

# West Side Times

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## KAIROS A TIME FOR ACTION



By Rev. Donna Gilchrist

**2020 HAS BEEN A ROUGH YEAR** for all of us. My head swims with all we have been through as a country: COVID-19 and the resulting illnesses and deaths, job losses, Hurricane Laura, racial tensions, windstorms and tornadoes, violence, wildfires, a feeling of grief and isolation as we continue to distance ourselves to protect our most vulnerable populations...and the list goes on.

Alongside all these happenings has been all the stress that life normally brings us...changes at work, health concerns, family concerns, and more...

Despite all this, God continues to walk beside us...and we are offered mercy, grace, and deep, deep love in the midst of what appears to be chaos...

A tiny virus has impacted our lives for months now. We live in a time of liminality. We know that scientists are working on a vaccine for the virus, but it has not yet been perfected. We are reminded that with Jesus, the Kingdom of God began breaking into the world, but it was not yet perfected. In ancient times, people expected that God's reign would happen quickly. In reality, the human race has struggled for many years to embody the love and compassion which Jesus taught us.

How can we live fully as people of God? Are we ready to let go of anger, anxiety, aggressions, and fear to allow God to reign? God has been inviting us into something new for a long time now.

Another liminal parallel has occurred in our spiritual lives in 2020. The spiritual patterns that we had established as "normal" have been disrupted. Something new has begun as our lives have been changed by this virus, but it has not yet been fully discovered. I wonder if God is inviting us into deeper communion with God/Christ/Spirit as well as more inclusive relationships with people everywhere.

Our most recent worship series at West Side Christian Church has been a study of the parables. Throughout the parables, God continually surprises us. In the ancient world, the Kingdom of

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# KAIROS

God was contrasted with a human kingdom. People of that time recognized all the inconsistencies that could occur when a human ruled. They experienced firsthand what could happen when a king succumbed to greed, power, and wealth. Jesus' parables described more of a Kin-dom than a kingdom. In this Kin-dom, everyone was "kin." Compassion and acceptance prevailed to a shocking level; even those who were culturally outcast were included. Jesus' descriptions often left people puzzled as they tried to grasp ways of being that were vastly different from the norm. His teachings threatened the status quo. They were life-changing.

*In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. ~Matthew 7:12*

Our lives have been disrupted this year not only by a virus but by division within our country. In the United States, people are beginning to speak from their hearts about deeply held values. Rather than silently holding those values inside, they are speaking up for what they believe is right. Surprisingly, conflict and disagreement are often a prelude to creative resolution: chaos before calm. In the parable of the Samaritan, we were surprised by the heart-felt compassion of an enemy. Where are the compassionate surprises in our divisions today? What kind of stories would Jesus tell to help us discern how to move closer to Kin-dom living?

In the pages that follow, you will read the wisdom of West Siders who are journeying with God through this liminal time in our lives. May their spiritual journeys inspire your own as you look to God as the ground of your being.

In Christ,

*Donna*



Photo Jill Wellington on Pixabay

**I HAVE VISITED WITH GOD** since a child, each and every day, not because I was taught to do so, not by a feeling of obligation or guilt, but out of need.

The reassurance that God is with me is part of the very foundation of my faith. When very small, my prayers were for my family, for I had a constant worry that the sky was about to fall, as sometimes it seemed to do just that. As a teenager, my prayers assured me God was there as I walked the dark streets to home. A young mom, I was lacking in knowledge, but God was right there, instilling within me a love so strong for my child that it seemed as though I began to develop a sixth sense about her needs.

As I age, I include so much more in my talks with God, but, during this pandemic, I have talked less and listened more. God has reminded me of all for which I am thankful, yet, so much that I take for granted.

And, although I still worry how things will work out, and while I still cry over the suffering of so many, while I rankle over my limitations to "do more to fix things," God has, through his reassurance, and his work through others, brought me peace.

—*Deb Southerland*



## MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!



Dennis and Marti Bass enjoyed hanging out at home on their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20.

### WITHIN US

We are all children in His eyes,  
instilled with His spirit; and light,  
a seed of love placed in our heart  
we are His and He's beside us.

Made up of more than we could know,  
we are guided to see His ways,  
paths of beauty; stay straight away  
no veering to the right or left.

His strength in us won't lead astray,  
we can let the world pass on by,  
nothing there worth more than His gifts.  
His strength within us always stays.

Written by Janet Bayless  
August of 2020



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## MORE INSIGHTS

### I AM CONTENT

The brilliance of a sunrise  
speaks of His passion for the creative;  
the horizon brims with His great  
love.

His Grace found in acts of kindness,  
His faith fulfills dreams of those in  
need and leads us towards those  
deeds.

Oh for joy in the morning  
and all through the day,  
I find my Savior in so many ways.  
The smile of a stranger,  
a rose or feather found seemingly  
out of nowhere.

His works are wondrous and surprising,  
filling a deep, dark well with light and hope,  
until that well runs over with  
the greatness of His peace

His words lead me down paths of righteousness,  
fill my heart with joy,  
knowing that He will keep His promises.  
I am at peace;  
I am content.

Poem and photo  
by Janet Bayless  
August 2020



**FACEBOOK SHOWS THE RESULTS** but not the process

The scenic vacation but not the tearful car ride

The perfect vegetables without the chiggers, sweat, and scanty pickings.

I want what I see in those pictures, but will I embrace the process?

Might the painful journey make the destination more glorious?

Will I thank God for healthy produce even if I don't like beans?


—Dana J. King


# CHECK THE SOURCE!

**GREETINGS EVERYONE!** This is Kit Pittier. I hope this finds you healthy and worry-free. I have been trying hard not to worry, which isn't always easy. With regards to the coronavirus, it is hard to know what to believe.

For every news article I read or hear, I can find another one contradicting what I just heard. One thing that has helped me know the truth is to stop reading or listening to any news that includes political stabs—when stabs are being made, then I know the writer's intent is not to share fairly with me what has happened, but to advance their agenda. So, instead, I go to the CDC website or to KDHE's (Kansas Department for Health and Environment) website for the real scoop. (Here is one document from KDHE that I found helpful.)













Along with prayer, asking God to take care of these things I have no control over, I have been a much happier person. That is what I wish for all of you. Take care.





COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS vs. COLD vs. FLU vs. ALLERGIES

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19*	COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
 <b>Fever</b>	<b>Common</b> (measured at 100 F or higher)	<b>Rare</b>	<b>High (100-102 F), can last 3-4 days</b>	<b>No</b>
 <b>Headache</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Intense</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>
 <b>General aches, pains</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Slight</b>	<b>Common, often severe</b>	<b>No</b>
 <b>Fatigue, weakness</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Slight</b>	<b>Common, often severe</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>
 <b>Extreme exhaustion</b>	<b>Sometimes</b> (progresses slowly)	<b>Never</b>	<b>Common (starts early)</b>	<b>No</b>
 <b>Stuffy nose</b>	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Common</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Common</b>
 <b>Sneezing</b>	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Common</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Common</b>
 <b>Sore throat</b>	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Common</b>	<b>Common</b>	<b>No</b>
 <b>Cough</b>	<b>Common</b>	<b>Mild to moderate</b>	<b>Common, can become severe</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>
 <b>Shortness of breath</b>	<b>In more serious infections</b>	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Common</b>
 <b>Runny nose</b>	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Common</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Common</b>
 <b>Diarrhea</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Sometimes**</b>	<b>No</b>

For more information: [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus)

\* Information is still evolving.  
\*\* Sometimes for children.  
Sources: KDHE, CDC, WHO, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.



## FAMILY NEWS

### IN MEMORY

**VELVA MAXINE COUNSELLER**, her husband, Jack, and their three daughters, Janet, Joyce, and Diane, were an active part of West Side for many years. Maxine and Jack participated in the Upper Room Sunday School Class.



Maxine's upbeat attitude was a joy in the Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF), where she served as president and also as a group leader. She was one of the first women elders at West Side, and she had a gentle presence at the communion table and as she visited the homebound. Maxine also served on numerous committees and taught Sunday School to the junior-age children. She was a good friend to many at West Side and will be deeply missed.

Maxine went to be with her Lord on Saturday, August 29. She was 99 years old. Visitation will be 1:00-3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 13, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road. Funeral service will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, September 14, at the funeral home.

**HADLEY HEAVIN** (May 26, 1918-Dec. 7, 1941)

Hadley Heavin, Charlie Heavin's brother, received full military honors at his funeral at First Christian Church of Baxter Springs, Kansas, on September 5.

Governor Laura Kelly spoke, and Hadley's great nephew brought the message. The streets along the way to the cemetery were lined with townspeople waving flags as they honored Hadley. At the interment, the navy conducted military honors, bagpipers played, and two Blackhawk helicopters flew over.



Hadley died at Pearl Harbor while serving our country in the Navy and received the Purple Heart for his sacrificial service. In September 2019—after 78 years—Hadley's remains were identified.

We rejoice that Hadley is with our Lord and that his remains are finally with those of other family members in Baxter Springs.

### SUPPORTING MEADOWS ELEMENTARY



**WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN** partnered with Potwin Presbyterian and West Side Baptist to bless Meadows Elementary School, our neighborhood school, with a mountain of school supplies. Due to your generosity, we were able to donate 380 Ziploc bags, 199 pencil boxes, and 356 dry erase markers!

*Thank you to all who donated to support Meadows students and staff!*



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT



### CAMP TAWAKONI AUCTION

Tawakoni hosts an annual gala and auction fundraiser. Proceeds support capital improvements and raise money for camp scholarships. This year, there will be an **online auction November 7-14**. Donations for the auction of gift certificates or gift cards of \$10 or more for goods, experiences, and/or services may be mailed to or dropped off at Topeka Regional Office, 2914 SW MacVicar Ave. Each donation needs to include a Gala Donation Form that you can obtain by calling West Side or the Regional Office.



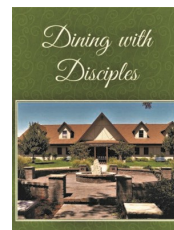
### VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE & CLASSES

Join us Sunday mornings for **worship** by going to the church website and clicking the worship tab: [westsidedisciples.org](http://westsidedisciples.org). You are also invited to join the adult **Jubilee Sunday school** class or **Peace in Chaos** (a discussion group for ages 18-35 on Thursdays, October 8-29). For more information, you may contact the church office by email at [office@westsidedisciples.org](mailto:office@westsidedisciples.org) or by phone: 234-0469.



### CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS MEETINGS

Kansas Disciples Women will offer a free fall **virtual retreat**, “Contemplating Spiritual Disciplines,” on Oct. 2-3. To register go to [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org). An online **Regional Prayer Circle** hosted by Regional Minister Ken Marston takes place every Monday evening at 8:30 on Zoom. Login information can be found on the regional Facebook page or by contacting your regional office. Disciples Women meet Sunday evenings beginning at 7:30 for “**Cupcake Chatter**,” a time for all women to come together via a virtual Zoom event just to chat and share. Look for the login information on the Kansas Disciples Women Facebook Page.



### NEW DISCIPLES WOMEN COOKBOOK AVAILABLE

*Dining with Disciples* is filled with over 640 recipes from Disciples in the Kansas Region and beyond. Each book costs \$17, and all proceeds go to the Disciples Center at Tawakoni Jones Lodge construction fund. Call the church office to arrange a time to stop by the office to purchase your copy.



### RECEIVE WEEKLY NEWS IN YOUR EMAIL

Sign up for all the latest news! The church publishes a weekly newsletter *West Side Weekly*, with encouragement, announcements, and community events. To sign up go to [www.eepurl.com/ga4Oev](http://www.eepurl.com/ga4Oev). Or you can read online at [westsidedisciples.org](http://westsidedisciples.org). (Look for the Newsletters tab.)

Return Service Requested

**Online Worship Celebration @**  
**[www.westsidedisciples.org](http://www.westsidedisciples.org)**

Phone: 785-234-0469

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

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

*"May the God of hope fill you with  
all joy and peace as you trust in him,  
so that you may overflow with hope..."*

*Romans 15:13a (NIV)*

Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash