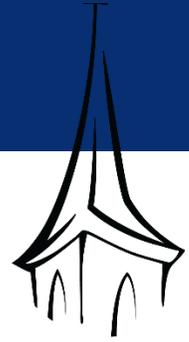


January  
2022

WEST SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

# UPDATE



## From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

There is a sentence near the very end of the book of Job that I find myself praying for myself and for us almost daily: *My ears had heard of You but now my eyes have seen You* (Job 42:5). The narrator of Job's story tells us from the opening lines that Job was an upright man who loved and lived in awe of our Father. He knew all kinds of truths about God. As a matter of fact, of all of his "friends" who come to console him, Job is the one whose understanding of the Almighty – the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving God – is nearest to truth.

Still, this man who knew so much about the Lord finishes his story by recognizing that though he knew *about* Him, it was not until he came face-to-face with the Creator of all that he actually knew *Him*. He had heard, but now he has seen.

That is my prayer for us in 2022, brothers and sisters. That each of us will go further up and further into the heart of our Savior King and, as we do, find ourselves sometimes shouting and sometimes whispering, "I always knew this to be true of You, I'd heard it a million times and read it before, but now I *know* this is who You are."

I think we can spend this lifetime coming to know Him more and I am certain we will spend eternity doing so. After all, it's Job who says that you and I comprehend "but the outer fringe of God's works. How faint a whisper we hear of Him! Who then can understand the thunder of His power" (Job 26:14)?

Yet, even though we'll only grasp the tip of the iceberg that is our glorious God, the more we come to know His ways and heart, the more we know whose and who we are. It genuinely matters that I not only 'hear' that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, but that I 'see' that with my eyes and know it in my mind & heart. Because a Good Shepherd can be trusted; you can breathe knowing He is watching over you. You can even rest in His goodness when He, as a Good Shepherd, throws His rod to move you away from something that He knows will ultimately harm you or insists upon using it to "part your wool" and examine you closely for any signs of dis-ease.

Will you join me in praying Job's cry, friends? That 2022 be a year of seeing our God anew? Of discovering whose and who we are?

Love ya,  
Pastor Kelly

## From Pastor Greg

When I was in second grade, I thought I was going to die because I chipped my tooth on the playground and there was a lot of blood. I didn't understand that death required more from me than a chipped tooth, but I didn't know any better and was terrified. When I was in third grade, I thought the world was ending because they built a new school that was closer to my home, and I had to switch schools. I didn't understand that change was a part of life and I'd turn out to make more friends at Vernfield Elementary than I did at Lower Salford Elementary. When I was a freshman in college, I was absolutely devastated when my girlfriend, to whom I had planned to propose, broke up with me. I didn't eat or sleep for days. I didn't understand that grieving relationships is expected in a broken world and that the woman I would eventually come to marry (Alexis) was worth every tear shed and a million more.

When I look in life's rearview mirror at the pains of the past, it's easy, with enough distance, to see how silly they were in the grand scheme of things. Am I so foolish to believe the troubles I'm facing now are any different? As if now, finally, I've got real troubles in my life, but back then my troubles were just those of an ignorant child! In other words, why should I believe that the pains I currently face are any more serious than moving schools in third grade? Why do I tend toward believing that moving schools had a point in God's plan for me, but my parent's recent divorce does not? One troublesome brush stroke viewed up close turns into a beautiful slice of a marvelous painting if we'd only take a step back.

The truth is, if I could see my life and all its current torments from eternity, I would not fearfully wince at the terrifying possibilities like I do today. I wouldn't lose any sleep over anxiously wondering what will happen. I'd probably smile, knowing the good things that would come and how pale my momentary afflictions look in the light of all eternity. Perhaps this is something like what Jesus was getting at when He said, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow has enough trouble of its own" and "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

We have a God who cares for us in our afflictions. From moving schools to your pets dying, to attending the funeral of your best friend. So, what are you so worried about? If God cared for me on the playground and preserves the sparrows in the trees, do you not think He will care for you in what you're facing now? I invite you – take a step back from the troublesome brush stroke, and trust that the Painter is using it to create something wonderful. You won't regret it.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Associate Pastor Greg Kabakjian

## From the Deacon Board

The best part of being busy is that we don't have to think too much—at least, not about the things that matter. When our attention is constantly absorbed by work deadlines, conflicting priorities, family obligations, and scheduled events, we can defer thinking about all the uncomfortable questions until later: Are we growing? Are we replenished by our day-to-day routines? Are we making a difference in anybody's life?

Perhaps that's why so many of us suffer from road rage—every time some jerk forces us to stop for a yellow light, we have to be alone with our own thoughts for a couple minutes. For people consumed by busy-ness, that's the last place we want to be.

In my twenties, I thought I was too busy for all the things that would have replenished me. I was too busy to exercise. I was too busy to eat well, too busy to spend time with my family. And I made certain that I was too busy on Sunday mornings to get anywhere close to the front doors of a church. Day after day, I poured out my time, energy, and resources into activities that gave nothing back. By the time I hit my thirties, I was running on empty.

Then God coaxed me into showing up at WSBC, and I saw that I had everything backwards. I wasn't too busy to go to church—I was too busy *not* to go to church. My strength, my resources, and my energy were never going to be enough, not for the long term. To meet the obligations of life in this hectic modern world, I needed regular time in the presence of the One who fills me with hope, peace, and purpose.

The Psalmist puts it this way:

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows. (Psalms 23:5)

We don't serve a miserly God who grudgingly measures out the bare minimum of mercy, peace, and hope that we need to survive. Our God fills us to overflowing. He replenishes us with a glorious excess that spills over into the lives of everyone around us. And he doesn't wait for some far-off happy day to do this. He does it today, in the very presence of our enemies. In circumstances where our own resources would leave us with only emptiness, despair, and anxiety, his presence provides fullness, hope, and peace.

Perhaps you're thinking about your New Year's resolutions this week. By all means, get going on those daily wellness habits. Set down the Christmas cookie tin. Get a gym membership. Take a walk with an old friend. But don't let the busy-ness of life—even the busy-ness of your healthy choices—keep you from finding ultimate health, ultimate peace, and ultimate replenishment in the presence of the One who loves you more than any other.

## Benevolence Fund

Thank you for your generous gifts to the Benevolence Fund.

These funds continue to be used to meet the practical needs of congregants and the community. This offering is collected the second Sunday of each month but can be donated anytime online or in person by designating "Deacon's Benevolence Fund."

## De-decorate the Church

All are welcome to come and de-decorate the church on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

## From the Mission Board

### Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet ministry will be closed during January and February.

There are lots of items to be sorted!! If you would like to volunteer, please connect with Dawne Strock at: [dawne1954@aol.com](mailto:dawne1954@aol.com) .



### Project ASK



In partnership with Christian Churches United (CCU) WSBC will be collecting items for the Project A.S.K. PowerPack program. We will make you aware of appropriate donations when we have the information.

### Thank you from Midwest Food Bank

From Sue:

“Midwest FB contacted me today to say our holiday food drive collected about 540 lbs of food for which they are very grateful. Once again, the folks of WSBC and our visitors have demonstrated their care and concern for those in need.

Midwest was especially thankful for the canned goods, something for which supply doesn't match demand. I can “see” a tag line for a future food drive specifically for canned goods: “Hey, Get Your Can In Here!””

## From the Christian Education Board

### Community Groups

Community groups continue to meet at a variety of times and locations. If you are interested in becoming involved in one, please contact Pastor Kelly to see what group may work for you.

### Sunday School

The What We Believe class is continuing to study a new attribute of God the Father each week. In mid-January we will start our next unit on humanity. You are invited to join the class, which meets 9 AM in Davidson Chapel each Sunday, if you haven't already! Connect with Pastor Greg ([gkabakjian@gmail.com](mailto:gkabakjian@gmail.com)) for more information.

### Men's Community Group

On Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. you are invited to a men's community group meeting in Davidson Chapel. The topic of the group is the book “Gentle and Lowly” by Dane Ortlund. If you are interested in joining this group, you can learn more by contacting Clark Stefanic or Pastor Greg!

There will be a “new” topic in a few weeks that will be announced.

## From the Christian Education Board - cont'd

### Walton Wall Scholarship

The Dambach-Walton-Wall Scholarship is granted to support an individual's maturity, leadership development, and Christian advancement through activities such as sport camps, scout camps, music camps, etc. That is, while the activities can be Christian development oriented, they do not necessarily have to be. With this in mind, the WSBC Board of Christian Education is pleased to offer this scholarship opportunity to children regularly attending WSBC.

This application is available to rising K through current 11th grade students and can be picked up at the church office beginning January 9. In order to administer this scholarship appropriately, the student will fill out the application now (deadline is Feb 14, 2022) for any camp that they are attending during the 2022 year. Applications will be evaluated and, if accepted, the student will be notified by March 28, 2022. Final monies will not be paid to the student until they return from camp with a receipt showing payment and a written summary of their camp experience. (Those students who cannot yet write are asked to share a picture.)

### Discovery Course

The Discovery Course is an excellent way for those newer to our worshipping community to get to know who we are and why we exist. Participants will learn about our history in this community, our vision to make disciples, and where they fit in our body. All are welcome to join; for those ready to become covenant members at WSBC, the course is required.

The class will be on Sunday, January 23 & 30 from 9 - 10 a.m.. Sign-up on your connect card or email [j.spriggs@wsbc.org](mailto:j.spriggs@wsbc.org) to register.

## January Meetings

### Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council will meet on **Tuesday, January 4**, at 6:30 p.m.

### Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on **Monday, January 10**, at 6:30 p.m.

### Board of Deacons Meeting

The Board of Deacons will meet on **Tuesday, January 11**, at 7:00 p.m.

### Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet on **Tuesday, January 18**, at 6:00 p.m.

### Board of Christian Education Meeting

The Board of Christian Education will meet on **Tuesday, January 18**, at 7:00 p.m.

## WSBC Annual Meeting



Don't forget the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, January 16, 2022, immediately following the Morning Worship Service.

## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 15, at 8:00 a.m. at West Shore Plaza Family Restaurant.

## Ladies Breakfast

The Ladies Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 15 at 8:30 a.m. at West Shore Plaza Family Restaurant.

## Special Dates



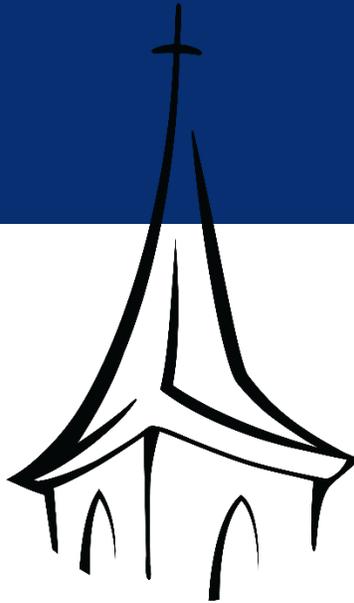
### Birthdays:

- 1 – Ashley Stine
- 4 – Cheryl Vulich  
Betty Johnson
- 5 – Abiodun Adeyemi
- 10 – David Carr
- 13 – Carol Wittle
- 14 – Beth Ice  
Judy Spangler
- 15 – Clark Stefanic
- 16 – Judd Brouse
- 17 – Steve Sleboda
- 25 – Richard Johnson
- 27 – Chuck McCown



### Anniversaries:

- 6 – Ron & Carol Keeney
- 28 – Steve & Rose Sleboda



# WEST SHORE

## BAPTIST CHURCH

### SUNDAY SERVICES:

Worship Service — 10:30 AM

Live streaming online and at church

#### Staff:

<b>Senior Pastor:</b>	Rev. Kelly Legg	Cell: (610) 755-8203	Email: <a href="mailto:pastorkdl@gmail.com">pastorkdl@gmail.com</a>
<b>Associate Pastor:</b>	Rev. Greg Kabakjian	Church: (717) 761-0942 Cell: (717) 877-6055	Email: <a href="mailto:gkabakjian@gmail.com">gkabakjian@gmail.com</a>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	Carol Saltzer	Cell: (717) 383-9740	Email: <a href="mailto:carolsaltzer@hotmail.com">carolsaltzer@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Office Manager:</b>	Janet Spriggs	Church: (717) 761-0942	Email: <a href="mailto:j.spriggs@wsbc.org">j.spriggs@wsbc.org</a>
<b>Organist:</b>	Gary Stefanic	Home: (717) 635-9602	Email: <a href="mailto:garystefanic1@comcast.net">garystefanic1@comcast.net</a>
<b>Church Sextons:</b>	Rimma & Vladimir Torchilo	Church: (717) 761-0942	