

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

Freedom. As Americans, we are baptized into it. Whether in our daily practices or in our weekly worship, we experience incredible, unparalleled liberty. For that blessing, we should be unmistakably grateful. I know I am personally thankful to those God has used to secure my very freedom to share His gospel. I recognize that the only reason I can stand to preach Sunday after Sunday without threat of governmental persecution is because the Lord used men and women to secure my rights and privileges. For that, I offer my gratitude to God!

Of course, we should not only praise Him for our liberty, but we ought also to live responsibly before Him. Unfortunately, many of our fellow countrymen have abandoned their accountability and embraced freedom as a license to sin. We boast in our liberty while rejecting the authority of our Heavenly King. The result? Our nation continues to convulse in violence and hatred. From the political arena to the familial context, chaos and brokenness reign. And through it all, our hearts and spirits seem to melt in disappointment.

I'm convinced that the only hope for our nation is Christ Himself. We must heed the Old Testament revival formula and turn back to Him: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV). Genuine repentance is the avenue for restoration, and such change begins with us. As someone rightly wrote, "The church cannot call America to repent

until the church repents." We as God's people must lead the way back to God in prayer and action. Only then can our land be healed.

This coming Saturday, July 4, provides us opportunity to pause and focus ourselves on where we are and where we should be. Like many other events, our annual Patriotic Program has taken a new form. Our **LoveLincoln Freedom Fest** will be comprised of an abbreviated presentation of music and word. There will be no on-campus music program this year, but an audio presentation will be available on KRLQ 94.1 beginning at 8:30 p.m. and an audio/video program will be available on *live.temple.life* at 8:30 p.m. as well. Fireworks will follow at approximately 9 p.m. and will commence from the field west of the church.

In some way, I pray that you will be a part of this weekend of celebration and consecration. Join us in giving honor to whom honor is due . . . especially our veterans, families of veterans, etc. Also, stop and thank the Lord for our law enforcement personnel, first responders, medical professionals, and others who are at the front lines of this pandemic. Furthermore, let's recommit to living responsibly in love and truth. Let's redouble our efforts in prayer for our leaders and for our fellow citizens. Let's be the people He has called us to be! In truth, let's light up our nation just as the fireworks will light up the dark sky on Saturday night!

I love you, Temple Baptist Church! And I'm grateful we can celebrate and recommit ourselves together to be the salt and the light!

Education & Administration News

Jason Walsworth

Over the last month, it has been so good to see some of you back in worship again. Every week, over the past four weeks, we have had a few more in our worship services each week. We had 390 total on campus this week in all three services, and it has been exciting to be moving in the right direction. As you know, we are still in Phase Two; but we have had plenty of room to spread out and still remain below 50% occupancy in all of our services. Thank you for your cooperation and help as we have begun to regather. I especially want to thank our staff and ushers who have gone above and beyond during this time. Ronny Volentine, Ivin Hood, Jimmy Robinson, and Kip Franklin have been on duty and helping organize and facilitate our coming and going over the last month, and they have been very helpful in our Blended Worship Service. Our ministerial staff have taken on this responsibility in our *the gathering* Worship Services, and we have had some great Sundays together. We know some of you are still being cautious and not quite comfortable coming back yet; please know we completely understand. Please continue to join us online if you are not worshipping on campus, and stay connected to what the Lord is doing.

We are still planning to start meeting on campus for **Sunday School beginning on August 2** for all ages. This will include preschool and children ages. We are also in need of some new leadership for some of our children and preschool classes. If you are interested in helping temporarily or for the upcoming year, please talk to Sally or Jessica about serving. We will return with the same schedule we had pre-Covid 19. We will have classes at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. time for groups to meet. If you are not currently in a group or if you are interested in finding a new group, please let me know (jason@temple.life | 255-3745) and I will be happy to help.

Our normal Wednesday night meals and children's activities are scheduled to begin on August 19 which is going to be here before we know it. July has arrived already so, believe it or not, summer will be winding down soon! Let's keep praying for this pandemic to wind down soon and also for those researching a vaccine, so we can speed up this return to normalcy.

Church Offices Closed
in observance of
Independence Day
Friday, July 3



17th Annual Beach Retreat ~ August 13-17
Panama City Beach, Florida

For all college students!
Details available at beach.templecollege.life
Contact Casey at casey@temple.life
to help financially.

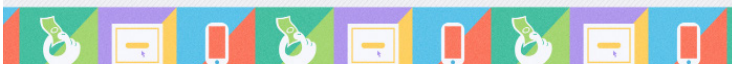
WAYS TO GIVE

IN PERSON ONLINE AND TEXT

CHURCH OFFICE: Mail or Dropoff

ONLINE: giving.temple.life

TEXTING: Text any amount to **84321** to give



If you have not heard, Temple Tech will now be called **Temple College** in hopes of reaching students not only at Louisiana Tech but also Grambling and Delta. To make room for our new Temple College shirts, we are selling the last remaining Temple Tech shirts for **\$5** in the FLC Office. Stop by today and grab your Temple Tech shirt before they are gone!



the family of **Ed Stanford**, father of
Sonja Walker; and **Merry Woodard**,
mother of Ann Windsor.

Congratulations to:

Norm and Anita Pumphrey on the birth of their grandson,
Dean Atwood Pumphrey.

A Thank you card has been received from...

Bobby and Jane Andrews; Kim Gardner
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

The flowers in the Sanctuary are
in memory of James L. "Bo" Franklin,
given by the Kip Franklin family.



The pre-recorded music program will be livestreamed
online at live.temple.life and on the radio 94.1 FM
on Saturday, July 4, at 8:30 p.m. The fireworks
will follow that night around 9 p.m. at Temple
with patriotic music being played on 94.1 FM.
You can find more information at patriotic.temple.life.

The Journey Place **Tiny Trekkers & Summit Kids** *Sally Hearn*

Last week looked different for us as we changed VBS to SBS. But what an awesome week! **Thank you to everyone who had a part in making SBS happen!** SBS included individual families, small groups, block parties, and partnering churches. And we still have more friends participating over the next few weeks. Continue to pray for decisions that were made and for seeds that were planted. How wonderful it is to know that God can use any situation for His glory!

As we look to our regathering efforts for our children, we are excited to begin our new Sunday School year on August 2. We will promote to our new classes on this day. You will be receiving postcards in the mail with your new class assignments. We will also be sending out some guidelines, so be watching your mail and email for more information.



First Steps Ministry is our Sunday morning ministry to Babies - Kindergarteners. That's right...babies-kindergartners are invited to stay in *The Journey Place* for the entire Sunday morning time. We provide Bible stories, learning activities, crafts, recreation, snack and more from 9-11:30 a.m. (when second service is complete). Our children now promote to Worship Service when they move to Grade 1 Sunday School. Grades 1-5 attend worship with parents and Sunday School during the hour that parents attend Sunday School. We hope that this provides a smooth transition into corporate worship for our children as they promote to Grade 1.

M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) will begin again on August 19 with a Family Worship Night at 6 p.m. in *the gathering*. We will begin our regular classes on Wednesday, August 26, from 5:45 -7 p.m.

As we continue to navigate uncharted waters, we know that God has a plan and a purpose. Sunday's message reminded us that "HE IS and HE WILL." I'm so thankful for this promise and His faithfulness.

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!

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LUKE 5:17

THE TIDINGS (USPS #020005), Published Weekly except Christmas by:
Temple Baptist Church, Periodical Postage Paid, Ruston, LA 71270
Postmaster send address changes to:
Temple Baptist Church, 1515 South Service Road West, Ruston, LA 71270

Label here

Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134
Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

Sunday, July 5

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

Wednesday, July 8

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary),
livestream at 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

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)

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