

# The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

## MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- LENT begins on ASH Wednesday ..... 5
- World Day of Prayer .. 7
- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ..... 9
- Church Council ..... 11
- Clergy Spouse Appreciation Day..... 16
- St. Patrick's Day** ..... 17
- SPRING BREAK .... 17-21
- First Day of Spring ... 20
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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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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**

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**WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**1008 SW 4th St.**  
**Topeka, KS 66606**  
**Phone: (785) 233-4241**  
**Email: [office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org)**  
**[www.wsbctopeka.org](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 1/12<sup>th</sup> 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)

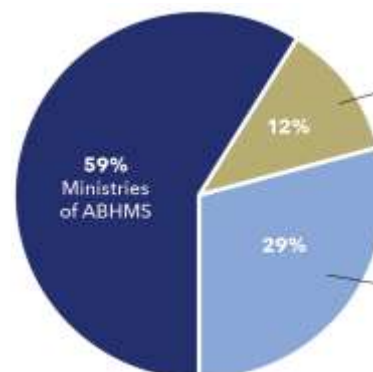
For nearly 200 years, American Baptist Home Mission Societies has answered God's call to meet the needs of those living on the margins. We develop programs, publications and resources that encourage, equip and strengthen Christian leaders to make a positive impact in people's lives. We promote the Christian 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



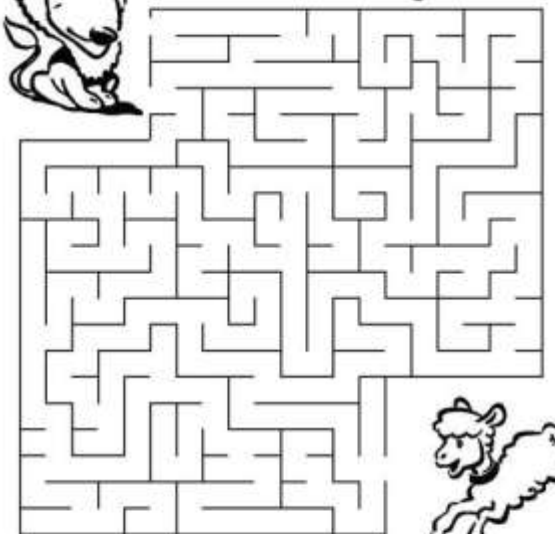
- |         |         |       |
|---------|---------|-------|
| ABRAHAM | GABRIEL | MARK  |
| ADAM    | JESUS   | JOHN  |
| EVE     | JOSEPH  | PETER |
| DANIEL  | MARY    | PAUL  |
| DAVID   | LUKE    | MOSES |



# MARCH



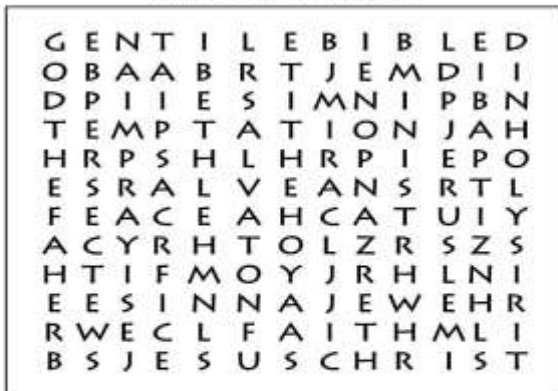
comes in like a lion



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

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