

# 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*

“Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me. . . . This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:25 NKJV). Jesus’ words constituted a command for His followers to take of the Lord’s Supper as a commemorative act of His work. By coming together in such a meal, believers recognized that Christ was the perfect sacrifice who sufficiently and completely atoned for our sins on the cross. That is right. No matter what a political commentator says about Jesus’ imperfections, the apostolic message declared Him the One who “committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth” (1 Peter 2:22). He was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God! Thus, He was able to pay for our sins once and for all (Hebrews 10:12). What a tremendous work of salvation! And we should remember it! In the Lord’s Supper, God provides the symbolism of bread and juice to help us focus our thoughts on that supreme expression of love.

Now, congregations differ on how often Jesus intended for us to observe this celebration. For the Southern Baptist churches that I have served, we generally planned to take the Lord’s Supper once every two or three months. Here at Temple, we typically celebrate it once per quarter. Every time we do it, it is special as we “commune” with the Father and proclaim His goodness collectively with His people.

**This Sunday, we will pause to partake in the Lord’s Supper.** I know that the current context presents challenges

as to the practice, but I’m not convinced that God has given us liberty to discontinue the ordinance until the pandemic subsides months from now. Instead, we are making every effort to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in a powerful, safe manner. No typical plates will be passed during the service, nor will the elements be distributed separately from one another. We are using pre-packaged juice with the bread sealed on top in all services. In the **Blended Worship Service**, they will be placed in the pews for you before the service. In *the gathering*, you will be able to pick them up as you enter. At the end of each worship service, the congregation will be directed to partake of the elements together. Again, if you do not feel comfortable joining us on campus, I encourage you to secure the Lord’s Supper elements this week and join us in remembering Christ’s salvific work through our livestream worship there at your home.

*Communion.* The word has a newfound significance, doesn’t it? I’ve always believed that God was so intentional in choosing a meal to communicate intimacy with Him and with each other. I mean, what signifies relationship like sitting down at a table and eating dinner together? Over the last few weeks, we have had to refrain from having extended family meals and from enjoying such fellowship with our friends. We have socially distanced and self-isolated. But God created us for community . . . and for communion! Let’s use this upcoming Sunday to draw together on campus and online through the celebration of the Lord’s Supper!

# Minister of Community Engagement

George Lee

## Christmas in July Drive-thru Celebration

Preparing for **Community Christmas** in December

Last year, I had the privilege of sharing the Gospel with about 300 kids at an event called *Community Christmas*. Being able to share the Gospel with kids and families and seeing everyone shop in the *Community Christmas* store was an experience I will never forget. What is *Community Christmas*? “*Community Christmas* is a shopping experience about celebrating and bringing our city together. It’s about building relationships in our community and offering dignity to each individual who participates.” People who participate with one of our local missions partners have the opportunity to earn “Christmas Cash” throughout the year, and anyone who has earned “Christmas Cash” can shop in the store on December 11 and 12.

### Christmas in July

Every year, the *Community Christmas* store is stocked with toys, gift cards, body products, and many other items. The awesome thing is that all these items come from individuals, churches, and organizations in our community! And here’s why *Christmas in July* is so important to this overall effort. It is during this month that items are given to stock the store.

This Saturday, The Well will be hosting a drive-thru celebration and gift drop-off from 9-11 a.m. at 500 W Georgia Ave, Ruston. If you are unable to make it, gifts can be dropped off at 500 W Georgia Ave, Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Find out more information about *Community Christmas*:

[WWW.COMMUNITYCHRISTMAS.CC](http://WWW.COMMUNITYCHRISTMAS.CC)

FB: @THEWELLRUSTON

IG: @THEWELLMIN

### YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

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

#### Lunch with John

Tuesdays ~ Junior High Students

Thursdays ~ High School Students

**Bring your own lunch.**

**Please wear your mask.**

Eat at noon and play games until 2 p.m.

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES

(Ruston Mission Opportunity)

Collection Dates: July 15-August 3

We are collecting money to purchase Back-to-School supplies this year instead of asking you to purchase items. You may drop off or mail a donation of any amount to the church **by Monday, August 3**. Make the checks payable to Temple Baptist Church, with School Supplies in the memo line. Thank you!

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

### The flowers in the Sanctuary are

in memory of Harrell and Mildred Gullatt,  
given by David and Sue Gullatt.



LIFEWAY  
WOMEN  
*live*

**SIMULCAST**

**PURSUING CHRIST TOGETHER**

Saturday, August 8 | 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.  
Gathering Space

Registration: \$10 includes lunch  
Register at [events.temple.life](https://events.temple.life)

**Lord's Supper this Sunday!**  
**Details found in Dr. Reggie's article.**



CHRISTMAS  
*in July*

(in partnership with The Well)

**Drive-Thru Celebration:** Saturday, July 25 | 9-11 a.m.  
OR **Drop Off:** Monday-Thursday | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
500 W Georgia Ave, Ruston, LA

**Gifts:** EACH individual item must be NEW, in original packaging and \$20 or less

**Gift suggestions:** gift cards (food, 2High, Bath & Body Works, Beehive, etc.), Legos/building sets, sports equipment, character toys and action figures, outdoor toys, preschool toys and baby dolls (all skin tones), sports gear

Participants will spend earned "Christmas Cash" to shop in the Community Christmas store on December 11-12 and must participate in one of the partner organizations (ie. Life Choices, DART, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.)

**More information at**  
[www.communitychristmas.cc](http://www.communitychristmas.cc)  
Facebook: @thewellruston  
Instagram: @thewellmin

---

## From The Minister of Pastoral Care

*Dale Oden*

Another month has come and almost gone! We have all been affected by the events of the past few months here in our homeland. One of the things that has been the hardest for me personally is the fact that we are not able to get together in large groups for worship and Bible study.

One of my primary responsibilities has been to visit hospitals, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and homebound individuals and families. None of those things have been a part of my daily routine since March. For about twenty years, I have taught a Bible study every Tuesday morning and afternoon at two assisted living facilities. All of these opportunities for ministry and worship have been nonexistent, and nobody knows when we will get back to a regular schedule of activities. Plans are underway to begin Sunday School on Sunday, August 2.

Over the past few weeks, it has been wonderful to be back in worship on Sunday mornings. Even though the numbers are small, it has been good to see some folks in person on Sunday and Wednesday. Please continue to pray for Dr. Reggie, the Church Staff, and other leadership as we try to make decisions about programs and ministries over the next few weeks.

One of the events for Senior Adults that has been postponed is our **Senior Adult Summer Bible Study**. It was scheduled for August 16-19. After talking with Dr. Reggie and Dr. Argile Smith, we concluded that it might be better if we rescheduled it to later in the fall. So, watch for an announcement about a **new date**. Argile has been with us for the past eight years, and we were looking forward to having him with us again this year.

Let me encourage you to spend some time each day in prayer and Bible study during these difficult days. Look for ways to encourage one another. Make a few phone calls to check on neighbors and friends. Send a card to folks. Be a light for Christ in these days. You will be blessed, and you will be a blessing!

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: PR  
17 AY  
ER**  
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 26

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. - *the gathering* Worship (GS);  
livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life) (*the gathering* Worship)

### Wednesday, July 29

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/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.

**Masks are encouraged to heed the Governor's mandate.**

More information about our ReGathering efforts can be found at [update.temple.life](http://update.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

**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))