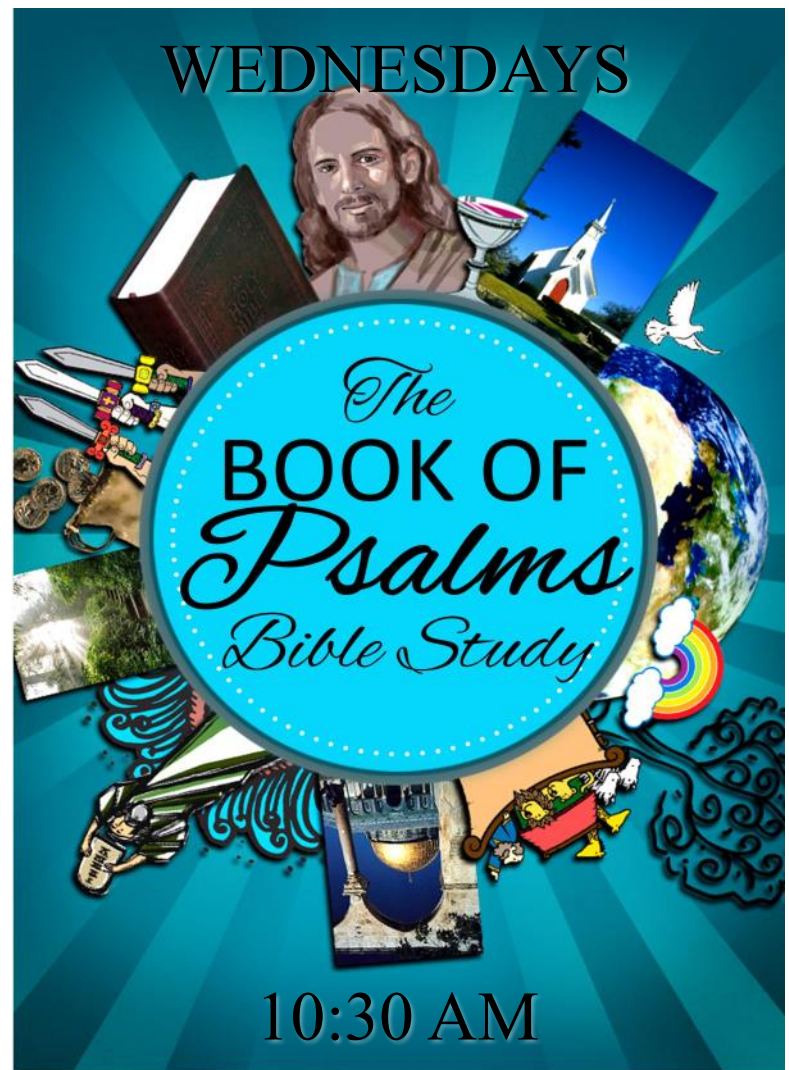
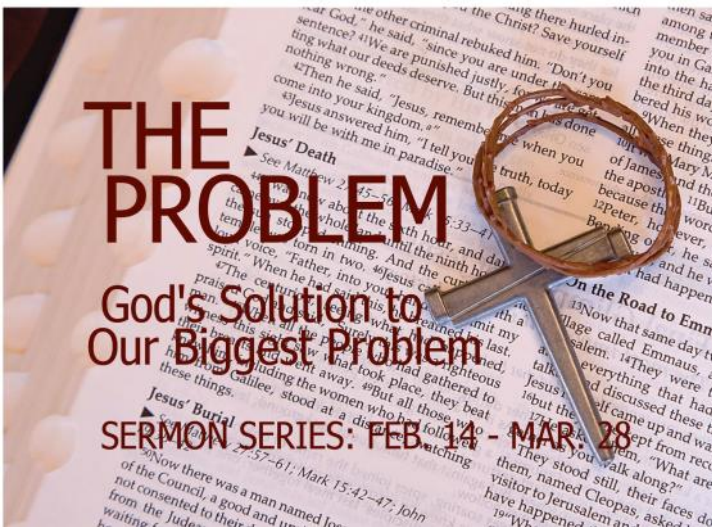
to God and stirs a greater love for the Lord.

The worship service has a similar austere atmosphere. There are few decorations, dark and drab colors, earthenware, wooden candlesticks (no brass, silver, or gold), no flowers, plain candles, no vestments, somber songs, congregational confessions, and more – all to prepare the worshipper for the overwhelmingly celebratory display of Easter with its bright banners, colorful table coverings, fresh flowers, shining trumpets, organ fanfares, and more. Furthermore, Easter's grand festivities help Christians look forward to – and yearn for – the glorious worship of the Lamb in the Kingdom of God (Revelation 5:1-14; 19:1-8)!

As we enter the season of Lent, I encourage you to consider making it a season of longing and sweet rewards instead of a repressive period of regrets. Focus on something you hope to hear, see, taste, and enjoy again when Christ appears. Give something up willingly and reverently so that you can enjoy it anew at Easter, like the taste of butter. Along the way, you may discover there are other enjoyable items out there that you may enjoy, like humas. Let me know if you need a good recipe!

Lenten blessings,  
Pastor Ivan

P.S. I will start a sermon series - ***The Problem: "God's Solution to Our Biggest Problem"*** on Sunday, February 14 through March 28, 2021. Learn about our biggest Problem? What you can do about it. How God has and is solving it. And, God's plan for your life. Join us for this important study.



Learn how to study and use the Psalms in your daily life. Join us in-person, on Facebook, or via the online Zoom communication system. Text or call Pastor Ivan for more details.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**—The Youth Group will participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** campaign



to help tackle hunger. You can help by donating cans of soup (any size or kind) and your favorite box of crackers. On **Super Bowl Sunday, February 7**, the Youth Group will collect loose change for our local mission partner Doorstep Inc. Drop your donation in the soup pots or **GIVE ONLINE**.

## 2020 FOOD PANTRY REPORT - 17,211

individuals (7,886 adults, 6,813 children, and 2,512 seniors) in 4,392 families were able to receive 132,819 pounds (66.4 tons) of free bread, fruits, vegetables, and other items from the Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry at West Side Baptist Church in 2020. We served 1½ times more families compared to previous years. The **Fruit and Vegetable Food Pantry will be open on Wednesdays in February 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. FACE COVERINGS or MASKS REQUIRED. Thank you to Jack Janway, Outreach Coordinator, and all the volunteers who make this service project possible.



### THANK YOU NOTES

WSBC, You are a hunger champion! The impact of your [Thanksgiving] gift of \$315.00 is providing 950 nutritious meals to hungry families, children, and seniors in our community. Thank you for your generosity!



With Appreciation, Scott Hildebrandt  
Member of Harvesters Corporate & Community Advisory Council

**ECUMENICAL PRAYER** - Join believers around the world by lifting up the church, leadership, needs and people the week of:

- ♦ **31 January - 06 February** - Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, and Tunisia
- ♦ **07 - 13 February** - Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Vatican City
- ♦ **14 - 23 February** - Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland
- ♦ **21 - 27 February** - France, Germany, and Monaco

Find more info at "In God's Hands - Common Prayer for the World" from the World Council of Churches (<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle>).

## Restarting SUNDAY SCHOOL

**SUNDAY SCHOOL RESTART** - Leaders and teachers are preparing to **restart Sunday school for all ages on February 7 or as soon as possible at 9:15 am** when **Shawnee County enters the COVID Phase Orange** and the restrictions for Phase Red are removed. Watch for a postcard, email, and Facebook post with the latest information.

**WORSHIP ONLINE** - The Church is committed to the continual praise and worship of Almighty God in the Name of Jesus Christ. Church leaders and our clergy hold services regularly in the Sanctuary in compliance with all published federal, state, and local government health orders. Services are broadcast LIVE (as internet is available) and RECORDED. WATCH the service online at:

**Facebook LIVE** - <https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka>

**YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC>

Order a free copy of the service on DVD by contacting the Church Office.



**WORSHIP COMMITTEE** - Musicians and volunteers will meet the third Saturday in February (20th) at 10:00 am to select music for the worship services. See Brice or Matt Smith for information or to suggest a song. The updated worship music report was posted on the back wall of the sanctuary.

**ASH WEDNESDAY - Feb. 17** (Lent Begins).



**First Baptist Church of Topeka** is hosting an online ecumenical **Ash Wednesday service (Feb. 17)**. Ashes will be available on the Communion Table for anyone interested in observing this tradition. See Brice Smith for more details or visit [www.firstbaptisttopeka.org](http://www.firstbaptisttopeka.org).



**OUR CHURCH FINANCES - *For from him and to him and through him are all things. To him be glory forever. – Romans 11:36***

We have been blessed with a good financial year for our church. As we look at our 2020 finances we made it through the year with a \$3,075.78 budget balance. There were many factors that played into this but it took everyone to make it happen. As a congregation we continue to be generous in our giving and each of council members has worked hard to manage their program budget.

Our income for December was \$18,163.47 and our income total to date is \$272,628.78. Our year-end budget percentage of general income is at 103.6%. This includes a \$50,000 life insurance estate gift of Don Morris.

Our expenses for December totaled \$26,730.63 and total for the year is \$243,053.00. Our year-end budget percentage for expenses is at 92.36%.

The difference of income to expenses for the year is \$29,575.78. This total plus the \$23,500 we received after applying for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) federal loan brings our total to \$53,075.78. Subtracting out the \$50,000 estate gift, we finished the budget year \$3,075.78 in the black.

At the end of December our checking account total was \$20,599.09. This includes \$37,746.08 in building funds; \$5,084.87 in youth funds; and \$4,858.83 in Outreach. Our balance does not include the PPP loan since the loan has not officially been forgiven yet. All the remaining funds will carry-over to 2021.

The year-end interest earned on our investments at Wells Fargo total \$20,173.18. The 2021 budget was approved with the recommendation the investment budget figure (\$12,000 place saver) would reflect the new number (\$20,173). Therefore, I will make that change on our 2021 budget. FYI - The 2019 investment interest was \$25,864 so 2020 wasn't as bad as we thought it might be.

Offering envelopes for 2021 arrived late and have been handed out or mailed to our church attendees. If you didn't receive offering envelopes and want them, please contact the church office or me personally 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



**BABY CLOSET –** The Baby Closet is **CLOSED** to the public and will operate in **MOBILE DISTRIBUTION ONLY** until further notice. Families may pick-up

**diapers, formula, ointments, and wipes on WEDNESDAYS from 3:30-5:30 pm at the North Door.** Leave a message on the Baby Closet voice mail for supplies.

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

**WORSHIP WITH US**

**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.

**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



WE ARE .....  
*His Hands*



## Let's Help - Adult Basic Education & GED Center

- With help from Washburn Tech, we provide classes to help those whose education has taken a detour achieve their high school diploma.
- Classes for those 55 and older who need training and education to get back into the workforce or develop computer skills.
- Help to obtain a Kansas WORKReady! Certificate, which shows potential employers a person's workplace skills, including math, reading and problem-solving.
- Annually, we provide educational opportunities to 250 students.

If interested in this program call Let's Help 785-234-6208 or [info@letshelpinc.org](mailto:info@letshelpinc.org)  
200 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66603

### Office Hours

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-F

### Community Lunch Hours

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. M-F |

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. 2nd and 4th Saturdays

### Clothing Bank Hours

9:30-11 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. M-TR |

9:30-11 a.m. Fridays

### Career Closet Hours

1-2 p.m. Wednesdays



DOORSTEP'S

**"SOUPERBOWL  
SUNDAY" IS  
FEBRUARY 7th**



**BRING  
SOUP**

**AND  
CRACKERS**



**TO YOUR CONGREGATION TO  
HELP STOCK DOORSTEP'S  
FOOD PANTRY!**

**Human Trafficking is a growing problem in the state of Kansas.**

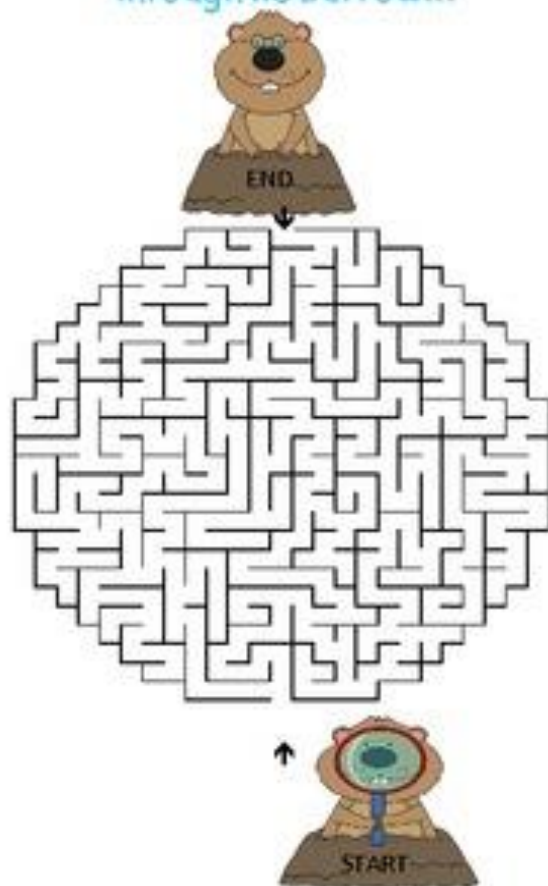
### National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in any activity and cannot leave - whether it is commercial sex, housework, farm work or any other activity - call the toll-free **National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline** at **1-888-3737-888** or text **INFO** or **HELP** to Be Free (233733) to access help and services.

The toll-free hotline is:

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
  - Operated by a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization
  - Anonymous and confidential
  - Accessible in 170 languages
- Able to provide help, referral to services, training and information.**

Help Punxsutawney Phil find its way  
through its burrow...



8th David Greuter  
8th Nadine Manley  
10th Skyler Walters  
11th Macy Greuter  
14th Reanna Campbell  
23rd Markayla Calloway  
25th Matt Smith  
26th Tony Carreno  
29th Colleen Smith (28th)



## Winter Word Search Puzzle

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

BOOTS	SKATING
DRIFT	SKIING
FISHING	SLIDING
FLAKES	SLIPPERY
FLURRIES	SNOWBALL
FUN	SNOWBLOWER
HOCKEY	SNOWMAN
ICY	SNOWMOBILE
PLAY	STORM
PLOW	WHITE
SALT	
SAND	
SCRAPER	
SCULPTURE	
SHOVEL	



# February

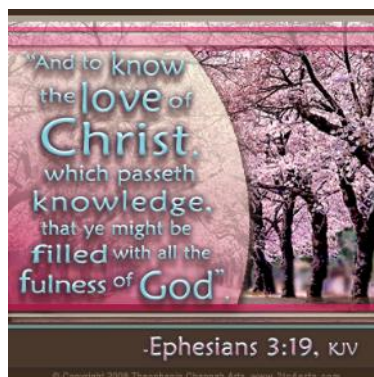
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 9:00 am No Baby Closet	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's Food Pantry	<b>4</b> 1:00 pm No Baby Closet	<b>5</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>6</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team
<b>7</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>8</b> 9:00 am No Baby Closet	<b>9</b> 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's Food Pantry	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm No Baby Closet	<b>12</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Worship Committee  1:30 pm Worship Team
<b>14 Lent 1</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 1:00 pm No Baby Closet	<b>19</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>20</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team
<b>21 Lent 2</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>22</b> 9:00 am No Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	<b>23</b> 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg	<b>24</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's Food Pantry	<b>25</b> 1:00 pm No Baby Closet	<b>26</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>27</b> 1:30 pm Worship Team
<b>28 Lent 3</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<p align="center"> <b>COVID-19 Precaution</b> - 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.         </p>					

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](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.



Remember our  
Presidents