

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

From The Pastor: "JESUS DIDN'T DISAPPEAR"

What proof do you need? What convincing evidence do your family and friends - neighbors and coworkers - require to believe Jesus Christ is the living Son of God? Americans are trained to be skeptical: not easily convinced; distrust, having a questioning attitude or doubts toward knowledge. We want concrete evidence...

irrefutable facts. When we cannot find confirmation of our convictions, we are prone to becoming cynical (distrusting everything), which is not okay. Doubts are fine; distrust is toxic.



After Jesus' resurrection on Easter, **he didn't disappear.** The Bible says Jesus appeared twelve times to his disciples over forty days (same length as Lent) to give them convincing proof that he lived, suffered, died and rose again. The Bible says Jesus appeared to the following:

1. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18).
2. Two women who were with Mary Magdalene—Salome and Mary the mother of James (Matthew 28:9-10).
3. Peter (Luke 24:34). *continued on next page*

April 2024						
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				

UPCOMING:

- Ladies Night Out 2
- Worship Com6
- Council.....9
- Pastor's Liberia STM Report at FBC Gypsum.....13
- Com. Groups.....14
- Quarterly Business Meeting Potluck 21
- Earth Day22
- Secretary's Day .23
- ShareFest.....27

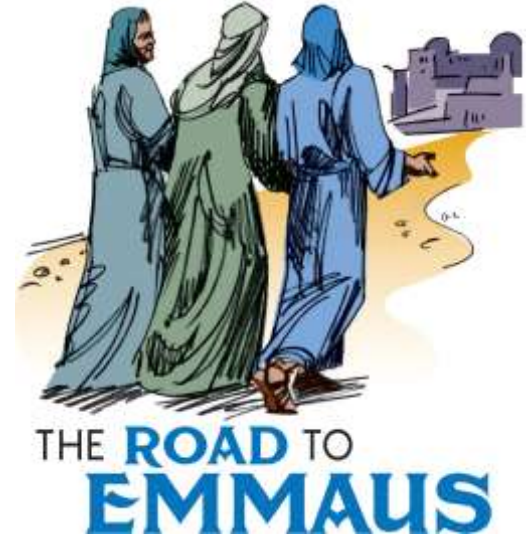


VOLUNTEER with members from area churches on **Saturday, April 27, (8 AM-Noon)** on projects for the Topeka Public Schools: landscaping, painting, construction, prayer, etc. Register at sharefesttopeka.com or sign up on the bulletin board outside the Church Office if you plan to come. Pick your site to work at and what you would like to work on, and your T-shirt size. If you have any other questions see Jack Janway, Coordinator of Outreach.



Pastor's Page

4. Two men on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-32).
5. Apostles, except for Thomas (Lk 24:36-43).
6. Apostles with Thomas (Jn 20:26-29).
7. Seven of His disciples on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (Jn 21:1-25).
8. Apostles on a mountain in Galilee (Mt 28:16-20).
9. 500 brethren (1 Cor 15:6).
10. His brother James (1 Cor 15:7).
11. Apostles and ate a meal with them (Lk 24:44-49).
12. His ascension (Acts 1:9-12; Mk 16:19-20; Lk 24:50-53).



Jesus would also appear to Saul on the road to Damascus. The Apostles needed these experiences and time with the Risen Lord to prepare them for the road ahead. Jesus would open their hearts and minds to the truth and testimony of Old Testament before sending them to the nations to preach and teach the Good News of salvation. It was a formative time for the early Church!

This Eastertide, the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, we will focus on

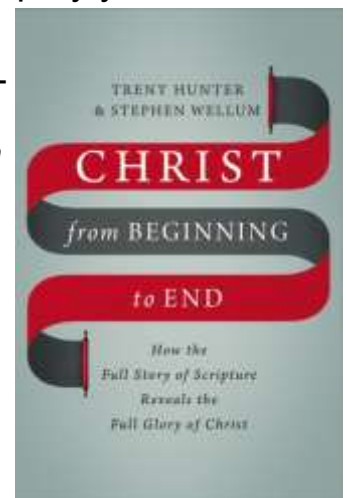


the Old Testament texts that prepared the people of God for the coming of the Son of God. Join us for a **sermon series** on the **“Seven Revelations of Jesus in the Old Testament”** starting **Sunday, April 7 at 10:30 am**. We will see the evidence of God’s grand story of Jesus Christ’s life, suffering, sacrificial death, and resurrection from beginning to end! I pray you will be

able to join us on Sunday mornings!

Eastertide blessings, Pastor Ivan+

READ Trent Hunter and Stephen Wellum’s book, *Christ from Beginning to End*. It explains how the full story of Scripture reveals the full glory of Christ. This post barely scratches the surface of the book, which in 270 pages examines where Jesus is found in the Old and New Testaments. This book will help you detect the grand story within the entire Bible. Buy on Amazon or at Mardel Christian bookstore in Topeka.



CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff



4/04 Jared & Amy Cripe
4/18 Brian & Lonna Hersh



4/01 Bev McCurdy
4/03 Nancy Cottril
4/03 Russ Hunter
4/06 Jessa Greuter
4/06 Matthew Peck
4/25 Tamara Eickmann
4/25 Ernie Longstaff
4/26 Adelyn Cripe
4/29 Jan Mauck

IT'S COMING...GLOBAL MISSION ENCOUNTER – Save the Dates
Tuesday, MAY 21 at 7:00 PM and
Wednesday, May 22 at 10:30 am



COMMUNITY GROUPS – Learn how to have healthy conversations about difficult topics in a safe place. Community Groups (small groups) will start the second Sunday in **April (14th) from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm**. Bring food for the Snack Supper (5:30 pm). Training and discussion will be led by Pastor Ivan.

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

DEACON LAURIE DEWEY

– Called 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. She is a gifted listener, prayer partner, and servant.



Her Office Hours are
9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Fridays



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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.**



BINGO!!!! - WWW would appreciate donations of BINGO prizes from the congregation. Small prizes, snacks, and pop are favorites for winners of this game. **April 24 is the last night of WWW for this spring semester.** It will be a Bingo night. All adults are welcome to join the children in this fun game. Children playing alongside their parents...

exciting! Donations can be dropped off in the Church Office.

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



FELLOWSHIP & MISSIONS

MENS & LADIES NIGHT OUT - This is a fun time of building friendships in church.

LADIES NIGHT OUT: The LADIES will meet at 6:00 pm on April 2 at Thunderbird Grill 2920 SE Croco Road. 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!



MENS' NIGHT OUT: The MEN will meet at 6:00 pm on April 2 El Dorado Mexican Grill 3627 SE 29th Street. 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 looking forward to a fun fellowship time!

DOORSTEP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - THURSDAYS in APRIL
See Chuck Cozad, Coordinator, for times and details.

USED GEAR FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS

RECYCLE FOR THE WIN
Equipment & Gear We Need

- Baseball/Softball
- Wrestling
- Football
- Disc Golf
- Water Sports
- Golf
- Fitness Equipment/Weights
- Track and Field
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Tennis/Pickleball
- ...and much more

Your quality used sports gear can make a BIG difference for Doorstep.

From April 1st to April 15th bring in your quality used sports gear and equipment you no longer need to Play It Again Sports Topeka. Tell the team your items are for the Doorstep Gear Drive. Play It Again Sports will apply your items to the Doorstep account. Doorstep will receive funds at the end of the drive.

Thank you for making a BIG difference in our community.

Located:
 Fairlawn Plaza Mall
 5331 SW 22nd PL
 Topeka KS, 66614
 (785) 286-7237
 Open Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm
 Sat 10am-4pm and Sun 12-5pm

PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS

DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

PUTT OUT HUNGER
Golf Fundraiser and Food Drive

Western Hills Golf Club 4-Man Scramble
 Friday, June 28th Shotgun Start @ 10 AM
 \$320/Team Lunch at the Turn
 Sponsorship Packages Available Raffle Prizes

Teams that donate the most food get a prize!

DON'T WAIT!
 SCAN THE CODE TO SIGN UP TODAY!

SCAN ME

SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE 4/30/24

REGISTRATION DEADLINE 6/17/2024

FOOD DRIVE

DONATION GOAL 500 LBS

bit.ly/PuttOutHunger

OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY

*All food is available free of cost!

MOST WEDNESDAYS

3:30 - 5:30 PM

April 3, 10, 17, and 24th

Yes! Food Pantry

wsbctopeka.org/get-help/food-pantry

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

BABY CLOSET

MONDAY - 9:00-11:00AM
WEDNESDAY - CLOSED
THURSDAY - 1:00-3:00 PM

wsbctopeka.org/get-help/baby-closet

NEED DONATIONS OF DIAPERS
NEED WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS!

AGENCY DATA FOR 2023	West Side Baptist Church - FOOD PANTRY
Total households served	6,368
Total individuals served	21,679
Adults	10,462
Children	8,564
Seniors	2,653
Total pounds acquired from Harvesters	66,449 pounds
Total meals distributed from food acquired from Harvesters through West Side Baptist Church	55,374 meals (One meal= 1.2 pounds of food)
Total meals distributed from food acquired from Harvesters in Shawnee County, KS	3,215,471 Meals (One meal= 1.2 pounds of food)

In 2023, WS Baptist FOOD PANTRY acquired 66,449 pounds of food and household goods from Harvesters valued at \$128,246.43. Note: The value of food is determined by Feeding America based on the average wholesale value of food acquired from all sources. For 2023, that value was \$1.93/pound.

Total Agency Distribution	Households
2021	5,608 households
2022	5,778 households
2023	6,368 households



BABY CLOSET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on WEDNESDAYS - The Baby Closet will be **TEMPORARILY CLOSED** on **WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL** for recruiting and training of volunteers. Adults are needed to work the **first shift (3-5 PM)** or second shift (5-7 pm). Volunteers sort and fold clothes, help register guests, record donations received, and provide hospitality to guests, and other tasks. Interested persons should see Pastor Ivan+ or Jack Janway to volunteer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Church Finances - Our income for February was \$23,104.21. At the end of the second month of the year our income is \$43,631.43 or 16.26%. Our % goal for the first two months is \$16.67% of the annual budget.

Our expenses for February totaled \$25,087.45 compared to \$24,743.95 in January and a total for two months of \$49,831.40 which is 16.76% of our budget.

The difference of income to expenses for February is a negative (\$6,199.97).



Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet

is \$80,648.39. A portion of our balance, \$39,222.40, is in the Capital Campaign and \$7,699.81 is in Outreach funds.

The Benevolent Fund balance is \$3,355.65.

We have received the first of several estate gifts from Trena Ansell. After consulting with her family, this first gift will pay off her 3-year Capital Campaign pledge and the remainder will be deposited into one of our two Topeka Community Foundation funds.

The Long Range Planning Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the remaining Capital Campaign projects that we hope to complete this year. **In that account we currently have \$39,222.40 with \$6,111.37 designated for missions.** We have a check of \$333.40 for the **March 14th Bethel Neighborhood Raised Bed Garden project (see pictures below)** that will be spent out of the designated missions. **Since this is the 3rd year of our campaign, we have pledges that continue to be paid.** It appears we will not reach our \$300,000 goal and won't be able to complete all the projects on our list, but the committee will be making recommendations on several projects we can complete. Thanks for your campaign gifts! Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your continued tithes and offerings.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS

Our Friends story this month features Fran Seymour-Hunter and Russ Hunter. Fran has been a member at West Side Baptist since 1979. She was encouraged to attend our church when she was living in Hays and a member at Hays First Baptist. Former members Mike and Connie Laughon had moved to Hays for a short time and encouraged Fran to check out West Side when she moved to Topeka. Connie had grown up attending West Side and they had been members for years before moving. The Laughon's eventually returned to Topeka and were members again but currently attend another church. Fortunately, Fran stayed and is an integral member serving for years as our church clerk and teaching our youth in Sunday School and at Wonderful Wednesdays at West Side (WWW). She also served over the years as Deacon of Personnel and Deacon of Christian Education.



Fran was born in Manhattan and grew up in several Western Kansas communities. Her Dad, Harold, was a science and math teacher and dairy farmer. Her Mom, Ada May, was a home economics teacher at K-State for a while and later taught science at Soldier, KS. Fran is the oldest of six children - Jay is a retired BP oil attorney and now consulting, Barb lived in Manhattan and is now deceased, Margaret was deceased in infancy, Roger lives in Manhattan and works in construction, and James works at the Fire Marshall's office at K-State. Fran also has a half-brother Randall who is also deceased. Fran was baptized (sprinkled) at the United Methodist Church in Waldo at the age of 10 and later baptized at the Christian Church in Soldier in 1968.

Fran graduated from Wamego High School and attended K-State for 2 ½ years before studying nursing at Fort Hays State receiving her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in 1975. Her first nursing position was at the Plainville Rural Hospital for a year. This was prior to studying for her Masters in Counseling at Fort Hays while working concurrently as an Instructor of Nursing at Fort Hays.

Having parents/family living in Manhattan and two maiden great-aunts outside of Ottawa, Fran chose to relocate to Topeka. In 1979, she started work with the Shawnee County Health Department as a home health aide supervisor. Following that position, she began work at Topeka State Hospital as a section nurse supervising nursing staff and then became the Director of Nursing until the hospital closed in 1997. Fran then took a position with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) as program manager for Medicaid and then recruitment coordinator for state hospitals. She is currently the clinical Interagency Liaison with Medicaid.

Continued on next page

**Nominate a person or family for a
future Our Friends Story
See Nancy Lindberg**

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS

Fran met her husband, Russ, while they were working at Topeka State Hospital. Russ grew up in Greensburg, the home of the Big Well. He was an only child. His mom died when he was an infant so he was raised by his father, Paul, and his grandparents. His father and grandfather were both pharmacists and they owned the Hunter Rexall Drug Store in Greensburg. Russ was baptized in the First Baptist Church of Greensburg when he was 10 years old.



After graduating from Greensburg High School in 1966, Russ went to Fort Hays for pre-pharmacy. After 2 years he decided to go to Hutchinson Junior College and received his Associates Degree (AA) in Radiology.

Russ took a break from his studies traveling with his grandfather. For five years they drove to Mexico, Canada and from California to Florida to New York. When their traveling days were over, Russ' grandfather went into a nursing home in Greensburg and Russ continued his studies, moving to Topeka and graduating from Washburn with his BSN.

Russ worked for the Menninger Clinic as a psychiatric nurse for more than 25 years. Additionally, he held a second job for a portion of time as a night supervisor at Topeka State Hospital. He worked for Menninger's until they closed in 2003 which is when he retired.

Fran and Russ have two sons, Aaron and Brian. Aaron is married to Nici and they have three children – Noah, Mason and Dylan. Aaron serves as a Major in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps and is currently stationed in Texas. Brian is married to Cara and is a Math teacher at Lawrence High School. They have a son, Camlin, who is 1 ½ years old. Russ also has a daughter, Holly, who lives in Dodge City and is an APRN. She has two children, Bradyn and Mikayla. Russ is pictured with his two sons and daughter.

Fran enjoys reading and has always had a love of volunteering for many causes and organizations. On a regular basis you can find her in the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library every Saturday afternoon volunteering in their Booktique.

Russ is a collector. I remember running in to him in Great Bend years ago when he was checking on buying a Steiff Teddy Bear for his collection. He also collects – antique cut glass, art glass and carnival glass. When talking with Russ, he shared a story of getting their son Brian, when he was young, to take road trips with him to search for Beanie Babies.

Russ has had a tough time physically especially over the last years. He has suffered with diabetes for many years. It now impacts his balance and his eyesight is declining. He finds himself unable to get out on a regular basis but enjoys TV and listening to music especially artists like George Strait and Brooks & Dunn. I am sure he is thankful for Fran who is his amazing caregiver.

~ Nancy Lindberg

WORSHIP



SCRIPTURE READER

Nancy Lindberg

APRIL USHERS

Jack Janway, Don Johnson, Angie Foster,
Aaron Poe and Tony Carreno

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

APRIL COMMUNION SERVERS

Rexanne Greuter, Jim Goodnow
Brice & Colleen Smith

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**

Scripture Reader

Nancy Lindberg

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7th

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14th

Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21st

Acts 4:5-12
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28th

Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8



ACTIVITY PAGE

Spring Word Search

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

APRIL
BEES
BIRDS
BLOOM
BLOSSOM
BUTTERFLY
DAFFODILS

EGGS
FLOWERS
GREEN
GROWING
HATCH
MARCH
MAY

RAIN
ROBINS
SPRING
SPROUTING
SUNSHINE
TULIP

http://natashab.com



SPRING WORD SEARCH



FIND THE HIDDEN SPRING WORDS.

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

KITE
GARDEN
UMBRELLA

NEST
RAINCOAT
RAINBOATS

DAISY
BLOOM
BLOSSOM

TULIP
PICNIC
BUTTERFLY



APRIL WORD SEARCH



a	d	x	a	l	i	p	c	w	a	i
y	i	g	b	e	e	d	u	j	n	s
k	a	a	i	o	l	a	v	t	h	s
u	m	e	o	h	o	f	d	u	o	e
f	b	z	i	i	u	f	h	l	i	m
a	n	c	k	j	a	o	i	i	i	y
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a	e	e	e	l	b	i	i	o	j	v
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e	a	s	t	e	r	v	i	k	e	x
p	s	a	l	m	e	o	i	o	u	a
b	v	t	o	u	n	c	t	o	t	
c	u	n	d	e	r	g	r	a	d	s
p	a	s	s	o	v	e	r	r	u	e
e	s	h	o	w	e	r	s	r	y	i
d	a	t	a	b	f	e	d	u	r	n
v	b	l	o	o	m	q	f	s	a	i
e	s	h	p	f	g	z	v	w	x	a

WORDS

showers
underground
daffodil
tulip
bloom
taurus
diamond
earth
easter
passover
fool








Hello Spring

Daffodils

Yellow, yellow daffodils
You're dancing in the sun.
Yellow, yellow daffodils
You tell me spring has come.






Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

FRIDAYS Pastor's Day Off	1 9:00 am Baby Closet	2 6:00 pm Ladies Night Out @ Thunderbird Grill 6:00 pm Men's Night Out @ El Dorado	3 10:30 am Bible St. 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry No Baby Closet 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm Bible Clubs	4 1:00 pm Baby Closet	5 Youth @ Silver Dollar City	6 2:30 pm Worship Meeting
7 Easter 2 Communion 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	8 9:00 am Baby Closet	9 6:00 pm Council Meeting	10 10:30 am Bible St. 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry No Baby Closet 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm Bible Clubs	11 1:00 pm Baby Closet	12	13 Pastor speaks at Area Meet- ing in FBC Gypsum, Ks
14 Easter 3 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Com Groups	15 9:00 am Baby Closet	16 5:30 pm No Christian Ed Meeting	17 10:30 am Bible St. 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry No Baby Closet 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm Bible Clubs	18 1:00 pm Baby Closet	19	20 11:00 am Memorial Service
21 Easter 4 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	22 9:00 am Baby Closet Passover begins at sundown	23 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	24 Secretary's Day 10:30 am Bible St. 3:30-5:30 pm Food Pantry No Baby Closet 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm Bible Clubs	25 1:00 pm Baby Closet	26	27 8:00 - 12:00 ShareFest Work Day
28 Easter 5 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	29 9:00 am Baby Closet	30				