

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

November 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		

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER:

- All Saints Day 1
- Daylight Savings Time Ends 5
- Veterans Holiday Office Closed..... 10
- Veterans Day 11
- NE Area Churches Service 12
- Stewardship Sun. Pledge Celebration Lunch..... 19
- Thanksgiving Closed 23-24
- Christ the King Sunday 26
- Advent Begins 12/3

From the Pastor's Desk: "GATHER AND GIVE THANKS"

As we gather together to sip hot chocolate, eat pumpkin pie, and cuddle close to our family and friends near a crackling fire, let us remember that it is time to reflect on the Lord's blessings bestowed upon us this past year and to give thanks for the abundance harvest, much like the sentiments echoed in the beloved sixteenth century Dutch hymn, "We Gather Together."

In the Bible, we find two powerful verses that remind us of the importance of gathering together and expressing our gratitude:

1. **Psalm 95:2 (NIV)** - "Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

God invites us to come together, *as a community*, to join our voices in songs of praise, and to express our gratitude for His boundless love and grace. Gathering as a community to worship and give thanks not only strengthens our faith but also reminds us of the power of togetherness.

2. **Colossians 3:17 (NIV)** - "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

This verse from Colossians reminds us that our gratitude should extend beyond our words and into our actions. As we come together in worship, fellowship, and service, let us remember that



every interaction, every act of kindness, and every moment we

PASTOR'S PAGE

share should be done in thanksgiving to our Lord.

In the spirit of these scriptures, we invite you to join us for a special **Thanksgiving Stewardship Celebration service and free Catered Celebration Lunch on Sunday, November 19**. It's an opportunity for our church family to unite, worship, and express our collective gratitude for the blessings in our lives. Please bring a heart full of thanks, and consider inviting friends and family to share in this joyous occasion.

Let us continue to gather in His name, giving thanks for the love and grace He has so generously poured into our lives. Together, we can strengthen our faith and find greater purpose in spreading His message of love and hope.

May God's abundant blessings be with you all.

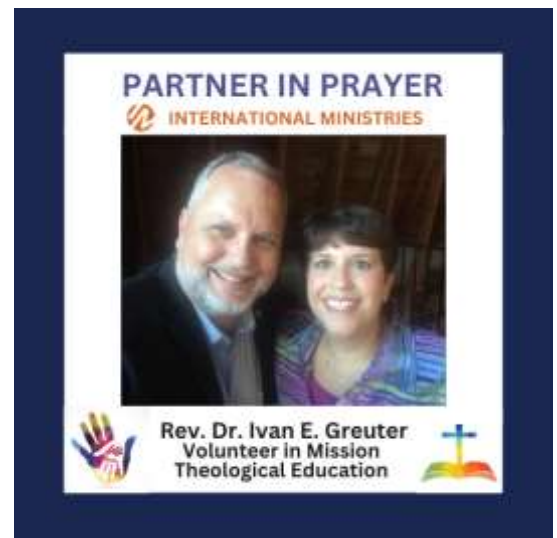
Pastor Ivan+



2024 LIBERIA AFRICA MISSION TRIP – The Church Council voted unanimously to approve the request from International Ministries (IM) for Pastor Ivan to return to the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary in West Africa to teach classes next January 8-31, 2024. He will be teaching two classes: (1) The Writings of the Apostle Paul, and (2) Biblical Foundations of Missions.

Help the pastor raise the \$5,000.00 needed to cover all expenses, including visas, insurance, pulpit supply, shipping books, during his time away.

The Rev. Art Campbell agreed to serve as the Pastor in Residence next January. The church pays no costs for pastor's service work with International Ministries.



We Appreciate Being Appreciated!

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for Pastor Appreciation Month. Your dedication and tireless efforts are truly remarkable, and I am thankful for the opportunity to celebrate and serve among you.

The Amazon gift cards, love gifts, and the delicious cinnamon rolls were such thoughtful and generous gifts. They certainly brought a smile to my face. Even more meaningful were the warm hugs, pats on the back, and kind words shared by the congregation. Your words of encouragement and support mean the world to me and remind me of that we're a strong and caring congregation.

Thank you for being a guiding light in our lives and for your unwavering commitment to our spiritual well-being. I feel truly blessed to serve Jesus as your pastor, and I look forward to continuing this wonderful journey together.

With heartfelt thanks and warm regards, Rexanne and Ivan Greuter

CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff



Happy November Birthday

- 11/01 Mariah Calloway
- 11/02 John Swain
- 11/09 Aaron Poe
- 11/11 Lisa Walder
- 11/11 Rita Adams
- 11/15 Grace Goodnow
- 11/18 Austin Cripe
- 11/18 Dewey Freeman
- 11/30 Brice Smith



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

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. 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



- 11/09 Dan & Chelle Decker
- 11/26 Terry & Becky Poe

CALL the CHURCH OFFICE for an UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY.

DEADLINE TO ORDER
IS NOV 5



ANNUAL REPORTS – It is that time again for all the Council members to start thinking of what you want in your report. Please submit your report to Lynda (office@wsbctopeka.org) The **Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon** will be held in February. See Sonia Roling for more information and agenda items. Annual reports will be distributed prior to the meeting.



OUTREACH & EVANGELISM



Jack is in need of volunteers to help distribute food out to people. If you are interested in helping please let the office know or talk with Jack.

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
NEED DONATIONS OF DIAPERS

FOOD PANTRY

MOST WEDNESDAYS
3:30 - 5:30 PM

*All food is available free of cost!

wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry

No Food Pantry on the 5th Wednesday of the month

GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2023:

\$500.00 from ABCCR for Milk 2 My Plate
\$500.00 from the Kansas Baptist Foundation to assist with the hams for Holiday Boxes.
\$1000.00 grant from the Kansas Baptist Foundation to assist the Baby Closet.
\$2500.00 from Topeka Community Foundation for the Milk 2 My Plate



OUTREACH Ministry

Reaching Out ... Impacting People ... Making a Difference

BABY CLOSET - It is time to prepare for the personal care Christmas bag given out to Baby Closet families in December. We are asking for donations from our church to help fill these bags. These bags are filled with personal care items such as **shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, lotion, and body wash.** A Christmas box will be in the sanctuary for donations. If you have any questions please see Pat Carreno. Thanks to all for your support of the Baby Closet.



OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVES - Every Holiday Season, Lowman Hills and Meadows Elementary Schools select their most needy students and we, in conjunction with other churches and agencies, provide a Holiday Box for them. Lowman Hills gets 20 boxes for Thanksgiving and Meadows gets 50 boxes for Christmas.

West Side's collection:

LOWMAN HILLS

- 20 hams
- 40 cans of sweet potatoes
- 100 boxes mac and cheese

MEADOWS

- 50 hams
- 100 cans of tuna
- 100 bags/boxes spaghetti
- 50 cans of spaghetti sauce

All of the Lowman Hills items have been acquired. The tuna and spaghetti sauce have been collected for Meadows leaving the spaghetti and the hams. We have received a \$500 grant from the Kansas Baptist Foundation to assist with the hams. ***Donations of spaghetti and money to assist with the expense of the items will be appreciated.*** For questions or information contact Jack.



**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!

www.wsbctopeka.org



TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Church Finances

Our income for September was \$21,880.02. The total to date for the year is \$207,403.70 and is 77.58% of our budget. 9/12 of the year is 75.0%.

Our expenses for September were \$23,871.54 for total expenses from first of the year through September of \$220,660.26. This is 80.31% of the budget. Expense items to note include: #7530 Facility Operations - \$1,282.78 for vacuum motor; #7625 Office Operations - \$1,248.53 for postage, envelopes and office supplies; #9550 Capital Campaign Expenses - \$1,110 for a \$1,000 donation to the NE Area Liberia Poultry and Piggery Project and \$110 for elevator expense.

The difference of income to expenses through September is -\$13,256.56.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$127,047.37. A large portion of our balance is in the Capital Campaign and Outreach funds.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$6,291.96.

The council members have been working with me on preparing a 2024 church budget. We will provide you a recommended proposed budget in November and it will be voted on at **our December 3rd All-Church Breakfast Meeting**. Please plan to attend and help us decide on our church finances for 2024.



The Long Range Planning Committee met recently and decided which capital campaign projects to work on next. The re-stripping of the parking lot and repair and painting of the sanctuary are the next projects. As chair of the committee, I encourage you to continue your commitment to our 3-year \$300,000 **Fortifying our Foundation for the Future** Campaign. We are almost through our 2nd year of the campaign and I hope you're keeping up with your pledge. I will be continuing to talk more about the campaign throughout the month of November.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.
Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS

Our Friends story this month features **Marianne Spano**. Marianne has been a member of



West Side Baptist since the early 1970's. Over the years she has been the church clerk, a Sunday School teacher, volunteer for the baby closet and a leader with the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM).

Marianne was born in Waterville, Kansas, which is about 40 miles north of Manhattan. She is the youngest of nine children. Her dad was a farmer with cattle and her mom an elementary school teacher. She accepted Jesus in 8th grade and was baptized in the Lutheran Church in Waterville. Marianne was baptized again when she became a member of West Side Baptist.

After graduating from high school in 1957, Marianne decided to continue living at home to help care for an aunt who had special needs and was living with them.

But in 1962 with the encouragement of a sister, she moved to Topeka to attend Clark's Business School. She received her certificate of completion and began working at the Kansas State Teacher's Association with their Reading Circle program for four years. Then she took a position with the State of Kansas Board of Agriculture for several years before going to work at the Kansas Dental Board for 21 years. With this work she licensed dentists and hygienists, giving them their tests, and did other clerical work. She retired in June 1999.

I asked Marianne what led her to start attending West Side Baptist when she was living in Topeka and she said that she searched for a church home for several years and then a friend asked her to go with him to West Side Baptist. She felt welcomed and believed she found her church family.

Marianne enjoys growing flowers, rescuing pets, being a good neighbor, visiting shut-ins and exercising...especially walking and doing work-outs with Jane Fonda tapes. She broke her knee years ago and it healed wrong causing her to have one leg shorter and not being as physically active as she would like to be.

Although Marianne is divorced with no children, she has become an incredible caregiver and friend to so many. Her church family always sees the love and care she has for everyone. She visits our shut-ins, provides rides to those who need one and has always been one to help with the various programs of our church. Marianne has a great memory and easily recalls former pastors' sermons and Sunday School lessons. I am one who is amazed at her



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

recollection of church events of the past. Marianne shared with me that she misses hearing her nickname Squealer given to her by The Cookie Snatcher, Don Morris. She loves her church family!

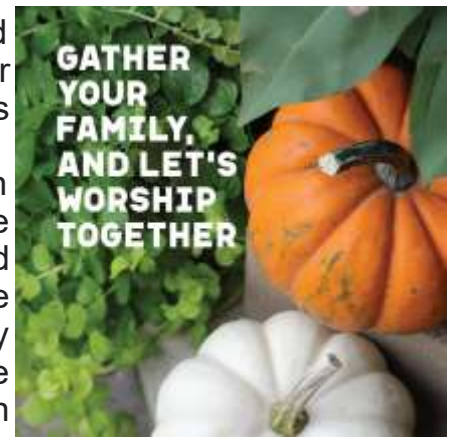
In 1999 Marianne volunteered for AmeriCorps in Topeka. She was assigned to be part of their respite caregiver program which provided caregivers to disabled people in their homes. Not only did she work with the caregivers but she also on occasion relieved some of them by serving in their place. After 9/11 in 2001 she worked in the caregiving program as part of Midland Hospice and then made a decision to work with someone in need in Harveyville which was outside the area for Midland so she went out on her own in Wabaunsee County working as companions for people with dementia and recovering from strokes or cancer for another 11 years.

For 25 years Marianne was a member of the Pilot Club of Topeka whose members volunteered in the community to make a difference. They worked with people with brain injuries and other illnesses and did fundraising for Alzheimer's. It was a club near and dear to Marianne's heart. Although Pilot Club of Topeka no longer exists, it is still an active program internationally.

I'll close with Marianne's favorite scriptures she shared with me including reciting several lines from Psalm 91: 2, 4, and 14 – I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge; "Because he loves me," says the Lord.

Hebrews 11:1 – Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Luke 10:27 – Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and, love your neighbor as yourself.



A LOSS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY...A SAINT GOES HOME

Roger Alan Johnson of Topeka passed away on Saturday, September 23, 2023. He was born October 3, 1951 in Topeka, Kansas, son of Leland and Mildred (Herbert) Johnson. He was baptized a believer on July 29, 1962 at West Side Baptist Church.

He graduated from Topeka High School, Emporia State University and from barber college. He was a member of the US Army and Army Reserves. Roger lived a life full of passion. His passions included his love for Christ, and his loyalty and love for family and friends. He was a sports enthusiast which included his favorite teams, the Chiefs, Royals and Jayhawk basketball. He never married but was part of a large family who he loved celebrating holidays and family birthdays with.

Graveside Services were Friday, October 20th, 2023 in Memorial Park Cemetery, 3616 SW 6th St. Topeka, Kansas. Visit: <https://www.highlandparkfh.com>

Fortifying Our Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign Update

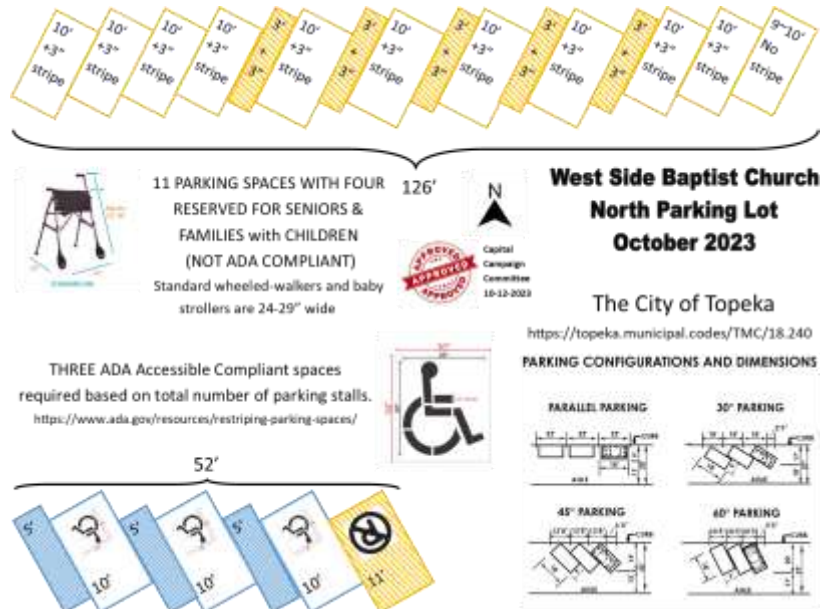


In late 2021, we launched a three-year \$300,000 capital campaign after needs were assessed and suggestions solicited from the congregation. We committed 10% of the monies raised for missions (1/3 international, 1/3 national/regional and 1/3 local missions). 21 projects were started on a “pay as we go” basis.

As we approach the end of our second year of the campaign, we want to recognize what we’ve accomplished and what is still on our list to be done. It is also important for us to think about our own commitment to the campaign, what pledge you made nearly two years ago, and ask yourself if my pledge has been paid and/or is there something more you can do. For those in our congregation who are new, we ask you to consider making your pledge or gift to the campaign.

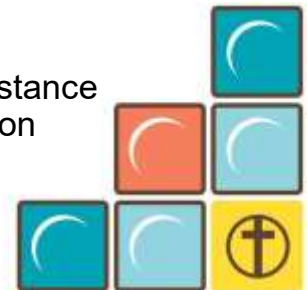
What has been accomplished?

- ◆ Air Conditioner Repairs
- ◆ Baby Closet Expansion
- ◆ Historical Rooms Updating and Preserving Documents
- ◆ Office Windows Replaced with 5 New Modern Windows
- ◆ Parking Lot Replaced (northeast lot); Includes widening sidewalk for handicapped entrance and other sidewalk repairs
- ◆ Roof Access including Ladder
- ◆ Tower Parapets & Roof Repairs
- ◆ Water Fountain in Main Hall



What are some of the projects on the list remaining for the rest of 2023 and in 2024?

- Sanctuary Ceiling and Walls Painted and Repaired
- Nursery Monitor Improvement in Sound and Picture
- Building Masonry Work Tuckpointing and Decorative Arches
- Sound System Upgrade Soundboard and Improved Hearing Assistance
- Fellowship Hall Decorating, Sound, Noise Reduction and Projection
- Parking Lot (west lot) Sealed and Restriped
- Sanctuary Chancel Railing Installed
- Holmer Hall New Furnishings
- Piano and Organ Humidifier
- Classrooms New Furnishings and Decorating
- Windows of Church Professionally Washed
- Landscape and Tree Maintenance and Repair



**Fortifying OUR
FOUNDATION
For The Future**

Continued on next page

Monies raised through September 2023 total \$146,870.50 with many pledges still to be completed this year or next. We have \$75,965.11 currently in the account to pay for more projects to be completed and have a ways to go before reaching our \$300,000 goal.

As we prepare for our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, the Capital Campaign Committee asks the congregation once again to:

Pray for our campaign and how you can help.

Pledge what you feel you can give now and over the remaining year of the campaign.

Praise God for our church and how He works through us for His glory.

A 2023 giving update including tithes and capital campaign pledge status will be mailed out soon. The letter will include a pledge form if you need one. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Nancy Lindberg, Campaign Chair

Long Range Planning Committee: Tom Mansfield, Clarence Payne, Nathan Poe, Pastor Ivan Greuter and Nancy Lindberg. Harry Carpenter also served on the committee.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - Sunday, November 19, is our church's Stewardship Sunday. I urge you to now plan to attend the two important events:
(1) **Sunday morning worship** and
(2) **Celebration Luncheon** immediately after worship (a catered meal, not a potluck dinner).



MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

Cordially, ~ Sonia Roling, Moderator



COME, Ye Thankful People, COME! **A Free WWW THANKSGIVING POTLUCK SUPPER** for the whole family - adults and children - on **Wednesday, November 15, from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm.** *All food is available for free! *

MENU provided: Turkey, green beans, and gravy. **BRING a SIDE DISH, SIDE SALAD, and/or DESSERT to share.**

Reservation requested! Call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241.

ALL CONGREGATION MEETING:

We will host our annual **BUDGET BREAKFAST** on Sunday, December 3 - breakfast casseroles, breads, and fruits are needed.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



WWW KIDS' BIBLE CLUB – Join us for fun, **WWW has begun**. 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. We are also asking for people to help out with desserts on Wednesday evenings. If you would like to bring something there is a signup sheet outside the sanctuary.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

- ♦ **5:30 pm – Free Supper** (*All food is available at no cost*)
 - ♦ 6:00 pm – Bible Club and Bible Buck Store
 - ♦ 7:00 – Finished and Dismiss
- Call for a RIDE: (785) 233-4241**

NE AREA THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, November 12th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church - Topeka

3033 SW MacVicar Ave

Our Keynote Speaker will be Pastor Mike Lehmann from First Baptist Church - Hiawatha.

Please bring a canned good to benefit a local charity. We will have fellowship and refreshments (cheesecake bites) following the service.



Hanging of the Green



HANGING OF THE GREENS - Join us Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 am as we prepare for the Advent Season. Come and enjoy the fellowship as we decorate the sanctuary and other areas of the church on this date. Donuts, hot chocolate, and coffee will be provided. For any questions see Brice.

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 – <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.



NOVEMBER USHERS

David Greuter, Don Johnson

Chuck Cozad, Clarence Payne

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

NOVEMBER COMMUNION SERVERS

**Rexanne Greuter, Jim Goodnow,
Sonia Roling & Don Johnson**



The Revised Common Lectionary Texts

November Reader:

Matt Smith

All Saint's Day November 5

Revelation 7:9-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

Judges 4:1-7

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30



Christ the King! November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

ACTIVITY PAGE



Thanksgiving Word Scramble

1. satef _____
2. kueyrt _____
3. eatsrvh _____
4. paslep _____
5. mafyil _____
6. gktigihasnvn _____
7. mpunikp _____
8. nocr _____
9. gliiimsp _____
10. blgebo _____
11. epi _____
12. lfkhanut _____

Word List:

pumpkin	thankful	harvest	gobble
turkey	pie	apples	feast
thanksgiving	pilgrims	corn	family

Thanksgiving Day

WORD SEARCH

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D Z F H B D P X Y L V Y X N F
T E Z K Y A E O T G E X B I D
J H S W P Q Y Y Y K Y A B K A
W E A S D N M G R J I M F P W
D I N N E R X U W D G X S M V
M R F I K L T V X F N T D U P
W H S A F S B S O U U X F P O
Q C J W M T G T O F Y Y D U T
M I R G L I P I F L A K T M A
M R N V T A L I V A U W D Q T
E A W E U T N Y E I X W C N O
Y Z G A A G C B L H N V J A E
P L G A P C J P F N O G Z S S
I L P L T H M Z Z K B T L W F
E V L G G J G W I P O D I Q T
    
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TURKEY	FAMILY	PIE
PILGRIM	BLESSED	STUFFING
THANKSGIVING	POTATOES	
DINNER	PUMPKIN	



Hello November

time to give thanks

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			<p>1 ALL SAINTS DAY 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 6:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>2 1:00 -3:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p>3 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>4 Poinsettia Orders Due</p>
<p>5 COMMUNION DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>6 9:00 - 11:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>9 1:00 -3:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p>10 CLOSED for Veteran's Day (Obs)</p>	
<p>12 STEWARDSHIP 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NE Area at FBC Topeka</p>	<p>13 9:00 - 11:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>14 6:00 pm Council Members Meeting</p>	<p>15 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>16 1:00 -3:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p>17 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>18 2:30 pm Worship Com Meeting</p>
<p>19 THANKSGIVING 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Catered Luncheon</p>	<p>20 9:00 - 11:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>21 5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting</p>	<p>22 10:30 am No Bible Study 3:30 pm Food Pantry 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm No WWW 6:00 pm No Bible Study 7:00 pm No Choir</p>	<p>23 CLOSED</p> 	<p>24 CLOSED</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 CHRIST THE KING 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>27 9:00 - 11:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR (HH)</p>	<p>28 6:30 pm Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>29 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm No Food Pantry 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>30 1:00 -3:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p>1 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>2 10:00 am Hanging of the Greens</p>