



temple  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

## *The Pastor's Perspective*

Dr. Reggie Bridges

Albert Einstein supposedly proposed, "The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." Not sure that the great thinker had fully deciphered time's purpose or its effect. To be honest, it often seems like everything is happening at once, and in my opinion, time does have a more encompassing function than Einstein described. Time also exists to help us mark the opportunities that God has provided for us. Indeed, there are specific moments that God has ordained to use for our good and His glory. He Himself reigns over time and its events! And He directs them purposefully and consequently for our lives! The Teacher stated it so succinctly and powerfully: "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven . . . He [God] has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out work which God has done from the beginning even to the end" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11 NAS). Hear King Solomon's affirmation of God's intentional design? He declares that **there is a specific time/purpose for every event and that God has placed everything within His divine timing.**

What a truth to recognize! Biblically, we see it; practically, we experience it. There are so many times we have seen it as a church. One that stands out for me occurred all the way back in 2019. (I know! I am getting old!) We had begun to move forward with planning for a major technological improvement so that we could livestream our services with excellence. Of course, we understood that such a move would require a great deal of resources, and we began to pray that the Lord would take care of this area. Some weeks later, God opened the door and the resources flowed! In our minds, we reasoned that we could kick off our livestream on Easter Sunday 2020. So much for our genius! God had other plans for the moment. No doubt, He had us perfectly prepared to go online with our worship services a month earlier than we imagined so we could minister to individuals who were sheltering in place at home as we tried to navigate something called COVID. I still marvel at that! Yet, God was also working in other areas. What should we do with our older equipment (e.g., the camera that we had previously used in the Sanctuary)? Should we sell it? Give it away? Ultimately, we decided to send it to one of our church planting partners in Chicago where two of our former Tech students served on staff. One of those former students who directed the technological services for the church later related how they received the camera and equipment the very week that they had to go online. He said,

"Dr. Reggie, it was that camera that allowed us to continue our services through livestream!" You see, not only did God work in a timely way to take care of us, but He was also providing for others through us! (I think someone should stop and said "Amen" here.)

Our God does not waste moments. **Every week, I walk to the platform, open the Bible, and begin speaking with the firm conviction that it is not only "the hour for the message," but more importantly, that it is "the message for the hour."** And wow, how God affirmed that to me this past week! Before the livestream finished, I received a message from a young woman who watched the service. I had pastored this lady some years ago in another context. For whatever reason (under God's sovereignty!), she had tuned in to the service. In her message to me, she recounted much loss and how her brokenness had turned to bitterness. She confessed her anger and frustration while admitting her need for the Lord. Later that day, a young man called me to discuss how something I said had resonated with him. (I always get nervous when I first hear that!) He again noted the way Daniel was respectful to the authorities over him and lamented the vitriol that we so often see in our country. His call was followed by other messages and thoughts, but one that struck me specifically came on Monday morning: "I made up my bed, and I made up my mind. I will follow Christ today!" **Praise the Lord for how He uses different elements of the same message to strike a work in us all!**

Even Sunday's public broadcast of Charlie Kirk's memorial service reminded me how God can work all things for His good. I don't believe I have ever heard such clear presentations of the gospel declared by so many in a public arena—even in such a tragic occasion. My friends, God can use any moment! Any word! In fact, He **will** use the time He has given us! As Jim Denison declares, "If God could not use you in these chaotic times, you would not be alive in these chaotic days. He has equipped you with the gifts, abilities, experiences, and resources you need to make a kingdom difference where and when you are."

Redeem the time you have, my brother and sisters! You won't regret it! And echo forth the words of Daniel in praise and practice: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings" (2:20-21 NKJV). Our God reigns over time, kingdoms, and lives. Recognize that and serve Him! See you Sunday!

# MINISTER OF WORSHIP

## Jeremy Asher

Even though the weather outside hides it, the calendar date says two things to me. Number one, it is now officially autumn. Please, Lord, send cooler temperatures! Second, the Worship Ministry will soon begin rehearsals for our Christmas cantata. And I can't wait to get started! The last month or so has been so rewarding for me, as our choir and orchestra have led worship so beautifully in our Blended service. As of this past Sunday, our magnificent pipe organ has joined the chorus of praise! I am so thankful for all of our worship volunteers, and especially for Mrs. Margie and Dr. Huey as they have continued to play, lead, and serve with Jesus' joy (thanks, Pastor George, for allowing me to borrow that phrase from you).

As we look ahead to Christmas, I hope that you will consider joining us in choir, orchestra, or volunteering on our media team. We cannot do what we do every week unless there are volunteers who support these ministries. Would you pray about serving Jesus with us? As you hear from the Lord, please let us know how you would like to get plugged in. I thank God for this incredible church family and can't wait to see what the Lord does in the weeks and months ahead.



### Charlotte Mabry Women on Mission

Monday, September 29 | 5:30 p.m.

Hostess: Jan Murphy - 116 Yellow Pine Dr., Ruston

Mission Project: Boston Church Plant

### Busy Bee Quilters

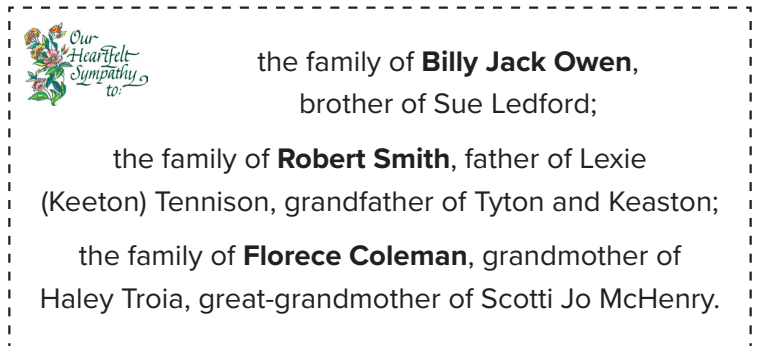
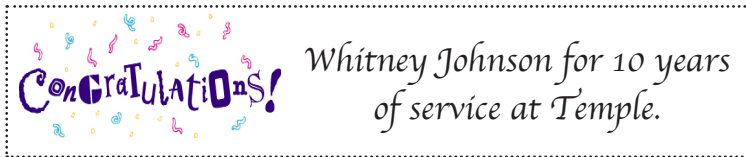
Wednesdays | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | FLC

Do you enjoy sewing? Did you know we have a group of ladies who gather together every week for a sweet time of sewing and fellowship? You are invited anytime to be a part of this group!





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## Youth Ministry

John Nugent

It's not often that I see a 17-year-old boy crying during a church worship service. Teenage boys are not big on showing much emotion, especially surrounded by their friends. But Sunday was different. I had the privilege of baptizing a Ruston High senior named Matthew Copeland. Matthew came to faith because of his friends. His friends started praying for him and inviting him to church. He found a home here and community in his Sunday School class. Matthew's friends encouraged, prayed, and preached the gospel to him. Matthew asked Jesus to be his Savior about a month ago at his house. That whole group of friends filled a row in the Gathering Space this Sunday to watch Matthew get baptized, and as I was helping Matthew out of the baptistry, I glanced over to that row of friends. What I saw was one of Matthew's friends, a recent Christian himself, wiping away tears of joy cried for a friend who is now a brother.

Barna recently published some research on which generation is the most consistent in their attendance to church. Do you know which generation now contains the most consistent church goers? It's Generation Z, today's teenagers and college students. They are more consistent than Millennials, Generation X, Boomers, or Elders. The research also tells us that Gen Z and Millennials are now going to church almost twice as often as they were in 2020. An article on Barna's website says, "Where is this renewal coming from? For decades, older adults – Boomers and Elders – were the most reliable churchgoers. Today, the pattern has shifted. Gen Z and Millennials, often labeled as disinterested in faith, show the highest level of regular attendance."

God uses young people. It's biblical. Would you join me in praying for even more young people to realize the truth of the gospel and to put their faith in Jesus? Would you join me in praying for young Christians to be burdened for their lost friends? Would you join me in praying to see many more rows of teenagers crying tears of joy over a friend who has been saved? Would you join me in praying that God would use young people to bring revival?

# DEACON NOMINATION

SEPTEMBER 1-28  
LEARN MORE AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)

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## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, September 28 (Lord's Supper in all services)

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](https://live.temple.life); Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space); Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](https://live.temple.life); Sunday School for all ages
- 3 p.m. - Media Open House (Sanctuary)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs Sanctuary)
- 5:30 p.m. - The Chapel | Young Adults (Connections Corner | Chapel)

### Monday, September 29

- 5:30 p.m. - Charlotte Mabry Women on Mission (Home of Jan Murphy)

### Wednesday, October 1

- 4 p.m. - Seasonal Decorations Clean-Out (FLC Racquetball Room)
- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8, \$15 max/family; Menu: Spaghetti and Meatballs)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Children's M3 (JP)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); Coed Bible Study - Psalm 23 (Chapel); Women's Bible Study "What Matters Most"
- 6:30 p.m. - College Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)
- 7 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm); High School Worship (Youth Rm)
- 8 p.m. - College MidWeek (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, October 2

- 6 p.m. - Senior Adult Game Night (FH)

### Thursday, October 2-Saturday, October 4 - Women's Retreat

**Broadcast Hours:** Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream ([live.temple.life](https://live.temple.life))

**Family Life Center Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**The Journey Place Playscape Hours:** Monday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 2:30-4 p.m.

## MEDIA OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 3 P.M.  
IN THE SANCTUARY

COME AND SEE WHAT OUR MEDIA TEAM GETS  
TO BE A PART OF EACH SUNDAY MORNING!

LEARN MORE AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)

## Seasonal Decorations Clean-Out

Wednesdays, September 24 and October 1 | 4-6 P.M. & 7-7:30 P.M.  
Family Life Center Racquetball Room

Come purchase a variety of seasonal décor & furniture.  
Donations will be accepted to help offset the cost of  
new decorations for our newly renovated areas.