



Let's Celebrate!

2 Fall Kick-Off pg. 24

3 Event Calendar pg. 26

4 Small Groups pg. 28



5 Team TBC pg. 30



Kids' Corner pg. 34

8 Next Steps pg. 36



#### Welcome to Connected!

We're so glad that you decided to grab a copy! Inside, you'll find information about our ministries, upcoming events, celebrations, biblical inspiration, pictures, and more. Our goal is that when you read each issue, you feel connected to The Bible Chapel, and most importantly, God. We hope to glorify God through this publication and that it can be a testament to how Jesus transforms lives in our church, city, and world.

Our ministry year kicks off each September, and to help you feel equipped for the new ministry year, we decided August was the perfect time to launch our first issue!

We are blessed to have many vibrant ministries here at TBC, and *Connected* shares just a snapshot of all the wonderful things our ministries do. For the most up-to-date information and to learn more about each ministry, visit biblechapel.org.

Connected is a collaborative effort among our staff, volunteers, and congregation, and we're so excited that it's finally here!

Questions or comments?
Email us at editor@biblechapel.org

The Compeded Team



## Editor Highlights





Events Calendar pg. 26

We have so many exciting events happening this fall, and we want you to join us!



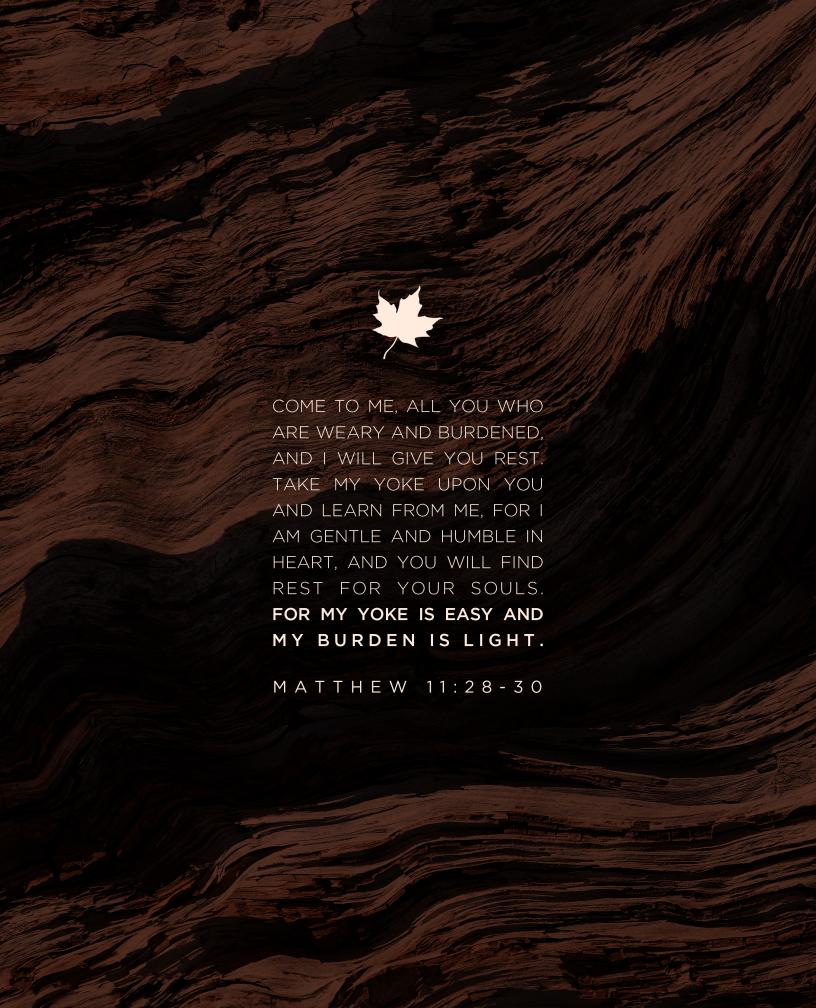
We are a church made up of Small Groups. Interested in joining a Small Group? Follow along the journeys of the Petersavages and the Slakers.

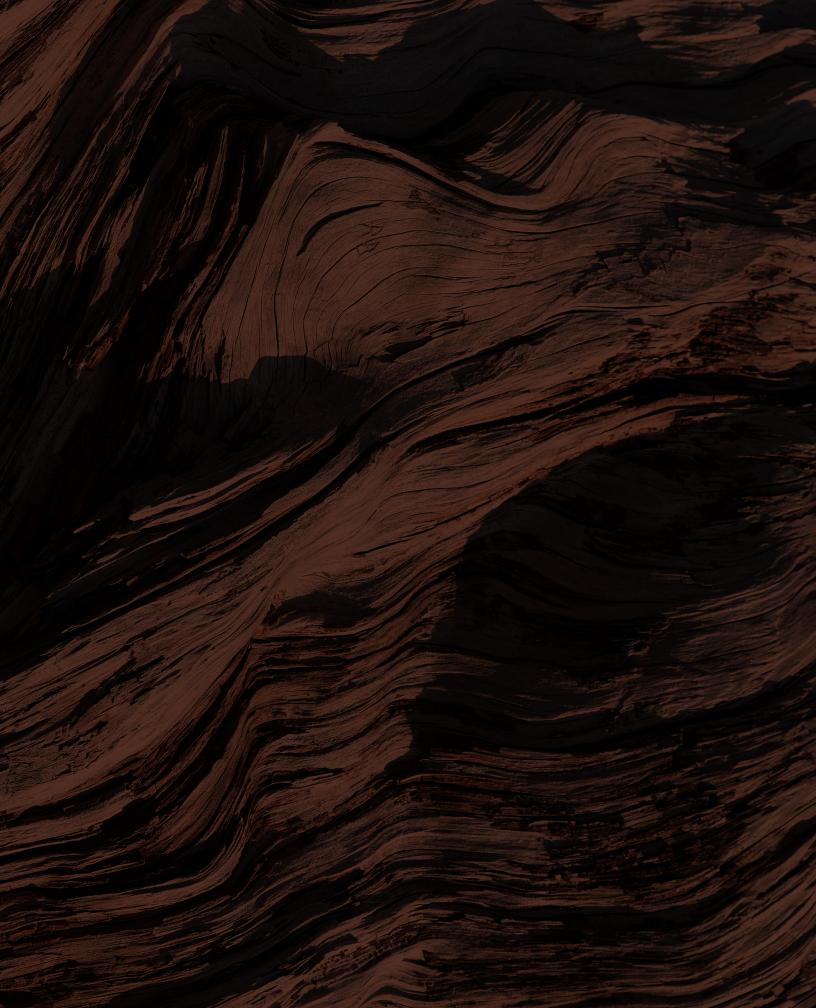


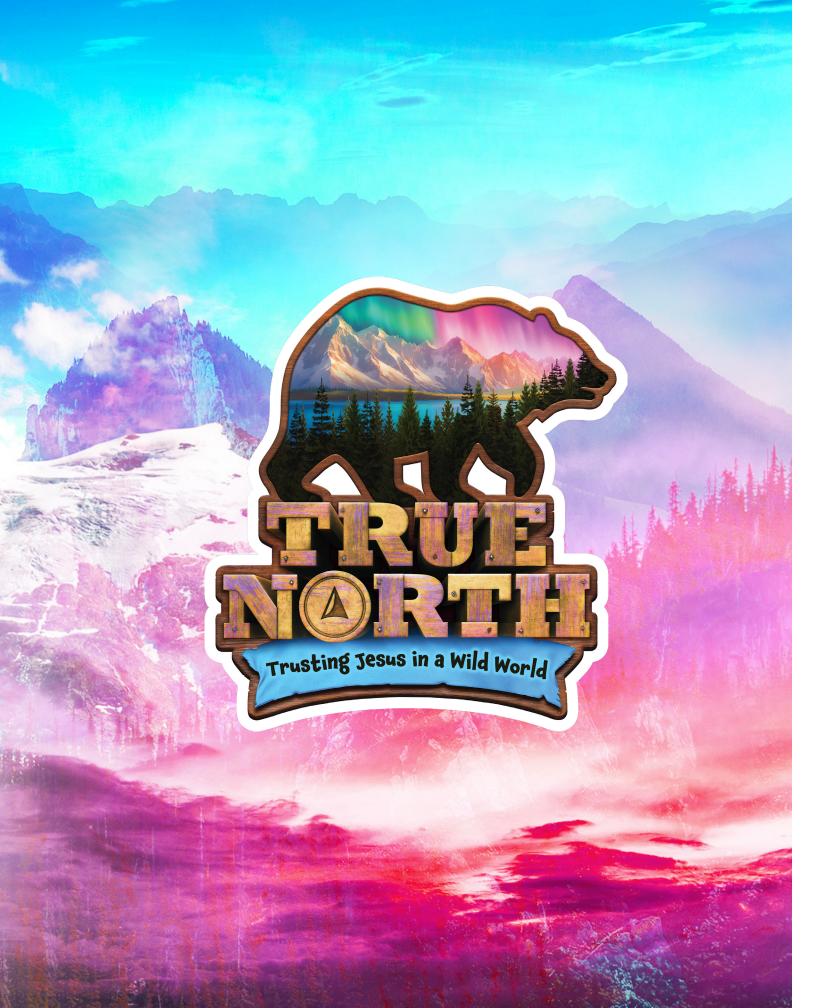


Simon James pg. 16

We love to celebrate at The Bible Chapel! In 2025, we had the honor of celebrating Simon James' 25<sup>th</sup> year on staff! If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Simon, we hope this gives you a look into why he is worth celebrating!















WE INVITED KIDS TO THE ULTIMATE ALASKAN ADVENTURE

## AT TRUE NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD VBS!

Together, we discovered how Jesus is our unmovable, unshakable friend forever. Even when life feels wild and rocky, Jesus is our True North! We know that when we wonder, when we feel alone, when we feel powerless, and when we need hope, we can TRUST JESUS!











Some of our favorite moments were seeing our Bible teachers at each house dress up as a Roman Centurian and explain how they were powerless to make their servant well, but when they met Jesus, they saw He had the power to heal.

With the help of our friends in neighborhoods all across the South Hills, we collected **5,222 items** for the Foster Love Project.

We prayed over these items daily, asking that God would bless the givers and the recipients and that the supplies might be used for His glory. God showed His greatness during VBS, and we celebrate the wonderful things that have happened. 342 volunteers shared the Good News of Jesus with 542 children at 27 houses!

We also celebrate that we had **27 kids** put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior or re-dedicate their lives to Him.







## LOOKING BACK

In February, our Chapel Students crew spent three days at Olgebay Resort in Wheeling, WV, hosting our annual student retreat, The Break! This year, we are celebrating the 24 students who gave their lives to Christ AND the 130+ students who attended the retreat. We praise God for all of the volunteers, staff, and students who came together to worship God, build community, and of course, have fun!



Here is what Kyle Zacour, our Next Gen Pastor, had to say about The Break:

Aside from the 24 students who gave their lives to Christ, what was your favorite part about The Break?

KZ

Collaborating with all the campuses! This year, we partnered with all the student pastors and directors at each of our campuses, and it was fun to see all of us coming together as one church. Watching all the students and staff connect through everything - teaching, games, break-out sessions - was great!

Q

**Describe The Break in three words.** 

KZ.

#### Only three?

Well, in that case... INTENTIONAL, IMPACTFUL, and ENGAGING.

- Q
- Why should students attend The Break?

#### A few reasons:

Getting away and disconnecting - God just does something in those moments when we intentionally seek Him. So, more often than not, we encounter Jesus in a different way on those trips. God meets you in that space that you are seeking Him.

- KZ
- That's where you see community really start to take form. You see students often struggle to build friendships, and then they go on a retreat and leave with their people. It's incredibly important that students find their people, and it's awesome to see The Break be that place where community happens.

Ultimately, Jesus meets you in a very unique way on retreats, and you find your people. You understand you're not in this thing alone. You understand that there are other students who want to follow Jesus as passionately or even more so than you. It's powerful.

- Q
- Word on the street is that The Break is back in 2026! When can students and parents expect to learn more about it?
- KZ

Fall kick-off! That's when we'll first drop info about the retreat, so be sure to join us on September 7 as we kick off the new ministry year!



To learn more about Chapel Students, scan the QR code!





#### When did you begin working at TBC?

My history with The Bible Chapel goes back to 1996 when Linda and I found The Chapel. Our first service we attended was in February 1996, and we felt welcomed right away by Marlene Majireck. We became really good friends with the Worship Pastor at that time and joined their Small Group. We still talk to and maintain connections with people in that group today! Linda [my wife] and I also sang in the choir, got to know some folks there, and still talk to them today as well. In 1998-1999, the Worship Pastor ended up buying a projector for the FLC and mentioned that he needed some help running a new thing called PowerPoint. Over the next few years, that evolved into more, and ultimately, the Chapel offered me a job in 2000.

## Did you feel the call to serve in ministry early on in your life, or was it something that God led you to over time?

He led me into ministry over that year where he was closing the chapter in my previous job and starting the new one here at The Chapel. I kept thinking more and more about church - about how I can do things in church, how I can improve in so many different areas in the tech world. And then, He closed the doors at my previous job, allowing me to start working here full-time. I was a young believer at the time (I accepted Christ in 1993), so spiritual growth was slow. However, when I attended The Bible Chapel, joined a Small Group, and got connected, I started doing a lot more. And being on staff these last 25 years has grown my faith without a doubt.

## Over the last 25 years, have you had any favorite events, projects, etc.?

There's a lot, and it's hard to narrow it down because I've been involved in so many of them. We just did one not too long ago - the 'Through the Eyes of a Child' Christmas sermon series. It was really one of the first times we put a sermon series together as a team from ideation to completion. The stop-motion photography work we did together, along with the design, was all a lot of fun.

Event-wise, back in the early 2000s, we did a program called *The Choice*. It's an Easter drama musical that portrays Christ's crucifixion through the eyes of a Roman soldier. I was an extra in that, and it was a lot of fun putting that together. It was a free event, but we "sold out" every night. It was fun! *The Journey to the Cross* was another impactful event. It was great teamwork putting everything together and allowing people to experience the Gospel through the different aspects of the crucifixion and resurrection.

## What are you looking forward to most this coming ministry year?

I believe in being open-handed, so I'm giving the cheesy answer and saying whatever the Lord provides. There's always something that we don't expect the Lord to do, and we just need to be ready and available to help make it happen. So, I'm expecting the unexpected.

#### What is the best piece of spiritual advice you've received over the last 25 years?

I would say Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Because no matter what situation you're going through, just trust in God. Ron and Dave have both said this, but you're either in a trial, about to go in a trial, or you just came out of a trial, and in all three circumstances, it's trusting that the Lord is going to get you through it. You're going to be able to trust in Him, rely on Him, seek His will in all situations, and live your life obedient to Him.

#### Why does TBC feel like home to you?

It's family. Having been here for 25 years, being involved in Small Groups, choir, the Tech Team - you name it - it's the people. The people you get connected with become family because you get so close with them, you get vulnerable with them, they hold you accountable, and they are there to support you, love you, and point you to God every time something happens, good or bad. And to me, that's what family does.

#### If someone is newer to TBC or even newer in their faith journey, what is one piece of encouragement you would give them?

You might hear this as a theme, but get involved! You're not going to know everybody here, but you need to know somebody. And by getting involved in a Small Group or serving on a team of some sort, you get to know them, you become connected, you form friendships, you hang out, and you continue to grow in your faith.

## How have you seen God at work in your life since joining TBC?

Definitely in my spiritual growth. When Linda and I first started attending the church, we didn't have any kids, and now, we have three grown men. So, going through that journey, God has taught me how to be a father, husband, and friend.



#### Favorite Pittsburgh restaurant?

That's hard to say because there are so many different kinds! If you want something casual, you can't go wrong with Bee'z. If you want something that's more fine dining, then I love Atria's.

#### **PICK ONE:**

**PIRATES** 

**PENGUINS** 

STEELERS!

Favorite worship song?

"HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH" by Brandon Lake and Jelly Roll Finish this sentence: People may not know that I....

am competitive. That's one reason why I love game shows! I'll watch anything that has any sort of competition involved.

Favorite Bible verse?

So many, but Proverbs 3:5-6

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS SUBMIT TO HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.

#### SIMON, WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOU!

THANK YOU for the way you serve our staff, our congregation, and most importantly, our Lord.













AND WHATEVER
YOU DO, IN WORD
OR DEED, DO
EVERYTHING IN
THE NAME OF THE
LORD JESUS,
GIVING THANKS TO
GOD THE FATHER
THROUGH HIM.





## We can't wait to kick off the 2025-2026 ministry year with you!

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

**September 7 | Chapel Students Fall Kick-Off** 

September 8 | Young Adults Fall Kick-Off

September 10 | Chapel Sages Fall Kick-Off

October 6 | Night Out with Chapel Women

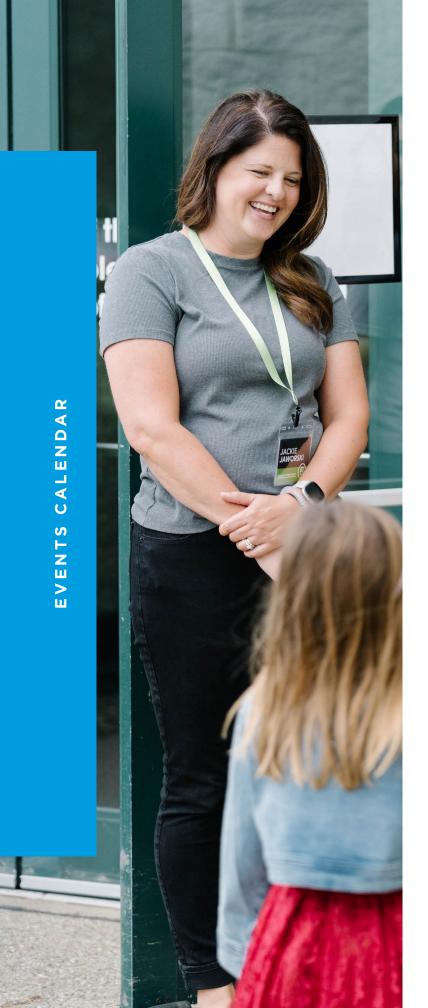
**November 7 | Chapel Kids Family Night** 

For more upcoming events, go to next page for our Events Calendar



For the most up-to-date information, scan the QR code!





#### **MILESTONES**

**Baptism Weekend** 

SEPTEMBER 26/27 NOVEMBER 22/23

**Child Dedication Weekend** 

OCTOBER 11/12

#### **CHAPEL STUDENTS**

Bootcamp 56

OCTOBER 3-5

**Crew Night** 

NOVEMBER 2

#### **CHAPEL SPORTS**

Upward Flag Football + Cheer

AUGUST 11 - OCTOBER 18

Mini Basketball Camp

AUGUST 25 - OCTOBER 11

**Adult Volleyball** 

MONDAYS

Men's Basketball

THURSDAYS

Kids/Teens Open Gym

MONDAYS

BEGINNING OCTOBER 20

Women's Fitness

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS

#### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

Wonderfully Made

THURSDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4

#### **CHAPEL WOMEN**

#### **Moms Together**

MONDAYS + TUESDAYS
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8

#### **Moms in Prayer**

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 10

#### **YOUNG ADULTS**

Young Adult Gatherings MONDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15

Thanksgiving Event NOVEMBER 17

#### CARE

#### GriefShare

THURSDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4

#### DivorceCare

MONDAYS BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 8

#### CancerCare

FIRST + THIRD THURSDAYS

REGINNING SEPTEMBER 4

#### Women's Recovery

MONDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8

#### Men's Recovery

TUESDAYS BEGINNING

#### **CHAPEL MEN**

#### Large Group Gatherings

FIRST + THIRD THURSDAYS

#### **Thanksgiving Breakfast**

**NOVEMBER 22** 

#### **OUTREACH**

#### Global Outreach Celebration Weekend

NOVEMBER 1/2

#### Global Outreach Info Meeting

AUGUST 24 + NOVEMBER 9

#### **Operation Christmas Child**

BEGINS OCTOBER 18

#### **Caring Tree**

BEGINS NOVEMBER 29/30

#### CONNECTIONS

**Discover TBC**SEPTEMBER 7 | OCTOBER 5 | NOVEMBER 2

At The Bible Chapel, our vision is to have gospelcentered Small Groups where people are growing in relationship with God and others. We want to be a church of Small Groups as we firmly believe that we are called to live life together in Christian community!

Small Group registration for our 2025-2026 ministry year is now open, and if you haven't already, we invite you to take that leap and join a Small Group. By joining a Small Group, we believe Jesus will transform your life.

But don't just take our word for it! We had the opportunity to talk with two couples who have experienced the life-changing care and community that a Small Group can provide.

## How long have you been involved in a Small Group?

**John:** We've been doing Living Grounded for many years, and for a Small Group, we've never stopped since they started here!

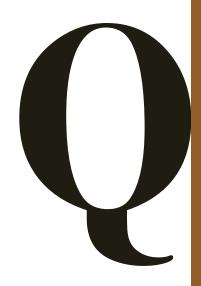
**Katie:** We started with a Living Grounded group in 2016 and then joined a Small Group in 2017.

## Why is joining a Small Group a crucial step for believers in their faith journey?

**Katie:** Small Groups allow for community, deeper relationships, encouragement, and a safe place to ask questions/wrestle with the Word. Being able to really dig deep and ask those questions that may make you feel unsure is so vital to developing a deeper understanding of who God is. All of these are crucial to growing in our faith journey.

Galatians 6:2 calls us to carry one another's burdens, and in doing so, we're fulfilling the law of Christ. Being intentional in meeting together allows us to create those relationships where we're able to share what's going on in our lives so others can come around us and carry the load with us.

**Brent:** Joining a Small Group can be beneficial to help move your faith from something private to something connected. They create a space for relationship, accountability, and spiritual growth.



#### **WE'D LIKE YOU TO MEET:**







When life feels overwhelming, how would you encourage someone to prioritize Small Groups/Christian Community in their life?

**John:** Someone in our Living Grounded group started a Small Group and arranged that if you have children, you can bring them, and they'll take care of them. There are many options, but people are afraid to ask.

Let people know, we'll find a group for you! They ask these questions: 'What if I don't fit in? What kind of group is it? What is it like?' I just go, 'We love Jesus, we're worshipping Jesus, we're studying scripture - don't worry about all the stuff that's in your head!'

Clara: I think a lot of people, especially women, think they have to entertain when hosting a Small Group. When you get into that, it can be a big hassle. It doesn't have to be a big to-do.

Can you name a time when being in a Small Group impacted/blessed your life?

**Katie:** Joining our Small Group in 2017 made all the difference for our time here in Pittsburgh. When we first moved here in 2015, we didn't have a community. We barely even knew the city. Our families were all out of state, we left an amazing group of friends in Virginia, and it took us a little while to find a group here that felt like we could fit in with. The Small Group we joined changed that. The men and women in that group rallied around us time and time again when we needed it. They became some of the first people we called when we needed prayer, support, or even just friends to get together with. Jesus gave us

a family in Pittsburgh through our Small Group, and we wouldn't be the same without them.

If you could give one bit of encouragement to someone thinking about joining a Small Group, what would you tell them?

John: I tell people to trust the Lord's guidance - Thy will be done! Is it going to be a rough road sometimes? Sure! But you need to surrender trust, and it can be hard. You gotta pay the bills, clean the house, do the wash, and then you're sacrificing time for Jesus Christ? It's worth it! Once you meet true Love, the Light, the Truth,

your life changes. That's why we're here! Because we love Him!

Clara: They have to realize that it will only help them. If you come in with an open mind and want to learn, anyone can benefit.

**Brent:** Go for it - you don't have to be in the perfect place. Just be open about where you are in your spiritual journey, and you'll surely land somewhere people accept and will work

with where you are in life.

**JESUS GAVE US A** 

**FAMILY IN PITTSBURGH** 

THROUGH OUR SMALL

**GROUP, AND WE** 

**WOULDN'T BE THE** 

SAME WITHOUT THEM.

**Katie:** It can be easy to feel lost in a big church. Maybe lost isn't the right word, but after being a part of small churches for so long growing up, The Bible Chapel was a whole new experience for us. Joining a Small Group allowed us to feel more connected to others in the church. There were people we knew we would see who really knew us and loved us.

To learn more and register for a Small Group, scan below!





#### What is Team TBC?

Team TBC is our serving community at The Bible Chapel. On Team TBC, there are a variety of ministries and opportunities to serve in which you can discover and/or use the gifts God has given you by His grace to bless the Church, bring glory to God, and make known the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## Why is it important for someone to serve on Team TBC?

Jesus is everything! Everything is His and everything is for Him! The more we grasp the abundant love, grace, and mercy granted to us in the gospel, the stronger our love for God grows and our response is in worshiping Him with our lives. One aspect of this is serving. We serve because our Savior we follow came to serve and not to be served. And here's the amazing part - God has given every believer at least one spiritual gift. And those gifts are not really for us but are meant to build up the body of Christ! How incredible is that? You are NEEDED. The world says that success is being served and catered to, but Jesus flips that idea on its head - He calls us to something greater: to be His hands and feet that serve others and strengthen the church. It's a calling we all play a part in together!

#### Is it a big time commitment?

Most ministries on Team TBC ask for a commitment to regularly serve (this looks different by team and role) for a year at a time; however there are some short-term serve opportunities you can jump into along the way as well!

#### Do I have to be a member to serve?

There are some opportunities to serve prior to membership, and others that require membership. While we desire all who call The Bible Chapel their home church to pursue our membership process, there are ways to get involved in serving prior to and/or along the way, as well.

#### Do I need to have clearances to volunteer?

The safety and security of our most vulnerable and others are critical to the health of our ministry; therefore, most ministries do require clearances. When you sign up to serve, a leader will notify you of what's required for your serving team and role.

#### How do I know where I should serve?

I'd encourage you to first pray! Ask God where He might be calling you to serve and be open to opportunities that come. Also, reflect on how God has uniquely wired and gifted you, and find ways to exercise these gifts! There is an undeniable joy that comes in serving with the spiritual gifts God has gifted you with!

#### A few helpful steps to get you started in discovering and serving with your spiritual gift/s:

- 1. Read about the spiritual gifts in Scripture and ask God to prayerfully show you how He has gifted you (you can also pray about specific passions/burdens He's given you for a specific demographic/ministry area).
- 2. Take the spiritual gifts assessment available at biblechapel.org/serve (note: this is not always definitive, but it is directional).
- 3. Ask your Small Group Leader/members and others closest to you about what they might observe as your spiritual gift/s and what serve opportunities might fit with your gifts.
- 4. Review available opportunities at biblechapel.org/serve-teams
- 5. If you'd like some help, would like to shadow a serve team, or have questions along the way, email **connect@biblechapel.org**, where a member of our Connections Team would love to come alongside you in taking your best next step towards discovering your gifts and serving.

I'm all for prayerfully discerning through steps like the ones provided above, but I also think it's important to not stay in this phase for too long. Sometimes the best way to figure out your gifts is by jumping in and serving somewhere! That's actually how it happened for me. Once I got involved, it led to other opportunities, and I started to see where I was most effective and experienced unexplainable joy!

## Where can I go to learn more about all serving opportunities?

A list of readily available serving opportunities can be found by scanning the QR code below.





## What has been your favorite experience serving at TBC?

I recently had the opportunity to teach at a women's event. Stepping in to teach used to scare me because of the great responsibility and accountability that comes with teaching Scripture, but with encouragement, training, and the Holy Spirit's help, I leaned into an opportunity when it arose. In preparing and the delivering the message, I experienced undeniable joy of the Lord bubbling up and out of me! I'm excited to keep saying yes to opportunities like that!

Read more about serving with your spiritual gifts here:

Romans 12 1 Corinthians 12 Ephesians 4



## SAVE THE DATE



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

begins October 18/19 across all of our campuses!

#### **Mission Trips**

At The Bible Chapel, our Outreach Ministries provide opportunities for us to impact Christ in our neighborhoods and throughout the world.

"

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," and it's through this teaching that we adopted *PRAY* • *SEND* • *GO!* 

We're so excited about the work God is doing through our ministries. We ask you to come alongside us and alongside people near and far who need the help and hope of Christ.

#### **STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Join us at one of our Global Mission Trip Interest Meetings where we'll discuss our upcoming mission trips, answer your questions, and more. You can join us on NOVEMBER 9 AT 12:15 PM IN RM 141!

BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR OUR GLOBAL OUTREACH WEEKEND ON NOVEMBER 1 + 2, where we'll celebrate all that God is doing through our Global Outreach Ministry!



## Here are our upcoming mission trips!

Panama Women's Conference

Panama Scholarship Camp

Dominican Republic JANUARY 17-25

Hungary MARCH 14-22

Scan below to learn how you can pray, send, go!





Hi, friends!

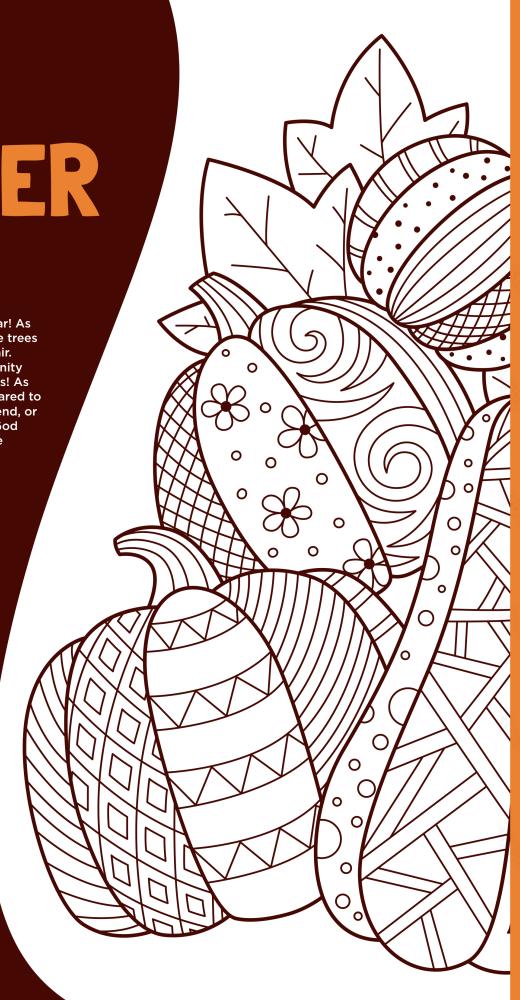
Welcome to the Kids' Corner!!!

Fall is such a great time of the year! As the season changes, we notice the trees changing colors and the cooling air. This new season is a new opportunity for you to grow and try new things! As you head into the fall, don't be scared to try a new activity, make a new friend, or learn a new skill. Pray and invite God to do it with you - He will be there cheering you on!

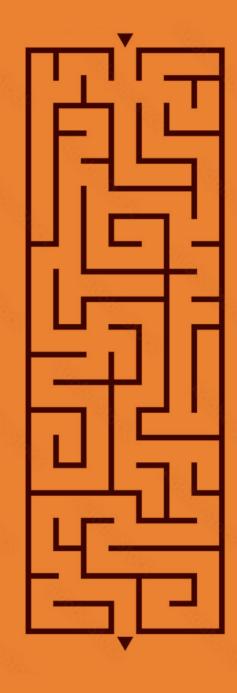
The Lord himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you. So, don't be afraid. Don't lose hope.

**Deuteronomy 31:8** 

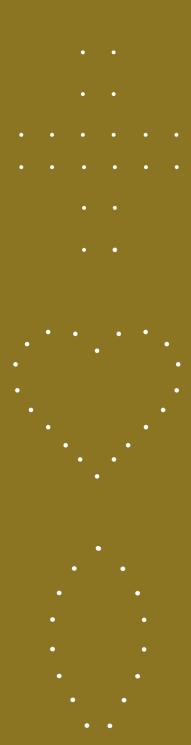
Ms. Becky
CHAPEL KIDS DIRECTOR



## MAZE



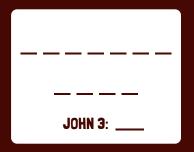
## CONNECT THE DOTS





"

FOR GOD SO
LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY SON,
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT DIE
BUT HAVE



FINISH THE VERSE

## Next Steps

#### **Discover TBC**

If you're newer to the church and would like to learn more about who we are, what we believe, ways to get involved, and more, join us at Discover TBC! We hope to see you there!

SEPTEMBER 7

OCTOBER 5

**NOVEMBER 2** 



#### **GIVING**

We believe that giving is a part of worship, and thanks to your generous giving, our ministries are able to continue to share the Good News and show how Jesus transforms lives.



#### **LET'S CONNECT**

We want to help you stay connected! Be sure to sign up for our weekly congregational email.



#### **QUESTIONS?**

We would love to hear from you!



Do you have a prayer or care need? We are here for you.





This fall, The Ignite Tour brings together Danny Gokey, Mac Powell, and Colton Dixon with Ryan Ellis for a night designed to spark something deeper.

It's a rare blend of voices you know and love with songs such as "Hope in Front of Me," "New Creation," and "Build a Boat" — it's the kind of uplifting evening that lights a fire long after the music ends. Grab your crew, and get your tickets before they're gone!

Tickets are available at The Hub after all three services beginning in September.

Tickets are also available by scanning the QR code.



# Be still, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD. I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH! PSALM 46:10 WINTER 2025-2026 COMING SOON

