

# The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

March 2024						
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## UPCOMING:

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Maundy Thur....28

Good Friday .....29

Easter Sunday ...31

## **From The Pastor's Desk: "HOPE IS ALIVE!"**

What is stronger than death? FAITH! HOPE! LOVE! GOD! The Bible teaches this truth in the doxological words of Peter: ***Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on*** (1 Peter 1:3, CEV). Jesus Christ' defeat of sin in the cross and defeat over death in the glorious resurrection are not words of wishful thinking; they're our new reality! The One who died is now alive, and He can NEVER die again. Therefore, our hope is Jesus! Our desire to know God, be forgiven, live a joyful life, pardon others, have eternal life are all possible because

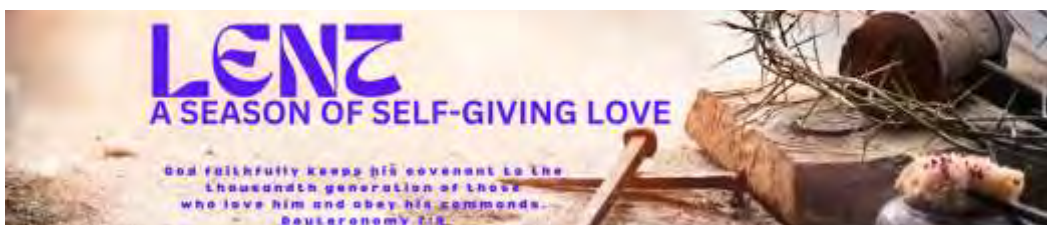


others, have eternal life are all possible because  
**JESUS is ALIVE!**  
**Let's Celebrate!!**  
Easter Blessings,  
Pastor Ivan+

## **LENT: A SEASON OF SELF-GIVING LOVE**

**LENT** is a forty-day season (not counting Sundays) of preparing for Easter. It started Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) and goes through Palm Sunday (March 24). We will focus on God's Covenants of Love on Sundays. Use this time to focus on a deeper relationship with God and the self-sacrificing love of others.

**BAPTISMS ON EASTER** – *Are you ready to be baptized?* We will have baptisms on Easter Sunday, March 31 at 10:30 am. Talk to the Pastor if you are interested or have questions. Pastor Ivan will lead a **free three-week Baptismal Class on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM starting March 3.** Call the Church Office (785) 233-4241 or Register Online: <https://forms.gle/XL71VVVrjUW2b7Hd7>



# HOLY WEEK—MARCH 24-31

Draw close to God and dive deeper into an intimate knowledge and love of Jesus Christ during these Holy Week services. We will commemorate the final week of Jesus of Nazareth's passion, humility, crucifixion and resurrection with these services:

**PALM & PASSION SUNDAY - March 24 at 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM:** We will wave branches and march in procession to Potwin Presbyterian Church as we re-enact Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. **The Parade will begin at 9:00 AM from the front steps.** Persons may drive to Powin Presb. If needed. We will also rejoice and exalt the Lord with palms at 10:30 am in our worship service.



**MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 28 at 6:00 PM:** *Maundy* means command when Jesus' commanded his disciples to wash one another's feet. We will re-enact Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples before the betrayal and his arrest. Holy Communion will be open to all persons who love Jesus Christ.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE— March 29 at 6:00 pm:** A somber service of remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion will be led with the help of our neighbors, Potwin Presbyterian and Westside Christian Church. All are welcome. Please wear black or mourning clothes.



**EASTER SUNRISE - March 31 at 7:00 AM:** Gather in the Ward Meade Garden at Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore St (patio behind mansion if good weather or old white church if inclement weather). **Sunrise at 7:08 AM.**

**EASTER WORSHIP - March 31 at 10:30 AM:** We will celebrate Jesus Christ's glorious resurrection with festive music, Easter flowers, a fun children's sermon, and a hope-filled Bible message. Baptisms will start the service. AND, Holy Communion will be service. **BRING YOUR FAMILY! INVITE A FRIEND!**

# CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff

*Happy Anniversary!*

3/23 Joshua & Patricia Tripod  
3/26 Bob & Jill Roesler



3/01 Carter Jones  
3/02 Brian Hunter  
3/03 Janelle Hood  
3/03 Jill Roesler  
3/08 Nathen Poe  
3/12 Don Johnson  
3/14 Thomas Donnelly  
3/16 Rexanne Greuter  
3/20 Tera Triggs  
3/21 Shelby Hersh  
3/22 Janice Kirby  
3/26 Angie Foster



## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME -**

*Don't forget to spring forward on March 10th or you will be late to church!*

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

**MONDAYS - CLOSED**

**TUESDAYS-THURSDAYS**

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

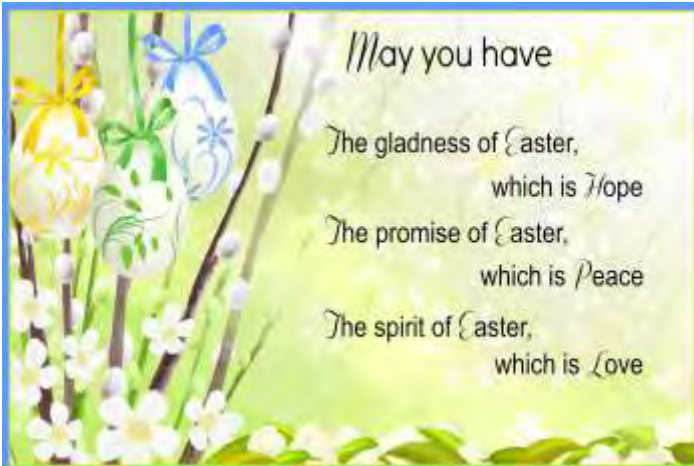
**FRIDAYS**

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

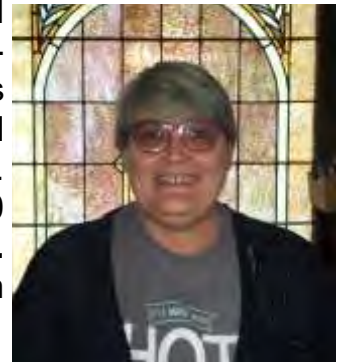
Call for a Pastoral Visit  
Pastor's Day Off: FRIDAYS

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**DEACON LAURIE DEWEY** – Call by God to serve our neighborhood, Deacon Laurie works with church members and neighbors to find sustainable solutions for life's challenges and spiritual strength during struggles. **Her Office Hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Fridays.** Call the church to talk with her or schedule a visit.



# OUTREACH & FELLOWSHIP

**LADIES' NIGHT OUT** - This is a fun time of building friendships in church. **The ladies will meet at 6:00 pm on March 5 at Cracker Barrel at 1421 SW Ashworth Place.** Each person is responsible for paying for her meal, and don't forget to bring a friend and pay for their meal. If you need a ride, please get in touch with Colleen Smith. We are looking forward to a fun fellowship time!



## MEN'S NIGHT OUT

**The men will meet at 6:00 pm on March 5 Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburger is located at 1050 SW Wanamaker Rd.** Each person is responsible for paying for his meal. Each person is responsible for paying for her meal, and don't forget to bring a friend and pay for their meal. If you need a ride,

please get in touch with Brice Smith. We are

## FOOD PANTRY

\*All food is available free of cost!

**MOST WEDNESDAYS**

**3:30 - 5:30 PM**

**March 6th**

**March 13th**

**March 20th**

**March 27th**

**Yes! Food Pantry**

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

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

## Faith & Fellowship

**DIRECTORIES** – We have new directories on the information table outside the Church Office. If you have any changes, please email, or call Lynda. If information is missing or mistyped, please get in touch with the Church Office. Please do not share the information in our directory with people outside the congregation without the individual's permission.



**EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST** - Please join us for an Easter potluck breakfast March 31 at 8:00 am immediately following our Sunrise Service at West Side Baptist Church fellowship hall. Bring a breakfast casserole, quick bread, or fruit to share. Juice and coffee will be provided.

## 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)

**NEED DONATIONS OF DIAPERS**



# PASTOR'S SPOUSE APPRECIATION

**CLERGY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY on SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024.** We honor our Pastor but do we recall the sacrifice his wife makes to the ministry - missed meals, interrupted vacations, late night phone calls, and stress? We want to appreciate REXANNE GREUTER on Sunday, March 3.



Ideas Suggested by leaders in the Northeast Area Church for each church to do independently are:

- ◇ Pastor spouse gifts (many ideas can be found on Amazon.com)
- ◇ Card Shower
- ◇ Luncheon
- ◇ Taking Pastor's Spouse out to do his/her favorite activity.
- ◇ Entertainment designed for Pastor's spouse – ball game, spa day, dinner theatre, movie, etc.
- ◇ Daycare for a Day (Not for Pastor Ivan but for her grandson, Silas)
- ◇ "Super Text" where members send a text of encouragement to the pastor's wife each day of the month of March.
- ◇ Sunshine Jar – a large jar filled with scriptures and uplifting messages or messages of appreciation to the pastor's spouse. Set a jar out in February along with pieces of paper and pens. Present to Pastor's Spouse the Sunshine Jar on the first Sunday of March to be enjoyed all month long.
- ◇ Provide a date night for pastor and wife.
- ◇ Provide an evening of progressive or regressive dinner for pastor's family. This is four meals in four different homes with appetizer, soup or salad, entrée, and dessert (if progressive – reverse order if regressive). Get to know Pastor's Spouse as you visit over the meal course.
- ◇ Have congregation put together quilting squares with each square having an uplifting message.
- ◇ Purchase a jigsaw puzzle, assemble it, and have the congregation write messages on the back. Then present puzzle to pastor's spouse back in original broken up form for the spouse to reassemble.



Talk to Sonia Roling, Church Moderator, for details.

*I'm a*  
**PASTOR'S WIFE**  
— WHAT'S YOUR —  
**SUPERPOWER?**

FYI: Rexanne is allergic to chocolate, all flowers, and most fur-bearing pets.

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS

Our Friends story this month features a couple in our church who I'm going to describe as an ABC couple: A-Awesome; B-Boundless energy; and C-Committed. They are Colleen and Brice Smith. I could continue with more letters describing them because these two have been willing to take on some pretty big jobs in our church over the years and do them all well.

For 2024 Colleen is our Fellowship Coordinator. She just finished serving for many years as the coordinator of Christian Education which included leading our Wonderful Wednesdays at West Side (WWW), our Vacation Bible School and our Sunday School program. She has also served on Outreach. Brice continues in 2024 as our coordinator of Worship and all-around guru of technology. Over the years he has been the church Moderator, Deacon of Stewardship and Deacon of Membership. They sing in the choir and Colleen is on the Praise Team. They have worked with the youth group over the years. They enjoyed being Sunday School teachers for the 2- & 3-year-olds for several years.



Colleen was born in Topeka. She is a leap-year baby born on February 29<sup>th</sup> so she gets to celebrate her birthday this year! Her dad, Fred Tschantz, was a milkman and later an auto mechanic. Her mom, Elma, was a stay-at-home mom. She has three older brothers – Dan (deceased), Mike who lives in Topeka and Rick who lives in Hiawatha. She has a sister, Nan, who lives in Kearney, Missouri. They grew up in east Topeka where she attended and graduated from Highland Park High School. It was in high school that she started dating Brice. She was a year ahead of him in school. Brice played the trombone in the band and she was on the drill team and they had a fun time taking a school trip to Disneyland in California. I wonder if this is when their love of visiting Disney properties started?

Colleen's family didn't go to church often but she was a believer. After she married Brice, she was baptized at West Side Baptist by Dr. Bob Austin in 1990.

Once graduating, Colleen went to Emporia State for one year before returning to Topeka to attend Washburn getting her Bachelor's in Education degree in 1982. While going to Washburn, Brice and Colleen were engaged and got married in 1980. With the abundance of teachers, it was hard to get a teaching job so at first Colleen substitute taught and was a paraprofessional. In the Fall of 1984 she landed her first position as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Bishop Elementary. In 1992 she moved to Crestview Elementary (now Cair Paravel). She then had the opportunity to become a Title I Reading Interventionist for several Topeka Schools and later an Instructional Coach for Scott Magnet before finishing her career at Lowman Hill retiring in 2017. Colleen said she enjoyed teaching reading the most and made wonderful lifelong friends.

Brice was born in Topeka to Lois and Malcolm Smith. Lois and Malcolm were both teachers. Brice has two older brothers Bruce who lives in Topeka and is married to Cathy (Jim & Mary Lagerberg's daughter) and Brady who also lives in Topeka. He had one older sister, Beth, who lived in Minnesota and recently passed away after a long battle with multiple sclerosis.

Brice was born in Topeka to Lois and Malcolm Smith. Lois and Malcolm were both teachers. Brice has two older brothers Bruce who lives in Topeka and is married to Cathy (Jim & Mary Lagerberg's daughter) and Brady who also lives in Topeka. He had one older sister, Beth, who lived in Minnesota and recently passed away after a long battle with multiple sclerosis.

Brice's family were members of First Baptist Church, Topeka and later the Community Baptist Church before joining West Side Baptist. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Brice was baptized by Rev. Doug Beyer. Growing up in the church, Brice has fond memories of his youth leaders Ed and Rogene Moody and so many of the kids.

In 1979 when Brice graduated from Highland Park High School, he decided to join the National Guard. He was recruited to play his trombone in the 42nd Army National Guard Band. He did basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Brice said, "it shaped me". It taught him a lot of discipline. He originally joined for six years but stayed in for seven.

After serving in the National Guard, Brice took classes at Washburn and then computer science classes at Washburn Tech. He worked a short time for Combined Insurance Company and then became an accounting clerk and a computer programmer trainee for Security Benefit. He then had the opportunity to work for Blue Cross and Blue Shield as a computer programmer and later a cyber security analyst staying for 31 years before retiring.

Brice and Colleen have three children - Zach, Amy (Jared) and Matt (Ashley) and four grandchildren – Addy, Austin, Brinley and Mac. In talking with Colleen, she said she enjoys having all the family in Topeka because they've been able to help with the kids and enjoy doing things as a family. They celebrate holidays and enjoy traveling together. As I'm writing this article Brice and Colleen have gone on a family trip with Amy, Jared, Addy, Austin and Brinley to "The Most Magical Place On Earth", Disney World.

Colleen loves to bake, reading all genres of books especially historical fiction and biographies and traveling. Colorado is one of her favorite places. Brice said that he enjoys golfing, helping people out with their technology and traveling. Growing up his family loved to camp in the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. He said he still enjoys going to Colorado only now prefers hotels or an Airbnb. He was able to mark something off his bucket list this past year by going to the Chiefs game in Las Vegas and hopes he and Colleen can go to Hawaii some time.

Colleen closed her interview with saying, "West Side is our second family. If we were ever in need, we know they would be right there for us!" Brice said, "We are at West Side for a reason. West Side is doing great things. They are part of my family, my support system, my friends!"

~ Nancy Lindberg



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Our Church Finances

Our income for January was \$12,574.43. Our budget goal for each month in 2024 is \$20,833. If you recall we did not have a Sunday morning worship service in January because of the extreme cold. Not having a worship service can impact our giving for the month.

Our expenses for January were \$25,216.15. Our budget goal for each month in 2024 is \$24,779. Major expenses in January were in building maintenance. We repaired a room thermostat in an upstairs Sunday School classroom for \$1,050.25; repaired the baptism boiler for \$198.50; and paid the first half of our annual service contract with McElroy's for \$1,176.40.

The difference of income to expenses for the year was -\$12,641.72.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet for January was \$84,724.80 and that includes outreach funds, youth funds and our capital campaign funds. With the work on the sanctuary in January (Isn't it wonderful!), we will see a large expenditure from the capital campaign. We are painting the main hall and small kitchen in February. The Long Range Planning Committee will be meeting to determine what funds remain in the campaign capital fund after these first two months of the year for projects still on the to-do list.



The Benevolent Fund total the end of January is \$3,138.65.

Our investments are doing well. The Endeavor investment report for January shows \$318,772.91. Of that total we have \$31,795.38 in Memorials. In the two Topeka Community Foundation Funds we have a total of \$223,971.98.

The Memorials Committee met recently to discuss memorial funds to be used for two technology expenses, \$699 for a new laptop computer for the balcony and \$110 for the computer stand. The computer is needed for us to provide our online worship service. The committee members agreed to use \$735 of Madeline Martinson's memorial and the remainder out of Juanita Plankinton's memorial.

Let me know if you have any questions.  
Thanks for your continued tithes and offerings  
~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer





# CHRISTIAN ED & MISSION

**YOUTH** – Come on WEDNESDAY for Youth Group in the downstairs Youth Room. We are planning to go to these upcoming events:

- ♦ **Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City (April 5-7)** or the
- ♦ **Mountain & Prairie National Youth Gathering (June 6-10) in Estes Park, Colorado**

Text Tera or a Youth Leader or talk to one of the chairs of Christian Education (Pat Carpenter and Marty Stevenson). We need to plan fundraisers and apply for scholarships as soon as possible.

**Children and Youth interested in church summer camp can visit with Pastor Ivan.**

## Christian Education Dates to Remember

- March 13 No WWW, Spring Break
- March 27 No WWW, Holy Week
- April 24 Last WWW session this semester.

***We Need Donations for Game Night including individually wrapped snacks, cans of soda pop, and small bags of candy. Deadline: April 24***



**BIBLE STUDIES** continue on Wednesday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

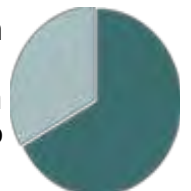
**NURSERY** - Janelle Hood needs volunteers to help in the nursery on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.



**SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be Monday-Friday, July 15-19, Supper at 5:30. Programming 6:00-8:00 pm. **Watch for more details.**  
~ Pat Carpenter & Marty Stevenson



Gifts to the annual **America for Christ Offering** in March supports the denomination's administration and programs. Two-thirds of the offering are directed to the American Baptist Home Mission Societies' agenda and one-third to the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.



# WORSHIP



## MARCH USHERS

Ernie Longstaff, Aaron Poe, Mark Arnold,  
Pat Carpenter and Tony Carreno

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

## MARCH COMMUNION SERVERS

Jay & Marty Stevenson  
Janice Kirby & Don Johnson



## SUNRISE SERVICE

- The Sunrise Service will begin at 7:00 am and we'll have it outside on the mansion patio, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, we'll have the service in the old church building.



The Revised Common  
Lectionary Texts

**WORSHIP CHRIST  
THE KING**

Scripture Reader  
Angie Foster

Third Sunday of Lent  
March 3

Exodus 20:1-17  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 10

Numbers 21:4-9  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday  
March 24

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Easter Sunday  
March 31

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts  
10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8



# ACTIVITY PAGE

## Easter Word Search

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ANGELS  
APOSTLES  
BETRAYAL  
BLOOD  
CALVARY  
CROSS  
CROWN OF THORNS  
CRUCIFIXION  
DARKNESS  
DEATH  
EARTHQUAKE  
EASTER  
GOLGOTHA  
HIGH PRIEST  
JESUS CHRIST  
JOSEPH  
JUDAS ISCARIOT  
KING  
LAMB

MARY  
NAILS  
PASSOVER  
PIECES OF SILVER  
PIERCED  
PILATE  
RESURRECTION  
ROBE  
ROMANS  
SACRIFICE  
SIMON OF CYRENE  
SOLDIERS  
SON OF GOD  
SPEAR  
STONE  
TEMPLE  
THIEVES  
THREE DAYS  
TOMB

### The Colors of Easter

Green is for the palms they waved at Him as He entered into Jerusalem.

Purple is for the wine He poured and blessed before He faced his final test.

Red is for the precious blood He shed from the crown of thorns placed on His head.

Black is for the sky as He died on the cross, suffering to redeem our loss.

Pink, yellow, and orange are for the dawn that morn when the tomb was empty and hope was reborn.

White is for the dazzling light that awed all who saw Him arisen - Son of God.

**ALLELUIA!**

E	C	N	E	T	N	E	S	V	F
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R	E	D	N	U	H	T	S	E	B

- |           |          |       |
|-----------|----------|-------|
| WORSHIP   | FESTIVAL | WHEAT |
| BETHSAIDA | SINGLE   | SOUL  |
| VOICE     | THUNDER  | ANGEL |
| SENTENCE  | PRINCE   | DEATH |



# MARCH



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



Don't forget to set your clocks forward on March 10th

1

2

**3**  
9:15 am  
Sunday  
School  
10:30 am  
Worship

**4**  
9:00 am  
Baby Closet

**5**  
5:00 pm Ladies  
Night Out @  
Cracker Barrel  
  
5:00 pm Men's  
Night Out @  
Freddy's

**6**  
10:30 am Bible  
Study  
3:30 pm Baby  
Closet  
3:30 pm Food  
Pantry  
5:30 pm WWW

**7**  
1:00 pm  
Baby Closet

**8**  
Pastor at IM  
Board of  
Directors  
Meeting  
(Zoom)

**9**  
Pastor at IM  
Board of  
Directors  
Meeting  
(Zoom)

**10**  
9:15 am  
Sunday  
School  
10:30 am  
Worship

**11**  
9:00 am  
Baby Closet

**12**  
  
6:00 pm  
Council  
Meeting

**13**  
**No Bible Study**  
3:30 pm Baby  
Closet  
3:30 pm Food  
Pantry  
**No WWW**  
**No Bible Study**

**14**  
  
1:00 pm  
Baby Closet

**15**

**16**

**17**  
9:15 am  
Sunday  
School  
10:30 am  
Worship

**18**  
9:00 am  
Baby Closet

**19**  
  
5:30 pm  
Christian Ed  
Meeting

**20**  
10:30 am Bible  
Study  
3:30 pm Baby  
Closet  
3:30 pm Food  
Pantry

**21**  
1:00 pm  
Baby Closet

**22**

**23**

**24**  
**PALM  
SUNDAY**  
9:15 am  
Sunday School  
10:30 am  
Worship

**25**  
9:00 am  
Baby Closet

**26**  
  
6:30 pm  
Outreach  
Meeting

**27**  
10:30 am Bible  
Study  
3:30 pm Baby  
Closet  
3:30 pm Food  
Pantry  
No WWW

**28**  
1:00 pm  
Baby Closet

**Maundy  
Thursday**

**29**  
**Office  
Closed**

**Good Friday**

**30**

**31 EASTER**  
7:00 am  
Sunrise Service  
Breakfast @  
Church  
10:30 am  
Worship

*"How beautiful  
are the feet of those who  
preach the good news!"*

ROMANS 10:15, ESV

