

# 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*

“All men are created equal, but all ideas are not created equal.” That truth pursued me. Oh, I had held its essence for a long time, but I had never heard it framed in such a way. The words gripped me. They had been uttered by one of the greatest Christian apologists of our generation, Ravi Zacharias; and as soon as they fell from his lips, they found a place in my heart. Of course, Zacharias went on to detail his proposition by first underscoring that every human being is of intrinsic worth before God Himself. According to him, there is an equality that naturally flows from understanding the Creator's unique work and empowerment in our lives; thus, respect and love should be shown to all of humanity. But the ideas themselves are not created the same. Zacharias contended fiercely and compassionately that the truth of the Christian gospel, even the very idea of it, is superior to any other religious system. Again and again, he methodically pointed out how God's work through Jesus Christ is the most coherent, gracious plan of salvation found in the world itself.

Unfortunately, our culture has reversed Zacharias' axiom. Individuals act out on their ungodly attitudes of superiority over others while declaring that all philosophical and religious understandings are of equal value. In effect, we have devalued human life while exalting human knowledge. Strange, isn't it? Even immoral? But that is what happens when we reject the truth of the Creator and accept all ideas as equal.

This week, the Lord called Zacharias home, and what a reward he must have received! In his earthly life, he treated men

and women with both dignity and respect; and no doubt, he contended for the faith which was once delivered to the saints. He was a Pauline figure whom God used mightily to declare the truth of Jesus Christ to a world engrossed in darkness. His welcome into his Lord's presence must have been accompanied with that blessed refrain: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant!” For us who are left behind, we still have the aim of promoting the value of all humanity while highlighting the exclusive truth of the Lord's salvation.

This coming Sunday, I look forward to celebrating that reality with you as we continue our ReGathering process. I know I keep referring to this as a process, but I do that intentionally. We know that this is a transitional season and that it will take some time before we can fully ReGather face to face. But oh, how great it was to see some faces this past Sunday, even if some were obscured by masks! It was the first step in the process of reuniting our faith family in a physical worship setting.

And what's more, decisions are being made! We had a new member join us this past Sunday; and even as some of you read this article, I will be baptizing a young believer. Thanks to technology, you will get to celebrate that baptism with us soon! My friends, God is still moving! And I give Him all the praise for that!

Hope you will join us either on campus or online this week! Don't forget the service times of 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and invite others to join you! Grateful for your continued faithfulness and love! See you Sunday . . . one way or the other!!

# YOUNG ADULT News

## Jacob Ambrose

Now that we are officially ReGathering, we are facing several new opportunities for growth. There are new positions in which you can serve, new ways you can invite people to worship, and new ways to connect with one another, just to name a few. I'd like to put on the "Director of First Impressions" hat and speak to you for a minute: there are new ways we must welcome people to worship! I would certainly consider Temple to be a very loving and welcoming church, wouldn't you? The smiles, the handshakes, and even the hugs that we once received upon entering the building made this such a welcoming place! But in this transitional time, when those customary forms of greeting are being discouraged, how are we supposed to make this a welcoming place? And think about those joining us online for worship – how can we make those feel as welcomed as possible?

With those challenges in mind, I'd like to propose a couple of ways for us to fulfill the command to be "hospitable" (Romans 12:13) during this transitional time, specifically in welcoming people to worship.

1. *Smile.* Yes, you may have a mask on, but the muscles in your face change when you smile. Your whole face lights up when you smile!
2. *Speak to people who look new.* If someone looks new, introduce yourself! Ask them if they need help finding anything. If they do, walk them to where they need to go!
3. *Comment in the stream.* Online hospitality is challenging, isn't it? We are doing our best to accommodate the online worshipers with a host who tailors the worship experience to them. If you are able, please comment and respond to people in the stream! If you don't know people who say they are joining us for worship, reply to their comment and ask about their connection to Temple. When people share a need, reply and let them know you're praying for them. Host a "Watch Party" on Facebook, and interact with your friends who join you.

God is providing us with new and exciting opportunities to engage our community. As we navigate this new season together, let's continue to be a people who love Jesus, love our neighbors, and love to gather around the Word!

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



**LATEST UPDATE  
ON THE  
CORONAVIRUS  
UPDATE.TEMPLE.LIFE**

## Vacation Bible School is now Staycation Bible School

**June 22-26**



Every family that registers will receive a Staycation Bible School packet of supplies so you can have Vacation Bible School at home. Also, neighborhood packets will be available for families who want to host Neighborhood Block Parties.

Contact *The Journey Place* Office to sign up for neighborhood packets.

**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.

## Temple's Newest Membership Candidate



David Hylan



the family of **Helen Ferrel**, mother of Greg Ferrel, grandmother of Casey Ferrel, Ashley Ferrel, and Michelle Robinson; the family

of **Ray Brasher**, father of Kim (Terry) Gardner; the family of **Sylvia Meek**, grandmother of Emma (Michael) Shelton; the family of **Sammy Jo Robertson**, child of Matt and Amanda Robertson, grandchild of Kenny and Michelle Robertson and Robert and Ellen Davis; and the family of **Cole Bennett Johnson**, grandchild of Mark (Nikki) Johnson.

## 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

**WAYS TO GIVE**  
IN PERSON ONLINE AND TEXT

CHURCH OFFICE: Mail or Dropoff

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

TEXTING: Text any amount to 84321 to give



## Youth Ministry News:

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

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## From the Associate Minister of Music Zach Husser

Hello, Temple family! By the grace of God, we were able to gather (in a diminished form) this past Sunday. As a worship leader, it's been a difficult season leading in an empty room. So, needless to say, my joy was full seeing actual people present who were singing the praises of God!

Sunday's gathering was a fresh reminder of the importance of congregational worship. For these past ten weeks, we have been putting so much effort into our livestream. We've spent time and money trying to replicate the corporate, in-person gathering. In light of the past ten weeks, I have learned that nothing can ever replace the physical gathering of God's people! Seeing others sing with joyful expression, surrender to the Word, and pray unto the Lord summons an unexplainable Spirit power that prompts us to live on mission as the people of God.

I know that many of you are still confined to worshiping the Lord in your home by way of television or radio. This is great because we want to ensure the safety of you, your family, and others in the community. Surely, God still moves when we worship in our homes. Be reminded, however, that worshiping from home is merely a substitute of the physical gathering. Even more so, the physical gathering is a substitute for our anticipated heavenly gathering!

Remain vigilant, stay safe, and anticipate the day we can all gather again in fullness.

*"Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation."*

-Psalm 111:1

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

## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, May 24

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)

### Monday, May 25

Church Offices Closed - Memorial Day

### Wednesday, May 27

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