

West Side Weekly

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Gifts from God

As I sat in the office the other evening, the sky got darker and darker outside. In fact, I thought about leaving and finishing my work at home because of the large hail that was predicted. Instead I stayed. And as the sky got darker and darker the streetlights came on early, and eventually the rain came.

I worked through all that, and when I finally looked up the sky was lightening. When I looked up again, a bright sun was blazing in the window, and I thought, "I bet there's a rainbow out there right now." Yet, I kept working.

When I finally made it to the Walmart Market up at the corner of 6th and MacVicar, I noticed several people gazing at the sky, and--sure enough--there was the remnant of a rainbow, fading away by the second. I asked a bystander if it had been bigger earlier. "Yes," he said. "It was really bright against the dark sky."

I missed the best part of the rainbow...a gift created by God, available for the taking, and all that was required was to step outside and look to the east when prompted.

I wonder...How many gifts from God do we miss simply because we are unwilling to take a breather from our current project or give up a piece of a well-worn routine? How many little miracles do we overlook because we are so caught up in what we want that we don't notice what God is doing right outside our doors?

How often do we ignore a rainbow because we're exhausted from battling life's storms and simply can't imagine stepping away for even one tiny moment? What beautiful and creative ideas does God have in mind that we might miss if we're not looking and listening carefully?

With Wonder,
Pastor Donna

Blanket the World with Love!

The Local/World Outreach Committee challenges you to blanket the world with love from Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, to Father's Day, Sunday, June 16. Church World Service Blankets are \$10 each and are used in disaster situations as well as shelters and neighborhood outreach. You can dedicate your gift in honor or memory of someone. Just drop your gift in the offering plate, designating it "CWS Blankets." How many blankets do you think West Side can provide?

THIS MOTHER'S DAY,



Blanket the World with Love!
cwsblankets.org/mothersday

Two Ways to Support TRM Ministries

1. Shop at the Topeka Rescue Mission's Boutique on the Boulevard for furniture, household items, children's toys, clothing, more! The shop at 3400 SW Topeka Blvd. is beautifully arranged like an upscale boutique. Come in today to find some bar **Every \$25 you spend helps shelter three people for a night!**
2. Donate items to TRM that are on the current needs list. The full list is posted on the church bulletin board in the hall by th but here is a short list of the critically needed items:

- Coffee
 - Men's and Women's Deodorant (no aerosol)
 - Toothpaste (small & large)
 - Shampoo & Conditioner
 - Shower Gel (hotel size & larger)
 - Mattresses and box springs with the safety tag of July 2007 or newer--no tears or stains
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Seniors: Ride the Bus Free in May

Older adults are a vital part of our society. Since 1965, communities across the country have shown their gratitude by celebrating Older Americans Month each May.

Topeka Metro is celebrating by offering Seniors (age 65+) free fixed-route rides throughout the month of May. Passengers must show proof of age to the bus operator when they board in order to ride free.

While Topeka Metro provides public transportation to older adults year-round, Older Americans Month offers an opportunity to shine a light on the basic need of transportation to live independently.

Throughout the month, Topeka Metro will offer free rides to seniors to assist in the freedom that public transportation offers.

“Transportation is a key element for older Americans to live independently at home, and Topeka Metro is eager to showcase how easy it is to ride the bus by offering free service to seniors in May,” said Susan Duffy, General Manager, Topeka Metro.

For route information, call (785) 783-7000, or visit topekametro.org



Green Chalice Tip: Recycling Packing Peanuts

Have you recently ordered an item that was packed with packing peanuts? If you can't reuse them, the UPS store at 6021 SW 29th St. will take those Styrofoam peanuts. They are not degradable and take up enormous space in landfills.

Two More Verses When You Need Strength

The following is quoted from Our Daily Bread Ministries newsletter, 2019 No. 2. and continued from the May 5 *West Side Weekly*.

Need to be reminded that God hears you? He does! Meditate on these promises when you need His strength to get you through the challenges of the day.

1. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. [Psalm 9-10 \(NLT\)](#)

2. May your glorious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessing and praise! You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you. [Nehemiah 9:5-6 \(NLT\)](#)

This Week at West Side

Sunday, May 12: **Mother's Day**

8:15 a.m. Sunday Siblings (Note new time.)

Tuesday, May 14: 12:00 p.m. Noon-Timers @ church (prayer study)

4:45 p.m. Stewardship Committee meeting

6:30 p.m. Church Budget Committee meeting

Wednesday, May 15: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sewing Day (All are welcome.)

Thursday, May 16: 5:30 p.m. Elders meeting

Sunday, May 19: **Family Day Taco Bar after service!**

Pete & Cathy Doll's last WSCC service before moving to Ohio

(You will be missed, Pete and Cathy!)

Sunday Servant Schedule Now on Website

You can access the Sunday Servant schedule on our website homepage at www.westsidedisciples.org thanks to Gary Jantz. Just scroll down toward the bottom of the homepage until you see the silver button marked "Sunday Servants." Click on that button, and it will take you to this month's schedule.