



# The Witness

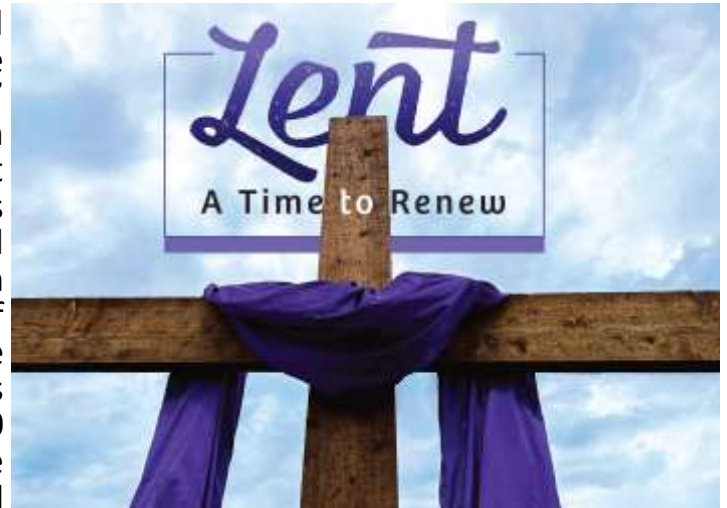
THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

March 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### From the Pastor's Desk:

Jesus never celebrated Lent. He did not eat fish on Fridays. He did not wear ashes on his forehead on Ash Wednesday. He didn't sing dirges in worship to mark a season of sorrow, sadness, or shame.

Lent is a liturgical season created by the church to help Jesus' followers reflect upon his life and ministry. It is designed Christians and physically and spiritually identify with the real struggles of Jesus found in the Gospels. Lent is modeled after the 40 days Jesus was in the desert being tempted by the evil one as preparation for his public ministry and eventual journey to the Cross of Calvary (Mt 4:1-11). The story is not about us, it's about JESUS! It is a story of triumph - Jesus defeated the devil as God's one and only perfect, sinless Son, so he could offer himself as a saving sacrifice. It's about him identifying with our human condition.



A good Lent should not be a time to test or tempt ourselves. We should not create artificial suffering to prove our strength or devotion. The focus of all religious festivals and seasons should be on JESUS! Jesus was tempted and therefore knows our moral and spiritual struggles. *He defeated the devil*, so he can give us *his* spiritual power to overcome evil. Jesus spent time in prayer, so we can call upon his help in our hour of need. Lent should be focused on Jesus—a time to renew our faith, trust, hope, and love of Jesus.

As we celebrate the season of Lent, let's focus our spiritual practices and devotion on Jesus: HE overcome evil. HE gives us STRENGTH when we are weak. HE loves us in spite of our failures. HE sacrificed himself so we can be saved. HE is the great overcomer! May this Lent be a time for you to renew your love of JESUS!

Lenten blessings, Pastor Ivan+

### IMPORTANT EVENTS:

- World Day of Prayer .....3
- Liberia Presentation .....4
- 2nd Sunday of Lent.....5  
Holy Communion
- 3rd Sunday of Lent .....12  
Daylight Saving Begins
- St. Patrick's Day.....17
- 4th Sunday of Lent.....19
- Spring Begins.....20
- 5th Sunday of Lent.....26
- Prairie Pastors Mtg 27-29
- Palm Sunday.....4/2
- EASTER Sunday.....4/9



# CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff



*Don't forget to get your order in for Easter Flowers. It is due back to the office by Friday, March 10.*



- 2nd Brian Hunter
- 3rd Jill Roesler
- 4th Aaron Hunter
- 8th Nathan Poe
- 12th Don Johnson
- 13th Justyne Lawrence
- 14th Thomas Donnelly
- 16th Rexanne Greuter
- 20th Terra Freeman
- 21st Shelby Hersh
- 22nd Trena Ansell
- 22nd Karen Kirby
- 26th Angie Foster
- 27th Wally Goodnow
- 29th Ninny Matthiessen



**ONLINE GIVING**  
<https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>

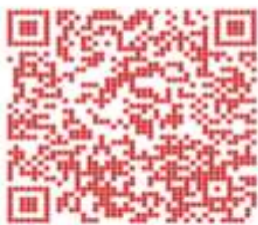
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
MONDAYS - CLOSED

TUESDAYS-FRIDAYS  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Call for a Pastoral Visit  
Pastor's Day Off: Monday  
**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). 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](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org)

## Use Your Smart Phone



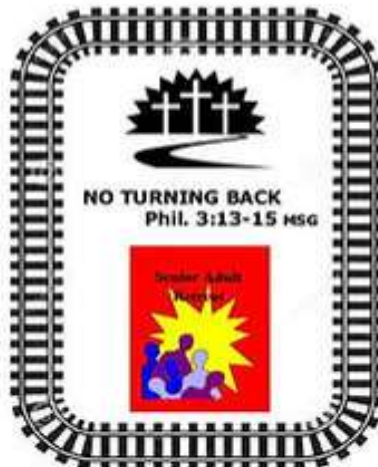
**venmo**



## Sr. Adult Retreat

April 26-27, 2023

West Side Baptist Church  
304 S. Seneca  
Wichita, KS



*Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.*

Rev. Dr. Jerry Cain  
Keynote Speaker



Call the Region Office at 785-272-7622 for more information.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB** - FREE SUPPER on Weds, 5:30 - 6:00 pm, followed by Bible lessons for children, youth, and adults. \*All food is available for free.

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. Come join the fun and invite someone to come along.



**HARVESTER'S** - Harvesters determined that the Food Pantry served 110,967 meals to 27,891 individuals from 133,161 pounds of food obtained from Harvesters valued at \$255,668.26 in FY 2022. Thank you to our volunteers and supporters.

## FOOD PANTRY

MOST WEDNESDAYS  
3:30 - 5:30 PM

\*All food is available free of cost!

[wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry](http://wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry)

No Food Pantry on the 5th Wednesday of the month

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!  
SEE JACK JANWAY TO HELP!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SHARFEST** - Sharfest is an annual event where churches in the Topeka area gather for one Saturday morning for a service project (usually landscaping or painting) at an area school or other non-profit location.



Sharfest 2023 is being held Saturday April 29th from 8 - noon. Sign up at [sharefesttopeka.com](http://sharefesttopeka.com) to pick the location you would like to serve.

**EASTER** - An Easter activity has not been discussed or planned at this time. If you would like to suggest an activity or would like to head an activity, please contact me. Easter usually involves candy, so if you see some candy you would like to donate for an activity, please give it to me or the office.

Thank you  
Jack Janway



## BABY CLOSET

MONDAY - 9:00-11:00AM  
WEDNESDAY - 3:30-6:30 PM  
THURSDAY - 1:00-3:00 PM

[wsbctopeka.org/get-help/baby-closet](http://wsbctopeka.org/get-help/baby-closet)

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS

*Do you sometimes wonder who someone is at church? Do you wish you knew something more about the person who is friendly when you walk into church? We might be “Friends on Facebook” or pray for someone who is sick but what do we know about our church friends? At the January Annual Congregation Meeting we decided that featuring various people for our monthly newsletter might help us get acquainted. In the future I hope you will be willing to let your church friends find out more about you.*

Sonia Roling moved to Topeka in January 2018 from Riviera, Texas. She immediately started attending West Side Baptist because of her friendship with Nancy Lindberg. She serves on the Missions Committee, volunteers at WWW and now serves as our Church Moderator. You might know her as the friendly gal who enjoys giving you a hug!



Born in Tribune in Western Kansas in July 1952, Sonia was an only child. Her dad was a farmer/rancher and her mom a homemaker. After graduating high school she graduated from Hutchinson JUCO, attended Fort Hays State and graduated with a BS in Biology from Sterling College. Later after moving to Texas she graduated from Texas A&M-Kingsville with a MS in Biology. Can you tell she likes studying? She is currently studying at The Urban Ministry Institute Topeka (TUMI) which is a 4-year accreditation in theological studies and is more than halfway done.

Sonia’s work career included a laboratory manager in the Lyons hospital for 10 years and in the Kingsville’s hospital for 33 years before retiring in June 2017.

For fun Sonia got her private pilot’s license, enjoyed learning to scuba dive and always enjoys reading a good book. In Topeka she has become a Team Leader in Celebrate Recovery at First Southern Baptist.



During the kick-off to our capital campaign Sonia gave her testimony one Sunday morning. She shared that when she moved to Topeka she was broken emotionally and physically. “The church, which is the body of Christ, WSBC and Celebrate Recovery has given me a sense of belonging that I have never felt before. When you live your life under dark circumstances for many years as I did, change doesn’t happen overnight. But change did happen by the grace of God and I am a new person made in the image of Christ.”

~ Nancy Lindberg

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Our Church Finances

We are a generous church. We started 2023 with a healthy year-end balance from 2022 of \$140,600.55. Much of that is designated for our capital campaign, outreach and youth funds but we can feel good about not having to dip into our investment funds to cash flow any of last year.

Our income for January was \$17,837.45. This is 6.67% of our budget. 1/12 of the budget year is 8.33%. Our January income included the annual distribution of \$7,974 from our Topeka Community Foundation main fund. The distribution from the Vern and Portia Allbert estate gift designated for music will not be distributed until this summer.

Our expenses for January totaled \$19,993.14 which is 7.23% of our budget. The difference of income to expenses for the first month of the year is -\$2,155.69.

Our checking account balance at the end of January is \$132,160.53. A large portion of this balance is the Capital Campaign monies totaling \$70,848.76 and Outreach totaling \$8,570.45.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$7,265.17.

The Long Range Planning Committee (Harry Carpenter, Tom Mansfield, Clarence Payne, Nathan Poe, Pastor Ivan Greuter and Nancy Lindberg) will be meeting soon to determine what projects will be on our list to accomplish in 2023. You can look at our 2022 Annual Report to review what was completed in the first year of the 3-year campaign and what projects are still on the list for 2023 and 2024. Feel free to talk with any of us if you have a preference on which project is next.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING—Your gifts to the annual America for Christ Offering in March impact thousands – through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes, and much more. Two-thirds of received offerings are directed to the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and one-third are directed to the ABC regional office of the giving church. Our goal is \$1,750.00. Give online or in person using the special giving envelopes, or you can mark your gifts “AFC.”

# WORSHIP

## The Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Reader:  
Don Johnson

### March 5th

Genesis 2:15 – 17; 3:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

### March 12th

Exodus 17:1-7  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### March 19th

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### March 26th

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

## MARCH USHERS

Ernie Longstaff, Aaron Poe,  
Mark Arnold, Pat Carpenter,  
Harry Carpenter

Interested in being an Usher??  
See Clarence Payne, Head Usher

## MARCH COMMUNION SERVERS

Janice Kirby, Don Johnson,  
Ernie Longstaff, Angie Foster



### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

As we gather for worship, you may hear some pre-recorded music playing prior to the worship service. This music will be an introduction to new music that we'll be singing in future worship services. This allows you to hear the music prior to the Worship Team leading new songs and allow you to become more familiar with it



# Worship

*"and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." - John 4:24*



# ACTIVITY PAGE

**HAVE YOU  
TALKED  
TO GOD  
TODAY?**



**St. Patrick's Day Maze #01**

Help the leprechaun find the pot of gold! Trace the path through the maze.

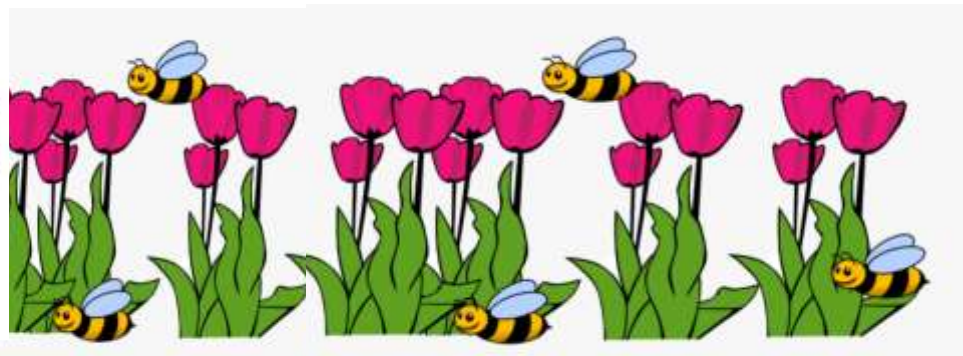
Can you find all of the flowers in the letters below?  
Look up, down, sideways, backwards, and diagonally.

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

## Creation Poem

Day one brought heaven earth and light,  
It must have been so very bright!  
Day two God made the clear blue sky,  
A place for many birds to fly.  
Day three brought land apart from seas,  
With all the plants grass and trees.  
Day four shone forth moon, stars and sun,  
The work of God was not yet done.  
Day five we see the fish and birds,  
God did all of this with just His words.  
Day six God formed all beasts and man  
To finish His creation plan.  
Day seven was especially blessed,  
A day for worship and for rest.

- |               |            |              |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| BUTTERCUP     | IRIS       | PRIMROSE     |
| CARNATION     | LILAC      | RHODODENDRON |
| CHRYSANTHEMUM | LILY       | ROSE         |
| DAFFODIL      | LOTUS      | TULIP        |
| DAISY         | MARIGOLD   | VIOLET       |
| DANDELION     | PEONY      | WATER LILY   |
| GERANIUM      | PERIWINKLE | ZINNIA       |
| HONEYSUCKLE   | POPPY      |              |



# March

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p><b>1</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p><b>2</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p><b>3</b> </p>	<p><b>4</b> 10:00 am Liberia Mission Report  2:30 pm Worship Committee</p>
<p><b>5</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p><b>9</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>Deadline to get your Easter flowers ordered in</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> <b>SPRING FORWARD</b>  9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>6:00 pm Council Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 10:30 am No Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:30 pm No WWW 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p><b>16</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p><b>17</b> </p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p><b>20</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p><b>23</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p><b>27</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet  <b>6:00 pm DAR</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>6:30 pm Outreach Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p><b>30</b> 1:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	