

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 makes 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 missed Christmas and removed from the story as the first Gentiles to witness the Incarnation? Thankfully, they were "wise men" who stayed focused on their mission - finding the Christ child!

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.

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



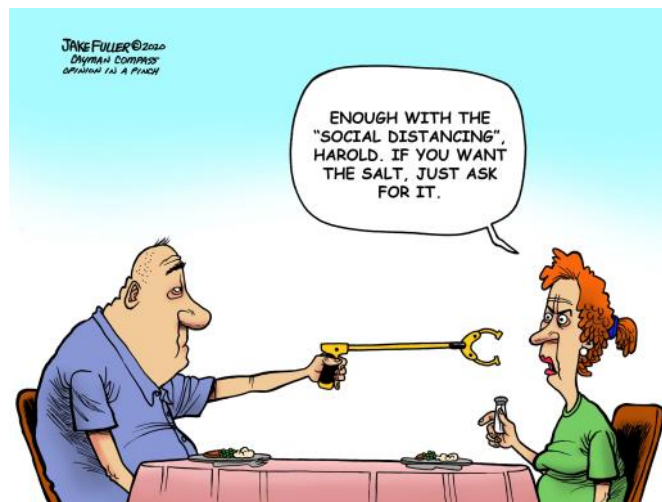
ONLINE WORSHIP - Stay Safe at Home but Pray with the Church! Join us



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.



“People Helping People”

s year; and, those who

figure out a Covid safe,

regular sponsors to still
this year as to not lose

collection of soup and



ANNUAL
REPORT

A whimsical illustration of laundry hanging on a line. From left to right, there is a blue bird, a pair of purple socks, a light blue t-shirt with white stars, a white baby bib with a blue floral pattern, and another blue bird. The items are hanging from a thin grey line with small yellow clothespins. The background is white with faint, light blue floral patterns.

for 2020 to

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
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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



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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

					1 	2 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
3 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	4 9 am Baby Closet	5 4:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	6 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	7 1:00 pm Baby Closet	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
10 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	11 9 am Baby Closet	12 4:30 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Meeting	13 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	14 1:00 pm Baby Closet	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 10:00 am Wor- ship Committee Meeting 1:30 pm Wor- ship Team Practice
17 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Mission Meeting	18 9 am Baby Closet	19 4:30 pm Ladies Bible Study	20 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	21 1:00 pm Baby Closet	22 Pastor's Day Off	23 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
24 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	25 9 am Baby Closet	26 4:30 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	27 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 3:30 pm Baby Closet	28 1:00 pm Baby Closet	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 1:30 pm Worship Team Practice
31 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Annual Meeting			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.			

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. 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.

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

