



FIESTA TOPEKA

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# metr VOICE

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3 Things to Know  
about "Something  
to Stand For"

Pg. 19

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## NEW RESIDENT churchguide

Heritage Baptist Church



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23!

## Kansas stops Biden's scheme for 2nd student loan cancellation



Kansas won a nationwide preliminary injunction stopping the latest version of President Biden's student loan cancellation scheme. The June 24 order stops the Biden administration from cancelling student loans under its latest regulation, which was scheduled to take effect on July 1.

"Kansas's victory today is a victory for the entire country," Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach said. "As the court cor-

■ Please see LOANS page 3



## Is It Too Late for America?

When the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, our forefathers built their hopes of the nation's survival on some important principles. John Witherspoon, one of the Declaration signers wrote, "Nothing is more certain than that a... corruption of manners make a people ripe for destruction." This is the principle of a civil society. Witherspoon and other founders re-

peated this ideal believing if America did not upkeep its civility, it would become its greatest downfall.

When you scan the moral landscape of American culture, how would you judge it to be? Isaiah the Prophet, a spiritual leader in days long gone, was a student of the moral condition of his nation. He wrote, "Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away;

for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey." (Isaiah 59:14-15)

What a poetic, yet accurate denunciation he made of his nation. Does this resemble America? Has justice turned back in our nation? Has truth stumbled in our public sector? Does the person who does

■ Please see AMERICA page 2

Special Combo Issue!  
BONUS Content from  
Health & Wellness  
Magazine

## Free water stations set up for homeless



Extreme heat can be a risk to those exposed to it, especially people who don't have easy access to drinking water, like the homeless. The Topeka and Shawnee County Homeless Task Force are running hydration stations around the Capital City.

These stations offer free bottled water to anyone – no questions asked.

"The Homeless Task Force has come up with a plan for our homeless population and even those who are just out in the community, to set up water stations around the Topeka area for people to get

■ Please see WATER page 3

## Gen Z reading Bible more, looking for authenticity, survey finds

The recent State of the Bible survey from the American Bible Society offers a ray of hope for younger generations. More than 20 percent of Gen Z adults say they have increased their Bible reading in the past year.

"They're leaning into the Bible," John Plake, Ph.D., the organization's chief program officer says. "They're really trying to engage in their faith, and they are kind of a bright hope for us as a young generation of American

adults."

Plake, a former university campus pastor and professor, said he wasn't surprised by the survey results. In fact, he believes there are some misconceptions surrounding younger Americans. Although some Boomers might see them as being against the Bible or Jesus, the data show more openness and curiosity.

"They aren't the 'turned-off, tuned-

■ Please see GEN Z page 3





## This famous rural café will take you back in time

Sommerset Café, located approximately 12 miles west of Topeka in the small Shawnee County town of Dover, has achieved a bit of fame across the country. There's a reason people still travel long distances to sample the pies and other food there, even though it has undergone some changes over the years.

Becky Frank is the current owner and chef at the popular café, where breakfast and lunch is served Tuesday through Saturday, 7AM to 2PM, featuring fresh, homemade foods.

Lunch at the café offers hamburgers, crispy fried chicken strips, and salads to bring a smile to your face. The chicken



tenders are hand breaded, and the Rueben and Patty Melt are very popular.

There are also daily specials, as well as desserts to top off your meal. Cinnamon rolls and homemade pies are featured, as well as other tasty desserts.

Breakfast is another favorite part of Sommerset Café. Folks from the surrounding area say it's the best around! Included are hand-shredded hashbrowns (or you can have buttery fried potatoes & onions), homemade biscuits, and fluffy, made-to-order omelets (fresh-cut veggie-omelets for those non-meat eaters). No sausage gravy from a can, either – sausage is fried and gravy made on site.

Friday is the only day of the week that the Cafe is open in the evening, from 5 to 7:30 PM. All dinners come with mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans & ham, dinner roll and a salad bar. The main dish varies between fried chicken, chicken fried steak, and fried chicken breast.

Becky has been in food service for the last 40 years. She enjoys serving others, and has her own secrets that give her pies, cinnamon rolls and other desserts a reputation of their own! Her cuisine attracts



the attention of locals as well as people who drive for miles just for lunch. People from other states often stop in just for the pies.

The relaxing atmosphere at Sommerset Café will take you back in time, when



dining was all about spending time with the people you enjoy, making memories around the table.

The building itself has an interesting history. The popular café began as the Sage General Store in the late 1800s. The owner, Alfred Sage, named it Sommerset



Hall after his birthplace in Sommersetshire, Bristol, England. The Odd Fellows Lodge began meeting in the upstairs in 1902 and purchased the building in 1905. The Dover Lodge (I.O.O.F #490) still meets in the upstairs hall today.

The Café, which occupies the lower floor of the building, became nationally famous in November 2008 when Good Morning America Weekend announced that the Coconut Cream Pie baked by Sommerset Café's Norma Grubb was the winner of their Best Slice Challenge. The notoriety increased demand for the pies, and although Norma

passed away in 2009, the fresh-baked pies are still a highlight of the café.

The café is a short and beautiful drive away on K4 Highway, at the east edge of the Flint Hills. Continuing west on K4 one can also visit the small but popular Echo Cliff Park and more on the native stone scenic drive through the Flint Hills.

For more information on specials, etc., visit Sommerset Café on Facebook. It's also a good idea to call ahead at (785) 256-6223. The address is 5701 SW Douglas Road, Dover, Kansas.



## AMERICA

continued from page 1

good, make himself prey to the one who does evil? Is the character of our society known more by virtuousness or unscrupulous behavior?

Truth has stumbled in America's public square, while decency and honesty seem to be strangers among us. We are an immoral nation. There are no firm standards of right and wrong or good and bad. Instead, corruption is rewarded, while evil is framed by statute and applauded. Violence is justified, and deceitfulness is defended.

What Isaiah said has become a reality for our nation, "uprightness cannot enter." In the Land of Liberty integrity is no longer encouraged. Truthfulness is silenced. Rightful justice is absent. And the one who walks away from corruption, violence and deceitfulness

is vilified by the schemers of lawlessness.

We are a people that have sunk to a moral low, "For our sins testify against us." (Is. 59:12) God is not blind to all this, for it is written "The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice." (Is. 59:15)

Who will pray for America while we are in this condition? Will the Lord find anyone on their knees seeking Him for His saving power? His judgment is coming. The Scriptures say, "According to their deeds, so will he repay." (Is. 59:18)

Sometimes God repays rebellious nations through His appointed judgments, in order to humble them, "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will

hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place." (2 Chronicles 7:13-15)

Is it too late? Is there divine mercy available for our nation? Read what God Himself says, "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression" God is looking for a faithful remnant, who will come out from among the lawless and live for Him. He has sent His Son to be their Redeemer. Through Jesus, He promises to be their God and they will be His people. And this remnant of the redeemed can be the means for a great spiritual awakening to descend on America.

—Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Please share your comment at [cdecker@greatawakenings.org](mailto:cdecker@greatawakenings.org) and follow his blog at [clintdecker.blogspot.com](http://clintdecker.blogspot.com).



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## Let's Help gets new Director as it prepares to move

Let's Help, Inc. has named Patrick Yancey as its new Executive Director, bringing over 30 years of executive and pastoral experience to the organization. Mr. Yancey's appointment comes at an exciting time for Let's Help as it prepares to relocate to its



new headquarters and deliver higher quality services to Topeka's homeless and working poor citizens.

Mr. Yancey has led several non-profit organizations in the healthcare, child welfare services, mental health services, finance, and information technology sectors. He has most recently served as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Topeka, a position that involved establishing partnerships within the community to offer services to those in need. He previously held executive-level roles including Chief Executive Officer of HealthSource Integrated Solutions and Vice President of Corporate Services at Kansas Children's Service League. He also brings to the position a deep understanding of Let's Help as he

has served on its Board of Directors since 2022, a position he resigned from upon his appointment as Executive Director.

"We are very pleased to announce Pat's appointment as our new Executive Director," reports Ben Broxterman, Chair of the Let's Help Board of Directors. "He brings a proven track record leading organizations through times of transition, improving operating efficiencies, reducing costs, and growing revenue. His leadership will ensure we continue providing essential services to Topeka's homeless and working poor citizens as we transition to our new location and look to the future."

"The mission of Let's Help has impacted so many thousands since it was founded in 1969, not just meeting daily needs, but offering a hand-up—a way to break the cycle of poverty and make a positive difference for generations of families," says Mr. Yancey. "I look forward to providing the leadership needed to ensure those services are not just maintained but expanded as we move

into our new location."

A native Topekan, Mr. Yancey graduated from Washburn University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Founded in 1969, Let's Help is a not-for-profit organization committed to helping people achieve self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty. Its programs reach tens of thousands of people each year and involve hundreds of volunteers and partnerships with churches and other mission-minded organizations in the community. Services include comprehensive emergency services in the form of financial help for rent, utilities, and medical expenses, and free community lunches, a food pantry, and a clothing bank. Let's Help also provides GED classes and testing, enabling adults who never graduated from high school to achieve their diploma.

Let's Help is looking forward to relocating to its new headquarters at 245 SW MacVicar Ave. in late Summer / early Fall. Anyone interested in supporting the mission of Let's Help, either as a volunteer or donor, can learn more at [Let'sHelpInc.org/how-you-can-help](http://Let'sHelpInc.org/how-you-can-help).

## C5 meeting will feature Barry Feaker and Free Admission

The July C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held on the 11th at Harley Davidson, with Barry Feaker as the featured speaker. The former Executive Director of the Topeka Rescue Mission will speak on "All Hands On Deck -- Campaign to end chronic homelessness in Topeka."

The cost to attend the luncheon is free, and food may be purchased from Black Dog BBQ, located inside Harley Davidson, and brought into the meeting room.

RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org).

"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-profits and churches.

Upcoming luncheon dates are Au-

gust 8, September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12.

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.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations.

C5 is currently holding a membership drive with special incentives for new members. Lower-priced memberships for small and home-based businesses are now available. Individuals without a business to promote may also join for \$20. A list of current members is available on the website.

For more information about C5Alive, go to [C5Alive.org](http://C5Alive.org), [www.facebook.com/C5Alive](http://www.facebook.com/C5Alive), or call 785-640-6399.



Feaker

## GEN Z

continued from page 1

out generation' of the 60s," he told CBN. "They're more 'leaning in.' They recognize that they are spiritual, that they have a purpose — and they really want to discover what that purpose is, so that's the good news."

Of course, this positive news doesn't come without some difficulty and struggle, with Plake also detailing what he sees

as challenging news for the church. When it comes to Gen Z, he said, "they don't give what we call epistemic privilege to the Bible." This basically means evangelists and apologists can't assume a bias in favor of biblical truth; instead, its laurels have to be explained and properly synthesized for Gen Zers to comprehend.

"There's no advantage that you have to come to them with what the Bible says vs. what some other form of scripture or religious tradition says," Plake said. "What they want to know is, 'Can the

Bible help me? Does God care about me? And, if you can answer their questions from a biblical perspective, they're interested."

Gen Z adults truly care about authentic engagement, which provides a powerful opening for Christians who have real-life stories of God-ordained transformation.

"What the next generation really cares about is authentic engagement from people who really have a story to tell," Plake said.

## WATER

continued from page 1

water when they need it," said Kristy Hobbs, Valeo's Path Team Leader.

The stations are found at Valeo, Let's Help and Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

"Our goal again is to really make sure that the folks who both already come here for services or who maybe who don't come here often just need

to know, 'hey there's a safe place where I can go and get access to some fresh clean drinking water," said Ben Broxterman, Let's Help's Chairman of the Board of Directors, "That's really what we want to make sure we provide here."

People who need bottled water can also receive an electrolyte packet to stay hydrated

The task force will also set up other stations in areas where the homeless tend to gather.

### Hydration Stations Locations

#### Valeo

2401 SW 6th Ave  
330 SW Oakley Ave  
Mon – Fri, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### Let's Help

200 S. Kansas Ave  
Mon – Fri, 9 – 11 a.m. and  
Mon – Thu, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

#### Catholic Charities of NE Kansas

234 S Kansas Ave  
Mon – Thu, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

major question that only Congress can answer. Biden's administration is attempting to usurp Congress's authority. This is not only unconstitutional, it's unfair. Blue collar Kansas workers who didn't go to

college shouldn't have to pay off the student loans of New Yorkers with gender studies degrees."

Judge Daniel Crabtree, a U.S. District Judge appointed by President Obama, issued the decision.

## LOANS

continued from page 1

rectly held, whether to forgive billions of dollars of student debt is a

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# Men, Be Aware of Medicine Induced Behaviors

By Shane M. Jones, LSCSW

I want to clarify that I am not a medical doctor, and I'm not giving medical advice. I am only sharing what I have observed over the years and have learned from the medical community.

Men – and women – need to be mindful of all the ways their medications can affect thinking and behavior. In this article I am primarily addressing men and specifically addressing what can arise from medications that affect the neurotransmitter Dopamine, and when it is combined with testosterone treatment.

The likelihood of men being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease is twice as high as women. Men are twice as likely to be diagnosed with ADHD. Also, very few women receive any kind of Testosterone treatment, but many men do. Add in the ones who wrestle with restless leg syndrome, and you have a large number of men who will be on medications that affect Dopamine. Of this group of men

many will also be on Testosterone treatments.

Pramipexole is a medication that is used to treat Parkinson's disease as well as restless leg syn-

men's life, and if they are also on Testosterone treatment, it's the gas that can cause sexual obsessions to burn out of control.

The number of men who are affected in this way is small, however if you are on any of these medications, or a combination of them, make sure you are mindful of the affect they can have on you. If you or a loved one are experiencing out of character behavior, it may not be as much

an issue of "moral failure," but a medical one. Reach out and get help, don't think, "I'll handle this." If you continue to take medications that keep increasing these tendencies, you will eventually not be able to control them.

Shane M. Jones, LSCSW  
Shane M. Jones & associates,



drome. Medications like Vyvanse or Mydayis are used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder. These medications and others similar to them have been found to cause obsessive/compulsive thoughts and behaviors. Some of these behaviors are gambling, binge eating, sexual acting out and other more risk-taking behaviors. We all know what a testosterone filled adolescent can look like, and even how high the sex drive of a man in his twenties and thirties can be. Medications that affect Dopamine can be a fire in some



## Interim Family Home Health and Hospice Opens New Medical Loan Closet at Aldersgate Village

Interim HealthCare of Topeka and Interim Family Home Health and Hospice Foundation held a grand opening on June 23 of the Medical Loan Closet, located on the Aldersgate Village campus at 7220 SW Asbury Drive.

Interim HealthCare of Topeka also introduced their new satellite office within Aldersgate Village which provides hospice, home health and medical staffing services to the Aldersgate Village community.

The Medical Loan Closet accepts a variety of gently used wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, shower chairs and other durable medical equipment to be loaned. Greater Topeka residents are encouraged to donate any unused equipment when no longer needed. This initiative allows individuals to donate durable medical equipment they no longer use and ensures that this valuable medical equipment can be available for

others in the community.

There are no income or residence requirements to borrow from the Medical Loan Closet. They offer durable medical equipment at no cost or for a free-will donation, and no prescription is required. The equipment can be used as long as needed and necessary, and equipment returned is encouraged.

"We are thrilled to introduce the only Medical Loan Closet in Topeka," said A.J. Patterson, Director of Interim Home Health and Hospice Family Foundation, "Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for our community members by providing access to necessary medical equipment, alleviating financial burdens, and promoting a culture of giving."

"We rely on the generosity of our community to keep the Medical Loan Closet stocked," added Teresa Brown, Foundation Board member "Every donation can make a significant difference in someone's life."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will feature remarks from key community leaders, a tour of the Loan Closet area, and light refreshments. This event is open to the public, and all are welcome to attend.

For more information about the Medical Loan Closet or to make a donation, contact A.J. Patterson by calling 785-272-1616, or email [ajpatterson@interimhealthcare.com](mailto:ajpatterson@interimhealthcare.com).

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# The Woodshed remodeled to host events of all kinds & sizes

By Lorraine Jessepe, Metro Voice

*If you can dream it, we can create it.*

This is the business motto of Jeanice Brown, event manager of The Woodshed, an event center located just north of Garfield Park in north Topeka.

For decades, the building at 1901 N. Kansas Ave. was a north Topeka landmark, serving as home to the old Moose Lodge.

The Loyal Order of the Moose is a fraternal and service organization

membership.

When the Moose building came up for sale, Brown's life and business partner, Adam Moser, bought the building, which was in need of extensive repair.

"It was a mess," said Brown.

At 20,000 square feet, the building had a large ballroom with a bar, a stage, and a seating capacity of 400. It also housed a lounge with its own bar and an additional seating capacity for 200 people.

After brainstorming for ideas,



founded in Mooseheart, Illinois in 1888. Topeka's Moose Lodge closed its doors in 2016 due to declining

Brown and Moser decided the venue had great potential to serve as an events center, though neither

one had any experience in event center management. In fact, Moser is an arborist and former Topeka forester and still sells wood from his Against the Grain Lumber business. Eventually, the couple came up with the event center's name, The Woodshed.

The Woodshed's opening night was New Year's Eve 2018. "It was a great crowd," Brown said.

Now in its sixth year, Brown says she is enjoying this business venture. "It's been a learning experience."

Clearly, one of Brown's strengths as an entrepreneur is her people skills.

"I've been in customer service my whole life," said Brown, who previously worked for Dillon's and Goodyear. "I enjoy meeting people and being involved in their events and festivities. We can get you what you need to make things happen."

Currently, The Woodshed Flea Market is held outdoors in the parking lot from 9 am to 2 pm every Sunday during the summer. The market offers such items as baked goods, arts and crafts, garage sale and vintage items, to name a few. Food trucks and booths are also on hand.

"Anything you can think of, you can possibly find it here," Brown said. The market attracts people each week from all parts of Topeka and surrounding communities, including Manhattan and Kansas City. "We probably get a thousand people through," said Brown.

Brown also said one of The Woodshed's most popular bookings are for Celebrations of Life, or as Brown affectionately refers to them:

the good times," Brown said.

The Woodshed has also hosted Quinceañeras, which are celebrations of a young lady's 15th birthday, common in Mexican and other Latin American cultures.

Brown and Moser believe The Woodshed offers the versatility and affordability for any occasion, including private parties, live music and dancing, birthdays, wedding receptions, graduations, milestone anniversaries, and corporate events.

For booking information, Brown said she can be reached at 785-213-3561.

"We'll work with people to make

"The After-Party." The Woodshed can create a positive, comfortable atmosphere where friends and fam-



ily can gather to remember a loved one. "You tell stories and talk about

their experience a positive one," she said



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# FINANCIAL PLANNING



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personality, and mo-  
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## Not Much to Worry About

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have our emergency fund account in the same bank as our checking and savings accounts. Do you think we should move the emergency fund to a different bank? A friend suggested doing this, but I wasn't clear on why he thought this.

Shari

Dear Shari,

Honestly, I wouldn't worry about it too much if I were you. The only exception to that might be if you had loans you owed to that same bank.

Some commercial loan docu-

ments give banks the right to take money out of your accounts—without your permission—to pay the loan. This isn't a common practice, and it usually doesn't happen unless someone gets way behind on a loan. If you had a car loan with a particular bank, for instance, I wouldn't keep a lot of money in that bank.

But in your situation, Shari, I think everything's fine.

—Dave

## Which Comes First?

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have three young daughters. Is there a Baby Step for weddings? We didn't see one in your plan, but I was wondering if it was included in any of the other Baby Steps.

Cedric

Dear Cedric,

This is a really good question. I'm glad you're thinking about the future and planning accordingly.

I don't have a specific Baby Step

for weddings. If I did, it would probably come after Baby Step 5, which is setting aside a college—or trade school fund—for your kids. Maybe you could look at it as Baby Step 5b. Once you have retirement, education savings and extra house payments underway, you could start putting aside a little something for weddings.

Don't get me wrong, weddings are special. You absolutely should mark these kinds of milestones with a celebration. But a wedding is only a one-day event. And to be blunt, a good education is more important than a fancy wedding. This idea may not make me popular with some folks, but it's the truth.

Maybe this is the dad in me coming out, but if I had to choose between paying for more education and paying for big weddings, I'm going to pay for school every time. Besides, there's no correlation whatsoever between the size and/or cost of a wedding, and the happiness and success of the marriage.

Good luck, Cedric!

—Dave

\* *Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, the second-largest syndicated talk radio show in America. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth, and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions.*

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



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# You Can Fund Your Children’s College Education and Retirement Simultaneously – Here’s How

By Jim Hanna



Hanna

Many parents face the challenge of saving for their children’s college education while also building a nest egg for retirement. Funding both priorities simultaneously can feel like a juggling act – and the stress can intensify as high school graduation and retirement dates draw nearer, particularly if you’re coming up short on your savings goals.

As your time horizon narrows, which should come first – funding your kid’s tuition or your own retirement? The answer depends on your situation, but here are some factors to keep in mind:

### Prioritize college bills or retirement?

In most cases, saving for retirement should take priority over saving for your child’s higher education. To understand why, consider the following:

- You may not get to choose your retirement date. Becoming injured or disabled, needing to care for an aging parent or being laid off from your job are just a few scenarios that could unexpectedly accelerate your retirement date, leaving you with less time to save than you were counting on.

- You don’t want to run out of money in retirement. As a college student, your child may have access to scholarships, grants, loans or other financial aid to help pay the bills. The same isn’t true for your retirement. If your nest egg comes up short, you may need to work longer, reduce your living expenses (or per-

haps both) to make ends meet.

While it’s imperative to focus on your own financial security in retirement, funding higher education is still an important goal for many parents. The key is striking the right balance between saving for both goals. Consider the following tips as a starting point:

1. Paying for college doesn’t have to be all-or-nothing. Many parents choose to pay a percentage of the total bill, cover certain expenses (e.g., tuition, technology fees or room and board), pay for a set number of years, or contribute as much as they are able to save by the first day of school instead of funding the full cost. Revising your college savings goal in one of these ways could allow you to direct more money to retirement.

2. If your child has sights on graduate school, decide whether you will contribute to those bills, too. This decision is particularly important if your child needs a graduate degree before entering their field of choice. If you intend to provide financial support, calculate how much the total cost will be so you have a clear savings target in mind.

3. Discuss your intentions with your child. No matter how much you plan to contribute (or not), talk to your child about your financial commitment so they know what to expect. Discuss what your contribution will look like at their preferred colleges. For example, if you agree to pay a set amount, perhaps this money will fully cover community college or a substantial amount at a state school, but it may leave a larger portion of the bill outstanding at a

private college. Breaking down the costs for your child can help them make an informed decision about how much student debt (or scholarships, grants, etc.) are needed to cover the bill.

No matter your financial situation, know that it is possible to make meaningful progress toward both goals, particularly if you are intentional about how to allocate your savings. Consult a financial advisor and tax professional if you want help setting specific savings goals and understanding the various investing options available to you.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Celebrate SUMMERTIME in Downtown Topeka!

Summertime is the perfect time to visit Downtown Topeka! Shopping downtown can also be fun, with all the unique shops and a bit of nostalgia in the air! Following are some tidbits from some of your friendly downtown merchants waiting to serve you!

### Taking chocolate to a new level

Owners Nick & Terry Xidis at Hazel Hill Chocolate, 724 S. Kansas Avenue, have been a staple in Downtown Topeka for years.

Hazel Hill, Terry's grandmother, is a symbol of their dedication to a family tradition of "the best in everything they do." Nick is the third generation chocolatier, and they use only the finest ingredients, chocolate, fresh cream and butter, to produce handmade treats



that explode with flavor.

Lately, Nick has been making handcrafted chocolate from cacao (coco beans) that import from around the globe. Much like fine wine, each cacao origin produces a unique flavor profile in the finished chocolate.

"There are only a couple of hundred companies in the US that hand craft chocolate," Nick said.

"In 2019, three of our handcrafted chocolate bars won bronze in the International Chocolate Awards Americas competition," Nick said. "In 2020 our sea salt caramel won the gold medal in the Chocolate Alliance competition. Both of these competitions include entries from more than 400 craft chocolate professionals."

Whether your preference is hand-made chocolate truffles, home-style fudge, crispy-creamy caramel apples or something else – at Hazel Hill they have delightful treats for every palate.

Need a gift basket, gift box, or just a few delicious chocolates to go? They'll do all the packing and shipping, too!

### When you need a break

For your coffee emergency, go to Juli's Coffee and Bistro – a locally owned, woman owned, Veteran owned and operated coffee shop offering legit house coffee and all manner of espresso drinks.

Take home a bag of the featured "Made in the USA" coffee grown and roasted in Hawaii, with aloha flavors like toasted coconut, chocolate and vanilla macadamia nut.

Local favorites are still available, like the Turkey Lurkey and house made Cranberry Almond Chicken Salad for lunch. Fresh salads, wraps and tasty paninis make it perfect for casual dining.



Daily house made specials keep it fresh and exciting. Check out the menus online at [www.juliscoffeeandbistro.com](http://www.juliscoffeeandbistro.com). You can order and pay online and then pick up, or use Eatstreet delivery.

Community matters, so remember 911 S. Kansas for "Great Coffee, Better Food!"

### Leather and more

Doug Mingus, owner and designer at Mingus Leather Studio, believes the world needs more beauty and joy: More gifts given and used; More smiles, kindness, and real service; More people doing what they love and sharing it.

His business was born to pursue all these when life presented an unexpected change. He created a place where beautiful handcrafted items, that are designed for life, are celebrated and shared. Immediately when walking into this shop you will be greeted with the intoxicating smell of leather and a warm kind welcome from Doug.

It all starts with full grain leather

items made in his studio, or from other artisans he has partnered with. Belts, bags, journal covers, catch-all



and game trays, wallets, keychains, pouches, purses, and more.

Mingus didn't stop at leather. He partners with George's Pen Creations and has jewelry from Kamaama Designs, candle makers like Beauty from Ashes, and other artists. Mingus Leather Studio is a place to find unique, useful and beautiful items that bring a smile, and build businesses and families. There is something for everyone on your gift list here and you may even need to splurge on something for yourself.

Doug also does repairs on all kinds of leather items.

### Diamonds are Forever

You'll find many specials and gift ideas at David's Jewelers, 623 S.

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Kansas - a family business that has served Topeka for four generations. Diamond rings, pendants and earrings usually top the list, but they also offer vivid colored gemstones in unique settings, watches, clocks, statues and fine crystal, as well as many other gift items, whether for yourself or someone else.

"Gifts can start at \$20.00 and go from there," said Mitzi from behind the counter at David's.

"We will be glad to help you find that special gift for that special someone."

**Pancakes and more**

Hanover's Pancake House at 1034 S. Kansas Avenue has been a local favorite since 1969! With a wide variety on the menu, and friendly service, it's a great place to stop for breakfast, lunch or brunch! They are also famous for the pork tenderloin sandwich, and it is huge!

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



There are so many other unique shops downtown you won't believe it! Don't stop with this incomplete list! There's plenty more to discover in Downtown Topeka this summer! Don't forget to check out the Capitol Building and the many statues on the grounds there.

Bring a friend, or the family, and rediscover the joy of hanging out downtown!

**SUMMERTIME Memories, Events, & Fun!**

**Check out these upcoming Summertime Events & Activities Downtown!**

While you're making your way around the downtown area, watch for these downtown events coming up:

**ART WALK ON FIRST FRIDAYS** – Downtown & NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, many more items. Free shuttle will run from 5 pm to 9 pm.

**MOVIES AT EVERGY PLAZA** – Second Fridays til fall at 7th & Kansas.

**LIVE @ LUNCH** – Wednesdays; 11am-1pm, Evergy Plaza downtown. Live music, food trucks, yard games & more.



**EATS & BEATS** – Every Thursday Aug - Sep. 14, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Evergy Plaza. Bring lawn chairs. Food trucks, beer gardens.



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

**SPLASH PAD FOUNTAINS** – Evergy Plaza,



Sun. 12-5, and 11-1 & 4-8 on most weekdays.

**FAMILY NIGHT AT COSMOS COURT** – 5pm to close, Cosmos Court, 909 S. Kansas Ave. Every Tuesday night is family night – Pizza, salads, soup, nachos, hot dogs, and more!



Also table games, etc.

**7TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE REGGAE ROOTS FESTIVAL** – June 29, 4pm-12, corner of 8th & Jackson streets outside of The Celtic Fox. Featuring national, regional, and local Reggae and Ska bands, DJ's, Food Trucks, Arts & Crafts vendors, a kids corner, swag giveaways, and more! \$15 ADMISSION, \*kids 10 & Under free. GATES OPEN AT 4PM. \*For vendor or sponsorship opportunities please contact Sunshine: sun-

shinegmbblue@gmail.com

**SPLASH PAD YOGA AT EVERGY PLAZA** – July 2 and every Tuesday at 7pm.

**FIESTA TOPEKA - MINI FIESTA** - July 6, Evergy Plaza. Kick-off to Topeka Fiesta!

**FIESTA TOPEKA PARADE** – July 13, 10:30am, Downtown

**FIESTA TOPEKA** – July 16-20, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 201 NE Chandler. Great food, rides, and more



**FOR THE CULTURE KS FEST** – July 25-28, Evergy Plaza. Celebrate African American culture, featuring music artists, creatives, impactful speakers, businesses, vendors, and much more

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# opinion

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## Germans – Even During Hitler Era – Were Better Than Palestinians

By Dennis Prager

Immediately after the burnings, rapes, mutilations and murders of Jews on Oct. 7, I was not alone in noting the one moral difference between Hamas and the Nazis: The Nazis tried to hide their crimes against the Jews from the German people (and the world) while Hamas proudly publicized their crimes against the Jews to the Palestinian people (and didn't mind that the world would inevitably see them bragging about killing Jews). In addition to videoing their atrocities, Hamas paraded captured Jews — dead and alive, clothed and naked — in front of cheering Palestinian crowds in Gaza.

This leads to a sobering realization.

Hamas boasting to their fellow Palestinians about what they did to Jews while the Nazis tried to hide what they did from fellow Germans means there is not only a moral difference between Hamas and the Nazis but a moral difference between the German people during the Nazi era and the Palestinian people today — and for nearly the last hundred years.

Morally speaking, it would be difficult to name a less impressive people than the Palestinians over the past century. For those who do not understand that a generalization means, by definition, that there are exceptions, I should note that there are and have always been noble Palestinian individuals. But the cumulative Palestinian record of evil over the last century has few peers.

Let's begin in the 1940s.

The leading Palestinian religious leader in the early 1940s, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, was a major supporter of the Nazis and their extermination campaign against the Jews. There is a famous photo of al-Husseini meeting with Hitler in Berlin on Nov. 28, 1941. As reported in the Holocaust Encyclopedia, "Al-Husseini pointed out that Germany alone recognized the global threat of the 'Jewish problem' and took steps to 'solve' it globally..."

The Encyclopedia further notes that "on December 18, 1942, Arab emigres opened an 'Islamic Central Institute' (Islamische Zentral-Institut) in Berlin, with al-Husseini as a senior sponsor and keynote speaker. In his speech, al-Husseini lashed out at the Jews, stating that the

Koran judged the Jews 'to be the most irreconcilable enemies of the Muslims.'"

The Haaretz newspaper — which is left-wing and rabidly anti-Benjamin Netanyahu — described al-Husseini as "the father of Palestinian nationalism."

In 1945, Yugoslavia sought to indict the father of Palestinian nationalism as a war criminal for recruiting 20,000 Muslim volunteers to join the Waffen-SS and participate in its extermination of the Jews of Croatia and Hungary.

All of that Nazi-like Palestinian anti-Semitism predates the establishment of the State of Israel.

Before describing decades of Palestinian butchery of Jews in Israel, it is also important to note the moral record of the Palestinian people with regard to fellow Arabs. The Palestinians came to be widely loathed in the Arab world for good reason: Whenever they went in large numbers, they created havoc.



On Sept. 6, 1970, Palestinian terrorists hijacked Trans World Airlines, Swissair and Pan Am airplanes. A few days later, they hijacked a British Overseas Airways Corporation (now "British Air") airliner. The Palestinian terrorists segregated the flight crews and Jewish passengers, keeping the 56 Jewish hostages in custody, while releasing the non-Jews. In total, five planes were hijacked, and three of them were landed at a desert airstrip in Jordan. These hijackings plus Palestinian violence in Jordanian cities led to a Jordanian-Palestinian civil war in Sept. 1970, during which, according to the Palestinians, Jordan killed 25,000 Palestinians.

Seven months later, in April 1971, Yassir Arafat, the Palestinians' leader, called for the overthrow of Jordan's King Hussein. In November that same year, four members of the Black September terrorist group (which took its name from the Palestinians' Sept. 1970 defeat in Jordan), assassinated Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal

in Cairo. As reported in The New York Times, an "assassin kneeled beside his victim to lick his blood." A photo of a Palestinian assassin drinking (not merely licking) Tal's blood was widely published.

After destabilizing Jordan and losing the civil war they caused, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians went to Lebanon, where they quickly proceeded to ruin that country. Their love of violence and terror led to the outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War in 1975, which lasted until 1990. That war led to an estimated 150,000 Lebanese killed, tens of thousands wounded, hundreds of thousands displaced and left destitute, and a decrease in the Christian population of Lebanon from 55 percent in 1970 to 35 percent in 2022.

Meanwhile, throughout Israel's history, Palestinians murdered Jews in Israel whenever possible, blowing up school and municipal buses filled with passengers, blowing up Passover Seders and weddings and pizza parlors full of families, and wherever else Jews were assembled. On a regular basis, they stabbed and shot to death Jews who were simply going about their daily business.

To cite a few of thousands of examples, on May 8, 1970, Palestinian terrorists crossed into Israel and carried out the Avivim school bus massacre, a bombing which killed 13 civilians, 9 of whom were children, and injured 25 other children.

On May 22, 1970, Palestinians fired rocket-propelled grenades into an Israeli school bus, killing nine children and three adults and wounding 25.

On May 30, 1972, Japanese terrorists working on behalf of a Palestinian terror group murdered 26 and injured 80 passengers at Israel's international airport (then called Lod).

On May 15, 1974, Palestinians went to a school in Ma'alot, Israel, where they took hostage 105 high school students and more than 10 others. They eventually killed 25 of the hostages, including 22 students, and injured another 68.

On March 11, 1978, Palestinians hijacked a bus and murdered 38 Israeli civilians, including 13 children, and injured 76 more.

On Oct. 19, 1994, a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a bus during the morning rush hour in Tel Aviv, killing 22 people and injuring 50 more. Hamas

claimed responsibility.

On March 2, 2002, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 11 people and injured over 50 at a Saturday evening bar mitzvah celebration. The terrorist detonated the bomb next to a group of women waiting with their baby carriages for their husbands to leave the nearby synagogue.

On March 27, 2002, 30 people were killed and 140 injured in a Palestinian suicide bombing in a hotel in the coastal city of Netanya in the midst of the Passover seder with 250 guests.

On July 31, 2002, nine people were killed and 85 wounded when a bomb exploded in the student center cafeteria on the Hebrew University campus. Hamas claimed responsibility.

On Aug. 19, 2003, 23 people were killed and over 130 wounded when a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated himself on a bus in Jerusalem. Hamas claimed responsibility.

This brief list is nowhere near exhaustive.

According to the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, as of 2022, a majority of Palestinians support terror attacks against Israeli Jews. Moreover, the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank has been paying more than \$300 million annually — about 8 percent of the Palestinian budget — to the families of imprisoned terrorists and of terrorists killed while engaging in an act of terror against Jews. Another Palestinian poll states that the vast majority of Palestinians in the West Bank — over 75 percent — support Hamas at this time.

The Palestinian people love killing Jews and have loved doing so for nearly a century. Palestinian women routinely pass out candy in the streets in celebration of terror attacks against Jews. Compare this to Israel, which has many human rights organizations holding Israel to account regarding its treatment of Palestinians. Compare this to Israelis, who for years had volunteered to drive Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to receive medical treatment in Israeli hospitals.

To be "pro-Palestinian" today means being pro-Hamas just as to be "pro-German" during World War II was the same as being pro-Nazi. The only difference is that the Germans as a whole were a better people than the Palestinians. If you support the Palestinians, you should know whom you support.

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# Biden Regime Has Released 7.4 Million Migrants Into the Country in 3.5 Years

Over seven million border crossers—including unvetted potential criminals, spies, terrorists and gang members—have been released into the country as part of the Biden Regime's catch and release program, according to internal federal data obtained by Fox News. Another 1.9 million who snuck across the border between ports of entry are also loose in the country as Border Patrol agents have been pulled off the line to process "asylum seekers."

The staggering numbers have prompted national security experts to warn that the threat of a terrorist attack in the coming months is at an all-time high, and have Republicans scrambling to tighten voting laws to prevent non-citizens from voting in the November elections.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency's "non-detained docket" has reached 7.4 million cases and is expected to reach 8 million by the end of the fiscal year, federal sources told Fox.

According to Fox News correspondent Bill Melugin, "ICE is completely understaffed and overwhelmed."

Working their way through the mountain of cases is essentially impossible at current manpower and resource levels, federal sources told Fox News, with the increased pace of border cross-

ings putting heavy strain on ICE employees.

In a statement Monday, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Green (R-Ind.) responded to the "jaw-dropping" numbers: "Would-be border crossers around the world are making a bet that if they cross under this administration, they will be released into the interior. These numbers show that's usually a winning wager."

Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas) wrote on X: "We've known this is coming. Yet here we are. We either mean what we say that we must secure the border & stop a government weaponized against us—or, talk a lot & primary / oppose those who do... #TakeBackAmerica #DetainTurn-awayDeport"

This news comes amid heightened concerns that Biden's open border policies have left the United States vulnerable to terrorist attacks and new revelations that the Biden regime has been providing voter registration forms to illegal aliens without requiring proof of citizenship.

Welfare offices and other agencies in 49 US states are providing voter registration forms to migrants without requiring proof of citizenship, leading Republicans and conservatives to call for swift federal action to stop the handouts.



Every state but Arizona — which recently passed a law barring the practice on state but not federal forms — gives applicants for either welfare benefits, driver's licenses, or in some cases, mail-in ballots voter registration forms without demanding proof of citizenship.

Millions of border crossers with parole, refugee or asylum status "are eligible for benefits that would bring them to the offices where voter registration takes place," the New York Post reported.

As Democrats and their allies in the media frequently note, it is indeed illegal to falsely claim U.S. citizenship or for a non-citizen to cast a ballot in a federal election. However, there is currently no requirement on federal voting forms to provide proof of US citizenship to stop it from happening.

Now, House Republicans are trying to pass legislation to stop the cascade of voter fraud that is expected in the upcoming elections.

The House Administration Committee last month approved the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act to require states to receive proof of citizenship when anyone registers to vote by mail, at a DMV or a welfare agency office.

"While Biden and radical progressive Democrats give ISIS and criminals an app to literally schedule their illegal entry, Republicans must fight any chance of illegal voter registration until we can mass deport," Rep. Roy, who introduced the measure, told The Post.

Following the legislation's approval, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.)

said in a statement: "As President Biden has welcomed millions of illegal aliens through our borders, including sophisticated criminal syndicates and foreign adversaries, it is incumbent upon Congress to implement greater enforcement measures that secure the voter registration process and ensure only American citizens decide the outcome of American elections."

Additionally, the House Judiciary Committee released a report Monday revealing that the Biden regime has been releasing unvetted, potentially gang affiliated unaccompanied alien children [UAC] into the country.

As the Attorney General under the Trump Administration recognized, the UAC program has for years suffered from "exploitation... by gang members who come to this country as wolves in sheep[s] clothing" and "use the UAC program as a means by which to recruit new members." Contrary to the Trump Administration's approach, which focused on rooting out gang members from the UAC program, new information and testimony from Biden Administration officials reveal the Administration's disregard for the potential gang affiliation of UACs.

The Biden regime is also reportedly preparing to give legal status to an esti-

■ Please see MIGRANTS page 22

## The Battle with Loneliness



**CLINT DECKER**

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

### Speaking Truth

Elvis Presley recorded the song, Where No One Stands Alone. In it he sings, "Like a king, I may live in a palace so tall; With great riches to call my own; But I don't know a thing; In this whole wide world; That's worse than being alone."

According to experts in the field of human behavior, loneliness is at epidemic levels. Millions are walking through this dark valley and every day the numbers are growing.

It may seem odd as to how people could feel so lonely in our modern times. With all the technology avail-

able it may seem like an impossibility. But it is true. Social media, television, movies on demand and having an ability to instantly connect with anyone anywhere does not remove the struggle.

I grew up as a Pastor's kid and moved often. My personal fight with loneliness came in my sophomore year of high school. We moved again and I felt like I could not fit into the new school in another new town. I responded by withdrawing. My bedroom became my cave and I isolated myself. My grades plummeted and my parents became deeply concerned. I was surrounded by people at home, school and church but overwhelmed by loneliness.

Loneliness is a common human experience. Why do we feel this way? In an article from Time Magazine, it says "Humans were not designed to be solitary creatures." The column is partially right. We were not created to live in isolation, but it does not identify

who we were created by, which is important.

All of us were created by God. He made you and me. Furthermore, the column did not clarify "solitary." Most writings on loneliness speak of isolation regarding relationships with other people. That is partially right too.

Yes, God created human beings to live in relationship with other people...but also with Him. Read this truth carefully. If we do not know God personally or have drifted in our relationship with Him then we have provided the foundation for loneliness to flourish.

The first step toward victory begins with God and understanding that He made us for a purpose. The Scriptures say, "...everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (Isaiah 43:7) God made you to know Him and experience the wonder of His beauty and majesty. In Him we are made whole and complete, where



there is no loneliness, but instead – abiding joy and peace.

Only one thing keeps us from experiencing this – ourselves. When we purposefully resist God, passively neglect Him, hurt others or put our needs above those around us, we open the door for a life of loneliness.

Here is the good news though. Jesus came to save us from ourselves. Through His death and resurrection, He made a way for us to be made whole.

Are you struggling with loneliness? There is hope! Take the step of knowing God and following Jesus with all your heart.

A prayer for you – Lord God, I pray for the One caught up in loneliness. I pray for them as they isolate themselves and have their mind filled with thoughts that constantly feed this. Turn their eyes toward you. Bring them to open the Scriptures and find strength in them. Use their talents to serve others. Lift them up and out of the pit they are in. Set their feet on the solid ground of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen."

—Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Share your comment at [cdecker@greatawakenings.org](mailto:cdecker@greatawakenings.org) and follow his blog at [clintdecker.blogspot.com](http://clintdecker.blogspot.com).





## The importance of VBS & Summer Camps

Early in my time in my role as director of family ministries at a church, a supportive retired pastor met with me for a consultation. He challenged me, “Is Vacation Bible School still an impactful form of ministry today?” The program began around the turn into the 19th century, he said, as a way to keep kids out of trouble in the summer through providing them with biblical education during vacation. But was this model relevant anymore, or had it become an event that was “singing to the choir,” so to speak, a week (or more) that requires a lot of volunteers, money and effort only to provide fun and games for already-churched kids?

“I guess we’ll see,” I told him, as we already had the ball rolling on our program, and I wasn’t prepared to cancel a historic event in my first year on the job. I looked at it as an opportunity to assess what needs were being met and to ask, were we providing an important experience for our congregation and neighborhood? I spent time connecting with other people running VBS programs in our city and paid special attention to what happened at our own event.

### A Mountaintop Moment

Here’s what I’ve concluded: VBS, if done well, can be a milestone in a child’s faith development. Yes, as my friend pointed out to me, most of the attendants are Christian. Those who attended who were not from our congregation were largely from other churches in the city. But is that a problem? We used to call these “mountaintop moments,” times where you feel the collective encouragement of being surrounded by others who are growing together, enjoying the intensity dwelling on God’s truth for a short but concentrated period of time. I began to think of VBS as the elementary school version of the youth retreat—an experience where young people can develop positive spiritual friendships with others, experience God’s love, find mentorship relationships with older Christians, and create memories that are formative to a healthy faith journey.

However, I think the original missional intention of VBS needs to be held central to our ministry. The VBS pro-

grams I observed at other churches were intentional about reaching out beyond their congregation. One local church who hosts a VBS of 160 kids always reserved 60 spots for children who were bused in through a local outreach program. Another VBS director at an inner-city church runs four weeks of 9 a.m.-5 p.m. VBS programs because, “If I don’t, I know that there will be children who will be left at home alone.” She cares deeply about letting her VBS reach the concrete needs of their neighborhood. And her ministry does not end with the elementary school-aged children; many of her teenage volunteers are not from faith backgrounds and are being mentored through her leadership.

Reaching out to the broader community looks different according to where your church is located. Hanging posters and putting out signs only goes so far. Personal invitations are hugely effective, so getting the entire congregation invested in the ministry and encouraging them to invite neighbors and friends is one of the best ways to get kids attending. Handing out flyers in local apartments and networking with local children’s programs are other ways to reach beyond the walls of the church (however, it’s worth noting that flyers are only effective if distributed multiple times).

### Some Outdated Aspects

There are two elements of VBS that might be outdated, the first being the name. The term “vacation Bible school” speaks to church needs, but for those not raised in the church world, it’s an unclear name. Now curriculum providers like Group and Lifeway simply call it by its acronym, but that also creates insider language that is unfriendly to

those outside of church culture. I was grateful that my predecessor at church used the term “summer adventure camp.” Camp is truer to most models and makes more sense than school. Why would kids want to go to school in the summer? (This is also why I lean toward the wording “Children’s Ministry” instead of “Sunday school” for children’s programming during Sunday worship, but that’s another discussion.)

The other outdated feature is VBS’s dependence on stay-at-home mothers and teenagers to make the wheels turn. More than any other ministry program I’ve run, VBS requires a huge amount of volunteers to pull it off safely and effectively. When I was a child, the VBS programs in our town were run almost exclusively by stay-at-home moms and high school students. Now more and more families rely on a double income and most teenagers work summer jobs, so it is challenging to find volunteers. In our congregation we were blessed to find volunteers in a few stay-at-home parents, people who worked in education, a number of retired folks, and a handful of teenagers who were still nostalgic about their own Summer Adventure Camp experiences. I can understand why many congregations are no longer able to run this ministry and why many are opting instead for a summer camp model with a cost so that teenage leaders are paid an honorarium.



Before my friend at church challenged me about the effectiveness of VBS, I had been involved in about six different VBS and church day camps—some that were simply a fun club for the kids in the congregations and some that were a significant gift to the neighborhoods they served. While I ultimately disagreed with his conclusion that VBS (the program, not the title) is passe, I am so glad that my friend asked me to consider why we were doing it. I’ve concluded that in order to run a strong, missional Christian day camp, a congregation needs to ask: What is our goal in running this program? How can we both create a meaningful experience for the

children in our church community and share God’s love with those beyond? This answer will look different according to your neighborhood and the reputation of your program. But it’s important to ask it before planning every year so that this can be an opportunity to build the faith of our own children as well as impact the broader community around us.

—By Melissa Kuipers

**See our Event Calendar under Special Church Events for more VBS listings**

**First Southern Baptist Church, 19th & Gage**  
fsbc@fsbctopeka.org • 785-272-0443



**Saturday, July 20**

9 AM ~ 3 PM  
(Lunch provided)

**Sunday, July 21**

Program: 10 AM

Lunch: 11 AM

Foam Pit: 12:30 PM

4 yrs - 6th Grade

East Side Baptist Church  
4425 SE 29th Street, Topeka, KS  
Pre-register @: [esbcks.org/vbs](http://esbcks.org/vbs)  
or call: 785-379-9933





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## Summer brings lots of events to N. Topeka

With the summer comes the heat. Step inside the NOTO Art Center and enjoy an air conditioned cruise through our incredible Topeka Reflections Exhibit in the Morris Gallery. Most artworks are for sale too!

Art Opening Reception: Miranda Easton Ephemeral Seeds will take place July 5, 5-8pm, at the Avantgarde Underground of the Noto Arts Center in Topeka KS with the 785 Arts Gallery. The exhibition will showcase Easton's creative journey so far. These works are on display this night, featuring an artist talk at 6 pm discussing the inspiration and creative process behind the new series. The "I Am" series features a collection of paintings, each representing a different element and its corresponding stage of grief. From the grounding denial of Earth to the fiery intensity of anger, and the final acceptance embodied by Ether, these works offer a visual and emotional exploration of the human condition.

Special work and prints are available for opening night only. Refreshments will be served.

Super Nerd Night is a mini convention each month at Great Overland Station! Build your drawing skills with comic artists, play board games and video games, learn about dark age technology with the Society of Creative Anachronism, Tea Party with Topeka Steampunk Society, build cosplay with members of Shawnee County Cosplay Collective, open build night with Legos!

Join us July 5 for the First Friday Artwalk and music by the Topeka Big Band and StarSister Revival in Redbud park from 6pm - 9pm.

First Friday Art Walk 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 streetside 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.

For more event information visit [explorenoto.org/](http://explorenoto.org/).

More North Topeka events:

**CHILDRENS MIRACLE NETWORK CAR SHOW** – Jun. 29, 10am, North Topeka Walmart.

**NORTH TOPEKA COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT** – July 1, 7:30pm, Garfield Park. No Boundaries Dance Collective will perform. Blind Barista Trailer will be on hand with drinks and snacks. Free adm.

**JESUS FEST TOPEKA** – FREE CHRISTIAN CONCERT – July 13, 2-5pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. Everyone is welcome to attend, free food while supplies last. Featuring The Rodericks, Bryan Meyer, Ciarra, Larry M, Index, Hope Hood, Rev Rog Band, and more, this event is for all ages, bring a friend, chairs are limited so bring a lawn chair. [Familyofgodchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:Familyofgodchurch@hotmail.com). 785-414-2427

**CHILDRENS BUSINESS FAIR** – July 19, 6-9pm, Compass Point, 800 N. Kansas Ave.

**SUMMERFEST AUTO SHOW** – July 20, 10am, Kick Start Saloon. Food trucks, vendors, games

**NOTO 3rd FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES** – July 19, 7-10pm, Redbud Park. Sunday Basement Boogie

**BIG RICK AND SOUL'D OUT** – Aug. 2, 6-9pm, Redbud Park in NOTO. Part of First Friday events.

**STATION 9 ¾** - Aug. 3 & 4, 10-4 at Great Overland Station. Magic, mirth & merriment!

Artismo Gallery & Bistro presents the **NOTO Art Fair** on August 3rd, when Veterans park will be taken over by ART! Reach out to [Artismo.artfair@gmail.com](mailto:Artismo.artfair@gmail.com) for details!

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# the events calendar

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

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**WOOD VALLEY PICKERS** – June 29, 7pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Folk & Country, Free admission. 785-271-5005

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**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](mailto:io@insideoutinc.net) or [www.insideoutinc.net](http://www.insideoutinc.net)

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**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.

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**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, Berryton United Methodist Church (7010 SE

# Topeka JUMP is out for Justice

By Hannah Allen, Metro Voice

JUMP for Justice!

This cheer has become recognizable in many places throughout the state of Kansas. But what does it refer to and why?

Those who search the Internet for Topeka Jump (Justice Unity and Ministry Project) will quickly discover this non-profit organization's mission on its website: "To provide a powerful vehicle for marginalized groups in Shawnee County Kansas to fight for justice." A slight downward scroll brings up a Bible verse from Micah 6:8: "What does the LORD require of you? To do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Established in 2012 by a group of clergy, Topeka JUMP is pursuing this mission and seeking to obey the command of this biblical verse.

JUMP is a coalition of 28 faith communities and corporate partners. The majority of the people involved are members of local congregations, including Fellowship Bible Church, Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Tecumseh UMC, Southern Hills Mennonite Church, and El Shaddai Ministries Community Church, to name a few.

Whether it's advocating for effective public transportation, mental health services, safe affordable housing or challenging the Shawnee County District At-



torney over community violence reduction efforts in late 2022, Topeka JUMP advocates for those most at risk in their daily lives. Last October, JUMP members voted 'homelessness' as their newest issue campaign.

One difference between JUMP and other non-profit ministries lies in the actions that it takes concerning those it wishes to help. Most ministries are mercy groups. That is, they provide food and other items for those in need. JUMP is a justice group. Crossing ethnic boundaries, backgrounds, religions, and personal opinions, JUMP focuses instead on those caught in crisis and how best to achieve justice for them. They seek to remedy local problems on a grassroots level through advocacy and seeking policy and funding changes.

Topeka JUMP is funded by individual and local corporate sponsors, including Stormont Vail Health, Innovation Design Group, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

A defining factor for positive results for JUMP's efforts also depends on the community itself. People who know that others care, and see them as a person, will be more likely to improve their lives. For someone who is homeless, or a victim of violence or human trafficking, a caring familiar face can imbue trust. Thus, the community within and around JUMP is vital to assisting those in need.

Topeka JUMP is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Peace Builder Award from the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice in 2018 and the Elizabeth (Liz) Ross Community Action Award from Living the Dream, Inc. of Topeka in 2017.

For more information, visit the website at [www.topekajump.com](http://www.topekajump.com), or search for Topeka JUMP on Facebook.

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Est. June 2023

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## 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 grandopry@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

**NORTH TOPEKA COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT** - June 3, 7:30pm, Garfield Park Gazebo, 1600 NE Quincy. (Also on June 17 and July 1) North Topeka Community Band concerts have been a summer treat since 1996. No admission cost. Bring your lawn chairs. Contact Info: Ginger Patterson, (785) 633-2438

**WOOD VALLEY PICKERS** — June 29, 7pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Folk & Country, Free admission. 785-271-5005

**NORTH TOPEKA COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT** — July 1, 7:30pm, Garfield Park. No Boundaries Dance Collective will perform.

**LIVE AT LUNCH** — July 3, 11-1, Every Plaza. Heart Strings

**STARSISTER REVIVAL & TOPEKA BIG BAND** — July 5, 6-9pm, Redbud Park in NOTO. Part of First Friday events.

**DOUG ROSE & GUESTS** — July 5, 7pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Folk & Country, Free admission. 785-271-5005

**MUSIC IN THE PARK** — July 7, 7pm, Gage Park Amphitheatre. Santa Fe Band

**LIVE AT LUNCH** — July 10, 11-1, Every Plaza. Null and Void

**SUMMERTIME BLUES** — July 17, 7pm, Gage Park Amphitheatre. The Big Harry Blues Band

**LIVE AT LUNCH** — July 17, 11-1, Every Plaza. The Mix

**NOTO 3rd FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES** — July 19, 7-10pm, Redbud Park. Sunday Basement Boogie

**LIVE AT LUNCH** — July 24, 11-1, Every Plaza. Megan Luttrell

**WOOD VALLEY PICKERS** — June 27, 7pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Folk & Country, Free admission. 785-271-5005

**MUSIC IN THE PARK** — July 28, 7pm, Gage Park Amphitheatre. Santa Fe Band

**LIVE AT LUNCH** — July 31, 11-1, Every Plaza. Elvin Graves Jr.

**EATS AND BEATS** — Aug. 1, 6pm, Every Plaza.

**BIG RICK AND SOUL'D OUT** — Aug. 2, 6-9pm, Redbud Park in NOTO. Part of First Friday events.

**CHURCH LADIES UNSUPERVISED** — Aug. 2, 7pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Folk & Country, Free admission. 785-271-5005

## 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

**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 7 - 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

**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. LakeNaz@aol.com

**FREE MOVIE NIGHT** - June 28, 6pm - Popcorn and Snacks provided. Oakland Church of the Nazarene, 939 NE Oakland Avenue

**FESTIVAL WORSHIP SERVICE & FUNDRAISER** — June 30, 10am, Christ Lutheran Church, 3509 SW Burlingame.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — SCUBA** — July 8, First Southern Baptist, 19th & Gage. Kids explore what it means to have a friendship with a real, loving, trust-worthy God—a friendship that lasts forever! You can expect a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that help kids grow in faith! Register at [fsbctopeka.ccchurch.com/ goto/forms/88/sponsors/new](https://forms.gle/G8i2JL2csS5qeWqR7)

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** — SCUBA — July 15-17, 6-8pm, First Christian Church, 19th & Gage. Register at Click the link below to sign kids up for VBS SCUBA!

<https://forms.gle/G8i2JL2csS5qeWqR7>.

**OUTBACK ROCK VBS** — July 20, 9-3 & July 21, Program 10am, Lunch 11am, Foam Pit 12:30pm. 4yrs to 6th grade. East Side Baptist Church, 4425 SE 29th St. Pre-register at [esbcks.org/vbs](https://forms.gle/vbs) or 785-379-9933.

**FREE MONTHLY HYGIENE GIVEAWAY- HANDS FULL OF PURPOSE** on July 27, 10-11am, Faith Temple, 1162 SW Lincoln

## 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@tsopl.org](mailto:nhoni@tsopl.org)

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

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**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, Berryton United Methodist Church (7010 SE Berryton 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/](https://www.kansascyclist.com/)

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES** — Outdoor events and activities. [www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calenda](https://www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calenda)

**LAWRENCE FARMERS MARKET** - Sat. 7:30-11:30, 824 New Hampshire Street. Opens April 13

**BREAD BASKET FARMERS MARKET** — Every Saturday April 6 in the West Ridge Mall parking lot, south end.

**WOODSHED FLEA MARKET** — Sundays 10-3, 1901 N. Kansas Ave.

**DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET** - Saturday's thru Oct. 26, 7:30am-noon, 6th & Harrison. Open-air market full of fresh fruits,vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods and more.

**MONDAY FARMERS MARKET** — Mondays 7:30-11:30am, thru Oct. 7, Topeka & Sh. Co. Library, 10th & Washburn. (closed Memorial Day & Labor Day)

**CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP OF TOPEKA** -1st & third Mondays, 7pm at the Hughes Room 205 of the Topeka Library. Workshop for aspiring writers. Each participant is asked to bring five copies of a two page type written sample of a work in progress. After reading the pages aloud each participant is allowed an equal number of positive and negative comments offered in a spirit of helpfulness. If you would like to read something email Charles at [jcc-cw@gmail.com](mailto:jcc-cw@gmail.com)

**FAMILY NIGHT AT COSMOS COURT** — Tuesdays, 5pm, Cosmos Court, 909 S. Kansas Ave. Pizza, salads, hot dogs, nachos, soup and more! Get a 16" Pizza, 2 side salads, and 4 cups of ice cream for only \$30! Also table games, etc.

**7TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE REGGAE ROOTS FESTIVAL** — June 29, 4pm-12, corner of 8th & Jackson streets outside of The Celtic Fox. Featuring national, regional, and local Reggae and Ska bands, DJ's, Food Trucks, Arts & Crafts vendors, a kids corner, swag giveaways, and more! \$15 ADMISSION, \*kids 10 & Under free. GATES OPEN AT 4PM. \*For vendor or sponsorship opportunities please contact Sunshine: [sunshinegmbue@gmail.com](mailto:sunshinegmbue@gmail.com)

**SUMMER FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA** — June 29, 7pm, hosted by Fellowship Hi-Crest at Avondale East Field. Food trucks, inflatables, live music from the Fountain City 45s, and giveaways. At 10 pm, a 20-minute professional fireworks show will light up the night sky. <https://bit.ly/2024SFE>

**CHILDRENS MIRACLE NETWORK CAR SHOW** — Jun. 29, 10am, North Topeka Walmart.

**SPIRIT, MIND & BODY FAIR** — June 29, 10-5, West Ridge Mall

**LEARNING BEYOND BOUNDARIES: HOMESCHOOLING AND NONTRADITIONAL EDUCATION FAIR** — June 30, 2-5pm, Topeka Public Library. Dive into a world of homeschooling support, microschoools, co-ops, enrichment programs, and more. Explore flexible, personalized learning options, tutoring services, and extracurricular activities. Perfect for families seeking diverse educational pathways

**PATRIOTIC CHIMES CONCERT** — June 30, 6pm, Topeka High School. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a concert by Topeka High Tower Deagan Chimes. Free.

**SPLASH PAD YOGA AT EVERY PLAZA** — July 2 and every Tuesday at 7pm.

**LOPEZ/CRUZ FIREWORK SHOW** — June 3, 9:30pm, Sante Fe Park

**COLLINS PARK JULY 4TH PARADE** — July 4, 11am, SW Collins Ave.

**SPIRIT OF KANSAS FIREWORKS & BLUES FESTIVAL** - July 4, 9am-10:30pm, Lake Shawnee - Reynolds Lodge. Live music, kids activities, vendors, food trucks, car show, fireworks at 10pm.

**CRUISIN' FOR CHARITY CAR SHOW** — July 6, 12-10:30pm, Forest Park.

**C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON** — July 11, 11:30-1 at Harley Davidson, 21st & Topeka Blvd. Barry Feaker will speak. Free admission. Food may be brought in from Black Dog BBQ. Please RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org). Open to the public.

**SAVE THE DATE:** C5 POWER Luncheon, Aug. 8, 11:30-1.

**SUNNY DAYS VENDOR MARKET** — July 13, 10-4, Owls Nest on Adams. Inflatables for the kids.

**FIESTA TOPEKA PARADE** — July 13, 10:30am, Downtown

**JESUS FEST TOPEKA — FREE CHRISTIAN CONCERT** — July 13, 2-5pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. Everyone is welcome to attend, free food while supplies last. Featuring The Rodericks, Bryan Meyer, Ciarra, Larry M. Index, Hope Hood, Rev Rog Band, and more, this event is for all ages, bring a friend, chairs are limited so bring a lawn chair. [familyofgodchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:familyofgodchurch@hotmail.com). 785-414-2427

**HALF PRICE BOOK SALE** — July 15, 10-5, Topeka Public Library.

**FIESTA TOPEKA** — July 16-20, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 201 NE Chandler. Great food, rides, and more

**CHILDRENS BUSINESS FAIR** — July 19, 6-9pm, Compass Point, 800 N. Kansas Ave.

**SUMMERFEST AUTO SHOW** — July 20, 10am, Kick Start Saloon. Food trucks, vendors, games

**FOR THE CULTURE KS FEST** — July 25-28, Every Plaza. Celebrate African American culture, featuring music artists, creatives, impactful speakers, businesses, vendors, and much more.

**SHAWNEE COUNTY FAIR** - July 25-28, Stormont Vail Event Center. Find all the information on the fair at [www.shawneecountyfair.org](https://www.shawneecountyfair.org)

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFT SHOW** — July 27, 8:30-3pm, Philip Billard Municipal Airport, 3600 NE Sardou.

**TOUCH A TRUCK** — Aug. 3, 9-11am, Christ Lutheran Church, 3509 SW Burlingame. Free snacks for all. Free book for first 100 kids.

**STATION 9 ¾** - Aug. 3 & 4, 10-4 at Great Overland Station. Magic, mirth & merriment!

**YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC** — Sep. 23, 9:00 reg.; 10:00 shotgun start, Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. Lots of prizes! 785-232-8296 or [topekayfc.org](mailto:topekayfc.org)

## MEETINGS & CLASSES

**CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP OF TOPEKA** -1st & third Mondays, 7pm at the Hughes Room 205 of the Topeka Library. Workshop for aspiring writers. Each participant is asked to bring five copies of a two page type written sample of a work in progress. After reading the pages aloud each participant is allowed an equal number of positive and negative comments offered in a spirit of helpfulness. If you would like to read something email Charles at [jcc-cw@gmail.com](mailto:jcc-cw@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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.flocritkansan.org](https://www.flocritkansan.org)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:davemathias@sbcglobal.net), or Betsy Thompson, [betsythompson@gmail.com](mailto:betsythompson@gmail.com).

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER BOOK CLUB** - 1st & 3rd Mon. 2-4pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1275 SW Boswell Ave. Call: 785-249-3258 or email [shepherdstopeka@yahoo.com](mailto:shepherdstopeka@yahoo.com) for the book of study.

**SMS - STRENGTH, MOBILITY, STABILITY EXERCISE GROUP (SMS)** Mon. 9-9:30am, Arbor Court, 4200 SW

**Send your calendar events to [voice@cox.net](mailto:voice@cox.net)**  
**See complete calendar at [metrovoicenews.com](https://metrovoicenews.com)**

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.**

**July 11, 11:30-1: "POWER" Luncheon**  
**at Harley Davidson, 21st & Topeka Blvd.**

Featuring: Barry Feaker

Free Admission; Food may be brought in.

Open to the public. RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org)

Save the Dates!

- Aug 8: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1
- Sep 12: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1
- Oct 10: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1

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





## High-ROI Spring Home Projects

Spring is nature's cue to renew and refresh. Whether you're looking to add value for potential sale or simply create a more comfortable living space, you can make the most of the season and breathe new life into your home with projects that provide a high return on investment (ROI).

Consider these top home renovation projects to tackle this spring from the experts at Westlake Royal Building Products – a leader in innovation, design and production of exterior and interior building products including siding, trim, mouldings, roofing, stone, windows, outdoor living and more – based on the 2024 Cost vs. Value Report from "Remodeling Magazine."

### Remodel the Kitchen and Bathroom

The average seller can expect an

96.1% return on a light touch to the kitchen, according to the report, and 73.7% on a modest bathroom renovation. Because personal preferences can vary widely among buyers, minor upgrades can provide a higher ROI than large, upscale remodels. A few easy ways to refresh your kitchen or bathroom include updating shelving or adding new hardware. Decorative trim and mouldings are also cost-effective ways to add visual interest.

### Upgrade with Stone Veneer

As natural and textured home trends continue, homeowners are gravitating toward stone veneer, or manufactured stone, as it can replicate the look of real stone, adding comfort,



character and beauty to homes. An option like Versetta Stone from Westlake Royal Building Products offers the authentic, handcrafted look of stone in a panelized format that's easy to install with nails and screws. There's also no need to paint, coat or seal once installed. Ideal for its ability to add texture and dimension throughout both home interior (accent walls and fireplaces) and exterior applications (siding, entryways and walkways), stone veneer – which comes with a 153.2% ROI – can influence mood, emotion and energy levels while serving as a focal point of your home's design.

### Install New Windows

Depending on the harshness of winter in your area and the age of your home, you may notice certain windows have developed drafts, allowing cold air to enter and heat to escape. Replacing drafty or outdated windows with modern, energy-efficient models is one of the most effective ways to enhance your home's energy efficiency. Additionally, a vinyl window replacement brings approximately 67.1% ROI.

### Replace Siding

In some cases, applying a fresh coat of paint is enough to refresh your home. However, if you're looking to enhance your home's curb appeal while making a long-term impact, consider installing new siding or replacing existing siding. Because vinyl siding serves as an additional layer of insulation, improving the energy efficiency of your heating and cooling systems, it offers a 80.2% ROI. Weather-resistant, low-maintenance siding like Celect Cellular Composite Siding, which is now available in on-trend colors including Imperial Red, a robust shade of red; Deep Pewter, a compellingly modern forest green; and Timberland, a rich, natural

brown, won't warp, sag or buckle and is built to withstand even the harshest weather conditions. Its patented interlocking joints provide a seamless look and it's easy to install in small spaces, like along a knee or pony wall.

### Update Decking

If you want to entertain guests outside, spring is a perfect time to get your patio or deck ready. While a new coat of stain can update your existing deck's appearance and help protect it, spring is also an ideal time to build a deck if

your home doesn't currently have one. When choosing a decking material, cost and maintenance are two factors to consider. Composite decking offers a 68.2% ROI and is low maintenance as it's not susceptible to cracking, warping and weather damage.

Find more ideas to update your home this spring at [WestlakeRoyal-BuildingProducts.com](http://WestlakeRoyal-BuildingProducts.com).

– Family Features

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# entertainment

## Historic all-sign-language movie 'Jesus: A Deaf Missions Film'

(RNS) — Joseph Josselyn remembers being fascinated by the 1977 drama “Jesus of Nazareth” — but as a Deaf child, he had to rely on closed captions to catch the dialogue.

“I had this thought: I wonder what it would be like if this film was completely in sign language,” Josselyn said in a recent interview over Zoom facilitated by an American Sign Language interpreter.

His career since could arguably be described as a journey to finding out. On June 20, a movie telling the story of Jesus entirely in American Sign Language will become the first all-ASL feature film to debut in theaters, according to Josselyn, the film’s producer.

“Jesus: A Deaf Missions Film,” which carries the tagline “for Deaf, by Deaf,” stars Gideon Firl as the Messiah who, like all of the primary cast, signs his way through the role.

Deaf Missions is an international Christian ministry that serves people in more than 100 countries, with the goal of creating high-quality videos and visual tools in sign language. Josselyn, who joined in 2006, began with shorter projects before producing the 2018 film “The Book of Job,” an earlier all-ASL movie with an all-Deaf cast and production team that was released on video and streaming.

After the Job project, Josselyn returned to his dream of telling the gospel story in an ASL feature. That dream was shared by producer Michael Davis, who joined on in 2022. Together, the duo pitched the idea to Deaf Missions CEO Chad Entinger, estimating that the project would require \$4.8 million to fund.

“Our passion was really to see high-quality, Deaf film to be produced. We couldn’t do that with a low budget,” said Josselyn.

The funds secured, Josselyn and Davis had to decide how to frame their adaptation. Perhaps appropriately for a film about breaking language barriers, they chose to bookend the narrative with Pentecost, a moment described in the New Testament’s Book of Acts when the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples so their preaching can be understood by a crowd that speaks many languages.

Peter, whose Pentecost testimony leads to thousands being baptized, serves as the supporting lead in “Jesus,” as he does in the Gospels.



While the plot’s points are familiar to even casual Christians, the film’s use of ASL makes for particularly embodied expression. Every townspeople, priest, Christ follower and zealot is filmed in full view, so that their signing remains visible.

“Even hearing people who don’t know sign language will be able to connect, not just through the subtitles, but how expressive it is,” Davis said. “You listen to a lot with your eyes as well.”

The filming required some adaptations on set. Ryan Schlecht, who portrays Caiaphas in the film, said that because he and the other actors couldn’t hear “cut,” Josselyn and the assistant director would throw objects like hats and pillows into the scene to signal when to stop.

The team was also often communicating primarily through text, rather than via walkie-talkie as on many sets. Though partly filmed in California and Iowa, some of the movie was shot in Bulgaria, and wherever they were they were often in remote locations with poor internet and cell service. Other scenes in ASL elicited rare questions, such as: How does Jesus sign during his crucifixion?

The cast and crew, supernaturally, according to Schlecht, found every solution. “It’s been such a huge blessing to see how God has provided every step of the way, from the cast, from the crew, from the team, from behind the scenes,” he said. “Trying to get to the finish line was a challenge, but it was a journey of faith that carried us to the end.”

Not all of those working on the film were Christian, though the immersion in the drama of the Gospels, Josselyn said, led at least one cast member to an embrace of Christianity. For the Christians on the project, the impact was often profound.

Originally envisioned as a film without sound, the final version of the film includes a soundtrack created by two music producers — one Deaf, the other hearing — as well as background noises and sound effects to create a more immersive experience. Deaf viewers will be able to hear the music through the vibrations, said Josselyn, and some Deaf audience members can hear some sounds too, Davis added. For nonsigning viewers, there are English subtitles.

The film’s launch on the big screen was an unexpected development for Davis and Josselyn, who initially expected it to be shown in churches and community centers. The film will be shown in more than 300 theaters starting next week, making possible an unprecedented cinematic experience.

Despite the barriers encountered during the project, the filmmakers agreed it was worthwhile when they saw audience reactions to the film for the first time in prescreenings this spring. Audiences were visibly moved — Schlecht added that in 30 years as a Deaf artist working in theater and film production, he’s never seen this level of impact.

“This film is for Deaf, by Deaf. That part is clear. But I just want to encourage the hearing community to come and be a part and watch the film,” said Josselyn. “We want them to come and share this unique experience, understand our culture just a little better, and celebrate this historical moment in time, of the first ever full feature film about Jesus in sign language.”

The film is in limited release but local communities and churches can request a showing for as few as 25 tickets. Visit [jesusdeafilm.com](http://jesusdeafilm.com) for more information.

—Kathryn Post / Religion News Service

## Researching near-death experiences leads author on journey toward faith



Christians have long debated whether so-called near-death experiences are authentic or counterfeit.

NDEs, as they are known, are a scientifically recognized phenomenon that occur when people are clinically dead. People often see visions of themselves; they see their bodies as paramedics try to revive them, doctors as they operate or even family members in waiting rooms. Some even describe scenes they couldn’t possibly have seen except supernaturally.

Author John Burke interviewed 70 people who have had such an experience for his book “Imagine Heaven.” One of the first documented NDEs is the case of Dr. George Ritchie. In December 1943, Ritchie was a 20-year-old Army private and died of pneumonia. Nine minutes later, he came back to life and was profoundly changed. He went on to become a doctor of psychiatry and wrote books on the phenomenon of NDE. In a late 1990s interview with Joan Rivers, Ritchie talked about what he encountered, about the incredible light and love and being in the presence of what he believed to be God in Jesus Christ.

Burke told Fox News that there is overwhelming evidence that what people experience is actually in the Bible. “Christians don’t realize how many of these things are tied to what the Bible

says,” he said. Light and love are the two attributes of God in the Bible. They are also the two commonalities people describe in NDEs.

Light: “And Jesus spoke to them saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life’” (John 8:12).

Love: “For God is love” (1 John 4:8).

Burke said he had always been a skeptic when it came to religion. He wasn’t an atheist but had serious doubts. However, he said people who had no Christian background or understanding have reported seeing things that are only described in the Judeo-Christian scriptures, particularly Revelation 21.

He isn’t alone as science seems to now be catching up with the phenomenon. Scientific American wrote about it extensively in recent years stating, “A growing number of scholars now accept NDEs as a unique mental state that can offer novel insights into the nature of consciousness.” The journal then quoted Charlotte Martial, a neuroscientist at the University of Liège in Belgium who stated, “Now, clearly, we don’t question anymore the reality of near-death experiences. “People who report an experience really did experience something.”



# 3 Unique Twists in Mike Rowe's New Patriotic Film, *Something to Stand For*

By Michael Foust

Nearly three decades ago, Mike Rowe says, 70 percent of Americans described themselves as extremely patriotic. Today, that number has fallen to less than 40 percent. Rowe, though, is on a mission to remind us of the enduring values that define our nation. Put another way: He wants to show Americans who are on the fence why America is still worth loving.

His new documentary film, *Something to Stand For*, features Rowe traveling to Washington, D.C., as he features lesser-known stories from American history that involve well-known patriots. TBN, Fathom, Impact Productions, and mikeroweWORKS are the companies behind it.

Rowe is quick to emphasize it's "not a political movie."

"I didn't make it for Democrats or Republicans or liberals or conservatives," he says. "I made it for regular citizens who see themselves first and foremost as Americans -- Americans who understand that, even though this great country was formed by imperfect people, and even though we're still very much a work in progress, we still have a lot to be proud of."

It draws from Rowe's podcast, *The Way I Heard It*, and his TV show, *The Story Behind the Story*.

Here are three things you should know about the movie:

## 1. It's a Throwback to Paul Harvey

Americans of a certain age grew up listening to radio man Paul Harvey (1918-2009), whose *Rest of the Story* broadcast captivated audiences with its unique blend of intriguing anecdotes and surprise endings, often revealing little-known facts about famous people and events.

Rowe says he followed Harvey's unique pattern of storytelling for *Something to Stand For*. He calls the stories "short mysteries."

"With Paul Harvey's mysteries,



you got to hear a story that you had never heard before, about somebody famous that you already know," Rowe says in the film. "Your job as a listener was to try and figure out who he was talking about before he got to the end of the mystery. These stories are a lot like that."

The film depicts Rowe sitting on a theater stage, talking into an old-style microphone as we watch reenactments of the stories and try to guess the subject. It's a gripping, entertaining style of storytelling.

## 2. It's Patriotic Stories with a Twist

Early in the film, Rowe asks the audience not to shout out any answers they might know before they are revealed. I suspect most of these stories will be new to viewers. (Personally, I knew only one or two answers.)

The film throws viewers a curveball by avoiding the use of reenactors in period clothing. For instance, a story set in the 1700s might feature actors in modern attire and vice versa. Only at the end is the scene presented in its authentic historical context. This clever filmmaking technique places the story itself at the heart of the experience.

Each story is a lesser-known episode from American history, covering the Revolutionary War, the 1800s, the wars of the 1900s, and the Civil Rights Movement. It includes stories of men and women, young and old, black and white.

Rowe calls the film a "tribute to the American spirit and the heroes who helped shape our country."

## 3. It's a Homage to Everyday Americans

*Something to Stand For* is more than a history lesson. In between stories, we watch as Rowe interviews ordinary Americans: a veteran who survived a 2005 blast that killed his comrades, another veteran who fought in Korea and who is visiting the World War II memorial, and a man whose job is to keep the Vietnam Veterans Memorial clean. The film begins in a diner.

The movie is unrated but does have a few PG-worthy moments, including mild language (details below), violence, and thematic content. We see war recreations with discussion of flying body parts. One of the film's last scenes involves a lengthy conversation about bull testicles. (They're cooked and eaten, and Rowe has fun adding edgy humor to the story.)

*Something to Stand For* is the type of patriotic film America needs: one that spotlights heroes of the Right and the Left while reminding us of the shared history, values, and sacrifices that unite us as a nation. We need more films like it.

*Something to Stand For* is unrated. Coarse language: h-ll (4), d-n (2), possible misuse of "good Lord" (1).

*Entertainment rating: 4 out of 5 stars*

*Family-friendly rating: 4 out of 5 stars*



## Author traces many societal problems to abandonment of God's plan for families

Many of society's problems can be traced to the breakdown of the nuclear family, a prominent Christian author and speaker says.

"Higher abortion rates, higher high-school dropout rates, lower employment rates, higher violence, higher imprisonment rates," Ryan Bomberger says. "The fallout is so devastating from the absence of fathers. So we're huge on talking about intact families with married mothers and fathers. And those are the environments where children flourish the best."

The reason the family is constantly under assault by the unbelieving world, he said, is because it reflects God's heart for humanity.

"He created this construct of family with a married mother and father to where we all best flourish," Bomberger told CBN News. "And, of course, the world's going to attack that. You've got movements, like even the Black Lives Matter movement. They want to dismantle the Western civilization's concept or construct of family."

Scripture is clear in its prescription for the nuclear family. In the beginning, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18), and later added, "A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24)

The attack against the biblical structure of the family is devastating, Bomberger said. In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which resulted in the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling granting nationwide legal protection for abortion, many of those perceived attacks have shifted against adoption, he said.

"They're not better off being

adopted?" Bomberger asked. "So what? They're better off dead? That's an insane sort of mindset."

Bomberger, who cofounded The Radiance Foundation alongside his wife, Bethany, has written several books on cultural issues such as gender identity and civil rights. According to its website, the foundation's mission is to "illuminate that every human being has inherent and equal worth, educate about culture-shaping issues, and motivate people to put truth and love into action." Describing himself as an "agitator," Bomberger uses his platform and testimony to champion the lives of the unborn.

In addition to discussing abortion, adoption and the fatherlessness epidemic, Bomberger spoke to the necessity of the family as God designed it, with one man and one woman in a committed marital relationship for life.



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# 50+ Lifestyles

## A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

### Knowing the Signs of Stroke

Stroke can happen to anyone – it happens to more than 800,000 people every year in the United States. Knowing the signs of stroke and how to prevent it can help protect you or your loved ones from disabilities caused by stroke.

That's why the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), part of the National Institutes of Health, created the "Know Stroke" campaign to disrupt stroke and help people in your community who might be at risk of stroke through prevention, treatment and research.

"Seconds are critical when someone is having a stroke," said Dr. Clinton Wright, vascular neurologist and director of the Division of Clinical Research at NINDS. "It's important to know the signs."

#### Know Stroke

Most strokes happen when the brain stops getting the blood supply it needs to work properly. Without enough blood flow, the brain starts to lose function. Two million brain cells die every minute during stroke, which is why stroke prevention is important. Preventing stroke protects you from

Treating stroke by getting to a hospital quickly is critical to prevent brain damage. If you see these signs, act F.A.S.T.:

- **Face drooping:** One side of the face droops when smiling
- **Arm weakness:** If both arms are raised, one drifts down
- **Speech difficulty:** Slurred or strange speech

- **Time to call 911:** Do not drive yourself or your loved one – call an ambulance immediately if you notice one or more of these signs

Learning these stroke symptoms can help disrupt stroke before it disrupts your (or someone else's)

developing disabilities that stroke may cause like speech problems, limited movement and memory loss.

#### Know the Signs of Stroke

Stroke symptoms often appear suddenly and can be easily missed.

life. Other signs to look for include sudden numbness, confusion, difficulty seeing, difficulty walking and severe headache, especially one that occurs in a split second, called a thunder-clap headache. Remember stroke is always an emergency that requires fast action and medical treatment.

#### Know How to Prevent Stroke

Some medical conditions and lifestyle considerations can put you at higher risk for stroke. For example, high blood pressure is the leading cause of stroke. Stroke can be prevented by effectively treating high blood pressure as well as high cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes, smoking and obesity. There are several ways to lower your risk for stroke:

- Treat high blood pressure
- Exercise regularly
- Eat healthy and maintain a healthy weight
- Manage diabetes
- Quit smoking



- Control cholesterol

Doing your best to prevent stroke from happening is the No. 1 way to lower your risk of disabilities caused by stroke. Even if you have had a stroke before, you can still take steps to reduce your risk of more strokes. Treating these risk factors may also reduce the chance of developing age-related dementia. For more information on the connection between stroke risk factors and dementia, visit [mindyourrisks.nih.gov](http://mindyourrisks.nih.gov).

#### Know How to Recover from Stroke

As much as prevention helps lower the chances of having a stroke, it can still happen. Rehabilitation therapy is usually started in the hospital within

48 hours after a stroke. Health care workers help stroke patients relearn skills that were lost from the stroke or teach them new ways to compensate for remaining disabilities. Researchers continue to investigate how patients can restore blood flow to the brain and how to protect brain cells after stroke to improve recovery.

#### Know More

When you know the signs of stroke, you can help prevent a life-changing disability for yourself or someone you care about. You could even save a life. Visit [stroke.nih.gov](http://stroke.nih.gov) to learn more about stroke risks, prevention and research.

– Family Features





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# Easy Ideas to Stretch Your Retirement Budget

## Ways seniors can save on enjoyable activities



Retirement may mean you have unlimited time to enjoy each day, but it doesn't mean you have a budget to match.

You probably already know staying active is essential for aging with grace, so instead of letting limited funds keep you at home, explore some ways you can enjoy your leisure time without breaking the bank.

### Hit the Gym

Many fitness centers offer special

rates and programs for older adults. Hitting the track or joining a group fitness class are easy ways to socialize while getting some exercise. The discounted membership is also an investment since staying fit is important for physical and mental health.

### Enjoy Early Dinner Deals

You can still enjoy dining out occasionally, especially if you take advantage of lower-cost meals designed with older adults in mind. Many specials are for meals earlier in the day,

which is consistent with a growing trend toward earlier dining. According to Yelp, the number of people eating from 4-6 p.m. has grown 9% (up to 26% from 17% in 2019). Eating earlier promotes better digestion, and earlier meals are often lighter portions for smaller appetites. For example, Cracker Barrel's Early Dinner Deals feature smaller portions served from 4-6 p.m. on weekdays. Menu items include a variety of homestyle favorites like chicken n' dumplings, meatloaf, catfish and more.

### Check Out the Library

Your local library is filled with hours of free entertainment, but it's not just the kind you'll find from getting a library card. You can undoubtedly find a book that covers any genre or interest you can name, but most local libraries also offer programming tailored to special interests and the sessions are typically offered for free or at a low cost. It's an easy, affordable way to pick up a new skill, meet a favorite author, learn about a topic that intrigues you and more. Other resources to explore include your library's DVD collection and internet access if you don't have a computer at home.

### Nurture a Garden

Tending a garden may seem like a seasonal activity, but you can make it a year-round hobby. Researching and planning is a good way to carry your gardening enthusiasm into the cooler months and you can start seedlings indoors to extend your growing season. While you're digging into this low-cost pastime, remember the results of your efforts, such as fresh fruits and veggies, can help cut your grocery costs, too.

### Mind Your Money with DIY

Saving money at the grocery store is just one way you can make DIY projects work for you. There are dozens of other examples of ways you can put your skills and interests to use by passing time doing something you enjoy while benefiting your bank account. If you like to tinker with cars, figure out what repairs you can handle yourself and avoid hefty service fees. Crafting and sewing might mean you have ready-made gifts for special occasions and a way to repair or repurpose damaged clothing instead of discarding it.

### Ask About Discounts

You may be surprised by how many places offer discounts for older adults that they don't readily advertise. In some cases, you'll find the information on their website or signage, but other times, you may find it easier to just ask. When you're booking an appointment or checking out, inquire about discounts for older adults, including any restrictions, age requirements, the amount of the discount



and other pertinent details. Sometimes the discounts are offered on certain days or for specific services, or they may require you to join a loyalty club to access the discounts. When dining out, many restaurants offer a variety of loyalty perks. Rewards members at Cracker Barrel can earn points, or "Pegs," on qualifying restaurant and retail purchases. Members can also take advantage of bonus birthday, anniversary and surprise rewards throughout the year.

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# sports

## Faithfulness: Loyalty to the end



“This team held together.” This is a common phrase coaches use at the end of a hard-fought game. One head football coach said it this way on the heels of a string of early season losses, “Without really good leaders and a solid group of seniors, this wouldn’t have happened. We could have gone in a hundred different directions when we struggled early on. But instead, they remained faithful to the coaching staff, one another, and the fundamentals we were teaching. These guys will mean a lot to me as long as I’m coaching here because this group had to go through the growing pains of changing everything.” He added, “Now we’re dangerous. We’re a team who can beat just about anybody. The culture is better. Everybody’s having more fun. It’s starting to get right; without this group of seniors, it never could’ve happened.” The secret ingredient for the team’s turnaround was its faithfulness.

**Faithfulness:** Being thorough in performing my duties; being true to my words, promises, and vows.

The book of Ruth tells about a family relationship enduring hardship. Love and

loyalty led Ruth to stay with her mother-in-law (Naomi) when her husband died. Though Ruth and Naomi were from different lands and families, Ruth insisted on staying and modeling faithfulness even though Naomi urged her to return to her people and find another husband. Read Ruth 1:1-18. Ruth’s faithfulness to Naomi resulted in a joyous wedding with Boaz, but loyalty to friends and family is valuable even without a happy ending.

Sadly, the virtue of faithfulness is not easily found in today’s world. When things are inconvenient or difficult circumstances arise, many people bail. Unfaithfulness seems to be the norm far too often. In considering faithfulness, Psalm 119:90a reminds us God’s faithfulness continues through all generations when He states, “I have chosen to be faithful.” Certainly, God’s faithfulness is something we can count on. He is absolutely trustworthy in all He has promised.

Loyalty and personal faith go together. Our faith is to be lived out every day of the week in every action we take, every word we speak, and every relationship we make. The measure of a person is not what hap-

pens on Sunday at church but who they are Monday through Saturday. Faithfulness is critical in our actions. Being consistent in our character makes people know how we will respond in tough situations. Our witness must be beyond reproach. Trust is at the heart of any good relationship—with God or with others. God has certainly been faithful, holding up His end of the relationship. Are you ready to hold up yours with your team this season?

Daniel Taylor reminded us of the value of faithfulness in our actions, not just words, when he said, “Character is not something you have; it is something you are that inevitably shows itself in what you do. It is determined by the stories of which you are part. As the concept of character makes a highly visible comeback in our public conversation, we must rescue it from glib politicians, do-gooders, and busy-body moralizers.” God is challenging us to pursue faithfulness regardless of the personal cost, the effort required, or the lack of resulting public acclaim.

The verse, “Let your ‘Yes’ be yes and your ‘No’ no,” is at the heart of what it means to be faithful (James 5:12). A faithful person can be trusted for their word, work, and actions. In Matthew 5:33-37, Jesus tells the disciples they should be so well known for their integrity that they should never have to take an oath. The oaths of yesterday are the legal contracts of today. We can do almost nothing today without signing a legal contract. Sixty years ago, a handshake was still considered binding because people felt keeping their word was important. Today though, our word means practically nothing to anyone because of a general lack of societal integrity. Faithfulness is not just keeping your word; it is telling the truth. What you say must be true.

The habit of being faithful to our Lord provides clear guidance for daily living. A simple step of faithfulness gives us the confidence to take the next step. Although

we may be tempted to say yes to something that may enhance our popularity, we faithfully choose to say no to anything which will compromise our intimacy with God. We trust God’s way is best. Faithfulness enables us to give up what seems good on the surface and patiently wait for what is best.

One of the great promises in Scripture is Lamentations 3:22-23, “The faithful love of the Lord never ends. His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.” The faithfulness of God is utterly amazing when you consider how disobedient and rebellious we are as humans. As the old classic hymn, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” in the third stanza states, “Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to

leave the God I love.” Yet, despite our unfaithfulness, God remains faithful. Praise God for His faithfulness!

1. Read Psalm 31:23; Proverbs 3:3-4; Proverbs 13:17; Proverbs 20:6; and Proverbs 28:20. What should be our attitude concerning faithfulness to God? What are the results of faithfulness? What does God promise to His faithful ones?

2. Would you describe yourself as being faithful in the following environments?

- With your family
- At school
- With your friends
- On your team
- At church
- On your job

—By Rod Handley

## MIGRANTS

continued from page 11

mated 1.1 million illegal aliens ahead of the November elections.

Meanwhile, in a recent essay in Foreign Affairs, former acting CIA director Michael Morell and prominent foreign policy expert Graham Allison—both Democrats—are warning: “The United States faces a serious threat of a terrorist attack in the months ahead.”

Their essay comes after repeated warnings from top FBI and military officials about the threat of a terrorist attack on US soil.

As American Greatness reported last

week, eight suspected terrorists with ties to ISIS were arrested in an FBI-ICE sting operation in New York, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. According to reports, an FBI wiretap revealed that one of the now-arrested individuals was talking about bombs.

During a speech in Florida Friday night, former President Donald Trump accused Joe Biden of aiding and abetting terrorist activity by refusing to enforce border security.

“So, in addition to all of his other well-documented offences, crooked Joe Biden is now also guilty of providing material support for terrorism,” said Trump, who was delivering remarks on his 78th birthday.

“Under Biden, there’s been a 3,000 percent increase in the number of people on the terror watchlist crossing into our country from the southern border—3,000 percent!” Trump continued, adding: “that comes from the Border Patrol. Our country is going to pay a steep price for many, many years. This is a terrible thing that’s happened.”

—By Debra Heine | amgreatness.com

Photo: CIUDAD JUAREZ, MEXICO - DECEMBER 20: A U.S. Border Patrol agent speaks to immigrants blocked from entering a high-traffic illegal border crossing area along Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas on December 20, 2022 as viewed from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. (Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

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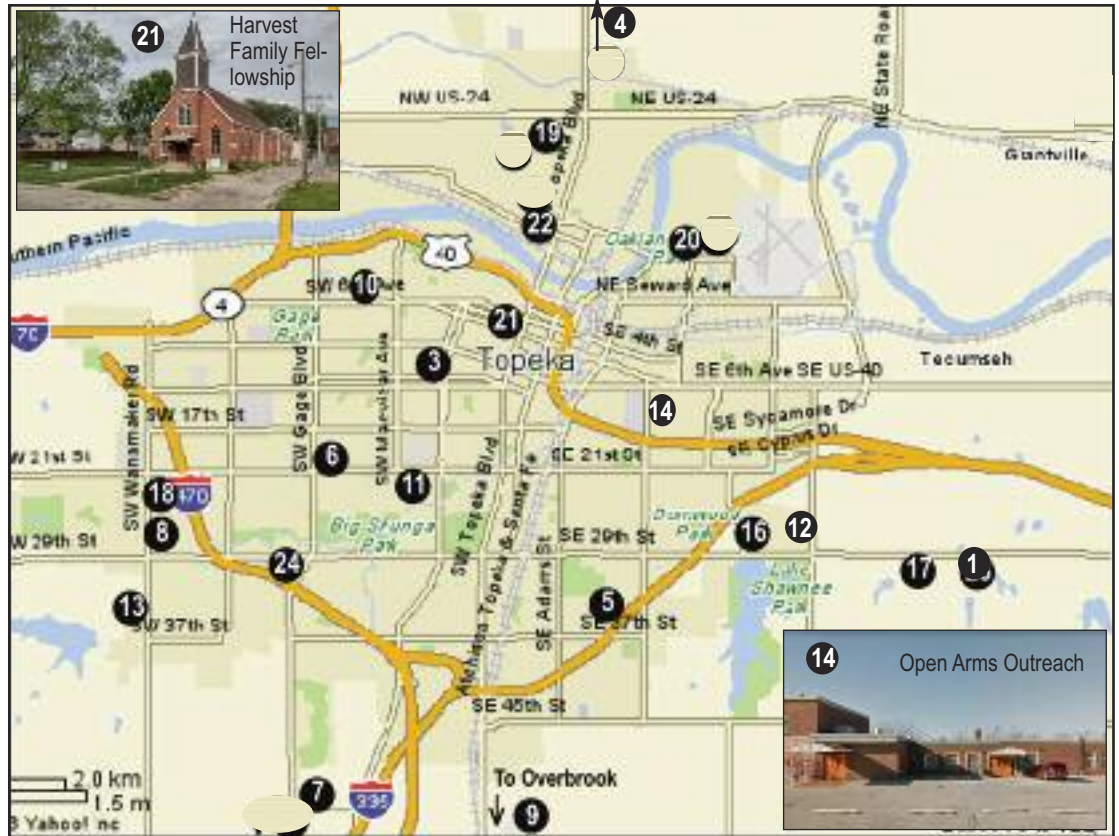
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 2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka  
 (785) 272-9323 [www.wrbcctopeka.com](http://www.wrbcctopeka.com)  
 Traditional Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm  
 Sunday School 9:30am • Wed. Prayer 7pm

## 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](http://www.gccinoverbrook.com)  
[office@gccinoverbrook.com](mailto:office@gccinoverbrook.com)

## 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH

1819 SW 21st St., Topeka  
 233-3537 [www.CommunityTopeka.com](http://www.CommunityTopeka.com)  
[info@CommunityTopeka.com](mailto: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](http://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

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.TrinityReformedBaptist.org)

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 PO Box 161 Topeka KS 66601  
 785-232-2992 or 785-231-8183



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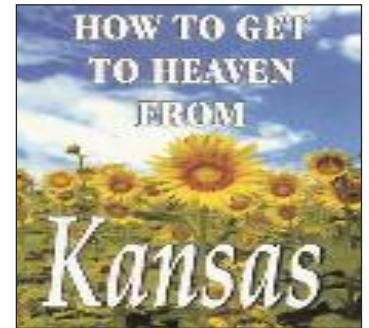
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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life,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