



THE
BIBLE
CHAPEL

WINTER 2025-2026



CON
FECTED
THE BIBLE CHAPEL



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Editor Highlights

Christmas Season pg. 06

Join us at TBC as we celebrate the birth of our risen Savior! Light up Night®, Christmas Eve service times, and more are available!



Events Calendar pg. 20

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

Urgent Gospel
pg. 42

As God’s Word is clear, every single person is an eternal soul who will reside for eternity either with God in heaven or separated from God in hell. The Bible says that God “has set eternity in the human heart” (Eccl. 3:11).



Welcome to *Connected*

WINTER 2025-2026

Isn't it wonderful that in Pittsburgh, we experience each season the Lord created? When thinking about winter in Western PA, I am sure many of us think of fluffy snow, the Christmas Market Downtown, football, cookie tables, twinkling lights, maybe the annual trip to see the Nutcracker ballet, and so many more wonderful moments that define a Pittsburgh winter.

As a team, we agreed that in winter, we also think about being still and embracing the rest that comes with the colder months.

Our inspiration for this issue was Psalm 46:10, where the Lord calls us to "be still" in His presence. What better season to do this than in winter, when the world goes quiet, embracing the God-created pause for this time of year.

Maybe you're looking for a few, good reads to cozy up with this winter; we have some great book and devotional recommendations (for adults and kids) that you can check out on page 34.

Maybe rest looks like spending time in the kitchen as a family with a new Christmas tradition! Our Pittsburgh Cookie Spread on page 10 has four, yummy recipes for you to try - you might find your new, family favorite!

The best part about winter, though? Celebrating the life-changing birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve.

If you're new to your faith or don't have a church home, **you are welcome here!** Join us and experience what Christmas means at The Bible Chapel here in the South Hills or at one of our campuses across the Pittsburgh area. You can learn more on page 18.

We can't wait to celebrate the winter and Christmas season with you this year!

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

The Connected Team

“

MATTHEW 11:28-29

Come to me,
**all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you
rest. Take my yoke upon you
and learn from me, for I am
gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for
your souls.**

Church family and friends,

As we enter the Christmas season, I often reflect on the memories in years past. As a family, I immediately think of the awe and wonder that our children have experienced during this season. The joy and anticipation of Christmas for them, watching them run down the stairs on Christmas morning, and getting the chance to celebrate with extended family and friends we don't always get to see throughout the year. Most importantly, as a family, we go through the Advent devotionals of hope, joy, peace, and love with our children to ensure that we always keep Jesus at the center of Christmas.



During my fifteen years at The Bible Chapel (TBC), there have been so many great memories of the Advent season in the various roles I have served. From my college ministry days, I loved when college students came home for break and we got to engage them with some fun activities and, most importantly, the gospel. Then, when we launched the Wilkinsburg Campus, I'll always remember and cherish that Christmas Eve in 2013 - that was our very first service at the Wilkinsburg Campus. And most recently, I've really enjoyed Light Up Night® at TBC, when we, as a church family, come together to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season and engage with our community.

With all of that said, my most cherished memories at TBC during the Christmas season have been witnessing Jesus transform lives for eternity. The names and faces I've had the honor of praying with after Christmas Eve services, trusting in Jesus Christ alone as their Lord and Savior —it doesn't get any better than that! And I always love the moment every Christmas Eve when we hold the lighted candles to close the night in song. Every time we hit that moment in the service, my prayer is always that each person holding a lighted candle has the light of Christ reigning in their hearts.

As our Savior declared:

“

I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will
not walk in darkness, but
will have the light of life.

JOHN 8:12

Fittingly, our Christmas series is titled, “Go Tell It!,” and I pray that as a church this Christmas season, we would boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. My prayer this Christmas season is that God would use us as a local church to shine His light so that many will trust in Jesus this Advent season.



So, as we enter the
Christmas season,
let me ask you:

*What, personally, are some
of your favorite Christmas
memories?*

*What are some of your favorite
TBC Christmas memories?*

*Will you join me in praying this
season that, together, we will
represent the light of Christ and
that God will use TBC to draw
many to a saving faith in Jesus?*

Church family, I know I say this often, but I want to reiterate it again: it's an absolute blessing and honor to serve as your Lead Pastor. It's an absolute blessing that my family gets to call TBC our home church, and I can't wait to see what God does in us and through us this Christmas Season together.

Merry Christmas!

Dave DiDonato,
LEAD PASTOR

on behalf of the DiDonato Crew
(Kristen, Ezra, Faith, and Joel)

LIGHT UP[®]

AT THE
BIBLE CHAPEL

Night

Each year, we look forward to hosting our annual Light Up Night[®] at The Bible Chapel, where we come together to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season as a church family and community. It's a fun evening for the whole family - a petting zoo, holiday treats, a sing-along, tree lighting, live music, and more!



You won't want to miss it, so be sure to mark your calendar for

November 29
at 5 PM.

Don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor!





Oatmeal Cranberry White Chocolate Cookies

RECIPE BY LINDA GREGORY

- 2/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries
- 2/3 cup white chocolate chips or chunks

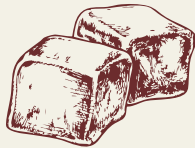
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. With an electric mixer, beat butter or margarine and sugar together in a medium mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add eggs, mix well.

Combine oats, flour, baking soda, and salt in a separate mixing bowl. Add to butter mixture in several additions, mixing well after each addition. Stir in dried cranberries and white chocolate chips. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets (can use parchment paper). Bake for 10 - 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire rack.

Makes 2 1/2 dozen.

RECIPE BY DONNA BRENLOVE

Millionaire's Shortbread



Crust

- 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 16 Tbsp butter, melted

Filling

- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 8 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 tsp salt

Chocolate

- 8 oz chocolate, melted to room temp

For the crust: Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position, and heat oven to 150 degrees. Line a 13 by 9-inch baking pan with foil. Combine flour, sugar, and salt in medium bowl. Add melted butter, and stir with rubber spatula. Crumble dough evenly over bottom of prepared pan. Using your fingertips and palm of your hand, press and smooth dough into even thickness. Using fork, pierce dough at 1-inch intervals. Bake until light golden brown and firm to touch, 25 to 30 minutes. Transfer pan to wire rack. Using sturdy metal spatula, press on entire surface of warm crust to compress (this will make finished bars easier to cut). Let crust cool until it is just warm at least 20 minutes.

For the filling: Stir all ingredients together in large saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until mixture registers between 236 and 239 degrees, 15 to 20 minutes. Pour over crust and spread to even thickness. Let cool completely, about 1.5 hours. Refrigerate shortbread until chocolate is set, about 10 minutes. Lift shortbread out of pan and transfer to cutting board. Makes 10 even pieces.

RECIPE BY BARB TRAHERN

Molasses Sugar Cookies



- 1 cup canola oil
- 4 tsp baking soda
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp salt
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tsp ginger

Add sugar, molasses, and eggs to canola oil. Beat well. Add remaining ingredients, and stir into first mixture. Form into 1-inch balls, and roll in granulated sugar. **Bake at 400 degrees for 7.5 to 8.5 minutes.**

RECIPE BY SAUNDRA BOBNAR

Almond Joy Cookies



- 14 oz sweetened coconut flakes
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3/5 cup lightly salted almonds, chopped
- 14 oz sweetened condensed milk

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl combine coconut, chocolate chips, almonds, and sweetened condensed milk. Stir until combined. Scoop out dough with a cookie scoop onto prepared baking sheet. Pat the tops flat. Press down on the cookie mounds so they look like little round discs. Bake for 12-14 minutes or until tips of coconut turn lightly brown. Allow to cool on the baking sheet. Store cookies in an airtight container. Makes 3 dozen.

Hope for the Overlooked

A WINTER DEVOTIONAL

One of my favorite winter traditions is putting up our Christmas tree as a family and placing all the ornaments on it. There are many ornaments—some carefully crafted, some store-bought, and some that look more like a pile of trash and glitter that my kids glued together when they were little. Yet each ornament has its place on the tree. But the one that means the most to me, the one that reminds me of something greater, is actually the simplest and most obscure: a plain pinecone on a string.

At first glance, you wouldn't think much of this pinecone. If you saw it, you might mistake it for part of the tree. It is rough, weathered by storms and seasons, worn and far from beautiful. Most people would overlook it. But in our home, this pinecone always takes the most prominent place on the tree because it reminds me of the most prominent thing in our lives—hope.

Jared Ott

Executive Pastor



You see, that pinecone came all the way from Shepherds' Field in Bethlehem, which I visited more than a decade ago. I picked it up from the ground, because honestly, apart from a small church, there isn't much else in the field. Most people

wouldn't think twice about that place, just as most people in biblical times didn't think twice about shepherds. Yet it is striking that the good news of the Savior's birth was announced first to them, this unlikely group of people:

“

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

LUKE 2:8-9

Shepherds in those days had hard, thankless jobs. They lived outdoors in all kinds of weather, and they looked worn and dirty. Socially, they were near the bottom of the ladder—uneducated, unskilled, often regarded as dishonest and unreliable. In fact, they weren't even permitted to testify in court. Because sheep needed care seven days a week, shepherds couldn't fully observe the Sabbath regulations set by religious leaders. To many, they were ceremonially unclean—outcasts, unloved, forgotten, and overlooked.

But God chose them. He chose shepherds to be the first to hear the announcement of His Son's birth. This fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.”

Isaiah 61:1

This choice was no accident. Jesus’ ministry was not for the self-righteous, the wealthy, or the powerful, but for the broken and the needy. As He Himself said:

“

It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

MARK 2:17

Throughout His life, Jesus sought out the poor, the lowly, the afflicted, and the outcasts—giving them hope for something beyond themselves and their circumstances. That’s why the shepherds hold such a prominent place in the story of Christmas. The angel’s message to them was this:

“

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

LUKE 2:10-11

Notice that the “good news” was not about fixing broken marriages, difficult jobs, or bad habits. While salvation often brings healing and restoration in these areas, that is the by-product, not the primary

purpose. The true message was that a Savior had come to rescue us from sin. That is the good news for ALL people.

Notice that when the shepherds went to see the baby in the manger, they didn’t leave their sheep behind; they took their sheep with them. They also returned with the sheep to their same low-paying jobs, to their families, and to their ordinary, difficult lives. The sky was still dark, the sheep still smelled like sheep, and they themselves still bore the roughness of their work. But they were changed. Spiritually, they carried hope back with them.

In the same way, this Christmas season will come and go. You might enjoy a brief break from daily routines, but soon enough, you will return to your family struggles, job pressures, health issues, or emotional burdens. Yet, like the shepherds, you can go back changed—because of the message of Christmas. That message is this: Christ was born to die for you, to save you from your sins, and to give you eternal life with Him. True hope is not in changed circumstances, but in Jesus Himself.

As Romans 3:23-24 reminds us:

“

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

And like the simplicity of that pinecone, Romans 10:9-10 explains the simplicity of salvation:

“

If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Maybe this Christmas, you feel a bit like those shepherds—worn down by storms, rejected, lonely, or weighed down by past mistakes.

Maybe hope feels distant. If so, hear the good news again: **Christ has come to bring joy, peace, and salvation.**

And if you ever have a chance to come by my house at Christmas and look at our tree, don’t be drawn first to the shiny or new ornaments.

Instead, look for the **simple, rough, forgotten, or the worn out ones**, because that is what Christ is looking for and that is why He came too.

Be still,

AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD. I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH!

P S A L M 4 6 : 1 0

**GO
TELL
IT!**

THE MESSAGE OF **CHRISTMAS**



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES

For more information, visit biblechapel.org/christmas.





YOUNG ADULTS

Gatherings
MONDAYS

CHAPEL KIDS

Family Night
FEBRUARY 6

CHAPEL WOMEN

Moms in Prayer
WEDNESDAYS

Night Out with
Chapel Women
JANUARY 5
FEBRUARY 2
MARCH 2

CHAPEL MEN

Chapel Men's
Gatherings
FIRST + THIRD
THURSDAYS

Chapel Men's Large
Group Prayer Meeting
THURSDAYS

CHAPEL SPORTS

Open Gym Nights
MONDAYS THROUGH
DECEMBER 15

Upward Basketball
SEASON BEGINS
JANUARY 19

Men's Open Basketball
THURSDAYS

Women's Faith and Fitness
MONDAYS, THURSDAYS,
+ SATURDAYS

Adult Volleyball
MONDAYS

CARE

GriefShare
THURSDAYS

DivorceCare
MONDAYS

CancerCare
FIRST + THIRD THURSDAYS

Women's Recovery
MONDAYS

Men's Recovery
TUESDAYS

SPECIAL NEEDS

Wonderfully Made
THURSDAYS

Special Needs Respite
JANUARY 10 + 24
FEBRUARY 7 + 21
MARCH 7

CONNECTIONS

Discover TBC
DECEMBER 7
JANUARY 4
FEBRUARY 1

CHAPEL STUDENTS

The Break
FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

56 Mission Trip
Info Meeting
FEBRUARY 8 + 15

CHAPEL SAGES

Chapel Sages
Christmas Event
DECEMBER 10

Chapel Sages
Valentine Event
FEBRUARY 11

MILESTONES

Child Dedication Weekend
JANUARY 24/25

Congregational Meeting
JANUARY 25

Baptism Weekend
FEBRUARY 7/8

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Light Up Night
NOVEMBER 29

Caring Tree
BEGINS NOVEMBER 30

Christmas Eve
9:00 AM
11:00 AM
1:00 PM
3:00 PM
5:00 PM

OUTREACH

Global Outreach Info Meeting
FEBRUARY 8

Baby Bottle Campaign
BEGINS JANUARY 10

**TENDER SHEPHERD
PRESCHOOL**

Registration
2026-2027 School Year
OPENS FEBRUARY 9

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



KID'S CORNER

A MESSAGE FROM MS. BECKY

When I think of winter, there is one thing that comes to my mind right away... Can you guess what it is? Here are some clues: white, cold, sledding, snowmen, snowball fights... Did you guess it? SNOW! Who doesn't love to play in the snow? I remember playing in the snow for hours: sledding and playing "Ring-Tag" or "King of the Mountain." Feel free to come and ask me about these games anytime - it will make me smile! What's your favorite thing to do in the snow? Whatever it may be, you have to admit there is something special about waking up to a fresh layer of sparkling, perfect snow! It reminds me of a Bible verse - did you know the Bible mentions snow? In Isaiah 1:18 it says, "Though your sins are scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are crimson red, they will be like wool."

I love how God paints pictures using words in the Bible to show us the power Jesus has in our lives! Without Jesus, we're like the dirty snow on the side of the road - sin does that to us. But the little baby that was born on Christmas (one of my other favorite things about winter!) would grow up, live a perfect life, and choose to die on a cross so He could make us like the sparkling, perfect snow! How amazing is that? When you see the snow and get excited to go play, also take a moment to get excited about what Jesus did for you and thank Him for what he did on the cross.

Bonus: Read Psalm 51:7 for another verse that mentions snow!



THE GREATEST WINTER DESSERT!

Fill in the blanks with words to complete the story.

On a (adjective), (adjective) winter day, I found a box filled with dessert recipes written on (adjective) pieces of paper. My (noun) and I decided to make (noun) for dessert! We grabbed all the ingredients including (noun), (noun), and (noun)! We (verb) the ingredients in a (adjective) bowl and added a pinch of (spice). After we put the dessert in the oven, the room smelled so (adverb).

I could feel the (adverb) of the dessert being almost ready. While we waited, we went outside and made a (noun)! We added a (color) nose, a (color) scarf, and (adjective) top hat! The snow was falling so (adverb), so we decided to get back inside to the (adjective) house. Our dessert was ready!

We took the dessert out of the oven and decorated the top with a (adjective) frosting and sprinkled on some (plural noun). We ate a piece and agreed it was the most (adjective) dessert we had ever (past-tense verb).



THE DOWNHILL DASH

Help the winter fox navigate
and ski down the mountain to
the finish line.

Before you start,
finish the verse below!

Philippians 4:13

I CAN DO ALL
THINGS THROUGH
HIM WHO GIVES
ME _____.

A. GRACE
B. STRENGTH
C. HOPE

FINISH





HERE'S WHAT JONAS BRENEMAN HAD TO SAY ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE AT BOOTCAMP 56:

WHAT IS BOOTCAMP 56?

Bootcamp is a fun retreat at Ligonier Camp which has lots of fun things to do, but we get to go with our 56 friends. We play a lot of games and hang out with friends but also take lots of time to grow in our faith by spending time in worship, with our small groups, and in teaching sessions.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART?

The games! They are a lot of fun! My favorite game was carpet ball at the recreation deck.

WHY DO YOU THINK ALL 5TH AND 6TH-GRADERS SHOULD ATTEND BOOTCAMP 56?

Because you get to have fun, which is why most people go, but you also get to grow in your faith which is important. Another great reason to go is to get to know other kids your age. I've made a couple friends at Bootcamp.

HOW HAS ATTENDING BOOTCAMP 56 IMPACTED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

Last year I gave my life to Jesus. This year I was able to share my testimony and grow even more. I have been challenged to spend time in prayer every day!



To learn more about our 56 ministry and what's coming up, scan the QR code or visit BIBLECHAPEL.ORG/STUDENTS.

This past October, our 56 Crew packed their bags and headed to Camp Ligonier for an unforgettable weekend at Bootcamp 56! From diving deeper into who Jesus is, to building meaningful friendships, and of course, having fun —this retreat had it all. It was a powerful time of unplugging from the distractions of everyday life and leaning into what really matters: faith, fun, and community.



FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

2 0 2 6

JOIN US!

SEVENTH THROUGH TWELFTH GRADERS, THE BREAK IS BACK!

Spend your weekend with Chapel Students at Oglebay Resort February 27 - March 1! No matter where you are in your faith journey, you belong at The Break. You won't want to miss out on being with your crew for a weekend of faith, games, camp vibes, and more! So, be sure to register early to grab your spot for some fun as we dive deep into faith and community.

Register now by scanning the QR code below!
REGISTRATION CLOSSES JANUARY 18.





Caring TREE

Share the best gift of Christmas, JESUS!

VISIT BIBLECHAPEL.ORG/CHRISTMAS
for more information about our Caring Tree.

BEGINS NOVEMBER 30

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.



Here are our upcoming mission trips!

Hungary
MARCH 14-22

Thailand
APRIL 16-26

Panama Men’s Construction
APRIL 25-MAY 2

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



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



The Bible Chapel helps Choices Pregnancy Center provide resources and volunteers for all its programs and services.

To contribute to Choices, you can participate in the Baby Bottle Campaign, January 3rd - January 25th.

“

LOOK AT THE FLOWERS IN ALL OF THEIR BEAUTY
I DON'T HAVE TO WONDER, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING
SO WHY WOULD I WORRY AT ALL WHEN YOU'RE FAITHFUL TO SUPPLY?

Everything I need, everything I need
My Father has it, my Father has it
Every single time the Lord will provide
My Father has it, my Father has it, yeah
Oh, my Father has it

LOOK AT THE SPARROW LACKING FOR NOTHING
NO FEAR OF TOMORROW AND WHAT IT WILL BRING
IF I HAVE YOU, I HAVE ENOUGH, YOUR LOVE WILL SATISFY

Everything I need, everything I need
My Father has it, my Father has it
Every single time the Lord will provide
My Father has it, my Father has it, yeah
Oh, my Father has it

Seek first the Kingdom and its treasures
Everything else, it will be added
All that I'm needing
Yes, I know the Lord will provide
And I know my God's not empty-handed
He gives us blessings upon blessings
I'm still believing, I know the Lord will provide

“ I know
the LORD
will provide

Rest.

WINTER READING FOR THE FAMILY

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will my Word be which goes forth from my mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:10-11

Gretchen McDaniel
THE HUB MANAGER

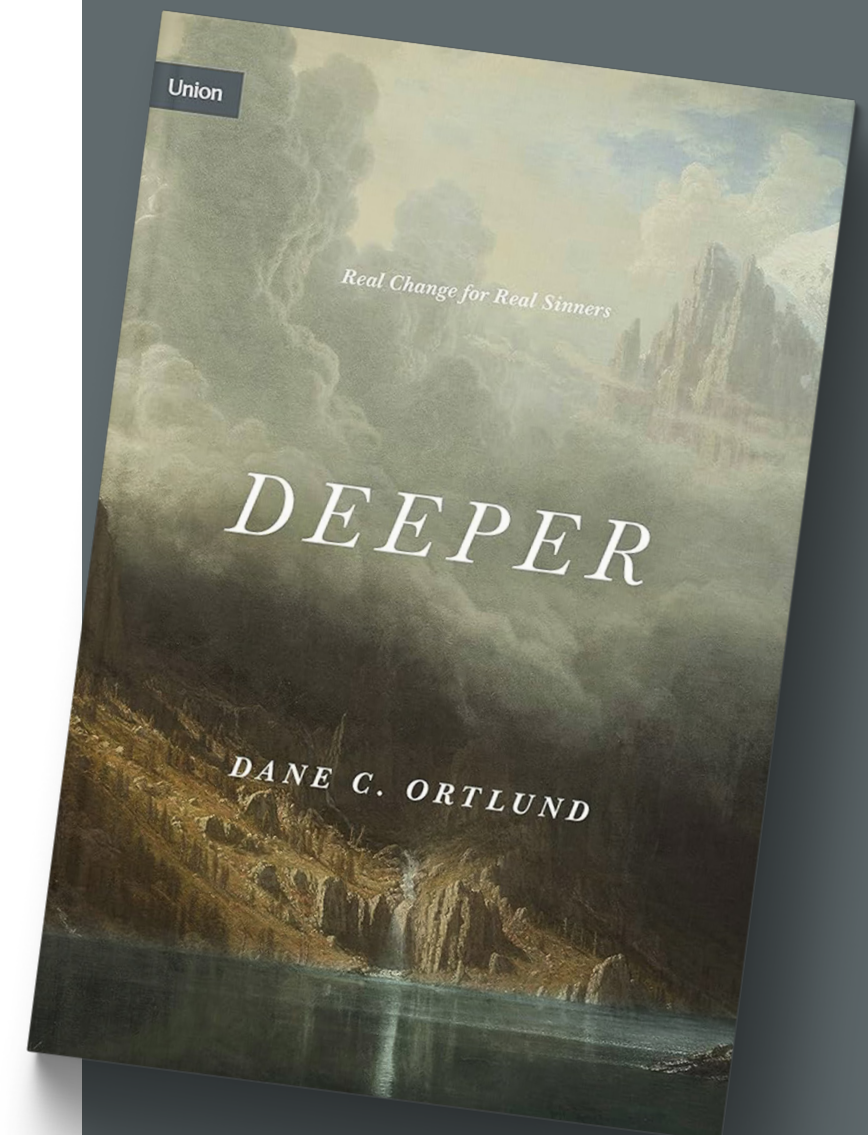
Winter may look barren, but Isaiah reminds us that beneath the stillness, God is at work. Just as snow soaks into the ground to prepare for spring’s growth, His Word never lies dormant. It goes out. It takes root. And it always bears fruit.

This promise, spoken centuries before Christ, finds its fulfillment in the gospel: the Word made flesh, who came into the world not in vain, but to accomplish salvation.

Our winter reads invite us to dwell in this truth—to listen, reflect, and let God’s Word do its work in our hearts. Best News Ever helps young readers encounter Jesus afresh in the Gospel of Mark, while Listen Up shows that hearing Christ’s parables calls for reflection and response. In Hidden Christmas, Timothy Keller draws our attention to the shepherds and the Magi—unexpected hearers transformed into proclaimers. Unfolding Grace traces the grand story of redemption, showing the unity of God’s Word from Genesis to Revelation.

Other books guide us into the personal and communal fruit His Word bears: Jesus Over Everything calls us to reorder our lives around Christ; Deeper reminds us that true transformation comes from surrender, not striving; Becoming God’s Family celebrates the church as the living temple where His Word dwells; and A Word Fitly Spoken encourages Spirit-shaped words that warm, heal, and witness in a world often cold.

This winter, may these books help us rest in the promise of Isaiah: God’s Word never returns empty. It is living. It is active. And it is fruitful—bringing life even in seasons that feel still or barren.

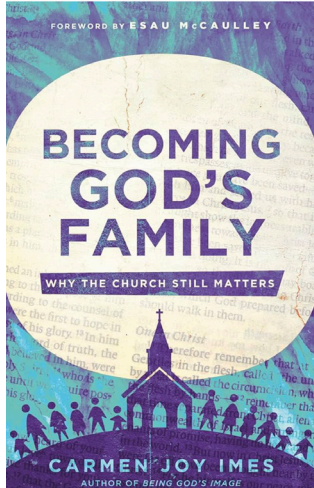


DEEPER

Winter is a season of stillness and quiet reflection—a time when the world seems dormant, yet life grows beneath the surface.

Deeper guides readers to examine the hidden corners of the heart, showing that true transformation comes not from striving, but from surrendering to Christ’s work within us. As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, this book meets us in the contemplative hush of winter, encouraging us to pause, reflect, and trust in God’s patient sanctifying grace. Dane Ortlund provides the perfect companion for winter’s reflective rhythm, for those who long for honest self-examination, deeper connection with Christ, and the quiet assurance that even in seasons that feel still or barren, God is faithfully at work.

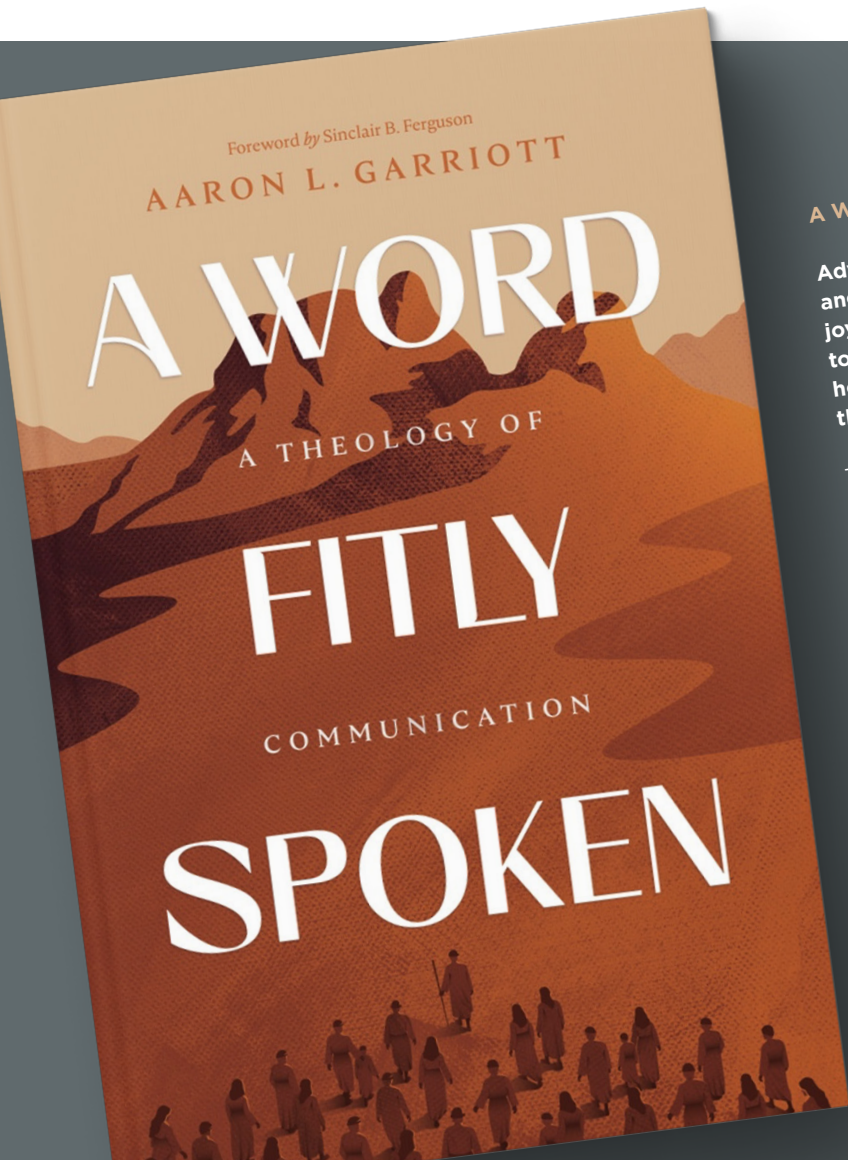




BECOMING GOD'S FAMILY

Advent reminds us that Christ came not only to save individuals but to form a people for Himself. The shepherds didn't keep the good news to themselves—they shared it, and soon "all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them" (Luke 2:18). From the start, the story of Jesus has been a shared story.

At a time when many wonder if church is still relevant, Carmen Imes reminds us that God never intended His people to walk alone. Our faith is deeply personal, but never private. *Becoming God's Family: Why the Church Still Matters* paints a beautiful vision of the church as family, body, and temple—the place where God meets us, shapes us, and sends us into the world. This book helps us see the church is not just a building or a weekly routine, but God's chosen family—“a royal priesthood, a holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9)—called to proclaim His excellencies together. We proclaim it best, not in isolation, but as the people of God—worshiping, growing, and bearing witness side by side.

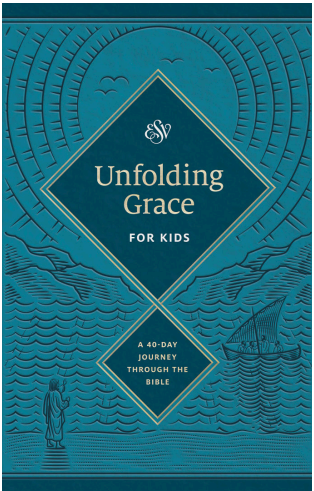


A WORD FITLY SPOKEN

Advent is a season of announcement. From the angels' song—"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10)—to the shepherds' witness, the call of Christmas hope, joy, and peace could be proclaimed to the world.

That theme—of words carrying the presence of God—is explored in *A Word Fitly Spoken*, offering memorable insights and practical wisdom for letting our speech reflect the gospel we believe. What makes this book so compelling is how it begins with God Himself as a communicating God. Before we ever open our mouths, Scripture reminds us that the ability to speak reflects His image in us. Our words are not accidental or disposable; they are meant for worship, communion, and love of neighbor.

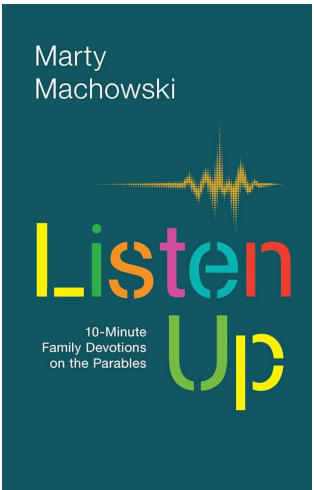
From there, the book gently presses into the places where we use our words: in everyday conversations, in moments of conflict, in digital spaces, and even in silence. This isn't about polished technique or clever phrases—it's about cultivating gracious speech, shaped by His Spirit, as "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." (Prov 25:11)



UNFOLDING GRACE

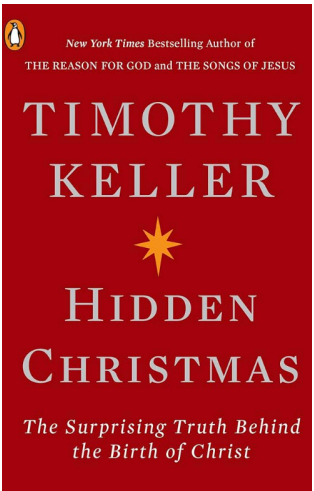
Unfolding Grace invites families to journey together through the grand narrative of Scripture, tracing God's plan of salvation from creation to new creation. This beautifully designed devotional offers forty carefully curated readings, each accompanied by illuminating introductions and vibrant illustrations that bring the biblical story to life.

What distinguishes *Unfolding Grace* is its focus on the Bible's overarching storyline. Rather than presenting isolated accounts, it reveals how each passage points to Christ—from the promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15 to the fulfillment in the birth of Christ (Luke 2:10–11), and onward to the hope of resurrection and new creation (Revelation 21:1–4), the gospel unfolds through Scripture, showing God's faithfulness and the unity of His plan.



LISTEN UP

As Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mark 4:9). In *Listen Up*, Marty Machowski reminds us that true listening is never passive—it demands understanding, reflection, and response. The parables of Jesus were not riddles reserved for scholars; they were vivid stories meant to be heard, lived, and shared. As Machowski notes, the parables are designed to help us examine our own lives, holding a mirror to our hearts and calling us to repentance and faith. *Listen Up* guides families through this rich terrain with short, ten-minute devotionals that open the door to conversation and discovery. Along the way, young readers engage with the lost sheep, hidden treasures, prodigal sons, and the breaking-in of God's kingdom. To listen is to encounter truth, be transformed, and, ultimately, go and tell.



HIDDEN CHRISTMAS

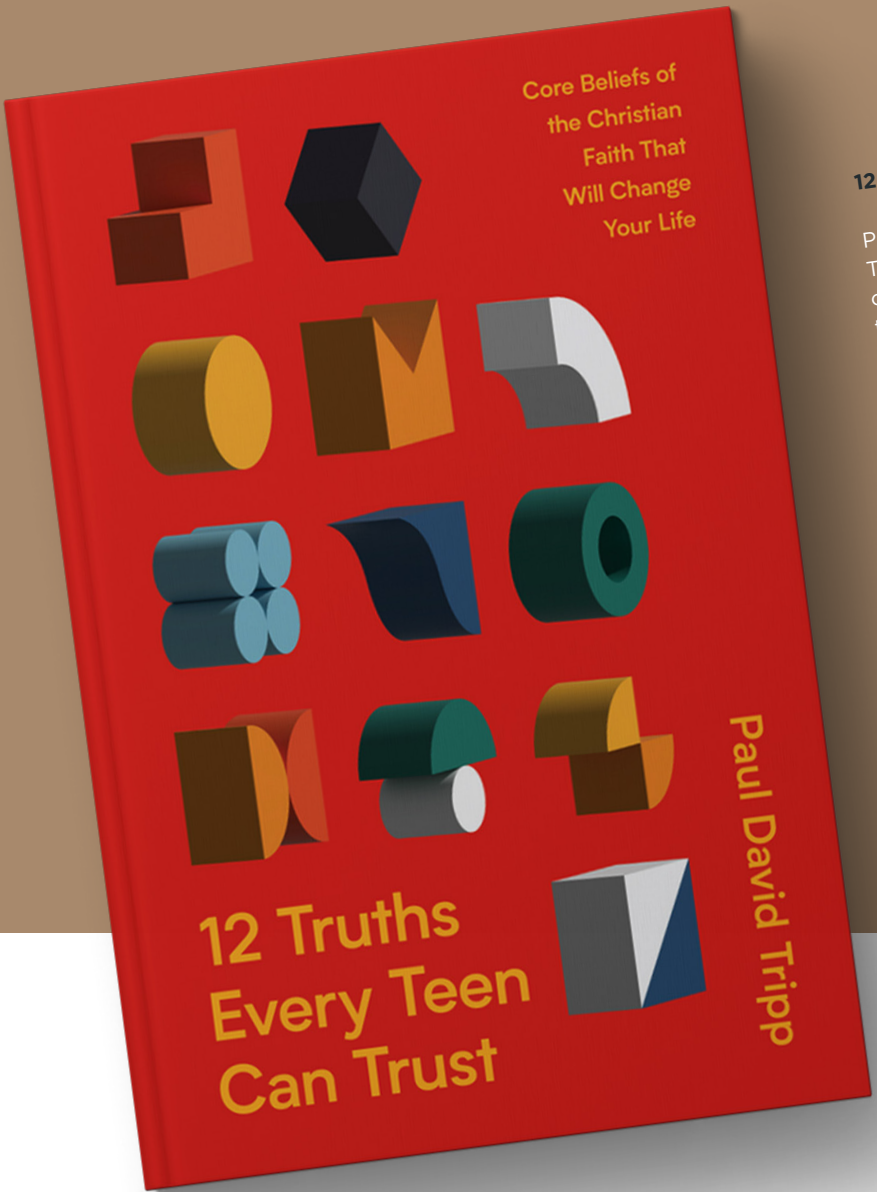
Advent is a season of quiet anticipation, inviting us to pause and reflect on the wonder of Christ's coming. In this rich reflection on the nativity, Timothy Keller reminds us that the birth of Christ was not a sentimental backdrop, but God's decisive entrance into our darkness with redeeming light. *Hidden Christmas* uncovers the surprising witnesses of the nativity—the foreign Magi and the humble shepherds—whose presence reminds us that God's love transcends boundaries of status, culture, and expectation.

These unexpected participants carried the good news far and wide, revealing that God's purposes are both expansive and inclusive. For us today, this story calls us to notice His work in unexpected places and to share the joy of His coming with all people.

“

In peace
I will
lie down
and sleep,
for you
alone,
Lord,
make me
dwell in
safety.

PSALM 4:8



12 TRUTHS EVERY TEEN CAN TRUST

Paul David Tripp's brand-new release, 12 Truths Every Teen Can Trust, distills the core beliefs of the Christian faith into twelve clear, compelling truths every young person needs. With pastoral warmth and practical wisdom, he shows how these doctrines aren't abstract ideas but life-giving anchors for faith. This volume is an ideal resource for teens navigating questions of identity, purpose, and belief.

Winter—when the church calendar draws us into Advent and Christmas—invites us to slow down and return to what is sure. Tripp's book does just that, guiding teens to see that the gospel is both trustworthy and transformative, lighting their way through every season.

12 Truths Every Teen Can Trust

Paul David Tripp



BEST NEWS EVER

So many times, we tell children what we believe-this book helps them discover who they can believe, how the story of Jesus unfolded, and how it still reshapes our lives: not softly, not safely, but urgently and beautifully. Best News Ever offers children a scaffold to discern the grand narrative of God's redemption: that the gospel is not ultimately about us, but about the One who acts, who calls, who saves.

With 100 entries Morpheus offers a spirited, urgent telling-one that matches the speed and surprise found in the Gospel of Mark. Best News Ever does not hide the difficult parts; helping young readers connect the story with their own lives and meet Jesus- "the one who changes everything."

JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

So many of us live weighed down by choices, expectations, and the endless pull of "more." We crave simplicity yet keep adding layers of complexity. In this season-when the year winds down and we reflect on what matters most-many of us crave simplicity and set fresh intentions for the year ahead.



Lisa Whittle cuts through the noise in Jesus Over Everything, calling us to put Christ first—not just in theory, but in the everyday places where our priorities, fears, and desires collide. **As Colossians 1:17 reminds us, "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."**

With honesty and warmth, Whittle shows us how choosing Him first brings clarity where there's chaos, simplicity where there's striving, and freedom where there's fear. Whittle names the hard but freeing truth: Jesus over

comfort. Jesus over popularity. Jesus over comparison. Jesus over fear. These are not abstract slogans, but real choices that shape how we live and what we love.

This is a book for weary hearts longing for order and peace—not because circumstances get easier, but because Jesus takes His rightful place. When Jesus is over everything, joy and hope overflow, and our lives become a testimony worth sharing.

WHEN THE SEASON TURNS COLD

I get it. You're out and about, trying your best amidst the holiday season, and you hear the phrase "It's the most wonderful time of the year." What a lovely phrase – truly, the meaning is fantastic. What we get to celebrate this season, Jesus, it is the most amazing thing we can focus on. And yet, life happens. Sometimes, it slowly unfolds or abruptly throws us into a tailspin – wonderful in all its joy and glory seems the farthest thing from our mind.

Listen, this has been a year. Personally, my family and I have experienced medical emergencies, unexpected diagnosis, ever increasing inflation, and that just scratches the surface. After a challenging year, the holidays can seem that much harder. While the world glistens, our home can feel dim. While the crowds gather, you feel more alone than ever. While the weary world rejoices, it's hard to crack a smile. If that's you this season, I see you, and I get it. And it's in this place that I believe we

can actually experience Jesus this season in a way that is more intimate, more powerful, and more real than ever. Let me invite you (as I challenge myself, too!) to invite Jesus into these places this season.

OUR WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

One of the most beautiful and heartwarming things to see this time of the year is the joy and wonder in kids. Their excitement is infectious. You see the pictures, watch the families, hear the stories, and yet, I remember vividly a time where seeing this made my heart ache.

You see, my wife Alex and I had desperately wanted to have kids. Year after year went by, and nothing – just more waiting and heartbreak. Seeing what others had when it's the very thing you desire hurt, and around this season, it hurt just a little more. Instead of little stockings hanging for kids, it was just Alex, me, and our cat Lola (who was pretty amazing). Our unanswered prayers and waiting desires felt empty and missing. This lasted for five years. Now looking back, those unanswered prayers were being answered, just not the way we were wanting to see. God was working. He was moving. He was preparing – and how much does that sound like Christmas?

Preparing for our Wonderful Counselor. The One alone who can make something truly wonderful, give wisdom, and help guide – gentle, loving, and gracious.

Maybe this season and into the New Year, you're in the waiting. Waiting for a child. Waiting for a job. Waiting on a dream. Waiting for a prayer to be answered. Joy is a little harder to find. Hope seems a little harder to keep. It's ok. Let Jesus in. Let Him sit with you. Let Him counsel you wonderfully and walk with you nearer than ever this Season.

Scripture To Remember:
Hebrews 4:15-16

Song To Rest In:
Wonderful by CAIN

OUR MIGHTY GOD

When I think of the word "might," I often think of strength, too. Strong, powerful, built tough – cue car commercial (which we know we'll see plenty this season, and if you have a car with a big red bow on it in your driveway Christmas morning, I'd truly love to see it!). When we think of strong things, it's easy to just assume they're strong and lasting, until they don't. That hit me hard this year when unexpectedly, I found my strength knocked significantly. I broke my hip. Things I took for granted – walking, running, standing – anything involving movement, now excruciatingly painful or impossible. A long road of recovery post-surgery laid ahead, and I'm still on that recovery journey. One of the biggest lessons I'm still learning from this is how fragile life really is. Anything can happen. It can completely blindside you.

Maybe this season, you've had the unexpected happen. A diagnosis that's hard to accept. An injury that has set you back. A mountain that has out of the blue shown up right in front of you. And while the rest of the world seems to be standing on a mountain top this time of the year, you're still figuring out how you landed in this valley.

Know that our God is mightier than the mountain. Stronger than the storm. When I physically struggled to even take one step, all I could say was "help me Jesus, thank you Jesus, praise you Jesus." Calling on His name – the name that is higher, stronger, and more powerful than all things – truly helped me take a step. It didn't immediately set my feet running at top speed (as much as I wished!), but it carried me with each step. May it carry you with each step, each breath. Each doctor appointment, each moment of doubt, defeat, and discouragement. Jesus – Emmanuel – God with ME.

Scripture To Remember: John 16:33
Song To Rest In: The Lord Will Provide by Passion

OUR PRINCE OF PEACE

You're never prepared to say goodbye to a loved one and the change that comes with that. I remember my grandfather passing away 14 years ago, and from that moment on, holidays were never quite the same. The big family gatherings became less, and the seats around the table ebbed and flowed – pile on family members moving to different parts of the country and those seats shift even more.

I also remember the first Christmas after my dad lost his battle with cancer eight years ago. Again, a major shift. What was normal was now very different, and I didn't know what to make of that – grief hit in so many different ways. You can go through an entire year taking steps forward, moving on in the new normal, and then it hits you like a ton of bricks around this time of the year. The gaps seem bigger. The loss seems fresh. That first night home after my dad passed was full of grief, and unexpectedly in the stillness and silence, a sense of peace that passes understanding also blanketed me – that only comes from Jesus.

Maybe this season, that fresh, empty seat brings immediate waves of grief. Perhaps family members feel more distant. The kids that live in different states feel farther. The empty nest seems emptier. The relationship that ended hits harder. The marriage that you dreamed of now disappoints. Whatever the void, the loss, the grief, we have been promised perfect peace. A peace that doesn't make sense. A peace only Jesus can bring – as we sit with Him in the stillness of the season – He knows the pain, the grief, the loss.

Scripture To Remember: Isaiah 26:3
Song To Rest In: Silent Night by Chris Tomline & Kristyn Getty

This season truly is wonderful – even when we don't understand, can't see the end of the story, or life doesn't make sense. It's hard, it's painful, and can be heavy. If that's where you're sitting this season, I see you and sit with you, and it's ok because Jesus is here. He sees you, too.

“Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to this earth – to save the lost, mend the brokenhearted, and set the captive free. This season, I pray for each and every person who is hurting, grieving, lost, and find it hard to rejoice this season. May they feel You near, wrapped in Your amazing love, peace, might, and hope. Remind them it's ok to hurt, to be disappointed, to feel alone. And in that place, may they find You, Jesus, more than ever before. May this be a season they remember not the lights, gifts, carols, or festivities, but rather, You – You being closer to them than they've ever experienced before. Amen.

Song: Joy To The World /The King Is Coming
by Christy Nockels

(Rick Butor)

**Executive Director,
Worship Arts**



Songs to rest in.
Scan the QR Code.

URGENT GOSPEL

URGENT BREAKING NEWS

If you turn on your local news this evening, most likely, it will start with a segment entitled, “BREAKING NEWS!”. And to be honest, I often wonder why they don’t just call it “BREAKING BAD NEWS!” as most often, the breaking story involves a shooting, house fire, or some other “bad news” storyline. I often find myself wondering, is there ever any GOOD NEWS for them to report?

Well, eternally more important and urgent than the local news is the “bad news” and “good news” of the Bible. As God’s Word is clear, every single person is an eternal soul who will reside for eternity either with God in heaven or separated from God in hell. The Bible says that God “has set eternity in the human heart” (Eccl. 3:11). Deep down in the core of our being, we know there must be more than what this life has to offer - that physical death is not the end for us.

So, join me now as we look at the urgent headlines of Scripture regarding the Bad News and Good News of your eternal fate.

GOOD NEWS HEADLINE #1

JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR US

“But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

ROMANS 5:8

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

ROMANS 6:23

Years ago, I was talking with a parent from our church whose child was diagnosed with cancer. In our conversation, they said something I’ll never forget, “I’d give anything to take their cancer and put it on me.” That statement still gives me chills. It is such a powerful testimony of love from a devoted parent to their child.

Greater than any physical disease is the spiritual disease of our sin that Jesus Christ took upon himself on the cross to save us. As Romans 5:8 states, God demonstrated His great love for us when Jesus went to the cross for you and me. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, who took on flesh and lived the sinless life we could never live, chose to bear our sin on the cross. You want to talk about love? There’s no greater love than the love of Jesus for you and me. That’s what makes the rest of Romans 6:23 so powerful! Yes, the wages of our sin is death, BUT the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. So, the question is, will you respond to Good News Headline #1 with...

BAD NEWS HEADLINE #1

WE ARE ALL SINNERS

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

ROMANS 3:23

I’m a guy who loves all things sports, especially football. Let’s say I challenged you to a throwing contest from our church parking lot in the South Hills of Pittsburgh to Acrisure Stadium downtown. Whoever hits the stadium wins! The problem is the stadium is 20 miles from our church. You may throw it farther than me, or I may throw it farther than you, but we both would fall extremely short of reaching Acrisure Stadium, let alone beyond the parking lot itself! It’s impossible for a person to throw a football that far.

Even more absurd than the throwing contest is for a sinner to believe in their own effort that they can be in right relationship with the holy and perfect God. That’s what Romans 3:23 is saying to us. Since the fall of humanity in Genesis 3 with Adam and Eve, every single person is born into sin. We are all sinners. Sure, you may live a better moral life than me, but we still all fall short of the perfect standard God requires to be in right relationship with him for eternity. That leads us to...

BAD NEWS HEADLINE #2

THE PENALTY FOR OUR SIN IS DEATH

“For the wages of sin is death...”

ROMANS 6:23

My first job in high school was digging French drains for my buddy’s dad who owned a construction company. I remember the first time I was paid. I understood that the money was mine because I earned it! Well, the Bible is clear when it comes to our sins; we are responsible. We can’t blame God, can’t blame our parents, can’t blame the culture - we own our sin. And, therefore, we receive and deserve as Romans 6:23 states the “wages of our sin”, which is death. Not just physical death, but even worse, spiritual death which is eternal separation from God. And since there’s nothing we can do to earn our way to God (as we established earlier), praise God for the Good News of Scripture...

GOOD NEWS HEADLINE #2

YOU CAN BE SAVED THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

ROMANS 6:23

Let’s say you were exhausted and needed to sit down to rest, and a chair was provided right next to you. Does “knowing” the chair can give you rest actually give you rest? No. Does “agreeing” the chair can give you rest actually give you rest? No. At some point, the “need” of rest combined with putting your “faith” in that chair for rest by sitting in it must occur.

More important than temporary physical rest is receiving eternal spiritual rest from your sin by trusting in Jesus Christ alone as your Savior. Having a head knowledge about Jesus doesn’t save you. Agreeing that Jesus existed does not save you. Only as Ephesians 2:8-9 states, faith alone in Jesus Christ is what saves you. Faith is not work, it’s trusting in the work of Jesus Christ, his death, burial, and resurrection for our sins. A prayer of repentance and saving faith in Jesus simply goes something like this:

“

God, I come before you and acknowledge that I’m a sinner. I know that there is nothing I can do to save myself from my sin. Today, I confess my sin to you, and I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ alone can save me. I believe Jesus is the eternal Son of God who lived the perfect life I could never live and died for me on the cross. I believe he was buried and rose again, defeating sin and death once and for all. Today, I trust in Jesus Christ alone as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Lord, for the greatest gift I could ever receive, the free gift of salvation in my Savior, Jesus. It’s in Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

If you said that prayer or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We would be honored to come alongside you as you begin the greatest journey there is - following Jesus all the days of your life.

Blessings,

Dave DiDonato
LEAD PASTOR



Next Steps

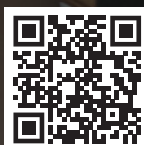
Discover TBC

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!

DECEMBER 7

JANUARY 4

FEBRUARY 1



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.





YEAR IN REVIEW

This past ministry year, we've had the amazing privilege of watching Jesus transform lives here in our church, city, and around the world. It's been a year filled with God's goodness and love! As we look back, our hearts are full; as we look ahead, we're excited about what God has next. We can't wait to celebrate more with you at our Congregational Meeting on January 25! Thank you for being a part of our family!



THIS [®] YEAR AT TBC





Forget

THE FORMER
THINGS;

DO NOT DWELL ON THE PAST.
SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING!
NOW IT SPRINGS UP; DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?
I AM MAKING A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS
AND STREAMS IN THE WASTELAND.

ISAIAH 43:18-19

SPRING 2026 COMING SOON

