

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

SCRIPTURE TEXTS SUNDAYS IN JULY

- ♦ JULY 4 - PATRIOTIC DAY
COMMUNION SUNDAY
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-1
Mark 6:1-13
- ♦ JULY 11 - Ordinary Time 15
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29
- ♦ JULY 18 - Ordinary Time 16
2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
- ♦ JULY 25 - Ordinary Time 17
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21
- ♦ AUGUST 1 - COMMUNION
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

**"Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord."
Psalm 33:12**

MIDSUMMER MUSINGS

***"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has
come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."
Song of Solomon 2:11-12***

Pastor's Corner - Do you ever feel guilty for taking time off? Do you spend your vacations worrying about the things you should be doing at home or the office? Do you take your to-do list with you on family excursions? It is hard to disconnect from our daily demands and get a little rest and relaxation. Taking time to reconnect with family and ourselves is essential for cultivating a healthy mind, body, and spirit! God create us to renew ourselves by designing the seasons.

The Midsummer season has become an ideal time to enjoy the American vacation, at least since 1869. The Smithsonian magazine published an enlightening Special Report on the topic: ***"Where Was the Birthplace of the American Vacation?"*** Thanks to the ingenious insight of "a handsome young preacher from Boston named William H.H. Murray," the idea of taking a trip in the middle of summer leaped across the Atlantic with the publication of "one of the first guidebooks to a wilderness area." Tony Perrottet writes in the Smithsonian article, "In his guide to the Adirondack Mountains, we are told, 'Murray broached the then-outrageous idea that an excursion into raw nature could actually be pleasurable. Before that date, most Americans considered the country's primeval landscapes only as obstacles to be conquered. But Murray's self-help opus, *Adventures in the Wilderness*; or, *Camp-Life in the Adirondacks*, suggested that hiking, canoeing and fishing in

unsullied nature were the ultimate health tonic for harried city dwellers whose constitutions were weakened by the demands of civilized life." (Smithsonian Magazine, April 2013). Americans clamored from the cities into wilderness and onto the beaches.





The idea of taking a family vacation was born. This annual adventure became even stronger in the 1950s and 60s with the advent of the automobile, the American Automobile Assoc. (AAA), the interstate, and the family road trip.

At West Side, one of our three seasons is the Midsummer Slump (late May thru early August). Many of my colleagues lament the low attendance of summertime. However, I remember as a boy when churches shut down for part of the summer. Churches canceled Sunday school and midweek services so families could work on the farm, play ball, visit family, enjoy ice cream socials, and enjoy Vacation Bible School. Was there something wrong with shifting our activities for a season?

This summer, I will be in-and-out of the office on various adventures. They will not be the vacations I planned at the beginning of the year when I thought we'd make one last summer journey as a family to the Great Northwest. Instead, Rexanne and I join the mid-life odyssey of visiting our adult children at their summer residences. We will travel to Florida and South Dakota to visit Jessa and Macy. David and I are planning a few trips too. We expect it to be unique and fun – and hopefully restful and renewing. As a recent article reminded me, the upheaval and sudden change of plans often bring better memories than the original plans.

As you enjoy your summer, I encourage you to relax, rest and find renewal in doing nothing or something unexpected. Take time to enjoy God's brilliant creation. Reconnect with family and friends! There will be plenty of time to get back to work when September rolls around. Until then, enjoy your midsummer rest!

Vacation Blessings,
Pastor Ivan+

Our Church Finances

The first meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee to address the building and property needs of our church met on Saturday, June 5th. Committee members include: Harry Carpenter, Tom Mansfield, Dick May, Clarence Payne, Nathan Poe, Pastor Ivan Greuter and Nancy Lindberg. I plan to keep you informed on our discussions. We would appreciate your input as we look at the needs of our church in the coming years. Please make suggestions and feel free to ask any questions.

1. We reviewed prior campaigns.
 - a. In 2008 - "Strengthening our Foundation for Missions" Campaign raised \$400,000 to install an elevator, renovate Holmer Hall, mount a new roof, add a family/handicapped accessible bathroom, refresh the landscape and complete smaller projects. 10% designated for missions.
 - b. In 2018 - "Major Repairs" Campaign raised \$50,000 to repair/replace the boilers and purchase a sign for the parking lot.
2. We discussed current Building Fund Accounts (April 2021 report)
 - a. Checking Account - \$79,721 (includes Don Morris \$50,000 life insurance)
 - b. Money Market - \$18,627
 - c. General Fund Designated for Building Repairs or Capital Campaign - \$38,491
3. We started identifying building and grounds needs.
4. Next committee meeting June 26, 2021

Our income for May was \$17,138. Our total income for the year to date is \$121,064.27. Our budget percentage of income through May is 56.66 %. Our budget year is 41.67 %.

Our expenses for May totals \$15,626.15. Our expenses total for the year is \$97,663.06, which is 40.06% of our budget.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



DOORSTEP'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Each year we adopt 260 households for Christmas. There will be 800+ individuals in these households and we need your help in providing gifts & necessities.

Last year with the pandemic we did not have our 'normal' Christmas Store, and only gave out blankets and health kits with the food and gift cards. Therefore, we still have gifts in the basement ready for this year. For Christmas in July we are focusing on replenishing the blankets and health kit items we used, and toys which we rarely have enough of for the adopted children.

Below are specific items we need this Christmas.

Health Kit Items

Towels (new) bath & hand, and washcloths,
Combs, Bar Soap,
Deodorant,
Toothpaste/brushes,
Shampoo, Razors



**CHRISTMAS
IN JULY**

Toys

Games - All Ages
Baby Dolls,
Balls - Football, Soccer,
Basketball
Teen Girls Gifts -
Make Up & Nail Kits
Back Packs
Color & Reading Books
School Supplies
Toys for Ages 2-12
NO Barbies Please



Quilts & Blankets

Full, Queen & King



**Please Bring Items To Doorstep In July For Families
Who Will Be Adopted This Christmas.**



Mission Moments

One Great Hour of Sharing Update - Thank you for giving so generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering! Our goal was \$1,500.00 and so far we have collected \$1,628.00. The offering supports disaster relief, development projects, and refugee ministries of the American Baptist Churches and its partners.

Thank you for being a congregation who knows how to "Let Love Flow."

Fall Mission Project

I would like to determine if there is interest in a Fall mission project. I have not contacted any place yet; I would like to see how many are interested first. If there are enough people, we can consider an out-of-state project like Murrow, or something closer to home. We can discuss that later. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in a Fall mission project and if you have a specific project preference. I can be contacted at jim.goodnow@sbcglobal.net or 246-1807.

Global Servant Spotlight

Ryan Baumgart - RYAN, a high school educator in Japan at Okinawa Christian School International, teaches courses in Old Testament, New Testament, apologetics, and biblical applications. With a passion for sharing his faith in any situation, whether in or out of the classroom, he believes that the cultures, values, ideas, and personalities of each student have value, and his goal is to help his students refine these with an understanding of biblical truth

For more info, visit:

<https://www.internationalministries.org/author/ryan-baumgart/>

Jim Goodnow - Missions





Summer Cinema will continue the second Sunday of July with the movie ***Courageous, Honor-Begins at Home***. This movie uses the scripture reference: Joshua 24:15 - For me and my house, we will serve the Lord. It is set in Albany, Georgia and is based on four sheriff's deputies striving to serve and protect the community while facing their own faith and commitment to

fatherhood. You'll laugh and you may cry as you watch these officers respond to tragedy, living with honor and building their family's understanding of faith, of God, and of salvation. Hope to see you there.



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

Sunday, July 4th during the Sunday School Hour, you're invited to gather in Holmer Hall for a time of fellowship and prayer for our nation. There will not be a movie segment shown that day. Our Summer Cinema will begin a new movie on July 11.

We are busy gearing up for **VBS** the week of July 26-30. Please see Rexanne or Colleen with any questions or to volunteer. We are also asking for donations of cookies. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

We are also planning to restart our **Wonderful West Side Wednesdays**, aka **WWW**, in the fall. This has been such a vital and important program for the children, youth, and adults in our community and church the past several years. Beginning on Wednesday, Sept 1, we will provide a meal and a group Bible lesson for children and adults. Again we will be counting on volunteers to carry out this mission. There are jobs to help with transportation, cooking, serving, clean-up, teaching, playing, singing, and more. You are invited to be a part of WWW.

Alice Payne, C.E. Coordinator

CHRISTIAN
education

Food Pantry - There will be no Food Pantry during the month of July. I will continue to provide support for the Baby Closet and Kitchen Harvester needs.

School Supplies for Meadows - We will be collecting school supplies to fill 40 backpacks for needy children along with our partners in the Midtown Community Services. Keep a lookout in the "News in the Pews" for specific items to purchase. If you would like someone else to do the shopping, please drop off your monetary donation at the Church Office.

Milk 2 My Plate - Milk 2 My Plate is a partnership between Harvesters and Hiland Dairy to put fresh dairy product in agencies. Utilizing grant funds from the ABCCR and Food Pantry grant funds and donations, we will tentatively start our Milk 2 My Plate program during the week of the 19th of July. Our plan is to offer 2 percent milk in conjunction with Baby Closet/Food Pantry hours (Monday 9am - 11am, Wednesday 3:30pm - 6:30pm and Thursday 1pm - 3pm). Beginning in August, the program will run every 3rd week of the Month. There are no eligibility requirements and no cost to the families. We do need to keep track of the number and makeup of the families using the program for reporting purposes. Our Milk 2 My Plate refrigerator is located in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to make a donation to the program, please see Jack Janway or the Church Office.

Jack (Outreach)



Church News

VENMO – Give to God using VENMO – a phone app. Search for the church **@wsbctopeka** or scan the QR code. We appreciate all your donations and generosity. Questions? Call the Church Office for help.



venmo

GIVE ONLINE – Donate safely online to the general fund and designated funds through the Church's Store at <https://squareup.com/store/west-side-baptist-church>



7th Jay & Marty Stevenson
27th Clarence & Alice Payne



2nd Theresa Milton
6th Jan Mansfield
8th Doug Mauck
13th Molly Morris
15th Virginia Mansfield
15th Nancy Lindberg
20th June Cunningham
29th Sage Poe
30th Sonia Roling
30th Dick May Jr
31st Fran Seymour-Hunter

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.



Fourth of July

WORD SEARCH

CAGFDPSJFREEDOM
REVOLUTIONLWLSX
OVBISTATESIVTJY
EFUDNXZZBWB CGUW
FOLNHDQIWAEIFLG
EIHAIPEQVRRNLNV
ACRNGTAPHATFLAG
MCJEBOETENYZYSJ
ESXPWSDDRNKRMBV
RUUIEOTRSIDAQNG
IMG CVERAOTOEKUT
CMJNWMCKRTATNP
AEGIWYIRSSMTICA
CRHCKJPARADEECE
EHDQGAXUNBVC GSI

United States	Independence	Revolution	Fireworks
Liberty	America	Freedom	Picnic
States	Stars	Flag	Patriotic
Parade	Flag	Summer	July

Road Trip

Word Search Challenge



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

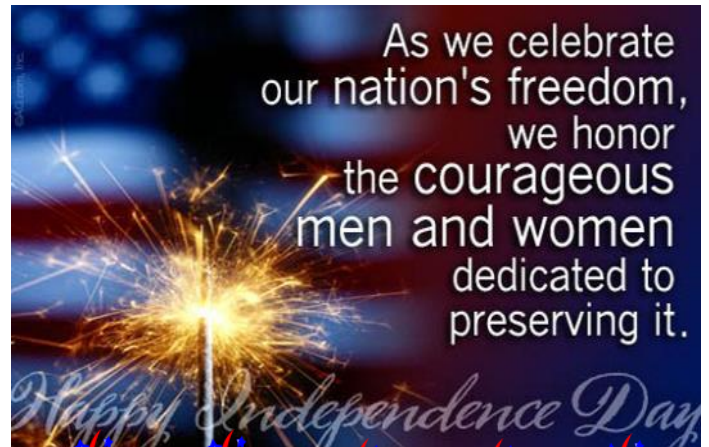
BILLBOARD
BUMPER STICKER
BUS DRIVER
DOUBLE LINES
EXIT
GAS STATION
HIGHWAY

LICENSE PLATE
MINIVAN
MOTORCYCLE
OFF RAMP
OVERPASS
PASSING LANE
PICKUP TRUCK

REST AREA
SEDAN
SPEED LIMIT
TOLL BOOTH
TRAFFIC CIRCLE
TRAFFIC LIGHT



Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held Monday-Friday, July 26-30. Supper will be served at 5:00 PM with activities to follow until 7:00 PM. Eligible ages are any kids who have finished K up through 5 th grade. Our theme is “Wilderness Escape – Where God Guides and Provides.” Many adult volunteers will be needed to get everything ready and accomplished both prior to and during that week. ~ Rexanne & Colleen, Co-Leaders						
				1 1:00 pm Baby Closet Lynda on Vacation	2 Lynda on Vacation	3 1:30 pm Worship Team
4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	5 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED NO Baby Closet	6 4:30 pm Women’s Bible Study Lynda on Vacation	7 No Bible Study No Harvester’s 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet	8 1:00 pm Baby Closet	9	10 1:30 pm Worship Team
11 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:30 am Worship	12 9:00 am Baby Closet	13 4:30 pm Women’s Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Mtg	14 No Bible Study No Harvester’s 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet	15 1:00 pm Baby Closet	16	17 1:30 pm Worship Team
18 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:30 am Worship	19 9:00 am Baby Closet	20 4:30 pm Women’s Bible Study	21 No Bible Study No Harvester’s 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet	22 1:00 pm Baby Closet	23	24 1:30 pm Worship Team
25 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:30 am Worship	26 9:00 am Baby Closet 5:00 pm VBS	27 4:30 pm Women’s Bible Study No Outreach Mtg 5:00 pm VBS	28 No Bible Study No Harvester’s 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet 5:00 pm VBS	29 1:00 pm Baby Closet 5:00 pm VBS	30 5:00 pm VBS	31 1:30 pm Worship Team

West Side Baptist Church
1008 SW Fourth Street
Topeka, KS 66606
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. 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 .
Email: office@wsbctopeka.org Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm , Tuesday – Friday.

BIBLE STUDY ONLINE – *There will be no Bible Study during the month of July.* Join us the first week in August to continue our Bible Study “**The Psalm Book of Israel**” on **Wednesday MORNINGS at 10:30 am in Holmer Hall (face masks, mass limit, and social distancing required) or ZOOM (see email for link and password).**

CHURCH SEC. ON VACATION – Our Church Secretary, Lynda, will be on vacation starting Thursday, July 1 through Tuesday, July 6. The Church Office will be open. Volunteers will answer the phone.

4th OF JULY HOLIDAY – The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, July 5 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. The Office will reopen on Tuesday, July 6th at 8:00 am.

