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*See inside back cover!*

**'Mother of the Bride' author shares timely wisdom for weddings**



by **Jeanette Littleton**

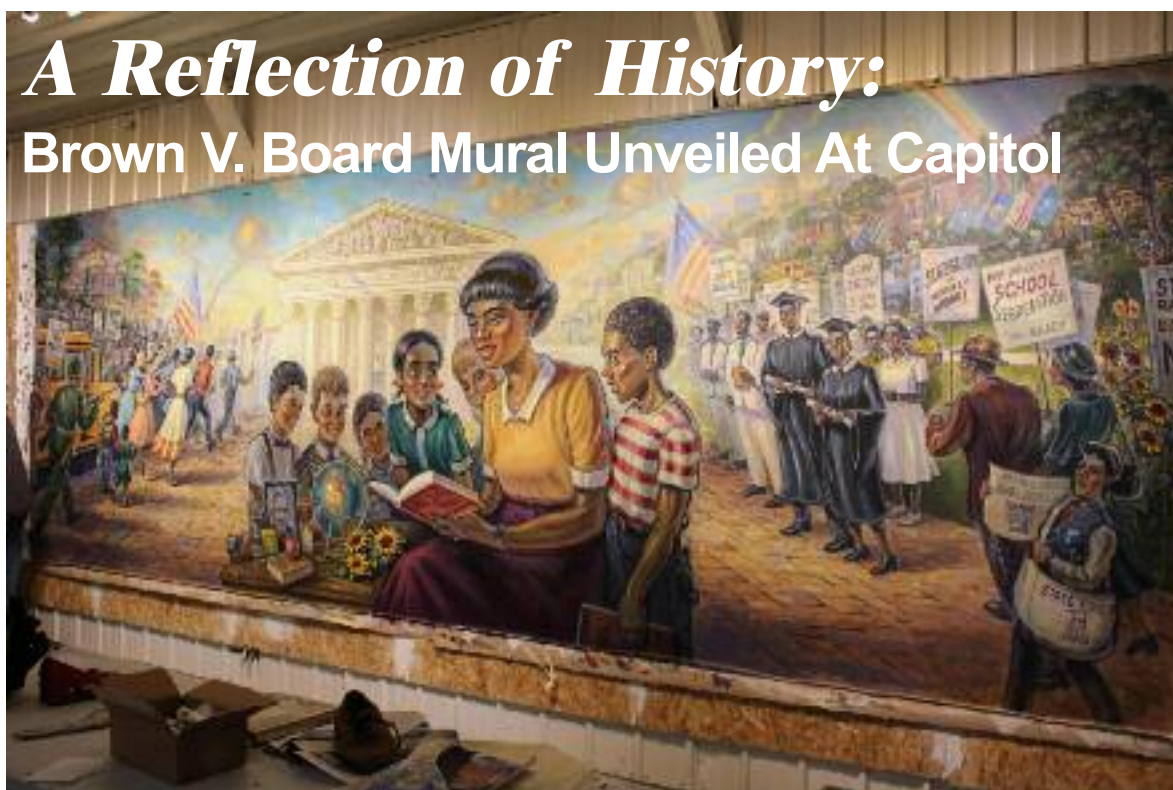
Spring brings thoughts of sunshine, flowers, warm days...and weddings! June is the month that sees the most weddings in the United States, with May as third on the list. For the bride, it's a busy time.

While the focus is on the couple, as it should be, many others have important roles to play in the planning of a wedding...especially the moms. But thanks to a book by Cheryl Barker, a member of Kansas City's Heart of America Christian Writers Network ([www.HACWN.org](http://www.HACWN.org)), moms don't have to travel the mother-of-the-bride journey alone.

**Tell us about your book. What are some of the different elements it covers?**

Mother of the Bride will help women who have suddenly been thrust into the delightful but demanding new role of Mother of the Bride. My book will offer them refreshment, wisdom, encouragement, practical tips, and the feminine beauty of a book designed just for them.

■ Please see BRIDE page 3



## A Reflection of History: Brown v. Board Mural Unveiled At Capitol

The Brown v. Board mural stands nearly complete in artist Michael Young's studio. The mural is now on display on the 3rd floor of the Kansas Capitol.

CARLA ECKELS / KMW

By Carla Eckels

Sixty-four years ago, the United States Supreme Court handed down the decision to end legal segregation in the public school system as part of the Brown v. Board of Education case. A new 22-foot-wide mural was unveiled May 17 in the Kansas Capitol in Topeka to commemorate that landmark decision.

The decision itself was called the most important action of its kind since the Emancipation Proclamation.

Leola Brown Montgomery vividly

remembers that day more than six decades later. She's the widow of Rev. Oliver Brown, the lead plaintiff in the historical case named after him. She's also the mother of three girls, including the late Linda Brown, known as the face of the civil rights case.

On May 17, 1954, Montgomery says she was at home doing chores.

"I was just ironing and had the TV on and listening to the news and at 12:30 p.m. that day it came in, [a] news flash came through and the decision had been handed down that it was uncon-

stitutional to have separate schools like that," she says.

"And I said, 'Oh, my God,' and tears came to my eyes. I could not wait for my family to get home so when they got home and I delivered the message. Oh, we hugged and cried."

More celebrating went on that night. Montgomery says her husband went to a meeting at Monroe Elementary, a black school in Topeka -- now known as the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic site. Several of the

■ Please see MURAL page 2

## Kansas license plates undergoing makeover



License plates for newly registered cars in Kansas are undergoing a makeover.

The new plates will carry the same designs currently offered, but will be flat instead of embossed. Additionally, new plates will be delivered directly to the vehicle owner in the updated process.

"This project completely modernizes the way the State of Kansas produces and delivers license plates," Governor Jeff Colyer said. "The old process has been in place since the first license plate was created by the state in 1913, so it is long overdue for streamlining. My administration is prioritizing providing more effective service for Kansans at the best price."

The transition to the new process will be complete on August 1. To prepare for that date, the Department of Revenue will stop accepting new orders for personalized plates effective April 27. Personalized plate service will resume under the new process on August 1 with faster, on-site approval of the requested personalized combination.

Under the new process, any customer purchasing a new plate will place an order at the county motor vehicle office. The customer will leave the office with a 30-day temporary license tag and their registration sticker. Meanwhile, the permanent plate will be "printed" on

■ Please see LICENSE page 3

## Don't let your church be the next site of a violent act

Many shootings and other violent acts over the years have occurred in small churches and in small towns. It seems appropriate then that a national one-day seminar on church safety will take place in the town of Sabetha in northeastern Kansas.

The Bulletproof Mind, put on by the national organization Sheepdog Seminars, is scheduled for Friday, June 8 at Northridge Church, 316 Lincoln, St. and expects to host attendees from across the region—from churches large and

small. But be it in small town or big city churches, the possibility of shootings and other acts of violence in churches, nonprofits and other faith-based organizations continues to grow as these locations are seen by criminals as soft targets.

"These acts of violence are not going to stop and many have already taken place this year," says Jimmy Meeks, founder of Sheepdog. "If your church has no plan to resist these killers, you need to reconsider."

■ Please see SECURITY page 4



# Life Lessons From a Little One

## GUARDING OUR EYES

by **Jessica S. Hosman**

We are surrounded with images devised to stimulate our senses and desensitize our minds. Cartoons, video games, movies and even commercials are filled with impure imagery that most of us are accustomed to and many accept as the norm.

In our home, it all started with the Grinch. You know, the one who stole Christmas back in 1966. Just the cover was enough to scare my son away and make him vow he would "never" watch such a show. I thought it was silly at first. Who hasn't watched the Grinch and loved it? But then the Lord convicted me: "I want his mind pure. Don't ever force him into watching something he doesn't want to watch. I want him yielding to My Spirit, not yours." That was three years ago. And the lesson continues.

I recently started pulling out some of the classic cartoon movies I grew up with. To me, they conjured up nostalgic feelings of childhood when anything was possible. To Zechariah, many of them had quite the opposite effect. The little portion we watched of Alice in Wonderland haunted him for days (even after fast forwarding through every scene with the Cheshire cat and Queen of Hearts). A quarter of Bambi was spent with hands covering eyes. And let's not even talk about that giant pickle from Veggie Tales who has shown up in my son's nightmares for years.

I know it sounds comical. But is my son really just being a baby who needs to grow up? Or is the Lord teaching him something that perhaps we all need to learn?

We rarely watch television but when we do, it's impossible to not have a show

interrupted by at least one, and often numerous, commercials that are trying to use provocation to lure us into something we don't need. Upcoming show previews promoting sex and homicide are laced into even the friendliest family programs. It is usually right before bedtime that Zechariah will tell me what he saw and the fear that a tiny two-second clip produced.

We process and pray. Then read our Bible and fall asleep with worship music playing to focus our minds on the things above. We talk about the options we have to close our eyes, walk away or turn off anything that gives us that dark feeling we know is not from God. I'm proud at the times my son has been able to say in retrospect, "I wish I wouldn't have watched that, Mommy," or been brave enough in the moment to ask if we can turn it off if he perceives it's not of God.

I want to be better in that area for myself. The Bible says that our eye is the lamp of our body. If our eyes are healthy, we will be filled with light; but if our eyes are unhealthy, we will be filled with darkness. Intentionally taking in with our eyes even the briefest of darkness plants seeds within that can flood our hearts, torment our minds and begin to pull us away from the purity of God. The world wants to contaminate but God wants to cleanse. Let's ask for His Spirit to prompt and convict so that we too can stand strong and be brave enough to walk away from the Cheshire cats, grins, giant pickles or any other image that could be used to torment our souls. We may not have the purity of a child of age seven, but we can still be a pure child of God. It just takes standing our ground, one temptation at a time.



Jessica Hosman

## Foster Families Enjoy Informational Appreciation Night at Topeka Zoo

Currently, there are more than 7,500 children in foster care, and approximately 2,700 family foster homes in Kansas. It is the goal of the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) to keep children in their homes, when safely possible. When removal is necessary, they rely on loving foster parents who are ready and willing to accept children on a temporary basis.

Every year, DCF hosts a foster care informational fair at the Kansas State Capitol to highlight the need for more foster homes. This year, the informational fair was held at the Topeka Zoo, and had a family focus.

On May 12, Lieutenant Governor Tracey Mann, DCF Secretary Gina Meier-Hummel and its partners held a press conference at the Topeka Zoo, to celebrate foster parents and call attention to the need for more foster parents. Following the press conference, foster families were invited to enjoy a cookout, explore the zoo and participate in fun activities, including a zoo-wide scavenger hunt.

"This year, we wanted to focus on our families because they are every day heroes," said Secretary Gina Meier-Hummel. "They open up their hearts and homes to children in need, and we just wanted to take the time to express how grateful we are for their dedication and passion for Kansas kids."

Informational booths and tables were spread throughout the zoo, and were sponsored by KVC Kansas, Saint Francis Community Services (SFCS), TFI Family Services, Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parents Association (KFAPA), The Shelter, Inc., Kansas Family Advisory Network (KFAN), Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Kansas Youth Advisory Council (KYAC), DCCCA, Inc., DCF Licensing and Independent



Living, Foster Kansas Kids and Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP. KVC and SFCS sponsored the meal and the Topeka Zoo provided free admittance to the foster families.

"The fun-filled evening was just a small token of our appreciation for these children and families," said Lieutenant Governor Tracey Mann. "Governor Colyer, Secretary Meier-Hummel and I are committed to improving our child welfare systems so we can best support these children and families."

Basehor foster parents Justin and Sarah Oberndorfer were one of 16 different families that attended the Foster Care Informational Fair.



"Currently we have seven kids in our home. As we added kids into our home, as we brought in more and more different placements, our hearts continued to expand, continued to grow," said Justin Oberndorfer.

David Brown and Tricia Martin, fos-

ter parents from Wyandotte County, also attended the event and shared their perspective about supporting biological families alongside children in foster care.

"We didn't go into foster care thinking we were going to partner with biological families and advocate for them...but it became quite obvious to me that every time we have a kid come into care, we see a child in crisis. We don't see that parent in crisis," said Brown. "The same things that these children need—consistency, love, they need to trust that no matter what they do, they are going to come out of it with a family that still loves and still cares—these parents are hurting and need all of this as well."

For information about becoming a foster parent in Kansas, visit [www.fosterskids.org](http://www.fosterskids.org), or call 1-844-380-2009.

### FOSTER CARE STATISTICS:

- There are currently 7,540 children in foster care in Kansas.
- Approximately 2,700 family foster homes are licensed in Kansas.
- Approximately 400 children are available for adoption in the state.
- 88 percent of children in foster care are placed in a family-like setting.
- The average age of a child in foster care is nine.
- 41 percent of children in foster care are under six; 14 percent are 16 or older.
- Children who will be reunited with their parents spend an average of nine months in foster care.

To be a foster parent you must:

- Be at least 21
- Pass background checks
- Have sufficient income
- Participate in a family assessment
- Complete training
- Obtain sponsorship
- Complete first aid training
- Obtain a license through DCF

## MURAL

continued from page 1

plaintiffs gathered there in 1954.

"They rejoiced and were so happy about it, that the decision was handed down and things were going to be changed," Montgomery says. "And that year ... the kids went to the mixed school, and what was so ironic about it [is] they had no trouble."

For more than 40 years, artist Michael Young has wanted to create a piece honoring the landmark case. On a recent afternoon in his studio, he's squinting at the mural, art brush in hand, adding tiny details.

The Kansas City, Kansas, native says this opportunity has been a dream come true. After an extensive search -- Young did research and submitted renderings -- he was chosen to paint the artwork that provides a window into the groundbreaking case.

"I think you want something so bad you just work hard to get it," Young says. "I knew that this was a very, very rare opportunity."

Young started painting the mural in November 2017. The nearly 8-by-22-foot mural depicts angry protesters in favor of segregation on the left side.

"And on the right hand side I had more of the advocates for integration," he explains. Demonstrators hold signs reading "Jim Crow is Dead,"

"Segregation is Morally Wrong," and "Separate is Not Equal."

"And also on the right we have graduates," Young says, "a good result coming from education in general. And that's what the story is about: education."

The focal point of the mural is an African-American teacher surrounded by a diverse group of students learning about the Brown v. Board case. A young newspaper boy holds up a paper with the famous 1954 headline "School Segregation Banned."

In the center of the painting is a portrait of civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall, who argued the case before the U.S. Supreme Court with a team of NAACP lawyers.

Young says children as well as adults can learn from the mural.

"I want them to know a little bit about the history, about the ugly side of America at the time and how we have overcome that to a great degree," he says. "It's not completely, as you know, healed or whatever the right word would be, but I want this to really be a step forward in race relations."

As a parent raising a black family in Topeka, Montgomery remembers all too well some of the restrictions she



Artist Michael Young adds the finishing touches to the Mural in his studio in Kansas City, Kansas.

endured before the landmark case opened the door to change.

"You couldn't eat in the restaurants downtown," she recalls. "You'd go and stand and get a hot dog but they'd give it to you in a sack and you had to carry it out, so that was the way it was back [in] that time."

"In those times you could work in the restaurants serving people, but you could not eat there. You could not stay in the hotels. You could work there, but you could not stay there overnight."

The outcome of the 1954 case spurred more civil rights activism across the country.

"Things opened up," Montgomery says. "You could go to the hotels and you could go to the restaurants and sit down and enjoy a meal and all other things that we were not able to do. [It]

just opened up.

"It was wonderful because just like Gage Park out here, you could go there but you could not swim in the pool, and that opened up."

The civil rights decision was far-reaching, and the mural is expected to give visitors a chance to reflect on that history that changed the nation. More than 70,000 visitors and 42,000 students visit the Kansas Capitol in Topeka each year.

Three sites were considered for the location of the Brown v. Board mural. Artist Michael Young says he pushed to have the piece he created hung on the third floor of the Statehouse.

"It's in front of the old Supreme Court room which actually had the hearing in 1925 KKK case abolishing

that and so [the mural is] really in a good spot in that respect," Young says.

Montgomery says the artwork will be a good reminder of what took place.

"This mural will kind of give them a glimpse. Those who haven't ever known the idea of segregation [can] see what it was like and give them an idea of what was happening at that time," she says.

And she says no one was left out of the victory of the landmark case.

"We fought for the rights of all people, you know," Montgomery says. "People of our color, but all people to have the rights to go to school together and be together and to act as a nation and realize people are people and should be treated as such."

Carla Eckels is KMUW's director of cultural diversity and the host of *Soulsations*. Follow her at @Eckels.

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# Adoption Protection Act Passed

It was a late night in May when the Kansas Legislature finally passed the Adoption Protection Act. It was hard fought with some heated debate and followed a lot of shenanigans from outside groups like the ACLU and TechNet, as well as a lot of rallying the troops from groups like Family Policy Alliance of Kansas, Culture Shield and American Family Association.

The sentiment of the majority was that this bill would protect First Amendment rights. Faith-based agencies can continue to hold their sincerely held religious belief

and still help the state of Kansas find loving homes for children in need of adoption or foster care. It is seen as legal shield for faith-based agencies that receive state tax dollars but are now not forced to place children with same-sex couples or other families in conflict with a church's doctrine. The bill affects only about a third of the adoption agencies operating in Kansas.

"Catholic Charities and other adoption agencies are key to the fabric of our communities," said Colyer, who attended a Catholic high school in Hays.



Critics of the bill argued it amounted to state-sponsored discrimination against gays or same-sex marriage.

Others saw the bill as preventing discrimination a different way.

"Faith-based organizations understand discrimination. So many times, they're being discriminated against," said Sen. Rick Wilburn, from McPherson.

## BRIDE

continued from page 1

It's filled with essays featuring relevant quotes or Scriptures, personal stories, nuggets of wisdom, suggestions for personal pampering, journaling opportunities, communication aids, and practical tips for wedding planning. Some of the topics covered include navigating the changing family dynamics, working outside your comfort zone, bonding with the groom and his family, handling differences of opinion, asking for God's help, having a support team, helping the Father of the Bride feel included, managing daily life while wedding planning, coming down the homestretch, and troubleshooting. Vendor worksheets are also included at the back of the book.

### Why did you decide to write a book for mothers of the bride?

After being a mother of the bride myself, I realized just how much mothers of the bride could benefit from an encouraging voice. I wanted to share from my own experience and become a friend for the journey so to speak. I also knew a book like this would fit me perfectly as a writer since my brand is Refreshing Spirits, Nourishing Souls.

I'm hoping Mother of the Bride will make its way into the hands of mothers of the bride for years to come and that it will be a real blessing to them. Hopefully as people discover my book, they'll make it their go-to gift for MOB's they know.

### What is the most important thing that MOB's need to consider or remember?

From a practical standpoint, the most important thing MOB's need to remember is to write everything down or document it with photos, business cards, or flyers. This will save untold grief, frustration, and extra work.

But from an emotional standpoint, the most important thing to remember is to live the moments and enjoy the journey. It's easy for MOB's to get consumed by all the tasks and details and end up missing the special joys of wedding planning with their daughters. And even on the big day itself, MOB's need to stay focused on celebrating the moments or they could miss some of them.

### What has been the most unexpected thing about this publishing journey?

The most unexpected thing was when my first contract for the book fell through.

During a financial crisis, the publisher had to withdraw their new contract offers and mine was among them. You can imagine how disappointed I was. But I'd always said I wanted only God's will for this book so I really had to put feet to my faith and continue trusting God. Of course, He proved totally trustworthy. The publisher God eventually provided—BroadStreet Publishing—has been able to fulfill the vision for my book in ways that the other publisher couldn't. God's plan and timing are always best.

### What do you hope readers get out of your book?

I hope they'll gain wisdom, practical help, and encouragement while also feeling refreshed, nurtured, and understood in the midst of a demanding season of their lives. Hopefully, they'll glean MOB life lessons from someone who's already lived the journey.

Also, they'll find great take-away value in the five special features at the end of

each chapter. Those are called A Gem for the Journey, Treat Yourself, Talk It Over, A Bonus Wedding-Planning Tip, and MOB Musings (a journaling feature.) In addition, the vendor worksheets at the back of the book are invaluable.

Readers will also find they've discovered the perfect gift and resource to give to other mothers of the bride—now or in the future.

### How can an MOB's friends and family bless her during this time in her life (besides buying her a copy of the book)?

There are several ways they can do this: They can:

- Pray for her. She is probably planning the biggest event she'll ever plan in her life.
- Offer to help with practical tasks—research, errands, help with making things, etc.
- Gift her with a listening ear. Ask how things are going and how she is doing.
- Treat her to a fun outing—dinner, dessert, a movie, shopping, etc.
- Buy her a little gift to pamper her or send her an encouraging note.
- Go with her on one or more of her wedding-planning shopping trips. She'll appreciate the company as well as the help of another opinion.
- Don't add to her load by asking her to do more than she's already doing.
- If you tell her you will take care of a task, be dependable and do it on time.

### What have been some of the responses you've received to your book on weddings?

Nearly everyone who sees it comments

on how gorgeous the cover is. Reviews on Amazon have mentioned how helpful it is, the wisdom and humor included, how it makes a great gift, that it's a wonderful keepsake, and that it's like having a friend walk you through the process.

One reviewer said that the MOB she gave the book to keeps telling her over and over how much she loves it, and a Goodreads bride-to-be mentioned how her mom said the author was "right on and knew exactly how it felt to have your daughter getting married." A couple of women have pointed out how good it is for moms whose daughters aren't even ready to get married yet, and one bride-to-be got it for her fiancé's mom to help build their bond. The mom loved it and doesn't even have daughters—probably because much of the insight shared can be applied in different situations. Of course, I love hearing these reports of how the book is blessing people. That in turn blesses me!

### What words would you have for others who are considering writing on an unusual, creative topic?

If they're writing a book and their audience will be a niche audience like mine, they should first do some research and see if there are already books on the market filling that niche. If so, they need to put a twist on their approach and make it unique in some way or they could have a hard time finding a publisher. Once they have a good approach, I say go after the dream because books do indeed get published for niche markets. Book publication is not for the faint of heart, though, so my advice is to put on your work boots, make sure you have a quality product, and just keep taking one step after another. With unwavering perseverance and God's help, it can happen!

### How can readers connect with you and where can they find your book?

The easiest way to find the book is online. They can go to [MotheroftheBridebook.com/](http://MotheroftheBridebook.com/) and find buy-links to Amazon, B&N, and Christianbook.com. Those links can also be found on my website at [cherylbarker.net](http://cherylbarker.net). Readers will also find my inspirational blog and my Mother of the Bride Blog on my website, and they can connect with me on social media via Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Goodreads, and LinkedIn.

Also, while visiting my website they can sign up for my free inspirational Life Notes newsletter that includes a giveaway in every regularly scheduled issue. Sign-up is on the sidebar—or if on a mobile device, just scroll to the bottom of the screen and click View Full Site to find it.

## New show is like 'Touched by an Angel' for millennials

You've read about 80s and 90s TV hits like "Murphy Brown" and "Roseanne" making comebacks to TV. Now, CBS Television hopes to bring the feel and innocence of "Touched by an Angel" back but with a new twist.

The network is launching a new drama this fall called "God Friended Me." It is described as a humorous, uplifting series that explores questions of faith, existence and science.

The millennial based show centers on a preacher's kid who loses his faith after the unexpected death of his mother.

Brandon Michael Hall, who plays the lead Miles, calls his character the Millennial Prophet who, on his podcast, debates believers and as a diehard atheist claims "there is no proof of God anywhere in the universe."



In a twist, Miles gets a Facebook request to "Friend" God—but after trying to delete the request several times he soon gives in to what he assumes is a prank.

The plot thickens when "the God account begins suggesting other friends, leading Miles to become an agent of change in the lives of those around him."

The story then takes off with Miles saving the lives of total strangers in a fashion that's something like a combo of the CBS hit shows "Touched by an Angel" and "Person of Interest."

## LICENSE

continued from page 1

demand by KDOR's vendor, Center Industries. The permanent plate will arrive at the customer's home in 10-14 business days, at which time the customer will affix the registration sticker received at the office to the new plate and attach it to the car.

"This new process will eliminate the millions of dollars' worth of license plate inventory that sits in county offices across the state and often goes unused," Revenue Secretary Sam Williams said. "Plus, personalized plate customers will no longer have to go back in to the office to pick up their new plate when it's produced. The new system offers more convenience for

customers."

Customers will have the chance to provide an email address or mobile phone to receive alerts when their plate is ordered and shipped. The shipment notice will include a link to track the status of the package to know when to expect it at home.

The process will only apply to new orders for plates. There is no need for current plate holders to order a replacement because of the updated system. Typically, new plates are ordered after a car is purchased and there is no plate to transfer, when a plate is lost, damaged, or stolen, or if the customer orders a personalized combination.

Other states with flat plates include Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Texas.

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## Disney cancels Christian music festival

Why would Disney World cancel one of its most profitable events? That's what fans of the popular Night of Joy Christian music festival are asking.

The Orlando-based family entertainment complex has officially confirmed that the iconic music festival was cancelled after 34 years.

"Last year was our last event," the spokeswoman said.

She added that the demise of Night of Joy was part of the resort's philosophy of "continually changing our offerings."

The faith-based event, which began in 1983 at Magic Kingdom, has been a popular attraction with tickets often selling out. Night of Joy has featured many popular Christian artists as well as activities for the family and more. The event became so large that it featured an expo, a family activity zone, as well as a FanFest.

Past performers included Mandisa, Kirk Franklin, Steven Curtis Chapman, Jars of Clay, Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith and many others.

Though the concert was mostly held at Magic Kingdom, the venue was changed to ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in the last two years. It remained hugely popular despite ESPN's declining popularity and leftward political lurch.



Disney World says they will continue to feature some Christian artists (MercyMe and Tauren Wells) this fall at its Eat to the Beat concert series, which is a part of the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival. Critics say the atmosphere will most likely change with some even questioning MercyMe appearing at an event not expressly geared towards families.

For those looking to attend a Christian music festival like Night of Joy in Orlando, Universal Orlando Resort is still offering its ticketed event called Rock the Universe. The 2018 edition of Rock the Universe will be held Sept 7-8 at Universal Studios theme park.

Scheduled to perform are Jesus Culture, TobyMac, Lauren Daigle, Red, Zach Williams and Trip Lee, Casting Crowns, For King & Country, Family Force 5, Brandon Heath, Andy Mineo and Ryan Stevenson.

## What was in Billy Graham's will?

"Defend the faith" Billy Graham tells his children and grandchildren in the will he left behind. Graham died in February at the age of 99, surrounded by loved ones.

Graham's message to his family – and to a larger extent those in the sphere of his influence – is centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. According to The Christian Post, in the document, Graham urges his family to uphold Jesus Christ no matter the cost and encourages them to seek a simple life of service for the kingdom.

"I ask my children and grandchildren to maintain and defend at all hazards at any cost of personal sacrifice the blessed

doctrine of complete Atonement for sin through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ once offered, and through that alone," he writes. "I urge all of you to walk with the Lord in a life of separation from the world and to keep eternal values in view."

He encourages his family to read the Bible on a daily basis and to seek Jesus as the only one through whom one can find salvation. He also reflects on his marriage with Ruth, heaping praise on her.

"I want to thank her for her years of devotion, love, faithfulness and sacrifice. Of all the people I have ever known, she was the greatest Christian," he writes.



Graham later states that 10 percent of his resources will go to "the Lord's work," as he had always espoused the call to tithe to the Lord. He reflects on his desire to live an immaterial life.

"I had very little in my early life to call my own. We have tried to use our material blessings for the glory of God. We have tried to keep a somewhat detached attitude from them.

## SECURITY

continued from page 1

While many hear of the violence in mass shootings, other incidents get little coverage. One such story is that of Carol Daniels who was the pastor of a small church in Anadarko, Okla. While inside her church one Sunday, an intruder (suspect never found) entered the church and brutally murdered her. She was mutilated with a knife, stripped of her clothing, laid in a crucified position – and her hair set on fire.

In another incident, a pastor in Indiana was working on his sermon on a Saturday when a homeless woman walked into his office. Before he could even offer assistance, she pulled out a gun and shot him dead. Later, as they cleaned the pastor's office, church members found on the desk his notes for that Sunday's sermon on his desk. He was going to preach on the topic of pastors being killed around the world.

Then of course, there was the tragic Church shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas last November. It took the lives of 26 worshipers, including the pastor's daughter, while wounding 20 others.

So whether it is protecting a congregation or personal safety of staff working alone at the church, training can assist churches and ministries be prepared when the unthinkable happens.

Meeks has a unique view on the subject. He's a retired police officer having served 35 years in law-enforcement. But



Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman

what makes him different in speaking and training on the subject is that he has also been a minister for over 44 years. As an officer, he served as a hostage negotiator, field training officer, school resource officer, detective, supervisor, and crime prevention officer. He has accumulated over 4500 hours of TCOLE training. He has also been a certified crime prevention specialist.

Meeks says the mission of the organization is to address the issue of violence taking place on church and faith-based properties. It begins with Meeks giving on a presentation on the Three Pieces of Evidence that justify church safety practices. It has been said of his presentation that, "there has never been a stronger call to action."

"I sat with pastor Frank Pomeroy from Sutherland Springs First Baptist recently," Meeks shares. "He's an amazing man and filled with faith but yet lives with tremendous pain from the events that day."

Meeks wants to help other churches avoid that pain but it's a learning process, he says.

"Most churches do not know where to begin to organize a church safety program. Small churches cannot afford to hire contracted security or pay for police protection like many large churches do." He says.

But churches can take a proactive role when it comes to security. One is to have a well-coordinated volunteer team that communicates with security during worship services.

"That's the first step to securing your congregation, or other group," says Meeks who will be joined at the seminar by Texas police officer Greg Stevens.

In 2015 Stevens thwarted the first ISIS attack on American soil after two ISIS terrorists from Phoenix arrived at a convention center with 1500 rounds of ammunition and 6 rifles. When they arrived, they began to search for an easy point of entry. They thought they had found such when they saw Officer Stevens and an unarmed security guard. They exited their car, rifle in hand – but Stevens was ready. He shot both terrorists, saving many lives. For his heroics, President Obama awarded him the Medal of Valor.

Another speaker, Colonel Dave Grossman (ret.) is a former Army Ranger, West Point Psychology Professor, and PTSD expert. He is also an expert on violence and its root causes. Just a few weeks ago, President Trump brought him to the White House to discuss the violence taking place in schools and churches.

The last of the four speakers is Carl Chinn. He's an Author and nationally recognized expert on church violence and was a First Responder at the New Life Church shooting in Colorado. In addition, Chinn was a responder at the 1996 standoff with an angry gunman who took hostages at the Focus on the Family ministry. Following the attacker's trial, Chinn began researching and writing on the subject of criminal and other incidents in North American ministries. In 2005, he and others began to develop an intentional security program for New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO. He was one of the team of responders directly involved with the active shooter in December of that year.

Meeks says he hopes pastors across Topeka, northeastern Kansas and the Kansas City metro will make the trip to join other pastors, staff, teachers and first-responders for this seminar. Sabetha only an hour north of Topeka. The seminar is Friday, June 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and includes lunch. The cost is just \$59. For more information go to [Sheepdogsafetytraining.com](http://Sheepdogsafetytraining.com).

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# FINANCIAL PLANNING

## Postpone the marriage?

Dear Dave,

My fiancé and I are planning to be married in less than a year. We've both been through your class at church, and the other night we started wondering if we should wait to have the wedding until we're both completely debt-free. Would you give us your opinion?

Michelle

Dear Michelle,

Congratulations! I hope you two will have long and happy lives together.

To answer your question, I don't think there's a reason to wait. When two people know they really love each other, they should get married whenever they feel in their hearts the time is right.

At this point, you shouldn't be thinking about money as anything except an indicator of where you're going. It doesn't matter who got into debt or how, because everyone makes mistakes. But if you're both serious about getting out of debt, living on less than you make, and are in agreement about how the dollars are going to be handled, then — where money is concerned — you're ready to be married.

Many relationship experts say if a couple can agree on four important things — kids, money, religion, and how to handle the in-laws — they have a great statistical chance of a happy marriage. I believe this, too. And make sure you meet with your pastor for some good, pre-marital counseling before the big

day. With all this going for you, I think you two will be okay.

God bless you both!

—Dave

### Here's a better idea

Dear Dave,

I'm 27 years old, and I have no debt. In addition, I have a five-month emergency fund of \$14,000. Recently, I started a new job making \$60,000. I've been offered a 401(k) with no match, but I was wondering if instead I should open a high-yield CD.

Kris

Dear Kris,

You're doing very well at a young age. Congratulations! I'm glad you're thinking about your financial future, too. But I've got a better idea.

How about opening a Roth IRA with good growth stock mutual funds inside? That would be my choice. Fund it up to \$5,500 a year, and make sure the mutual funds have strong track records of at least 10 years. This investment — growing tax-free — will be superior to a non-matching 401(k) or certificate of deposit. If you want to invest even more, you could then put additional cash into the 401(k) offered by your company.

With your income and maturity, plus the proper investment strategy, you're likely to retire a very wealthy lady. Keep up the great work, Kris!

—Dave



**DAVE RAMSEY**  
Financial author,  
radio host, television  
personality, and  
motivational speaker

**davesays**

### Save up, or get a mortgage?

Dear Dave,

I'm 28, single, and I just became debt-free. In addition, I make \$70,000 a year and have the equivalent of six months of expenses set aside for emergencies. Should I save up to pay cash for a house, or is mortgage debt okay? I'd like to keep the price of a new home between \$200,000 and \$225,000. Since I currently live in a nice apartment, I think I can save about \$20,000/year. What do you think?

Kathryn

Dear Kathryn,

It sounds like you're in great financial shape. Congratulations on becoming debt-free!

Let's take a look at both scenarios. If you can save \$20,000 a year, that means you're about 10 years away from a nice, paid-for home, and you're still debt-free. That's one option. At the same time, I don't yell at people for taking out a 15-year, fixed-rate mortgage, where the payments are no more than 25 percent of their monthly take home pay. In this situation, you could save like crazy for a couple of years and make a big down payment on a home in the price range you're talking about. Then, you could pay off that house in just 15 years.

—Dave

## Two-income families, taxpayers working multiple jobs should get "paycheck checkup"

Peggy Beasterfeld

Owner, Peggy's Tax and Accounting Service

The Internal Revenue Service urges two-income families and those who work multiple jobs to complete a "paycheck checkup" to verify they are having the right amount of tax withheld from their paychecks.



The IRS Withholding Calculator (available at [irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator](http://irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator)) can help them navigate the complexities of multiple employer tax situations and determine the correct amount of tax for each of their employers to withhold.

The passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which will affect 2018 tax returns that people file in 2019, makes checking withholding amounts even more important. These tax law changes include:

- Increased standard deduction
- Eliminated personal exemptions
- Increased Child Tax Credit
- Limited or discontinued certain deductions
- Changed the tax rates and brackets

Individuals with more complex tax profiles, such as two incomes or multiple jobs, may be more vulnerable to being under-withheld or over-withheld following these major law changes. The IRS encourages a "paycheck checkup" as early as possible to help taxpayers check if they are having the correct amount withheld for their personal financial situations.

If a taxpayer needs to adjust their paycheck withholding amount, doing so earlier gives more time for withholding to take place evenly throughout the year. Waiting means there are fewer pay periods to make the tax changes — which could have a bigger effect on each paycheck.

The tax law changes generally don't affect 2017 returns that people are filing in 2018. The changes affect 2018 returns,

which taxpayers will file in 2019.

### Withholding Calculator

The Withholding Calculator is the easiest, most accurate way for taxpayers with these complicated tax situations to determine their correct withholding amount. The tool allows users to enter income from multiple jobs or from two employed spouses. It also ensures that these taxpayers apply their 2018 tax deductions, adjustments and credits only once — rather than multiple times with different employers.

The calculator will recommend how to complete a new Form W-4 for any or all of their employers, if needed. If a couple or taxpayer is at risk of being under-withheld, the calculator will recommend an additional amount of tax withholding for each job. Taxpayers can enter these amounts on their respective Forms W-4.

To use the Withholding Calculator, taxpayers should have their 2017 tax returns and most recent paystubs available.

The calculator doesn't request personally identifiable information, such as name, Social Security number, address or bank account numbers. The IRS does not save or record information entered in the calculator. Taxpayers should watch out for tax scams, especially via email or phone, and be especially alert to cybercriminals impersonating the IRS. The IRS doesn't send emails related to the calculator or the information entered.

### Adjusting Withholding

Employees who need to complete a new Form W-4 should submit it to their employers as soon as possible. Employees with a change in personal circumstances that reduce the number of withholding allowances must submit a new Form W-4 with corrected withholding allowances to their employer within 10 days of the change.

As a general rule, the fewer withholding allowances an employee enters on Form W-4, the higher their tax withholding. Entering "0" or "1" on line 5 of the W-4 means more tax withheld. A larger number means less tax withheld.

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But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream. - Amos 5:24

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# opinion

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## The Disturbing Shift Towards Socialism



**GARY DEMAR**  
Senior Fellow at  
American Vision;  
author of over 30  
books

### viewpoint

**“AND DO NOT CALL ANYONE ON EARTH YOUR FATHER; FOR ONE IS YOUR FATHER, HE WHO IS IN HEAVEN. AND DO NOT BE CALLED LEADERS; FOR ONE IS YOUR LEADER, THAT IS CHRIST” (MATT. 23:9-10)**

Democrat primary wins are indicating that the Democrat Party is becoming more transparently socialistic. The following is from an editorial published in The Washington Post:

Democrats want to talk about Republicans living in the past, but the new progressives, as they like to call themselves, are in fact a lot like the old socialists. They want free college, free cash, free health care, new mandates for this and that, and so on. The latest progressive policy du jour to be gaining traction among Democratic Party presidential hopefuls is the so-called “job guarantee.”

For once I agree with Hillary Clinton. She said that her loss can be attributed to the fact that the Democrat Party is made up of a majority of socialists. The shift is among the young:

According to the 2017 YouGov-Victims Report on U.S. Attitudes Toward Socialism, more millennials would prefer to live in socialist countries than they would in capitalist countries. That fact reveals a powerful force shifting today's Democratic Party.

In addition, Robert Reich is promoting his video to gain support for abolishing the Electoral College. He knows that it would be nearly impossible to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College. He is proposing a workaround that amounts to stealing votes from a presidential candidate who wins the majority of votes in a state. This is a perfect strategy for a socialist like Reich and would be a double whammy if enough socialists get elected to Congress.

Most modern advocates of the caretaker State believe that the only hope for mankind is for citizens to relinquish personal responsibility and hand more

authority over to the “experts” who work in the bureaucratic halls of civil government. Some have called this “womb to tomb” security. This is the false security of the prison cell: free shelter, food, clothing, and educational and vocational training. Any society that seeks to substitute God for Government will eventually find itself enslaved by government. Socialism is a form of self-induced slavery.

A slew of candidates are running in the 2018 elections as in-the-open socialists, in the latest sign that the Bernie Sanders wing is looking to expand its political footprint — as mainstream Democrats, in turn, embrace their big-government policies. Those running under the socialist banner this year include nearly two dozen candidates, for offices at all levels. One, Texas attorney Franklin Bynum, ... proclaimed he's running on a “far-left” agenda as he touted his Democratic Socialists of America “comrades.” (Fox News)

It is no accident that God is called “Our

Father” because He gives us “life and breath and all things” (Acts 17:25). God is our Father by creation. The State has not called us into existence. “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” are not given to us by the State; rather, they are an “endowment,” gifts from God's gracious hand.

When the freed Israelite slaves were hungry, instead of turning to God their Father for provision, they turned to the supposed security of tyrannical Egypt: “Would that we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger” (Ex. 16:3). Their god was their appetite (Phil. 3:19): “For such men are slaves not of our Lord Jesus Christ but of their own appetites” (Rom. 16:19).

God fed the Israelites in the wilderness, and yet they sought the supposed security of Egypt instead of the freedom and security they had with God as their Father. Even after God provided them the food they needed, they still grumbled. Egypt still seemed attractive.

“And the rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, ‘Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna’” (Num. 11:4-6).

They were saying, “You can't beat security ... three meals a day ... a roof over our heads ... steady work ... ‘Slavery? That's

continued on next page

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## IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?



**CLINT DECKER**  
President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

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The fall of 1993 was one of the most difficult periods of my life.

I was a sophomore at a Christian college, studying for a career in ministry. I went through a valley that seemed to get deeper and darker as the weeks passed. In college, the semester began with taking a Greek class, only to drop it after failing multiple exams. In relationships, I went through two break ups back to back. I also battled a strenuous relationship with my dad. In ministry, I felt like a failure as a young preacher and doubted my call as an evangelist. Consequently, with short notice, I canceled being the guest speaker

at a week-long revival. Additionally, I resigned from leading a campus ministry. I turned inward, pulling away from people and activities into my own dark world.

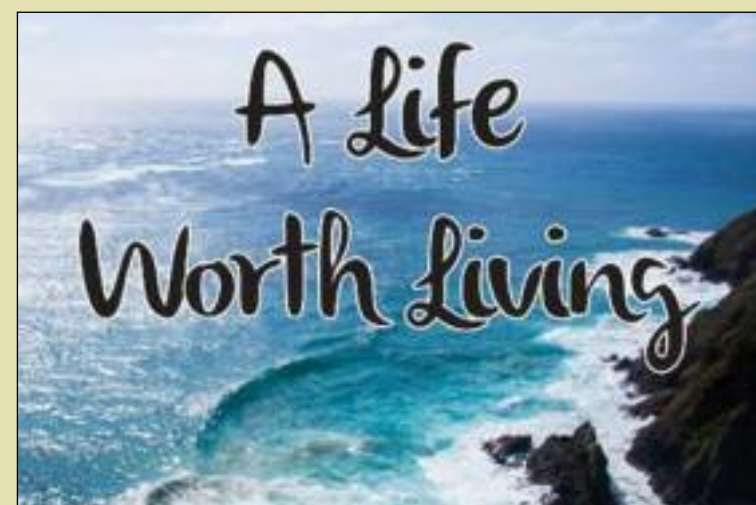
One night, as I was lying on the bed in my dorm, I stared up at the ceiling with my mind racing. “How do I make it through this? What's happening to me?” Thoughts of leaving school, the call to ministry and ending my life even flashed across my mind. Have you been there or know someone who is?

“Is my life worth living?” That is a question that can surface in times like this.

Your parents came together, and you were born, but behind them is your ultimate Creator. It is said about Him, “God created man in his image. Male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). And when He made your life, He did so with value and purpose.

In one of the Ten Commandments God said, “Do not murder.” He said that because He values human life. Only humans were uniquely made in His image. As a result, He does not want you or someone else ending your life. And when He made you, He did so with purpose and meaning.

About all humanity, it is written, “. . . they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet, he is actually not far from



each one of us” (Acts 17:27). You may feel alone, yet the God who made you is closer than you think.

I ended up making it out of my dark valley through the help of encouraging people, God's invisible sustaining hand, and the truth of His Word, the Bible.

It was not easy reading or listening to the Scriptures, because they pointed out the problems that were causing my problems. Ouch! There is a reason you do not think life is worth living, so it is important to face the unvarnished truth, through the searchlight of God's Word.

Take your eyes off yourself, away from your despair. Lift them toward God's Son, Jesus. For He came from heaven to

earth, to die on a cross and rise again--for you.

A prayer for you to pray – “Lord God, I wrestle with the thoughts of wondering if my life is worth living. I turn toward you, my Creator. Show me my purpose. I accept that I cannot do this anymore on my own. I turn from the wrong things I have done and call out to you for help. In Jesus' name. Amen.”

Listen to Clint Decker's radio broadcast, *The Unbreakable Truth*, at 2:50am & 10:50am on Upper Room Radio, KFGB 97.7FM, Topeka's local Christian radio station. He can be reached at [decker@greatawakenings.org](mailto:decker@greatawakenings.org)

# Conservatism Works: Trump Economy Offers Most Jobs in History

By Benjamin Arie

When Donald Trump won the presidential election, the doomsayers came out in droves. “Experts” predicted the worst: A crashing economy. Skyrocketing unemployment. Years of joblessness. Instead, the exact opposite is now happening.

On Tuesday, an astonishing record was set that shows just how wrong those critics were: The U.S. now has the highest number of available jobs in recorded history.

For the first time, the U.S. Department of Labor has announced that the number of job openings matches the number of unemployed people. This means that at least on paper, there is a job available for every single American worker — a situation that has never occurred since these statistics began being tracked.

“The United States now has a job opening for every unemployed person in the country, a sign of just how far the nation has turned around from the recession that cost so many Americans their jobs nearly a decade ago,” The Washington Post reported.

“The Labor Department reported Tuesday there were 6.6 million job openings in March, a record high — and enough for the 6.6 million Americans who were actively looking for a job that month,” The Post continued.

Even more promising, the trend appears set to continue. As unemployment keeps on falling, there will likely be



more jobs available than the number of workers looking for employment in just a few months' time.

Here's a fact that the media and the left will no doubt try to bury: Despite Donald

Trump being smeared as an opponent of minorities, his presidency is now the best era for black and other minority workers in all of history.

“The jobless rate for African Americans and Hispanic Americans is at an all-time low,” The Post explained.

That also means more opportunities for everyone, even those who have had past difficulty finding work.

“Companies are revising their hiring practices to ensure that they do not rule out any potential good workers, especially those who might not have a college degree or people who have criminal histories and have served time in jail,” the newspaper reported.

Of course, just because the number of job openings now matches the number of job seekers doesn't automatically mean that everyone will find the position they want. There will always be some mismatch between the types of job openings and the qualifications and desires of candidates.

“The people looking for work don't

always have the right skills or live in a place where there are a lot of opportunities to get hired,” summarized The Post.

There's also the fact that some people choose to leave a job for personal reasons and do not immediately enter a new workplace. “In a nation as big as the United States, there will always be people who quit their jobs and take time to find new employment,” the newspaper said. “More than 3 million people voluntarily left their jobs in March, according to the Labor Department.”

The major takeaway is that critics dramatically underestimated the Trump economy, and the president's conservative agenda appears to be working. This record-setting economic boom is happening even as Trump's opponents do everything they can to undermine him.

If just a year and a half of conservatives cutting taxes and red-tape regulations can trigger these results, imagine for a moment what three more years — or a whole second term — could bring.

You can't argue with results. The Trump presidency is working, and Americans of all colors and backgrounds are benefiting from it.

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

such an unpleasant word .... We always knew where our next meal was coming from.... That's security? No, that's a dog's life.

Did you catch what they said? They believed that things had been “free” in Egypt. Free? They had been slaves! They had paid for these things with their own lives. A return to Egypt meant bondage to a system where they had no voice in the way they lived. There was no future for them in Egypt. Their children's children would be slaves, called into service to build a civilization to the glory of Pharaoh. Marching on to Canaan meant a promised land “flowing with milk and honey” where they could build a civilization based on the blueprint laid out in Scripture for the glory of God and as a beacon to the nations (cf. Deut. 4).

Slavery is the demonic imitation of service to God. When men rebel against God, they are rejecting God as their Lord and Master. In doing so, they fall under the mastery of sin and ultimately under mere men as their rulers.

We should not expect God's covenant people to choose being slaves to the State over freedom in Christ: “If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). The status that the Christian has is no longer one of abject slavery but of servant-sonship: “God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God” (Gal. 4:6-7).

When the people reject God as their King, they adopt the slave mentality. They look for security outside of Christ. There are always powerful men who are ready, willing, and able to accommodate this evil search, and such men find their way to the exercise of power — the State. They seek political slaves, and they find them since there are always enough people who desire slavery over freedom.

During the biblical period of the Judges, the governing institutions of Israel had become corrupt: from the individual in self-government, where “every man did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6) to the judges in civil government who turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice (1 Sam. 8:3). Even the priesthood, was corrupt: “Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD and the custom of the priests with the people” (1 Sam.

2:12-13).

The corruption of the individual resulted in the corruption of family, church, and State. The people turned to Samuel and demanded a “king to judge us like all the nations” (1 Sam. 8:5). In making this demand, God told Samuel: “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them” (1 Sam. 8:7). They turned to the false security offered to them by a civil government that would subject them to slavery in the name of security.

God told Samuel to warn them of the judgment they could expect. Each of the following kingly provisions is an idolatrous substitute for God's faithful provision to His people:

1. The king would raise an army for his purposes in opposition to the law (Deut. 20). Samuel told the people that war would be a way of life in Israel: “He will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots” (1 Sam. 8:11). Instead of appearing before the LORD “three times a year” as part of God's army (Ex. 23:17), the men would appear before this king “like all the nations” (8:5).

2. The king would use this army for personal profit: “He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots” (8:12).

3. The young women of Israel would be subject to the whims and fancies of the king: “He will take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers” (8:13). God cares and provides for his daughters (Ex. 3:22), while Saul abuses the daughters of Israel.

4. Private property will no longer be safe. The property and labor of others will be used to pay for political favors: “He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give them to his servants” (1 Sam. 8:14). What belongs to God and is given to the people as a stewardship under God (Deut. 6:10-11), Saul would steal in order to increase his power and influence over the nation (cf. 1 Kings 21).

5. The king would demand a tithe in taxation a sign of tyranny, for only God can require a tenth: “He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants” (1 Sam. 8:15).

Eventually the people “will cry out in

that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day” (1 Sam. 8:18).

Even after Samuel warned the Israelites that the king would be a tyrant, the people still wanted a king: “Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, ‘No, but there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles’” (8:19-20).

Our modern State operates in a similar fashion. Taxes are far above ten percent: federal, state, and local. In the United States, some states have a sales tax alone that approaches ten percent (e.g., Louisiana). Add to that a state income tax, property taxes, federal income tax, and the Social Security tax. Politicians use this tax money to bribe voters to vote for them. The poor are promised favors, governmental benefits through the tax, if they will only vote them into office. Of course, the Congress has the full force of its police power to require compliance.

There are those who are convinced that a better society can be created and maintained by turning over nearly all authority, power, and jurisdiction to benevolent caretakers of our souls. “God is not needed,” they say. And we begin to believe it. “Just give us a little more power. A bit more jurisdictional authority. All we need is a few more tax dollars. After this, you'll see the difference.”

We do see the difference. The merchants of promise have an insatiable appetite for control. There is never enough money to do what they claim needs to be done. So they're back again for more money. In all of this God is rejected as our Father. The State becomes a benefactor, buying votes with the slippery voice of the promise and the transfer of wealth from the “haves” to the “have-nots.”

How do these merchants of promise remain in office? We, the people, keep them there. The nation has chosen its god, and its Government.

The American people, millions of Christians included, have fallen into the trap of looking to the State as a substitute father, looking for sustenance. God is our Father. He cares for us. Turning to the State for every provision is a form of slavery. Civil Government has a very limited role, defined by God in Scripture. To go beyond those biblical limits turns the State into God's competitor.

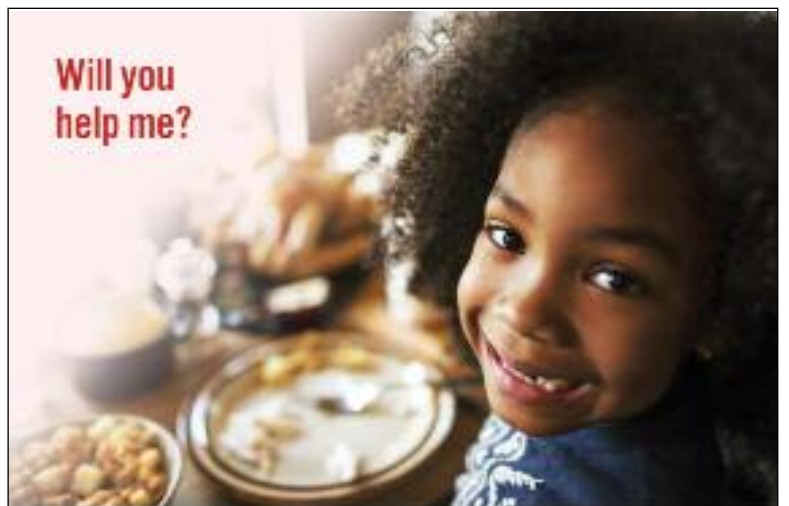


Hello neighbor. The other night around the dining room table, my sister shared a recent event at her house. She had taken some things downstairs to put into storage. Once she got to the basement, she heard a very big splash across the room. Although she searched for the cause, she didn't find it. The next day, her husband went down around the well of their sump pump and found a rather large frog. Now there could be some benefits with having an amphibian in the basement. You would not have very many bugs. But there may be other issues created that

could cause more problems. There are objects in your heart that you may have. By itself, there really aren't any difficulties. Items like; disappointments, grievances and regrets don't seem like they would really cause issues. But if you allow them to remain, they will become larger and affect every area of your heart and life. Maybe it is time to get the frogs out of your heart. They don't belong there.

*Be Encouraged,*  
Scott Perkins  
The Country Parson

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## TOP 10 REASONS YOU SHOULD SEND YOUR KID TO SUMMER CAMP

For most people, summer camp is just something they did for a couple of weeks as a kid but for many it was much more than that. As someone who has experienced summer camp as both a camper and a counselor, I can tell you that it will not only give the parents a rest but can also change a kid's life for the better.

Summer camp gave me the confidence to be a stay-at-home dad and to self-publish a book based on the games and activities that filled my summers. A website was created to promote the book but What To Do With The Kids is now a big part of my professional life and reaches people from around the world.

Summer camp was a great experience for me as a kid growing up in a government town and has created some life-long friends and memories. With that in mind, here are my top 10 reasons why you should send your kid to summer camp:

### 1. It gets them out of town

For kids living in a city, there aren't many parks and the parks that are there are not very big and are usually crowded. If you're lucky there's a swimming pool or splash pad nearby and for those living in a house, the backyard can get boring and if you live in a new house, chances are your backyard is the size of a postage stamp. Kids in smaller towns can also get bored with the limited amount of activities available. Most summer camps are located outside cities and surrounded by trees near lakes or rivers. The air is cleaner and the noise is all natural. It's a nice change for kids whose only exposure to wildlife is squirrels, pigeons and maybe the odd rat.

### 2. It gets them away from their family

Yes you love them, and the kids love you too and it may sound cruel but everyone can use a break at least once. Being away from home can also give kids an appreciation of what they have.

### 3. It gives them a sense of independence

For most kids, this will be the first time they travel anywhere without their parents and that can be exciting for them. There will be rules to follow but it's different when mom and dad aren't around. They'll be with other kids and chances are the counselors are not that much older since they are most likely high school or college age, so it won't feel like they're at home with their parents. For many kids it's like being paroled from the routine of home and school.

### 4. It exposes them to different people

Most summer camps attract kids of different races, religions and economic standing from different parts of your city and even from different cities all together. It provides an opportunity to meet and discover other kids regardless of what their background is, what school they go to and where they're from.

### 5. They can be themselves

At school and with their friends, a lot of kids can feel the pressure of acting like everyone else but a good camp program lets kids be themselves. They can be who they are and the only acting they'll have to worry about is during the campfire skit!

### 6. They can learn new skills

The most important thing I ever learned at summer camp was to swim and that's a skill that every kid should learn. Learning to swim allowed me to

learn other skills such as canoeing, a bit of sailing and how to keep safe near water. The field sports program that I ran as a counselor introduced kids to sports that they may not have had a chance to learn at home such as volleyball, basketball, badminton and softball just to name a few. For many, it was the first time they ever got to play and learn

phy works wonders at summer camp and can help make your kids become more confident and out-going. They may also pick up a few good habits as well. A number of parents have told me that their kids would start helping to clear the table after meals and make their beds, at least for a little while.

### 8. It gets them active

Summer camp is filled with activities that involve running, swimming, hiking and of course playing. There are also times in the day where kids can just relax but the sign of a good camp experience is when the kids are tired but happy at the end of the day.

### 9. Everything is low tech

The majority of summer camps have a "no electronics" policy that may be harsh for some kids but is a great way to help them realize that they can live without it for a little while. If the kids ask, tell them that all camp activities are in "real-time" and are "interactive." There is no "delete" or "return" button so they may have to try doing something again and again. Announcements are made in the dining hall live and in person. There are no texts, emails or Snapchats so messages are

passed on to each other by actually speaking to another person. The only hi-tech item they should have is a flashlight.

### 10. It creates memories

As a camper and as a counselor, I learned a lot of new skills and a lot about myself and others at summer camp. There are people that I can picture exactly how they looked over 30 years ago and moments that have helped make me who I am today. It's great to meet up with old friends and a real treat to be recognized by a former camper who can recall a fun moment so many years ago. It's also quite special when these campers are now adults, speak fondly of their time at camp and it gives me a great feeling of knowing that I was a part of it.

There are a lot of private camps and camps that are operated by churches or non-profit groups who can help you send your kids regardless of your financial situation. As a camper, my fees were subsidized so my parents could afford to send me but when I was up there, I was just one of the kids.

Specialty camps are very popular and day camps in the city are fun but getting out of town and going to a traditional summer camp is an experience that every kid should have once.

They may not come back with all their socks and towels but they will have memories that can last a lifetime.



about a different sport. One of the more popular areas of a summer camp program is the crafts. Some camps still make the traditional key chain and bracelet but a lot of programs teach drawing, painting and sculpting that they may not get to try at home or would want to admit to be interested in to their friends. For a lot of kids, it's a chance to discover their artistic abilities.

### 7. Learn life skills

Life skills are something that many kids learn without realizing it. Simple daily procedures such as cleaning their cabin or tent, making their bed, setting the dining table for a meal and cleaning up afterwards are habits that can carry on after they leave camp. The kids will learn teamwork and cooperation since they'll be participating in a group or as "a cabin." The "all for one and one for all" philoso-

## Make 2018 a Summer to Remember!

Camp registration is now open. Enrollment spots are limited. Our gymnastics camps are available for all skill levels. Participants will be grouped into smaller groups based on skill level if needed. These day camps give the kids something fun to do this summer. Kids will get to play games, instructional time on the equipment, and have free play!

June 4-8	Gymnastics Camp ages 5-10
June 11-15	Gymnastics Camp ages 5-10
June 18-22	Gymnastics Camp ages 5-10
June 25-29	Princess/Superhero Camp ages 3-6
July 2-3 and 6	Christmas in July Gymnastics Camp ages 4-8
July 9-13	Gymnastics Camp ages 5-10
July 16-20	Gymnastics Camp ages 5-10
July 23-27	Princess/Superhero Camp #2 ages 3-6
July 30-August 3	Gymnastics Camp ages 5-10

[www.cagegymnastics.com](http://www.cagegymnastics.com)

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## NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR GETAWAY!

Spring and summer are just around the corner so now is the time to plan your getaway weekend or vacation. And, what better way to relax, have fun and enjoy God's great creation than a leisurely canoe float down a pristine Ozark river. Living Waters Christian Canoe Ministry partners with two church camps to make a great weekend getaway or vacation for your family, church group or Scout troop at family-friendly prices that can't be beat. Check-out our website - [www.john738.com](http://www.john738.com) - and see for yourself.



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## Tips for choosing the best church camp



As your kids start to grow up, you'll want to send them to church camp. There are several reasons that church camp is a good idea for youngsters, including:

- Helps them develop a sense of independence
- Reinforces the idea that faith can be fun
- They'll meet new people and improve social skills
- They'll get a different perspective on religious and cultural issues

In most cases, deciding to send your child to church camp is easy. The hard part is deciding which camp they should attend.

How Long Does The Camp Last? Look at the number of days the church camp will be running and decide if that's going to be long for your child to be away from home. Young kids generally do best at day camps, while kids

who have passed their 10th birthday can often happily stay at camp for a week or more.

What's the Theme? Talk to the camp director and learn exactly what religious topics your child will be studying while at church camp. Make sure it's a topic you feel is important and that your child already has a basic understanding of.

What are the Activities? You should also speak to the camp director about the planned activities and decide if they will be a good match for your child. For example, kids who don't like to get dirty and spend time outdoors probably won't like a nature bible camp. Kids who aren't into music won't enjoy a musical themed bible camp but might have a blast at one where they get to make crafts all day. Active kids will love a church camp that spends a great deal of time using games to reinforce biblical lessons.

## Three Lessons I Learned from Vacation Bible School

by **Jason Gawaldo**

I still remember the first time I ever volunteered at my parish. I was in 9th grade, and the VBS director was desperate for someone to run the games station. She probably asked me because she had no one else to ask. Without a good leader in that station, the high school boys would just goof off all day and ignore the "customers." I was quiet, still a little shy, and had next to zero leadership experience. And I loved leading that station! Two decades later, I am a Director of Faith Formation, and VBS is still one of my favorite events on the calendar. VBS has taught me at least three important things about effectively sharing Jesus with kids.

1. Kids need to move. Not just the kinesthetic learners, but all of them. Even the kids who can handle sitting still and listening need to move on to something else or somewhere else where they can sit and listen again. Now, I love to learn. I get audio books out of the library on ancient civilizations to listen to on my way to and from work. I'm currently considering re-learning Spanish. Even I need to move on - on to a different topic, on to a different medium, and on to a different learning style. This need to move on is supercharged in our kids.

2. Kids like stuff. Whether it's puzzle cubes or whirly gig pinwheels, the object-lesson approach of VBS sends something home every day. What kid doesn't like to get something? What adult doesn't like to get something? Palm Sunday is not a holy day of obligation, but when we give out pieces of dried plants, people pack the church! We have a lot of great stuff in the Church. I've found that by reallocating some of my budget, I can make the faith tangible. Parents have told me countless times that the take-home items we give the kids every session really help to bring the learning home and remind their kids later of what they learned about Jesus through that item. Sacramentals, manipulatives, and other items you might use daily can remind all of us that Jesus is with us everywhere!

3. Kids love music. You can perform it live or just put on a video. As long as the musical quality is good, even older kids like it. Music is rhythmic, repetitive, and it sticks with you. I still can remember the Fruits of the Spirit, not because of anything that happened in a master's level theology class, but because of the VBS song we sang for one week when I was in second grade. Just think of all the song lyrics your memory has accumulated over the years without you even trying. All it takes to recall the whole song is a few notes. Wouldn't it be great if the truths of our faith were as easy to recall and as hard to forget? Music is the key. When we're happy, we turn to music. When we're sad, we turn to music.

I have found that a series of 20-minute activities for different learning styles all teaching the same point can be very effective catechesis. I like to teach about vocation by having students build something with inexpen-



sive STEM toys (that they take home), examine their own fingerprints with a magnifying glass, and make thank-you

cards for our staff members. Then we tie it all together. When God made you, he had a plan in mind. You are unique. And when you put your gifts and talents to work for God, you can do all the great things our church staff does, and so much more! We end with a fun VBS song: "God has a reason, reason for my life..."

## VBS & SUMMER CAMPS

**SHIPWRECKED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** – Jun. 4-8, 9am-noon, First Presbyterian Church, 817 SW Harrison. 233-9601

**DAY CAMP** – June 25 - 29, 9am to 5pm, Trinity Presbyterian Church 4746 S.W. 21st for children entering 1st - 7th grades. Cost: \$60 per child. Bring sack lunch daily; no refrigeration. Info and registration 785-272-2620 or camps@trinitypresbyterian.net.

**SPECIAL NEEDS SUMMER CAMP** - June 29 - July 1, Prairie Star Ranch in Williamsburg. For families who have a child with special needs. Contact Tom Racunas: 913-647-3054 or tracunas@archkck.org.

**GAME ON!** VBS Equipping children to gear up for life's big game. Crafts, fun games and songs. June 25 - 29, 6-8pm. Wanamaker Road Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker Rd. (785) 272-9323 <http://office@wrbctopeka.com> office@wrbctopeka.com

**GAME ON!** VBS July 22-27 @ 6 pm. A class for all ages including adults starting Sunday through Thursday; Friday is parent night and fun events! Northern Hills Southern Baptist Church, 920 NW 62nd St

**WAM CAMP** - Worship, Arts, Music. K thru 6th grade. June 4 - June 8. 8:30a - 12 noon. Drop-off option beginning 7am. Children will explore their creative side as they develop and organize a worship service & they will lead the worship service Sunday, June 10th. Bell and vocal workshops, drama/video production, games and crafts. Snacks provided. The cost is \$30. Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, 7433 SW 29th Street. 785-478-3697 or <http://www.swumc.org/wam-worship-arts-music-camp.html> to enroll.

**SHIPWRECKED VACATION BIBLE CAMP** - July 15 - 19. 6:15pm to 8:30pm. Energizing, fun music; interactive Bible fun; cool crafts and science projects; games; videos; and a light evening meal Mon-Thu. (3 yrs. old through entering 5th grade as of 7/1/18) Enrollment is \$15. Susanna Wesley UMC, 7433 SW 29th St. Contact Jaymie Genovese at 478-3697 or go to <http://www.swumc.org/vacation-bible-camp.html>.

**BABYLON: DANIEL'S COURAGE IN CAPTIVITY** - July 9th to 13th, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Hosted by First Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran and Our Savior Lutheran. A light meal will be served beforehand. Ages 1 year through 5th grade. For information contact Tracy Roesch at 272-5302, roeschtracy@gmail.com or [www.ltlutherantopeka.org](http://www.ltlutherantopeka.org)

**"GAME ON"** Vacation Bible School - June 3 from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m.; June 4 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; June 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Register online at [bit.ly/fbcgameon](http://bit.ly/fbcgameon). First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka, KS 66611

**ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - June 11 - June 15, 9:00am - Noon. Along the river, Rafters discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything! Energizing music, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, hands-on mission work, delicious snacks and more! Friday night event begins at 6:30. Children ages potty trained 4 year olds thru completed 5th grade. Cost: \$5 per child. Call 357-0339 to pre-register. Westminster Presbyterian Church 1275 SW Boswell Ave

**HERO CENTRAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - July 9 - Thursday, July 12. Light supper at 5:30pm. Activities begin at 6:00pm. Ages 3 yrs. to completed 5th grade. We will also present a small program at Church on July 15th at the 10:50am Worship Crestview United Methodist Church, 2245 SW Eveningside Dr

**CAMPOUT WITH THE KIDS** - Saturday, June 23, 5:30 pm, Topeka Zoo. Families of all shapes and sizes are invited! Pack your tent, fishing gear and some camping items and head over to the zoo for camp food, fire pits, smores, fishing, movies, and more! Registration is REQUIRED and can be completed online. Registration \$40 per participant 3 and up. 2 and under free but must be registered. [www.topekazoo.com/campout](http://www.topekazoo.com/campout)

**FREE FUN FIELD DAY & ART CAMP TOO** - July 21, 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided along with energized worship, outdoor games, Bible lessons and art projects. K - 6th grade are invited. East Side Baptist Church, 4425 SE 29th St

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & CARNIVAL** - June 9, 11am-2pm, Bethel Baptist, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. A Supercharged Carnival to kick off VBS. Free food, games and activities for those entering kindergarten through sixth grade and their families. Vacation Bible School will be held on June 11-15 at 6pm, Children entering grades K-6th grade are invited to attend. You can preregister at <https://betheltopeka.myanswers.com/time-lab/>. For more info call 785.286.0467.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, June 4, to Friday, June 8. Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church

**CAGE GYMNASTICS CAMP** - various dates in June and July. 785-266-4151. Cagegymnastics.com

**KANSAS BALLET ACADEMY SUMMER DANCE CAMP**. 785-383-7918, or [KansasBallet.com](http://KansasBallet.com)

**YMCA SUMMER CAMP** - The YMCA offers several varieties of summer camps. Call 785-435-8651 or [TerryJ@ymcatopeka.org](mailto:TerryJ@ymcatopeka.org)

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# Celebrate SUMMERTIME in Downtown Topeka!

Summertime is the perfect time to visit Downtown Topeka! There are many fun places and events to visit, and shopping downtown can also be fun, with all the unique shops and a bit of nostalgia in the air. It might remind you of a time when shopping was more exciting, more personal, and less of a chore.

There have been many improvements to the downtown area in the last couple of years! You can check out the many new street statues and other art on the downtown sidewalks. You might also run across some street musicians and sidewalk vendors at various times and places.

Whether you are in the mood for shopping, eating or looking at art, you will most likely find what pleases you in downtown Topeka!

Don't forget to check the list of downtown events - there is always something going on, and you wouldn't want to miss it!

Following are some tidbits from some of your friendly downtown merchants. Why not

take a trip downtown and visit them? They are waiting to serve you!

### One of a kind

For an eclectic selection of new and used items, check out Trails Market & Gallery at 109 S. Kansas Ave. Jeff Hisey has assembled a



large selection on two floors, where artists and traders can come together, create and share their ideas and passions with others and provide a unique experi-

ence and gifts for everyone. A wide variety of items, many of which are one-of-a-kind! You owe it to yourself to check it out!

### A Full-Service Florist, Home Decor & Gift Shop Downtown

Absolute Design by Brenda, 629 S. Kansas Avenue, offers hand-selected flowers and exquisite designs with delivery throughout the Topeka area. They have an expansive line of gifts, jewelry and home decor for all your holiday and year-round needs.

Save \$5.00 by using the



coupon on this page!

You can also order or wire flowers 24 hours a day at their website: [www.absolutedesignbybrenda.com](http://www.absolutedesignbybrenda.com).

### If you're hungry, stop in for a sub

You can't go wrong taking a lunch break at Jersey Mike's, 718 S. Kansas Avenue, with their fresh ingredients and bread baked fresh every morning.

Jersey Mike's, a fast-casual sub sandwich franchise with more than 1,000 locations open and under development nationwide, also has a long history of commu-

nity involvement and support. Started at the Jersey Shore in 1956, Jersey Mike's serves authentic East Coast-style subs on fresh baked bread - the same recipe from 60 years ago!



You can stay up to date with Jersey Mike's latest promotions and deals, as well as get a free sub + drink on your birthday when you sign up for the Jersey Mike's Subs Email Club. You can do that as well as place your order, at [www.jerseymikes.com](http://www.jerseymikes.com).

### Pancakes and more

Hanover's Pancake House at 1034 S. Kansas Avenue has been a local favorite since 1969! With a wide variety on the menu, and friendly service, it's a great place to



stop for breakfast, lunch or brunch! They are also famous for the pork tenderloin sandwich, and it is huge!

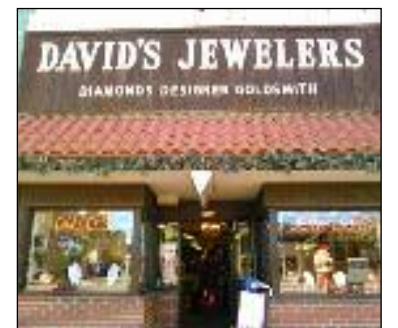
With the friendly service and generous portions, you won't go away hungry!



### Diamonds are Forever

You'll find many specials and gift ideas at David's Jewelers, 623 S. Kansas - a family business that has served Topeka for four generations. And this year they are now celebrating 50 years in business!

Diamond rings, pendants and earrings usually top the list but



they also offer vivid colored gemstones in unique settings, watches, clocks, statues and fine crystal, as well as many other gift items, whether for yourself or someone else.

"Gifts can start at \$20.00 and go from there," said Mitzi from behind the counter at David's. "We will be glad to help you find that special gift for that special someone."

There are so many other unique shops downtown you won't believe it! Don't stop with this incomplete list! There's plenty more to discover in Downtown Topeka this summer!

Bring a friend, or the family, and re-discover the joy of hanging out downtown!



**Jeff Hisey / 785-806-7171**  
Owner/Artist

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# SUMMERTIME Memories, Events, & Gift Ideas!

Check out these upcoming summertime events & activities downtown!

While you're making your way around the downtown area, check out the new things to look at on both sides of the street -- there are lots of new features! And watch for these downtown events coming up:

**FIRST FRIDAY AT THE JAYHAWK THEATRE** – Jun. 1, 5pm, 720 SW Jackson St. Join Kansas Ballet downtown as they raise awareness (and funds) for the Jayhawk Theater! The talented dancers will perform onstage and attendees will be treated to complementary wine, snacks and tours of the historic theater. \$10 suggested donations encouraged! 785-383-7918 <https://www.facebook.com/events/238522463366489/> information@kansasballet.com



**ART WALK ON FIRST FRIDAYS** – Downtown & NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, many more items. Free shuttle will run from 5 pm to 9 pm. The stops are at the NOTO Arts Center, 8th and Kansas,

and 6th and Jackson. It runs every 15 minutes. The vehicle is handicap equipped. The Washburn University Improve will entertain you during your ride.

**MOVIE ON THE CAPITOL LAWN: "JAWS"** - Jun. 1, 8:45pm. Kansas State Capitol lawn. Free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.



**CAPITAL CITY FAMILY AND FOOD TRUCKS FESTIVAL** - Jun. 2, 11-5pm. Kansas Statehouse, 10th & Jackson. Vendors, entertainment. Dogs on leashes welcome.



**BARBARA'S CONSERVATORY OF DANCE RECITAL** - June 2, Topeka

Performing Arts Center - 785-234-2787

**DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET** - Saturday's through Nov., 7:30am-noon, 12th & Harrison. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods, more.

**CAPITOL MIDWEEK FARMERS MARKET** - Every Wed., thru Oct. 18, 7:30am – 12pm, on the South side of the Capitol Lawn, Jackson & 10th. No market on July 4th.

**SEASONS OF DANCE** – Jun. 6, 6pm, TPAC. Kansas Ballet Academy's 6th Annual Class Concert.

**RADIANT DANCE STUDIO 5TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW** on June 9, TPAC, with performances at 2pm and 6pm.

**SLIDERDAYS** – 12-1pm, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 SW Jackson. Join us every third Saturday for Line Dancing!! Cost: Free-will donation!! 50% of your donation will be applied to the renovation of the Jayhawk Theatre.

**NOONTIME BROWN BAG CONCERT** - Wednesdays 11-1 at Westar Pocket Park, 818 S Kansas. Local performers entertain during lunchtime.



**FREEDOM FESTIVAL** – June 30, 11am-10pm. Art, music, activities, entertainment, food trucks, beer garden, kids corner. Reenactments at Constitution Hall. Downtown Topeka. Free. For info: 249-3464

**COMMUNITY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION** - July 4, 10-11am, Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave. It is a "red, white & blue" extravaganza with brass, drums, piano, organ, winds, choirs, & soloists. (785) 235-3457

**FIESTA MEXICANA PARADE** – July 7, 10:30am-1pm Downtown. For info: Ramon Chavez at [rchavez@fsgc-topeka.com](mailto:rchavez@fsgc-topeka.com), or call him at 785-806-



3223.

**SAY WHAT SAY WIZ** - July 21, TPAC. Come on a musical and dance adventure to an urban re-imagining of The Wizard of Oz.

**PETER & THE WOLF** - July 28, 5-8pm, TPAC. Kansas Ballet's 6th Annual Summer Showcase will feature



Prokofiev's famous Peter & The Wolf ballet as well as performances from professional guest artists from The Washington Ballet and The Kansas City Ballet. Tickets: \$35 Adult, \$15

Child. Dinner, dessert and performance included in price of admission. Tickets available at the door or at <https://www.tututix.com/tickets/> For info visit [www.KansasBallet.com](http://www.KansasBallet.com) or call 785-383-7918 or email [Information@kansasballet.com](mailto:Information@kansasballet.com)

**DOWNTOWN ROCK AND FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL** – July 28, Downtown. Vendors, entertainment. Dogs on leashes welcome.



**HOLLEY MILITARY MUSEUM** – Downtown Ramada Inn. Featuring 5 galleries, named after world leaders. Featuring World War II artifacts, Air Force One exhibit, Kansas War Heroes, Space, Vietnam & more. Cost: Free. 10am-8pm daily.

**KANSAS STATE CAPITOL** – Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm, SW 10th & Jackson St. Tours provided. For info: 296-3966 or [www.kshs.org/capitol](http://www.kshs.org/capitol). Dome Tours M-F 10:30am-4:15pm.

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Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Sunday Service 10:45 AM  
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 PM  
*All are welcome, casual dress ok!*

**NOTO Arts Center offers summer classes**

The NOTO Arts Center offers an array of classes featuring artists from the NOTO district and the community. Classes range from brief, one session workshops to multi-session classes designed to enhance knowledge and technique:

**Mixed Media Collage (Adult)**

Learn methods of creating an image by working with color, shapes and various materials. No prior experience required. Date, Time: Saturday, June 2, 1-3:00 PM. Materials Furnished. Instructor: Larry Peters. Fee: \$30

**Sunflower Folk Art**

Learn the basic strokes used in folk art/tole painting to complete a decorative plaque featuring a Kansas sunflower. Levels: Beginners. Tuesdays, June 5, 12, 19 - 3-5:30 PM. Materials Furnished. Instructor: Shelly Bedsaul. Fee: \$70

**Beginning Drawing**

Learn how to 'see' in a different way. Various exercises will be explained to teach your eye and hand to work together to get the results you are looking for. Levels: Beginners. Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27 - 9-11:30 AM. Materials Furnished.

Instructor: Anne Kufahl. Fee: \$90

**Intermediate Drawing**

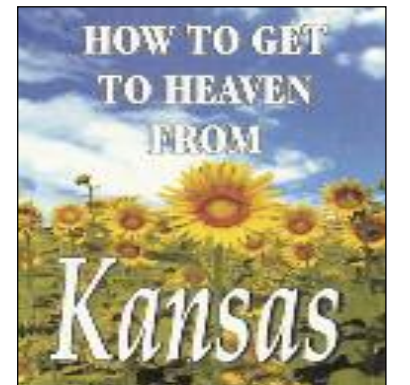
Continue to hone your drawing skills through practice and guidance. Levels: Intermediate. Wednesday, June 6, 13, 20, 27 - 1-3:30 PM. Materials Furnished. Instructor: Anne Kufahl. Fee: \$90

**June Watercolor**

Learn the basics of this magical medium by understanding how to work with paper, simple drawing, water, brushes and color. For Adult Beginners, Intermediate. June 7, 14, 21, 28, 9-11:30 AM. Instructor: Barbara Waterman-Peters. Fee: \$90. Materials NOT furnished. Please bring to class: Watercolor paper tablet or block at least 12" x 16"; 3 tubes of watercolor paint: Ultramarine Blue, Alizirin Crimson, and a Yellow; 2 watercolor brushes: #12 round and a larger one; Plastic watercolor palette; Pencil, Ruler, Scotch Magic Tape, Paper towels; 2 plastic water containers

**Journal Making from Scratch**

Create your very own visual journal from recycled and handmade materials. This will include papermaking, book-binding and more. Levels: Beginners. June 8, 15, 22, 29 -- 9:00-11:30 AM. Materials Furnished. Instructor: Jennifer McRavin. Fee: \$90



More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the only way to Heaven and He gave these directions on getting there.

1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." Sin brings both physical & spiritual death. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:14).

2. Realize Jesus paid the penalty. Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided a way for you to go to heaven and restore your relationship with God. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). Since Jesus, God's Son, was the only One who could pay for our sin, He is the only Way to Heaven.

3. Repent of your sin and receive Jesus as your Savior. In order to go to Heaven from KANSAS, or anywhere else, you must accept Christ by calling on Him in prayer. He tells us in Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Use the following prayer, or one similar to it, to receive Him now:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe that you died and rose again for me. Please forgive me of my sin, become Lord of my life, and take me to heaven when I die. I am trusting you completely, and in nothing I can do. Thank you Jesus! Amen.

*The Area's Most Complete Guide to the Family-Friendly Events You Want to See!*

# the events calendar

**FREE LISTINGS! E-mail your events to: [Voice@cox.net](mailto:Voice@cox.net); mail to Metro Voice, P.O. 5724, Topeka, KS 66605; fax to 785-235-3340 or enter online at [metrovoicenews.com](http://metrovoicenews.com)**

**Get your event in **Highlighted in Blue** in print, our online calendar and promoted in social media for only \$29!**

## CONCERTS

**TOPEKA ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM** - First Sat. of ea. month, 3-5pm. Potwin Presbyterian Church (enter south door), 400 S.W. Washburn. 286-0227 [hagen1525@gmail.com](mailto:hagen1525@gmail.com).

**THE BERRYTON PICKERS** - First Sat. of ea. month, 7-9pm, Berryton Baptist Church. Bring snacks, have fun!

**KANSAS PRAIRIE PICKERS** - Fourth Sun. ea. Month, 1pm, Auburn Community Center. Foot-stomping, hand-clapping tunes. Concessions available

**GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** - June 3, 7-9pm. Jazz Workshop performs a free concert at Gage Park Amphitheatre

**GARFIELD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** - June 4 & 18, 7:30pm, Garfield Park. North Topeka Community Band. Sponsored by North Topeka On the Move Association

**GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** - June 10, 7-9pm. Santa Fe Band performs a free concert at Gage Park Amphitheatre

**GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** - June 17, 7-9pm. Marshall's Band performs a free concert at Gage Park Amphitheatre

**SUMMERTIME BLUES** - June 20, 7-9pm, Gage Park Amphitheatre. Featuring TBS 10th Anniversary: Kara Grainger; Ghost Town Blues Band. Sponsored by Topeka Blues Society. Admission is free. Seating available or bring your own chairs/blankets.

**GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** - June 24, 7-9pm. Jazz Workshop performs a free concert at Gage Park Amphitheatre

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

**SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM** - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or [office@rhctoepka.org](mailto:office@rhctoepka.org)

**SPIRITUAL PAUSE** - Every Wed., 12-12:30pm, Carole Chapel at Washburn Univ. Informal worship service. 785-233-1844

**HARVESTER'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS** - every second Sat., takes place at Christian Lord Ministries, 2421 SE California. Call 266-4979.

**FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** - Sundays at 10am sharp, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 900 block of NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor John Menkvelid - which is in turn followed at noon by The Hope House FREE Community Food & Clothing Banks.

**FIRST WEDNESDAY WESLEY CAFE** - First Wed., 6:15pm, Susanna Wesley UMC, 7433 SW 29th. A worship service will follow at 7:00. 785-478-3697 or [www.swumc.org/wesley-cafe-sign-up1.html](http://www.swumc.org/wesley-cafe-sign-up1.html)

**FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET** - 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church, 6020 S.E. 44th

**RIB AND FISH DINNERS** - Jun. 2, 11am to 5pm, St. Luke's Missionary Baptist Church, 2222 S.E. Madison. Cost is \$10 for fish dinners and \$12 for rib dinners. Each will come with a choice of two side orders that include greens, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, potato salad, green beans and spaghetti. Dessert and drink included. Delivery available for two or more orders by calling (785) 207-4054 or (785) 383-6932

**LARRY DELAWDER** - Jun. 2, at 3 and 7pm, Berryton UMC, 7010 S.E. Berryton Road. A freewill offering will be received and concessions will be available.

**HEAR FROM A SHOEBOX RECIPIENT** - Jun. 2, 12:30pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Hear from an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Recipient from the Philippines. Lunch is provided, please RSVP by May 25. For questions or to RSVP, contact Sabrina Scheerer: [sabrinascreeer@gmail.com](mailto:sabrinascreeer@gmail.com); 785.477.9617.

**YOUTH GROUP MUSICAL FUNDRAISER** - Jun. 2, 4pm, Faith Temple Church, 1162 S.W. Lincoln. Walking tacos will be sold after the musical.

**FUNDRAISING MUSICAL** - June 2, 4pm, Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln St. Faith Temple's youth are raising money for an upcoming trip to the Aim's Convention later this year. Walking tacos will also be sold after the musical. All are welcome! 785-235-1834.

**TOPEKA CHURCHES SINGING CONVENTION** - Jun. 3 at 3:30pm, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, 2222 S.E. Madison. The Rev. Ollie J. Johnson Jr. will preach. Choirs from churches will sing.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** - 4 p.m. Mondays beginning June 4 for nine weeks, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 S.W. 21st. For more information or to reg-

ister, visit [www.fpu.com/1063782](http://www.fpu.com/1063782)

**"SUPERCHARGED" CARNIVAL** - June 9, 11am - 2pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Free food, games and activities for those entering kindergarten through sixth grade and their families. Vacation Bible school will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, June 11, to Friday, June 15, for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. To register, visit <https://betheltopeka.myanswers.com/time-lab/>. For more information, call (785) 286-0467.

**CLOTHING EXCHANGE** - June 9 & 16, 9am - 12pm, Topeka Free Methodist Church, 3450 SE Indiana Ave. Free clothing & small household items. People may also bring gently used clothing to share.

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

**MEDICARE MONDAYS** - First Mon. of ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library (Menninger Rm 206), 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging and Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or [nhnl@tsopl.org](mailto:nhnl@tsopl.org)

**MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS** - June 12 & 26, 2pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at the Heart Center at 929 SW Mulvane. For info or to sign up: [centuryinsuranceagen-cyks.com](mailto:centuryinsuranceagen-cyks.com) or 270-4593 or [info@century-health.com](mailto:info@century-health.com). Snacks & beverages provided

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

**SHEPHERDS CENTER PICKLEBALL GROUP** - plays Mon. & Wed. Mon. at Countryside UMC, 32nd & Burlingame, from 3-5. Park on the NORTH side & use the furthest WEST door. Follow the hallway to gym. On Wed. at First Baptist, 30th & MacVicar, from 1-3. Park on the WEST side. Gym is right inside the doors.

**SENIOR STRETCHING EXERCISES** - each Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:30-10:15am, Seaman Community Church, 2036 NW Taylor St. Enter on the east side of Fellowship Hall. No charge. 785-354-8777 or 785-213-6016

**SAFE STREETS COALITION MEETING** - First Wed. of the month, 11:45am-1pm. Great Overland Station. For info: 266-4606 or [jlwilson@safestreets.org](mailto:jlwilson@safestreets.org)

**LIBRARY'S LEARN & PLAY BUS** - Every Tuesday 1-3pm, Auburn Community Center.

**EAST TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET** - Tues. 3-7pm, Topeka Housing Authority, 2010 SE California.

**SILVER LAKE FARMERS MARKET** - Tuesdays 6-8pm, June 5-Sep. 4, Silver Lake Library

**SENIORS NUTRITIONAL LUNCH** - Weekdays, except holidays, at noon at Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N. Washington Street. Minimal cost per person. Reservations/cancellations required 24 hours in advance by calling Meals on Wheels of Jefferson & Shawnee Co. at 295-3980. Each meal includes 1% milk & sugar-free items for diabetics. 215- 0064.

**SHAWNEE SWINGERS SQUARE DANCE LESSONS** - Wednesday's, 7pm, Croco Hall, 6115 SE Hwy 40, Tecumseh. Starting Sept. 20. Call 785-817-3071.

**CAPITOL MIDWEEK FARMERS MARKET** - Wed. 7:30am-noon, May 16-Oct. 10, Jackson & 10th. No market on July 4th.

**COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING** - Thursdays 6-9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538 or 478-4760.

**SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP** - meets 2nd & 4th Thur, 2-4 at First UMC, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side & use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left & walk the ramp to the library, then left to elevator. Push [B] for fellowship hall.

**SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP** - meets 2nd & 4th Thur, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 21st & Belle. Entrance for walkers is on WEST side. To walk a shelter dog call Kelsey: 233-7325.

**NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS** - NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market

**SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION BOOTH** - Every Sat., 11am - 2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker. Some Sat. adoption booths are held at PetSmart, 2020 SW Westport Dr. Updates at [savingdeathrowdogs.com](http://savingdeathrowdogs.com)

**SLIDERDAYS** - 12-1pm, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 SW Jackson. Join us every third Saturday for Line Dancing!! Cost: Free-will donation!! 50% of your donation will be applied to the renovation of the Jayhawk Theatre.

**DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET** - Saturday's

through Nov., 7:30am-noon, 12th & Harrison. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods more.

**MOTHER TERESA'S FARMERS MARKET** - Saturdays 8:30-11:30am. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church 2014 NW 46th St.

**TOPEKA FOLK DANCERS CLASSES** - Sundays, 2-4pm, 2637 SE 41st St. Dances from 20 countries. No partners or experience necessary. No fee. 215-0968.

**HEALTHY STEPS MONTHLY MEETUP** - Mar. 6 - Dec. 4, West Ridge Mall. Mall walking; log each time you walk - at the kiosk near the lower level, northwest mall entrance. Each visit gives you another entry into monthly prize drawings. Monthly Meetups 9-10am, First Tuesday of every month - special speakers, free blood pressure checks and prize drawings. Mall Walking hours: Mon-Sat 7am - 9pm; Sun 11am - 6pm

**JUNECYCLING EVENTS** - Various cycle rides are offered by Kansas Cyclist. For details: [www.kansascyclist.com/](http://www.kansascyclist.com/)

**JUNE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES** - Various outdoor events and activities in Kansas. [www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calendar](http://www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calendar)

**RELAY FOR LIFE** - Jun. 1, 6pm, Hummer Sports Complex. Celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, & take action for lifesaving change. The opening ceremony, which includes a Survivors Lap, will begin at 7pm. Food vendors, silent auction and basket raffle, kids carnival. Start a fundraising team, join an existing team, make a donation or volunteer. [shawneecountyrfi@gmail.com](mailto:shawneecountyrfi@gmail.com) [www.relayforlife.org/topekaks](http://www.relayforlife.org/topekaks)

**FIRST FRIDAY AT THE JAYHAWK THEATRE** - Jun. 1, 5pm, 720 SW Jackson St. Join Kansas Ballet downtown as they raise awareness (and funds) for the Jayhawk Theater! The talented dancers will perform onstage and attendees will be treated to complementary wine, snacks and tours of the historic theater. \$10 suggested donations to the Jayhawk encouraged! 785) 383-7918 <https://www.facebook.com/events/238522463366489/> [information@kansasballet.com](mailto:information@kansasballet.com)

**MOVIE ON THE CAPITOL LAWN: "JAWS"** - Jun. 1, 8:45pm. Kansas State Capitol lawn. Free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.

**DAY OUT WITH THOMAS THE TRAIN** - Jun. 1-3 & 8-10, 9-11am, Baldwin City. Midland Railway will be welcoming Thomas the Tank Engine back with his best friend Percy joining in on the fun. 913-721-1211, [www.midlandrailway.org](http://www.midlandrailway.org)

**CAPITAL CITY FAMILY AND FOOD TRUCKS FESTIVAL** - Jun. 2, 11-5pm. Kansas Statehouse, 10th & Jackson. Vendors, entertainment. Dogs on leashes welcome.

**GERMANFEST** - June 2, 5-11pm & June 3, 10-5. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 312 NE Freeman. German food, carnival, entertainment, auction, vendor booths & more. [SacredHeartStJosephCatholic.org](http://SacredHeartStJosephCatholic.org) 234-3338

**SACRED HEART-ST. JOSEPH 6TH ANNUAL BRAT TROT** - June 2, 8am. Sacred Heart parking lot, 312 NE Freeman. Brat Trot 5K Run/Walk loops through 3.1 miles of Oakland and returns to Sacred Heart. \$25 registration at [tinyurl.com/BratTrot2018](http://tinyurl.com/BratTrot2018); includes t-shirt & snacks.

**MULVANE ART FAIR** - June 2 & 3, 8am-7pm, Mulvane Art Museum, 1700 College. Adm. \$10. A juried art fair that features more than 80 artists using a variety of media from across the state, region and country. Also features live music, beer garden, and food options

**TAKING THE STRESS OUT OF PARENTING** - June 4, 6pm, Topeka Salvation Army, 1320 S.E. 6th Ave. The third session in the three-part series. Child care will be available. Email [partner@Bibleparent.com](mailto:partner@Bibleparent.com) for more info

**TOPEKA GIVES** - June 5, 7-6pm. Fairlawn Plaza. A day of charitable giving featuring over 100 nonprofit organizations. Donations will be matched by the Topeka Community Foundation.

**FREE SUMMER KICK-OFF BBQ & POOL PARTY** - June 5, 11am-1pm, Hillcrest Comm. Ctr., 1800 SE 21st. Youth 1-18 can eat free & receive a Hillcrest Aquatic Center day pass. Adult meals are \$3.75.

**SEASONS OF DANCE** - Jun. 6, 6pm, TPAC. Kansas Ballet Academy's 6th Annual Class Concert.

**HISTORIC LECOMPTON 5K RUN** - June 8, 7pm, Lecompton Pride Building, 640 E. Woodson, Lecompton. Register at [bit.ly/lec5k18](http://bit.ly/lec5k18)

**TERRITORIAL DAYS 2018** - June 9, 8am - 11pm, Lecompton, KS. Games, crafts, 5k fun run/walk, softball tournament, carnival, music, food and more. [LecomptonTerritorialDays.com](http://LecomptonTerritorialDays.com)

**RMHC PULL A PLANE CHALLENGE** - Jun. 9, 10am-3pm, American Flight Museum, Hangar 612, Forbes. Third annual ultimate tug-of-war competition for grown-ups

benefits Ronald McDonald House Charities. Teams of 10 pullers compete to see who can pull an 80,000 pound vintage airplane 40 feet in the fastest time. Gates open at 10:30am, first team's pull at 11:15am. Also car show, laser tag, bouncy house for kids, food vendors, live music, more, 785-235-6852 <http://www.rmhcneks.org/event/pull-a-plane-challenge/> [mindee@rmhcneks.org](mailto:mindee@rmhcneks.org)

**HEARTLAND MILITARY DAY 2017** - June 9, 7am-3:30pm. Museum of the Kansas National Guard, 125 SE Airport Dr. Military Equipment Displays & Demonstrations, WW II Battle Re-enactments, Civil War Demonstrations, Band Concerts by the Topeka Big Band and Fairlawn Road Swing Band. Pancake feed followed by activities. Free. For info: 862-1020

**VBS FUN DAY** - June 9, 11-1:30, Garfield Comm. Ctr. Free event is the kick-off for Summer VBS Club, which is held June 15-July 27 - every Friday 3:30-5pm. Crafts, games, facepainting, prizes, hot dog lunch. Hosted by Topeka North Outreach. For ages 5-15. 286-1370.

**TOPEKA YOUTH PROJECT GOLF CLASSIC** - Jun. 15, Village Greens. 8am shotgun. 7:30 registration. Lunch follows tourney. Cash prizes! Two \$500 closest to pin prizes! Call 273-4141 to register.

**15TH ANNUAL GALA "Cuba Cabana"** - June 15, Great Overland Station. The evening will include drinks and tantalizing Cuban-inspired foods & coffee bar along with music, dancing, a cigar patio & live auction. Tickets: \$150 or 2 for \$250. [Greatoverlandstation.com](http://Greatoverlandstation.com); 785-232-5533

**THUNDERBIRD SQUARE BLOCK PARTY** - June 16, 10am-1pm. SE 29th St & Croco Rd. Music, Games, and Food.

**JUNETEENTH: A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM** - Midwestspl Event - June 16, 10am-4pm. Hillcrest Community Center, 1800 SE 21st St. Food, games, music and activities for everyone.

**40TH ANNUAL FIESTA MEXICANA 5K RUN/WALK** - June 24, 8am at the Oakland Community Center, Sardou & Poplar. \$30.00 registration before June 16th, \$35.00 after. Age division awards and tee shirts. Certified course. Go to [www.olgfiamexicana.org](http://www.olgfiamexicana.org) 232-4114.

**FREEDOM FESTIVAL** - June 30, 11am-10pm. Art, music, activities, entertainment, food trucks, beer garden, kids corner. Reenactments at Constitution Hall. Downtown Topeka. Free. For info: 249-3464

**SPIRIT OF KANSAS INDEPENDENCE DAY & BLUES FESTIVAL** - Jul. 4, Noon - 11pm. Lake Shawnee, 3315 SE Timman Cir. Pony Rides, vendors, music & Fireworks. Attendees may bring shade tents (there will be a designated area), coolers/food, blankets and chairs. Free event.

**SUNFLOWER STATE GAMES** - July 13-29. The 29th Annual sports festival is open to Kansans of all ages

and skill levels. The event will feature over 45 different competitions. [www.sunflowergames.com](http://www.sunflowergames.com) or [admin@sunflowergames.com](mailto:admin@sunflowergames.com)

**PETER & THE WOLF** - July 28, 5-8pm, TPAC. Kansas Ballet's 6th Annual Summer Showcase will feature Prokofiev's famous Peter & The Wolf ballet as well as performances from professional guest artists from The Washington Ballet and The Kansas City Ballet. The Summer Showcase is a fundraising event for Kansas Ballet's non-profit community outreach and performance programming. Tickets: \$35 Adult, \$15 Child. Dinner, dessert and performance included in the price of admission. Tickets available online or at the door.

<https://www.tututix.com/tickets/> For info visit [www.KansasBallet.com](http://www.KansasBallet.com) or email [Information@kansas-ballet.com](mailto:Information@kansas-ballet.com) or call 785-383-7918

## MEETINGS & CLASSES

**C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON** - Jun. 14, 11:30-1, POWER Luncheon

• Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$12 at the door

• \$15 for non-members & repeat guests.

• Please RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org), so we know how much food is needed!

Open to the public - Put POWER in your life with great food, great speakers and great company! Invite a friend to join you!

SAVE THE DATE: Jul. 12, 11:30-1, POWER Luncheon

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING** - Join other concerned individuals to pray and unite in action for Shawnee Co. and our Nation. For info about monthly meetings: 785-260-5659 or [ks.cwfa.org](mailto:ks.cwfa.org).

**THE HEAT** - Free fitness classes; learn and build healthy social & eating habits. Held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st St. Sun. - 4-5pm Yoga; Mon. - 12-12:45pm Zumba; 5:30-6:15pm Kickboxing; 6:15-7pm Pilates Fusion; Tue. - 12-12:45pm Yoga; 5:30-6:15pm Zumba; 6:15-7pm Cardio Interval; Wed. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Thu. - 12-12:45pm Pilates; 5:30-6:15pm Cardio Interval - Low intensity; 6:15-7:00pm Cardio Interval - Moderate intensity; Fri. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Sat. - 8-8:45am Kickboxing

**TOPEKA TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB** - 3rd Sun. of each month except May, Sep. & Dec., 7pm, Papan's Landing Senior Center, 618 NW Paramore St. Family Memberships include children & grandchildren up to 18 yrs. A place to meet friends to discuss all aspects of Metal Detecting, club business, plus socializing & entertainment.

**STEP UP - BUILDING THE SMART STEP-FAMILY** - Every Sun. 11am, Northland Christian Church, Room 4, 3102

■ CALENDAR CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**The Great Overland Station - 15th Annual Gala**  
Friday, June 15, 2018 at 5:30pm

Tropical attire!  
Live music by the Cubanisms!  
Cuban-inspired menu!  
Drinks included!

Tickets: \$150/person  
or \$250/couple

Call 785-232-5533 to purchase tickets by June 6



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• Business • Non-profits • Churches

Membership open to all Christian businesses, non-profits, churches & individuals!  
Luncheons & Tradeshows & other events open to the general public!

**C5Alive POWER Luncheons are held 2nd Thur. each mo.**

June 14, 11:30-1 -- "POWER Luncheon"

Watch [C5Alive.org](http://C5Alive.org) or our Facebook page for details

Public is welcome! RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or 785-640-6399

• July 12, 11:30-1, Power luncheon. Details to be announced

• Aug. 9, 11:30-1, Power luncheon. Speaker: Barry Feaker

• Sep. 13, 11:30-1, Power luncheon. Speaker: Cody Foster

• Oct. 11: Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon, Great Overland Stn.

Save the Dates!

For info: [www.C5Alive.org](http://www.C5Alive.org) or [Facebook.com/C5Alive](https://www.facebook.com/C5Alive)





JUN. 2 FAMILY & FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

NW Topeka Blvd. Focusing on the challenges facing step-families and blended families. Contact Thomas Munker at 249-3054 for info.

**DEAF WORSHIP SERVICE** - 3rd Sun., 3pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. Also, every Sun. 9:30am service is interpreted.

**FAMILY EXPERIENCE (FX)** - Every Sun., 6:01pm, Fairlawn Church of Nazarene, 730 Fairlawn Rd. A time of high intensity, action packed, skit mania, worship music all centered around the word of God for 45 minutes. A free family worship event. For info: Emily Moore, 272-6322 or fxthelawn@gmail.com.

**LADIES' SMALL GROUP** - Every Sun., 6pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Studying the book of Esther, using the DVD series "It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore. All welcome. 286-0467.

**BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPE** - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, age 5-18. Register at cornerstonetopeka.com. 478-2929.

**TOPEKA MANKIND PROJECT** - Mondays, 6:30pm, 2112 SW Morningside Rd. Supports men in becoming their best selves, including physical, mental & emotional health & wellness. Open to any man. Brian Thomas: brian.thomas01@gmail.com or 785-727-9439

**THE FORCE (Students Taking Action)** - 1st Mon. & 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, Safe Streets, 2209 SW 29th St.

Committed to being alcohol & drug free. Associate with like-minded peers, plan activities & get involved in the community. Youth 12-18 invited. 266-4606.

**HEARTLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS** - 2nd Mon., 11:45am-1pm. Promoting neighborhood well-being by mobilizing people, ideas & resources. 233-1365.

**TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB** - 1st Tue. of month, 7pm, Topeka Public Library. Discussing our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

**OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL** - Every 1st Tues., 6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. For info: Michelle Ann 580-3071 or ourladyofthefaithful@gmail.com. Facebook: "Our Lady of the Faithful."

**SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB** - Every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. 246-1291.

**MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES** - Tuesdays Noon -1pm. Amerus Room, YWCA, 225 West 12th. A new study group for Year One of Flo Menninger's course on Four Years through the Bible. Read and discuss Genesis through First Kings. Nominal charge for materials. Call the YWCA at 233-1750 or Clara Gamache: 408-5433.

**FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES** Aerie 4319: First & Third Tue. 7pm; Auxiliary: Third & Fourth Tue. month 6pm, 2941 SE Fremont Street. The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope. www.foe.com 785-266-7307

**O.W.L.S. (Older Wise Loving Saints)** - meets the second Tuesday of the month. Location varies and can be found at www.faithfamilylife.com

**DADDY'S GIRLS EMPOWERMENT MEETINGS - Do you want MORE...** Come Join us for our More Luncheons where Real Women get together: share, learn and grow to return to our homes, families workplace, churches & other places of influence restored and rejuvenated to pursue God's MORE...at Topeka Public Library, 12 noon, every 3rd Wednesday. Sponsored by Daddy's Girls Inc. Please to RSVP make lunch reservations: daddysgirlsinc@gmail.com or 785-969-0491

**INNOVATIVE NETWORKING GROUP OF TOPEKA** - every other Wed. 11:20am - 12:30pm. www.INGTopeka.com

- go to Event page to see times, locations & register

**S.W.A.G. (Spiritual Warriors Anointed by God) youth group** - Wed at 7:00 p.m. 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

**AWANA** - Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 272-0443.

**AWANA** - Every Wed., 6:30pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 286-0467.

**AWANA** - Every Wed., 6:30-8pm, Auburn Christian Church. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 256-2515.

**TOPEKA PRAYER GROUP** - Every Wed., 6:30pm, 409 SW Buchanan St. Do you believe that God hears and answers prayers? Do you believe Jesus wants to lead His people by His Holy Spirit? Come join us in prayer as we seek His face for answers and direction. 785-845-1948; holmie2@sbcglobal.net

**MACHINE EMBROIDERY CLUB** - 1st Wed., 9am-3pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th Street (east door). Anyone with an Embroidery machine is invited to attend, there are no dues or formal meeting agenda. Lunch is on your own. Teach each other, enjoy fellowship & complete projects. Call 379-5159.

**SAFE STREETS MEETING** - 1st Wed., 11:45am, Golf Park Blvd, 2 blocks west of Adams. 266-4606.

**STUDENT IMPACT** - Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Youth games, teaching, worship, small groups. For info: 272-0443.

**CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE** - Every Thurs. 7-9pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Worship for college students.

**INTENTIONAL MOM** - 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9-11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Auditorium, 1135 SW College. For all moms, helping them to be intentional! 234-5545.

**WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL EDUCATION EVENTS** - Blue Moose Bar & Grill, 11:30 AM on the third Thu & Fri each month. Free, but RSVP required. On Thu Brian discusses family wealth strategies. On Fri. Amy discusses wealth strategies that apply to women. 785-271-2536 Jennifer.Ward@wellsfargo.com

**OPERATION BACKPACK** - 1st Thurs., 6pm, Lyman Learning Center, Lyman and N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. Sponsored by Topeka North

Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

**TOPEKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** - 4th Thurs., 7pm, Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St. No program in Nov. or Dec. Promotes & stimulates the education, knowledge & interest of the membership & the public in family history, genealogical records & research. 233-5762 or tgstopeka.org.

**KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP** - 3rd Thu., 11:30am, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants, attorney's & insurance agents invited. For info: kingdomadvisors.org or Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 357-6278 x19.

**TOPEKA (Downtown) OPTIMIST CLUB** - Every Fri., noon, Top of the Tower. Serving the youth of Topeka. Anyone welcome. For info: 272-1099 or fostern60@yahoo.com.

**TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Every Fri. 8:30 to 10:00 am at 3221 SW Burlingame Road. 800-932-8677. Support for your weight loss journey. tops.org

**VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS** - Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free blood pressure checks the last Friday of every month, and birthday celebrations the 4th Friday. For info: 286-1370.

**A GOOD YARN CLUB** - 2nd & 4th Sat., 9-11am, Wanamaker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Anne, 272-9249 or kittens812@sbcglobal.net

**BIBLE QUIZZING** - 1st Sat. Learn God's Word & have fun with area Christian youth age 9-19. YFC/YEA style quizzing & rules. 913-593-6427 or biblequizzing.org.

**MONTHLY SCORE MEETING** - 1st Sat., 8-9:30am, Washburn Tech, 5724 SW Huntoon (enter east doors facing Huntoon). No RSVP or fee is required. Small business owners are invited to a Breakfast Roundtable discussion with members of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). Info: 234-3049.

**TOPEKA LOVE AGLOW** - Once a month on Sat. morning. A time of worship, prayer and encountering God. Call Tawny Barton at 785-409-0232 or Linda Williams at 785-267-0600 for details.

**FREE ENGLISH CLASSES** - Every Sat. 9-10:30am, Central Congregational Church, 1248 SW Buchanan. For info: 235-2376.

**RUSSIAN HOUSE OF PRAYER** - Every Sat., 4pm, Williamstown Assembly of God, 1225 Oak St., Perry/Williamstown. For info: 597-5228.

**SINGLES PLAY CARDS SR.** - 1st Sat., 6-9pm, St. Peter's UMC, NW 35th & Hwy 75

**SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION & EDUCATION** - every Sat. 11am-2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker.

**UPPER ROOM COMMUNITY** - second Sat., 10 am, Capitol Building

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**MIDLAND CARE GRIEF SUPPORT** Groups: Building A, 200 SW Frazier Circle

Every Mon., 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss 1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm— Ongoing Adult Group 1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm: Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age)

For All Groups: Call for start dates and info packet. Group and individual grief support available upon request. For info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

**ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT** - Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome...we can help mend a broken heart! For info: Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@cox.net.

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS** - for friends & families of alcoholics. For info: 785-409-3072 or topekaalanon.org

**PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY** - Men struggling with pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: 249-9509. All inquiries confidential.

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS** - Monthly support group meetings for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. For info: Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter, 271-1844 or email cindy.miller@alz.org.

**"HEALING HEARTS" support group/Bible study** - Sundays 6-8pm. For women whose husbands struggle with pornography addiction or have had affairs. Video & workbook will give you hope for your marriage & emotional healing. For info: Janet Mitchell, 633-4294.

**BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE** - NE Kansas Chapter (B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

**COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS/BEREAVED PARENTS**

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Monday - Saturday  
6am - 9pm  
Sunday 7am - 9pm

**GROUP** – Meets 4th Mon. in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts 7pm; fellowship & refreshments 8:30. 272-4895

**GRIEF SUPPORT** – First Monday each month, 3:30-4:30pm, 400 SW Oakley. Call Donna Park for info: 783-7527 or valeotopeka.org. Open to public. Free.

**GRIEF SUPPORT** – Sponsored by Heartland Hospice for those dealing with death or major loss: 1st Mon., 5:30-7:30pm. Individual appointments; other times are available. Call Terry Frizzell at (785)230-6730.

3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd. Dutch treat luncheon to meet new friends who have sat where you are sitting. For reservations or info: 785-271-6500.

**OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS:**

MON., 7pm – Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

WED., 7pm – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 6, 2nd floor; 234-8020.

SAT. – 9am – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 8, 2nd floor; 862-2326.

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.ia.org.

**KC TRAUMA AND PTSD SUPPORT GROUP** – Every Tue. 10am and Thu. 6:30pm. Call Denise at 816-885-9530.

**EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS:** a 12-step program for those suffering with emotional instability such as depression, anxiety, grief, etc. Meets every Tues. at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Noon-1pm. For info: Sharon 785-633-7764

**PARENTS OF ESTRANGED ADULT CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP** – Third Tue. Ea. Month, 6:45-8:45pm, Topeka

Public Library, Rm 202. Info: Jeff Landers - 224-5946

**OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP** – First Tue. each month at St. Francis Health, 1700 SW 7th St. Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 6-7:30pm. Anyone with an ostomy may attend. The goal is to provide education and ongoing support for individuals with an ostomy. Contact Teresa Kellerman at 785-295-5555 for info.

**GRANDPARENT/RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** – 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, 2nd floor meeting room, St. Francis Hosp., 1700 SW 7th. For info: Sharla, 286-2329; Jennie (English/Spanish) 231-0763.

**THE GREATER TOPEKA MULTIPLE MYELOMA** – 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th St. & Gage Blvd. Open to Multiple Myeloma patients, their family members & friends. Share support, information & friendship. For info: Donna, 903-918-9553.

**"HEALING AFTER THE SUICIDE OF A LOVED ONE" ("HEAL")** – or Survivors of Suicide" (SOS). 1st & 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Pozez Education Center of Stormont Vail Hospital, 1505 SW 8th St. Serving anyone who has lost a loved one by suicide.

**PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY** – Every Tue., 7-9pm, Topeka Women's Prison, 815 Rice Rd. Reaching out to those who can't come in, finding freedom behind bars, inspiring inmates to seek salvation during a difficult time. Providing support & guidance through the Holy Spirit to offer strength. Director: Don Garner, 286-0489 or faithfamilylifeministries@gmail.com.

**GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS** – Every Wed, 7pm, St. Francis Hospital, meeting room #8.

**JAYHAWK AREA AGENCY ON AGING** – 4th Wed., 1pm, Rosehill Place Clubhouse. Monthly support group for caregivers of seniors. For info: 235-1367 ext.30.

**MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP** – Every Wed., 2:30-

3:30pm, Library at Cair Paravel-Latin School. Experience God's power through prayer as we lift our students, teachers, staff, administrators & board up to the Lord. For info: 357-0369.

**DIVORCECARE PROGRAMS** – (For updates check www.divorcecare.org) Locations and times:

WED. – 6:30pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane. Cost: \$15. Child care provided. For info: 379-0505 or www.divorcecare.org.

WED. – 6:45 – 8:45pm, Walnut View Christian Church, 3634 SE 37th St. (just East of 37th & Croco). Cost: \$10 registration (scholarships available). The video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost experts on divorce and recovery topics, combined with support group discussion of the materials. Complimentary child care children up to the fifth grade. Info: 266-7550 or walnutviewcc@att.net.

WED. – 6:30pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. No Cost. 286-1204, www.northland.cc

**GRIEFSHARE** – Every Thur. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Susanna Wesley UMC, 7433 SW 29th St., Mar 1 thru May 24. A Christ-centered program for those who have lost a loved one may be struggling and have questions on how to go forward. The class includes a video, sharing of stories, and a workbook (free). Call Shari Combs at 785-478-3697 for more information.

**NAMI WASHBURN** – 4th Thurs., 6-8pm, Spirit Building Room, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave. NAMI is a student-run, student-led organization that provides mental health support, education, & advocacy in the Washburn Univ. setting.

**PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** – 1st Thurs., 7pm, Saint Francis Hospital 2nd floor conf. room of the cancer unit. For info: 266-9533.

**NICOTINE ANONYMOUS** – Every Fri., 6:30pm, Town & Country Christian Church Renaissance Room, 4925 SW 29th St., use west door, cross red foot bridge. A fellowship of men & women helping each other to live free of nicotine. No fees. 402-321-486; Laboomaha@att.net.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – Every Fri., 6pm, 1912 Gage Blvd. A Christ-centered program, based on 8 principles found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Applying these Biblical principles, become free from addictive & dysfunctional behaviors. crtopekaks.org.

**TOPEKA NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUP** – For families & friends who are affected by someone else's narcotic addiction. Every Sat., noon-1:15 pm, rm. A, 1st Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar, enter on S. side, door A. www.naranonmidwest.org

**COVENANT KEEPERS** – 3rd Sat. Group for people who want to see their marriage saved when their spouse wants out. For info: 816-453-0884 or 816-966-0927.

**KC's first-ever nonstop transatlantic flight is to Iceland**



Jen Houston got word back in January that Kansas City International airport was announcing its first-ever nonstop transatlantic flight.

"While I didn't know where it would be going, I knew that I would be on it. So when the announcement was made January 9, I booked my ticket," Houston says.

On May 25 at 5:15 p.m., Houston, an avid traveler and airport enthusiast, was scheduled to depart on Kansas City's inaugural flight to Reykjavik, Iceland.

"I'm really excited because that has been on my bucket list," Houston said.

'A really important get'

While it's not mainland Europe, Iceland has been growing in popularity, both as a destination and a connector to the rest of Europe.

"Iceland has become the first foray into international service for many communities around the country, so I consider it a really important get," says Bill Swelbar, chief industry strategist at Delta Airport consultants.

Swelbar says Icelandair, the carrier serv-

ing Kansas City, has had success targeting underserved cities in the United States. And, he said, some major airlines, such as United, have begun direct service there.

The more success Icelandair has with its Kansas City flight, he says, the better chance KCI has of attracting more international flights.

"If Kansas City supports this service," Swelbar says, "it would be my guess that within the next two to three years, indeed there will be more."

Michelle Davis is another one of the passengers who booked her ticket the day after the announcement in January, even though she's afraid of flying. For her, it will be a celebration of Kansas City.

"We have a lot of friends from around the country and many people, even people in this city, seem to accept the idea that Kansas City is merely a spot in the middle of flyover country," Davis says. "So we wanted to be a part of this event and this group of people that reject that notion."

Lisa Rodriguez is a reporter and the afternoon newscaster for KCUR 89.3. Follow her on Twitter @larodrig.

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**Rachel Louise Taylor**  
6:30 PM

**Forever Young Band**  
7:30 PM

**Friday, July 27th, 2018**  
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July 21-22 - Horse Show • July 27 - Kid's Concert: Mr. Stinky Feet - 10:00 AM • July 27 & 28 - Dog Show  
July 28 - Pancake Feed 7-12; Topeka Acappella Unlimited Chorus 10 AM; Pedal Tractor Pull 1 PM  
Friday - Sunday: Topeka Model RailRoader's & N'Scalers Railroaders; HHHS Adoption Event

# entertainment

## Weird Mixture of Faith, Madness and Leftist Politics

### movienews

by **Movieguide.org**

FIRST REFORMED is an arthouse drama about a middle-aged, divorced, sickly pastor having a crisis of faith and purpose when he encounters the young, troubled radical environmentalist husband of one of his congregants, who's pregnant. FIRST REFORMED is a weird mixture of faith, madness and leftist politics that doesn't really work and contains some disturbing and goofy content that sometimes sends an Anti-Christian vibe.

As the movie opens, Dutch Reformed Pastor Ernst Toller decides to write a daily journal. Toller heads a small church in upstate New York that's about to celebrate its 250th anniversary. Partly a museum, the church is affiliated with the megachurch of a black pastor named Jeffers. Toller seems to be suffering a stomach ailment that might be cancerous. His wife left him after their son died serving his country during the Iraq War.

A pregnant parishioner asks Toller to counsel her husband, a radical environmentalist, who doubts whether it's morally right to bring a child into this world. The man believes the worst-case scenario of the climate change alarmists and thinks the world will implode by 2050.

Toller doesn't even try to calm the man's overwrought fears. Then, when tragedy strikes, Toller is plunged into a spiral of despair and loneliness. He starts drinking heavily, which only makes his stomach problem and despair worse, and he contemplates making his own violent political statement at his church's 250-year anniversary celebration.

FIRST REFORMED is certainly carefully crafted and sometimes startling. Also,



the actors seem committed to their roles. However, it's a weird mixture of faith, madness and leftist politics that doesn't really work. Also, it contains some disturbing and goofy content that sends an Anti-Christian vibe. For example, Toller's boss, Pastor Jeffers, tries to help him, but in one scene, when Toller tries to talk to him about his concerns about capitalism and its alleged destruction of the environment, Pastor Jeffers overtly turns his back on him. Conveniently, the person funding the 25-year anniversary celebration for the small old church is the rich owner of an energy company that Toller thinks is guilty of pollution and corruption. Finally, the movie's very last scene is just silly and anti-climactic, if not stupid. In fact, it's so silly and anti-climactic that MOVIEGUIDE® can't imagine moviegoers feeling anything but cheated out of their money if they stick through the movie until the very end.

Of course, the movie's politically correct leftist politics, including the environmentalist attacks on humanity and capitalism, are easily refuted by any person who's done some research on these topics. For example, the protagonist's assertion that 97 percent of scientists believe in the catastrophic

predictions of climate change have been totally debunked (see <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexepstein/2015/01/06/97-of-climate-scientists-agree-is-100-wrong/#6fa1842e3f9f>, for example). In fact, in 2017, at least 485 papers were published disputing that alleged "consensus" (see <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/01/10/the-97-climate-consensus-starts-to-crumble-with-485-new-papers-in-2017-that-question-it/>). Finally, although modern capitalism's use of fossil fuels is often attacked by many, the fact is that modern capitalism is also responsible for creating alternative forms of energy.

FIRST REFORMED does contain some Christian affirmations. For example, people call Jesus Christ the Savior, people pray, and several hymns are partially heard. So, the movie doesn't really mock these examples of Christian faith as some other politically left-leaning movies might do. The protagonist isn't questioning his faith's basic theology; he's questioning his church's handling of certain social issues. Of his two responses to this problem, though, one is clearly evil, and the other makes no sense.

budget, but it has some good twists and turns that keep viewers on the edge of their seats. The movie's antihero, the young thief, is racked with guilt about leaving the woman behind. As a result, he's willing to do anything he can to rescue her. This gives the movie a solid morally uplifting worldview. Sadly, though, *Bad Samaritan* has about 125 or so obscenities and profanities. Extreme caution is advised.

Max and Frank have been tagged to pose as contestants in the dog show.

Well, this is a barely bad idea if you ask Max. I mean, he's no wimpy sit-on-a-cushion-and-eat-grapes show dog! Max is from the streets. He chows down whatever gets thrown in his bowl. And if someone thinks Max is going to submit to one of those show-dog bikini-wax treatments, well that someone should prepare to lose a finger. Or three.

But... this plan is probably the best way to get back on the scent of those ruthless crooks. So Max agrees to partner up.

*Show Dogs* is a kids' movie through and through. If you consider its story and presentation on a graduated scale—say, one that ranges from whine and scratch on the low end all the way up to a family pleasing tail-wag peak—this pic probably qualifies as a Saturday-matinee chew toy that lands on the less-enthusiastic, flea-bitten side of

## MOVIES, STREAMING, BOOKS, MUSIC, INTERVIEWS & MORE!



### streaming

## 'Thor,' 'The Last Jedi' lead June streaming entries

By **Michael Foust**

Netflix customers groaned last year when Disney announced it eventually would sever its agreement with the streaming service.

But lost in the details was some good news for Netflix movie buffs: The separation wouldn't take place for at least a couple of years, which meant that Netflix subscribers could still enjoy blockbuster from the comfort of their couch.

This month on Netflix, two Disney property films — Marvel's *Thor: Ragnarok* (June 5) and Lucasfilm's *The Last Jedi* (June 26) — will begin streaming. Both are rated PG-13 and received high marks from critics, although they also have content problems that might trouble some parents.

In *Ragnarok*, Thor is battling his long-lost sister, Hela, the goddess of death. The light-hearted movie doesn't take itself too seriously — which is a good thing — although it has tons of violence and disturbing content, a moderate amount of language (I counted 17 coarse words), and a couple of sexually suggestive jokes.

*The Last Jedi* is the 2017 film that divided fans of the *Star Wars* franchise. It picks up where *The Force Awakens* left off and follows Rey as she tries to persuade an aging and reclusive Luke Skywalker to aid the good guys. It has the same amount of violence and disturbing content as its predecessor and about six coarse words. It contains no sexuality.

Don't wait forever to watch them, though, as they could disappear from Netflix as early as 2020, according to the entertainment website Polygon.com. The Disney-Netflix deal allows Disney films that were released in 2016, 2017 and 2018 to stream on the platform. Disney is expected to launch its own streaming service in the future, perhaps as soon as late 2019.

of action and less doggy doo-doo humor than I expected.

Your kids will likely think it's silly and fun.

Also streaming in June:

### Netflix

*National Treasure* (June 1, PG-13) — For lovers of history (like me), this fictional heist movie about the Declaration of Independence was a mixed bag. But I enjoyed it. Rated PG for action violence and some scary images. Also contains some language.

Disney's *101 Dalmatians* (June 1) — The Netflix press release didn't specify if this was the 1996 or 1961 version, but both are mostly kid-friendly. The 1996 live-action film was rated G, while the 1961 animated film was unrated.

Disney's *Tarzan* (June 23, G) — This 1999 animated movie follows the story of Tarzan, from the time he was raised as an infant by gorillas to his meeting of Jane as an adult.

### Amazon Prime

*I Am David* (June 1, PG) — A boy escapes a Communist labor camp in 1950s Europe and embarks on a mission. Rated PG for thematic elements and violent content.

*Nacho Libre* (June 1, PG) — The same writers behind *Napoleon Dynamite* wrote this quirky comedy, which tells the story of a monastery chef who becomes a wrestler. Rated PG for some rough action, and crude humor including dialogue.

*The Ant Bully* (June 1, PG) — A real-life bully gets shrunk to the size of an ant. Animated. Rated PG for some mild rude humor and action.

*The Waltons*, seasons 1-9 (June 1) — An Appalachian family struggles to survive during the Great Depression in this 1970s TV series. Some of the shows had adult themes, but most were family-friendly.

### Hulu

*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy (June 1, PG-13) — The fantasy series based on J. R. R. Tolkien's novels makes an appearance on Hulu. Warning: Many of the scenes are too intense for small children. Rated PG-13 for epic battle sequences and scary images.

*I Am David* (June 1, PG) — See above.

*Michael Foust is the husband of an amazing wife named Julie and the father of four small children.*

## MINI-REVIEW: Bad Samaritan

*Bad Samaritan* is an intense thriller. Sean, an artist who does photography, works as a valet at an Italian restaurant in Portland, Ore. Unknown to the owner, Sean and the other valet, Derek, are using the cars to go to the homes of customers so they can rob their houses. One rich customer, however, has a woman chained up

in his house. Sean can't undo the woman's chains and has to leave her behind. He alerts the police, but the kidnapper fools the police and learns Sean's identity. Can Sean find the woman and expose the kidnapper before the man kills her, or kills Sean?

*Bad Samaritan* is clearly made on a low

## Show Dogs about as clean as movies get

Max is a dedicated NYPD police dog. But if that makes you think of TV dogs sniffing boxes at the airport, you're barking up the wrong tree. The movie *Show Dogs*, which released May 18 is a new take on dogs for the big screen

Max, you see, is a canine detective who solves the crimes. And he's happy to do it all on his own. He'll leap into any confrontation, subdue the baddies, then drag them off to jail with their collars in his teeth.

That is, he would... if his human police partners would just get out of his way once in a while. The problem is, his clumsy handlers tend to treat him like a second-class citizen.

In fact, he was about to crack a Panda-smuggling ring wide open recently when some bumbling FBI guy named Frank



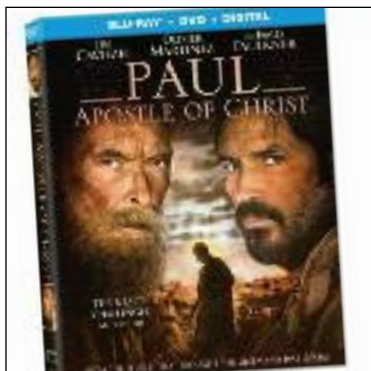
blundered into him down at the docks. It was like a dog-and-pony show: Every time Max was ready to bite into the perpetrators, that Frank dude would come running in and mess things up.

It's enough to make a good dog growl.

So Max is fit to be tied—or at least put on a leash—when he finds out the next day that the chief wants him to work with Frank in an undercover sting operation. The authorities have received a hot tip that smugglers are plotting to sell some contraband animals at a Las Vegas dog show. And

—Reviewed by Bob Hoos





## family-friendly spotlight

### 'I Can Only Imagine' & 'Paul' DVDs lead this month's offerings

By Michael Foust

March was a banner month for faith films, and some of those same movies are set to hit the home entertainment market in June, giving families who didn't see them the first time a chance to watch.

*I Can Only Imagine* (PG) arrives on digital platforms June 5 and then on a Blu-ray/DVD/digital combo package June 12, while *Paul: Apostle of Christ* (PG-13) is set to release digitally June 12 and then on its own Blu-ray/DVD/digital combo pack June 19.

They are among the most inspiring movies I've ever watched, and **they share the No. 1 position on this month's edition of "Family-Friendly Spotlight."**

But don't take my word that these are stellar movies. Moviegoers gave *I Can Only Imagine* a rare A+ in CinemaScore's exit polling and *Paul: Apostle of Christ* an A-.

*I Can Only Imagine* recounts the childhood, teen and young adult years of singer Bart Millard (of the band MercyMe), who grew up in an abusive home but saw his father come to Christ late in life. His father's conversion inspired Millard to write the popular song *I Can Only Imagine*. Jon and Andrew Erwin, the brothers behind the films *Woodlawn* and *Mom's Night Out*, directed it.

*Paul: Apostle of Christ* is part biblical fact and part biblical fiction, telling the story of the Apostle Paul's final days in prison as Christians throughout Rome are persecuted. It's a fascinating peak at the early church, with famous biblical names such as Luke, Priscilla and Aquila making an appearance.

Caution, though, is advised for young viewers of both films. In *I Can Only Imagine*, the scenes involving Bart and his father are intense. *Paul* shows us persecution, including Christians being burned alive and used as torches.

#### 2. 'A Little Help with Carol Burnett'

This original Netflix series stars the legendary actress as her adult guests seek life advice from children. For example, actress Lisa Kudrow (*Friends*) asks the panel what they'd do if they double booked a lunch commitment. (Would they cancel one of the commitments? Should they ask both people to come to the same lunch? The series is rated TV-G, although some of the jokes are a little adult-oriented and one of the episodes (Episode 2) includes a man who had cohabitated with a woman. (Episode 2 also includes Candace Cameron Bure, a Christian.)

#### 3. 'Little Women'

Based on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, this adaptation aired on the BBC in 2017 and on PBS in May of this year, and is now available on Blu-ray and DVD. It tells the story of four daughters living in Massachusetts whose father is away fighting in the Civil War. If you like clean period dramas, then you'll probably enjoy this one. No sexuality or language.

#### 4. 'Bobby Kennedy for President'

Also on Netflix, this four-part documentary follows the rise of Robert F. Kennedy, who escaped the shadows of his brother and seemed destined for the Democratic nomination of 1968 until an assassination ended his life. Kennedy was known as a liberal, although some of his beliefs would be embraced today by the Right. Netflix's worthless ratings gave the series a TV-MA label – the same rating they apply to R-type content -- but it contains no sexuality and only mild language. We do see photos of Kennedy's dead body. The series is fine for most teens and maybe some tweens.

#### 5. Kids' programming on PureFlix and Dove Channel

If you've given up on Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hulu, then give these faith-oriented streaming services a try. Each has their strengths. PureFlix has series such as *Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible*, *Friends and Heroes*, *Character Builders* and *Torchlighters*, while Dove Channel offers *Greatest Heroes and Legends*, *Davey and Goliath*, *321 Penguins* and *Hermie*. Of course, each also offers faith- and family-friendly content for adults. Visit PureFlix.com or DoveChannel.com to learn more.

#### 6. National Bible Bee Competition Show

I watched the debut with my wife and 10-year-old son, not knowing if it would keep his attention. But by the end, he was engrossed in the competition and ready for the next week's show.

It is co-hosted by Emeal Zwayne, president of Living Waters Publications, along with Jason and David Benham (formerly of HGTV) and Hannah Leary, who won the first season.

The series involves three age groups (7-10, 11-14 and 15-18) competing for a total of \$100,000 in prize money and is as convicting as it is inspiring. Sometimes, you even feel sorry for the contestants – like when one was eliminated because she said "was" instead of "is."

Watch it at BibleBee.tv.

## 'Broadway meets Bible' on a football-field-sized stage

The first time someone invited me to a Sight & Sound Bible-based theatrical production – which would have required flying across the country and taking time away from my regular life – I declined. Why would I do that? My own town has plays and musicals!

But a few years later, when my travels found me near a Sight & Sound theater, I relented and took in a show. And I finally understand what the fuss was all about.

With special effects, monstrous sets, live animals and a panoramic stage the width of a football field, a Sight & Sound production was unlike anything I had ever seen. It's so massive that it takes more than three years -- from concept to opening night -- to put one together. It's also so elaborate that there are only two of them: one in Lancaster, Pa., and the other in Branson, Mo.

It's "Broadway meets Bible," and some families plan their entire vacation around a show. Nearly 1.5 million people each



year watch a Sight & Sound musical.

Which brings me to the company's latest production, "JESUS," which is Sight & Sound's first full-length production about Christ's life and is showing in Lancaster this year and Branson next year.

"JESUS" features cutting-edge technology and a bigger-than-ever set but also an emotion-laden story that will captivate audiences. It's spectacular.

Writer Kristen Brewer had a tall task to trim the content of four Gospels down to a script that would fit within 2.5 hours and stay true to Scripture. To accomplish

that, she concentrated on individual stories of lives changed by Christ – the calling of Peter as a disciple, the challenge to Nicodemus' legalistic beliefs, the forgiveness of Mary Magdalene, the healing of the blind man, and the casting out of demons from the man named Legion.

Throughout the show, we're treated to sights and sounds we've never seen in a, well, Sight & Sound show. "JESUS"

is the first production to feature the new 12-ton LED screen that's 113 feet wide and nearly 30 feet tall. It serves as a colorful backdrop to nearly every scene but – as it should – never distracts from the story. I forgot it was there. The production also includes the largest moving set piece in Sight & Sound history – a recreated Galilean Hillside that's 100 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Oh yeah, we get to see Jesus and Peter walking on water, too.

It's the best way to experience the Bible live without a DeLorean and flux capacitor. "JESUS" will run through Jan. 5 and then move to Branson.

## MercyMe named top Christian artist at 2018 Billboard Music Awards

MercyMe earned a Top Christian Artist win at 2018 Billboard Music Awards. The top honor marks the first win for the band that has garnered a dozen BBMA nods throughout the course of their career thus far. Additionally, the multi-platinum selling band eclipsed all categories for their genre at this year's show with recognition in the Top Christian Album (LIFER) and Top Christian Song ("Even If") categories.

"We never set out to write, make music & tour for an award, but to have Billboard send this honor our way means a great deal to us," shares the band. "It has been unreal to see the Lord use the power of music and stories to permeate lives. Thank you to Billboard for being so kind to us throughout our career, especially with this



award, and thank you to the fans for sharing in this journey with us."

MercyMe is a top nominee at the upcoming fan-voted 2018 K-LOVE Fan Awards with four nominations including Film Impact (for the widely successful blockbuster *I Can Only Imagine*), Group or Duo of the Year, Song of the Year ("Even If") and Artist of the Year. The super group will also perform on the show, not-

ing a special performance with Trace Adkins.

"Grace Got You" Featuring John Reuben is the latest MercyMe single to resonate at radio, currently charting in the top 10 at AC Monitored, Christian Airplay and AC Indicator along with top 20 at Hot AC.

MercyMe will hit the road with long-time friends Tenth Avenue North for "The Imagine Nation Tour" this fall with 20+ markets on the docket.

Other winners: Alan Jackson took the Christian album award for *Precious Memories Collection* and Hillsong Worship won the top Christian song category for *What A Beautiful Name*. Tasha Cobbs Leonard won for best Gospel artist.

#### 7. 'Monster Trucks'

This quirky PG comedy bombed at the box office but was a recent family-friendly hit in my home. Now on Amazon Prime, it tells the story of a friendly octopus-looking monster that becomes the "engine" for a teen boy's truck. It's the type of goofy plot that would have made for a hilarious 1970s Disney flick, but it hit theaters four decades too late -- in 2017. It has no language. No sexuality. Not even a kiss!

#### 8. Amazon Prime's Kid's Christian Shows

Netflix and Hulu each have their

strengths for streaming fans, but for children's Christian or spiritual content, nothing beats Amazon Prime, which has at least three series that my children have watched recently: *Torchlighters*, *Superbook* and *Davey and Goliath*. Hopefully, Netflix and Hulu will catch up.

#### 9. Netflix's New Christian Movies

Amazon Prime may shine with its children's faith content, but Netflix wins in the grown-up category, including with two new selections: *Is Genesis History?* and *A Question of Faith*, each of which were in theaters in 2017. Netflix also has *The Case for Christ* and *Little Boy*. Search

for "Christian" and you'll discover similar content.

#### 10. 'Lost in Space'

In this new Netflix remake of the 1960s series, the Robinson clan gets stuck on a planet and tries desperately to survive. It's rated TV-PG and contains mild language – around two to three words each show -- so caution is advised. It's not entirely family-friendly, but it's close. I watched the first two episodes and enjoyed it.

*Michael Foust is the husband of an amazing wife named Julie and the father of four small children. Follow his blog, MichaelFoust.com.*

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## healthy living

### 10 Steps to Help Prevent Cancer



Nearly 4 out of 10 Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes, and it remains the second-leading cause of death for Americans, but nearly half of all cancer cases can be prevented.

Research from the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) shows that diet, exercise and weight play a critical role in cancer prevention.

“Making changes in what you eat, being physically active and maintaining a healthy weight have strong and clear links to your risk for cancer,” said Alice Bender, MS, RDN and director of nutrition programs at AICR. “We know from decades of research and a thorough review of the science that there are simple things we can all do to reduce our risk.”

To live a cancer-preventive lifestyle, consider taking these 10 steps recommended by the scientific experts at AICR:

1. Be a healthy weight. Higher body fat can be a cause of many cancers. Try to stay at a healthy weight and avoid weight gain as you get older.
2. Be physically active. Incorporate moderate physical activity into your daily life through steps like walking more and sitting less.
3. Eat a diet rich in whole grains, vegetables, fruits and beans. Make these foods a major part of your diet.
4. Limit consumption of “fast foods” and other processed foods high in fat, starches or sugars. Cut down on processed foods to help con-

trol calorie intake and maintain a healthy weight.

5. Limit consumption of red and processed meat. Eat no more than three portions of red meat per week, and little – if any – processed meat.

6. Limit consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks. Don’t drink sugar-sweetened drinks, which contribute to weight gain. Choose water instead, when possible.

7. Limit alcohol consumption. For preventing cancer, it’s best not to drink alcohol.

8. Do not use supplements for cancer prevention. Aim to meet nutritional needs through diet alone.

9. For mothers, breastfeed your baby, if you can. Breastfeeding is good for both mother and baby.

10. After a cancer diagnosis, follow these recommendations, if you can. Cancer survivors are encouraged to continue following these guidelines.

Refraining from smoking, avoiding other exposure to tobacco and limiting sun exposure are also important in reducing cancer risk.

Because it can be hard to make lifestyle changes, AICR aims to help people adopt healthier behaviors through efforts like the Cancer Health Check, a tool that shows people how their lifestyle stacks up against known cancer risks and recommends changes that can improve health.

For recipes, tips and other resources, visit [aicr.org](http://aicr.org). (Family Features)

## Signs That It’s Time for a Senior to Move to Assisted Living

By Marlo Sollitto

Few people are keen on moving from their homes to senior living communities. However, in some cases, this move is the best option for keeping an aging loved one safe and mentally and physical healthy.

So, when is the right time to consider this move? Timing a transition to senior living can be tricky because it is highly personalized. It depends on how well your loved one is faring in their current home, their present health status, and their future medical and personal needs.

The following questions can help you determine if an aging loved one may be a candidate for assisted living:

- Is the senior eating healthy, balanced meals regularly?

- Is there fresh, nutritious food in their refrigerator and pantry that is not expired?

- Is the senior capable of getting around safely? Look for unexplained bruises or minor injuries that may indicate they have been falling or having accidents recently.

- Are they wearing fresh, clean clothing each time you visit?

- Can they bathe themselves, groom adequately, and launder their clothes, towels and linens?

- When you look around the house or yard, is it as neat and clean as it used to be?

- Is the senior remembering to take their medications correctly, with the right dosages and at the right time? Warning signs include hospitalizations, stockpiled or expired medications, and pill boxes that are not current.

- Are they able to operate household appliances safely?

- Do they remember to turn kitchen appliances off when they are finished cooking?

- Is the home equipped with safety features and modifications for aging in place, such as grab bars and an emergency response system?

- Do they have a plan in place to summon help in case of an emergency?

- If they are still driving, are they doing so safely? Red flags include an increase in accidents and new dents or scratches on their vehicle. If they are no longer driving, do they have alternate means of transportation?



- Are they paying their bills on time and opening and disposing of mail in a timely manner? Look for stacks of mail, unpaid bills and past-due notices.

- Do they have friends, family or acquaintances whom they interact with regularly?

- Does the senior engage in any hobbies or activities that they enjoy?

- When you really look at this person, are they still active and vibrant like they were years ago, or do you see a more limited person who needs added help around the house and with their personal care needs?

If the answer to most of these questions is “no” or you are noticing some of the red flags listed above, then it may be time to begin researching local assisted living communities. Requesting a needs assessment through your local Area Agency on Aging will help you determine if your loved one is

a good fit for assisted living, or if a lower level of care (independent living community) or higher level (skilled nursing or memory care) may be appropriate.

Making the decision to move a senior into assisted living is difficult, but transitions are usually smoother when they happen sooner rather than later. This move may help keep your elderly loved one healthier, safer and perhaps even happier. After an initial adjustment period, many seniors find that they truly appreciate the higher level of support as well as the added opportunities for socialization, dining and activities. Furthermore, it means that there is a plan of care in place, which eases pressure on family members to provide ongoing hands-on care.

To learn more about choosing an assisted living facility for a loved one, read “Assisted Living Checklist: What to Look for in Senior Housing” at [agingcare.com](http://agingcare.com).

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# Mehalic's business offers safer bathing options

By Bill David

When Gary Mehalic was looking for a business to go into, he had only to look at his interest in helping seniors and combine it with his awareness of new options that were becoming available in bathtub design.

"I had senior friends who needed help in this area," he said, referring to the need for safer bathing options. "I also had an elderly grandmother who needed help, and I saw how dangerous it was for her to safely bathe."

Being an entrepreneur at heart, Mehalic had seen ads for walk-in bathtubs when they first came out. So, nine years ago he put these two ideas together and opened Bath Innovations Walk-In Bathtubs and Remodeling in Overland Park.

"Bathrooms have been proven to

be one of the most dangerous areas of a home, especially for seniors," he explained, adding that the danger of falls in the bathroom is increased by problems with balance, unsteadiness, side effects of medications, poor eyesight, poor lighting, objects on the floor that increase the danger of tripping, and even something as simple as slipping on a wet spot on the floor. "It is estimated that one in three seniors over the age of 65 will fall this year," Mehalic said, adding that one-fourth of all seniors who fracture a hip from a fall will die within six months of receiving the injury.

"This is a very important role we play in providing seniors with bathing safely in the comfort and privacy of their own home," he said. Not only seniors, but also people with injuries or disabilities can benefit

from the hydrotherapy that walk-in bathtub jets provide, promoting physical well-being and healing by relieving stress and the high blood pressure that may accompany it, increasing blood flow through the warm-water jets, and relieving pain and muscle tension. It also helps customers get a good night's sleep.

"I have had clients with pain issues, such as arthritis and fibromyalgia find much relief with our hydrotherapy system," Mehalic said. "Many people with chronic pain have difficulty getting a proper amount of sleep."

This problem can be alleviated by using a walk-in bathtub at bedtime, he explained.

In addition, walk-in bathtubs can help seniors remain in their own homes, and Mehalic's business also offers other kinds of home remodeling to help achieve this goal.

"This can be done by making needed modifications in areas of high risk, such as bathrooms and stairways," he said, adding that remodeling can be much more cost-effective than moving to another place such as an assisted living facility.

Mehalic believes that customers should carefully consider all of their bathtub options before making a choice.

"I have had people make the remark at their first glance, 'they're all about the same, aren't they?'" he said. "That could not be further than the truth."

Some tubs are cheaply made, he explained, adding that he only carries the highest quality of tubs and that they include the following features:

- One of the lowest step-ups (2 1/2 inches) in the industry, making it easier for people who find it difficult to lift their feet.
- There is a heavy-duty, dual-locking system, which ensures a very tight seal. Solid, no-leak, right- or left-hand oriented door.
- The tubs come in seven different sizes, and custom colors are available.

Mehalic said that his business provides accurate estimates without a high-pressure sales pitch, and also promises high-quality, professional installation. Nationwide shipping is available as well.

"We try to treat people like family," Mehalic said. "It's gotten me a lot of business, actually."

Treating customers like family comes naturally for Mehalic when it involves working with the senior population.

"They're down-to-earth, they're very transparent, and they are honest," he said. "It is very pleasant to work with them."

Mehalic can be reached at Bath Innovations Walk-In Bathtubs and Remodeling at 913-912-1750.



Gary Mehalic stands by a walk-in tub that he recently installed in Olathe. His business, Bath Innovations Walk-In Bathtubs and Remodeling, offers products that can help seniors remain in their own homes.



Bath Innovations Walk-In Bathtubs and Remodeling carries the highest quality walk-in tubs. The tubs include one of the lowest step-ups (2 1/2 inches) in the industry, a heavy-duty, dual-locking system, solid, no-leak, right- or left-hand oriented doors, and come in seven different sizes.

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# sports

## Olympic athlete takes bold stand over song: 'I want to glorify God'



Olympic athlete and this season's "Dancing With the Stars" contestant Jennie Finch refused to perform to a popular new Janelle Monae track on the show, citing her Christian faith and desire to honor God. The song, "Make Me Feel," is sexually suggestive and was deemed to be a "little too risqué" by the athlete. Finch was struggling with the song all through rehearsals until she finally made a phone call to producers saying she was not prepared to dance to such a sexually charged track.

The sexy song is from Monae's new album, "Dirty Computer." Music critics have called it a "bisexual anthem."

"It's not what I'm about. I need to follow who I am and stand up for what I believe in," Finch explained. She added: "I want to glorify God out there, and that just wasn't a great choice for me to do that."

The athlete later elaborated on her bold refusal, telling reporters that "just as

a mom, it's not something we listen to in our house. And my fans – my audience – is young girls," as reported by Us Weekly.

The All-American softball pitcher hopes that this courageous stand for her faith will inspire others, but mostly, her aim is to bring glory and honor to God in heaven. "I want to glorify God out there, and that just wasn't a great choice for me to do that," she explained.

This is apparently the first time a contestant has refused a dance song in the show's history. Despite it being a bit of a hassle for her dance partner and choreographer, Keo Motsepe, Finch is convinced that she made the right choice.

"We had it done on Wednesday pretty much. Completely, the whole thing," the former Olympian said of the dance routine. "So really, it fell on Keo's shoulders, and that's why I am so thankful for him stepping up to the challenge, because it wasn't easy. We changed it all."

"I don't know of anything more

# FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

By Rob Mooney

I consider myself to be old-school. My favorite athletes are guys that I watched while I was growing up, you know, Roger Staubach, John Elway, Ken Griffey Jr, George Brett, Michael Jordan. You get the picture.

I've always been under the assumption that there would never be better athletes playing than those that I liked. Elway, Griffey Jr, Jordan... ..arguably the best at their craft. But as I have gotten older, something strange has happened. I have begun to appreciate the simple things in sports. Sure, you could say that Jordan was great because he would take over a game and he made it look easy. How many times did you watch him play and you said, "he has that many points? Doesn't seem like it." Towards the end of his career, he would make his teammates better.

We've seen Elway do some incredible

things on the football field. We've also watched Brett become the face of the Royals during the heyday of the franchise. And we've all seen Junior, with the purest swing that the game has possibly seen, hit bombs and run down fly balls like they were hanging in the air for an eternity.



But what we witnessed last week as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Boston Celtics in seven games to head back the NBA Finals for the 4th consecutive year, was nothing less than spectacular.

James is averaging 34 points a game during the 2018 playoffs. He is also averaging 8.8 assists a game. He has taken over games and he basically beat the #1 seeded Toronto Raptors by himself. When the Celtics were making things difficult for him to score the ball, he found his teammates time and time again. Oh, did I mention that this trip to the NBA Finals

will be James eighth in a row?

Eight consecutive appearances in the NBA Finals. That's unheard of. Yeah, I know, he's only won the championship three times in his career, but come on, eight years in a row?

Jordan went to six NBA Finals. He won all six times he was there and he won the Finals MVP each time as well. That may never be duplicated. This will be James 9th appearance in the Finals and he has three wins and three MVP awards.

Let's look at a few regular season stats. Jordan scored 32,292 points during his 19 year career, averaging 1699 points a year. James has scored 28,787 during his 15 year career and he has averaged 1919 points a year. I expect James to surpass Jordan in the year 2020, barring injury. James has 1035 more rebounds than Jordan and he also has 1828 more assists than Jordan.

Even looking at all the numbers, I'm still a pro Jordan guy. But, during game 7 of the Cleveland-Boston series, I felt like I was watching one of the greatest of all time. Maybe he's not the greatest. Maybe Jordan is. Why don't we just appreciate them both for what they have accomplished in the NBA and enjoy these last few years of James' career.

empowering than a man sticking by a woman, and following her gut and her heart, not feeling comfortable, and I wouldn't be able to stand on that stage — I have a 5-year-old daughter — and be proud of what we're doing in the song choice that we had," Finch said.

Despite her dance partner having "had the whole choreography done" prior to the last-minute switch, she and Motsepe performed a cha-cha to the Daphne Willis song "Do It Like This" Monday night.

The judges seemed to appreciate Finch for being true to her convictions.

"I applaud you for choosing what felt right to you, and I think that's setting a

great example," judge Carrie Ann Inaba said following the performance.

"I had fun, and that's all that matters," Finch told the judges. "It was a fun, upbeat song."

Finch received a lot of online support for her decision:

"She did fantastic for having changed the song that late in the week! She followed her instincts, and that's great!" one person commented on a YouTube video of her dance.

"Kudos to Jennie for sticking to her guns regarding the provocative song. "Make Me Feel" is pretty sexual so I can see why she was uncomfortable," another

added.

"I think the season, especially with Jennie, working with an athlete is the best thing ever because she's a perfectionist. So everything she does she wants it to be perfect...It's a blessing and also pressure," said Motsepe. "A lot of pressure and a lot of hard work."

Finch and partner Motsepe were then eliminated from the competition just before the finale.

Finch, a softball pitcher who helped lead Team USA to a gold medal at the 2004 Summer Olympics, is a Christian and speaks often in public about her faith.

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## Youth Project Tournament supports youth programs in Topeka

The 21st Annual Topeka Youth Project's Tee Off for Youth Golf Tournament will take place Friday, June 15, 2018, at Village Greens Golf Course in Ozawkie. The tournament is sponsored by Reser's Fine Foods and other local organizations.

Registration will begin at 7:30 AM for the 4 Person Scramble format tournament. Breakfast burritos will be furnished along with drinks. Shotgun start is at 8:00 AM.

Lunch will be served after the tournament. Prizes will be awarded for 2 flights and 2 places, as well as Men's Longest Drive, Women's Longest Drive and Most Unusual Golfing Attire. There will also be Two \$500 Cash Prizes for Closest to the Pin awarded.

Entry Fees, which Include Green Fees, Cart Rental, Beverages and Lunch, are \$400 for a team; or \$425 for a team with a Hole Sponsor Sign. A Hole Sponsor Sign only is \$100.



Individual Golfers may enter for \$100.

A Golfer Package is available for \$20 that includes 2 Mulligans, John Daly Drive and 1 attempt at the \$500 hole. There will be two guaranteed payouts of \$500 each for closest to the pin prizes.

Topeka Youth Project (TYP) is a 501 C3 grassroots organization and has been serving the youth in our community since 1983. Their Mission is to empower youth in our community to become productive and responsible adults by providing constructive opportunities to prevent high risk behaviors.

Jobs for Young Adults (JYA) is the

backbone of TYP and has served over 6,000 young adults. JYA is an employment/life skills program with emphasis on drug and alcohol prevention. The youth become productive tax paying citizens in our community.

Youth Court and Youth Council are two other programs that benefit our youth and help prepare them for adulthood.

The funds from the golf tournament go directly to the programs of the Topeka Youth Project, where administration costs are only 10% of the budget. If you would like to support the youth project in our community by participating in the golf tournament, call 785-273-4141, or go to [TYPGolf18.wodifylive.com](http://TYPGolf18.wodifylive.com) to register for the tournament.

*"Success in golf depends less on strength of body than upon strength of mind and character"*

*– Arnold Palmer*



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785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org  
Sun. School 9:30 am  
Sun. Service 10:45 am  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**  
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka  
785-234-5545  
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9:30 & 11am  
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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286-1204  
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www.northland.cc.
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- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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233-3537 www.CommunityChurchKS.com  
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Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavelly 760-3513
  - 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**  
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www.wwnaz.org  
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354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com  
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Sunday Worship: 10:30am  
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- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**  
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www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com
- 22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH**  
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Topeka, KS 66608  
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234-1111 • FOGchurch.com
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# A Handy Guide to Starting a Home Remodel

(Family Features) Apprehension and inexperience keep many homeowners from pursuing renovation projects that would make their homes more functional, enjoyable and comfortable. Getting your hands dirty on the front end – with some planning and preparation – is the best blueprint for a successful home remodeling project.

To help you start your remodel on the right track, consider these tips from Gary White with JCPenney Home Services.

### Start with a plan

Although it may sound obvious, the first step really is to decide what you hope to accomplish with your renovation. At the least, begin to outline rough ideas to discuss with

an expert. Reaching out to contractors before you've determined a basic idea for your project can waste time and money. Spend time listing the features you must have, as well as some nice-to-haves if budget allows. Also think about overall functionality, design and layout. If you get overwhelmed or need ideas, don't hesitate to turn to online showrooms or magazines for inspiration.

### Set a budget

If the sky is the limit, skip ahead, but if you're like most homeowners, money matters. Have a clear idea of what you can afford to invest in your renovation before you get started, and if necessary, research the financ-



ing options available to you. Look for financing that provides deferred interest or low monthly payments to help manage the project cost. Setting a clear budget can help keep your contractors accountable, and it goes a long way toward ensuring you can enjoy your finished project without regret.

### Draw up the plans

To help set your plan in motion, there are numerous online tools you can utilize to simplify each step of the process including design, budgeting and more. If you're planning a home remodel, a comprehensive resource like JCPenneyHomeServices.com offers a one-stop-shop for bathroom remodeling, countertops, custom window treatments, flooring, heating and cooling, water heaters and whole-home water treatment.

### Involve a professional

Unless you have the time and skills, you'll want a licensed and insured contractor to lead the project when you're ready to get your renovation in motion. It can be wise to solicit multiple bids, not only to ensure you get the best value, but also to find someone whose work, style and experience is most in line with the needs of your project. After all, this person will be a big part of your life during a fairly stressful time period. Always check references and verify the contractor's standing with local associations.

### Get ready for work

Remember that you'll need to create a work environment that is safe for your contractors and protects your valuable possessions. Establish a clear path to the project space for easy access and removal of debris. Furniture, appliances, room furnishings, valuables and breakable items should be removed from both the path to the work site and the work site itself. If your

renovation project will involve an essential room, such as the kitchen or a bathroom, make alternate arrangements such as creating a makeshift kitchen with the bare necessities in another part of the house.



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 Annette's Tip:  
 With above normal temperatures and afternoon/evening thunderstorms, fungal diseases on your plants is inevitable. Rust on crabapple and peach trees, blight on tomatoes, and brown patch in your lawn will soon be appearing. For fungus diseases, prevention is best. Stop in now for advice on how to prevent the problems, rather than waiting for the disease to appear.  
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Wholesale Priced!

**Smokin' Blowout Specials!**

- Max Pop Firecrackers Box of 36 - \$1.99
- 10 Ball Roman Candles w/Report - Pkg of 4 - \$1.25
- Opening Flower Happy Bird - \$1.25
- Tanks - Box of 12 Just \$3.99
- 1,000 Roll Firecrackers - \$3.99
- Mystery 500 Gram Cake - \$14.99
- Cracklin Balls Bag of 6 - \$3.39
- 9" Variety Fountains - \$1.25

**Gumball Blast**  
Bubblegum Machine hits the jackpot with vivid rainbow colored balls & new colored lava balls



**\$3.99**

**Loyal OR Hands Up**  
(no photo available)



**\$24.99**  
**\$39.98 for both**  
500 Grams

**Dragons Spit Fire**  
Great Item!



19 shots!  
Crackling Tail!  
Just **\$3.99**

**COUPON**

**SNAFU**  
9 shots!

Competitor price \$4.99  
Our normal price \$2.99  
With coupon price: **\$.99**



**COUPON**

Must be 18 to redeem. Limit 1 per coupon, per customer. Exp. July 2, 2018

**Jumping Skier**  
Hot Winda Item!!



Blowout Priced at **\$34.99**

Quantities available while supplies last. Actual product may vary from pictures shown.