

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

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EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 20

FROM PASTOR'S PEN: "TAKE UP YOUR CROSS!"

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"

Matthew 16:24 (NRSV)



Can You Walk with Me for 40 Days? LENT is a time to walk with Jesus on the road to Calvary, to deepen our understanding of His sacrifice, and to embrace the call He places upon the life of every person called to follow Him: **"Take up your cross and follow me."**

This Lent, I invite you to join me in a daily devotional journey centered on "The Cross of Christ"—the ultimate symbol of God's love, justice, and grace. As John Stott writes in **The Cross of Christ**, "The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us." This season, let us draw close to the cross so that its meaning may transform our hearts and lives.

Each day, I will invite you to set aside time to meditate on a Bible verse, pray, fast, and reflect on Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. The journey will take four stages (or peaks of a mountain) using

March 2025

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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	31					

MARCH 9
SPRING FORWARD
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!
[+ 1 HOUR]



Pastor's Pen



Stott's book as our guide:

- (1) **Approaching the Cross,**
- (2) **Centering on the Heart of the Cross,**
- (3) **The Achievements of the Cross, and**
- (4) **Living Under the Cross of Christ.**

Consider passages such as Isaiah 53, Philippians 2:5-11, and Galatians 2:20. These verses remind us that Christ's sacrifice was not only for our salvation but also an invitation to live in humble obedience to God.



On Sunday, March 2 (before Ash Wednesday), worshippers will be invited to take up a small cross from Bethlehem for their Lenten journey. This cross is free. You will also be invited to read devotionals, do prayer activities, and listen to a new sermon series on "**The Cross of Christ.**" We'll focus our hearts and minds on Jesus' journey to Calvary - His Work on Calvary - and his Triumph Through the Cross.

Lent is a time of surrender, much like Jesus surrendered His will to the Father. Will you take up your cross this season? Will you walk the path of discipleship with greater faithfulness? The road to Easter morning leads through Good Friday. But in dying to self, we find new life in Christ.

May we journey together, shaped by the power of the cross, until we stand in the light of resurrection hope.

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Ivan+

CARRY YOUR CROSS, NOT MINE

You cannot carry Mine - You must carry Yours.
Mine is Too Heavy - Yours is Just Right.
Heavy Enough to Burden - Light Enough not to Destroy.
Mine was made for Me - Yours was made for You.
Do Not Try to Give it Away - Don't Ask Others to Help
They're Carrying Their Cross - You Carry Yours
Together, We'll All Meet on Calvary
And Lay our Burdens Down.

CHURCH OFFICE Our Staff



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



- 3/01 Carter Jones
- 3/02 Brian Hunter
- 3/03 Janelle Hood
- 3/03 Jill Roesler
- 3/04 Aaron Hunter
- 3/05 Aiden Carpenter
- 3/08 Nathan Poe
- 3/12 Don Johnson
- 3/13 Arianna Carpenter
- 3/13 Greg Pukach
- 3/14 Tom Donnelly
- 3/16 Rexanne Greuter
- 3/20 Tera Triggs
- 3/21 Shelby Hersh
- 3/22 Janice Kirby
- 3/26 Angie Foster
- 3/27 Wally Goodnow
- 3/29 Nimmy Gilmore

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS -

Don't forget to get your orders in for your Easter Flowers. Deadline to get them into the office is Friday March 21. You can find the order forms in the Sunday Bulletins or in the office.



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, Church Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content, grammar, 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
www.wsbctopeka.org



MENS & LADIES NIGHT OUT – This is a fun time of building friendships in church. **Ladies & Men's Night Out** is on **Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00 pm** at Paisano's **4043 SW 10th Street in Fleming 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!

If anyone would like to suggest a place to eat let Colleen or Brice know.

MISC

WWW KIDS' BIBLE CLUB

WWW Kids Bible Club begins on
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

We 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.**

***In March we will not be having
WWW KIDS CLUB or SUPPER on
these Wednesdays, March 12 or 19.
During SPRING BREAK.***



BABY CLOSET
ARMARIO PARA
BABE CERRADO

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

GAME NIGHT – Please join us for a fun evening of board games
and pizza Saturday, March 8 at 4:00 pm in Holmer Hall. Bring your
favorite game and a snack/beverage to share. Pizza will be provid-
ed so please let us know if you will be attending on the signup sheet
on the bulletin board outside the church office. Invite a friend!



FOOD PANTRY

WEDNESDAY

3:30 - 5:30 PM

NO! Food Pantry

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

SUSPENDING PROGRAM

**We will be suspending the Food Pantry
from January thru March 2025 due to the
inability of our partners to provide
consistent healthy food for our
neighbors.**

**Hopefully we will find a way to make
food available in the springtime.**

Thank you, ~ Jack Janway

TEAM LEADER

A NEW COORDINATOR OF OUTREACH

Jack has done a
OUTSTANDING JOB
coordinating the outreach programs of the
church for the past several years. The
Constitution and Bylaws requires a new leader.
The nomination will go to the Church Council
and Congregation for a special election in
March. Watch your bulletins. **The Outreach**
meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at

**6:00 pm in
Holmer Hall.**



TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Church Finances

Our income for the first month of 2025 was \$22,407.77. Our target for each month is 1/12th of our budget which is \$30,738.59.

Our expenses for January totaled \$52,691.96 with a target of \$24,220.84. The reason the expenses for our first month of the year were so high was because we had our second half payment of \$20,000 for the elevator repair along with several bills to McElroy's totaling around \$6,000. Not the way we want to start the year but it is what it is.

The difference of income to expenses for January is -\$30,284.19.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$29,672.63. This includes \$6,526.18 in Outreach funds, \$53,977.93 in Capital Campaign, \$602.66 in the Youth Fund and \$1,268.10 in the Benevolent Fund. I also made a \$13,000 transfer of funds from our investment account approved at the January Council meeting to start the year with a zero balance.

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

Doorstep Special Request

(2/19/25)

We greatly need children's clothing as the bins in the kids clothing room are pretty bare. We especially need girls winter clothing. With school out for a couple more days, now might be a great time for your kiddos to go through their clothing for items they have outgrown or don't like anymore; and they can donate them for another kiddo to wear. (Gently Used ~ Not New)

Girls Size 3T - Size 8 ~ Shirts, Pants, Jeans, Leggings, Sweaters, Sweatshirts, Sweatpants...

Boys Jeans & Pants ~ All Sizes + Size 6 Shirts

Jeans for Girls & Teens ~ All Sizes

**Bring your donations to Doorstep, 1119 SW 10th Avenue
(10th & Buchanan), Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm, South Door.**

MISSIONS

America for Christ Offering 2025

For over 50 years, generous giving to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering has enabled the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (homeland missions) to provide financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico each year.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2025

GRACE UPON *Grace*

"BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU."

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)

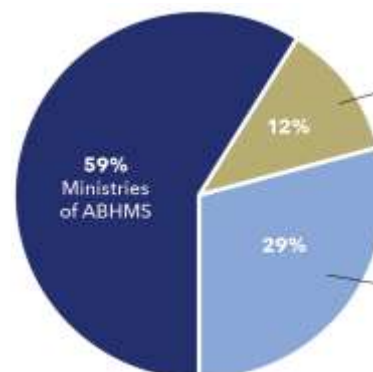
For nearly 200 years, American Baptist Home Mission Societies has answered God's call to meet the needs of those living on the margins. We develop programs, publications and resources that encourage, equip and strengthen Christian leaders to make a positive impact in people's lives. We promote the Christian faith across the United States and Puerto Rico by cultivating Christ-centered leaders and disciples who heal and transform communities in partnership with American Baptists and others. <https://abhms.org/>



American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Where Does Your Money Go?

- 59% supports ABHMS in Valley Forge, PA
- 12% supports the offering's promotion and deputation costs
- 29% Supports Regional ministries in Kansas/Oklahoma



WORSHIP

The Revised Common Lectionary Texts Year C

Scripture Reader
Angie Foster

Gospel Reader
Sonia Roling

March 2
Transfiguration Sunday
Exodus 34:29-35
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

March 9
First Sunday of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 16
Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 23
Third Sunday of Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 30
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

MARCH USHERS

Ernie Longstaff, Aaron Poe, Mark Arnold,
Pat Carpenter, Jack Janway

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

Al Carpenter, Pat Carpenter,
Angie Foster, Tera Triggs

GOOD WAY TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE
CHURCH AND SEE WHAT IS GOING ON!

Scan QR Code to Access the Schedule, Bible
Classes, Updates, Prayer Requests, and
Information
on the Church's Website

TEXT "JOIN" to (785) 432-5383
to Receive WSBC Text Messages



Praise
AND
Worship

ACTIVITY PAGE

Bible Names Word Search



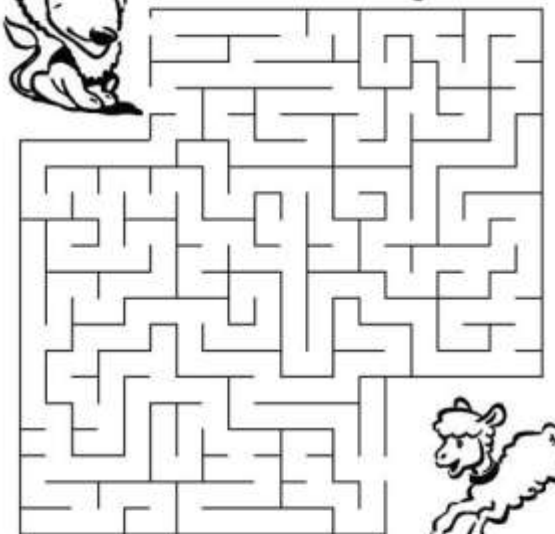
- | | | |
|---------|---------|-------|
| ABRAHAM | GABRIEL | MARK |
| ADAM | JESUS | JOHN |
| EVE | JOSEPH | PETER |
| DANIEL | MARY | PAUL |
| DAVID | LUKE | MOSES |



MARCH



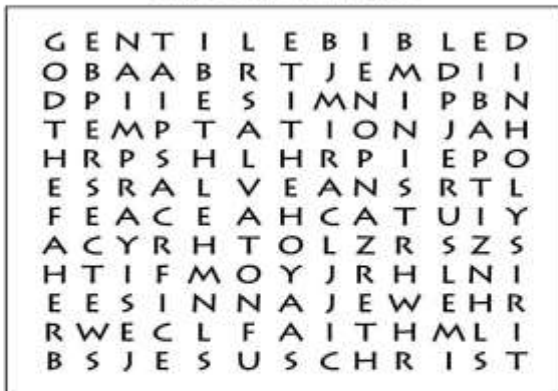
comes in like a lion



goes out like a lamb

BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

BASIC WORD OF THE BIBLE



- JESUS CHRIST
- SALVATION
- JEW
- GENTILE
- HOLY SPIRIT
- GOD THE FATHER
- PERSECUTE

- PRAY
- TITHE
- MINISTRY
- BIBLE
- HOLY
- SACRIFICE
- FAITH

- MIRACLE
- NAZARETH
- BETHEHEM
- JERUSALEM
- BAPTIZE
- TEMPTATION
- SIN

It does not
matter WHAT
 you have **DONE**
GOD
 FORGIVES!

Hello March

CoverLayout.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			OFFICE HOURS Mondays: Closed Tues-Thurs: 8 AM - 4 PM Fridays: 8 AM - 12 PM Saturdays: Closed			1 1:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal 4:00 pm Financial Peace Uni. (Zoom)
2 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3:00-5:00 pm Capital City Chorus	3 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	4 6:00 pm Ladies & Men's Night Out Paisano's Restaurant	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Coset 5:30-7:30 PM NURSERY 5:30-6:00 pm TOPS 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club 7:00 PM Choir Reh 7:00-8:30 PM Forbes AA	6 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet 7:00 pm Financial Peace Univ.	7 World Day of Prayer	8 1:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal 4:00 pm Financial Peace Uni. (Zoom) 4:00 pm Game Night
9 Lent 1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEINGS 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3:00-5:00 pm Capital City Chorus	10 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	11 6:00 pm Council Meeting	12 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Mission Com 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Closet NO NURSERY 5:30-6:00 pm TOPS 5:30 pm NO Supper 6:00 pm NO WWW Kids Bible Club P/T Conf 7:00 PM NO Choir Reh	13 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet 7:00 pm Financial Peace Univ.	14	15 1:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal 4:00 pm Financial Peace Uni. (Zoom)
16 Lent 2 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3:00-5:00 pm Capital City Chorus	17 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet	18 5:30 pm Christian Education Meeting	19 10:30 am NO Bible St. 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30-6:00 pm TOPS NO NURSERY 5:30 pm NO Supper 6:00 pm NO WWW Kids Bible Club Spring Break 7:00 PM NO Choir Reh 7:00-8:30 PM Forbes AA	20 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet 7:00 pm Financial Peace Univ.	21	22 1:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal 2:30 pm Worship Committee (HH) 4:00 pm Financial Peace Uni. (Zoom)
23 Lent 3 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3:00-5:00 pm Capital City Chorus 5:30 pm Book Club	24 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm Daughters of the Am. Revolution (DAR)	25 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	26 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Book Club 3:30-5:30 pm Baby Coset 5:30-7:30 PM NURSERY 5:30-6:00 pm TOPS 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club 7:00 PM Choir Reh 7:00-8:30 PM Forbes AA	27 1:00-3:00 pm Baby Closet 7:00 pm Financial Peace Univ.	28	29 1:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal 4:00 pm Financial Peace Uni. (Zoom)
30 Lent 3 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM NURSERY 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 3:00-5:00 pm Capital City Chorus	31 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00-11:00 am Baby Closet		AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2025  "BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU" EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)			