

# West Side Times

[www.westsidedisciples.org](http://www.westsidedisciples.org)

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## KAIROS GOD'S TIMING

By Rev. Donna Gilchrist

**I LOVE ADVENT!** Preparing for any new birth is exciting and filled with anticipation – and preparing for the birth of Jesus is no less exciting.

Lent is a different matter. In this season I know that we are headed toward the cross. Birth and death are the bookends of life...and yet, preparing for birth is filled with joy, while preparing for death is often filled with heartache and sorrow...with wondering if you're doing things right...if you've shown enough love...and whether through some miracle all this could just be avoided.

Lent is more introspective than Advent. It takes us into the shadows of our own lives and the life of our community where we would prefer not to go.

We try to avoid death, but we can't. Like the disciples, we don't want to be present for the crucifixion, but we must.

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***"Lent is like a spring cleaning  
of our souls."***

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Just as God is always birthing something in our lives, so God is always asking us to let go of those things which no longer serve us. Lent is like a spring cleaning of our souls.

This Lent we will be working our way through a worship series called Gifts of the Dark Wood. We'll visit those dark places in our lives, much as if we were traveling into a large, dark forest. We'll watch for the mercy and grace that can be found in the shadows. This worship series is about traveling through some of life's most

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# KAIROS

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difficult times and being able to recognize that there were gifts offered to you along the way.

Sometimes we don't recognize the gifts that we received during the difficult moments of our lives until we can look back. After we have survived, and our lives have been resurrected to a new sense of normal, then our eyes are opened and we see. Just so, this worship series will end with resurrection on Easter morning.

I hope this year that you will make an extra effort to participate in all the activities of Lent and Holy Week. We are working together with our ecumenical partners to take all of our churches on a meaningful journey through Lent: the darkness of Holy Week, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as the joy of Easter morning.

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***"I promise that the view on  
Easter morning will be well  
worth the journey!"***

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The first step in that journey is an Ash Wednesday worship at 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church on February 26 at 7:00 p.m. During this worship we will recognize our mortality, and prepare our hearts and minds for the journey ahead.

So dig out your hiking boots, fill your backpack with survival essentials, and prepare to journey toward the cross and beyond. I'm sure you'll discover new insights about your life and faith along the way, and I promise that the view on Easter morning will be well worth the journey!

Sending you Courage and Strength for the Journey,

*Donna*

## THERE ARE GIFTS IN THE DARK WOODS



**JOIN US on Sunday mornings during Lent to see how experiences of life through the dark wood are actually clues to our calling or life path.**

**How can the struggles of life be the seedbed of spiritual awakening to the fullness of life? Find out through this series, based on the book with the same title by Eric Elnes.**

**You will learn to see "life through new eyes, recognizing that experiences of failure, emptiness, and uncertainty are as critical for finding our way through life as they are unavoidable."<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>From [www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com).

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## COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S PARTY



**THE SECOND ANNUAL** How the Grinch Found Christmas Party was held in Fellowship Hall on December 7. Children from West Side and the community joined in the fun and ate Grinch-themed snacks, made a craft, played games, and learned the true meaning of Christmas—that the grinch of the world can never steal.

Guests were invited to donate a kid's hat or pair of mittens or gloves to help a child in need. With combined contributions from the party, the West Side congregation, and Flint Hills Harmony Singers (who practice at the church), we were able to donate the following to children in need at Meadows Elementary School: 71 hats, 77 gloves, 8 puzzles, 17 games, 22 coloring books, 22 boxes of crayons, and 3 scarves!



# WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

## SPREADING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS



### WHAT COULD BE BETTER

than chili and cinnamon rolls on a cold winter's day? Why, chili, cinnamon rolls, and caroling, of course!

After the service on Sunday, December 15, West Siders enjoyed lunch in Fellowship Hall and then spread the joy of Christmas by caroling at local senior centers.





## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE



**THE IAROSSI FAMILY** were a beautiful portrayal of Mary, Joseph and the Christ child, Jesus.



**EPIPHANY RINGERS** chimed the joyful news of Christ's coming.



**THE EVENING ENDED** with a circle of light, as West Siders looked forward to sharing the light of the world.



# SERVING TOGETHER

## LAITY SUNDAY: JANUARY 26

**WEST SIDERS** were a beautiful demonstration of the Body of Christ in action on Laity Sunday. Members served, gave testimonies, worshiped through music, and prayed during the service. After worship service, others prepared and served a delicious noodle dinner. Many thanks to all who participated!



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT



## ASH WED SERVICE @ 2ND PRES.

**FEB. 26, 7:00 P.M.**

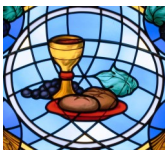
Please join other West Siders and members of Potwin Presbyterian and 2nd Presbyterian in a joint Ash Wednesday Service as we enter the contemplative Lenten season.



## ALL-CHURCH POTATO BAR

**MARCH 15**

Join us for a potato bar with all the fixings after the morning worship service in Fellowship Hall. This annual lunch is always a great time for fellowship and fun!



## MAUNDY THURSDAY @ POTWIN PRES    **APRIL 9, 6:00 P.M.**

**Potwin Presbyterian Church** will host an Agape Feast for Potwin and West Side Baptist and WSCC congregations. You may take cheese, fruit, nuts or bread to contribute, if desired. Location: 400 SW Washburn Ave.



## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**APRIL 10, 6:30 P.M.**

Our Good Friday service will feature the combined choirs of Potwin Presbyterian, West Side Baptist, and West Side Christian. Come worship with us at WSCC as we contemplate Christ's redemptive sacrifice for us.



## SUNRISE SERVICE @ WARD MEADE

**APRIL 12**

Celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection at the historic **Little White Church at Prairie Town in Ward Meade Park**. This community service is organized by West Side Baptist for our congregations and for all in the community.



## EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

**APRIL 12, 10:30 A.M.**

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Come bask in the Light of the Risen Christ—God's love for you!



## SUMMER CAMPS

Ready for some summer fun? Plan to attend one of the 13 summer camps at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni near Augusta, Kansas. The ever-popular Grand Camps, for grandparents and their grandchildren, are May 28-30 and June 11-13. For more information visit [tawakoni.org/summer-camp-program/](http://tawakoni.org/summer-camp-program/)



## SIGN UP FOR ALL THE NEWS!

Would you like to know what's happening at West Side every week? If so, sign up today for our weekly update e-newsletter, *West Side Weekly*, by visiting [www.eepurl.com/ga4Oev](http://www.eepurl.com/ga4Oev)





West Side Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
432 SW Lindenwood Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66606

Return Service Requested

**Church School—9:15 a.m.**

**Worship Celebration—10:30 a.m.**

**Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (M-Th)**

Phone: 785-234-0469

Email: [office@westsidedisciples.org](mailto:office@westsidedisciples.org)

Website: [www.westsidedisciples.org](http://www.westsidedisciples.org)

## **PREPARE YOUR HEART AND MIND THROUGH LENT**

Wednesday, **February 26**, at 7:00 p.m. **Ash Wednesday** joint service  
Second Presbyterian Church (210 NW Menninger Rd.)

Thursday, **April 9**, at 6:00-8:00 p.m. **Agape Feast**  
Potwin Presbyterian Church (400 SW Washburn Ave.)

Friday, **April 10**, at 6:30-7:30 p.m. **Good Friday Worship Service**,  
with combined church choir, at West Side Christian

Easter Sunday, **April 12**, **Easter Sunrise Service**  
Prairie Town @ Ward-Meade Park (organized by West Side Baptist)

Easter Sunday, **April 12**, 10:30 a.m. **Easter Worship Service**  
West Side Christian Church