

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

AUGUST 2026

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August 2026

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FROM PASTOR: "AFFECTION | TRUST | SHARED EXPERIENCES"

How many people do you consider your friends?

How many people at church would consider you their close friend? One of the blessings I hear visitors mention about our church is, **"Your church is so friendly."** That is a wonderful compliment, and I'm grateful for the warm welcome our congregation extends to everyone who walks through our doors. **We want everyone to feel they belong!** But this fall, I want to challenge us to go one step further: **Lots of churches are friendly. Now, let's be friends.**

There's an important difference between being friendly and being friends. **Friendliness** is a smile, a handshake, or a kind greeting on Sunday morning. **Friendship grows through time, trust, shared experiences, and genuine care for one another.** God never intended His people to simply attend worship together. He calls us to love one another deeply, encourage one another faithfully, and carry one another's burdens, as seen in the early church (Acts).

The writer of Proverbs reminds us, **"The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense"** (27:9). True friendship refreshes the soul. A caring word, a listening ear, a shared laugh, or an honest conversation can become one of God's greatest gifts.

Beginning this fall, we're inviting everyone to participate in our first six-week **Friendship Focus**. Each week, gather with a few familiar faces— in Sunday School, before

worship, over coffee, around the dinner table, or wherever you naturally connect. Then answer the **question of the week** that helps you know one another a little better.

Continued on next page



*The sweetness of a friend
comes from his earnest counsel.*
Proverbs 27:9, ESV

PASTOR'S PAGE

The question will be posted around the church, in bulletins, and on online. You don't need to have all the answers. You simply need to be willing to listen with your heart, and share your story.

Imagine what could happen if every person in our church formed one deeper friendship this fall. Imagine newcomers quickly finding people who know their names. Imagine children, youth, young adults, families, and seniors discovering they belong to something more than a congregation—they belong to a family.

Church isn't just a place we attend - **It's a community where we grow together in affection, trust, and shared experiences in Christ.**

So this autumn, let's move beyond being merely friendly. ***Let's become friends***—encouraging one another, praying for one another, laughing together, serving together, and growing together in the love of Christ.

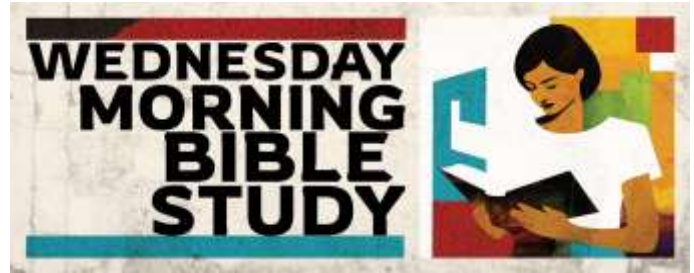
I can't wait to see the friendships God will grow among us.

~ Friendship Blessings,
Pastor Ivan+



QUESTION FOR AUGUST 2-8:

Who is the nicest person you know?
Why are they so nice?



MORNING BIBLE STUDY BEGINS WED., AUGUST 5 @ 10:30 AM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

Join us for our Wednesday Morning Bible Study in Holmer Hall as we study Paul's book on joy, humility, partnership, and Christian friendship—

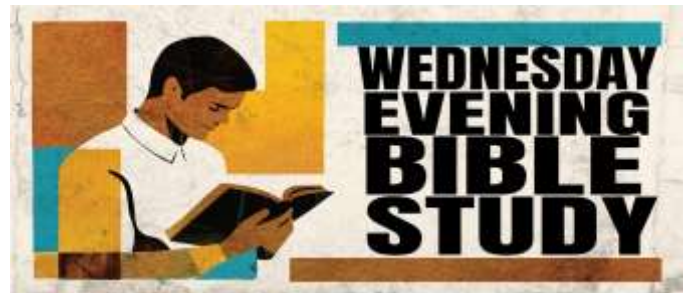
The Letter to the PHILIPPIANS!

Paul writes to people he deeply loves and calls his partners in the gospel. The letter explores issues like fraternal affection, encouragement, church unity, and serving one another.

SIX-WEEK OUTLINE:

1. Aug. 5: Friendships (Phil. 1:1-11)
2. Aug. 12: Living Together (1:12-30)
3. Aug. 19: Mindfulness (2:1-18)
4. Aug. 26: Faithful Friends (2:19-30)
5. Sept. 2: Pressing On (3:1-21)
6. Sept. 9: Gratitude (4:1-23)

Bible studies are open to the public and free of charge. All students of faith — and seekers — are welcome!



ADULT EVENING BIBLE STUDY STARTS WED., SEPT. 2 @ 6 PM

CHURCH OFFICE

 Our Staff



REMINDER: It is hard to believe but most schools will be back in session the second week of August. Pay attention to the school speed zones and watch out for all the kids walking to and from school. ***We're praying for a safe and successful year for all students, teachers, administrators and staff!***



ATTENTION – PARLOR KITCHEN: The parlor kitchen refrigerator (first floor) has become quite full. If you bring food for an event and have leftovers that you do not plan to take home, please either share them with someone else or dispose of them before you leave. Your help in keeping the refrigerator clean and organized is appreciated. Usually on Fridays I go through the refrigerator and clean it out. So if you expect something to be there the following Sunday it will be gone. Thank you for your cooperation!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAYS: PASTOR'S DAY OFF

MONDAYS - CLOSED

TUESDAYS - THURSDAYS

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

FRIDAYS: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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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

QUARTERLY
**Business
Meeting**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Church Council has called a **Quarterly Business Meeting and Potluck Supper on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 AT 5:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall (downstairs cafeteria). **Bring a casserole, or a side dish, a salad, and/or a dessert.** The Mission Committee will share testimonies from the short-term mission trip, and Pastor Ivan+ will share an update on the Church Health Survey.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB FALL KICKOFF

HELP US WELCOME KIDS BACK TO WWW KIDS BIBLE CLUB ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12! We are looking for 12+ adult volunteers to make our Back-to-School Night a fun, exciting, and Christ-centered evening for children and their families. There are lots of ways to

serve—no experience necessary! Volunteer opportunities include ***Telling the Bible Story, Leading Crafts, Refereeing Games, Leading Songs, Greeting Families, and Helping Wherever Needed.*** SIGN UP on the bulletin Board or online. Whether you can lead an activity or simply lend a helping hand, we would love to have you on the team!

WWW BIBLE CLUB GAME NIGHTS: Get ready for two fun-filled evenings of laughter, friendship, and summer excitement at Wonderful West Side Wednesdays (WWW) Kids Bible Club! Join us for **special Game Nights on Wednesday, August 19, and Wednesday, August 26, at 6:00 PM.**

On August 19, we'll enjoy **Outdoor Games** with plenty of running, playing, and friendly competition. On August 26, cool off with our **Water Games Night** — so bring your swimsuit, towel, and a willingness to get soaked!

Before the fun begins, everyone is invited to enjoy a **FREE supper at 5:30 PM.** Children and families are welcome to come eat, play, and experience the joy of Christian community.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help make these nights a success! Help serve supper, lead a game, encourage our children, or share your smile. Your presence makes a difference. Come enjoy the games, make new friends, and celebrate God's love together at WWW Kids Bible Club!

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
TRANSPORTATION
MINISTRY

NEED A RIDE?
Call! Church Van

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Call Us Now! (785) 233-4241

The Church Transportation Ministry provides safe, reliable rides to and from church services and events for those in need.

CAMP CHRISTY CAMPAIGN

NEW LOGO, NEW MOTTO, NEW MODEL

As you might have seen in the past few months, Camp Christy is seeing some changes.

New Logo | New Motto | New Ministry and Business Model



We are taking the idea of “Where a Week at Camp is More than A Week at Camp” to a new level. The new motto “A Camp for All Seasons” demonstrates the heart of our mission, which is to provide a place where ministry can happen during different seasons of the year, and people’s lives.

Through Steve and my 13 years here at Camp Christy we've had the opportunity to see our guests and campers through grief, church and family division, addiction, and other hard times. On the other side of that we have seen unions and celebrations, church growth, salvations and callings, and growth within Camp Christy itself. After hearing recent testimonies and one-on-one conversation, this year specifically the two words that come to mind are “healing” and “empowerment.”

In order to see these changes through, we are also enhancing our business model by **revving up our year-round rentals**. In order to do that we are also working on our **Cottage Capitol Campaign to get the Rozel Cottage finished and the Davidson Cottage remodeled**. With those two projects complete we will have 3 all-seasons, all inclusive buildings to rent as much as 365 days a year!

We also intend to have intentional programming in each “season” or quarter. We brought back **Archery Camp and Special Needs Camp**, we are introducing our first ever **Praise and Worship Camp and Young Adult Retreat!** There are many more ideas we are discussing to bring the name of Jesus to as many people as possible throughout the year.

With these changes comes increasing costs. Both managers are full time this year to see these changes through and to work on other projects that will enhance year round ministry, which comes with increasing salary costs and operational costs. We are already seeing the benefits of Steve being back full time including the **2nd phase of the Sweet Shack remodel completed and 9 holes of frisbee/archery golf put back up!** Many smaller projects have been completed but those are our favorites!

I have attached a condensed budget for our new year. It is an increase of around \$58,000. We are seeking more regular givers to contribute to these changes while we adjust, acclimate, and advance as a Camp for All Seasons. One time donations are also appreciated!

Thank you all for your faithfulness, Steve and Danielle Massaglia, Camp Managers

Danielle: 785-365-9399 | Office Number: 620-872-3025 | campchristy365@gmail.com

CAMP CHRISTY - 320 Camp Christy Dr. - Scott City, KS 67871

FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

LADIES & MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00 PM at Jason's Deli



6121 SW 12th Street Ste 400

Each person or family is responsible for their drinks and meals but invite a friend and pay for their meal! Need a ride see Colleen or Brice.



CHRISTIAN CLASSICS BOOK CLUB

We are reading a new book in **AUGUST: "City of God" by Augustine Hippo.** Join the discussion on:

- ♦ **AUG. 23 at 5:30 PM**
FOURTH SUNDAY and
- ♦ **AUG. 26 at 11:30 AM**
FOURTH WEDNESDAY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ or LISTEN TO THE BOOK TO JOIN



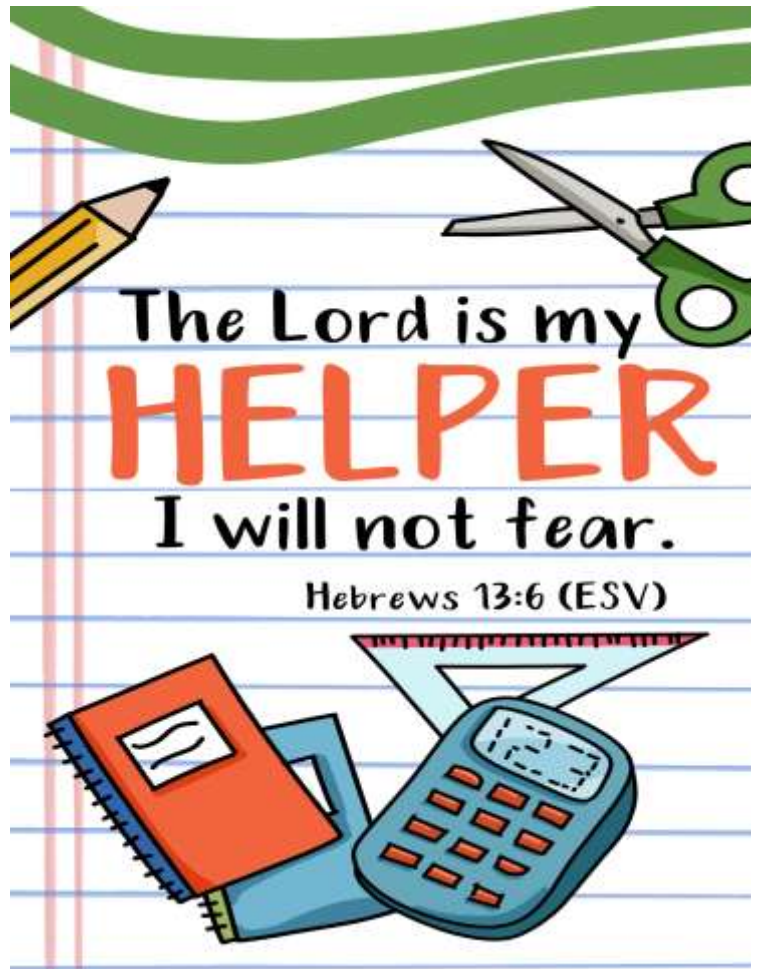
Grab a study guide from the bulletin board in the first-floor hallway. Borrow or buy a print copy or an electronic copy of the books online at your favorite book supplier, or at the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL). The proposed 2026 Book list and other vital information are available at <http://wsbctopeka.org>.

CONCERT CREW ANNOUNCEMENT:

August 29th we will be taking the van to Sabetha Ks. (About an hour away) for a whole night of bouncy houses, food trucks and Christian music. This event is free except for the gas to go.

This event is from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Bands listed to play include **Ryan Stevenson, Tenth Avenue North, Jaren** and a couple of newcomer bands. It will be a fun night with good friends.

Please let Jennifer know if you are wanting to go in the van, so that we know how many people are going.



OUTREACH



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:

Help us support local students at Lowman Hill Elementary and Meadows Elementary schools as they prepare for a new school year! We are collecting the following school supplies:

- ♦ **20 neutral-colored backpacks** (no characters or themed designs; all sizes needed)
- ♦ **50 pencil boxes**
- ♦ **20 Over-the-Ear Headphones** (special education students)
- ♦ **400 sharpened pencils, OR**
- ♦ **CASH** donations to purchase 650 water bottles.

Please bring donated items to the church by Sunday, August 2. Your generosity will help equip students with the tools they need for a successful school year. Thank you for partnering with us to serve children and families in our community!



The **2026 ABCCR Annual Gathering** has been moved to **Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, Kansas**, on **September 25–26, 2026**. Our keynote speaker will be **Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula**, Executive Minister of the Nebraska. **Please register your church's delegates by September 1, 2026.** All delegates—including those attending only the **online Business Meeting via Zoom on September 15 at 7:00 PM**—must register to receive delegate materials. Per the ABCCR Bylaws, each church is entitled to **two delegates, plus one additional delegate for every 100 resident members** reported in the latest ABCCR Annual Report. Meals are not guaranteed for registrations received after the deadline.



DOORSTEP, INC

Doorstep's Christmas in July Donations Needed for this Christmas!



Help us collect items for our 2026 Christmas adoption of 285 households, with nearly 900 individuals!

Toys

Footballs & Basketballs ~ Pokemon
Hello Kitty ~ Toys for Ages 5 - 12
Educational Toys (all ages)
Spiderman ~ K-Pop ~ Lelo & Stitch
Sonic Hedge Hog ~ Jewelry
Make-Up & Nail Kits



Toys

Roblox Gift Cards (\$10-\$20)
Paw Patrol ~ Bluey ~
Minecraft ~ Puzzles ~ Legos
Sensory / Fidget ~
Board & Brain Teaser Games ~
Color Books for All Ages
Teen Board Games



Men's & Women's Gifts

Tool Sets ~ Flashlights
Fishing Items (Poles/Tacklebox/Etc)
Car Cleaning Items ~ Boots & Sneakers
Men & Women's Cologne Sets
Sweats (All Sizes, All Ages)
Pajamas ~ Teen/Men/Women(All Sizes)

Kitchen Items

Silverware ~ Glasses ~ Crockpots
Dish Sets ~ Pots & Pans ~ Air Fryers

Other Items

Towel Sets - (Bath, Hand & Washcloth)
Blankets - Queen & King Sizes
Full Size Hygiene Items: Deodorant
Shampoo + Conditioner ~ Bar Soap
Combs ~ Brushes ~ Toothpaste ~
Toothbrushes ~ **Cleaning Supplies**



School Supplies

Notebook Paper (College/Wide)
Spiral Notebooks (College/Wide)
Pens ~ Pencils ~ Glue ~ Erasers
Folders (2 Pocket) ~ Backpacks
Rulers ~ Markers ~ Scissors

Bring donations to your Faith Community during the month of July!
Thank you for making the holiday season brighter for your neighbors!
Doorstep, 1119 SW 10th Ave - Donation Hours: M-F, 9am-2pm, South Door

Doorstep provides the following...

- ♦ **FOOD** — (Monday-Friday) - Once every 30 days; this is intended to provide three meals for five days.
- ♦ **CLOTHING** — (Tuesday-Friday) - Once every two weeks
- **RENT**— (REFERAL from City of Topeka Equal Access Shelter (EAS) - One time per 12-month period
- **TRANSPORTATION** — (local gas vouchers/bus tickets): Vouchers available two times per 12-month period)
- **PRESCRIPTIONS** — Two times per 12-month period (\$150 cap)
- **UTILITIES** — (By Appointment, if funds are available) - One time per 12-month period



"Enhancing homeless services to ensure all people receive rent / mortgage assistance with a single point of access"

(785) 368-9533

WORSHIP

**The Revised Common
Lectionary Texts Year A**

SCRIPTURE READER

Pat Carpenter

AUGUST 2, 2026

OT 18 | Proper 13

Genesis 32:22-31

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

AUGUST 9, 2026

OT 19 | Proper 14

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew: 22-33

AUGUST 16, 2026

OT 20 | Proper 15

Genesis 45:1-15

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

AUGUST 23, 2026

OT 21 | Proper 16

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

AUGUST 30, 2026

OT 20 | Proper 17

Exodus 3:1-15

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

GOSPEL READER

Deacon Janelle Hood

AUGUST USHERS

HEAD: Clarence Payne

Jack J., Charles T.,

Angie F., Ernie L.,

ACOLYTE: ANGIE F.

COMMUNION SERVERS

Albert C. Lonna H.,

Nancy L., Charles T.,

and Jay & Marty S.

COORDINATOR OF WORSHIP:

Matthew S.



WATCH LIVE

**Worship Online with US on
our YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/>

[@westsidebaptistchurchtopek3982](#)

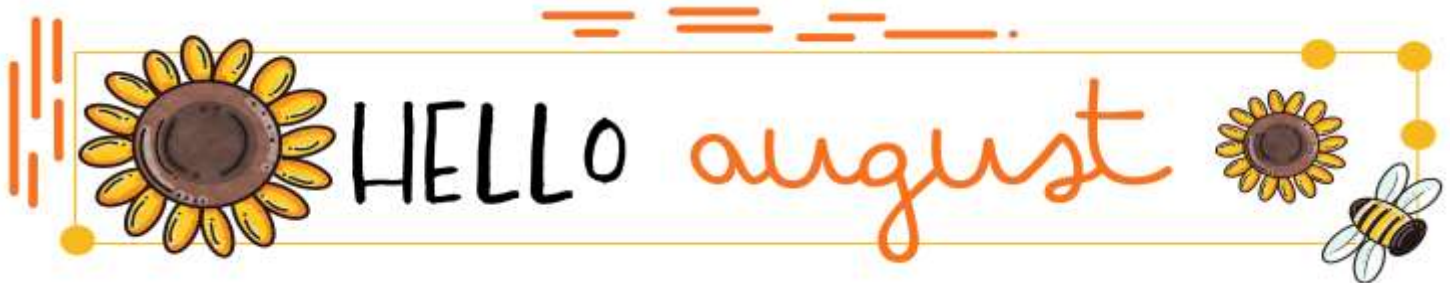
Subscribe for Updates & Live Videos

YOUTH...ETC.

YOUTH GATHERING AGAIN!

The EMERGE Youth Group will connect again on August 19th with a fun planned activity. **FREE SUPPER** for ALL from 5:30 - 6:00 PM.

PARENT MEETING: Youth Leaders will hold a PARENT MEETING from 6:00—7:00 PM in the Youth Room. *All parents and students (7th-12th Grade) are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting.* Leaders will share the proposed **2026-2027 Activity & Fundraising Calendar**, and share information about upcoming trips.
Jennifer E. & “Mamma T” Tera



THE BABY CLOSET
ARMARIO PARA BEBÉ

Blankets, Clothes, Diapers, Formula, Wipes, and other maternity/baby items are available for FREE for newborns to 5-year-old children. Donations Welcome!

MONDAYS | LOS LUNES
9:00 - 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS | LOS MIERCOLES
3:30 - 5:30 PM

THURSDAYS | LOS JUEVES
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Mantas, ropa, pañales, fórmula, toallitas y otros artículos están disponibles GRATIS para recién nacidos hasta niños de 5 años.

MIDTOWN COMMUNITY SERVICES
1008 SW 4th ST | TOPKEA, KS 66606
Phone: (785) 233-4241 EXT. 1
wsbctopeka.org/get-help/baby-closet/



THE BABY CLOSET
TOPEKA, KANSAS

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

**ONLY ONE
NUMBER
TO CALL**

(785) 233-4241
Call Day or Night!

Make one phone call to reach the Baby Closet, The Office, the Pastor, a Deacon, the Van Driver, Help with utilities, rent, and more. DAY or NIGHT!

Listen to the Prompts!

WWW.WSBCTOPEKA.ORG

ACTIVITY PAGE

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

POTATO DAY
MEAD DAY
PLAY BALL DAY
LAZY DAY
DOG DAY
WAFFLE DAY
DOLLAR DAY

PROSECCO DAY
RUM DAY
LION DAY
VINYL RECORD DAY
BOW DAY
WATERMELON DAY
IPA DAY
OYSTER DAY

DOLL DAY
DINOSAURS DAY
CBD DAY
KIDS DAY
GEORGIA DAY
CAT DAY
GOSSIP DAY

Back to School

Word Search

The words can be vertical, horizontal, backwards, or diagonal.

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

notebook

read

student



playground

binder

recess



bus

posters

subject



lessons

pen

paper



BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Y F O L D E R
C L A P P L E
L R E N O A C
A E X I D Y L
S H A P E S O
S A M U S I C
P U Z Z L E K

HIDDEN WORDS

APPLE
CLASS
CLOCK
EXAM
FOLDER
MUSIC
PUZZLE
SHAPES



HIDDEN WORDS

BALL
BELL
ERASER
FRIENDS
GLOBE
GYM
LESSON
RECESS



U G Y M I B O
L E U B A L L
F R I E N D S
G A R L M S Y
R S G L O B E
L E S S O N S
I R E C E S S



AUGUST

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 National Sunflower Day 1:30 pm Worship Tm
2 COMMUNION NURSERY 9:00 am SS Cinema 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Soup Kitchen	3 National Watermelon Day 9:00 am Baby Closet	4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day 6:00 pm Ladies & Men's Night Out at Jason's Deli	5 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet NURSERY 5:30 pm No Programs 5:30 pm Quarterly Business Meeting & Pot Luck (FH)	6 National Root Beer Float Day 1:00 pm Baby Closet	7 Purple Heart Day 	8 1:30 pm Worship Team
9 NURSERY 9:00 am SS Cinema 10:30 am Worship	10 National S'mores Day 9:00 am Baby Closet	11  6:00 pm Council Meeting	12 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm Free Supper NURSERY 6:00 pm Fall Kick Off WWW Kids Bible Club (W. Parking Lot)	13 Oops Forgot: Yesterday was National Middle Child Day 1:00 pm Baby Closet	14	15 1:30 pm Worship Team 2:30 pm Worship Committee
16 NURSERY 9:00 am SS Cinema 10:30 am Worship 12:00 Soup Kitchen	17 National Pineapple Juice Day 9:00 am Baby Closet	18 5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting 6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting	19 World Humanitarian Day 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Mission (HH) 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm Free Supper NURSERY 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club Game Night (W. Parking Lot)	20 National Bacon Lovers Day 1:00 pm Baby Closet	21 National Fantasy Football Draft Day	22 1:30 pm Worship Team
23 NURSERY 9:00 am SS Cinema 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Book Club	24 National Waffle Day 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	25 National Banana Split Day 5:30 pm Outreach Meeting	26 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Book Club 3:30 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm Free Supper NURSERY 6:00 pm WWW Kids Bible Club WATER Game Night (W. Lot)	27 National Peach Day 1:00 pm Baby Closet	28 National Bow Tie Day	29 1:30 pm Worship Team 5:00 pm Concert in Sabetha
30 NURSERY 9:00 am SS Cinema 10:30 am Worship	31 National Toasted Marshmallow Day 9:00 am Baby Closet					