

#### From the Pastor's Desk: "EDUCATE & ENGAGE!"

As we journey through this season after Pentecost designed for growth and reflection, I want to emphasize the importance of actively participating in a growth group and Sunday school. So our faith is not stagnant; it requires continuous nurturing, learning, and deepening. By engaging in Bible studies and small groups, we open our hearts and minds to the transformative power of God's Word and Spirit, allowing it to shape us into faithful disciples of His love.

The New Testament speaks extensively about the significance of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in our Christian walk. In 2 Timothy 2:15, the apostle Paul encourages Timothy, saying, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." This verse reminds us of our responsibility to diligently study and engage with the Scriptures. Bible studies and small groups equips us to rightly divide the Word of God, enabling us to live out its teachings and share it effectively with others.

Furthermore, the book of Proverbs reminds us of the inherent value of wisdom, stating in Proverbs 4:7, "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding." In a

world full of conflicting ideologies and moral relativism, Christian education provides us with a solid foundation rooted in biblical truth. It equips us to discern between what is godly and what is contrary to God's will, allowing us to walk in wisdom and make godly choices.



August 2023								
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#### UPCOMING EVENTS IN AUGUST:

New Bible Study......2 SS Cinema Continues .. 6 Communion Sunday.....6 Purple Heart Day ......7 Public School Starts...8-9 Baptism Sunday .......20 Newsletter Art. Due .....22 WWW Kids Club ......30



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.WSBCTOPEKA.ORG

## **PASTOR'S PAGE**

Participating in Christian education takes various forms. It includes attending Bible studies, joining a Sunday school class, attending seminars or workshops, and resources that deepen utilizing our knowledge of Scripture and Christian teachings. It can also involve reading Christian books, engaging in online courses, or utilizing educational apps designed to strengthen our faith. As we invest time and effort in these activities, we create a rich soil for spiritual growth, ensuring that our faith remains vibrant and flourishing.



I encourage you, dear friends, to embrace the opportunities available for Christian education within our church community. Let us take advantage of the various programs, classes, and resources we provide, all of which are designed to equip and empower us in our faith journey. As we commit ourselves to continuous learning, we position ourselves to be effective witnesses of Christ's love, both within our church family and in the world around us.

May the Holy Spirit guide and inspire us as we engage in Christian education, and may we be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). Together, let us pursue knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, so that we may faithfully fulfill the Great Commission and bring glory to our heavenly Father. Wisdom and Blessings, Pastor Ivan+



THE GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY – Pastor Ivan will teach a sixteen (16) week class on The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM in Holmer Hall, starting August 2, 2023. The same lesson will be taught in the morning and evenings. The class is free and open to the public.



SUNDAY SCHOOL & SMALL GROUPS SURVEY – Christian Education would like feedback about adult small group and Bible study ideas for this fall. Please take two minutes to complete the survey in person or online. See Colleen Smith for details and questions. Complete a paper survey at the church or complete it online: <u>https://forms.gle/</u> <u>xfLSLqDGbqqKzruh8</u>



# CHURCH OFFICE Sur Staff



6th Daniel Decker 16th Jim Goodnow 19th Nelda Janway 22nd Donna Niegsch 24th Jay Stevenson



2nd Dick Jr & Nancy May 24th Ivan & Rexanne Greuter

CALL the CHURCH OFFICE for an UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY.





**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** 

**MONDAYS - CLOSED** 

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

> FRIDAYS 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Call for a Pastoral Visit Pastor's Day Off: FRIDAYS

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> West Side Baptist Church 1008 SW 4th St. Topeka, KS 66606 Phone: (785) 233-4241



A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART FOR JESUS & OUR NEIGHBORS

#### WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH 1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606 Phone: (785) 233-4241 | office@wsbctopeka.org

FOLLOW US HERE!

# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**VBS** - We had a spectacular week at VBS June 5-9 with engaging opening and closing sessions, great Bible stories, science experiments and games.

We had a total enrollment of 24 kids and many, many adult and youth helpers. Thanks to everyone who prayed for us, donated cookies, fixed our meals and helped lead crews and stations. We know we have planted the seeds and even had two attendees accept Christ and were recently baptized (along with their sister).

**QUEST** - David Greuter, Nathen and Aaron Poe attended Quest July 9-15 along with our adult sponsors Tera Freeman, Jessa Greuter and Jessa's friend JT. We are very grateful to them for taking time from their regular jobs to accompany these young men. These activities would not happen without your generous donations at our various fundraisers.

Thank you, WSBC family!

**WWW** - Plans are also underway for Wonderful West Side Wednesdays. We will have a kickoff celebration and enrollment time Wednesday, August 30 with a splash party. Hot dogs, chips and cookies will be served. If you are interested in helping with WWW we would love to have you. Please see Colleen Smith if you are interested.

Sincerely,

Colleen Smith, CE Coordinator Kids Bible Club.







SUNDAY SCHOOL - We are beginning to plan for our fall programs and activities but we need your help. Pastor Ivan has created a very short survey asking for your input regarding Sunday School programming. You may complete it online or grab a paper copy during worship or from the church office if you prefer. We value your opinion and want to provide classes and activities that interest you. All who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card. We are planning a Sunday School celebration breakfast on September 3 with regular Sunday School classes beginning September 10. If you are interested in leading a Sunday School class, please contact Colleen Smith.



# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



**LAST SUNDAY CINEMA** - Our last movie for the summer is Belle and Sebastian. It is a 2013 French adventure drama based on the 1966 French novel *Belle et Sebastien* by Cecile Aubry.

The movie is set in 1943 when France was occupied by Germany. Sebastian is a seven-year-old orphan boy living with Caesar, an adoptive "Grandfather" and his niece, Angelina. The unusual little family lives in the small village of Saint-Martin, whose inhabitants, despite the German occupation, secretly organize the passage of Jewish exiles into Switzerland. The village is plagued by a mysterious "Beast" who preys on the flocks of the shepherds and the inhabitants. Though Belle and Sebastian is not a true story, the Pyrenees did, in fact, serve as an escape route for many European Jews escaping Nazi persecution, many of whom were aided by non -Jewish citizens who risked their lives to help them.

Please join us for our last movie for the summer! Refreshments are at 9:00 a.m. in Holmer Hall with the movie starting promptly at 9:15 a.m. There is a <u>sign-up sheet on the bulletin</u> <u>board</u> for those who would like to bring treats, serve and clean-up for one of the Sundays. Coffee and juice is provided with breakfast items prepared by those who would like to bring something. See you there!

**MISSIONS** - At our July council meeting the volunteer opportunity serving at Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma was discussed. The American Baptist Men (ABMen Central Region) is organizing several work sessions. This Children's Home is supported by the American Baptist Churches. West Side Baptist has sent several teams over the past years to the home to help with various projects and encourages church members who would like to volunteer in August to contact the individuals listed below. The next trip planned is August 7-11, 2023. Address: 2540 Murrow Cir, Muskogee, OK 74403.

**Work needed:** The outside work includes groundwork, working on drainage, gutter repair and replacement, calking and repair on housing and miscellaneous repairs. There is also inside (air conditioned) work in cleaning and maintenance inside the housing, organizing and help in the Administration and other buildings on the property.

Contact Monty Metcalf for more details on the work and what tools might be needed. Email: <u>montys1@msn.com</u> phone: 316-305-9534

Monday morning and Saturday will be travel days. Work opportunities will begin after lunch on Monday. You are welcome to come for the week or for a day or two. For a reservation, please let Donnella Lawson know what days you can come.

Email: donnellatoo@gmail.com phone: 316-393-0432

Light housing is available on the property. The volunteer cabin has several rooms with beds & bunk beds (bring your own linens and sleeping bags) with a men's & women's shower & bathrooms. It has a full kitchen available. There are several fast food & sit-down restaurants in the area. The housing is free and the food will be on our own.

Volunteers of all skill sets and ages are needed and welcome. Please be in prayer about the Children's Home and this opportunity to serve. Here is their web site: <u>murrowindianchildrenshome.org</u>

Don Johnson, Coordinator of Mission

# FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

**FAREWELL TO GILMORE FAMILY** - Jessica, Corey and the girls



moved to Oklahoma at the end of July. We are excited for them as they follow God on a new chapter of life.

Jessica resigned her position as the chair of Fellowship and Membership. She did an amazing job and we'll miss them! The Nominating Committee is looking for a new volunteer. The Ministry of Fellowship and Membership shall be

responsible to administer, coordinate, and promote the spirituality and congregational care of the membership. He/She will oversee:

- Prayer ministry
- New membership recruitment and training
- Justice and reconciliation
- Congregational care
- Visitation
- Ordination committee
- The Social Committee
  - Special congregational fellowship events
  - Receptions and funeral dinners
  - Maintain kitchens and pantry supplies

See Karen Kirby, Chair of the Nominating Committee, if you feel called to serve the Lord and His Church.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



JOSHUA & PATTIE TRIPOD joined by believers' baptism on Sunday, July 9. See Office for updated church directory.



BRIAN JR., JESSICA, and JOHN WIDOW joined by believers' baptism on Sunday, July 9. They accepted Jesus Christ during Vacation Bible School. They are the daughter and sons of Tonya and Brian Widow.

We will hold Baptism again on Sunday, August 20 at 10:30 am. See Pastor for details.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

#### **Our Church Finances**

Where has the time gone? We are already halfway through the year and our finances are doing pretty well. Our income for June was \$15,574.30. The total to date for the year is \$130,231.02 and is 48.71% of what we budgeted.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the year is 50.0%. Income to note includes: \$60 for Vacation Bible School and \$25 for Blessing Boxes.

Our expenses for June were \$23,697.79 for total expenses from first of the year through June of \$149,213.95. This is 54.3% of the budget. Expense items to note include: \$500.00 in M&M Pension for Office Manager; \$4,229.54 in Building Facility Maintenance for tree removal (\$2,100) and McElroy's contract (\$985); and \$206.51 for Vacation Bible School/Summer Program. Note also that Utilities - Electricity increased by almost \$500 in June but Gas decreased by almost \$350.

The difference of income to expenses through June is - \$18,982.93.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$117,409.79 compared to \$131,157.94 last month. A large portion of our balance is in the Capital Campaign and Outreach funds.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$6,291.96.

In July we received our annual distribution from the Vern and Portial Allbert fund at the Topeka Community Foundation. This year the amount was \$3,905.00. This gift offsets our music related budget expenditures.

You should have received your 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter giving statement. If you didn't get yours, please let Nelda Janway, Nancy Ohse or me know and we'll get you one printed.

Thank you for your continued financial support of our church. As a whole, we are a financially healthy church with generous givers. Let me know if you have any questions.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



#### REMEMBERING YOUR CHURCH IN WILLS & ESTATE PLANS

West Side Baptist Church partners with two Foundations to help members and friends to remember the Church in wills and estate plans.



Since 1983, the Topeka Community Foundation has worked to improve the quality of life in our region through an active partnership with donors and others who believe, as we do, that positive change occurs through effective charitable giving. Today, the Community Foundation manages almost 400 charitable funds established by individuals, families. and businesses and nonprofit organizations. Together, these funds represent ordinary people who have made extraordinary commitments to our community.

#### 5431 SW 29th St. Ste 300 Topeka, KS 66614 (785) 272-4804



Since 1985, the mission of the American Baptist Foundation (ABF) is to support and strengthen the Christian witness fulfilled by our partners in ministry and mission. The Foundation encourages individuals to support the these partners endeavours of through what is known as "planned giving" - establishing wills and other charitable estate plans.

American Baptist Foundation 420 West Germantown Pike East Norriton • PA 19403 Toll Free: 1-833-888-0538

### **GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS**

Our Friends story this month features two remarkable women of our church, **Trena Ansell and Molly Morris**. Several days after my interview with Trena she passed away from heart problems. Her Celebration of Life service will be Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at West Side Baptist Church.

**Trena Ansell** joined West Side Baptist in 1985. For years she organized our Women's Night Out dinner group eating out once a month with any women of the church who wanted to go. The men started eating out the same night and sometimes even chose the same location as the ladies. Trena chose our location and provided reminders until Covid



put an end to the program, at least for a while. Until recently she also headed up the nursery, volunteering to watch the little ones and asking others to serve. She still makes sure there are enough supplies in the nursery and typically donates what is needed. For years Trena has organized a group of church women who enjoy live theatre to attend Topeka Civic Theatre productions together.

Ann Maria "Trena" Ansell was born in Savannah, Georgia. She has one older brother Bill Abrams, and two younger sisters Joanie Peterson and Puddy Nuzzo. Puddy passed away in 2017. Trena told me she was dedicated as a baby in the church of her grandmother, the United Brethren Church, and then attended the Presbyterian Church. Later she started attending the local Baptist Church where she was baptized.

At an early age Trena's family moved to Bradford, Pennsylvania and that is where she met the man she would later marry, Fred Ansell. In high school they loved going to school dances on Friday nights. They graduated from Bradford Area High School in 1963. Trena decided to attend Buffalo University to become a nurse but only studied there for one year. Fred was attending Eastern Baptist College so after they were married in July of 1966, she joined him. They later moved to Covina, California where Fred continued his studies and received both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from American Baptist Seminary of the West. Trena cared for their first child Jennifer "Jennie" and for several years they were house parents for 6-10 kids at the Masonic Home for Children.

In 1972, they moved to Hays, Kansas for Fred to become Campus Minister at Fort Hays State and for Trena to begin her studies to become a speech pathologist. She completed her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degrees in Speech Communication. During that time their son Aaron was born. In 1978, they moved to Pittsburg, Kansas for Fred to become the Southeast Area Minister for American Baptist for the Central Region (ABCCR) and for Trena to start her career as a speech pathologist in the Pittsburg School District. They enjoyed traveling to Fred's meetings around the country and spending many a Christmas with family in Tucson, Arizona. Also, they enjoyed hosting international high school and college exchange students from Japan, Nicaragua and Columbia.

In 1985, they moved to Topeka for Fred to serve as Executive Director of ABCCR and for Trena to become the speech pathologist for the Three Lakes Special Education Cooperative. She retired in 2006 and Fred in 2007. They loved spending more time with their wonderful grandchildren: Micah (Aaron and Jillinda's daughter) and Chris (Jennie and Bob's son). Trena treasures spending almost every Saturday with Micah and then having dinner with Aaron and Jillinda. She is delighted visiting Jennie and Bob in their home in Milford especially on holidays. Trena loved reading especially science fiction and using her talents for cardmaking. If you step inside her craft room you would think she has her own shop. Almost every Tuesday, Tom and Jan Mansfield visit Trena so Jan can make a new card that Trena has practiced making during the week. Maybe you have received one of those homemade cards!

Trena loved their many trips abroad. She told me her favorite country was France but I know she also enjoyed England where they visited Jennie when she lived outside of London. Since Fred's death from ALS in 2012, Trena continued traveling to see family and friends. She also traveled every fall to Branson with me to see several shows and to make Christmas cards.

You can read Pastor Greuter's tribute of Trena on page 10 of this newsletter.



Our next West Side Baptist Friend featured this month is **Molly Morris**. Molly joined our church in 1987. She heads up our prayer chain program which includes not only getting messages out on people who need our prayers but also serves as captain of the team (Nancy Cottril, Marty Rosa Stevenson and Pat Carreno) who send cards to the shut-ins and others in the church. Molly has served on many committees over the years – Fellowship, Nominating, Personnel and Pulpit Committee when Pastor Kip Mickelson was called to serve. She enjoyed singing in the choir and teaching WWW.

Molly was born in Lebo, Kansas. She has a sister, Roxie, who is three years older, and had a brother, Billy, who died when he was 6 weeks old. Her family lived in Melvern, Lyndon and then in 1945 moved to Topeka when her Dad went to work for Goodyear. Molly's

mother was a homemaker. They attended First Congregational Church and later an interdenominational church. Molly graduated from Topeka High School.

After high school Molly decided to attend Clark's School of Business but after six months she was hired to work at Goodyear in the whitewall tire area. Molly told me she met Don "in the tunnel" when she would be walking to get their office mail at Goodyear and Don was going the opposite direction because he also worked at Goodyear. Don eventually called her to ask her out and the rest is history. They were married on May 2, 1959. Don served in the Army (6 months training) and then went into the Reserves and National Guard. Molly was laid off at Goodyear when they went on strike and she worked for Ray Beers Clothing in downtown Topeka.

In March of 1960 Don and Molly bought a farm three miles northeast of Holton. In 1967, they decided to build a milk barn and to start a dairy farm. Molly quit work to help Don with the milking and their kids helped too. They have four children: Polly Millican (Jerry), Penny Frey (Mike), Randy Morris (Julie) and Bruce Morris (Kathy). The girls are twins. They milked 65-70 cows twice a day. Molly enjoyed their country life! During these years on the farm they were members of Holton's First Baptist Church.

In 1979, they had a bad fire in the hay barn. There was nothing they could do to save it and that meant they lost the hay that was needed to feed the cows. Molly said that Don, realizing their great loss, used his sense of humor during the fire saying, "Want to have a wiener roast"? They sold the cows and both got jobs in Topeka – Don working at Midwest Machine Works and Molly at Volume Shoes. Don also patched roofs on the side. Showbiz Pizza knew of Don's work and approached him to work for them as they were expanding to 12 new locations in the East and in Texas. Showbiz also asked him to research Duro-Last Roofing which ultimately became the roofing material that made them successful. Midwest Coating Inc. was born! They sold the farm and by 1981 were traveling across the country installing Duro-Last Roofs for the 12 Showbiz Pizza locations. It was just Molly and another couple working with Don putting on the roofs.

In 1985, they moved to Topeka and Don became the Sales Representative for Duro-Last Roofing for Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. They visited several churches including West Side Baptist and they felt "our church members were so friendly". They met George and Dorothy Robinson and it was George who invited them to Sunday School. Molly recognized Max Bloom and they realized they were neighbors of Wayne and Nancy Cottril. They had a new church home!

Besides their four children, Molly and Don have 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Don passed away in June 2020 from colon cancer. They enjoyed 61 years together!

Molly loves to read, likes to cook, and enjoys lunch with friends. She especially likes live theatre (she's in Trena's group) and going to movies. She and Don had tremendous experiences traveling to work conventions across the country and also enjoyed trips abroad to France and England.

Molly closed my interview with this statement, "We gave our business to the Lord and we can see how greatly He blessed us. Glory to God for giving me Don and our business!" ~ Nancy Lindberg

#### Beloved Sister, Ann Maria "Trena" Ansell



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our dear sister, Ann Maria "Trena" Augusta (Abrams) Ansell, a cherished member of West Side Baptist Church in Topeka. She departed this earthly life for the Kingdom of God on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. While we mourn her loss, we also celebrate the beautiful life she lived and the profound impact she had on all of us.

Trena was a remarkable woman of unwavering faith, compassion, and love. Her presence among us was a source of inspiration and guidance. She touched countless lives with her gentle spirit, kind words, commitment to the education and care of children, and selfless acts of service. Whether she was offering a loving embrace to her grandchildren, a comforting hand to a friend, leading the nursery

ministry, serving in mission and religious life, A volunteering in the America Baptist Churches of the Central Region office, or lending a listening ear, she always radiated God's love and grace. Beyond her dedication to our church, Trena was a loving wife, a nurturing mother, a cherished sister, and a loyal friend. She fostered strong relationships and nurtured them with care, fostering a sense of belonging and unity wherever she went. Her wisdom, warmth, and smile will forever remain etched in our memories.

With deepest condolences, Pastor Ivan+

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

### 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

**BLESSING BOXES COLLECTION -** There is a collection box for non-perishable food items and hygiene products that will be used for our blessing box in Fellowship Hall on the side of the Milk Refrigerator. ~Jack Janway, Coordinator of Outreach

FOOD PANTRY MOST WEDNESDAYS 3:30 - 5:30 PM \*All food is available free of cost!

wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry

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



### **WORSHIP** ...We're Better Together!

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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka</u>
- YouTube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC">https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC</a>
- Order a free copy of the service on DVD by contacting the Church Office.





#### **AUGUST USHERS**

Jack Janway, Don Johnson,

Angie Foster and Nathen Poe

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

#### **AUGUST COMMUNION SERVERS**

Nathen Poe, Sonia Roling, Don Johnson and Janice Kirby The Revised Common Lectionary Texts

August Reader:

**Angie Foster** 

#### August 6th

Genesis 32:22-31 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

August 13th

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28 Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b Matthew 14:22-33

#### August 20th

Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28

#### August 27th

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Matthew 16:13-20

### Praise God with Music

## **ACTIVITY PAGE**



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Homework

Learning

Library

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Notebook



Assignments Backpack Binder Cafeteria Chalk Classroom Computer Eraser Office Principal Quiz Science Scissors Stapler Test

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THERE ARE PLENTY OF SEATS FARTHER UP FRONT.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal? I would love to hear Your take. How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.!

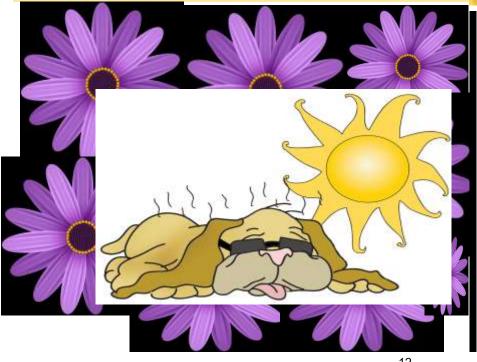
And why's everyone so quiet, So somber - give me a clue.' 'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you.

JUDGE NOT !

Remember.... Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Every saint has a PAST ...

Every sinner has a FUTURE!



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
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6 COMMUNION 9:00 am SS Cinema 10:30 am Worship	7 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet PURPLE HEART DAY August 7	8 6:00 pm Council Meeting	9 10:30am Gospel Study 3:30-5:30 pm Harvesters Food 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet 6:00 pm Gospel Study	10 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet	11	12		
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20 BAPTISMS 9:00 am SS Cinema 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Missions (HH)	21 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	22 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	23 10:30am Gospel Study 3:30-5:30 pm Harvesters Food 3:30-6:30 pm Baby Closet 6:00 pm Gospel Study	24 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet	25	26		
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