



LEFEVRE QUARTET

LEFEVRE QUARTET

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CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN NORTHEAST KANSAS

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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Family of God Church

See inside back cover!

Night to Shine is back for 2024



Grace Community Church will host Night to Shine on February 9th at Fairlawn Plaza, from 6-9 pm. This free event, which is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, is for teens and adults ages 14 and older with special needs.

Every guest enters this complimentary event on the red carpet complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi. Once inside, guests will receive the royal treatment, including hair touch-ups, makeup stations, shoe-shining areas, limousine rides, corsages or boutonnieres, a catered dinner, prom favors, and a

■ Please see SHINE page 3



Are You Ready to Lay Your Burden Down?

There are millions of people carrying such heavy burdens all across our world. They cannot sleep at night and wake up tired. They have regular appointments with their counselors. Hobbies and exercise are strategies to find relief. Drugs and alcohol are an escape. Screen time with social media is a diversion from the pres-

sure. What burden are you carrying and for how long? Can I tell you that there is someone who is willing to help you with your burden? I know you have heard of Him – Jesus.

Once He was invited to dinner at a religious leader's home where other guests also came. Together they sat down to eat and began

visiting. At the time, Jesus' fame as a preacher had spread, and so word circulated quickly where He was. A certain prostitute who had heard of Jesus, learned of His whereabouts. She made her way to the house, managed to get inside and found herself standing before Jesus and the other guests. She

■ Please see BURDEN page 2

City of Topeka announces emergency to battle potholes



Due to recent weather conditions creating countless potholes on city streets, Public Works Director Braxton Copley has declared a temporary emergency for pothole patching. All City of Topeka Street Department crews will focus their time and efforts on pothole repairs beginning January 30, 2024.

"We understand that drivers are frustrated and we are going to do our best to get potholes temporarily patched as quickly as possible," Copley said.

All Street Department staff, including members of the night crew, will be work-

■ Please see POTHoles page 2

Huge Christian college fair is Feb. 24 in Kansas City

Christian universities from across the nation will visit Kansas City Feb. 4 for the largest Christian College fair in the Midwest.

The 26th annual Christian College Expo will feature up to 60 Christian colleges and universities from 17 states for this 2-hour event that runs 10 a.m. to Noon, Saturday, February 24. The college fair is free to the public and is held at Colonial Presbyterian Church, located at 9500 Wornall Rd. in South

Kansas City, Mo. The large suburban church has served as the location for 25 of the 26 years because of its convenience to both Kansas and Missouri students.

In addition, back by popular demand is a 1-hour mini-seminar titled, "Navigating Faith and Science in College." It begins at 9 am and runs until 10 with time for questions afterward. Students will be encouraged and in-

■ Please see COLLEGE FAIR page 3



Topeka EasterFest returns for 9th Year

Topeka EasterFest – the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Fun Fair – returns to Great Overland Station for 2024, with more fun than ever! The annual event began in Gage Park in 2014, then moved to Garfield Park in North Topeka in 2017. This year, the 9th Annual EasterFest will be held Saturday, March 30 (the day before Easter), with a parade on North Kansas Avenue that runs from Garfield Park to the NOTO Arts District, followed by the Big Egg Hunt and Fun Fair at Great Overland Station.

Two to three thousand people have attended the event in the past to watch the parade, visit the Fun Fair, listen to live music, visit over 100 vendor & exhibit booths, attend the Health Fair and take part in the egg hunt or other activities.

Every year, dozens of churches, businesses and non-profit organizations take part in the parade, and set up vendor booths and kids' games as part of the

family fun fair. There have been lots of floats with a variety of themes, and all shapes and sizes of other vehicles, as well as walking entries such as schools, military groups, marching bands and more. The event is coordinated by C5Alive.

"We've had a great response and new entries each year at EasterFest," said Kevin Doel, one of the organizers. "I expect it to just keep growing every year."

Again this year the Easter Parade will be on North Kansas Avenue, from Garfield Park to NOTO Arts District, followed by

the Big Egg Hunt and Fun Fair at the Great Overland Station.

This year there will also be a 5K Run/Walk held before the parade along the same route, beginning at 9am in Garfield Park.

From 10am to 3pm, live music, vendor booths, food trucks and kid's activities will be happening all over the grounds and inside Great Overland Station. This year, even more churches, non-profit organizations, schools and local businesses are expected to enter floats and marching bands, etc., in the parade, as well as set up activity booths at the fun fair.



The Family Fun Fair will consist of activities geared toward children and families, as well as health & wellness vendor booths, vendor exhibits, and more. Live performers will be on hand all day, such as live music acts, dance troupes, street entertainers, health & fitness demonstrators and more.

Back are the ever-popular cupcake walks, along with face painting, petting zoo and food trucks.

There is still room for more EasterFest sponsors and participants for the Vendor Market, Entertainment Stage, Food Court and Health Fair. Volunteers are also needed to help with the entire event.

Major sponsors for EasterFest 2022 include Ernest-Spencer Metals, Stormont Vail Health, Emerald City Cosmopolitan Clun, Kaw Valley Bank, Hutton Monuments, SERVPRO, Health & Wellness Magazine, Big Phil's Auto, SoulFire Nutrition, College HUNKS Movers, Kansas Fencing, and more.

Media partners and sponsors include TV25, WIBW, WREN Digital Media, Majic 107.7, Apha Media, KFGB 97.7 FM, Metro Voice and more.

For more information or to volunteer, visit Topeka EasterFest 2024 on Facebook, email info@C5Alive.org or call 785-640-6399.

POTHoles

continued from page 1

ing overtime to patch potholes through-

out the city this week. Staff will re-evaluate the situation at the end of the week and continue working overtime hours at full staff the next week, if necessary.

Crews will begin patching emergency,

arterial, and collector routes first, as those roadways see the most traffic. Once those routes are complete, patching units will move into residential areas. SeeClickFix ticket submissions will also be used to

help identify which residential areas crews may respond to first.

During the winter months, crews use a cold mix asphalt to fill potholes. Patches made with cold mix material are

expected to be temporary, designed as a stop-gap measure to keep our streets serviceable. When the weather warms, city crews are able to use a hot mix asphalt to make longer-lasting repairs.

BURDEN

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stood without saying a word and then began weeping. So much, that her tears fell on Jesus' feet. Seeing that, she bent down and began to wipe the tears off with her hair.

During the whole process, the religious leaders were incensed at the woman and Jesus. Noticing this, Jesus spoke to the dinner host, addressing his attitude toward her, then turned back to the woman and said, "Your sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:48) That angered the leaders even more. Then

He spoke one final word before she humbly slipped out, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." (Luke 7:50)

The prostitute was looking for something, just like all the guests in the room were. But when she heard of Jesus, something awakened inside her that no doubt said, "This is it!" And she overcame the barriers before her to get to Jesus, and when she came to Him, He did not disappoint.

She found forgiveness for all the wrongs she had done. The guilt and shame she had been trying to outrun was finally washed away.

And how did that happen? Faith.

It is interesting to note, what Jesus

did not say. He did not refer to anything about religion, morality, goodness or education. Just faith. He did not mention personal will-power, having a positive attitude, perseverance or working hard. Just faith. And what is faith? It was the woman's complete and total trust in Jesus, which she demonstrated through her coming to Him. She did not care what others thought or how difficult it might be. She was willing to make a fool of herself to get to Jesus. Whatever it took. With the deepest conviction she knew He could give her what she was searching for, yet she received something so much greater.

We are all naturally wired to be independent. We see this when we need something, for we will figure out a way to get it. It might come through hard work and determination, or through more nefarious means like stealing, manipulation or deceit. Either way, by ethical or unethical channels, we will get it.

Faith in Jesus is opposite. The woman did not trust in herself or others, but demonstrated a desperate and determined faith in Christ, and consequently, her life was instantly transformed. She came believing that her life of prostitution was wrong. She was willing to leave it behind and

came to Christ in humbleness, seeking His mercy, for she knew He could save her. She was confident Jesus was sufficient for all she needed.

Follow this woman's example. In resolute and unwavering faith, lay your burden down at Jesus' feet and receive His forgiveness and peace.

—Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings and Speaking Truth is a nationally syndicated column. Please share your comment with Clint at cdecker@greatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com.

Bleeding Kansas program returns

Historic Lecompton is gearing up for six weeks of programs, getting you in touch with the territorial war and Civil War-era history of the area.

The 2024 Bleeding Kansas program series features six weeks of talks and dramatic interpretations focusing on the area's history from 1854-1865.

Tim Rues, site administrator for Constitution Hall State Historic Site, says what happened in Kansas during this timeframe was critical to the nation's history.

The programs begin at 2 p.m. each Sunday, starting Jan. 28 through March 3. They're held at Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 El-



more St., Lecompton. A suggested donation of \$5 is requested.

You can find the list of program

topics at www.lecomptonkansas.com or the "Historic Lecompton" page on Facebook.

Mike Patton Named Managing Partner of Patton & Patton, Chartered

Patton & Patton, Chartered, a Topeka law firm with a 40-year legacy of providing exceptional legal services, has announced that Mike Patton has been named the new Managing Partner. This strategic leadership transition comes as the firm continues to strengthen its commitment to delivering justice to clients dealing with accident injuries, estate planning, divorce, or custody issues.

Mike Patton, stepping into the role previously held by his father, Joe Patton, brings a renewed vision to the firm while upholding the values and principles that

have been its cornerstone. "I am humbled by the responsibility to lead this firm," said Mike Patton. "We will continue to serve our clients as we always have, with deep care, respect, and excellence. When someone comes to our firm, they need to know that their law firm can help them set things right. That's called justice, and we are passionate about providing justice for our clients."

Joe Patton, the firm's founder, is not retiring but will shift his focus to concentrate more on litigation. This change is expected to enhance the firm's capabilities in providing top-tier legal services. "My

dad, Joe Patton, has created a firm that excels in seeking justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God, as inspired by our firm verse, Micah 6:8. I am so grateful to be carrying on that legacy with him," added Mike Patton.

The firm also announced the hiring of Michelle Egbert, a graduate of UMKC School of Law, who brings her expertise and enthusiasm to the team, further strengthening the firm's ability to serve its clients effectively.

For more information about Patton & Patton, Chartered and its services, please visit joepatton.com

SHINE

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dance floor...all leading up to the moment when each guest is crowned king or queen of the prom!

Every guest is paired with one of our volunteers who is 16 or older who is called a "Buddy." A Buddy is assigned 1:1 with a guest and they eat, dance, and accompany their guest throughout the evening to make sure that each guest's needs are met. Each Buddy has submitted a background check for the safety of

every guest. Each guest will be paired with a Buddy of the same gender unless otherwise specified by the guest's guardian or parent.

Due to the overwhelming response over the last two years, the biggest volunteer need is a team of "Buddies." Buddies are volunteers (16 and older) who are assigned 1:1 with a guest (teen or adult with special needs) to eat, dance, and accompany their guest throughout the evening to make sure that each guest's needs are met. In 2019, a team of over 200 buddies was needed. More volunteers will be needed this year.

hand to answer questions and distribute information. The fair has become an annual tradition for students curious about the academics, sports, and cultural life of private schools, plus the growing number of scholarships available. It is expected that 2023 will see a record amount of financial aid scholarships offered by Christian colleges across the nation.

All students and parents receive a complimentary edition of the 2024 Col-

lege Guide and Directory.

For those not comfortable volunteering as a buddy, there are a few other volunteer roles available to help make this night extra special for the guests. Every volunteer must submit a background check to Grace Community Church in order to volunteer. If you have volunteered in the last 2 years, you do not need to submit another background check. If you have not volunteered before, you can either submit a copy of a completed background check from your employer/volunteer organization or contact info@gcctopeka.org.

lege Guide and Directory.

The expo is sponsored by the Metro Voice and VisionIsrael.org. Metro Voice has become the most reliable Christian news source in the midwest and has grown into a national audience. Vision-Israel organizes and leads tours to the Holy Land for young adult believers and hosts programs across the region on Holocaust education.

For more call 816-524-4522 or check out the Facebook Event Page.

C5Alive February 8th Power Luncheon will feature Pastor Cecil Washington

The February C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held on the 8th at the Harley Room, 21st & Topeka Blvd. Featured speaker is Pastor Cecil Washington, who has just finished a biography.

The cost is \$15 for C5 members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$17 at the door. Repeat guests pay \$20. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.



Washington

profits and churches.

Upcoming luncheon dates are Mar. 14 and Apr. 11.

C5 also hosts other periodic events, including **EASTERFEST**, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Fun Fair, held on N. Kansas Avenue and at **Great Overland Station** on the day before Easter. The 2024 date for EasterFest is March 30.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons

"POWER" luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public. C5Alive is dedicated to creating Christian culture in the Capital City, by developing and uniting Christian Leadership in community businesses, non-

and other events as a way to promote their organizations. C5 is currently holding a membership drive with special incentives for new members.

For more information about C5, go to www.facebook.com/C5Alive, C5Alive.org, or call 785-640-6399.

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COLLEGE FAIR

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spired as they learn that faith and science are not in opposition. Students will be given the tools to boldly and confidently enter the academic science fields and future careers. Seating is limited to 100 students and parents.

College admissions staff will be on

Letters from 'Daisy' - No. 8

Below is another article from someone I have been working with, who is going by the name, "Daisy". As I saw how writing was so healing for Daisy, I believe God has prompted me to help facilitate her being able to share her journey with you. I believe it will not only be healing for her, but also for many of those who read what she has to say. If you would want to write to Daisy, you can send your email to, shane@shanemjones.com, and I will forward it to her.

Shane M. Jones, LSCSW

Shane M. Jones & Associates, P.A.

#8... My story continues.

In my last article I was dealing with something that has plagued me for three decades. I had gone back to self-harm over Thanksgiving break. After my injuries over Thanksgiving, I was very afraid that Christmas would be even worse. If you could see my hand, it couldn't get much worse. I was afraid I would abuse myself even worse than I had before at Thanksgiving.

As I write, this Christmas and New Years have come and gone, and I couldn't be more elated.

Having last seen my therapist on December 20th, I was on my own for 13 days. You will never know just how long those days were. At my session on the third I was able to proudly say that I had not self-harmed one time in those thirteen days.

I'm not going to say it was easy,

but my therapist gave me a good reason to abstain from hurting myself. If I had self-injured my therapy session would have to be virtual, not face to face in his office. This was enough to convince myself that harming myself was just not worth it. I had several more stressors that, combined, sent me reeling. I don't think I have ever felt more overwhelmed and even they still have not been cleared up.

In addition, I am needing to find employment. I stopped working as my anxiety had made me unable to function. I am concerned that my anxiety has gotten worse. That puts me in a quandary as I need the money to help pay my bills, yet I'm terrified to fail at one more job. I think about who's paying for everything now and the need for a job intensifies. I want to be able to provide for myself more than anything. However, I am unsure as to if I am both physically and emotionally able.

So now I'm focusing on finding employment and working with my therapist to help me face this challenge. It gives me anxiety just thinking about it! Being independent is something I want greatly, for I don't want to be financially dependent on someone else anymore.

Being dependent on someone takes away a lot of personal control.

Being both independent and self-sufficient are very important to me. Due to extenuating circumstances,

I find myself dependent on someone and I don't like it. I have to ask for everything I need because they're the one with the money and most times if it's not a necessity I usually don't get it.

I am in the process of filling out job applications to places I feel would be easy on the anxiety and emotions. I must be able to not freak out before I get there and be able to function and excel at the job I was hired for. I need to be able to take a situation, break it down into smaller jobs and in the end get everything done that I am responsible for. To some, getting up and going to work is just routine. They don't dwell on what could go wrong or let anxiety render them unable to work. I want to be seen as dependable, responsible, and available whenever I am needed without a line of excuses as to why I am unable to do what is needed.

So, wish me luck. It's been a few years since I last worked so hopefully my transition from unemployed to employed goes off as successfully as possible, and I will be able to take care of myself. I will have my own money that I worked for thus giving control back to me. Hopefully next month I can tell you I'm gainfully employed, starting to pay for myself and enjoying what I'm doing.

More to come...

-Daisy



Pro-life Kansans unite for compassion-driven agenda



On Wednesday, January 24, thousands of members of the pro-life movement met at the Kansas State Capitol for the annual March and Rally for Life.

The event clearly showed the movement's unwavering support for unified pro-life action that prioritizes care, compassion, and legislative policies that will actually save lives.

Jeanne Gawdun, Kansans for Life Director of Government Relations, provided an overview of KFL's 2024 legislative priorities, which focus on proposals that protect the safety of women and provide resources for women who choose life for their babies.

Gawdun noted that Kansans for Life will work collaboratively with engaged pro-life citizens from across the state to call upon elected officials to:

- Enact life-affirming tax reforms
- Protect women from coerced abortions
- Safeguard women's health through the Ultrasound Safety Act
- Protect and expand "Alternatives to Abortion" funds
- Begin child support at conception
- Improve abortion reporting

"Now, more than ever, is the time for Kansans to focus on policies that will actually save lives in spite of the Kansas Supreme Court's extreme 2019 Hodes

ruling," said Mackenzie Haddix, KFL Deputy Director of Communications.

"With abortion industry statistics showing exponential increases of up to 20,000 abortions performed in Kansas in 2023, it is clear far too many women are being pushed to believe abortion is their only choice. Our legislative agenda seeks to provide compassionate help for any woman in need," said Haddix.

Featured speaker Tatiana Bergum, human trafficking victim advocate from Montana, travels around the country to collaborate with others on the subject. She spoke on the connections between coerced abortion, human trafficking, and the abortion industry.

Kansas Senate President Ty Masterson and Kansas House Speaker Dan Hawkins also addressed the crowd, while pro-life legislators stood in support of the shared life-saving agenda. Hawkins mentioned the pro-life bills passed last year, which had to overcome Go. Laura Kelly's veto. Three of the bills passed with a veto override. Masterson talked about the born-alive bill, which protects babies born alive from being killed, and the women's right-to-know bill, which makes sure women know the facts about abortion and the abortion pill. He said it was incredulous that there even had to be a bill passed to ensure these rights.

Many organizations and individuals came together at the March and Rally for Life to show unity and dedication to the cause.

"Today's rally shows the pro-life movement will continue to work, day and night, to protect life, defend both mother and child, and provide what the abortion industry never will — authentic care and compassion for women facing unexpected pregnancies," said Danielle Underwood, KFL Director of Communications.



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Two-thirds of Americans support pro-life legislation: poll



Political pundits say the abortion issue will favor Democrats in the 2024 elections. But a new poll sepa-

rates fact from fiction on Americans' opinions on pro-life issues.

The 2024 Knights of Columbus-

Marist Poll results offer a “consistent consensus” showing backing for legal restrictions on abortion. The survey found that two-thirds of respondents back limitations on abortion, with the majority also supporting capping the procedure at three months of pregnancy. Just 29 percent of Americans indicated they believe abortion should be legally permissible at any point in a pregnancy.

Adding to these findings, Americans also overwhelmingly — nearly 90 percent — believe it’s possible to have laws protecting both a woman and her unborn child. Overall, the percentage calling themselves pro-life is

at 40 percent, up one percentage point from the previous year’s polling.

“This year’s poll makes clear that a consistent consensus of Americans supports legal restrictions on abortion, and an overwhelming majority support pregnancy resource centers, which assist mothers and their children in greatest need,” the organization’s Partick Kelly said. “I’m very proud that our Knights across the United States, and Canada have raised more than \$7 million to support these vital centers through our ASAP, or Aid and Support After Pregnancy program.”

As CBN News has reported, pro-life pregnancy centers have come under assault, both rhetorically and physically, since 2022, the year the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court case that legalized abortion across the country. The high court’s Dobbs decision sent abortion back to the states, igniting newfound debates around the issue and shifting legislative efforts among both pro-life and pro-choice advocates.

The poll results, released every January, were based on interviews with 1,371 U.S. adults.

Churches must tackle porn, says app founder

The use of pornography has become a “civilizational crisis” that churches need to address, according to Ronald DeHaas, founder and CEO of the accountability app Covenant Eyes.

DeHaas, who also serves as clerk and an elder in his Michigan church, pointed to a 2016 Barna study that found that although porn addiction is rampant among churchgoing Christians, most churches do not have programs specifically designed to assist those struggling

with porn use.

The landmark study conducted in partnership with the Josh McDowell Ministry found that 93 percent of pastors and 94 percent of youth pastors discern that porn is a bigger problem in churches than it was 20 years ago and that 57 percent of pastors and 64 percent of youth pastors have personally struggled with it, either currently or in the past. Of the pastors who were still using porn, 87 percent said they felt great shame about it, and 55 per-

cent said they live in constant fear of being discovered.

Seventy percent of the youth pastors who participated in the study said they have had at least one teenager come to them for help with porn addiction in the past year. The majority who sought help were high school or middle school boys, though many said the problem is also emerging among girls.

“They need to be talking about it, they need to recognize that most of the 12-year-old kids in their church have already viewed pornography,” DeHaas says. “Some of the 12-year-old kids are probably addicted to pornography.”

He noted that among the approximately 850 applicants for last year’s Covenant Eyes scholarship, which potentially offers \$5,000 to full-time college students who use the software, the vast majority revealed in the first sentence of their essay that they were either addicted or profoundly struggling with pornography by the age of 12.

“We’re talking about, by and large, Christian families and 12-year-old kids in Christian families who are struggling with pornography,” DeHaas said. “And so, this has become their sex training, their sex education. And the boys, of course, are learning, ‘This is how I’m supposed to treat girls,’ and the girls



are learning, ‘This is how I’m supposed to be treated.’ And so, it’s not good. It really isn’t.”

DeHaas said the importance of accountability in the battle against porn addiction is crucial. He urged those who are struggling with despair regarding their habit to be transparent with another person, which is a key aspect of the Covenant Eyes app.

“When you’re transparent about it, you realize everybody around you is struggling,” he said. “You’re not alone, and there is an answer. And that ultimate answer is Jesus Christ. But if you go into the recovery process with an ally and you focus on Christ, that really is the hope. There is hope, and there is success. Faith and transparency are the keys.”



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davesays

AN EMERGENCY FUND ISN'T ABOUT INSTANT GRATIFICATION

Dear Dave,

We've all our debts paid off, except for our home, and our fully funded emergency fund of six months of expenses is in place. In talking to people, it seems there are lots of different opinions as to what constitutes an emergency. What guidelines do you suggest when deciding whether to use our emergency fund?

— Ingrid

Dear Ingrid,

There are three things to ask yourself when you're tempted to dip into your emergency fund. One, is it unexpected? Things like Christmas, birthdays and even certain bills come around at the same time every year. If you're not already budgeting for these things, it's time to start. Otherwise, you

might use your emergency fund for something that's just the result of poor planning.

Number two, is it absolutely necessary? Most of us think we know the difference between needs and wants, but sometimes the line gets a little blurry. If your car goes completely kaput, and you need transportation, use your emergency fund to buy something affordable and reliable you can pay cash for. But don't dip into your emergency fund just to upgrade your good car for one with a million bells and whistles. That's a want, not a need.

And three, is it urgent? Sometimes, you have act like a grown-up. Every idea that pops into your mind isn't unexpected, necessary or urgent. You can live that way if you want, but the result will be a quickly depleted emergency fund. Then, what're you going to do when a real emergency comes along?

Practice the art of patience. Avoid impulse buys. Urgent things include stuff like a broken air conditioner in the middle of summer, a busted transmission or sudden, unexpected medical expenses. A big sale at Wal Mart? No. Concert tickets? Definitely not. That great new pair of shoes you just saw in a store window? Give me a break!

Your emergency fund is about long-term security, not instant gratification. Don't use it on a whim. But don't be afraid to use it when you really need to!

— Dave

Finding Money That is Falling Through the Cracks

By Roger Shumaker
Smartvestor Pro at
The Retirement Team



For many people there is a huge disconnect between their tax professional and their Investment Advisor, which can oftentimes result in them paying more tax than what is legally required. When was the last time that your Tax Professional and Investment Advisor got together to review your tax situation? One challenge is that many tax professionals are historians; they report what has already happened. They may not look for tax planning opportunities, and they typically do not know what your investments look like. On the other hand, Investment Advisors know about your investments, but may not know the details of your tax returns. Tax planning recommendations may be vague, such as "You should convert some of your Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA," and lack specifics about how much to convert and any potential income tax ramifications. Many firms do not allow their advisors to perform any sort of tax planning. While both of these professionals may be very good at their respective crafts, they may fail to work as a team to marry your tax plan with your investment plan. At The Retirement Team, we can coordinate with our own in-house tax professional in order to potentially keep money from needlessly falling through the cracks.

Traditional IRA to Roth IRA conversions can be a powerful planning tool. Prior to implementing a conversion, it is wise to know of any tax consequences versus doing a conversion blindly and hoping that it does not come back to haunt you on tax filing day. For example, your Social Security is currently not taxable income to the State of Kansas if your Federal Adjusted Gross Income is under \$75,000. So, it is very possible that one dollar of income could cost several thousand in Kansas income tax. We have seen this happen many times when we reviewed past years of tax returns for our new clients. There are other threshold income numbers that you need to be conscious of:

1. The central pillar of Social Security (SS) taxation is income. If you are single and 1/2 of your SS plus other income is less than \$25,000, (and \$32,000 for married filing jointly), then your SS is not taxable on your federal tax return. If your income is over these amounts,

then up to 85% of your SS could be included as income and taxed.

2. As discussed above, you also should be conscious of the \$75,000 adjusted gross income number regarding how it pertains to the taxation of your SS to Kansas.

3. If your income is above a certain threshold, you will also be subject to IRMAA, which is a surcharge to increase your Part B and D Medicare premium amounts. Below is a chart of these charges:

In conclusion, having a Financial Plan that does not include a Tax Plan is like having a screen door on a submarine. Call The Retirement Team today to discuss the advantages of having a plan that looks to minimize taxes in your own Financial Plan. Roger can be contacted at 785-228-0222.

Material discussed is meant for general/informational purposes and is not intended to be used as the sole basis for any financial decisions, nor be construed

IRMAA for 2024

*Source Kiplinger.com

Single	Married filing jointly	Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount	Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount
Less than or equal to \$103,000	Less than or equal to \$206,000	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greater than \$103,000 and less than or equal to \$129,000	Greater than \$206,000 and less than or equal to \$258,000	\$69.90	\$12.90
Greater than \$129,000 and less than or equal to \$161,000	Greater than \$258,000 and less than or equal to \$322,000	\$174.70	\$33.30
Greater than \$161,000 and less than or equal to \$193,000	Greater than \$322,000 and less than or equal to \$386,000	\$279.50	\$53.80
Greater than \$193,000 and less than \$500,000	Greater than \$386,000 and less than \$750,000	\$384.30	\$74.20
Greater than or equal to \$500,000	Greater than or equal to \$750,000	\$419.30	\$81.00

4. Changes have been made to the Residential Energy Tax Credits for 2023. Be sure to consult your tax advisor to see if you qualify for any of these credits.

5. Many people are unaware that you have the option to itemize your deductions on your Kansas tax return, while taking the large standard deduction on your Federal tax return.

*This is not intended to provide tax advice, please consult your tax professional, IRS.gov and/or KsRevenue.gov for details.

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How to Pass Along a Tradition of Giving to Your Children

By Jim Hanna



Hanna

The changing calendar presents an opportunity to reflect, adjust and begin again in the direction of your goals. Consider completing this checklist to ensure your financial outlook is as bright as it can be in the New Year.

- Review income and expenses. Has your income changed over the past year? Did you experience any unexpected expenses? Inflation has made an impact on most households; look back to identify where your bank balance was most affected. If your spending has strayed from past financial goals, the New Year is a good time to reset and start fresh. Tally subscriptions and end non-essential or low priority services. Isolate problem areas and set realistic targets going forward.

- Review your investments. Market conditions from the past year may have affected your investment portfolio. Are you still satisfied with the amount and diversity of your holdings? Schedule an annual review with your financial advisor to gain personalized recommendations on your investment strategy. This meeting is also an appropriate time to discuss other areas of your financial life and determine if your risk tolerance, time horizon or goals have changed.

- Confirm beneficiary designations. It is important to ensure all your beneficiary designations are correct. When you die, assets without designations are placed into probate, which means the court determines

the recipient according to inheritance laws. The process can be slow and costly. A life event such as marriage, divorce, adoption, or birth of a child can affect your beneficiary designations. If any notable events happened in the last year, now can be a great time to confirm your beneficiaries are still accurate.

- Evaluate insurance coverage. Insurance can help protect the financial security of your family when things don't go as planned. Home, life, medical, auto, disability—all of these coverages can help restore the financial impact of an unexpected event. Conversely, the lack of these coverages can leave you financially vulnerable. Talk to your financial advisor about insurance plans that allow you to build resources for the future.

- Prepare for tax time. Gather documents you'll need to complete your taxes. Account for all earnings, including realized capital gains. Itemize deductions, if applicable. If you expect a tax refund, the sooner you file, the better, as it allows you to invest your return if you wish. If you anticipate a tax bill, plan now for the disbursement.

- Evaluate short-term and long-term financial goals. Vacations, weddings, welcoming a child, home improvements, a new car, retirement—many of the things that enrich our lives also come with a price tag. Be sure you're on track with plans that require financial commitment.

This checklist is a great place to start to ensure your financial priorities are set for the upcoming year. Working with a seasoned financial

advisor can help you determine if your financial goals have changed over the last year and develop a plan to ensure you feel confident for the new year to come.

Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®, is a Private Wealth Advisor and Certified Kingdom Advisor® with Heart Financial Partners a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Topeka KS. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for over 25 years.

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A special day for your Sweetheart

Are you ready to make your love's heart leap on Valentine's Day? Our guide to a great Valentine's Day will provide you with ideas and tips that will make your Valentine's Day a success.

Tips for a smooth Valentine's Day:

- Tell your special someone how much you care about them
- Be thankful – it's always appreciated
- Plan ahead – babysitters, reservations, and other things that need done
- Turn off your cell phones – enjoy this time together

Gift Ideas:

Candy and Flowers and Jewelry:

- Visit Hazel Hill Chocolate for a unique chocolate treat, or contact a local bakery and order their favorite cookies or other treat.
- Surprise your special someone with a bouquet of favorite flowers or balloons
- Dazzle him/her with a piece of jewelry from Donaldson's Jewelers or other local jeweler
- Make a list of all the things you love about him/her

Gift basket for her:

- Get a gift certificate for a massage or trip to a salon or spa.
- Pick up a candle for a candle-lit bath.
- Find her favorite book at one of Topeka's bookshops for her to enjoy during her quiet time
- Buy her a personalized gift from a local shop, or Personally Yours.

Gift basket for him:

- Buy his favorite candy bars and personalize it with "Udaman" wrappers
- Include miniature bottles or cans of his favorite drink and personalize them with valentine's day labels
- Create a ticket book with tickets for him to use at his leisure
- Include a new favorite movie, C.D., or video game he's been wanting

Dinner:

- Avoid the Valentine's Day rush - create a romantic meal at home



- Go to a restaurant where you share special memories
- Get dinner and a room, and enjoy the indoor pool or other activities

Dates:

- Laugh together at a comedy show.
- Enjoy a romantic movie at home from Netflix, RedBox, or one you already own. While watching, share your favorite treat and glass of wine or sparkling cider. Include a massage.
- Enjoy a night of music and dancing before or after dinner at one of Topeka's nightspots.



- Spend uninterrupted time together with a romantic getaway at a local retreat spot.

Heart-Healthy Valentine's Day Tips

Your sweetheart may have the key to your heart, but eating healthy and being physically active can be the key to a healthier heart. This Valentine's Day, indulge your sweetheart with a heart-healthy gift or date.

Rather than going overboard with sweets, also consider a gift that has more permanence. Search for a poem that describes your feelings and write it on beautiful paper for a handmade Valentine. Or visit www.ShopHeart.org for gift ideas that benefit the American Heart Association.

Quality time is one of the most meaningful gifts. Bundle up and plan an active outing such as sledding, ice skating, gathering wood for a fire, or if you're feeling adventurous, visit an indoor rock wall.

If your kids are having a Valentine's Day party at their school or day care, instead of sending candies, consider raisins, grapes, whole-grain pretzels, colored pencils or stickers as tokens of their friendly affection.

Cooking at home is an excellent way to control what and how much you eat. Take a date to a local cooking class to practice your skills or learn a new technique.

Prepare a romantic candlelit dinner at home using a heart-healthy recipes.

Give to one another by giving back. Ask a date to volunteer with you at a local organization. Giving back is a healthy habit that can boost your mood and help beat stress.

Use this day as an opportunity to tell your loved one how important they are to you, and share ways that you can support each other's health and wellness. Get started by taking the My Life Check Assessment.

Craving something sweet? Gift a beautiful fresh fruit basket to your loved one or consider more healthy sweets such as dark chocolate. Did you know that daily consumption of dark choco-

late is linked with a lower risk of heart disease and stroke in high-risk individuals? It seems that cocoa, a primary ingredient in chocolate, contains antioxidant compounds called flavanoids. Flavanoids have antihypertensive and anti-inflammatory effects, which can reduce the heart's stress and result in lower blood pressure. So indulge your inner chocoholic with a moderate piece of dark chocolate each day.

Sharing is caring – if you go out for a romantic dinner date, order one entrée to share. Many restaurant servings are enough for two – splitting will keep you from overdoing it.

Don't forget to love Fido, too! Give your pet a Valentine and remember to walk or exercise them daily – getting active with your pet will benefit your health and your bond with your pets.

Take it slow – if you receive a luxurious box of chocolates from your sweetie, stick it in the freezer and enjoy in moderation over the next several weeks.

Take a long, romantic walk with your beloved – and try to make it a regular habit. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderately intense physical activity each week to help keep your heart healthy. You can reach this goal by walking briskly for at least 30 minutes five days each week.

Check out some

tips online for healthier preparation methods for cooking.

Rekindle an old flame – try preparing one of your sweetie's favorite recipes in a healthier way. These healthy substitutions can help you cut down on saturated fats, trans fats, salt, and added sugars, while noticing little, if any, difference in taste.

Working out together can be fun. Strength training increases blood flow, builds lean muscle, and lowers blood pressure and cholesterol. Choose a weight-training routine that is appropriate for your body, consulting a doctor or personal trainer if needed. If your strength is at a low ebb, even lifting a two-pound weight can be helpful. Increase the amount you lift as you gain strength.



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Valentine's Day brings back that lovin' feeling



By Rusty Wright

February is known for cold weather, presidents' birthdays and Cupid's delight. As Valentine's Day approaches, hearts flutter, lovers sigh and Charlie Brown hopes that little red-haired girl will like the card he's been gathering up the courage to give her.

Not every culture is as comfortable as ours with public displays of affection. In one Malaysian state, laws ban total darkness in movie theaters "to prevent immoral acts like kissing, cuddling and other activities," as one official explained it. Public kissing there usually rates a \$70 fine.

Smooch Cops

In Venezuela, extended public

kissing and embracing can get you arrested. "If you kiss for more than five seconds, the police will grab you," complained one young woman whose friends were jailed. "It's ridiculous," groused a 24-year-old man. "Whoever invented this law must not have a girlfriend."

Defining immoral kisses can be difficult admitted one policeman, but "when you see it, you should know it."

Kids on Love, Dating and Marriage

Kids often have unique insights into adults' urge to merge. A friend passed along from the Internet children's answers to questions about love. What do people

do on a date? Lynnette (age 8): "Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough."

Martin (age 10) sees the bottom line: "On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date."

When is it OK to kiss someone? Pam (7): "When they're rich!" Curt (7): "The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that." Howard (8): "The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them....It's the right thing to do."

How does one decide whom to marry? Allan (10): "You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dips coming." Allan may find it prudent to slightly revise that theory in a few years.

Do You Love Me?

This season pundits ponder, "What is genuine love?" Popular speaker Josh McDowell delineates three kinds of love that can inform kids' (and adults') attitudes: love if, love because of, and love period. Love if and because of are based on personality or performance: "I love you if you go out with me, if you have a good sense of humor, if you sleep with me. I love you because you're attractive, intelligent or athletic."

But the best kind of love says, "I

love you period: even with your weaknesses, even if you change, even if someone better looking comes along. Even if you have zoo-breath in the morning. I want to give myself to you."

Real Love

Paul, an early Christian writer, eloquently described this unconditional love: "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ...Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. ... [Love] will last forever...."

Committed unconditional love could probably heal many romantic rifts. Solid spiritual roots that help produce it can help undergird stable relationships. And the children have noticed that families and adult relationships can use some strengthening.

How can a stranger tell if two people are married? Derrick (8): By "whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids." And how would the world be different if people didn't get married? Kelvin (8): "There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?"

-Rusty Wright is an author and lecturer who has spoken on six continents. He holds Bachelor of Science (psychology) and Master of Theology degrees from Duke and Oxford universities, respectively. www.RustyWright.com



Serenade your Sweetheart

Want to do something out of the ordinary for someone in your life?

Request a singing valentine for your special person at their work, home, etc. Several area groups are offering singing valentines.

Scot Singers from Highland Park High School will be selling singing valentine's for \$30 each. They will travel into the community and sing to your special someone. If you'd like to purchase, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/Vd3yVR9L9UQ-suENA8>, or Tina at contact kgoodrich@tps501.org.

The Cair Parafel Latin School Madrigals are selling "Singing Valentines" which include a special song and cookie/brownie for the student/person of your choice. Valentines are delivered in school on Tuesday, February 13 and in the community (8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, February 14. Community Singing Valentines can be in-person or virtual. For more information, contact the school at 635 SW Clay St. or call 785-232-3878.

Capital City Barbershop Chorus will make this Valentine's Day extra special for your sweetheart with a personalized performance presented by a Barbershop Quartet! Imagine the look on your loved one's face when they hear a quartet's harmonious and beautiful voices serenading them. They will deliver your Valentine's Day message at the time and place of your choice, whether it's at work or at home. Cost is \$45 inside Topeka, and \$50 in Shawnee County. Other options can be negotiated. The price includes two songs, a box of chocolates, and a rose. Reserve and pay online (www.capitalcitychorus.info/singing-valentines.html) and they'll call you to sort out the details. Or, call them at 785-249-5318.

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National Parks are free on these 2024 dates

Planning to visit a National Park in 2024? Here are the six days that are free for the 110 sites that normally charge admission.

The most popular parks, like Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Acadia typically charge from \$20 to \$35 per vehicle and often only with a reservation.

The Park Service says there are more than 400 parks across the country that are open each day. In a press release, the Park Service says “The fee-free days provide a great opportunity to visit a new place or an old favorite, especially one of the national parks that normally

charge an entrance fee.”

The free days don’t just include outdoor parks, but sites like the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

The others are free all the time. The entrance fee waiver for fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for activities such as camping, boat launches, transportation, or special tours.

On these six days, all National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission to everyone.

April 20: First day of National Park Week

June 19: Juneteenth National Independence Day

August 4: Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act

September 28: National Public Lands Day

November 11: Veterans Day

If you travel to parks throughout the year, or hope to in the future, there’s a convenient and affordable way to do so. The annual \$80 America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass allows unlimited entrance to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, in-



cluding all national parks that normally charge an entrance fee.

Senior citizens, current members of the military, families of fourth-grade students, and disabled citizens also get special dis-

counts.

For more information about America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass series check out their website.

Number of migrant “gotaways” equals population of Kansas City and St. Louis

The number of illegal immigrants who evaded authorities (known as gotaways) at the southern border last year is equal to the combined population of Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri.

The revelation came from Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) who quoted Department of Homeland Security data in a letter to the agency’s head, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. “At the very least, you owe the American people full transparency into what your department knows about illegal immigrants who have entered our nation without being stopped or tracked,” the letter said. It comes after testimony by Mayorkas in which he stated there was no border crisis.

The “gotaways,” who hail from around the world, came amid a record fiscal year that saw more than 2.4 million migrant encounters. Gotaways are particularly worrisome to officials, because they are more likely to have something to hide, including criminal conviction.

“The yearly number of gotaways has increased dramatically under your watch, up from nearly 600,000 in fiscal year 2022 and more than double the 389,515 in fiscal year 2021,” Border Patrol head Jason Owens told lawmakers last year. “All told, nearly two million illegal immigrants have successfully evaded border officials

during the Biden administration.”

Hawley also cited reports of more than 302,000 migrant encounters in December, itself a new record. “These unprecedented figures underscore the need for you to be fully transparent about your department’s own accounting of the southern border crisis,” he said.

Hawley is asking the department to provide methodology of how got away estimates are calculated and how many suspected terrorists, violent criminals and other felons are among them.

The Department of Homeland Security previously has noted that gotaways have been an issue for multiple administrations, blaming it on a “broken” immigration system that is in need of reform and funding from Congress. The administration is seeking more than \$14 billion in border funding, which includes money for technology and staffing at the border. That funding currently is being held up because of Republican demands for limits on asylum and the use of parole.



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Conservative Global Methodist Church has grown to more than 4,200 congregations

The split in the United Methodist Church over biblical sexuality has continued to gain momentum in 2023. The Global Methodist Church, a theologically conservative alternative to the liberal mainline denomination, now has more than 4,200 congregations.

“The current member congregations are predominantly former UMC congregations, but we do have member congregations that have come from other denominations, were previously nondenominational or independent, or that are new church plants that have already been recognized as member congregations,” the group’s Keith Boyette



told “The Christian Post.”

Other United Methodist churches both within and outside the United States are attempting to affiliate with the

GMC, and more are expected to join after the UMC General Conference this spring. In the past several decades, there has been a schism in the UMC over whether

to change its Book of Discipline to permit same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex unions. However, past efforts to change the Book of Discipline were largely unsuccessful because of the voting power of mostly theologically conservative delegates from Africa.

READ: United Methodists leave UMC, form own denomination

Nevertheless, many theological liberals within the UMC refused to abide by the Book of Discipline by officiating same-sex unions or ordaining openly gay clergy. In 2022, the UMC Western Jurisdiction voted to make the Rev. Cedrick D. Bridgeforth

of the California-Pacific Conference a bishop despite him being in a same-sex marriage.

During a special session of the 2019 UMC General Conference, delegates voted to add Paragraph 2553 to the Book of Discipline, which granted a temporary process for congregations to disaffiliate from the UMC in light of the debate over homosexuality. However, provisions of Paragraph 2553 expired at the end of 2023.

The Global Methodist Church describes its mission as “to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.”

Religious “nones” now outnumber all religious groups



More Americans now identify as religiously unaffiliated than as being part of any individual religious group. More than one in four U.S. adults now identify as religiously unaffiliated, or nones, compared to just 16 percent in 2007, outpacing Catholics (23 percent) and evangelical Protestants (24 percent), according to a Pew Research study.

More than half of all so-called nones believe in some form of higher power. Although barely one-tenth have faith in “God as described in the Bible,” more than half believe in some “other high power” altogether. Nearly

half said that some form of spirituality is important to them personally. The millions of religiously unaffiliated Americans are broken down into three main groups:

- Agnostics (20 percent),
- Atheists (17 percent), and
- Those who believe “nothing in particular” (63 percent).

Nones also nearly evenly split between men (51 percent) and women (47 percent) and, as Pew notes, are “younger than the population of Americans who identify with a religion.”

When asked directly why they are not religious, two-thirds of nones said they question a lot of religious teachings or don’t believe in God. Many also bring up criticisms of religious institutions or people, including 47 percent who said that one extremely or very important reason

why they are not religious is that they dislike religious organizations. And 30 percent said bad experiences they’ve had with religious people help explain why they are nonreligious.

The emergence of young, well-educated nones in recent decades continues to shape the social fabric and contours of the United States, particularly given the religiously unaffiliated’s low levels of civic engagement, volunteerism and voting compared with their religious peers.

“We know politically, for example, that religious nones are

very distinctive,” researchers said. “They are among the most strongly and consistently liberal and Democratic constituencies in the United States.”

In 2022, a Pew survey found that most U.S. adults saw the rise of religious disaffiliation nega-

tively, with 45 percent affirming that the United States should remain a “Christian nation.” The percentage of self-identified nones in Pew’s latest poll dropped slightly from a pandemic high of more than 30 percent in the last couple of years.



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LAYOUT & DESIGN

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Projection and Denial

By Kerby Anderson

You may have noticed when someone criticizes you, often they are criticizing you for their own behavior. Sigmund Freud described this as “projection.” Another person “projects” their own motives or behaviors on you as a way of coping with their own problems.

We also see this in the political world, which is why on radio I often attribute many of the political comments these days to projection. Politicians are often guilty of condemning their opponent’s behavior when they are just as guilty of it themselves.

Columnist Robert Knight recently wrote about how projection and denial have become the way this president and his administration engage the political process. Projection is used to

blame problems on the other party and candidates.

Denial is another Freudian concept. That occurs when someone dismisses external reality and formulates his or her own “truth.” Robert Knight concludes, “Both disorders are not only rampant among America’s political left but have become tools in their war on common sense, truth, and decency.”

He goes on to explain that these two disorders have significant consequences in our political discourse. “By painting opponents as ‘threats to democracy,’ they issue a license to would-be tyrants at all levels of government to silence speech.” He goes on to provide lots of examples from speeches by the president along with actions by many within his administration.

I might mention he is not the



only pundit talking about this. For example, Columnist Victor Davis Hanson writes about how the president is arguing that he is “saving democracy” while at the same time “destroying democracy.” Many of his examples can

be found in the attempts to keep Donald Trump off the ballots of some states.

During this election year, a wise voter should be aware of projection and denial when listening to the candidates.

Be a Pro-Life Ambassador

There’s an old song from the 70’s recorded by Rare Earth that goes, “I just wanna celebrate another day of living. I just wanna celebrate another day of life.” That about sums it up for me and a sentiment I should internalize more when the circumstances of life may not be going as planned. The miracle of life is at work in all of us—in sickness and health; richer or poorer. It’s worth celebrating.

It’s also worth defending and fighting for. Few of us need to be reminded to defend ourselves if we are in peril, but millions of unborn children around the globe need us to step up and give them a voice. The best line of defense is to be equipped with the most effective tools (weapons?), and I believe the best weapon we have in our arsenal is the truth; the best tool is information.

With knowledge come the responsibility to disseminate that

knowledge with conviction, accuracy, and grace. It can be scary to speak out with boldness, especially in today’s social/political climate. However, the assurance that we are doing the right thing can give us courage. The opportunity to intervene on behalf of a defenseless child can motivate us. The chance to save a life can give us hope.

And success stories can inspire us. The parents who pushed back against their doctor who advised aborting their Down Syndrome child. The pastor who started a drop box for abandoned, disabled babies. Mothers who canceled their abortions because of 40 Days for Life volunteers. The rape victim who realized her baby was a person, not a punishment. The teenage mom who was referred to a pregnancy center and got the support she needed.

We at the Western Region would love for you to be part of



the success that being a Pro-Life Ambassador can bring. Paul Stark, Communications Director for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, tells us how in his article, “Three keys to making you a persuasive pro-life ambassador.” He encourages us to start naturally (no one wants to feel cornered), engage graciously (be respectful and empathetic), and argue compellingly (know the facts). Although the author is

from Minnesota, a state that fully protects abortion “rights,” I think it’s wonderfully unifying that saving a baby is saving a life, regardless of where one lives. The sanctity of life and the force of truth are universal.

Learn more about the work of Missouri Right to Life—Western Region at www.mrlwesternregion.org.

—Linda Verhulst, MRL Western Region, director

Polyamory and the ‘Next Sexual Revolution’ That Has Been Here for Years

By Dr. Michael Brown

On January 23 I posted on X, “Five days ago @MattWalshBlog wrote, ‘This is now the fourth article in a major media publication in the span of one week pushing ‘polyamory.’” Today, the @WSJ noted that ‘polyamory is having a moment.’ Perhaps this article that I wrote in 2012, called, ‘The Next Sexual Revolution Has Arrived,’ focusing on polyamory, deserves another read?”

In my 2015 book *Outlasting the Gay Revolution*, “polyamory” occurred 23 times and “polyamorous” 6 times. I also pointed how American views on polygamy were changing. Not surprisingly, in 2022, an article in the Harvard Law Review titled “Three’s Company, Too: The Emergence of Polyamorous Partnership Ordinances” that stated that, “According to a Gallup poll, since 2006, there has been a fourfold increase in the number of Americans reporting that polygamy is morally acceptable — from

five to twenty percent.”

Let’s go back, then, to 2012. The polyamory “moment” has been here for quite some time.

The Next Sexual Revolution Has Arrived

In July, 2009, Newsweek ran a feature article on “relationships with multiple, mutually consenting partners,” entitled, “Polyamory: The Next Sexual Revolution.” Last week, Showtime launched a reality TV show called “Polyamory: Married and Dating.” To quote from Newsweek’s 2009 article, it’s “enough to make any monogamist’s head spin.” And all this, of course, is being touted as a great thing, a celebration of love and freedom, a deliverance from the monotony and constraints of monogamy.

The Showtime promo pulls no punches and makes no excuses:

Narrator: The polyamorous lifestyle may shock some. But with American divorce rates hovering around 50 percent,

these families are on the front line of a growing revolution in the traditional monogamous relationship.

Michael: I want people to know it’s okay to live a life this way, it can be good. Because it is. It’s beautiful. We love it.

Jennifer: I want people to know that monogamy isn’t the only way.

Vanessa: If it were socially acceptable, I think there would be way more poly people.

Tahl: It feels like how we really should all be living.

Natalia Garcia, director: I really believe that a lot of people are going to watch this show and their jaws are going to drop. And they’re also probably going to wonder, Am I poly?

Narrator: Follow two not-so-typical families —

Kamala: Mommy and Daddy are going to ask Jen and Tahl to come and live with us. How would you like that?

Kid: Yeah. I like ‘em.

Narrator: — that are changing the way



America thinks about love.

Yes, it’s all about who we love, a statement we’ve heard before — repeatedly — in another context. Perhaps President Obama needs to allow his views on marriage to “evolve” just a little bit more? After all, don’t all Americans have the “right” to be with the person (or persons) they love?

According to the official blurb, “This

provocative reality series takes an inside look at polyamory: non-monogamous, committed relationships that involve more than two people. Lindsey and Anthony are married, but live in a triad (three-way relationship) with their girlfriend, Vanessa. Husband and wife Michael and Kamala have many lovers, including couple Jen and Tahl.”

■ Please see **REVOLUTION** on next page

This is How To Become Rich



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

Speaking Truth

In 1848 a young struggling family of four immigrated from Scotland to the United States. Andy, who was 13 years old, jumped right in to help his financially strapped family. His parents let him get a job at a cotton mill for \$1.20 a week, which is equivalent to \$48 a week in today’s numbers. Andy worked hard and eventually moved onto a local telegraph company, and then to the railroad. He excelled there and was promoted to supervisor by the time he was 24. One day an opportunity came to financially invest in the railroad, which proved to be profitable and launched him into the world of investing and business. One of those was steel, and in 1873, while not yet 40 years old,

he organized a steel company, which became the largest steel company in the world. Then in 1901 Andrew Carnegie sold his business, which made him the world’s richest man.

Can a poor man become rich? You bet! Mr. Carnegie is an example of that, but what kind of wealth am I really talking about?

Jesus once told a story about two polar opposite men. “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But

Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.’” (Luke 16:9-25)

The story is meant to illustrate spiritual and moral truths. Jesus is not communicating how all wealthy people are oppressors, and how all poor are the oppressed, nor is He promoting the division of society into economic classes. Rather, one of the truths Jesus is teaching is how the rich man is a picture of mankind without God.

The rich man was only focused on his life, giving no thought about God nor life beyond the grave. He was selfish, giving no consideration to the needs of the poor man. He was also prideful, exalting himself over the destitute man. Are you like the rich man, only living for this life, selfish and prideful? When one lives without God, these are the attitudes of his life. What happened when the rich man died? He instantly found himself in hell. When a person



dies without God, they are separated from Him and all His goodness forever. While the rich man lived, he had all this world could offer him, but upon death, he was condemned to eternal poverty.

How can one truly become rich, that is rich in the things of eternal value? Simple. Have the spirit of the poor man, for he exhibited an attitude of humility and dependency upon God for all his needs. Then upon his death, he entered into the riches and glory of heaven for all eternity.

Jesus died and rose again to make you rich. For when you turn from your sinful ways and place your faith in Christ, then you will possess Him. And when His Spirit is in you, you become

one of the wealthiest people on earth. For to possess Jesus is to possess all the treasures of heaven.

A prayer for you – Lord God, I pray that people will examine their hearts to see if they have the heart of the rich man. Then bring each one to turn from their selfish and prideful ways and to Jesus. And fill them with the Spirit of Christ, that they may become eternally rich in the things of God. In Jesus’ name. Amen

—Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings and Speaking Truth is a nationally syndicated column. Please share your comment with Clint at cdecker@greatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com.

Franklin Graham launching 10-city evangelism tour along southern border

Evangelist Franklin Graham has announced plans to travel where many politicians fear to tread – the U.S.-Mexican border. He will launch a 10-city God Loves You tour in February.

“We are taking the God Loves You tour to the southern border this year, because it is one of the neediest areas of our country at this time, and people need to hear a message of hope from God’s Word,” Graham says. “God has placed a burden on my heart as I have seen what has been happening there, so we are taking the Gospel to 10 cities, starting in Brownsville, Texas, and going over 1,500 miles all the way to the Pacific, holding

an event in Chula Vista, Calif.”

The evangelist, who took over from his father Billy, added that the tour is not political in an election year. It will visit seven cities in Texas including Brownsville, McAllen, Laredo, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Presidio, and El Paso. It then moves to Arizona and Tucson and Yuma ending in Chula Vista, California.

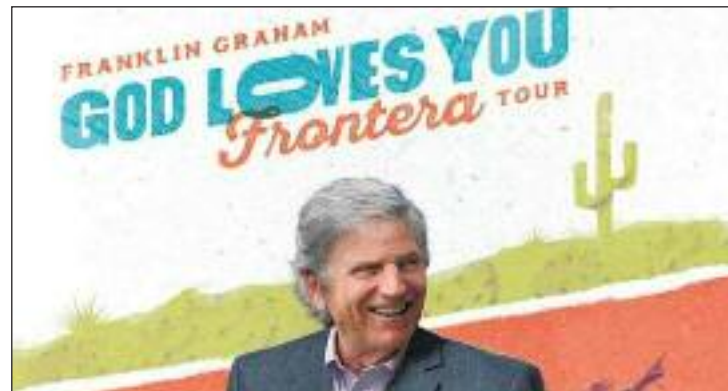
“Everyone along the border is overwhelmed — the churches, the law enforcement agencies, the residents, those there trying to help, as well as the people coming into our country,” he said. “I’m not going to the border because it’s an election year. We’re going because it’s a cri-

sis, and it is one that is continuing to grow. The God Loves You Tour is about preaching the good news of Jesus Christ where it’s desperately needed.”

The outreach will target people from all backgrounds.

“I’m going to share a message for everyone — regardless of whether they’re from the United States, Mexico or from some other country — the gospel is for all people,” Graham said. “I’m not going to welcome people to the U.S. or to tell them to go back. I’m not going there to speak against our policies at the border. The politicians know these policies are broken.”

In the past seven years, Graham



has led evangelistic events across the nation, partnering with local pastors, churches and volunteers. According to the tour’s website, more than 570,000 people have

heard the gospel, and more than 34,000 have made professions of faith.

The God Loves You tour travels to the UK in June of 2024.

Actor Russell Brand seeking meaning by reading Bible

Actor Russell Brand is on a spiritual journey that is drawing him closer to Christianity.

“The reason I wear a cross is because Christianity and, in particular, the figure of Christ are, it seems to me, inevitably becoming more important as I become more familiar with suffering, purpose self and not-self,” he said in a social media video reported.

The 48-year-old actor said he has been “reading the Bible a lot more,” as well as Rick Warren’s “The Purpose-Driven Life.” He said that when he was growing up, Christianity appeared to him either “really irrelevant and old-fashioned and sort of dusty” or too modernized.

Things have changed after he has achieved “a certain amount of adult-

hood,” Brand said

“It occurred to me that if instead of always talking to myself inwardly, I could replace one of those voices with an indwelling God,” he said. “It says in Galatians it’s our job to die, so that as Christ died on the cross, he might be reborn in us.”

Brand’s video was met with an outpouring of support and encouragement from users on X, many of whom said they were praying for him. Pastor Greg Laurie responded to Brand by posting a long letter addressed to him in which he explained that he once was put off by Christians until he heard the gospel. Babylon Bee CEO Seth Dillon wrote: “If he’s not a Christian already, he may get there soon. The important question he needs to answer for himself is not

whether Christianity is useful but whether it’s true.”

Brand has suggested in recent months that he is on a spiritual journey leading him toward Christianity as he faces allegations of sexual misconduct from two decades ago. In December, he revealed that he was reading the Bible and “The Problem of Pain” by C.S. Lewis, a 1940 book that explores the role of suffering in a Christian context.

During an interview with Tucker Carlson last year, Brand said, “Like many desperate people, I need spirituality. I need God, or I cannot cope in this world. I need to believe in the best in people.”

Talking about stardom, he shared, “I fell face first into the glitter, and I’m only just pulling myself out now.”



“As much as I might enjoy the feeling of privilege and luxury... I remember what reality is,” Brand said.

As “atrophying and corrupt systems delivering yet more misery to people” continue to leave their mark on society, Brand told Carlson he believes that real

cultural change will only come when people explore their hearts.

“I think it’s increasingly necessary that we find new ways of framing the conversation and looking into our hearts when we’re speaking,” he reflected.

REVOLUTION

continued from page 2

Tahl, for his part, cites this lengthy quote from Amy Thornton as expressive of his views: “A lot of people say no to more love. Why? Well (IMHO) the number one reason is they don’t love themselves. It’s the first place that people say no to more love. After that comes the perception of ownership and control in relationships. The...mentality is my partner is mine, and I don’t have to share. If I share I might lose what I have. Which of course is silly, you can always lose what you have, or what you think

you have. People don’t know that though, and they aren’t taught to believe otherwise. It’s ridiculous conventional wisdom that few choose to challenge. Anyway, since that’s true, therefore I am willing to give up getting more love for myself so that I don’t have to share. There is also a perceived idea of lack, that there isn’t enough to go around. The silly idea also persists that there is one true love for everyone... ..that’s the short version according to me.”

And to think: Some of us have been stuck in the stone age of monogamous marriage for decades. We could have been so free! In the words of one of the reality show’s stars, “Monogamy destroys

family... I feel liberated.” Chew on that for a while: “Monogamy destroys family.” (This sounds a bit like Dan Savage, who said, “people in monogamous relationships have to be willing to meet me a quarter of the way and acknowledge the drawbacks of monogamy around boredom, despair, lack of variety, sexual death and being taken for granted.”)

To be sure, it is not just Showtime that is pushing polyamory. In January, ABC News ran a TV spot entitled “Polyamory: 1 Mom, 2 Dads, and a Baby,” while a January report on the BBC carried the claim that “Polyamorous relationships tend to be ongoing, sustainable, emotionally bonded, committed

relationships with more than one person, with the knowledge and consent of everyone involved.”

But it is Showtime which has taken the lead, as the Polyinthemedia website announces: “The series will break new ground in introducing modern polyamory to a mass audience. Nothing like this has ever appeared on television. (Sister Wives and Big Love come from a very different place of religious patriarchal polygamy.)” To quote Newsweek again, “the traditionalists had better get used to it”

According to estimates cited in Newsweek, there are more than half-a-million people in America living in

polyamorous relationships, and if this is true, it won’t be long before the “progressives” among us will be calling for our children’s textbooks to reflect even more family “diversity.” (“Heather Has Two Mommies” is sounding quite passé.)

Of course, this is not Showtime’s first bold foray into the front lines of the sexual revolution. The network was already (in)famous for pioneering shows like “Queer as Folk” (2000-2005) and “The L Word” (2004-2009), all of which verifies what polyamory advocate Jasmine Walston stated in 2004, “We’re where the gay rights movement was 30 years ago” — and they’re catching up rapidly.

And there’s no slippery slope?



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Activities continue in NOTO during the winter

Morris Gallery will feature "The Art of Diane Lawrence" Silk Paintings this month. Appearing inside the NOTO Arts Center is local youth musician Bristol Karr who will be doing a vocal acoustic set 5:30-7PM on First Friday. The Morris Art Gallery is located inside of the NOTO Arts Center, 935 N Kansas Ave in the heart of the NOTO Arts & Entertainment District. Art in the Vestibule: Matthew Coward. Redbud Community Room - Master Artist: Barbara Waterman-Peters. Redbud Community Room - Avant Garde Underground Studio: Lisa LaRue Baker.

First Friday will also feature Seaman Viking Players in the Park - 6:00-7:00pm in Redbud Park; 785 Art Studio and Gallery - Music by Rueben Ironhorse-Kent - 6:00-8:00pm; Artismo - Music performances by Nate Dingman, Leon, Shauna Knapp, Re/Up Von Wolfgang - 6:00-10:00pm; Compass Point - Music

by Anna ps - 7:00-10:00pm.

On Feb. 10 785 Arts Studio and Gallery will feature 2nd Annual Galentine's Tea and Paint Party! - 1:00-3:00pm

Artismo will feature DJ Zeddie Speed Dating Event - 5:00 - 8:00pm Feb. 14, and Dinner Open Jam with Riley Voth - 5:00 - 8:00pm on Feb. 16.

First Friday Art Walk continues throughout the winter months. Hours are 10 am to 9 pm. First Friday Art Walk & Market is the first Friday of every month. The North Topeka Arts District has become an attraction to Art Lovers and History Buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and



down N. Kansas Avenue, as well as street-side vendors. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries antiques and studios have become a favorite art walk destination.

You can also visit 3rd Friday's NOTO Night Out! Many Merchants are also open longer hours on Second Saturdays.

Make plans now to attend the NOTO Arts and Antiques Festival in March, featuring an array of workshops offered by local experts. Deadlines for applications to exhibit are in February.

The Annual Fiber Juried Show is also coming up March 1-April 27 at NOTO Arts Center in the Morris Art Gallery.

For more event information visit explorenoto.org/.

More North Topeka events:

WOODSHED FLEA MARKET LADIES UNWIND – Feb. 3, 3-8pm, Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Massage therapy, reiki healers and more vendors. Plus cash bar will be open with specialty drinks mixed just for you! Free admission.

VALENTINES SIP & SHOP – Feb. 10, 10-3, Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Over 40 local vendors. Full bar & specialty drinks, food trucks.

WOODSHED FLEA MARKET – Feb. 18, 10-3, Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Indoor vendors.

SPEED DATING EVENT – Feb. 10, 7-12pm, Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Fantastic speeding dating event with food, refreshments, full bar open and soda drinks! Purchase \$5 Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../the-woodshed-speed-dating...> 7-8pm: Meet people face to face without having to do it on an individual date format. This is a fun way to meet people even just as friends. 8 pm - 11:59 pm - Band - \$5 more for band time. Option for time w/ a professional to help with your online profile.

COMIC CONVENTION – Feb. 24-25, Great Overland Station. Special guests, cosplay, geek boutiques, video games, board games, comics, books, tv & film.

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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; mail to Metro Voice, P.O. 5724, Topeka, KS 66605; fax to 785-235-3340 or enter online at metrovoiceneeds.com
Get your event Highlighted in Blue in print, our online calendar and promoted in social media for only \$29!

CONCERTS

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

GRAND OTTAWA OPRY – 2nd & 4th Saturday, 5:30PM- pre-show, 6PM showtime, Ottawa Memorial Auditorium, 301 S Hickory, Ottawa. Tickets are \$15 and only at the door. Ph. 785-241-6762, email grandotopr@gmail.com. GrandOttawaOpry.com

PICKIN' ON THE PRAIRIE BLUEGRASS JAM, every Sunday 1-3:00, Potwin Drug Store, Old Prairie Town, 785-215-6997 for info. Milkshake for the month of August is GIMME'S MORE

LEFEVRE QUARTET – Mar. 1, 7pm, Wanamaker Woods Nazarene Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker. Free will offering. Doors open at 6pm. (785) 273-2248. wwood-snaz@wnnaz.org

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

HOPE HOUSE FREE COMMUNITY CLOTHING BANK – Wed. 6-8pm and Sat. 12-3pm, Oakland Church of the Nazarene, 939 NE Oakland

HARVESTER FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION - 2nd Saturday each month, 1:30-3pm, Oakland Church of the Nazarene, 939 NE Oakland

FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Sundays 8:10 to 10:30am, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene, 939 NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor Jeanette Cook.

FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET – 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Shawnee Heights UMC, 6020 SE 44th

INSIDE OUT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH – Every Sunday 12pm service; Every Tuesday 7:30pm service. Location: 2409 NE Division St. For info: 785-380-7031 or io@insideoutinc.net or www.insideoutinc.net

KIDS for JESUS! - Wednesday's 6:30 - 8pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, enemies! For info: 785-266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene, Email: Lakenaz@aol.com

MID-WEEK PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY - Wednesday's, 7-8pm, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. You are invited! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

LOL "LADIES OF LAKEVIEW" - Lakeview Church of the

Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Monthly Women's Ministry Events! (Cooking, Crafts, Outreach, Bible Study, Fellowship!) Call the church office for info: (785) 266-3247, Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

SENIOR ADULT EXERCISE CLASS - Tuesday's @ 10am, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Church: 785-266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene. Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

BIBLE STUDY: Discerning the Voice of God by Priscilla Shirer - Monday's, starting Oct. 2, 6-8pm. This study is for men & women. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Be sure to bring your study guide with you! Church: 785-266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene. Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

ROOTED CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CO-OP: Colossians 2:6-7. Monday's 12-4pm. Cooking class for 4th graders & older at noon. Call the Church Office for more information. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Church: (785) 266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene. Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

HAM & BEANS/BAKED POTATO SOUP DINNER - Feb. 7, 5-6:30pm, Tecumseh United Methodist Church. Cornbread, coleslaw, & homemade desserts. \$8 donation. To go service available.

FAMILY LIFE PRESENTS: 'WEEKEND TO REMEMBER' - February 9-11, Overland Park Marriott. For everyone who is engaged or married! To register & pay: familylife.com/weekend-to-remember. Use the Group Name: LakeviewChurch. \$350/couple - (until 1/9/2024: \$300/couple), Discounted room rates: \$149/night. Friday: You came into marriage looking for a particular "happily ever after." But then your love met reality. We'll help you find the dream again. Saturday:

Let's chat about what threatens your closeness, how to pull closer through conflict, & tips for other areas of the married life. Sunday: For a marriage bigger than just "happily ever after." 40+ Years of Experience! 96% say it "greatly improved" their relationship. 100% satisfaction guarantee. If you don't like it, we'll refund your registration." Contact info: (785) 266-3247, Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL PARTY – Feb. 11, 5pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Join us for an evening of games, food, laughter, fellowship, and of course, the big game! Bring your favorite football food or dessert and everyone you know! (785)266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

COMMUNITY ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – Feb. 14, 7pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. (785)266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

CHILI AND VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP SUPPER – Feb. 16, 4:30-6:30pm, Kansas Ave United Methodist Church, 1029 N Kansas Ave. Includes cornbread, crackers, relishes, dessert & drink. Chili dogs also available. Dine in or carry out. Fundraiser by

New Spirit Sunday School class.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

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.

MEDICARE MONDAYS – First Mon. ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library, 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nhoni@tscl.org

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

FIRST FRIDAY ART MARKET – Downtown and NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market items, snacks, beverages, entertainment and more.

TOPEKA ACAPELLA UNLIMITED AUDITIONS – Topeka Acappella Unlimited is looking for female singers who would like to sing four-part acappella harmonies. Topeka Acappella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403 for info

HARVESTERS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY, 1st & 3rd Sat, 2-3pm, Shawnee Heights UMC parking lot.

FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – 4th Tue. thru Nov., 9am, 1231 NW Eugene St. Randel Ministries, Inc., in partnership with Harvesters and Family of God Church will have its monthly food distribution. No ID or proof of income required, first come first served. Distributing fresh produce and other items to families in need. 785-234-1111 www.RandelMinistries.com

TOPEKA PUBLIC LIBRARY PLAY BUS – 9:30am-noon, Lakeview Nazarene Church, 2835 Croco. Every Tuesday, enjoy story time, play opportunities, books for check-out & take & make art. 785-266-3247.

OPEN INDOOR COURT PICKLEBALL – Sundays at 4pm, Beryton United Methodist Church (7010 SE Beryton Rd. All ages and abilities welcome.

SENIORS PITCH CLUB - Every Tuesday 1 pm at Garfield Community Center. First visit free then a dollar per visit for coffee and replacement cards .

CYCLING EVENTS – Various cycle rides are offered by Kansas Cyclist. www.kansascyclist.com/

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES – Outdoor events and activities. www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calenda

BREAD BASKET FARMERS MARKET - Saturday Feb. 10, 10:00am-3:00pm, now inside West Ridge Mall. The Market will return sporadically in Feb. and March, before returning to the parking lot again April 6 and every Sat. thereafter.

BLEEDING KANSAS - Sundays from Jan. 28-Mar. 3, 2pm, Constitution Hall Historic Site, 319 Elmore, LeCompton. A series of talks and dramatic interpreta-

BLEEDING KANSAS

PROGRAM SERIES 2024

CONSTITUTION HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE | HISTORIC LECOMPTON
2 p.m., Sundays • Suggested donation: \$5 adults

A series of talks and dramatic interpretations over the issue of slavery in Kansas and the nation, 1854 to 1865

- JANUARY 28** "Kansas Day" with David Toland, Kansas Lieutenant Governor and Kansas Secretary of Commerce, Patrick Zellner, Executive Director, Kansas Historical Society, Bodgens Jobs, Director, Kansas Tourism, Jordan Najehstead, student, Bishop Seabury Academy
- FEBRUARY 4** "Sitting on the Fence: Living in Bleeding Kansas Between the Factions" by Kendall D. Gott, retired senior professor, Central Studies Institute, Ph. D. Economics and author, Book signing
- FEBRUARY 11** "John Brown, Man of Action" by Cindy Awever, Administrator, John Brown Museum, State Historic Site, Constitution
- FEBRUARY 18** "A Monopoly on Misfortune: An Immigrant Regiment in the Crucible of Civil War" by Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History, San Francisco State University, Book signing
- FEBRUARY 25** "Abolitionist of the Most Dangerous Kind: James Montgomery and His War on Slavery" Todd Aldrich, author and retired Kansas public school educator and David D. Schefer, author and retired Park Ranger, National Park Service, Book signing
- MARCH 3** The LeCompton Reenactors present "Bleeding Kansas" voices from Kansas Territorial characters: Uranus Nichols, John Brown, Jim Lane, Charles & Sam Robinson, David Archibald, Sammie Jones, Nevada Trade

C5Alive Developing and Uniting Christian Leadership
• 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.

Feb. 8, 11:30-1: "POWER" Luncheon at the Harley Room, 21st & Topeka Blvd.

Featured Speaker: Cecil Washington!

Open to the public. RSVP to info@C5Alive.org

Save the Dates!

- Mar. 14: **POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1**
- Mar. 30: **EASTERFEST at Great Overland Station!**
- Apr. 11: **POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1**

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

KANSAS IN THE UNION!

THE LECOMPTON REENACTORS PRESENT "BLEEDING KANSAS"

Constitution Hall State Historic Site
319 Elmore St. LeCompton, KS 66606
785-887-6890 • www.lecomptonks.org

Freedom's Frontier
1820-1860

tions on the violent territorial and civil war history of Kansas 1854-1865. Actors will portray Kansans from this turbulent era. Adm: \$5 adults.

TOPEKA HOME SHOW — Feb. 2-4, Stormont Vail Event Center

"GUS" GUSTAFSON SUPPER AND SILENT AUCTION — Feb. 3, 5-7pm, Grace Community Church, 310 E. Eighth St, Overbrook. International speaker who has turned tragedy into triumph shares a humorous, heartwarming message. Pancake and Sausage supper served at 5pm. Freewill donation benefits Community Christian School in Overbrook.

WOODSHED FLEA MARKET LADIES UNWIND — Feb. 3, 3-8pm, Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Massage therapy, reiki healers and more vendors. Plus cash bar will be open with specialty drinks mixed just for you! Free admission.

RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE — Feb. 7, 9-11am, RE/MAX EK Real Estate, 2130 SW 37th St. Walk through the new office! Drinks and food on hand

C5Alive "CHRISTMAS" LUNCHEON — Feb. 8, 11:30-1, at Harley Davidson Room, 21st & Topeka Blvd. Catering by Black Bob BBQ.

Cost: \$15 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$17 at the door

• \$20 for non-members & repeat guests.

• Please RSVP to 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: C5 POWER Luncheon, Mar. 14, 11:30-1.

NIGHT TO SHINE 2024 — Feb. 9, 6-9 pm, Fairlawn Plaza mall. FREE event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation for teens and adults ages 14 and older with special needs. For more info or to volunteer, contact info@gcoctopeka.org

VALENTINES SIP & SHOP — Feb. 10, 10-3, Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Over 40 local vendors. Full bar & specialty drinks, food trucks.

SUNNY DAYS VALENTINES MARKET — Feb. 10, 10-4, Stout Elementary School, 2303 SW College Ave. Loads of small businesses joining together to bring you an amazing experience along with a live performance by Colin Nichols.

SPEED DATING EVENT — Feb. 10, 7-12pm, Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Fantastic speeding dating event with food, refreshments, full bar open and soda drinks! Purchase \$5 Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../the-woodshed-speed-dating...> 7-8pm: Meet people face to face without having to do it on an individual date format. This is a fun way to meet people even just as friends. 8 pm - 11:59 pm — Null & Void Band - \$5 more for band time. Option for time w/ a professional to help you with your online profile.

DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE — Feb. 15, 6pm, TPAC. Dare to experience Dinosaur World Live in this roarsome

interactive show for all the family!

KANSAS LAWN & GARDEN SHOW — Feb. 16-18, Stormont Vail Event Center

WOODSHED INDOOR FLEA MARKET — Feb. 18, 10-3, Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Many vendors.

KANSAS RV & BOAT SHOW — Feb. 23-25, Stormont Vail Event Center

26th ANNUAL MIDWEST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE EXPO — Feb. 24, 10am — 12pm, Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. 60 colleges from 17 states; free seminars. Special mini-seminar at 9am: "Navigating Through Faith and Science in College." Organized and sponsored by Metro Voice. 816-524-4522. MetroVoiceNews.com

COMIC CONVENTION — Feb. 24-25, Great Overland Station. Special guests, cosplay, geek boutiques, video games, board games, comics, books, tv & film.

LAST SUNDAY FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET — Feb. 25, 8am — 12pm, Philip Billard Post 1650, 3110 SW Huntoon. Free pancakes & sausage, eggs, coffee, juice, and sometimes biscuits & gravy. Donations accepted and will go to helping vets in the Topeka area.

CAPITAL CITY CARNAGE DEMOLITION DERBY — Mar. 1-2, Stormont Vail Events Ctr. stormontvailevents-center.com or 785-251-5552

SPRINGTIME POP-UP CRAFT SHOW — Mar. 2, 8:30-3, Philip Billard Airport. Check out many displays of homemade crafts and baked goods along with specialty products... something for everyone.

SAY IT LOUD! EXHIBITION OPENING — Mar. 2, 5:30-8:30, ArtsConnect Topeka, 909 N. Kansas Ave. An art exhibit that unapologetically magnifies the magnificence of Black People, Black Culture, Black Stories and Black Expression. A showcase of local black artists from the Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City Metro area and is curated by artist Aisha Imani Sanaa.

9th ANNUAL EASTERFEST: TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR — Mar. 30, 10am-3pm, at Great Overland Station and on North Kansas Avenue. Topeka's annual Easter Parade will begin at 10am at Garfield Park and proceed south on Kansas Avenue to the tracks in NOTO. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the Great Overland Station. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair, Vendor Market, and Cosmo's Health Fair will be 10-3, inside and outside Great Overland Station, including vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, inflatables, cake walk and more. Live music, gymnastics, ballet and other entertainment will be on hand. For info: Topeka Easter Parade on facebook, info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399.

MEETINGS & CLASSES

CRAFTY, SKILLED OR CREATIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to develop outdoor lighted displays at Ward Meade Park events. Contact Elsie, 785-256-2920, leave a message.

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

THE HEAT — FREE fitness classes for the community. Located at Florence Crittenton Services Center for Integrative Health, 5423 SW 7th St. www.ficrittenton.org Sun. 4-5 pm Yoga; Mon. 12-12:45pm Cardio Remix; Mon. 5:30-6:15pm STRONG™; Tue. 12:15-1:15pm Restorative Yoga;

Tue. 5:30-6:15pm Zumba®; Wed. 5:30-6:15pm Radio Sculpt; Thu. 12:15-1:00pm Pilates + CIRCL Mobility™; Thu. 5:30-6:15pm Zumba®; Fri. 12-12:45pm POUND

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

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH — Mon. 10-11 at Lowman United Methodist Church and Thu. 9:30-10:30 at

Topeka Zoo. No training needed, just watch & follow. Contact Madon Daily at 505-424-8989 or madondaily@gmail.com. To Join from Home via Zoom, contact Madon for the Zoom link.

PICKLEBALL — Mon. & Wed. 1-3pm, First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. Park on West Side, where the gym is located. Contact Dave Mathias, davemathias@sbcglobal.net, or Betsy Thompson, betsyjthompson@gmail.com.



THE LARGEST COLLEGE FAIR IN THE REGION!

26TH ANNUAL MIDWEST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE fair

Saturday Feb. 24 10am - Noon

FREE Kansas City

Colonial Presbyterian
9500 Wornall, KCMO

Bonus SEMINAR
Navigating Faith and Science in College
9am to 10am

60 COLLEGES FROM 17 STATES!

- Baptist Bible College • Barclay College • Baylor University
- Bethel College • Calvary University • Central Christian College of Kansas • Central Christian College of the Bible
- Central Methodist • College of the Ozarks • College of St. Mary
- Colorado Christian University • Concordia University NE
- Dordt University • Emmaus Bible College • Evangel University
- Fontbonne University • Graceland University • Grand Canyon University • Greenville University • Hannibal-LaGrange University
- Harding University • Heartland Christian College • Hesston College
- Indiana Wesleyan University • John Brown University
- Kansas Christian College • Kansas Wesleyan University
- Lee University • Liberty University • Lindenwood University
- Manhattan Christian College • Mid-America Nazarene University
- Missouri Baptist University • Moody Bible Institute • Newman University
- Northwestern University • Oklahoma Baptist University
- Oklahoma Christian University • Oklahoma Wesleyan University
- Olivet Nazarene University • Oral Roberts University • Ozark Christian College
- Palm Beach Atlantic University • Spurgeon College • Sterling College
- Southern Nazarene University • Southwest Baptist University
- Storling Conservatory & Visual Music College
- Tabor College • University of Northwestern
- University of the Ozarks
- VC School of Ministry

List of regular attendees. New schools added weekly



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LEFEVRE QUARTET

Concert at The Woods AT WORNALL TR

March 1st 7:00pm

- Doors open at 6pm
- Freewill Offering

3501 SW Wanamaker Rd. • 785-273-2248 • woodsnao@wnnaz.org

SHEPHERD'S CENTER BOK CLUB – 1st & 3rd Mon. 2-4pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1275 SW Boswell Ave. Contact Pat Kirkman at pat-tyk696@yahoo.com.

SMS - STRENGTH, MOBILITY, STABILITY EXERCISE GROUP (SMS) Mon. 9-9:30am, Arbor Court, 4200 SW Drury Lane. Tue. & Thu. 9-9:30am, Rosehill Place, 3600 SW Gage Blvd # 97. Tue & Thu, 10-10:45, Grace UMC, 2627 SW Western Ave. Call Anne Crawford at 785-273-4527 or email anne.crawford@cox.net.

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@rhctopeka.org

TOPEKA LIONS CLUB – 1st Mondays at Noon – 1 pm at The Capper Foundation, 3500 SW 10th Ave. Park on the North side. RSVP by Fri. for lunch/pay at the meeting. Visitors welcome. TopekaLions.org/contact-us to make reservations. WE SERVE!

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

TOPEKA NEEDLEWORK GUILD – Every Mon. (except holidays) 9a-11a in the Menninger Room of the Topeka Public Library. Bring a project to work on as we share our needleworking skills and ideas. All are welcome to drop in.

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CO-OP – Monday's, 1-4pm, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

SENIOR ADULT EXERCISE CLASS – Tuesday's 10am, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. All exercises will be done from a chair, will help you get up out of a chair, & climb stairs safely! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB – 1st Mondays at Noon – 1 pm at The Capper Foundation, 3500 SW 10th Ave. Park on the North side. RSVP by Fri. for lunch/pay at the meeting. Visitors welcome. TopekaLions.org/contact-us to make reservations. WE SERVE!

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

NARVE (Nat'l Assn of Railroad Veteran Employee) – 2nd Tuesday each month at Grace Episcopal Church, 701 SW 8th Ave – 9:30AM. Enter on NW corner.

MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES – Tuesdays 11am-12:30. 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. For info call the YWCA at 233-1750 or Clara Gamache at 785-408-5433. (The Bible study is also taught on Sat. mornings on 101.5 FM radio.)

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES Aerie 4319: 1st & 3rd Tue. 7pm; Auxiliary: 1st & 4th Tue. 6pm, 2941 SE Fremont Street. 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

DUPLICATE BRIDGE – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30PM at The Woman's Club of Topeka, 5221 SW West Dr. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett play duplicate bridge! It is great for your brain health. For additional information email janescola@hotmail.com.

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

HAND AND FOOT CANASTA – 2nd & 4th Tue., 2-4pm, St. David's Episcopal Church, 3916 SW 17th St. Must arrive before 2pm and stay for entire game. Email Caroline at libopper1@gmail.com or call 228-2447.

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES – 1st & 3rd Tue., 2-4pm, St. David's Episcopal Church, 3916 SW 17th St. Do not come before 1:45pm. Email Ottie Reed, reed7111@gmail.com, or Mary Adkins, marycat-keeper@gmail.com

MAP GROUP (MEMOIRS, ANCESTRY, PHOTOS) – VIA ZOOM – 4th Wed. 10-11:30am. Contact Rich McReynolds at rlm4017@gmail.com. A Zoom link will be sent to you.

FAMILY HISTORY WRITING GROUP – 2nd Wed. 10-11:30am, Lowman United Methodist Church, room 12. Do you have great family stories to tell and want to pass them down to the next generation but don't know where to start? shepherdstopeka@yahoo.com

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.

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS – Every Wed., 10:45 Bible Study and meal at Noon, Topeka Church of the Brethren, 3201 NW Rochester Rd. (1 mile north of Dillon's North). FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free will donations accepted. For info: 785-224-8803 or vip@topekanorthoutreach.org.

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.

TOPEKA TWILIGHT LIONS BRANCH CLUB – 3rd Thursdays at 7pm at Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco. Social gathering, guests welcome. Topekalions.org

TOPEKA COSMOPOLITAN CLUB: The Club that fights Diabetes – Meetings: first three Thursdays of every month, 12 noon, at the Topeka Country Club.

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

OPERATION BACKPACK – 1st Thurs., 6pm, Indian Creek Elementary School, 4303 NE Indian Creek Rd. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. No assembly in August. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

LINE DANCING – 2nd & 4th Thu. 1:30-3:30 at First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. Contact Karen Botkin at 785-945-6785 or Jim Baer at 785-256-2432 or jimbaer73@gmail.com to register.

BRIDGE GROUP – 1st & 3rd Thu. 1- 3:30pm, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. To play, arrangements must be made by Mon. 5pm with Joan Arterburn at 408-5174.

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-1pm via Zoom. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants, attorney's & insurance agents invited. For info: kingdomadvisors.org or Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 785.357.6278 x19.

TOPEKA (Downtown) OPTIMIST CLUB – Every Fri.,

noon. Serving the youth of Topeka. Anyone welcome. For info: 272-1099 or fostern60@yahoo.com.

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. Info: Anne, 785-272-9249 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 GREAT LIGHT AGLOW – For meeting info contact Vickie Lynch at greatlighttopeka@gmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

HOPE AND HEALING ACADEMY harnesses the power of horses to transform the human spirit. They are expanding services to address the needs and experiences of first responders and members of the armed forces. For info, call 785-224-4232 or go to www.hopeandhealingacademy.com.

OVERCOMER'S OUTREACH ANONYMOUS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP – Mondays 6:30-7:30pm, at Be Filled Of South Topeka, 200 Airport Rd, Bldg. 818 Suite 1. Led by Pastor Bill Ritchey. 785-817-2802

BINDING UP THE BROKEN HEARTED – Sessions offered for women who suffer from the after-effects of abortion. All the women who lead these sessions have had an abortion and have received healing from God's Word. For info, contact local Healing Hearts representative Shelly Brush, First Southern Baptist Church at shelly.b@healinghearts.org. All communication is confidential and secure.

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. Info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS – Jayhawk Area

Agency on Aging provides an opportunity for caregivers to get together and share their ideas and feelings. 2nd Monday, 3:30pm, Topeka public library, Anton Rm. 3rd Friday, 12 noon, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, 2910 SW Topeka

ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT – Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@anon.net.

AL-ANON is a support group for families and friends of alcoholics. For information on meetings in the Topeka area email ais-topeka@kansas-al-anon.org or 785-215-1045. All correspondence confidential

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. All of our programs have moved from in-person to virtual.

Caregiver support group via Skype 9:30am every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at hdyoung@alz.org or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

Caregiver Support Group via Google Hangouts, 4:30pm every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at hdyoung@alz.org or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

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 GROUP – 4th Mon. in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts 7pm; fellowship & refreshments 8:30. 785-272-4895

CAREGIVERS GROUP – Caring Hearts of Hope meet 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30pm at Highland Heights Christian Church. This group will root its encouragement in God's word and prayer as well as conversation and sharing and is open to all those who care for others with illnesses such as Alzheimers, dementia, cancer or other debilitating illnesses or injuries. For dates and info, go to "Weekly Class List" at www.highlandheightscc.com or call 785-379-5642.

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:

Amazon Prime makes huge play for faith-based audience



With a new production pact, Amazon is making a major bet on faith-based entertainment and hopes to create a pipeline of Christian-focused films and television shows.

Amazon MGM Studios announced this week that it is part-

nering with Jon Erwin, co-director of "Jesus Revolution" and the company The Wonder Project, headed by Kelly Merryman Hoogstraten, a former executive at Netflix and YouTube. Dallas Jenkins is among its largest shareholders and special advisers of The Wonder Project.

As per the agreement, "House of David," a series chronicling King David of Israel's ascent to power, is Amazon Prime Video's first ordered production. The streaming series does not yet have a set release date.

Founded last year, the independent film company The Wonder Project aims to create "stories that restore faith in things worth believing in." The United Talent Agency (UTA), Lionsgate, and Jason Blum are some of the studio's backers.

"When we met with Jon, Kelly and Dallas[jenkins], their clear and passionate vision for The Wonder Project and their ambition to nurture universal stories of love, triumph and spirituality moved us," Amazon MGM Studios' head of

TV Vernon Sanders said in a statement. "We are thrilled to share this epic and many more with our global Prime Video customers. We are very excited about the scope, scale, and storytelling involved with 'House of David.'"

Christian-themed entertainment on Prime has proven to be very popular and the company hopes to expand on the offerings.

One of Prime Video's most-streamed programs in recent months is "The Chosen," the popular television series that dramatizes the life of Jesus.

"Sound of Freedom" is another movie available on Prime Video. Since its premiere last month, the film has routinely placed among the top 10 most-viewed movies on the platform.



Check Out Our Newly Redesigned, Mobile-ready Breaking-news Website.

Sharon 785-633-7764

FIBROMYALGIA & CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP – 2nd Tue., 7-9pm. First Congregational Church, 17th and Collins. For info: Randy at 785-969-4038 or TopekaCFS@outlook.com.

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.

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 at (785)230-6730. 3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd., For reservations or info: 785-271-6500.

HEALING AFTER LOSS TO SUICIDE (HeALS) Topeka support group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month via Zoom. The 3rd Tuesday meeting is in-person at 1st Congregational Church, 17th and Collins. Both meetings are 6:30-8. Topeka.heals@gmail.com. 785-380-9309

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.

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

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – First Thursday, 3pm, St. Francis Hospital, Room 300 on 2nd floor. For info: Jim 785 806 3266

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.

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS – Every Fri., 6:30pm, Town & Country 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

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. 816-453-0884 or 816-966-0927

Optimism over giving in 2024 despite economy

A recent survey found reason for optimism about faith-based giving in 2024. Despite ongoing economic challenges, donations to churches and ministries remain strong. That's according to the Giving in Faith report from Givelify and the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving.

"In a period marked by economic unpredictability, socio-political unrest and rapidly advancing technology, pastors and faith leaders might find themselves navigating uncertainty," said Wale Mafolasire, founder and CEO of Givelify. "The Giving in Faith report not only addresses the multifaceted aspects of how people give to their churches and places of worship but also offers a glimpse into future expectations."

Researchers detailed several giving trends for this year.

Faith-based giving forecasts points to increased generosity



with a commitment to do more.

Although more than half of faith leaders are concerned that the state of the economy will negatively affect their organizations' finances, 95 percent of individuals who gave money to their places of worship in 2023 want to give the same or more in 2024.

And 94 percent of people of faith who donated money to nonprofit organizations in 2023

want to give the same or more in 2024. Only 10 percent of givers strongly agreed that their charitable giving in the past year was enough, while only 8 percent strongly agreed that they had volunteered enough.

Faith leaders are committed to making a bigger impact in their communities in 2024.

Almost all (99 percent) plan to maintain or increase their community outreach efforts, and 72

percent plan on increasing their outreach, particularly to support primary needs (food and clothing), housing (through rental support or shelters), women and senior initiatives, and disaster relief.

Ambivalence pervades the adoption of new technologies outside of digital giving.

Although faith leaders are excited about the potential for technology to support recurring giving and keep their congregation connected, most have mixed feelings about artificial intelligence. Ninety-four percent have never used AI, while some (6 percent) are finding innovative ways to incorporate it for automating announcements, livestreaming church services and processing financial transactions. Others use ChatGPT for research, to generate ideas for events and funding and to translate sermons into different languages.

Missouri bill requires age verification on porn sites



Missouri lawmakers have found a bipartisan issue: making it harder for minors to access porn sites by requiring websites to verify the age of users.

Several bills have been proposed by Democrat Senator Doug Beck of Afton, and Republican Reps. Brad Belderman of St. Clair, Sherri Gallick of Belton and Mike McGirl of Petosi.

"This is a child protection bill," Gallick told the Missouri Independent. "I care deeply about children, and raising a child should be the single most important thing that anyone does. I was asked to consider legislation to protect children from pornography."

Beck introduced age verification legislation specifically dealing with online adult dating platforms. Originally, Beck

filed an age verification bill targeting pornographic material, similar to the House proposals, but withdrew it, citing errors in the drafting process. A similar bill was proposed during the 2023 legislative session by Republican Sen. Rick Brattin of Harrisonville. He introduced the same bill again this year, targeting age verification through a different means, regulating internet service providers.

More states restrict minors accessing porn sites

A total of 27 states have at least one law enacted or are considering legislation. Louisiana, Utah, Arkansas, Virginia, Montana, Mississippi and North Carolina implemented similar laws in 2023. In June, a Texas age-restriction law went into effect.

Kansas attempted similar legislation in 2023 but SB 160/HB 2301 on age verification – died in a Republican-controlled committee.

Legally produced and consensual pornographic content produced for U.S. consumers is granted protection under the First Amendment. In a controversial 1996 Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union decision, the U.S. Supreme Court found age segregation on the internet to be unconstitutional.

Gallick expressed no concern about criticism that her legislation posed a threat to civil liberties, saying that "protecting children is what is important to me. The internet is everywhere. We need an age-based verification system to protect our youth. We are shaping their behaviors, their lifestyles and their realities by what they see on the internet."

Age verification approaches promoted by the adult entertainment industry include device-based verification. In a blog post published by Pornhub in the summer of 2023, the adult site said relying on IP addresses and unique hash data, without a government identification or image, is a more secure approach. In Texas, an age verification law was passed in 2023 that required adult web-

sites to publish claims of porn addiction in addition to verifying the age of each user who visits a porn website from a local IP address.

New laws are already changing the way porn sites operate. In December, the site Pornhub announced it would block their site to all users in North Carolina ahead of that state's age restriction taking effect.

Contrary to popular urban myths that conservative or religious states consume more porn, an exhaustive survey found the opposite.

In a 2020 article in the sociological journal Socius, researchers Samuel Perry and Andrew Whitehead wrote how their survey of 15,738 U.S. adults found people in conservative (which tend to be more religious) consume less porn than other states. "Individual-level religiosity and political conservatism predict less recent pornography consumption," they wrote.

"The preponderance of studies reports far lower rates of porn use in religious individuals compared with non-religious individuals," Hess wrote. "In fact, comparisons between religious and non-religious rates are not even close."

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Solutions for the “irreversible decline” of American Christianity

Few things have occupied the American Christian mind the past few years like the seemingly inevitable decline in the American Christian population. The Atlantic ran a piece from Tim Keller called “American Christianity Is Due For A Revival,” noting a recent Pew Research study that, if nothing changes, Christianity in America will face “irreversible decline.”

Multiple books have come out attempting to understand why this is happening and what can be done about it, from “The Great Dechurching” and “The Benedict Option” to “Losing Our Religion.”

“Life In The Negative World” is the latest, and arguably one of the most practically helpful, books on how traditional conservative evangelical Christians can think about and navigate a new world in which they are increasingly a disliked (if large) minority. The book establishes a sober and compelling framework for living in a changing world for American Christians that deserves to be read and wrestled with for anyone who wants to understand the age we live in.

“Back in 2014 I detected that we were in a tipping point in the culture,” author Aaron Renn told Religion Unplugged. “In which we were moving from a place where Christianity sort of occupied this neutral ground, as a sort of lifestyle choice among many, to one where Christianity was going to be explicitly disfavored by elite society. And that was going to be a big challenge for the church.”

Renn opens the book by laying out his framework for thinking about the last 100 years of evangelical engagement with the world as “positive world,” “neutral world” and “negative world.” In the positive world, it was a sign of social status to be a Christian. In the neutral world, being a Christian made you one worldview among many competing in the marketplace of ideas. In the negative world — which we’re in right now — it’s actually a negative to your social status to be a Christian.

What Renn argues is that the ways evangelicals have engaged with non-Christians for the past several decades have been suited to the positive and neutral worlds — but don’t work for the negative world.

The “seeker sensitive” and “culture war” movements were built toward the positive world, where you could assume that most people were pro-Christian and



all you needed to do was be more welcoming (seeker sensitive) or mobilizing (culture warrior).

The “cultural engagement” model — popularized by writers and thinkers like Keller — works in the neutral world, where you have a seat at the table to build relationships with non-Christians to make your case for Christianity by your words and how you live your life. And yet, in the negative world, these strategies aren’t as effective because you can’t rely on positive goodwill or even a level playing field with which you can make your case and build relationships.

“The people who have reacted most negatively to this framework have been the cultural engagers,” Renn said. “The ‘culture warriors’ didn’t read the book. The seeker-sensitive people have been the most receptive. They’ve been the ones who’ve said ‘yes, this is reflective of what I’ve seen and experienced.’ The cultural engagers have been the ones who’ve given the most pushback. Because I’m saying they’re no longer the ones at the tip of the spear, at the forefront of the culture.”

Having read Renn’s original First Things article when it came out, I witnessed many intense reactions to it. Its supporters adopted it wholeheartedly to help explain why admonishments by fellow Christians to be gentle in their condemnations of secular liberalism didn’t apply anymore to the modern negative world.

Its detractors condemned it as justification for abandoning Christ’s commands toward kindness as an outdated “strategy,” rather than, as Russel Moore alluded to in his book “Losing Our Religion,” simply obeying Christ’s command toward kindness.

Renn’s book betrays none of the dismissals of Christian kindness one might

expect if that were true. Because of this, the book is very useful for both those who resonate with Renn’s framework for understanding a post-Christian America and those who simply want to understand the rift in evangelicalism from a reasonable conservative perspective.

The strength of this book is how seriously it takes the challenges of a post-Christian age for traditional evangelicals and proposes realistic mindset shifts and workable solutions to those challenges. While many such books assure their readers that as long as we listen better and find more common ground with secular progressives while challenging and correcting conservatives (a tactic that has become derided as “witness to the left; prophesy to the right” among evangelical circles), we will be able to witness well as a religious minority in America.

Renn has a more sober assessment. He points out that the kindest Christians, like Keller and Dave Cover, were canceled to varying degrees. Keller, for example, had an award revoked, and Cover saw his film festival partnership cut ties with his church because they disagreed with the prevailing views of gender.

Renn bluntly tells “culture warrior” conservative Christians that their strategy of engaging with the world as a war is doomed to fail since they don’t have enough recruits on their side to do battle. Meanwhile, he bluntly tells the evangelical left that their belief that they need to be loved by the secular world to witness to them will force them to compromise their faith or end up with them being canceled anyway eventually if they don’t compromise.

One of the book’s best sections has to do on “counter-catechesis.” From the data presented in books like “Handing

Down The Faith” and “The Great Dechurching,” it’s clear that one of the biggest reasons for Christians leaving the faith is that the church has one day a week in order to disciple Christians to its beliefs and values, while the wider secular society has six of them.

This is why, as “The Great Dechurching” shows, most Christians who’ve stopped going to church have done so not because they have anything against the church but because work and other things are just a higher priority.

While “The Great Dechurching” acknowledges that problem briefly, its solutions largely amount to “do a social media fast.” Renn, on the other hand, takes a more serious approach, advising evangelicals to take this as a singular priority and to model themselves after Jewish communities, who teach their children not only about Hanukkah but Christmas as well even though they don’t celebrate it.

This book isn’t helpful for everyone. Progressive Christians who agree with the way the culture’s moved regarding gender and race will push back that it’s not Christians who are going to have a worse time in the world, just backward conservatives. And they will find that Renn spends little time trying to persuade them.

Likewise, Christians who are locked into either believing old versions of culture-warring or cultural engagement will probably not be persuaded. In fact, Renn spends some time defending his framework from critics but mostly spends his time laying it out and working out its implications. Primarily, this is a book for those who are feeling what’s going on and can’t articulate it, and once they say “Of course! That’s it!” getting a vision for

how to move forward.

The book could have used more examples of how to put into practice some of the things he advises. Renn makes clear that he doesn’t want to give a 10-point plan and that he wants people to decide what applying these ideas would look like in their circumstances and communities. But more examples of ways to do this would have expanded, rather than limited, the imagination as to what that can look like in differing circumstances.

In some cases, such as giving ideas for how to survive cancellations or firings, he gives a good plethora of ideas, such as saving more money, being bi-vocational, being more deeply embedded in your communities and having more Christian-owned mid-sized businesses in your churches to employ Christians. But some examples only scratch the surface, such as “be excellent in your vocation.” How? And how do Christians do a better job of fostering that?

Ultimately, beyond whatever strategies evangelical Christians might use to deal with the changes that they are facing, Renn reminds us that what’s important is that, whatever we do, we are first and foremost following Jesus.

“Christianity is not a business,” Renn said. “We have to be all in on what we believe to be true theologically and what we believe to be true about God and what he has said and that has to be the number one thing. If we’re not doing that, we might as well all go home.”

Joseph Holmes is an award-nominated filmmaker and culture critic living in New York City. He is co-host of the podcast “The Overthinkers” and its companion website theoverthinkerjournal.world, where he discusses art, culture and faith with his fellow overthinkers. His other work and contact info can be found at his website josephholmesstudios.com.

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“Someone Like You,” is first movie based on Kingsbury novel



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“Someone Like You,” the first

major movie based on a book by bestselling author Karen Kingsbury, is scheduled to be released in theaters on April 2. “We’re ex-

cited about it,” Kingsbury says. “It’s groundbreaking.”

The film will tell the story of young architect Dawson Gage, who loses his best friend in a tragedy but soon learns she never knew. He then sets out to find the sister and tell her about her secret family.

Kingsbury founded Karen Kingsbury Productions and funded the production herself “Really, the only way to tell the story that’s in my heart and in my head is to do it our-

selves,” she said. “And so that’s what this is.”

It stars Sarah Fisher (“Meet Me Under the Mistletoe,” “Degrassi: The Next Generation”); Jake Allyn (“The Baxters,” “The Quad”); and Lynn Collins (“X-Men Origins: Wolverine,” “John Carter”), among others. The plot involves embryo adoption and twin sisters who are “separated at the petri dish.” When one of the sisters dies, Dawson accidentally learns she has a sister.

“He’s going to go find that person, just because it’s the last thing he can do for this deceased friend of his,” Kingsbury said. “And he finds this girl. Dawson

shows up where she works at the zoo and says, ‘I have information about your adoption and about your adopted sister.’ Well, this opens this big wound and heartache for this girl. She travels to another state and visits the biological family.”

The Christian theme is apparent.

“It’s a story of reconciliation and redemption,” she said. “Forgiveness is hard. And this is a movie that shows it’s possible. And also that even if you’ve been through the greatest loss if you can keep your eyes up, you’re going to be OK.”

Granger Smith excited moving from country music success to ministry

Granger Smith has no regrets as he transitions from country music singer to full-time ministry. “I’m just so excited about it,” he says. “I have so much joy just even thinking about it.”

“I have felt a strong desire to pursue ministry,” he said in a video previously posted to Instagram talking about his plans. “And this doesn’t mean I’m going to start a church or a crusade or a revival. This means that me and my family are going to serve our local church.”

Smith said he already has begun speaking before audiences about his Christian faith. While he once traversed the nation and world sharing his music, he now plans to carry a different message. “I’m used to air travel. I’m used to hotels,” he said. “But I have a different message to give, and it’s a lifegiving message. It’s one beggar — me — telling another beggar where I found bread.”

Smith said he wants to share his journey to faith, explaining how he was once hurting and in a “really bad place” but how he found hope in Jesus.

“I don’t know what the future looks like five years down the road, 10 years down the road,” he told CBN. “But right now, immediately, it’s writing books, it’s tak-



ing speaking engagements. Lord willing, when the right ones come around, it’s attending seminary and it’s going to church on Sunday mornings with my family and sitting under teachings of my pastor.”

Smith’s recent memoir, “Like a River: Finding the Faith and Strength to Move Forward after Loss and Heartache,” chronicles how he handled grief and sorrow and found faith. In 2019, the singer’s 3-year-old son, River, died in a drowning accident.

In August, Smith talked about that loss with an audience at Liberty University,

“When you hold a lifeless child in your arms, one that you love more than most things in this world, it will change you. You will

question how much control you really have in your life,” he said.

He says the book starts with that loss. “A lot of times, when I was talking about writing the book and people would say, ‘You’re writing a book? What’s it about?’ And I would say, ‘Well, it’s about losing my son.’ ...

“And as I continued to write, I learned, ‘Well, that’s not really what this book is about.’ It’s really not. That’s how it opens and the catalyst to it — that’s how the curtain opens — but really, it’s about me dying and me being reborn and the new path that followed.”

Smith said scripture has transformed his heart and mind.

“We have the word of God revealed in scripture; that just blew my mind,” he said. “I know I don’t

have to search for the clouds or have some kind of spiritual experience in some kind of dark desert. I could actually just sit on my porch

with a cup of coffee and open up the Bible and turn to any book and see who God is as revealed on those pages.”



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Here's the retailers closing more stores in 2024

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The nation's large brick-and-mortar retailers continue to suffer after thousands closed in 2023. According to CBS News, major brands shuttered 4,600 locations last year and 2024 is not looking much better.

Now, as the New Year is barely underway, iconic store brand Macy's says it will shutter even more locations in 2024. The moves are seen

as a response to increasing economic pressures.

To save expenses, Macy's announced at the start of 2024 that it would close five locations around the country and fire 2,350 workers, or 3.5% of its workforce, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Retailers, drugstores, and fast-food chains carried on a trend from the previous year in 2023: they filed for bankruptcy and some or all their locations in order to reduce expenses, citing loss of profits, inflation, and increased expenditures.



Bed, Bath & Beyond closed 866 stores. Its name was purchased by Overstock.com which is now selling items under the old brand.

After 49 years in operation, discount retailer Tuesday Morning announced in May of last year that it was closing all of its locations nationally.

Following the release of its sales, gross margins, and net income losses, Foot Locker also declared that it will close 400 of its locations in North America by 2026.

As a cost-cutting strategy, pharmacy behemoths Rite Aid, CVS and Walgreens also shuttered loca-

tions. By the end of 2026, CVS intended to close 900 stores. Walgreens declared it was closing 450 locations in order to reduce expenses after disclosing profits losses of more than \$170 million. Rite Aid closed 300.

With more than 700 stores in the United States, Sears was once the biggest retailer in the world. However, it closed hundreds of its outlets. There are now just twelve locations left.

Giant Walmart closed almost two dozen locations with plans for more this year. It shuttered locations from San Diego to Overland

Park, Kansas.

And while Dollar General is known for opening new locations even in the smallest towns, it also closed more than 70. Discount retailers Family Dollar and Dollar Tree closed more than 150 combined. Even Aldi closed 30 locations.

Other notable retailers to close locations include The Children's Place (107), Office Depot (42), Save A Lot (42), Sally Beauty (38), GAP (31), and Best Buy (27).

Most all plan to cut more locations in 2024.

Food chains not immune

Fast food chains have also said they are not immune and customers are noticing. Last week, a video of a woman went viral after she found a Taco Bell Receipt from 2012. The receipt listed a five-layer burrito for \$1.30. She stated it now costs over \$3.50.

Applebees says it will close up to 20 locations after shutting down 1,600 in 2022. Burger King closed over 150 in 2023 and says it plans

to shutter twice that many in 2024. After declaring bankruptcy, Hardee's closed 39 restaurants and pulled out of South Dakota completely. Steak and Shake is also not immune. It's been struggling with reorganization after bankruptcy and closed an additional 24 stores.

Inflation and prices for all products and services have skyrocketed since January 2021, initially surpassing 40-year record highs. Wages have decreased in tandem with rising prices and costs, "placing additional stress on family finances," according to the Heritage Foundation.

According to Heritage, there was a 7.5% decline in real disposable income between January 2021 and November 2023, a 37% decrease in the affordability of home ownership, a 36% increase in credit card debt, and an 81% decline in monthly savings for Americans.

Consumer prices rose by more than 17% and gas prices by more than 50% during the same period. Economists say that crime is playing a part in the increasing costs. More than \$112 billion was lost to shoplifting in 2022, the latest year for which data was available.

Iconic New Jersey diner finds new life in rural Missouri

A beloved roadside diner is coming to central Missouri. Rosie's Diner, which gained national fame as the setting for a series of paper towel commercials in the 1970s and later was moved to Michigan, has been sold to a Missouri couple who plan to restore it to its past glory.

With its classic look, stainless-steel interior, Formica countertops and importantly, enough room to fit a camera crew, it was featured in dozens of ads and films, most famously, Procter & Gamble's long-running commercials for Bounty, "the quicker picker-upper. Rosie's was sold to an artist and diner aficionado and moved to Michigan but eventually closed a decade ago.

Dawn and Chuck Perry, of Millersburg, Mo., were looking to

build a diner in their hometown when someone suggested they buy a "real diner, with history," instead. "Next thing you know, we find out Rosie's is for sale," Chuck Perry told the "Bergen Record." "It's the most iconic diner. It was meant to be."

Millersburg is just south of I-70 between Columbia and Kingdom City.

The couple plans to split the diner in two, load it on a pair of flatbed trucks and haul it almost 600 miles to the small community just south of Interstate 70 sometime this spring.



I deal in a lot of antique and vintage vehicles, but this is the biggest piece of history I've ever played with," Chuck said. "I've got the background and ability to

restore the diner. But if it wasn't bought now and saved, it was almost to the point of not coming back."

It likely will take several years

to restore the dilapidated diner. The couple plans to fundraise through sales of "Save Rosie's" shirts, mugs and other merchandise.

"It's one of the coolest diners that was ever built," said Jerry Berta, who moved Rosie's to Rockford, Mich., in 1990, where it reopened as the centerpiece of Dinerland USA, a roadside attraction with two other dining cars and a diner-themed miniature golf course for people to play while waiting for a table. "It has a lot of beautiful details you don't always see. I'm thrilled. This really is a piece of history. I can't wait to go down and have a burger in Missouri. I wish them the best of luck."



Inspiring Ideas for Your New Home

Moving into a new home offers an opportunity to create a space that reflects your family's values, enhances comfort and is better for the environment.

Whether you're shopping for a new home, renovating your current space or building from scratch, consider some of the latest trends while searching for inspiration.

Home Automation

From ovens that can be turned on remotely to skylights that open and close automatically and more, there are a multitude of ways to integrate smart home technology into your living space to make it more energy efficient and convenient. Start small with a voice assistant, smart light bulbs,

home security system or a programmable thermostat. After that, you can implement additional features like smart appliances, remote-controlled window blinds and other electronic devices you can control from your phone for a complete smart home system.

Sustainable Design

A long popular trend, sustainable design has evolved over the years to include more than energy-efficient appliances and LED light bulbs. Now, it's about reducing your carbon footprint and minimizing impact on the environment. To try the trend yourself, think big and get creative – install solar panels on your roof, choose highly insulated building materials



that don't require deforestation and upcycle old furniture or decor instead of buying new.

Disaster Resiliency

From wildfires that last for months to devastating tornadoes and major floods that impact entire cities, an increase in natural disasters due to climate change has required changes when building homes. Opting for disaster-resilient materials is an important first step. For example, using strong, energy-efficient insulated concrete forms (ICFs), like those from Nudura, instead of traditional wood framing helps homes better withstand extreme weather. Additionally, ICFs can endure winds of up to 250 miles per hour (equivalent to an F4 tornado) and offer a fire protection rating of up to 4 hours.

Outdoor Living

Transforming your backyard can help you make the most of your existing space. To take full advantage of your yard or patio, consider incorporating elements from the interior such as a television and comfortable seating options. Outdoor kitchen setups complete with refrigerators and sinks can make entertaining easier and a fire pit or fireplace can allow your friends and family to enjoy the outdoors even on cool nights.

Customization

You no longer have to settle for run-of-the-mill floor plans or what works for others. If you're considering a new build, work with an architect to create exactly what you're looking for, or speak with a contractor about including personalized architectural features and custom-built storage, for example, in your existing home.

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entertainment

Freud and C.S. Lewis square off in new film

Harvard psychiatrist Armand Nicholi taught a popular course on “The Question of God,” examining Sigmund Freud’s atheism and C.S. Lewis’ faith. Now a related Sony theatrical film imagines that the two met in London shortly before Freud’s death.

The result is a fascinating historical drama probing their intellectual, emotional, psychological, and spiritual development. Anthony Hopkins (Nixon, Silence of the Lamb, Howard’s End, Amistad) is masterful as Freud. Matthew Goode (Downton Abbey, The Imitation Game) plays Lewis.

Nicholi’s course inspired a book, television series, and stage play, from which this film derives. Amid Nazi advances, Freud moved from Vienna to London in 1938. Lewis taught at Oxford. There is no record of them ever meeting, but the film is a valuable tool to show how their beliefs and psyches might have weathered careful mutual scrutiny ... and to understand two competing worldviews, atheism and theism.

The father of psychoanalysis had many reasons for rejecting God. The film depicts a common one, disillusionment over disappointing life circumstances. He lost his daughter Sophie and favorite grandson to illness. In the film, he shows their pictures to Lewis, expressing his frustration.

“How could God allow this?” is a



question many raise when tragedy strikes. I certainly have. “Either God’s not loving, or not all powerful, or doesn’t exist.”

Freud wrote, “...it was a senseless, brutal stroke of fate that took our Sophie from us... we are ... mere playthings for the higher powers.”

Rampant antisemitism in his native Austria – Freud was raised Jewish – also influenced him. In 1937, he told an Austrian colleague that his “true enemy” was not the Nazi’s but “religion,” the Christian church. Religion to him was wish fulfillment that humans invented to meet their security needs.

Freud’s life had some spiritual bright spots (which the film omits, perhaps for time reasons). Most notable was his 30-year friendship with Swiss pastor Oskar Pfister, about which I’ve written more elsewhere.

Freud felt Pfister was “a remarkable man... a true servant of God, ... [who] feels the need to do spiritual good to everyone he meets. You did good in this way even to me.”

Born in Ireland in 1898, C.S. Lewis lost his mother at age 9. By age 17, he declared himself skeptical about all religions. World War I battlefield experiences affected him deeply. Reading and Oxford friendships with J.R.R. Tolkien and others prompted him to consider faith.

In 1929, he says, “I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.” He became a widely respected novelist, Christian apologist, and broadcaster. His *The Problem of Pain* aims to help unravel God-and-suffering complexities.

His argument that Jesus’ claims to deity make him either liar, lunatic, or Lord has been broadly influential: “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse....”

Freud’s London home still exists as a museum. The film’s portrayal of Lewis taking the train from Oxford to Freud’s London home reminded me fondly of my identical research journey.

So, there you have it: A strident, wounded atheist (with a soft spot for at least one Christian). A reluctant convert who believes in Jesus as God. They meet at the former’s home. Fasten your seatbelt for 108 minutes of skillfully crafted intellectual and psychological drama.

Viewers familiar with Freud and Lewis will recognize numerous situations, people, and arguments in the film. Others can discover from the dialogue what drove these two intellectual icons.

Rated (USA) PG-13 “for thematic material, some bloody/violent images, sexual material and smoking.”

Rusty Wright is an author and lecturer who has spoken on six continents. He holds Bachelor of Science (psychology) and Master of Theology degrees from Duke and Oxford universities, respectively. His MTh dissertation is on Freud’s reaction to Christian faith. www.RustyWright.com

(This article first appeared on WashingtonExaminer.com.) Copyright © 2024 Rusty Wright



Movies will tell story of the Winans family

The name “Winans” has long been synonymous with gospel music. “Thankful,” a seven-part series about the family, is in development.

The series opens in North Carolina in 1805, moving through Mississippi and later to Detroit. It will dramatize the journey of the family’s ancestors, Louis and Ruby Winans, from their enslavement to the liberation of their descendants. The narrative will highlight Louis and Ruby Winans’ struggle, faith and the miraculous journey that led to their 13 children. The series promises to convey the emotional depth and spiritual devotion of the Winans family, with a particular focus on Louis, who was given his surname by his sharecropper owner, the Rev. Winans.

The Winans family is widely respected both in the Christian and mainstream music industries, collectively earning more than 50 Grammy Awards. “The Winans,” a quartet formed by four of the brothers — Marvin, Carvin, Michael and Ronald — began recording in 1981 and quickly gained popularity for their contemporary gospel sound. The group won several Grammy Awards and was known for blending traditional gospel music with modern R&B and soul influences.

Two other members of the family, brother and sister BeBe and CeCe Winans, formed a duo and

achieved significant success in both religious and secular music. BeBe and CeCe are known for their crossover appeal, bringing gospel music to a broader audience.

“When you become a parent, you get a real revelation of God’s love,” CeCe said. “When you become a grandparent, you get another surge of life. You understand the importance of everything in the world and how it will impact that little one. I am so honored to sing gospel music. I’m so, so blessed that I truly believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. And I’m excited about God being a God of generations; that he keeps being faithful. I know my grandson Wyatt will be just fine.”

The 12-time Grammy Award winner who has performed with some of the biggest names in both Christian and mainstream music, including Whitney Houston, stressed the importance of staying rooted in a deep, lasting relationship with Jesus and connecting with a local church.

“It’s not easy, as glamorous as it looks, it’s not easy to be an artist,” she said. “It’s so important that you have a relationship with Him, and not just out here singing a song. Because you’re going to face hard times; you want to be anchored in the Word of God. You want to be anchored in a home church.”



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‘Touched by an Angel’ star writes children’s book based on her childhood

Being a child is harder than ever in today’s secular culture. Actress Roma Downey, who starred in the hit television show “Touched by an Angel,” is helping make the journey easier with her new book, “A Message in the Moon.”

The book is based on challenges she faced in her own childhood.

“This story for this book has sat in my heart for a really long time,” she said. “My mother died when I was just a little girl. I was only 10. To say that we were heartbroken would be an understatement, because we didn’t even have the preparation for illness, which I know can be traumatic and painful for a child to see their parents suffer and go through a long illness.”

Downey compared her experience to a screenplay.

“There was no warning, so it was as if somebody just turned the lights out in our lives,” she told CBN News. “If I were making a movie of my own life, my childhood would be in full Technicolor, and then, when my mother died, it’s as if the movie went into black

and white.”

Following her mother’s death, Downey drew closer to her father, and the family relied on faith to guide them through the difficult circumstances.

“If we hadn’t had faith to lean into, if we hadn’t been people of faith, I don’t know how we would have coped,” she said. “I really don’t know. As Christians and as believers, we have an understanding of the promises of Christ around this issue, and the promise of heaven, and the resurrection of the body, and all the things that we’ve been taught and believe.”

The title of the book refers to something her father told her when she left home for college. He pointed to the moon and said, “Whenever you feel alone, always look into the night sky, and you’ll be reminded of how much I love you. I’ll leave a message for you in the moon.”

Downey also the author of the bestsellers “Box of Butterflies” and “Be an Angel: Devotions to Inspire and Encourage Love and Light Along the Way.”

Martin Scorsese working on movie about Jesus

Martin Scorsese has directed some of the most acclaimed movies of recent decades, including the 2016 “Silence” and last year’s “Killers of the Flower Moon.” Now he is turning his attention to the life of Jesus.

He plans to make a new film based on Japanese novelist Shūsaku Endō’s book “A Life of Jesus,” with filming scheduled to start later this year. The screenplay reportedly is finished, and the movie will have an estimated run time of 80 minutes.

“I’m trying to find a new way to make it more accessible and take away the negative onus of what has been associated with organized religion,” Scorsese said. “Right now, ‘religion,’ you say that word and everyone is up in arms, because it’s failed in so many ways. You may reject it. But it might make a difference in how you live your life, even in rejecting it. Don’t dismiss it offhand.”

Scorsese has long said there’s a difference between “religion” and faith in Christ.

Scorsese decided to make the movie after meeting with Pope Francis last May. “I have responded to the pope’s appeal to artists in the only way I know how: by imagining and writing a screenplay for a film about Jesus,” he said at the time.

Many moviegoers will recall that the Hollywood director has made a movie about Jesus before. His film “The Last Temptation of Christ,” was extremely controversial when it premiered in 1988. Eternal World Television Network founder Mother Angelica called the movie “sacrilegious” for its storyline, which depicted Jesus as a mortal sinner like all other people in existence.



Pope Francis meets U.S. film director Martin Scorsese during a Nov. 30 private audience at the Vatican. The meeting took place the morning after the screening of his film, “Silence,” for about 300 Jesuits. (CNS / L’Osservatore Romano, handout)

In “Silence,” Andrew Garfield plays a young priest sent on a mission to find his missing mentor.

But the iconic film figure also directed “Silence,” a film based on the novel by Japanese author Shusaku Endo. Considered a powerful examination of the interplay between doubt and faith, it stars Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Tadanobu Asano, Ciarán Hinds and Liam Neeson.

That book and 2016 film are fictionalized accounts of the persecution of Christians in 17th-century Japan; the central figures are Jesuit missionaries.

The book Scorsese is using as his new inspiration also approaches the topic of Jesus in an unconventional way. Shūsaku Endō wrote the book for Japanese people who would be more open to the “motherly side of Jesus” because fathers in his culture are seen as stern and harsh.

Scorsese is an outlier in Hollywood. He’s not afraid to talk about faith and millions on films that explore the subject.

“I’m not a doctor of the church,” Scorsese told Jesuit Fr. Antonio Spadaro, editor of the journal *La Civiltà Cattolica*. “I’m not a theologian who could argue the Trinity. I’m certainly not interested in the politics of the institution,” the director said. “But the idea of the Resurrection, the idea of the Incarnation, the powerful message of compassion and love — that’s the key. The sacraments, if you are allowed to take them, to experience them, help you stay close to God.”

In the same interview, he talked about stepping outside after filming a powerful church scene. “How can life just be going on? Why hasn’t everything changed?” he says he asked himself. “Why isn’t the world directly affected by the body and blood of Christ?”

Scorsese has clearly evolved in his portrayal of Jesus and the Christian faith since “Last Temptation,” all eyes will be anxiously awaiting what his new project about the life of Jesus will tell.

Angel Studios to release end of world movie, ‘Homestead’

Angel Studios has finished production on a new end-of-civilization movie, “Homestead.”

The film is inspired by the popular book series *Black Autumn*, written by Jeff Kirkham and Jason Ross. It revolves around the conflict between two families during the collapse of society.

One family is well-prepared and affluent, while the other family consists of military veterans who have been recruited to provide security for their property.

Amid their disagreements, and as the world becomes more and more violent, there is mounting evidence that God may



have his own intentions.

The film and TV show features Neal McDonough (Minority Report, Band of Brothers), Bailey Chase (Longmire, S.W.A.T., 24: Legacy), Dawn Olivieri (1883, House of Lies), Jesse Hutch (Batwoman), Kevin Lawson (The Shift), Kieran Giovanni (Major Crimes, Designated Survivor), Tyler Lofton (Grown-ish, Love, Victor), Susan Misner (Billions, The Americans), Olivia Sanabia (Just Add Magic), Grace Powell (All Rise, Station 19), and Caden Dragomer (911 Lone Star).

“I’m looking forward to watching a

family-oriented apocalypse story that is filled with hope on screen. After all, isn’t it true that God is always doing something amazing, even in challenging times?” says Jeffrey Harmon, one of the founders of Angel Studios. *Homestead* experiences a tumultuous journey throughout the collapse of society, only to demonstrate that family, community, and love are the most crucial factors for survival. I’m really excited to see both the movie and the TV show.

“Homestead” is set to premiere as a hybrid idea, starting as a feature film in 2024 and later evolving into a TV series.

The production endeavor collected more than \$1.25 million from around 3,000 backers.

50+ Lifestyles

A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

Manage Heart Health for Stronger Brain Health

The same risk factors that contribute to making heart disease the leading cause of death worldwide also impact the rising global prevalence of brain disease, including stroke, Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

The global death rate from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias is increasing even more than the rate of heart disease death, according to the American Heart Association's Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics 2022 Update.

Globally, more than 54 million people had Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in 2020, a 37% increase since 2010 and 144% increase over the past 30 years (1990-2020). Additionally, more than 1.89 million deaths were attributed to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias worldwide in 2020, compared to

nearly 9 million deaths from heart disease.

"The global rate of brain disease is quickly outpacing heart disease," said Mitchell S.V. Elkind, M.D. M.S., FAHA, the past president of the American Heart Association (2020-21), a professor of neurology and epidemiology at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and attending neurologist at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. "We are learning more about how some types of dementia are related to aging, and how some types are due to poor vascular health. It's becoming more evident that reducing vascular disease risk factors can make a real difference in helping people live longer, healthier lives, free of heart disease and brain disease."

According to the statistics update, people with midlife hypertension were five times more likely to experience impairment on global cognition and about twice as likely to experience reduced executive function, dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The risk for dementia associated with heart failure was nearly two-fold.

Experts recommend maintaining a healthy weight, managing your blood pressure and following other heart-healthy lifestyle behaviors that can also support good brain health while studies show maintaining good vascular health is associated with healthy aging and retained cognitive function.

Optimal brain health includes the ability to perform tasks like movement, perception, learning and memory, communication, problem solving, judgment, decision making and emotion. Cognitive decline and dementia are often seen following stroke or cerebrovascular disease and indicate a decline in brain health.

Consider these steps to live a healthier lifestyle and protect your heart and brain health:

- Don't smoke; avoid second-hand smoke.
- Reach and maintain a healthy weight. Be mindful of your eating habits; eat foods low in saturated fat, trans fat, sodium and added sugars.
- Be physically active. Start slowly and build up to at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity (such as brisk walking) each week. As an alternative, you can do 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity, or a combi-



nation of the two, to improve overall cardiovascular health.

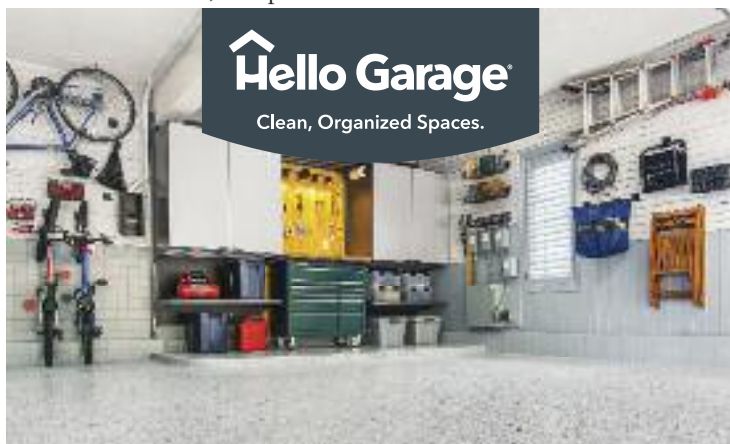
- Get your blood pressure checked regularly and work with your health care team to manage it if it's high.

- Have regular medical check-ups and take your medicine as directed.

- Decrease your stress level and seek emotional support when needed.

Learn more about the relationship between heart health and brain health at heart.org.

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Making Self-Care a Daily Practice: Tips for Improving Mental Health



In an epidemic of loneliness, mental health awareness is on the rise, and a focus has been placed on finding tactics to improve mental well-being. Self-care is a key factor in the condition of our mental health — but before you picture bubble baths and pedicures, think again. When it's incorporated as a regular habit, the outcomes of self-care can be life-changing. What does self-care look like practically? What are its benefits, and how does it positively impact mental health? Take a look at how self-care can be a powerful strategy in your journey to overall wellness.

What is Self-Care?

Self-care is sometimes stigmatized as selfish, a frivolous “extra treat” or a luxury reserved only for those with time to spare — an indulgent massage, for example. And while there's nothing wrong with a massage, true self-care is

so much more significant. As Brynn Fowler, Executive Director with Camber, says, “Self-care is recognizing the ability to promote and maintain wellness while managing stress in a healthy and positive way.”

Because of how beneficial it can be to our overall well-being, self-care has the potential to drastically improve our lives.

“Self-care is not a luxury to pick and choose whether or not you want to do it. It really is something that everyone needs to have in their routines for best health.”

Benefits of Self-Care

Have you ever listened to the emergency guidelines while flying on an airplane? The flight attendants instruct those on the flight that they should first put the oxygen masks on themselves, and then put them on anyone who needs help. This protocol is in place because if you lose oxygen yourself, you cannot help the other people who need assistance. Then no one has enough oxygen to function.

Practicing regular self-care works a lot like this. It allows you to optimize your life, feel better and put your best foot forward. “If you're practicing self-care, you're more apt to handle daily stressors

that come up, while also building resiliency, so you can help yourself and others,” Fowler explains. To incorporate self-care effectively, a routine can help. The goals of a self-care routine involve:

- Taking care of physical and psychological health
- Managing and reducing stress
- Enhancing awareness of emotional and spiritual needs
- Sustain healthier relationships
- Achieving overall balance in each area of life.

Think these goals sound great? So do we! And one of the best ways to reach these goals is by practicing regular self-care. Survey results show that about 59% of people only practice self-care when they're already very stressed and getting close to burnout, but this is not the most effective strategy. It's, instead, making self-care a priority as part of your daily life. In fact, sticking to a self-care routine has many benefits including:

- Enhanced self-confidence
- Reduced stress
- Increased happiness
- Better productivity
- Improved anxiety and depression
- Feeling rested and revitalized
- Lowers chances of heart disease, stroke and cancer
- Adapting to changes more fluidly
- And more!

Self-care ensures that you're in tune with your body and what your personal needs are. This allows you to better manage your health. Just as life has its ups and downs, so will self-care routines, but it's essential to keep awareness and make any necessary changes to the routines before our physical and mental health suffer.

Improving Mental Health with Daily Self-Care Practices

Although there are many elements to self-care, physical and mental health are often a top priority. These two areas affect a large part of our daily living, and if they are not maintained it impacts our overall health. However, research shows that engaging in self-care is proven to reduce symptoms of anxiety, depression and stress while increasing coping abilities and happiness levels. But how do you begin a self-care routine to help with mental health?

Self-care starts with those things that help you get out of bed every day. It can be anything — from going to the store

to spending time with loved ones, walking outdoors or cuddling up with a good book. If you're having trouble finding something that fills your cup, try thinking about the things that put a smile on your face, and what helps you to keep going. Try building a Mental Health Toolkit, which can be the building blocks of your self-care routine. Depending on how empty your cup is, self-care practices may take some time and effort on your part before the full effects are noticed.

Another way to think about self-care is to consider the opposite of what has drained you recently. For example, maybe you're coming off a busy week at work with many interpersonal interactions, and lots of activities with children and others. Smart self-care could look like quiet, solo, restorative activities on your own. But if you've been feeling isolated and disengaged from others recently, smart self-care could look like a phone call to a good friend.

For those who may roll their eyes at the thought of self-care and experience thoughts of skepticism about its effectiveness, think about how you're feeling mentally, physically, emotionally and beyond. What comes up? Is it a sense of peace in a hectic world? Or are there several heightened emotions happening under the surface?

“When you're feeling stressed, anxious, angry, irritated, burned out and overwhelmed, ask yourself if you're taking care of yourself and practicing regular self-care,” Fowler says. “Chances are, you're not, and that's why you're feeling this way.”

Modeling Self-Care for Children

As a caregiver, self-care can feel like

the least important item on your to-do list. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the mere idea of self-care when you have so much to do for your family. Only 32% of parents feel they have time for self-care!

But don't forget that oxygen mask analogy: When you take care of yourself, you're better equipped to care for your family. Spending time in self-care positions you as a role model for your children, so they can understand the importance of taking care of themselves too.

What to Do When Your Cup is Empty and Self-Care Practices Aren't Enough?

The purpose of self-care is to feel more energized and ready to take on the world. It allows us to give more of ourselves without draining our energy — which we won't have if we're not taking care of ourselves. But when our cup is already empty and coping becomes more difficult, self-care practices might not feel like enough.

If mental health struggles like deeper depression, isolating behaviors, irritability, emotional exhaustion and physical stress/pain are apparent, additional help and support from a therapist or other professional services might be necessary. Use this time as a chance to become more aware of how you are giving away your energy and learn strategies to improve self-care practices, so you don't have to suffer. Develop a new set of self-care skills and optimize yourself to inspire the self-care practices of others.

—Brynn Fowler | cambermental-health.org

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sports

Chiefs owner Clark Hunt going to 4th Super Bowl in 5 years: 'I want to give God the glory'



It quickly became evident, during the on-field presentation of the Lamar Hunt Trophy in Baltimore on Sunday night, that the Kansas City Chiefs' championship DNA begins at the top.

For the fourth time in the last five seasons, the trophy given to the winner of the AFC championship game was passed to Lamar Hunt's son and current Chiefs owner/CEO, Clark Hunt, following his team's 17-10 triumph over the No. 1-seeded Baltimore Ravens to advance to Super Bowl LVIII.

Clark Hunt took it from there.

"It's such a special night for us," he told CBS' Jim Nantz while holding the trophy named for his father, who founded the Kansas City Chiefs as well as the AFL (today's AFC). "First of all, I want to give God the glory and I want to congratulate the Ravens on an amazing year.

"Four years ago, when you handed us our first Lamar Hunt Trophy, I gave it to my mom (Norma) and the first thing she did was kiss it. That moment showed how much she loved my dad and how much she loved the Kansas City Chiefs. ... Chiefs Kingdom, we're going back to the Super Bowl!"

The AFC championship game was a battle of the NFL's top two defenses — Baltimore, which allowed 16.2 points per game, and Kansas City, which allowed 16.8. On the road in an AFC title game for the first time ever, superstar quarterback Patrick Mahomes helped the Chiefs build a 17-7 halftime lead. Despite not scoring the rest of the way, Kansas City's own stingy defense stifled presumptive

NFL MVP Lamar Jackson and allowed nothing but a field goal in the second half to hold on for the win.

In Super Bowl LVIII, set for Las Vegas on Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. ET, the Chiefs will take the field against an opponent not entirely unfamiliar — the San Francisco 49ers, a team Kansas City beat four years ago, 31-20, in the franchise's first Super Bowl appearance since winning it all in January 1970. That was the final game of the AFL.

Amid the Chiefs' recent dominance, Hunt has had numerous opportunities to share a message with the football world. Each time, he's made sure to give glory to his Father in Heaven.

After defeating the Cincinnati Bengals, 23-20, in last season's AFC championship game and bringing the Lamar Hunt Trophy back to Kansas City following a year's hiatus, Clark Hunt was overflowing with gratitude.

"Congratulations to all the players and coaches on bringing home another Lamar Hunt Trophy!" he said. "The Lord has blessed our family in so many ways, including with the best fan base in the National Football League, and there's nothing better than getting to celebrate this with you guys!"

Hunt had a similar message after winning the Super Bowl four years ago, and then again after advancing to the Super Bowl three years ago. Hunt says he's simply giving credit where it's due. It's a natural response for him, considering he became a believer at 10 years old.

Hunt has built a Chiefs culture cen-

Ravens coach Harbaugh "gives glory and honor where it's due"

Kansas Citians were cheering for the Chiefs in the AFC championship game against Baltimore on Sunday. At the same time, however, they can appreciate the public expression of faith by Ravens head coach John Harbaugh.

Last weekend, he quoted scripture in his post-game news conference, saying he wanted to "give glory and honor where it's due." His comments came after his top-seeded Ravens defeated the Houston Texans 34-10 in the NFL divisional round. Harbaugh began his news conference by quoting 1 Chronicles 29:11.

"This is something that was sent to me before the game," he said, according. "It is just meaningful to me. So I'm going to share it with you, because I think it's the right thing to do. And it's a verse. 'Greatness, power, glory, victory and honor belong to you, because everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you. The kingdom belongs to you, Lord. You are the head and the ruler over everything.' There's amazing spirit on this team. And I just want to kind of give honor and glory where it's due."

Harbaugh is in his 16th season as Ravens coach and has a record of 160-99 during that stretch. Baltimore has made the playoffs 11 times during his stint

tered around faith in Christ, and he makes it a top priority for his staff. He's even helped organize pregame chapel services for fans and contributed to projects that proclaim Christ in Kansas City and around the country.

"We want our employees to develop spiritually," Hunt said in October 2019, according to the Tyler Morning Telegraph. "In the National Football League, Christ is really glorified. My identity is my faith in Christ."

Before last year's Super Bowl, a thriller in which Kansas City edged the Philadelphia Eagles, 38-35, Sports Spectrum briefly caught up with Hunt to ask him about his faith.

"In our family, it's faith, family and football, and in that order," Hunt said. "That's a challenge, but it's something we really focus on as a family and it's the No. 1 thing in our lives."

He continued later: "I've really tried to focus on praying about having peace and enjoying this great blessing. Because that's what it is. ... Prayer is critical, right? It's one of the cornerstones of my faith and anyone who's a Christian. God is faithful, and even though He knows what's on my heart, I need to share it with Him because it draws me closer to Him."



there. He discussed his faith last year during an interview on the Sports Spectrum Podcast.

"To me, success is alignment with God," he said. "Perfect success would be

perfect alignment with God and God's will. He knows what our true desires are, what our purpose is, so trying to find that purpose through connection with God — being connected and filled with the spirit of God, the Holy Spirit — that is success.

"Really, (walking with Christ) comes down to trust, I do believe. I trust providence. I trust God's will, his plan. As much as anything, try to put it in his hands, because when you look back, you can see where he's brought you."



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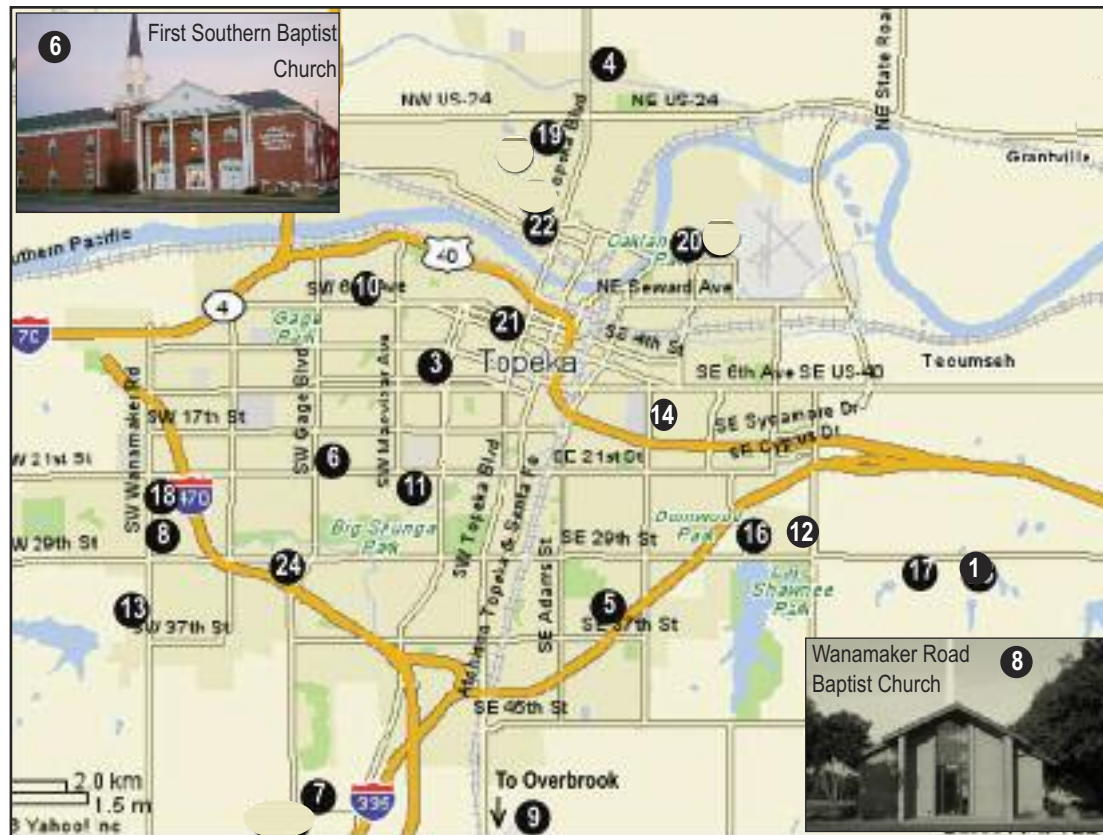
Funds raised will be shared with a local non-profit serving local families



SATURDAY, Mar. 30, 2024 • 10 AM - 3 PM

TopekaEasterParade.com • "Like" us on Facebook: Topeka Easter Parade & Family Fun Fair

New Resident Church Guide



1. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

785-379-5642
 Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM
 2930 SE Tecumseh Road
 Tecumseh, Kansas 66542
www.highlandheightscc.com
 Jars of Clay Children's Ctr 785-379-9098

2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.

Pastor Beaux Bryant
 Call about new meeting location for current services.
 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
 Worship: 9:00 & 10:30 am
 Livestream at 9:00 am
 Sunday School & Bible Studies:
 9:00 & 10:30 am
www.discovertbc.com

4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka
 286-1204
 Worship Sun. 9:00 & 10:45 AM
www.northland.cc

5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Grace has dispensed, because Grace has redeemed"
 3510 SE Indiana Ave., Topeka, Ks. 66605
 785-266-7788, www.Indianaavecofc.org
 Bible University – Sunday - 9:30 a.m.
 Classes for all ages.
 Morning Worship – Sunday – 10:45 a.m.
 Midweek Bible University – Wed. – 7pm

6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST

1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS
 272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org
 Sunday Services:
 8:30 AM Traditional Worship
 9:45 AM Bible study—all ages
 11 AM Contemporary Worship

7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH

"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"
 Sunday Worship 9:15 & 10:45am, 6pm
 ~ Sunday School for all ages ~
 4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka
 785-862-0988
www.topekabaptist.org

8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"
 2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka
 (785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com
 Traditional Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm
 Sunday School 9:30am • Wed. Prayer 7pm

9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)
 Overbrook, KS; 785-670-6456
 Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor
 Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am
www.gccinoverbrook.com
office@gccinoverbrook.com

11. COMMUNITY CHURCH

1819 SW 21st St., Topeka
 233-3537 www.CommunityTopeka.com
info@CommunityTopeka.com
 Sun. 8:30am - Sunday School for all ages
 Sun. 10:00am - Worship & Word
 Sun. 10:00am Youth Service
 ~ Nursery care for all services ~

12. LAKEVIEW CHURCH of the NAZARENE

2835 SE Croco Road (785)266-3247
 Rob Self, Senior Pastor
 Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene
 Sun. 9:45am: Sunday School all ages
 Sunday 10:45am:
 Nursery, Children's Church, & Worship
 Wed.: Prayer, Bible Study, & Discussion 7-8pm
 Kids J.A.M. 'Jesus & Me!' 7-8pm

13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE

3501 SW Wanamaker Rd • 273-2248
www.wwnaz.org
 Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am
 Children's Worship 9 & 11 am
 Sunday School 10 am, all ages
 Sun. Evening Various Children's Programs
 6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service
 Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups
 Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University
 ~ Nursery care at all services ~

14. OPEN ARMS OUTREACH MINISTRIES COGIC

1 (785) 232-3463/+1 (785) 217-5560
 Sunday School 9:30, Worship 11:00
 In person or conference call:
 (712) 770-4749 / 583229
 Bible Study Tue & Wed conference call
 2401 SE 11th St., Topeka KS 66607
 Supt. S. C. Mitchell, Pastor

16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH

A Spirit-filled, Word-centered church
 2531 SE Wittenberg Rd., Topeka
 Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm
 Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm
 785-266-LOVE (5683)
 J. Michael Borjon, Pastor



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KFGB 97.7 FM
 Upper Room Radio

17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

4425 S.E. 29th St., 785-379-9933.
 Sunday Worship 10:00am & 5:30pm
 Sunday Evenings at 5:30pm:
 • AWANA
 • Student Ministries
 • reJengage
www.esbcks.org

20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1937 NE Madison St,
 Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594
 Pastor Dale Stockburger
 Sunday Worship: 11 am and 6pm
 Sunday School: Sun 10am
 Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm

21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP


Meets at 522 SW Polk
 785-220-5418
 Pastor Rey Rodriguez
 Sun. Worship 10:30 am
www.harvestfamilyfellowshiptopeka.org

22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH

1231 NW Eugene St.
 Topeka, KS 66608
 Pastor Roger Randel
 Sunday School 9am; Worship 10:30am
 Wednesday Bible Study 7pm
 785-234-1111
FOGchurch.com

24. TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST

Holding to the authorized King James Version and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith
 Sunday 9:30 a.m. Wednesday 6 p.m.
 Pastor Bob Spagnuolo 785-273-3506
 meeting in our home:
 4307 SW 30th Ter., Topeka
www.TrinityReformedBaptist.org



Topeka Bible Church
 Leading People to Life in Christ
 1135 SW College Avenue
 and 1101 SW Mulvane
785.234.5545
 Sunday services, Sunday school, and Bible studies
 at 9 and 10:30 AM • Livestream at 9 AM • discovertbc.com



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www.global-missions.com
 PO Box 161 Topeka KS 66601
 785-232-2992 or 785-231-8183



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SERVICE:

ECONOMY HOUSE CLEANING in the Topeka Area: Only \$50 for most houses. Call Marvin for appointment. Phone 785-741-1929

WANTED:

ASSISTANT EDITOR – Research articles & event info online & on phone. Some writing & editing. Some updating files, social media posting, possibly some deliveries. Mostly work from home. Could be part-time hourly wages, or contract services basis. Call 785-640-6399

PART-TIME ACCOUNT REP – Work your own hours. Call on businesses, churches & non-profits about their advertisements in Metro Voice. Generous commission on all ads you place;

no base. Voice@cox.net

VOLUNTEER WRITERS – Metro Voice needs volunteer writers or interns for church and community news around the area. Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net. Some perks. involved.

FEMALE SINGERS WANTED – Topeka Acapella Unlimited is looking for female singers who would like to sing four part acapella harmonies. Topeka Acapella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403 for more information.

DELIVERY PERSON – Metro Voice needs someone to help distribute papers to churches and other locations in Topeka, a couple days a month, using your own car. Call 235-3340

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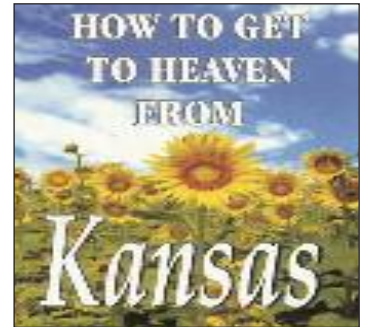
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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, 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.

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