

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS



UPCOMING:

Baptisms..... 1/31

Ugly Outfits ... 1/31

New Years Holiday -
Office Closed 1

Epiphany Sun..... 7

Pastor in Africa .. 9

WWW Begins... 10

4TEN Youth . 12-14

MLK Jr Day 15

Council Mtg..... 16

Midwinter Mission
Conference... 19-20

Pastor is Back.. 2/1

Annual Mtg 2/4

Super Bowl / Souper
Bowl Sunday.. 2/11

ARISE! SHINE!

From The Pastor's Desk: "IMAGE AT THE END"

A clever little book caught my eye while I was waiting for Macy in a local bookstore - she was Christmas shopping while I was wandering. It was *Daily Creative Writing Prompts for 2024*. It had a thought-provoking questions for each day, like "If your morning coffee could sing, what would be its musical style and greatest hit?" My mind went down rabbit hole right way!

As I thumbed through the pages, the question that made me think the most was: "What were your goals 5 years ago?" What...5 years ago? I cannot remember my New Year's resolution from 2023, let alone, last year or 5 years ago. Maybe it should have been improving memory and recall; brain games.

This question sparked an eruption of ideas in my mind! *What if I did not focus on a behavior modification, a character alteration, or a virtue to acquire as this year's resolution, but on an image instead?* What if my creative resolution prompt will be: **What image of me do I want left in people's memories at the end of 2024?** Do I want others to remember me as happy, grumpy, jolly, stubborn, a workaholic, generous, irritable, etc. I can work daily to make sure that image - "selfie" - sticks.

What will you do to help people remember the better, brighter side of you in 2024? Epiphany Blessings, Pastor Ivan+

**UGLY
SWEATERS
DAY**

**UGLY OUTFIT SUNDAY –
DECEMBER 31**

WATCH OUT! THIS COULD GET UGLY!

Wear your ugliest holiday outfit for worship on Sunday, December 31 at 10:30 am. Come dressed in an ugly sweater, sweatshirt, suit, tie or shirt! You can even wear the sports uniform of your most disliked team (no hard feelings).

PASTOR'S PAGE

SHARED BY REV. DR. DOUG BEYER

I'd rather see a sermon than hear
one any day;
I'd rather one would walk with me
than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil,
and more willing than the ear.
Fine counsel is confusing,
but examples are always clear.
The best of all the teachers
are the ones who live their creeds.
For to see good put in action
is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it
if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action,
but your tongue too fast may run.
The lectures you deliver
may be very wise and true,
But I rather get my lessons
by observing what you do.
I may not understand
the high advice you may give,
But there's no misunderstanding
how you act and how you live.
(Edgar Guest)

2024 LIBERIA AFRICA MISSION TRIP – Pastor Ivan will fly to the **Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary in Paynesville, Monrovia, Liberia Africa on January 9, 2024**. He will be teaching two classes: (1) The Writings of the Apostle Paul, and (2) Biblical Foundations of Missions. He will return home on Thursday, February 1.

Call the Church Office or Pastor's cellphone to speak with him. **Yes! His phone works in Africa.**

The Rev. Art Campbell agreed to serve as the Pastor in Residence this January. *The church does not pay any costs for pastor's service work or Board work with International Ministries.*



JANUARY 2024

God's Guiding Word: Discipleship

- 1 Colossians 1:1–14
- 2 Colossians 1:15–23
- 3 Colossians 1:24–2:5
- 4 Colossians 2:6–19
- 5 Colossians 2:20–3:4
- 6 Epiphany - Psalm 72
- 7 Colossians 3:5–17
- 8 Colossians 4:2–18
- 9 Mark 1:1–20
- 10 Mark 1:21–45
- 11 Mark 2:1–17
- 12 Mark 2:18–28
- 13 Mark 3:1–19
- 14 Mark 3:20–35
- 15 Mark 5:1–20
- 16 Mark 5:21–43
- 17 Mark 8:1–26
- 18 Mark 8:27–9:1
- 19 Mark 9:2–29
- 20 Mark 9:30–50
- 21 Mark 10:13–34
- 22 Mark 10:35–52
- 23 Acts 8:4–25
- 24 Acts 8:26–40
- 25 Acts 9:1–25
- 26 Acts 9:26–43
- 27 Acts 10:1–33
- 28 Acts 10:34–48
- 29 Acts 11:1–18
- 30 Acts 11:19–30
- 31 Acts 12:1–19

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Founded in 1816, the mission of American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford so that all people may experience its life-changing message. Bibles.com

CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff

Happy Anniversary

01/01 Mark & Betty Arnold
01/28 Wally & Cathy Goodnow

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01/04 Marion Blasdel
01/12 Jennifer Blair
01/14 Christopher Payne
01/15 Cindy Lines
01/18 David Martin
01/23 McKenzie Woodall
01/27 Patricia Tripod

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

**CALL the CHURCH OFFICE for an
UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY - God deserves our praise and worship! We will make every effort to host **live in-person worship services each Sunday** throughout the year including when it rains, snows, or storms. The parking lot, sidewalks, and stairs will be cleared and salted by a professional company – ***please take care!*** Please stay safe and warm at home if you have an illness or do not feel well, or if you think conditions are unsafe or unhealthy. See Our Inclement Weather Policy is posted at wsbctopeka.org/2023/11/inclement-weather-policy.

INCLEMENT
Weather Policy



BAPTISM SUNDAY – We will baptize persons in the name of Jesus on **Sunday at 10:30 AM:**

DECEMBER 31, 2023, &

JANUAREY 07, 2024

Speak with the Pastor if you would like to follow the Lord in Believer's Baptism. Find more information at wsbctopeka.org/new/believers-baptism.

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM



FOOD PANTRY

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

Yes! Food Pantry
January 3
January 10
January 17
January 24

wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry

**No Food Pantry on the
5th Wednesday of the month**

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

MILK 2 MY PLATE PROGRAM

The Church is happy to announce the expansion of the Milk 2 My Plate program. In 2023, in partnership with Harvesters Community Food Network, the Food Pantry purchases 99 half-gallon cartons of milk each month for families and children. We will expand the program to 108 half-gallons each month.

On average, 320 children, seniors and neighbors rely on the Milk 2 My Plate program each month.



Thanks, Jack!



*Donate Good Diaper
For Babies in Topeka*



*Done buenos pañales
para bebés en Topeka*



Box of 96 for \$20.00 or
Box of 162 for \$30.00

NEED SIZES 4 + 5



Give Online or Send Donation To:

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1008 SW 4TH ST | TOPEKA KS 66606 | (785) 233-4241
www.wsbctopeka.org

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS



Our Friends story this month features one of newest members, **Vicki Martinson**. Vicki has many family connections with our church, people who you may remember, and has decided to make West Side Baptist her church home. She will be welcomed officially with the Right Hand of Fellowship on Sunday, December 31, 2023.

Vicki was born in Salina and at the age of two her family moved to Tecumseh. Her mother, Virginia, was a Methodist so the family attended the Tecumseh Methodist Church and she was baptized there. Vicki has two siblings and is the oldest. Her brother Don and family live in Berryton and her sister Deaun and family live in Topeka. They each have three children.

Vicki attended the Tecumseh schools and graduated in 1975 from Shawnee Heights. After high school she stayed in Topeka working a number of different jobs. Living in the First Apartments complex, formerly named First Christian Church Apartments, she enjoys her Tuxedo cat named Myrtle. For fun Vicki says she enjoys playing the flute, saxophone and clarinet.

I mentioned Vicki's connection to West Side Baptist. Vicki's dad, David, grew up as a member of West Side Baptist and was baptized here. David's father was Charles Martinson and his mother was Lulu, the daughter of Rev. Alfred Sjolander who was pastor of West Side Baptist from 1904 until his death in 1912. Actually, the church was the Forsta Svenska Baptist Krylan (First Swedish Baptist Church) and later changed to West Side Baptist. David was the younger brother of Margaret Martinson, Lorraine Cobb, Charles Martinson Jr., Barbara Edds and Madeline Martinson all who were members of West Side and several who made West Side their church home throughout their life. Vicki commented that she has been in our church many times over her lifetime attending family events.

Over the past 20 years Vicki attended First Southern Baptist Church. In July, she decided to come back to her families roots and has felt welcomed. She attends the Pastor's Wednesday morning Bible Study, Sunday School and our Worship Service.

We are pleased to welcome Vicki and look forward to getting to know her better.

~Nancy Lindberg

2024 BOX SET GIVING ENVELOPES

The giving envelopes will be available to pick up at the church on Sunday, December 31st after worship. If you did not receive one and would like to begin receiving envelopes please see Nelda Janway, Financial Secretary



MISSIONS & MISC

RMMO OFFERING FOR RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES: We collected the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) this past month. This is our annual "Thank You" campaign in December for retired pastors, missionaries, and leaders who served churches in the American Baptist Churches USA denomination. **Our surpassed our goal of \$1,750.00. THANK YOU!** You can give online, using a pew offering envelope, or mark your gift RMMO.

MISSIONARY PASSES

- It is with great sadness that we share news of the unexpected passing of **Global Servant Rev. Madeline Flores-López** early on Monday, December 18, 2023. Rev. Flores-López, a long-time global servant from Puerto Rico, was in the Dominican Republic where she served for twenty-two years. Please pray for Madeline's family, our International Ministries family, our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico, the communities served by Madeline, and all who grieve this Christmas season.



www.internationalministries.org

TEXT THE WORDS TO (785) 432-5383

"JOIN" for **GENERAL** TEXT alerts and reminders

"BABY" for **BABY CLOSET** TEXT alerts and reminders

"FOOD" for **FOOD PANTRY** TEXT alerts and reminders

"KIDS" for **KIDS MINISTRY** TEXT alerts and reminders.



Terms and conditions apply.
4 Msgs/Month. Msg and Data rates may apply.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & POTLUCK LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

12:00 PM

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

www.wsbctopeka.org



TIME FOR... GOOD NEWS!

2024 MIDWINTER MISSION & EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

GUEST SPEAKERS
AMANDA & JON
GOOD

19-20 JANUARY 2024

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EMPORIA
807 Constitution St, Emporia, KS 66801



(785) 272-7622

REGISTER TODAY

Are you Hung(a)ry for Good News?
Contact us today to learn more about
this exciting event.

www.abccr.org



TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income for November was \$11,828.62. The total to date for the year is \$235,921.09 and is 88.24% of our budget. 11/12 of the year is 91.67%. The youth fundraiser was a great success with \$660 income in November with an additional \$128 deposited the first week of December.

Our expenses for November were \$30,818.57 for total expenses from first of the year through November of \$273,944.82. This is 99.7% of the budget. Expense items this month to note include: payroll was for 3 pay periods; #7550 Capital Contingency - \$1,250 – DNR Plumbing for the baptistry repair; #7570 Stewardship Program - \$833.88 for Oct. & Nov. expenses for Stewardship luncheon; #8190 Misc Exp Christian Ed - \$294.15 plus \$471.30 from Paslay Education Fund for Parenting Class materials; #8350 NE Area Dues - \$51.50; #8535 CVLI License - \$305.89.

The difference of income to expenses through November is -\$38,023.73 compared to October of -\$18,437.57.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet for November is \$101,096.44 compared to October's balance of \$119,576.90. You will see the general fund is now -\$12,091.84 which is the first time for the year that we are in the red. We are using the other monies in the checking account (Capital Campaign, Outreach Grant and Youth funds and Liberia Mission Trip) to cash flow our monthly budgeted expenses.

The Endeavor Investment report was not received in time to be on the report. We have a \$21,702.65 gain for the month of November.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$6,079.62.

The 2024 budget was discussed and approved at the December 3rd All-Church Breakfast Meeting. You will receive the approved 2024 budget and year-end financials in the annual report that will be handed out at our annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 4th. I hope you will plan to attend.

The Capital Campaign projects continue. After the first of the year we will begin the repairs and painting of the sanctuary ceiling and walls. At that point we will then evaluate what money we have left to complete the remaining projects on our list. As chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, I encourage you to continue your commitment in the third year of our 3-year \$300,000 **Fortifying our Foundation for the Future** Campaign. If you didn't make a pledge but want to help support the building projects, you can do that anytime by indicating on your check, envelope or online gift that it is to support the building projects/capital campaign.

Thanks for your pledge card for 2024. We currently have 31 pledges. Pledge cards are on the table outside the church office and you can turn in your pledge card at any time.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



venmo

**ONLINE
GIVING**

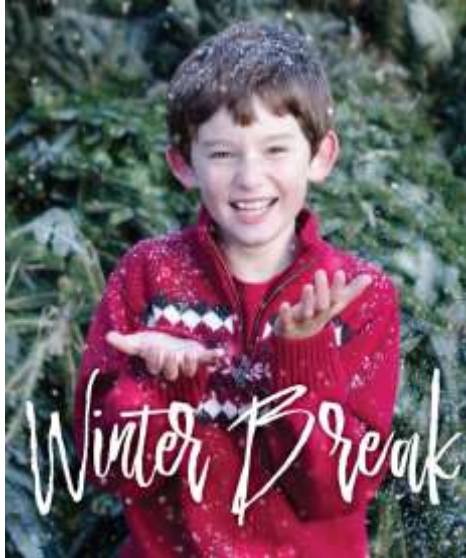
<https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>

GIVE



ONLINE

WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB



WWW KIDS CLUB ON WINTER BREAK

The WWW Kids Bible Club will be on Winter Break from December 9, 2023 thru January 9, 2024. We will have Sunday School and other fun activities for children of all ages.

WWW Kids Bible Club will begin again on
Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00 pm.

We will have a ***Free Supper*** beginning at 5:30 pm.

Kindergarten through Senior High school students are invited to Wonderful Wednesdays at West Side (WWW) Kids Bible Club. The evening is filled with FUN games, creative Bible stories, easy-to-learn SONGS, and Bible Buck Store – where kids can earn treats and PRIZES.

Need a RIDE? Call the Church Office BEFORE 3:00 PM at (785) 233-4241.

WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

- ◆ 5:30 pm – Free Supper for Kids and Adults
- ◆ 6:00 pm – Bible Clubs and Bible Bucks Store
- ◆ 7:00 – Finished / Pick Up

*All food is available at no cost



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27)

“As we renew our commitment to this call, may this love strengthen our unity as Christians.”

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually **18-25 January** in the Northern Hemisphere.



**World Council
of Churches**

**JOIN THE CHURCH
IN PRAYER**



WORSHIP



JOB WELL DONE!

The Personnel Committee sadly announces that **Matthew Smith, Director of Music, has resigned, effective Dec. 31.** He plans to spend more time with his family. We are grateful for all the marvelous work he accomplished with the Choir and worship team. Job well done!

The Church will start the search for a new Choir Director and a Worship Team Leader the first week of January 2024. The announcement will be posted on the church's webpage: wsbctopeka.org/about-us/jobs.

See Janice Kirby with questions or suggestions.

JANUARY USHERS

Clarence Payne, Ernie Longstaff, Sonia Roling, Jack Janway, Tony Carreno

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

JANUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

Brice & Colleen Smith
Sonia Roling & Jim Goodnow

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:

- **Facebook LIVE** – <https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka>
- **YouTube** - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC>

The Revised Common Lectionary Texts WORSHIP CHRIST THE KING

JANUARY 7
Epiphany Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

JANUARY 14
1st Sunday After Epiphany
Genesis 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

JANUARY 21
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

JANUARY 28
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5,10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

**January Reader:
Sonia Roling**



ACTIVITY PAGE

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE

THESSALONIANS
TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

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

JOHN
ACTS

WORDS TO FIND

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
Corinthians

Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
Thessalonians
Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
Peter

Johns
Jude
Revelation

CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS



The Lord's Prayer

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

FATHER
HALLOWED
KINGDOM
WILL

DAILY BREAD
FORGIVE
SINS
TEMPTATION

EVIL
GLORY
POWER



JANUARY

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	<p>1 CLOSED NEW YEARS HOLIDAY</p> <p>No Baby</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Free Supper 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet</p> <p>7:00 pm Parenting with Love and Logic</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 EPIPHANY 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PASTOR IN LIBERIA AFRICA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Free Supper 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet</p> <p>7:00 pm Parenting with Love and Logic</p>	<p>12</p> <p>ABCCR 4TEN YOUTH Weekend FBC Salina</p>	<p>13</p> <p>ABCCR 4TEN YOUTH Weekend FBC Salina</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>15 MLK Jr Day</p> <p>9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Free Supper 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet</p> <p>No Parenting with Love and Logic</p>	<p>19 ABCCR Midwinter Mission & Evangelism Conference at FBC Emporia</p>	<p>20 ABCCR Midwinter Mission & Evangelism Conference at FBC Emporia</p>
<p>21 Rev. Campbell 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm Daughters American Revolution</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 pm Christian Education Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Free Supper 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet</p> <p>No Parenting with Love and Logic</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Rev. Campbell 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 pm Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Free Supper 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club</p>	 <p>ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & POTLUCK LUNCHEON</p> <p>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 12:00 PM</p> <p>WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH 1008 SW Fourth Street Topeka, KS 66606 Phone: (785) 233-4241 office@wsbctopeka.org www.wsbctopeka.org</p>		