

# The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

***"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you." Ephesians 5:14***

Are you an early, happy riser? Do you know anyone who likes to get out of bed in the morning? I enjoy the early mornings when no one else is awake. The house is quiet, calm, and I can get a lot done...if I have gone to sleep at a decent time the previous night. Let's be honest, there are morning persons in our household and there are some (okay, most) who consider anything before eleven o'clock early.

I remember as a child getting my mom to commit to waking up for the Sunrise Service on Easter. She would promise to get up and drive me to the hilltop where we would gather with other Christians to watch the sun rise behind a wooden cross. It was a big deal to me!

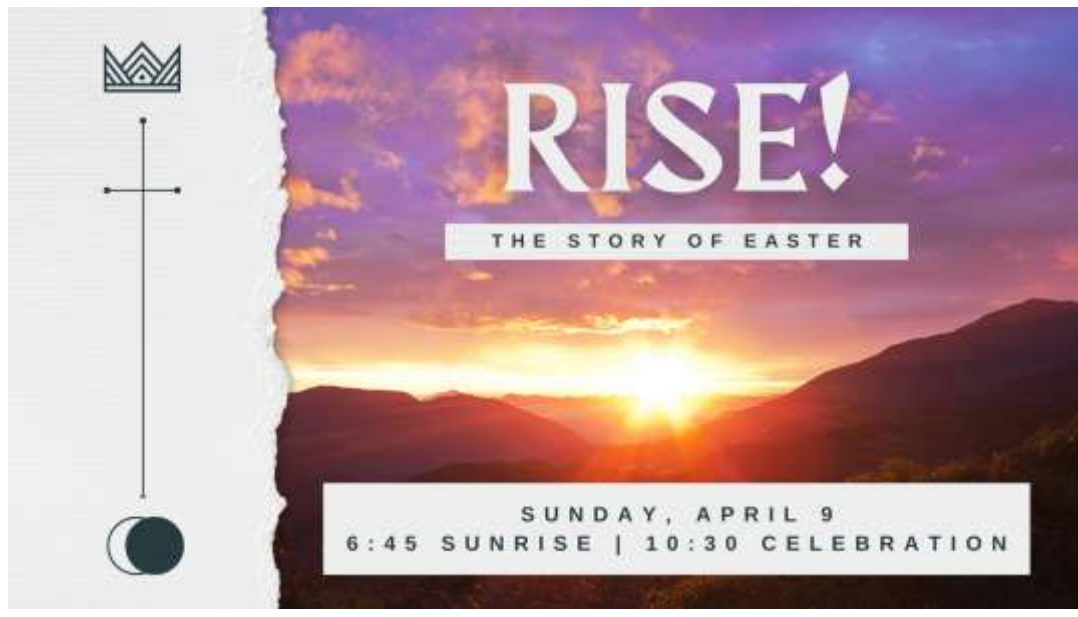
My mom was not a morning person. Her rule was "make no noise and do not talk to me until I have had my second pot of coffee and piece of chocolate cake" - no exaggeration or hyperbole. But on Easter morning, she made an exception. It is a precious memory of my mom sacrificing her rest so she could hold my hand at the service.

Easter is not just another holiday. It is THE holiest day of the Church. Resurrection is the central and defining difference of Christianity. Easter is not an accident. Continued on the next page:



**IMPORTANT EVENTS:**

- Young Christians at Silver Dollar City ..... 3/31-4/2
- PALM Sunday .....4/2
- MAUNDY Thursday Pass-over Seder Supper .....6
- GOOD FRIDAY Service at First Baptist Church. 7
- Easter Egg Hunt .....8
- EASTER Sunday .....9
- SUNRISE ..... 6:45 am
- BREAKFAST ..... 8 am
- Sunday School ..... 9 am
- Worship ..... 10:30 am
- WWW Bingo.....26



April 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						





# CHURCH OFFICE

# Our Staff

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4th Jared & Amy Cripe  
 18th Brian & Lonna Hersh  
 24th Dewey & Tera Freeman



# April BIRTHDAYS

- |     |               |      |                 |
|-----|---------------|------|-----------------|
| 1st | Bev McCurdy   | 17th | Emily Hersh     |
| 3rd | Nancy Cottril | 25th | Ernie Longstaff |
| 3rd | Russ Hunter   | 26th | Adelynn Cripe   |
| 4th | Jane Austin   | 29th | Jan Mauck       |
| 6th | Jessa Greuter | 30th | Harry Carpenter |
| 6th | Matthew Peck  |      |                 |

**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:

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 1008 SW 4th St.,  
 Topeka, KS 66606.  
 Phone: (785) 233-4241  
 Email: [office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org)



The Council and Pastor Ivan invite church members and friends to join us in expressing our appreciation for the dedicate and diligent work of our Church Administrator and Secretary: Lynda Cokeley.

**Wednesday, April 26, 2023.**

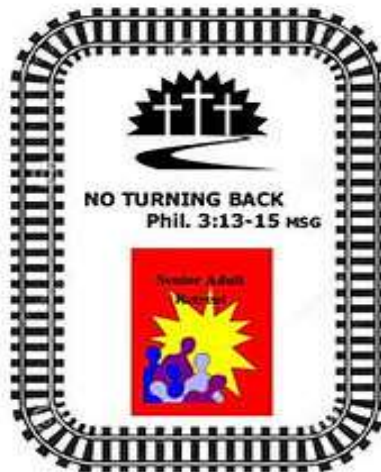


## Am. Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR) SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY  
 APRIL 26-27, 2023**

West Side Baptist Church  
 304 S Seneca  
 Wichita, Kansas

Call the Region Office at 785-272-7622  
 for more information or Visit  
<https://www.abCCR.org>



*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



# 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 Egg Hunt will be held Saturday April 8th at Meadows Elementary School. Donations of candy would be appreciated and can be turned into the office. Volunteer help to stuff the eggs and to help on the day of the hunt will be needed. Please contact Jessica Gilmore to let her know you will help or for more information. The Easter Bunny will also be requested to attend. Flyers will be prepared for more information.

**These are the times:**

Infant - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at 11:00am

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade at 1:00pm

7<sup>th</sup> and up at 3:00pm



## 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

Don Johnson has been a member of West Side Baptist Church for more than 47 years. He has served in a number of positions with the church and currently is the Coordinator of Missions.

Don lives northeast of Lawrence so he probably drives the farthest to church on Sundays. It is 65 miles round-trip. He's married to Sandra and has two daughters, three granddaughters and two grandsons. Several years ago Don appeared on Wheel of Fortune with one of his granddaughters. You'll have to ask him how well they did!

Don grew up one of seven children with a dad who worked as a butcher and a mother who was a homemaker. At 12 years he joined the Eighth Street Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas and that was where he was baptized.

He graduated from Sumner High School in KCK in May 1962 and shortly after graduation he joined the U.S. Air Force. Don served as a Jet Aircraft Mechanic with the 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Wing Strategic Air Command at Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas. He was released from active duty in 1966.

After serving in the service Don came home and decided to go to Kansas City, Kansas Community College and graduated with an Associate Arts degree in May 1969. Then he attended Wichita State University studying engineering and graduated in May 1972 with a BS in Electrical Engineering.

So what did he do with his engineering degree? Don went to work for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Topeka as an equipment engineer. I am told that working for Southwestern Bell is where he met and became good friends with long-time West Side Baptist Church member Ed Moody who invited him to church. And we are glad he did because Don joined our church and has been an active member ever since.

Don retired after almost 20 years from Southwestern Bell Telephone (a buy-out when they downsized) in 1991. But quickly after a headhunter from Sprint was at his door asking him to work for them in Kansas City. Don worked at Sprint until officially retiring in 2002.

We can always count on Don. In March he read scriptures for Sunday morning services, he regularly attends Wednesday morning Bible Study, and this year he is once again chairing our Missions Committee.

~ Nancy Lindberg





# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Our Church Finances

Our income for February was \$18,126.28. This is 13.5% of our budget. 2/12 of the budget year is 16.67%. We have \$270 in the Bruno Sprengs memorial fund. Our youth raised \$922 with their Valentine's luncheon.

Our expenses for February totaled \$20,939.18 which is 15.32% of our budget.

The difference of income to expenses for February is -\$2,812.90.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$128,489.44. A large portion of our balance is in the Capital Campaign and Outreach funds.

The Endeavor investment report was good news to start the year. For January, we had an increase of \$14,325.93. I would guess February's report won't be as good.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$6,830.17.

At the March council meeting, the council voted to ask the Memorials Committee to discuss underwriting the cost of a new laptop computer for the pastor. The committee will meet and discuss which memorial(s) to recommend.

Your first quarter giving statement will be ready in early April. It will have your pledge for the year on the statement. As always, let me know if you see something that isn't what you expected.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~Nancy Lindberg,  
Treasurer



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

**Use Your  
Smart Phone**



**venmo**

# Am. Baptist Women's Ministries

American Baptist  

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Women's  
MINISTRIES

**AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRY PROJECT** – Each year, the ABWM of the Central Region selected **ANTIOCH BAPTIST SCHOOL** in **MONROVIA, LIBERIA** for this year's **Special Project: a grant of \$30,000.00** which will provide for the construction of the second floor of the building – bringing the building to three-fourth completion of construction!

This is critical to the long-term vision of upgrading the school to include Senior High grades and vocational training classes, thus enhancing its relevance to the local community and the nation. Completion of the construction will serve as leverage and motivation to secure funding for finishes and furnishings for this second floor – desks, chairs, tables, boards, plumbing, etc.

**Building Project** - International Ministries has partnered with the Liberia Direct Baptist Missionary Conference since 200. We have prioritized this school-building project out of our mutual commitment to the dignity, liberation, and productive citizenship that require a solid educational foundation and nurture. ***The public education system and buildings were destroyed in the Liberia Civil War (1980-1999), followed by the Ebola Epidemic (2013-2016) and COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-2023).*** The churches sponsor schools to bring education and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children of all ages. Despite the shortage of teachers and funds, the churches have persevered in providing basic education to students.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Antioch Baptist Elementary and Junior High School had 146 students – 69 females and 79 males. They employ 24 teachers and staff – 9 females and 15 males. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) grants and local resources have resulted in the construction of the ground and first floors of a four-floor school building – providing eight classrooms. This is attracting additional students, creating a need for more space! A good “problem” to have.

**HOW WE WILL HELP:** Baptist women in Kansas are receiving donations “**ABWM SPECIAL PROJECT: Antioch Baptist School**” – now thru August 31, 2023. **DONATE! USE THE “LOVE OFFERING” ENVELOPE OR MARK YOUR DONATION “ABWM PROJECT.”** You can also donate online at <https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>.

Find more information at <https://www.abwmcr.org/special-project>.



# WORSHIP

## The Revised Common Lectionary Texts

**Reader:**  
**Laurie Dewey**

### **PALM SUNDAY: April 2**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthews 21:1-11

### **EASTER SUNDAY: April 9**

Acts 10:34-43 or  
Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Colossians 3:1-4 or  
Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or  
Matthew 28:1-10

### **EASTERTIDE: April 16**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

### **EASTERTIDE: April 23**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

### **EASTERTIDE: April 30**

Acts 2:42-47  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10



## GOOD FRIDAY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TOPEKA  
3033 SW MacVicar Ave  
April 7th, 2023  
7:00 pm

Combined worship service with:  
First Baptist Church - Lawrence  
First Baptist Church - Topeka  
New Hope and Love Community Church  
New Life Baptist Church  
West Side Baptist

Link to Good Friday Livestream



## **APRIL USHERS**

Jack Janway, Don Johnson, Angie Foster,  
Aaron Poe, Harry Carpenter

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

## **APRIL COMMUNION SERVERS**

**April 9th:** Brice & Colleen Smith  
Jared & Amy Cripe

\*Communion will be postponed one week to  
serve on Easter Sunday.



# ACTIVITY PAGE



## Easter Word Fun

BUNNY  
EASTER  
CARROT  
BASKET  
CANDY  
APRIL  
SPRING  
EGGS  
GRASS  
HOP

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

SECRET CODE: 6—T  
0—S 3—R 7—E  
1—H 4—A 8—Y  
2—W 5—I 9—P



How does a rabbit keep his fur looking good?

2 5 6 1 1 4 3 7 0 9 3 4 8

## Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES  
CHRIST  
CROSS  
CROWN  
CRUCIFIXION  
HOLY  
JESUS  
KING  
LAMB  
LOVE



MARY  
REDEMPTION  
RESURRECTION  
RISEN  
ROMANS  
ROOSTER  
SACRIFICE  
SALVATION  
SAVIOR  
THORNS

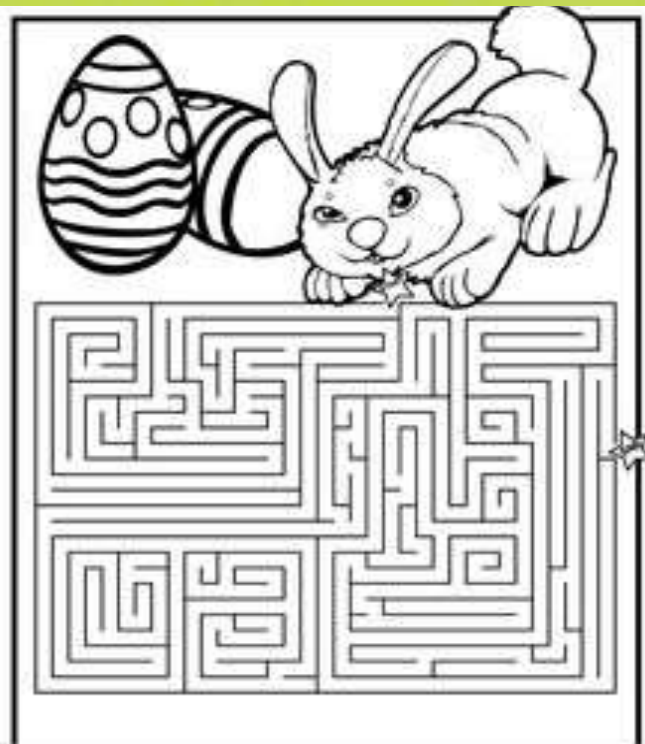


Life is Colorful  
With  
Jesus



Jelly beans are sweet. Let them help remind you that life with Jesus is a special treat.

Red is for the blood He gave  
Green is for the grass He made  
Yellow is for the sun so bright  
Orange is for the edge of night  
Black is for the sins we made  
White is for the grace He gave  
Purple is for His hour of sorrow  
Pink is for our new tomorrow





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<b>1</b> Young Chris- tians Weekend
<b>2 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>3 Holy WK</b> OFFICE CLOSED  9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Holy WK</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet <b>NO WWW Kids Club or Supper</b>	<b>6</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet 6:00 pm Seder Supper	<b>7 Holy WK</b> <b>Good Friday</b> OFFICE CLOSED  7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ 1st Baptist Church	<b>8</b> Easter Egg Hunt @ Meadows School
<b>9 EASTER</b> 6:45 am Sunrise Service 8:00 am Breakfast Potluck 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>10</b> OFFICE CLOSED  9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	<b>11</b>  6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30-7:00 pm Supper and WWW Kids Club	<b>13</b> 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  2:30 pm Worship Committee
<b>16</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  2:00 pm Mission Committee	<b>17</b> OFFICE CLOSED  9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	<b>18</b>  5:30 pm Christian Education Meeting	<b>19</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30-7:00 pm Supper and WWW Kids Club	<b>20</b> 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Capital Campaign Committee
<b>23 / 30</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>24</b> OFFICE CLOSED  9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet  6:00 pm DAR (HH)	<b>25</b>  6:00 pm Outreach Committee	<b>26</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30-7:00 pm Supper and WWW Kids Club	<b>27</b> 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00 am - 12:00 pm ShareFest Community Volunteer Event