

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

SUNDAYS IN MARCH

- ♦ **MARCH 7 - LENT 3**
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22
- ♦ **MARCH 14 - LENT 4**
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21
- ♦ **MARCH 21—LENT 5**
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33
- ♦ **MARCH 28 - LENT 6**
PALM SUNDAY
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47
Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)
- ♦ **APRIL 4 - EASTER**
7:00 AM SUNRISE
10:30 AM CELEBRATION

DIFFERENT PLANS

Pastor's Corner - My family has been reminiscing a lot about our past trips and vacations. We have recalled sunny days on the beach, adventures to parks, trips to the mountains, visits to family and friends, and memorable misadventures that did not go so well. The kids have told stories about how I planned what I considered a fun-packed trip, but they had other plans, like the time they put their foot down and said, "no more castles and museums, we're going to the park to play." We have enjoyed the stroll down memory lane because it gives us hope for fun in the future. Maybe all this sharing has been wishful thinking about spring or the end of the pandemic.

It comes as no surprise; I like to plan and have things go as planned. Maybe you are a planner, too? Do you like it when life goes as planned? Do you get angry and upset when someone or something derails your plans?

The disciples had a plan. They joined Jesus on a quest to change Jerusalem and the nation. They dreamed of starting a new society without the Romans. They plotted the establishment of a new government and organized religion with new leaders (themselves). They planned Jesus would go to Jerusalem and make things happen now! Each apostle hoped for a powerful position in the new kingdom. Jesus had other plans.

Jesus shared his plan three times in Mark's Gospel (8:31; 9:30; 10:33-34). These passion predictions angered and upset the disciples. In Mark 8:32-33, Peter sharply criticized Jesus for his willingness to be betrayed, arrested, and make the ultimate personal sacrifice. In 9:32, the disciples do not comprehend his mission, and they are "afraid to ask him about it." Then, James and John ask for particular places of power and prestige within the new government, which angered the other apostles (10:35-37). Each episode reveals the truth of Isaiah 55:8-9, " 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord."

The good news was Jesus' plan was better. Yes, it was more challenging. Yes, it required faith. Yes, it included suffering and death, but in the end, it was worth it. The rejection, pain, suffering, self-sacrifice, and loss paid the price for sin! God's

loss became our gain. Why? Jesus wins - "he was not dead, He has Risen!" And, through his death, we are forgiven!

Lent is a season to learn and live the truth that God calls us to suffer and sacrifice to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ! No one can love Jesus and follow him without surrendering their plans for his plan, the kingdom of God. Forty days of fasting helps us pray for strength and commitment to be disciples all year. It prepares us for the forever festival of the Resurrection and the hope of Easter.

Life does not always go as planned. The bumps along the way strengthen us for the road ahead. The wrong road can be more scenic. The short-term sacrifice can have lasting benefits. Sometimes, the kid's demand to play at the park is what we needed to be a happier family. Do not fear! Lent and life will not last forever. Easter happened. Jesus is coming!

Lenten Blessings,
Pastor Ivan+

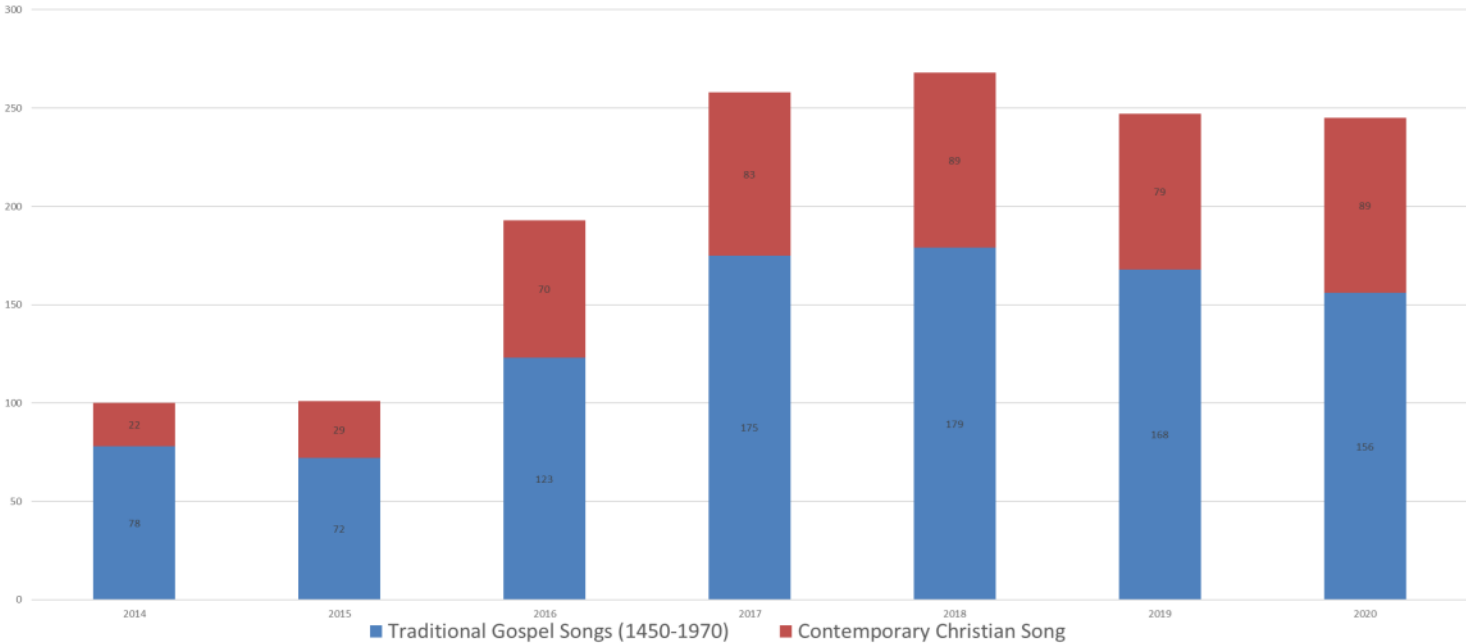


Worship Committee

The Worship Committee works together to assist with planning worship experiences throughout the year. Those serving on the committee are Pastor Ivan, Janice Kirby, Matt Smith, Kay Wildman, Jan Mauck, Nadine Manley, and myself. We work with Pastor Ivan

based on scriptures in the liturgy for each Sunday during the year and what he will be preaching on and blend the music to fit with those things. Based on a recommendation from the Council, we try and blend the music 50/50 between traditional and contemporary selections each Sunday. Below is a chart compiled by Pastor Ivan that shows how we are doing with meeting this goal. Currently, it is 60% Traditional and 40% Contemporary. If you ever have any suggestions or requests, you can reach out in person, by phone, or by email to any of the members listed above. ~ Brice Smith

WORSHIP SONGS 2014-2020



Our Church Finances

In 2020 the church applied for and received \$23,500 from the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This is a federal program that helps keep employees working during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. At our February meeting the church council recommended we apply again in the programs second round. The application has been submitted to Capitol Federal Bank for \$29,488 that will assist us in not only payroll but also utility payments. We have received tentative approval from Cap Fed and I will let you know once we get final approval.

The church received a \$78,000 estate gift from the Vern and Portia Allbert estate. The church council approved opening a new account with the Topeka Community Foundation that will allow us to receive 5% each year from this fund as it continues to be invested and grows. The estate gift was designated for music so each January beginning in 2022 we will receive a payment from this investment for our music program. As many of you will remember Portia was our church organist for many years and Vern loved singing in the choir. Their gift will be a lasting gift for our music program.

Our 2021 budget included the purchase of one new computer for the church office. The pastor's computer has been replaced and his old computer was moved into the finance office. A big thanks to Brice Smith who set up the computers. Because of the computer changes the January finance report was delayed. It will be included in our next finance report – the February report – that will be presented at the March council meeting and then posted on the bulletin board. A summary will be included in the next church newsletter.

The memorials committee has approved the expenditure of \$1,049.98 from Gil McCurdy's memorial fund for a new computer for the sanctuary. Brice requested the purchase of a more powerful computer that would be dedicated to the streaming of our services. This leaves about \$350 in Gil's memorial fund. His fund was also used last year to purchase new camera equipment for the sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Nancy Lindberg
Treasurer



Baby Shower Save the Date

Please plan to join us for a baby shower to celebrate the birth of Malcolm Alan Smith with his parents, Matt and Ashley Smith.

Saturday, April 10th at 2:00 p.m.
Holmer Hall, West Side Baptist Church

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.**

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



WORSHIP

COMMITTEE - Musicians and volunteers will meet the third Saturday in March 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.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2021

For the Purpose of Equipping Saints

EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)

Mission Moments

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING - We will be collecting the America for Christ Offering in March. Our goal is \$1500. The theme for the AFC 2021 Offering is "For the Purpose of Equipping Saints" based on Ephesians 4:11-13: "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry."

Your generous AFC gifts support our mission—connecting our partners to cultivate leaders and equip disciples who bring healing and transformation to communities across our nation and Puerto Rico. Your contributions share God's love by:

Cultivating Leaders — Strong leaders advance the mission of faith communities.

Equipping Disciples — Broadening the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Healing Communities — We believe the power of Christian love can—and will—change the world.

GLOBAL SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

Denise & Juan Aragón - DENISE and JUAN serve in partnership with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico (Consejo Indígena Campesino Evangélico de México, CICEM) in Chiapas, Mexico. They both work in training, prevention and education as they learn the community needs and look for ways to emotionally and economically empower leaders in their communities. Juan focuses on theological education and leadership training as he accompanies, coaches and disciples new church leaders. Denise's ministry seeks to empower women, especially those who are victims of domestic abuse.

For more info, visit:

<https://www.internationalministries.org/author/dj-aragon/>



DOORSTEP - We take clothing and household donations on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am – 2pm. Please come in the south door off the parking lot with donations. The West door stays locked.



ABWM - Love Gift giving began in 1932 during the Great Depression. Mission – minded women were determined to help by collecting coins in small silver boxes, illustrating that behind every cloud there is a silver lining. On these boxes was printed:

"If we know we pray"

"If we pray we give"

This past year has been difficult, but God is faithful. Our goal is \$30,000.00 Anyone wishing to contribute may write a check to West Side Baptist Church and in the memo line please write Love Gift.

Thank you
Marianne Spano, ABWM

Noah's Ark Word Search

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

animals
build
covenant
criticize
dove
evil
flood
good
land
obedient
promise
rainbow
raven
saved
supplies
two



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

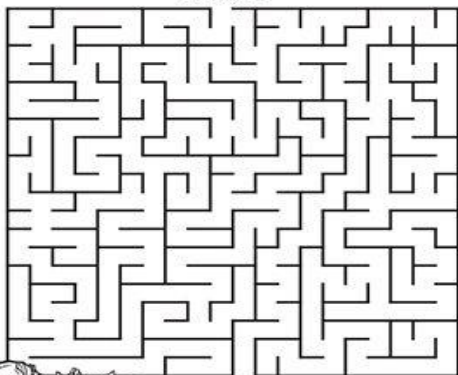
2nd Brian Hunter
3rd Jill Roesler
4th Aaron Hunter
8th Nathan Poe
12th Don Johnson
16th Rexanne Greuter
20th Tera Triggs
21st Shelby Hersh
22nd Janice Kirby
22nd Trena Ansell
27th Wally Goodnow
29th Kate Olsen

26th Bob & Jill Roesler



ABRAHAM & ISAAC

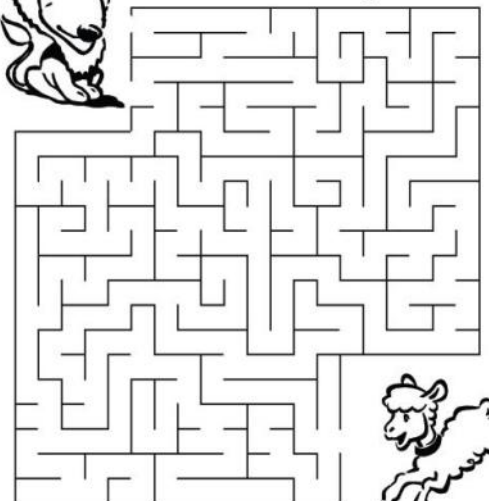
Help Abraham find Moriah to fulfill God's request.
FINISH



MARCH



comes in like a lion



goes out like a lamb



Sun

Mon






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 9:00 am Baby Closet	2 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	3 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's	4 1:00 pm Baby Closet	5	6 1:30 pm Worship Team
7 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	8 ----- 9:00 am Baby Closet	9 ----- SPRING BREAK—NO No Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Meeting	10 No Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's	11 SCHOOL --- 1:00 pm Baby Closet	12 -----	13 1:30 pm Worship Team
14 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 	15 9:00 am Baby Closet	16 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17  10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's	18 1:00 pm Baby Closet	19	20  10:00 am Worship Committee 1:30 pm Worship Team
21 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	22 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	23 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	24 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's	25 1:00 pm Baby Closet	26	27 1:30 pm Worship Team
28  9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	29 9:00 am Baby Closet	30 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's	Goodbye Winter So Long Show It's time to watch the Flowers Grow! 		

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.

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 or ask the Church Office for a copy.

