

JANUARY 2026

EPIPHANY

VOL 114, NUM. 01

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

JANUARY 2026

New Years Day	1
Epiphany Sunday	
Holy Communion....	4
Ladies & Men's Night	
Out Supper.....	6
Bible Studies & WWW	
Kids Club Start	7
Women's Min	12
Church Council.....	13
MLKJr Day	19
Mission Com.....	21
Annual Meeting &	
Potluck Luncheon .	25

January 2026						
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	31

FROM PASTOR'S PEN: "EPIPHANY STAR WORDS - FOLLOWING THE STAR INTO THE NEW YEAR"

Epiphany and another New Year is upon us! It's already time to celebrate the visit of the Magi. Where did Christmas go? What happened to last year? The old idiom is true, "Time flies when you're having fun."

I sometimes wonder, **"What did the Magi talk about on their way home?"**

Their part in the Biblical story is short compared to the time it took them to travel to Bethlehem and home (approximately 3 - 4,000 miles). Clearly they did not follow the "double rule:" *aim to spend at least twice as many awake hours at your destination as you spent traveling to get there.* Of course there are those among us who would say, "it's the journey, not the destination." But this journey was the destination, right? Or was their arrival and time at the manger only preparation for their journey ahead?

The Bible does not have the Magi lingering too long with the Christ child before they're warned in a dream: "take a different route." I hope it was the scenic route! (Continued)

The Magi,
"having been
warned in a
dream not to
go back to
Herod, they
returned to
their country
by another
route."
(Matt. 2:12)

"From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,

the name of the Lord is to be praised. " (Psalm 113:3)



A PLACE TO BELONG, BELIEVE, and BE INVOLVED

Pastor's Pen



(Continued from front page) ***Epiphany is not only a day (January 6) but a season for Christians!*** It's a sacred time between Christmas and Lent to ask the serious question: Where do we see Jesus on our daily journey? What difference does the incarnation make on us? Is it back to life as usual after the holiday season? Or, are we called to walk "another route?"

To help us on our Epiphany journeys, I invite you to join me in an old tradition of receiving a **star word** — a word prayerfully selected by the Holy Spirit - not as a resolution to achieve, but as an invitation from the Holy Spirit to consider, contemplate on, and to connect to your daily life in the New Year. Your star word may call you toward any of the following:

- ◆ **ACTION or VIRTUE:** to *share, listen, trust, grow, serve, forgive, or have courage.*
- ◆ **QUALITY of the SPIRIT:** *peace, joy, love, hope, awe, calm, grace, or faith.*
- ◆ **A DEEPER FAITH CONCEPT:** discernment, clarity, endurance, authenticity, or purpose.



There is no "right" word, only the Word God offers you.

Plan to **PICK UP** a **STAR WORD** from the Lord's Table on Epiphany Sunday, **January 4**. As you enter the New Year, hold your star word in prayer. Notice where it challenges you, comforts you, and invites you to follow Christ more closely. May the same light that guided the Magi guide you as well — leading you not only to Bethlehem, but into a year of deeper faith, attentive listening, and faithful living.

Epiphany blessings, Pastor Ivan+



SCAM ALERT! SCAM ALERT!

Please be aware of a scam currently circulating in which a person is pretending to be Pastor. **Our church NEVER texts, emails, or calls to ask for money, favors, gift cards, or personal information.**

Pastor NEVER uses a Gmail (Google Mail) to email from the church. He uses his church address only.

If you receive a message claiming to be from our pastor, a deacon, or church office: **Do Not Respond, Do Not Click Any Links, Do Not Forward, and Do Not Send Anything.** Instead, report the message to your provider and report it to the Church Office so we can help keep everyone informed and safe.

CHURCH OFFICE



NEW YEAR HOLIDAY
**BABY CLOSET &
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
The Office will be **CLOSED** on
Thursday, January 1, 2026. We
will return to our regular hours
on Friday January 2, 2026.



Contact the Church Office for an
Updated PRINTED LIST of
Anniversary & Birthdays.
*Printed copies are available on the
Information Station outside the Church Office!*

ANNUAL REPORTS –Council members, start thinking of the article you want displayed in the Annual Reports for the Annual meeting on Sunday January 25 following Worship. The deadline for your articles is Saturday, January 10, 2026. That is the cutoff time, anything after that date & time will not get into the Reports. Please submit your report to Lynda at (office@wsbctopeka.org):

**Annual Meeting & Potluck
Luncheon will be held on
Sunday, January 25, 2026
After worship
in Fellowship Hall**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAYS: PASTOR'S DAY OFF
MONDAYS - CLOSED
TUESDAY - THURSDAYS
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
FRIDAYS: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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 and Rev. Greuter, Editors, reserve 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

Church Email: office@wsbctopeka.org
Pastor Email: pastor@wsbctopeka.org
We Do Not Use Google (gmail), Yahoo, or other email address. Always Verify!



UPDATED CHURCH PHONE SYSTEM

**One Number to Call:
(785) 233-4241**

The newly installed and updated phone system allows you to reach the Baby Closet, Church Office, Deacons, Pastor (after hours and for emergencies), rent and utility assistance, schedule a ride, and more by calling one number.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:
[https://www.facebook.com/
wsbctopeka](https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka)



CHURCH COUNCIL



It's A New Year, which means we have new Officers and Ministry Leaders. Here are a few dates to remember:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3 - Council Orientation at 10:00 am in Holmer Hall for all officers and ministry leaders. This informative and eye-opening session will clarify roles, responsibilities, and how our ministries work together to support the mission of the church. All leaders are strongly encouraged to attend to start the year well-informed and aligned.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: The Church Council and Ministries have their reoccurring monthly meetings, unless the chair announces otherwise:

- ◆ **COUNCIL:** Second Tuesday @ 6:00 PM in Holmer Hall
- ◆ **CHRISTIAN ED:** Third Tuesday @ 5:30 PM in Holmer Hall
- ◆ **MISSION:** Third Wednesday @ 11:30 AM in Holmer Hall
- ◆ **OUTREACH:** Fourth Tuesday @ 6:00 PM in Holmer Hall
- ◆ **WORSHIP:** TBA by Chair

All meetings are open to active members unless in Executive Session.

See Website for Online Church Calendar:
<https://wsbctopeka.org>

CHURCH KEYS



Do You Have A Key?

All keys need to be checked out of the Office at the start of the year. Council members, clergy, ministry leaders, and staff are all issued keys. Please let Lynda know if you have or need a Church Key by calling the Office.

The Building and Office will be CLOSED on these holidays:



**New Year's Day
Monday after Easter
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Black Friday
Christmas Day
Plus Two Floating Days**



Council Members Clean Out Your Mailbox



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WWW KIDS CLUB START'S AGAIN!

Come Kids and bring your friends to
WWW Kids Bible Club on
Wednesday, January 7.

*Need a RIDE? Call
the Church before
3:00 PM:
(785) 233-4241*



The Building and Offices will CLOSE and All EVENTS and PROGRAMS (Baby Closet, Neighborhood Meetings (e.g., Forbes AA, DAR, TOPS, WWW etc.) will be CANCELED when:

1. The National Weather Service issues a Weather Warning or Emergency. <https://www.weather.gov>
2. The State of Kansas, Shawnee County, or the City of Topeka Emergency Management declares an Emergency.
3. Topeka Public Schools (USD 501) closes or cancels after - school sports and activities. topekapublicschools.net

In the event of cancellation, we will notify our community as soon as possible through the following channels:

- ◆ CHURCH PHONE SYSTEM MESSAGE
- ◆ LOCAL TV STATIONS: KSNT & WIBW
- ◆ FACEBOOK: facebook.com/wsbctopeka
 - ◆ WEBSITE: <https://wsbctopeka.org>



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.
Stay Safe and Stay Warm!

**FREE WEDNESDAY
FAMILY SUPPERS
5:30 - 6:00 PM**

Bring the
Family to a
free meal
each night
before
WWW Kids
Club!

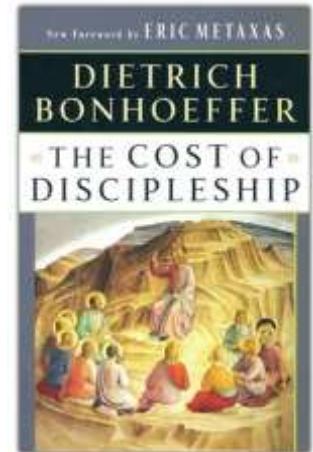


Menus Online
Sign Up to Donate Desserts
All Food is Available for Free

FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

CHRISTIAN CLASSICS BOOK CLUB: Deepen Your Faith and Gain Wisdom from Spiritual Giants. Join the Christian Classics Book Club on the following days in January:

- ◆ **FOURTH SUNDAY at 5:30 PM (HH)**
- ◆ **FOURTH WEDNESDAY at 11:30 AM (HH).**



BOOK: "THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Join our Christian Classics Book Club Today!

Grab a hard copy or an electronic copy of the books online at your favorite book supplier, or at the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL). Find study guides, the proposed 2026 Book list and other important information online at <https://wsbctopeka.org>.

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



Ladies & Men's Night Out is a monthly restaurant outing on the First Tuesday of the month. We will meet on Tuesday, January 6, at 6:00 pm at Red Robin 6230 SW 6th St. Each person is responsible for paying for their own meal, and don't forget to bring a friend and pay for their meal. Reservations are not needed, but please SIGN UP online or on the bulletin board so we can help the restaurant prepare!

BE INVOLVED - DESSERTS NEEDED: The Kitchen is looking for volunteers to **donate kid-friendly cookies and desserts to serve 70 people for our Wednesday night gatherings!** Bring a sweet treat that children will enjoy, we'd be so grateful. Store-bought or homemade is welcome—just be sure to label all ingredients, especially if the treat contains nuts, dairy, eggs, or gluten. This helps us keep all our kids safe and happy! Thank you for making our Wednesday meals extra special!



SHARE THE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY: SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST SIGN-UP -

One of the simple joys of our Sunday mornings is gathering around the table before class. Providing Sunday School breakfast is a meaningful way to serve Christ by nourishing both bodies and spirits, and it helps create a warm, welcoming start to the day for all ages. **We invite individuals, families, classes, or friends to sign up to provide breakfast for approximately 30 people, served at 9:00 AM.** You can keep it simple—coffee, juice, and a light meal are always appreciated. Please sign up **online** or on the **bulletin board** in the hallway. Thank you for sharing your time and gifts in this ministry of hospitality—together we help make Sunday mornings a place of welcome and grace.

Find Sign Ups at SIGNUP GENIUS (<https://www.signupgenius.com>).
Search for Creator: office@wsbctopeka.org



OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

GREETINGS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE -

We are so thankful for the congregation for all the donations for the Cool Weather/Warm Children Tree, Holiday food drives, evangelism booklets, and the Soup Kitchen. Since the beginning in September, Soup Kitchen volunteers have served seventy-five people total with fifteen from the community. We also donated 50 hats, gloves and scarves to kids at our local schools. Thank you!



There will not be any soup kitchen for Dec 28th or January 25th and depending on next week's number we may change from week to week. A big THANK YOU to Shawn and Jeff C for volunteering to take the lead for the day-to-day handling of the Soup Kitchen. Volunteers are always needed, and food donations, too. Help us share God's love with our neighbors and the homeless. Thanks! ~ Laurie Smith, Coordinator of Outreach & Evangelism



COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN

The Outreach and Evangelism Committee **launched a Community Soup Kitchen** right here at West Side! . Everyone in the community is welcome to come for food and fellowship — **no cost, no registration, no strings attached — just warm soup and warm hearts.**

To make this ministry possible, we need your help! Donations and volunteers are both essential. If you enjoy cooking, serving, or simply offering a friendly smile, we invite you to join our volunteer team. Together, we can share God's love one bowl at a time!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." — Matthew 25:35

To donate or volunteer, please contact the Church Office or speak with a member of the Outreach and Evangelism Committee. Let's serve our neighbors with compassion and grace!



WHAT DO YOU BRING A NEW BORN KING?
DIAPERS of ALL SIZES
**EPIPHANY
DIAPER DRIVE**

THE BABY CLOSET
MIDTOWN COMMUNITY SERVICES

West Side Baptist Church | 1008 SW 4th St. | Topeka, KS 66606
(785) 233-4241 | WWW.WSBCTOPEKA.ORG



MISSION

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE OTHERS? YES. Could He be calling you to the mission field? Find out by joining fellow church members on a mission trip to **Rainbow Acres in Camp Verde, Arizona** (<https://rainbowacres.org>). Rainbow Acres is an affiliated ministry organization of American Baptist Churches USA. It is a Christian community where people with developmental disabilities live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose. Visit rainbowacres.org or see the insert to learn more.

We have the opportunity to impact lives, fellowship in a caring community, and make memories together. Together with the staff at Rainbow Acres Ranch we will design projects to assist the ranchers. Possibilities are helping with maintenance projects, or leading recreational activities, and enjoying quality time with the ranchers.

Our plans are coming together. **Tentatively we have decided on the month of April but are letting participants decide which week.** We would leave on Sunday night at 10:15 pm and return on early Saturday morning via Amtrack. **Please vote on the online poll** (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E49AFA82EAAF94-61369298-2026>) **or bulletin board sign up sheet for which week you would prefer by January 15.** The anticipated cost is **\$500.00 per person** which covers transportation, housing, and meals while at the ranch.

Please prayerfully consider how you will participate: joining us in person, joining us in prayer, joining us through sponsorship. (Or all three!). For more information, talk to Pastor Ivan or me. **A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required to reserve your spot by February 1.** Additional payment deadlines are: March 1 of \$150.00 and April 1 the final \$250.00. ~**Betty Arnold - Coordinator of Mission**

YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST MISSIONARIES:

Deliris & Moise Carrion-Joseph

DELIRIS and MOISE serve among Haitian, Central American, and African migrants who have made their new home in Tijuana, Mexico. Moise is a business entrepreneur, and Deliris is a pastor and occupational therapist. They serve with the Baja Regional Baptist Convention "Dios con nosotros" and "Vision de migrantes," an organization formed by Haitians and Baptist churches interested in helping migrants. Using his skills and ability to speak four different languages, Moise helps migrants and migrant communities achieve their new beginnings. Deliris supports Deborah's House, a ministry for women survivors of domestic violence and their children. They strongly believe that God uses us all wherever we live, and new opportunities are open for those who trust in the Lord. **Partner with Deliris and Moise by donating funds for their work.**



**Rainbow
Acres**



TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income for November was \$30,845.98 compared to \$20,168.06 in October. For the first eleven months of 2025 our income total was \$287,569.39 or 104.53%. Our % goal for eleven months is 91.7% of the annual budget so we remain over our budget goal.

Our expenses for November totaled \$24,683.78 compared to October of \$29,056.78. For the first eleven months of 2025 we have an expense total of \$310,891.83 or 97.75% of our budget. Expenses to note for November include: #7570 Stewardship Program - \$792; #7625 Office Consumables - \$1,306.10; #7652 Van Tag/Taxes - \$121.51; #8350 NE Area Dues - \$67.50; #8465 Baby Closet - \$342.42; and #8465 Food Pantry - \$63.09.

The difference of income to expenses for November was \$6,162.20 compared to October of -\$8,888.72 and for the year is -\$23,322.44.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$16,483.21. This includes: \$41,323.80 in (#1001) main account; \$6,109.34 in (#1003) Outreach funds; \$49,458.82 in (#1006) Capital Campaign; \$253.68 (#1009) Youth Fund; and \$1,743.52 in (#1030) Benevolent Fund.

The Congregation met at the December 7th All-Church Breakfast and approved the 2026 budget. The budget is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Major items discussed, voted on separately and all approved included:

- 1) Staff salaries increase of 2.7% cost of living increase and a cost of living and merit increase for our pastor.
- 2) New half-time assistant pastor position (\$30,000).
- 3) 4% Annual Draw on our Endeavor Investments (\$829,664.77) for building maintenance: \$33,187. This allows our tithes and offerings to be spent for program and staffing and not as much for building maintenance.
- 4) Also approved at this meeting was a request to get bids for an audit.

As of this newsletter thirty-three pledges have been received for 2026 totaling \$194,372.

If you would still like to complete a pledge you can do so online, by returning it to the office or by putting it in the offering plate. Pledge cards were mailed but extra copies are on the table outside the church office. Thanks.

Giving envelopes for 2026 are ready. If you did not get envelopes and would like them, please let Nelda J., Nancy O. or me know. We will get a set to you. Anyone wanting information on how to set up any/all of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to go towards their 2026 tithe should talk with their investment advisor, attorney or have an initial conversation with Nancy Lindberg. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks. ~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

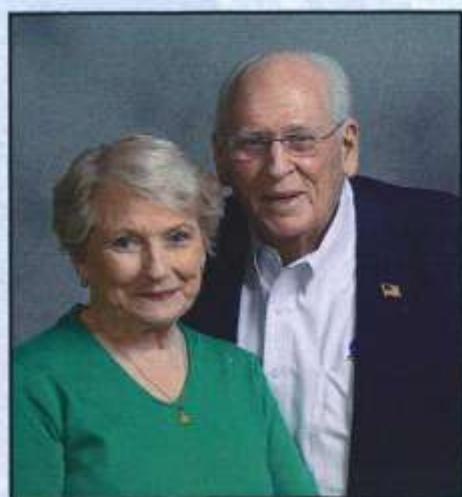
**ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS -
DONATIONS must be RECEIVED by
December 31 to count on this year's
giving statements.** The Stewardship Secretary will mail annual giving statements to our members before January 31, 2026.

In the United States, donors cannot claim a tax deduction without a written receipt from the Church. Please wait for your giving statement.

2026 BOX SET GIVING ENVELOPES

The giving envelopes will be available to pick up at the church on Sunday, December 28th after worship. If you did not receive one and would like to begin receiving envelopes please see Nelda J. or Nancy O., our Financial Secretaries.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FRIENDS



May, Richard & Nancy

Our Friends story this month features Richard "Dick" May, Jr. Dick is a life-long member of West Side Baptist Church. He and Nancy enjoy attending Sunday morning worship and told me they especially appreciate Pastor Ivan's sermons including watching him with the children during the children's sermon. Dick over the 86+ years at West Side has served in a number of positions with the church. He and his brother Steve were ushers for many years, he also was a deacon and a trustee and most recently served on our last Capital Campaign.

Dick's father, Richard "Dick" May, met his wife, Hazel Lorraine Holfwalt, while attending church at West Side. When I visited

with Dick to write this article, he was proud to show me his cradle certificate (see picture) from October 24, 1939. It hangs in the hallway outside his bedroom in their home. Dick, Sr. was quite the craftsman building our candle holders on the end of the pews to name just one thing he made for our church. Also, with his asphalt business he built our west parking lot.

When Dick was seven his mom was taking several girls from the church to summer camp and they were in a car accident on Highway 75. She was killed. Dick and his two sisters, Judy who was 1½ years old and Jan who was 6 years old at the time, lost their mother. His grandparents started helping their dad care for them. A few years later his dad met Hazel Engstrom who came to visit West Side Baptist. She was in the Navy and wearing her uniform. Although she was from McPherson, Hazel was stationed in Tennessee but that didn't keep his dad from pursuing her. He would visit her and when she completed her service they were married. Dick's dad built a new home for them at 2535 Granthurst. And later Dick and his sisters were joined by their little brother, Steve.



Dick has many memories growing up in the church. He was baptized when he was 12. He mentioned to me that his oldest friend in the church is Alice Payne. As kids, Alice lived close by and would play with his little brother Steve who was more her age. Dick had a newspaper route growing up and graduated from Topeka High School in 1957. He graduated from Ottawa University in 1961 getting a degree in business and economics. During summers he worked driving trucks for his dad who co-owned Topeka Excavation Company.

Continued on next page

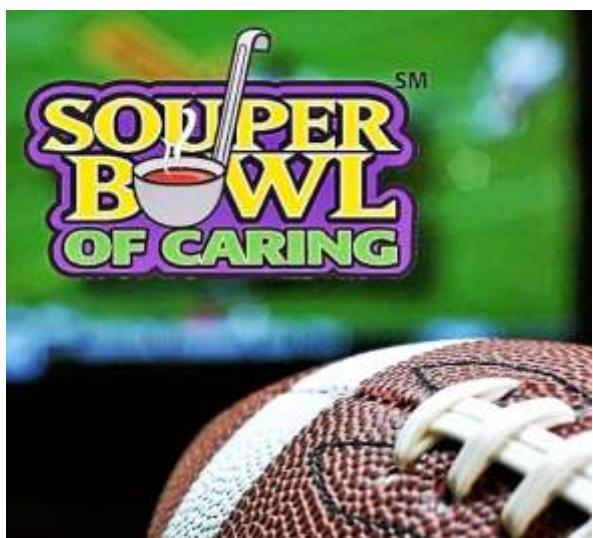
While going to college and then working for his dad, Dick got married and started his family. There is Todd and his partner Anne who have three daughters and live in Topeka, Eric and his wife Suellen who live in Henderson, Nevada and have three sons and two daughters, and daughter Leslie and her husband Davis who live in Puerto Rico and have one daughter and one son. He also has several stepchildren.

After working for his dad for many years, the business was sold in 1981 and Dick changed careers. He first worked for the state in the reappraisal of the entire state. Once that was completed, he went into selling real estate. For ten years he was in residential real estate and then moved into commercial real estate for Caldwell Banker until retiring in 2024 at the age of 84.

For fun Dick enjoyed golfing, collecting pencils and has quite a coin collection which includes a 1923 \$20 gold piece. He and Nancy have a 23 ½ pound cat named Junior. A highlight last summer was a family get-together. All of Dick's children and grandchildren came to Topeka and their activities included attending Sunday morning church service with Nancy and Dick.

Ever wonder about our church's past? Take time to ask Dick May. We are thankful for the long-time members of our congregation. They are valued for their stability and wisdom and provide a living example of faithfulness to the next generations. Thank you, Dick May, for your faithfulness!

~ Nancy Lindberg



Tackle Hunger On Souper Bowl Sunday!

As football fans gather for the big game, our church is joining the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 8, to help tackle hunger right here in our **community**. **Hunger doesn't take a day off**—and neither does compassion. This is a simple, meaningful way to turn a day of football into a win for our neighbors in need.

We invite you to participate by bringing your loose change to worship or \$10.00 and cans of soup to support our community partner, Doorstep,

which serves individuals and families facing food insecurity in our area. To put it in perspective: a single hot dog at the game costs about \$8.00, but that same amount can help provide meals and hope to someone nearby.

Together, let's show that caring is stronger than competition. Join us as we Tackle Hunger and make a real difference—one can, one gift, one act of love at a time.

Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CELEBRATES THE SEASON AND LOOKS AHEAD WITH JOY

As the year draws to a close and the Christmas season fills our hearts with warmth, laughter, and reflection, our Women's Ministry gathered for a truly special Christmas meeting—one that reminded us how grateful we are for the community God has built among us. It was an evening marked by joy, connection, and a deep sense of thankfulness for the friendships and spiritual growth we have shared throughout the summer and fall.

The room was filled with smiles as we came together to enjoy good food and great company. There is something special about sharing a meal that naturally brings people closer, and our Christmas gathering was no exception. From delicious dishes to sweet treats, the food was a wonderful expression of love and generosity. As we ate, conversation flowed easily, and the atmosphere was relaxed and welcoming—a reflection of the bond we have formed over the past several months.

One of the highlights of the evening was our gift exchange. Laughter echoed around the room as gifts were opened, surprises were revealed, and thoughtful gestures were shared. The exchange was not about extravagance, but about joy—joy in giving, joy in receiving, and joy in celebrating the season together. Each gift, whether creative or straightforward, carried with it the reminder that we are known, valued, and appreciated as sisters in Christ.

Another meaningful part of the evening was sharing our favorite Christmas traditions. As each woman spoke, we were invited into memories of family gatherings, treasured recipes, special church services, and quiet moments of reflection. Some traditions were filled with humor and fun, while others were deeply spiritual and reflective. Hearing these stories reminded us that although our backgrounds and experiences may differ, we are united in our love for Christ and the meaning of this season. These shared stories helped us understand one another more deeply and strengthened the sense of community we continue to build.

Perhaps the most powerful moment of the evening came when we joined together in prayer. Taking time to pray as a group allowed us to pause amid the busyness of the season and focus our hearts on God. We lifted up one another, shared burdens, expressed gratitude, and sought God's guidance. It was a beautiful reminder that prayer is the foundation of our ministry and the source of our strength. Through prayer, we were reminded that we are never alone and that God is always present, working in and through our lives.

Over the summer and fall, our Women's Ministry has grown not only in number but in depth. We have encouraged one another, supported one another, and walked together through both joyful moments and challenging seasons. The Christmas meeting served as a celebration of that journey—a time to reflect on how God has brought us together and how He continues to knit our hearts together as sisters in Christ.

As we look ahead to the new year, there is much to be excited about. In January, we will begin a significant and meaningful new focus: discovering and understanding our spiritual gifts. Each woman will be bringing her spiritual gifts assessment, and together we will discuss the unique gifts God has given each of us. This will be a time of learning, reflection, and conversation as we explore how God has intentionally designed each of us for a purpose.

Over the next few months, we will dive deeper into what spiritual gifts are, why they matter, and how we can use them in our everyday lives. We will learn how our gifts can be incorporated into our church, strengthening the body of Christ and serving others in meaningful ways. We will also explore how these gifts can be used within our families, helping us love, serve, and lead with intention. Beyond that, we will discuss how our spiritual gifts can influence our work and social lives, allowing us to reflect Christ in every area of our daily routines.

This upcoming season of learning is an exciting opportunity for growth. As we better understand our spiritual gifts, we will gain confidence in how God is working through us and clarity in how we can serve Him faithfully. We hope that this journey will not only deepen our individual faith but also strengthen our ministry as a whole.

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and prepare for a new year, we are thankful for each woman who is part of this ministry. Your presence, your prayers, and your willingness to grow together make this community truly special. We look forward to continuing this journey side by side, trusting that God has wonderful things ahead for our Women's Ministry in the months to come.

~ Reverend Traci Brown

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm



WORSHIP

The Revised Common
Lectionary Texts Year A

Gospel Reader

Sonia Roling

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 4, 2026

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

BAPTISM SUNDAY

JANUARY 11, 2026

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER

EPIPHANY

JANUARY 18, 2026

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER

EPIPHANY

JANUARY 25, 2026

Isaiah 9:1-4

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

ISAIAH 42:21

God Bless

JANUARY USHERS

Betty Arnold, Mark Arnold,
Sonia Roling,
Steve Hood & Jack Janway

COMMUNION SERVERS

Jack & Nelda Janway
Brice & Colleen Smith

**JANUARY
SCRIPTURE READER**

Matt Smith



SCRIPTURE READERS IN WORSHIP

Sign Up to be a Scripture Reader in Worship. Readers proclaim two Bible readings each Sunday. Texts are available months in advance. Pastor can help you pronounce any hard words. SIGN UP on the Bulletin Board



BAPTISM SUNDAY – We will baptize persons in
the name of Jesus on
Sunday at 10:30 AM:
January 11, 2026

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

ACTIVITY PAGE

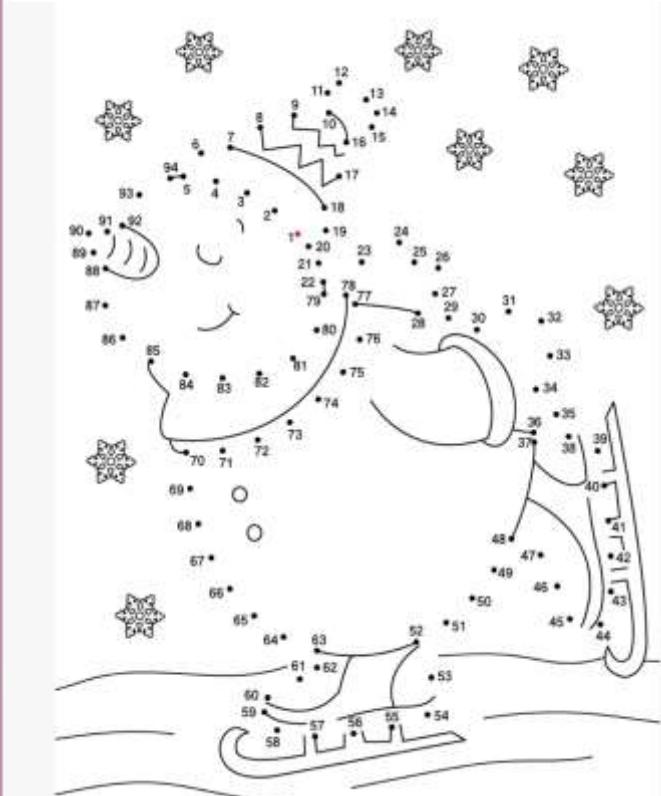
Name: _____ Date: _____

JANUARY Word Search

Find the words listed. Words may appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonal. Words may overlap and cross each other. When you have found a word, be sure to circle it and cross it off the list.

ARCTIC	C L Z H P I H S R E B M E M M Y G D J
BOOTS	R Y T Q B L C O L D Q N W N G I K P K
COLD	J S E U L B Y R A U N A J K N N Q P Q
CONSTITUTION	G P T G N I I K S T C T M T I A N O E
FIREPLACE	N H T K P T X V H L I N X R D U R L L
FROST	I F N N S J N T X I T T B G D G F A Y
GYM MEMBERSHIP	K L N Q A E K E H F C Y V N E U I R T
HAT	R M C C R S L W D N R I X R L R R B S
HEALTHY LIFESTYLE	E Y K O T M I A O I A T C N S A E E E
HOT COCOA	H E T O N N N I S V S D A L P T P A F
ICE	T X O Q T S T K S Y A E S H E I L R I
ICICLE	U B S E X U T C N O R N R T W O A S L
INAUGURATION	L Z R K L P A I C E E A K P L N C N Y
JACKET	N H H O A R E O T T C F U M H X E O H
JANUARY BLUES	I F S L F T C N T U R F S S N O W G W T
JANUARY SALES	T E K T P T I I G O T Z H H A K V M L
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.	R M H X O T M N S U P I V H R J N A A
MITTENS	A L Q H Y T P T G N I Y O G Z R Z N E
NEW YEAR	M H N E W Y E A R K T N G N R W G G H
PENGUIN	RESOLUTION
POLAR BEAR	SCARF
PRESIDENT	SKATING

© 2023 WordsAreFun.com, All Rights Reserved.



Winter Word Search

Take a look at the words hidden in the grid below. You'll find words related to the winter season, including various holidays and activities.

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

WORD BANK:

- WINTER, SNOWBALL, CHRISTMAS, HOLIDAY, HANUKKAH, ICE, COLD, VACATION, DECEMBER, JANUARY, SCARF, SLEIGH, FROST, SNOWMAN, NEW YEARS, COCOA, SANTA, MITTENS, FEBRUARY, REINDEER

Fern's Printables, www.fernsprintables.com
© Fern's Printables

A RECIPE TO LIVE BY

Take a cup of Forgiveness, stir in some of God's grace, then fold it into your heart and this recipe you'll embrace. But, you'll need to keep adding, more ingredients as you go, if you plan on having a year where Love can rise and grow. You're going to need Patience, at least a cup or two... if you want to have meekness bubbling up inside of you. Slowly blend in a heaping spoonful of Goodness; beat into the mixture to whip up Gentleness.

Don't forget to add a pinch of Joy; and, as you whisk it into Peace, add a dollop of Faith and Trust, so Hope you will release. If you live in the Spirit, you will need to walk in it, too... If you follow this recipe to produce His fruit in you!

- Author Unknown

January



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Newsletter Articles for February are due in the office January 14th by the end of the day at 4:30 pm.</p>			<p>1 CLOSED </p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 10:00 am Council Orientation 1:30 pm Praise Team</p>
<p>4 EPIPHANY NURSERY 9:00 am -12:00 pm 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>5 9:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>6 6:00 pm Ladies & Men's Night Out at Red Robin</p>	<p>7 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet NURSERY 5:30 - 7:00 pm 5:30 pm Family Supper 6:00 pm WWW Kids Club 7:00 PM Forbes AA 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>8 1:00 - 3:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p>9 1:30 pm Praise Team DEADLINE for Annual Reports</p>
<p>11 Baptism NURSERY 9:00 am -12:00 pm 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>12 9:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>13 5:30 pm Women's Ministry</p>	<p>14 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet NURSERY 5:30 - 7:00 pm 5:30 pm Family Supper 6:00 pm WWW Kids Club 7:00 PM Forbes AA 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>15 1:00 - 3:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p>16 1:30 pm Praise Team</p>
<p>18 NURSERY 9:00 am -12:00 pm 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>19 9:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>20 5:30 pm Christian Ed</p>	<p>21 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Mission Mtg 3:30 pm Baby Closet NURSERY 5:30 - 7:00 pm 5:30 pm Family Supper 6:00 pm WWW Kids Club 7:00 PM Forbes AA 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>22 1:00 - 3:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p>23 1:30 pm Praise Team</p>
<p>25 NURSERY 9:00 am -12:00 pm 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Annual Meeting & Potluck NO SOUP KITCHEN 5:30 pm Book Club</p>	<p>26 9:00 am Baby Closet</p>	<p>27 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg</p>	<p>28 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Book Club 3:30 pm Baby Closet NURSERY 5:30 - 7:00 pm 5:30 pm Family Supper 6:00 pm WWW Kids Club 7:00 PM Forbes AA 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>29 1:00 - 3:00 pm Baby Closet</p>	<p>30 1:30 pm Praise Team</p>