

September, 2024 Volume 6, Issue 1

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GRANT CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Impacting the World With the Word

What DOES The Bible Say About Suicide?

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” – *Hebrews 4:15-16(NRSVUE)*

**NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

I’ve quoted from the book of Hebrews above because I believe these verses encapsulate how much our Lord understands us. I mean, God could have sent a “superman” here to be our Savior—one who is unaffected by this world, who doesn’t understand what it means to be human, who can’t be hurt by what we are hurt by, who has no emotions, just function. But our Lord Jesus Christ knows what it is to live as a human being. Our Lord understands what we go through in this life because He went through the same thing as He walked with us. Our Lord sympathizes, empathizes and has an open ear and an open heart for us.

Even though we have an understanding Lord, “Suicide is a tragic reality in our fallen world. That people experience desperation to the point that they believe the best option is to end their own lives is heartbreaking. To lose a loved one to suicide prompts a range of questions and a special kind of grief. But the Bible offers hope—both to those who are considering suicide and to those who have been affected by the suicide of another.” (www.gotquestions.org)

“In the Bible, God continuously reminds us that we can turn our lives around, with His help. If we reach out to Him He will be there for us. He will strengthen us, enlighten us, and offer us a life filled with purpose and meaning.” (<https://242community.com>)

September is Suicide Prevention Month. The focus is on “prevention” not placing blame or shame, but prevention. Take time this month to be a listening ear to others. Your presence could prevent someone from taking the desperate, hopeless, step of taking their own life. - *Pastor Glenn*

Annual Conference Report Statistics:

Total Membership - 86
Indebtedness—NONE
Conversion - 1 Accessions - 2
Deaths - 1

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Sharde Versey-Chilton
Shirley Faucette
Essie Glenn
Patricia Grimmatt
Jackey Shine

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. It is important that

our members are knowledgeable about suicide and able to identify the risk factors. The Sarah Tanner WMS will observe the importance of suicide awareness at its 5th Sunday Worship Service. Our theme is **HOPE (Hold On. Pain Ends.)** This month represents hope: hope as we create more awareness around suicide; hope found in the resources available; and hope as we see the stigma around addressing suicide decrease. This month also can represent pain for those who have been touched by suicide. Whatever you are feeling this September, there are things you can do to create hope in your family and your community.

Learn the [warning signs and risk factors for suicide](#) to learn how to intervene and refer if someone is considering suicide, and help spread the word about the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#).

Look for facts and statistics in the weekly bulletin during the month of September.



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SEPTEMBER 2024

www.calendar.best

www.GrantChapelWichita.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Host: Bethel AME Church—Portland, Oregon						
8 Grandparent's Day Pastor's Appreciation	9	10	11	12	13	14
Midwest Annual Conference - Kansas City Airport Hilton Hosts: St. John & St. Mark's (Topeka, KS), and Ebenezer (KCMO)						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Desert Mountain Annual Conference						
22 First Day of Autumn	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 WMS 5th Sunday, Suicide Prevention	30	1	2	3	4	5



Grant Chapel
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The 17th Session of the Midwest Annual Conference will be held from September 11-14, 2024 at the Kansas City Airport Hilton.

According to our *Discipline* (pp. 281-289), the Annual Conference is composed of all the preachers, lay delegates from each church and presidents of Conference organizations. This meeting is special because we'll have a new bishop. We'll hear some great preaching. The pastors and organizations will report on their labors of the preceding year. We'll receive literary reports, examine preachers in the process of ordination, and pastors will be assigned.

Church School Begins New Year and Fall Quarter

There is a class for everyone. Sunday Church School begins at 9 a.m. and ends in time for morning worship. Carol Smart is our Church School Superintendent. *Join us!*

In **September**, we'll begin another year of study as we begin the Fall Quarter, "Worship in the Covenant Community" with Unit 1: "Leaders Set Worship Example."

"This quarter's first unit gives examples from the Old Testament of God's People responding to God's revelation through worship... Through worship, God's people proclaim that the Lord is the worthy Lamb of God!" (*Standard Lesson Commentary*)

In this first set of lessons, we'll see four core pillars of religion (human recognition and interaction with God. (*AME Sunday School Union*))

- **September 1** - Abram Builds an Altar at Mamre (Genesis 13:8-18)
- **September 8** - Solomon Dedicates the Temple (1 Kings 8:22-53)
- **September 15** - Hezekiah's Prayer (2 Kings 19:1-34)
- **September 22** - Josiah Celebrates Passover (2 Chronicles 35:1-6, 16-19)
- **September 29** - Moses and Miriam Lead the People in Praise (Exodus 15:1-21)

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