

# THE TIDINGS

GOD'S MISSION FOR TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO LOVE HIM FULLY AND FOLLOW HIM FAITHFULLY.

## *The Pastor's Perspective*

*Dr. Reggie Bridges*

“Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in your praise” (Psalm 106:47 NKJV). It was a heartfelt petition expressed by the Psalmist. Earlier, he had rehearsed God’s faithfulness to Israel through a recitation of “awesome things” such as the parting of the Red Sea, but he had also recounted the people’s faithless response that had ultimately led to their dispersal among the nations. Indeed, the biblical writer longed for Yahweh to demonstrate His mercy once again and gather His people back together in the land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And when that was realized, he envisioned taking part in an unbelievable worship event of thanksgiving and praise!

I admit that I have adopted a modified version of that prayer in my life lately: “O LORD our God, gather us to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in your praise.” We have been scattered. Many have rightly held up in the safety of their homes. And even though they have been contacted by friends/family and have joined the church through technological means, they have felt isolation physically, emotionally, and perhaps even spiritually. I am convinced these recent days have revealed the necessity of authentic relationships with God’s people and an innate desire for the church to be gathered physically. We were correct in times past when we said the church is not the building, but perhaps we should have further emphasized that coming together is an essential function of the body of Christ. If nothing else, the difficult season we are experiencing has reinforced that truth.

Thankfully, we will begin to see our prayers realized as we **ReGather this coming Sunday, May 17, with worship only**. We understand that our full ReGathering will be a slow, methodical process and that we may not be able to return to

certain activities for some time. Believe me, our aim is to ReGather as quickly and as safely as possible; and we are expecting to meet that desire. I ask you to remember that this season is both temporary and transitional. This will not last forever.

For the immediate future, we will encourage a hybrid model of worship—both online and on campus. While we are certainly ready to see our whole church family, we understand that there are those who are concerned about their health and thus may not be able to attend. And my friends, you should make decisions with which you are comfortable. Don’t allow this decision to add extra stress to your life! (There are too many other things that are vying for that privilege to burden you!) I know that the Phase 1 reopening guidelines encourage the vulnerable (“the elderly” and those who have compromised immune systems) not to attend the on-campus gatherings. Thus, we will continue to provide those worship opportunities through our livestream, television, or radio broadcast. And as we move through the next few weeks/months, God will eventually gather us all together.

For those who do choose to attend our physical gathering, please know we have made preparations and adjustments that we believe will contribute to your safety. Indeed, we have been meticulous in cleaning the facilities and in organizing the worship services in ways that should allow you to feel at ease. **You can find our plan and its specifics on our website ([update.temple.life](http://update.temple.life)).**

“O LORD our God, gather us to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in your praise.” That is my prayer specifically as we attempt to ReGather together. See a lot of you Sunday as we give thanks and triumph in His name!

# Minister of Community Evangelism

George Lee

As someone whose love languages are words of affirmation and physical touch, I can't emphasize how much I miss gathering with everyone. I miss the handshakes, high-fives, and hugs. I confess! I am the guy who stops by everyone's office to say, "Hi!" I am the guy who welcomes the hug. I am the guy who fist-bumps the kiddos in the hallway. In high school, I was voted "friendliest" among my peers. I know...you can't believe that was actually a category! With that being said, I love our community. Yes, I do love our locale; but more than that, I love our people. I love when we can come together...and especially when we can come together for worship. The Lord has truly kept me. The past couple of months have been tough.

It seems that in this season we've been challenged to be "together-apart." We've had to continue to connect and reach out in creative ways...while social distancing! We've hosted video and conference calls for Sunday School gatherings, ramped it up on social media, participated in drive-by birthday celebrations, and the list goes on. A couple of things have become more evident for me during this time: (1) We all NEED community (2) We are willing to work for it. When we are on the other side of this pandemic, I hope and pray that we will continue to work for community. I hope that the restrictions on gathering with family, friends, and neighbors causes us all to develop a greater appreciation for community.

Psalm 133:1 *How delightfully good when brothers live together in harmony!*

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## Vacation Bible School is now Staycation Bible School

June 22-26

Join us for a virtual Vacation Bible School experience.



**Participate through:**  
Neighborhood Block Parties  
Small Group Gatherings  
Family Events

**Register online at**  
[sbs.temple.life](https://sbs.temple.life)

**Registration Deadline: June 13**

Supply packets will be available for registered participants in *The Journey Place* on June 20.

## WAYS TO GIVE

IN PERSON ONLINE AND TEXT

CHURCH OFFICE: Mail or Dropoff

ONLINE: [giving.temple.life](https://giving.temple.life)

TEXTING: Text any amount to 84321 to give



## rightnow MEDIA

**A digital Bible Study Library is now available...and Gigantic!**

Over 18,000 videos for kids, youth, and adults

**JOIN FOR FREE!**

Go to [rightnow.temple.life](https://rightnow.temple.life) to join.  
Create your profile and explore away!

### Youth Ministry News:

Check out our ministry adjustments/trips/plans at [www.templebcstudents.org](http://www.templebcstudents.org)



the family of **Linda Gulledge**,  
sister of David (Gaye) Gulledge;  
the family of **Curtis Gulledge**,  
brother of David (Gaye) Gulledge;  
the family of **J N Walpole**, father of Mike (Pam) and  
Steve (Ginger); grandfather of J (Blair), Jed (Corky),  
and Josh (Ashley) Walpole, and Lindsey (Kyle) O'Neal.

# LATEST UPDATE ON THE CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.TEMPLE.LIFE

**Church Offices Closed**  
in observance of  
Memorial Day  
Monday, May 25



**Sunday School Classes are still meeting virtually. Would you like to join a class?**

We want you to be a part.

Jason Walsworth is here to help!  
[jason@temple.life](mailto:jason@temple.life) | 255-3745

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## From The Minister of Pastoral Care Dale Oden

None of us would have ever imagined what is taking place across our country and around the world over the past several weeks! To think that God's people would not be able to go to God's House on Sundays to worship has been hard to comprehend. I have missed being able to gather together on Sunday and on other days of the week. I have missed the handshakes, the hugs, and the smiles. I have missed being able to visit folks in the hospitals, the nursing homes, and the assisted living facilities. I have been teaching a Bible Study at two assisted living facilities every Tuesday for over 20 years. I've not been able to do that since March 17. I have missed our Senior Adult Luncheons for the past two months and the special programs we had coming to speak and/or sing.

A group of folks had planned to leave on May 26 to fly to Germany to attend The Passion Play in Oberammergau. **This trip has been canceled** and the play postponed until 2022. Other travel plans have been put on hold for now.

I am grateful that I've been able to spend some extra time at home with Sadel. We have enjoyed reading through the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. We have spent lots of time in the yard and made many walks in our neighborhood. It has also been nice to view the service from Temple each Sunday using all this technology.

But I am anxious to see how things go now that Governor Edwards has lifted the "Stay at Home" order as we begin Phase 1 this weekend. As you have seen from Dr. Reggie, Temple will provide four different worship services for the next several weeks, two at 9 a.m. and two at 10:30 a.m. **Senior Adults, let me assure you that no one will be upset if you do not choose to attend any of these services, especially those of our membership who have a weakened immune system.** Let's continue to pray for God's help in bringing this pandemic to an end soon so God's people (and our nation) can get back to some sense of normalcy.

How can we help? Our staff is here to serve. You can contact them by calling the Church Office (255-3745)!

We are navigating unprecedented times but we believe our God is still in control and can use us to share the Gospel in creative and powerful ways!

Church family, we LOVE you and are here to serve you!

**5:17 PRAYER**  
LUKE 5:17

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Label here

Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134  
Website: [temple.life](http://temple.life)

## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, May 17

9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary);  
livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life) (Blended Worship);  
*the gathering* Worship (GS)  
10:30 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary);  
*the gathering* Worship (GS);  
livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life) (*the gathering* Worship)

### Wednesday, May 20

6 p.m. - Prayer Time/Bible Study (Sanctuary),  
livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life)

The Church Office is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, but we encourage you to come to the office only if it is completely necessary. To stay within the guidelines given by the CDC and our government leaders, more information about our ReGathering efforts can be found at [update.temple.life](http://update.temple.life)

**Broadcast Hours:** Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9:30 a.m. 94.1FM (KRLQ); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream ([live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life))

### Vision:

To become authentic, loving followers of Jesus,  
who are experiencing life transformation through God's Word,  
For the purpose of impacting our world.



**TEMPLE**

BAPTIST CHURCH

COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

### Core Values:

Authoritative Truth • Strengthening Worship  
Authentic Community • Intentional Transformation  
Hands-On Missions • Relational Evangelism  
Compassionate Servanthood