

THE BIBLE CHAPEL
CONNECTED



FALL 2026

Editor Highlights



Handmade for Community

What does it mean to be handmade on purpose by our Creator? How does this impact our community? Let's find out together!

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Event Calendar

Welcome back to a new ministry year! We have so much to look forward to this fall, and we can't wait to see how Jesus will transform your life!

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Back-to-School

Freshly sharpened pencils, clean folders, a new lunch box - it must be time for school! We want to help equip you and your family to start the new school year strong while being rooted in God's Word.

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FALL 2026

Welcome to *Connected.*

Have you ever received a handmade card or gift? It's truly one of the best kinds of gifts - someone took the time, energy, and thought to intentionally create something just for you. I don't know about you, but receiving something made with such care always makes me feel deeply valued.



It makes me wonder, though: do we ever view ourselves with that same sense of wonder when we look in the mirror? Do we take the time to truly meditate on the truth that the Lord of the universe handmade us with such intention and care?

This issue of *Connected* is designed to remind you that the ultimate Potter made YOU on purpose, uniquely, and with love. Beginning on page 10, you'll find three, beautiful pieces exploring what it means to be created by the Lord, and how that foundational truth reshapes our overall identity, purpose, and giftings.

And yet, discovering who God made us to be is only the beginning; the real joy comes when we put those unique designs into action.

On page 22, we dive into what it means to use those giftings to serve the church, reflecting on how it takes each of us - with our own distinct gifts - to make up the full body of Christ. We had the wonderful opportunity to interview three individuals who exemplify this beautifully - serving with their gifts to make a lasting impact. Their stories are a powerful reminder that you, too, are handmade for a purpose.

That same intentionality extends into every season of our lives, including the busy transitions right in front of us.

We've also put together an amazing back-to-school section packed with resources to help you set the tone and dive into the new school year rooted in the Word. Inside, you'll find a shared memory verse for you and your kids, prayers for everyone impacted by the school season, and family devotional recommendations designed to keep your household grounded in Scripture while prioritizing quality time together.

This issue is our favorite one yet because ultimately, we are pausing, reflecting, and saturating ourselves in the truth and beauty of our Creator.

We hope these pages serve as a gentle reminder that you are deeply loved, intentionally made, and purposefully placed right where you are for a reason.

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

The Connected Team

A painting of a forest scene with a body of water and a small boat. The scene is rendered in a painterly style with visible brushstrokes. The trees have autumn-colored foliage in shades of brown, orange, and yellow. The water is calm, reflecting the trees and the sky. A small boat is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by the text. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Isaiah 64:8

YET YOU, LORD, ARE
OUR FATHER. WE ARE
THE CLAY, YOU ARE THE
POTTER; WE ARE ALL THE
WORK OF YOUR HAND.

READY. SET. GO.

EVERY BELIEVER CONFIDENT CONFERENCE

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO TALK
ABOUT YOUR FAITH WITH CONFIDENCE?**

**HAVE YOU WANTED TO SHARE
WHY IT MATTERS BUT DIDN'T
QUITE KNOW HOW TO SAY IT?**

A LOT OF PEOPLE FEEL THAT WAY.

On **September 19**, The Bible Chapel is hosting the *Ready. Set. Go. Every Believer Confident Conference* - a one-day event designed to give you practical tools and real confidence when sharing your faith.

We'll be joined by Dr. Mark Farnham from Apologetics for the Church, who will walk through simple, everyday ways to have meaningful conversations. This isn't about winning debates - it's about connecting with people and having honest, real conversations.

WHAT TO EXPECT

PRACTICAL TOOLS

Learn clear, simple ways to explain what you believe and why it matters to you.

REAL CONVERSATIONS

Get more comfortable handling tough questions in an approachable way.

A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

Come on your own or with friend —this is designed to be encouraging and relatable.



TO LEARN MORE OR SIGN UP, SCAN THE QR CODE!

HANDMADE

by the Father



Handmade for
Community
by Nyke Gatlin

PG. 12

A Journey to
Finding My Worth
by Linda James

PG. 16

Farm Fields to
Simulation Models
by Tim Pawlak

PG. 18



“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

EPHESIANS 2:10

Handmade for Community

By Nyke Gatlin,
Executive Pastor of Ministries

Have you ever watched a craftsman at work?

A woodworker carefully studies a piece of lumber before making the first cut. A potter shapes clay with intentional pressure. A painter adds brushstroke after brushstroke until the masterpiece emerges. Every detail matters because the creator has a vision for what the finished product will become.

The same is true of God.

Scripture tells us that we are God's workmanship. The Greek word used in **Ephesians 2:10** is *poiema* —the word from which we get our English word “poem.” In other words, you are not an accident. You are God's carefully crafted creation, designed with purpose, gifted intentionally, and formed uniquely by His hands.

The challenge for many of us isn't believing that God made us; it's believing that He made us for something.

Too often, we compare ourselves to others. We wish we had their gifts, their personality, their opportunities, or their influence. Yet when we

compare, we miss the beauty of God's design. The church was never intended to be a collection of identical people. It was designed to be a body, with each person bringing unique gifts, experiences, and perspectives that help accomplish God's mission. That's why community matters.

Think about a jigsaw puzzle. A single piece may seem insignificant, but connected to the others, its purpose becomes clear. The picture isn't complete without it. In the same way, God didn't design us to follow Jesus alone; He designed us to grow, serve, encourage, and be encouraged in community.

This fall, as we launch another season of Chapel Groups, it's worth asking a simple question: Who are you connected to?

Some of the greatest moments of spiritual growth don't happen in rows on Sunday mornings - they happen in circles. They happen around dinner tables, in living rooms, over coffee, during prayer, and through honest conversations with people who know your story and point you back to Jesus.

Groups create space for us to be known and to know others. They remind us that following Jesus is not a solo journey, but a shared one.

I often say that the church isn't a building we attend; it's a movement we choose to be part of. We don't simply go to church; we are the Church. That's why Groups matter. They move us from spectators to participants and help us experience the biblical community God designed us for. Groups are one of the primary ways we live out what it means to be the Church rather than simply attend church.

The same is true when we serve.

Every weekend at TBC, people use their God-given gifts to welcome guests, invest in kids and students, lead worship, make coffee, run technology, care for others, and help people take next steps with Jesus. None of those roles are accidental. Each one is an expression of a unique design God has placed within His people.

When we serve, we aren't just filling a spot; we're stepping into part of the purpose God created us for.

“According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts.”

ROMANS 12:6

Those gifts weren't given merely for personal fulfillment - they were given to build up the body of Christ and help others experience His love.

Serving is one of the clearest ways we live out the truth that we are the Church. God has uniquely gifted each of us not simply to consume ministry, but to contribute to it. When we serve, we become active participants in God's work of helping people find and follow Jesus, using our gifts for the good of others and the glory of God.

Now What?

Knowing that God made you uniquely is encouraging, but it was never meant to stop at inspiration. It should lead to participation.

One of the greatest dangers in our spiritual lives is settling for observation instead of engagement. We can attend church, enjoy the messages, appreciate the worship, and support the mission without ever stepping into the relationships and opportunities God intends to use to shape us.

Throughout Scripture, God grows people in community: Moses had Aaron. David had Jonathan. Jesus gathered twelve disciples. God's pattern has always been people growing alongside people.

If you're wondering what your next step is this fall, don't overcomplicate it. Take one intentional step toward connection. Join a Chapel Group. Join a serving team. Introduce yourself to someone you've seen every weekend but never met. Invite another family to lunch. Open your life to the possibility that God wants to use others to encourage, challenge, and strengthen your faith.

You may discover that the gifts God placed in you become most visible when they're used alongside the gifts He's placed in others. As you connect with others in a Group and use your gifts on a serving team, you'll not only grow in your own faith, but you'll also help others do the same. That's part of God's design - He shapes us through community and then uses us to help shape and encourage others as they follow Jesus.

You were handmade by God on purpose, for a purpose, but that purpose was never meant to be lived out in isolation. The masterpiece God is creating in your life becomes even more beautiful when it's connected to the work He's doing in others.

This fall, let's not just admire God's design, TBC, let's step into it. Find your people. Find your place. Use your gifts to serve. Because the church isn't a building we attend; it's a movement we choose to be part of. We don't simply go to church; we are the Church. And one of the greatest joys of following Jesus is helping others take their next step with Jesus while you continue taking yours.



*You were
handmade by God
on purpose, for a
purpose, but that
purpose was never
meant to be lived
out in isolation.*

NYKE GATLIN

JOURNAL PROMPTS

1 What unique gifts, personality traits, or life experiences has God given you? In what areas of your life do you struggle with comparison, and how can you shift your focus from wishing you had someone else's design to stewarding your own?

2 Have you ever felt like your contribution to the church or community didn't matter?

How does knowing that the "picture isn't complete without you" change how you view your presence at TBC?

3 What is the "one intentional step toward connection" that God is prompting you to take today? Whether it's joining a Chapel Group, signing up to serve, or simply inviting someone to lunch, what does obedience to that prompt look like this week?



A Journey to Finding My Worth

By Linda James,
Social Media & Photography Manager

L I N D A J A M E S



“You’d be so pretty if you just lost weight,” said the high school senior guy to me, a wide-eyed freshman, longing for approval. And so began my lifelong struggle with wanting to feel accepted. I equated outward appearance with being valuable. I equated my worth with being popular. If only I wasn’t overweight, if only I could afford trendy clothes, if only I could hang out with the cool crowd.

Just a year before that life-changing comment, I landed the coveted female role in the 8th grade musical. Wow! I discovered I could sing...who knew? Starting then, I told myself, “You must get the solo. It feels so good when everyone swarms you after the concert and tells you how wonderful you are.”

Don’t miss that – how wonderful YOU are. It wasn’t about glorifying God with the gift He had given me; my identity was all about ME.

In simple terms, I had a hole in my heart, and I was trying desperately to fill it with approval and performance. But that hole in everyone’s heart isn’t shaped like trendy clothes, a handsome boyfriend, popularity, money, the perfect job...that hole is God-shaped.

Ironically, I knew who God was from the very beginning, yet I still spent years trying to fill that hole with everything else. I grew up an only child in a Christian home. I gave my life to Christ when I was young, but I still wanted to cling to the world and its false ideas of beauty, achievement, and acceptance. I’d go to church camp and be all in for Jesus. I’d read my Bible, pray, journal, and be on a mountaintop high, only to crash back down into worldly reality in a few weeks. I’d feel so dirty and sinful, thinking God would never take me back after THAT mess up. I just wasn’t good enough for Him. But He kept reaching out His hand to me. God never gave up on me.

Even into my college years, I sat on that fence – one foot in the world, one foot in the Kingdom of God. If I could just please everyone, do enough “good things,” and keep up the appearance of having it all together, I would be liked by the people around me, AND I could keep returning to God when I needed Him.

Do you know what happens when you live that way? You really don’t know who you are. You really don’t know WHOSE you are. Where, then, is your TRUE identity?

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Even when I didn’t feel like a masterpiece or know how to walk in those works, the Creator of the universe didn’t abandon His creation. God kept reaching out His hand to me.

A turning point, clearly ordained by God, came in 1996 when my husband, Simon, and I came to The Bible Chapel – amazing, Godly preaching straight from the Word; Small Groups with people who were strong Christians, but also very real and relatable. They pointed me to Jesus in every struggle and every joy. They listened, sat quietly with me, gave wise advice, and rejoiced with me. I started to look down at the fence I was sitting on; I was drawn more and more to God and less toward the world and the flesh. He was patiently reaching out His hand to me. God never gave up on me.

But how could He love a wretch like me? The more I studied His Word – not just to check it off a to-do list, but to be in relationship with Him – the more I learned this truth: my life is NOT about me. This one life we are given is about using the gifts and talents He sculpted into me to further His kingdom. Those hands that kept reaching for me were the very ones that HANDMADE me.

Psalm 139: 13-14 says, “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

Please don’t gloss over that. We all know this Psalm but read it really slowly – maybe aloud. What do you see? GOD HANDMADE YOU! Fearfully, wonderfully, and intentionally. Even as I write this, I am struck by that last line. All His works are WONDERFUL – not just passable, not ugly, and not an accident. God knew exactly who He wanted you to be before you were conceived and He started to form you. Verse 16 says, “in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

If you struggle to remember that God made you for His purposes and His glory, let me share a few additional scriptures that have ministered to me.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

When I feel my thoughts going back to worldly ideas, I pray for the Holy Spirit to capture those thoughts and replace them with God’s truth.

Romans 8:1-2 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

Once you acknowledge that Jesus is your Savior – the ONLY way to have a relationship with God – you are no longer condemned. God sees you through the lens of the cleansing blood of Jesus, who loved you so much He gave his life for you.

1 Samuel 16:7 “The Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

As you read the Bible and pray, your inner being (heart) transforms to become more and more like Jesus. You DESIRE to live your life according to His will. THAT is what God sees!

As we start this fall season, will you commit to pursuing God with all of your HANDMADE heart? I know I’ll be right there with you!

YOU ARE...

cherished
wonderfully
made
precious
worthy

Farm Fields to Simulation Models

By Tim Pawlak
South Hills TBC Congregant

Most of my working life happens in a world that is not very visible. As a software simulation engineer, I spend my days working with models, equations, meshes, material properties, and virtual versions of real things. The work is meaningful and often very practical, but it takes place on a screen. I may be studying how a structure bends, how parts fit together, or how a machine responds under load, yet the object itself may be miles away or may not even exist yet. In that sense, my day job is full of creation, but it is creation at a distance.

That is probably one reason I am grateful to have another part of my life that is much more tangible; I grew up on a farm in the nearby mountains of Fayette County.

Some of my earliest memories are of riding along on the tractor while my dad plowed or mowed. I was about seven years old, riding along on the machines for an hour or more at a time, watching the dirt turn over in long furrows, or the hay fall as it was cut. I remember longing to be the one operating the tractor, the mower, the baler, and the other machines.

Over time, my dad and mom taught me about machinery and working together. As a family, we would work together in the garden, corn field, and hay field. My dad taught me that operating equipment was only part of the work. You had to maintain it, repair it, grease it, listen to it, and understand what it was telling you when something did not sound or feel right.

Farm work has a way of reminding a person that the world is not just something to be analyzed or some book to be read. It is something to be touched. Soil has weight and texture. Wood has grain. Metal has resistance. Animals have habits and needs. Machines have sounds that tell you whether they are running right or not.

On the farm, I learned to drive tractors, rebuild engines, change transmissions, build fences, and work with livestock. I learned by watching, by doing, by making mistakes, and by receiving the instructions of those who had done the work longer than I had.

I learned the meaning of hard, long, exhausting work. I remember days spent stacking hay bales on the wagon, hauling them to the barn, unloading them, and stacking them again for winter feed. Those were long, hot days that made the cool water of the creek feel especially refreshing when the work was finally done. There was satisfaction in that kind of tiredness—the sense that something useful had been completed.

Looking back, I can see how God used those early experiences to grow me. He gave me interests, skills, and opportunities that would shape both my work and my faith.

Hands-on work helps me understand this better than theory alone. When you work with material things, you quickly learn that making and mending are rarely instant. A garden teaches planning, perseverance, and

patience. For things to flourish well, work is needed.

We had a variety of livestock over the years, but mostly, we raised beef cattle. They are simpler to raise than dairy cattle, but even “simpler” livestock require attention. They depend on someone to notice what needs to be done and do it. Raising beef cattle also teaches you about life, provision, and death in very direct ways. Because they are raised for food, you learn the seriousness of processing an animal for the table. It teaches gratitude, respect, and the satisfaction of providing food for family and others.

Pigs brought a different kind of challenge. They are powerful, persistent, and hard to keep penned in. Chickens were easier and, as a child, more fun. Fresh eggs, however, were worth it.

Homegrown food has a different kind of taste. Eggs, pork, beef, green beans, tomatoes, and sweet corn all seem better when you know the labor behind them. The flavor includes the work: planting, feeding, tending, repairing, waiting, and harvesting.

That connection between work and growth has helped me think about spiritual formation. I like efficiency. My engineering mind is trained to define the problem, build the model, run the analysis, and improve the design. But spiritual life is not simply an optimization problem. God is not merely improving a design file. He is forming a person, often through ordinary, hands-on experiences.

On the farm, some of the most important work does not look impressive while it’s happening. Fixing fences, checking water, sharpening a blade, tightening a chain, patching a roof, or walking a pasture may not seem like much from the outside. But these small acts hold things together. There is satisfaction in working with your hands and then seeing the fruit of that labor around a table.

There is also something deeply human about making and repairing. We live in a time when many things are designed to be replaced rather than restored. If something breaks, it is often easier to throw it away than to understand it. But working with your hands teaches a different instinct. It asks, “Can this be fixed? Can this be made useful again? What is still good here?” That question feels close to the heart of the gospel. God is not careless with what is broken. He does not discard people because they bear dents, cracks, or history. In Christ, He restores.

I have seen beauty in things that would not make it into a catalog: a repaired piece of equipment that runs again, a clean barn after a long day, a well-stacked load, a calf standing strong, a field ready for planting, a tool returned to its place, hands washed at the end of work that mattered. These are ordinary beauties, but they are real. They remind me that beauty is not limited to what is polished or public. Sometimes beauty is faithfulness made visible.

In my software work, I am often trying to understand how things behave under pressure. That language applies to people too. Pressure reveals. It exposes weakness, but it can also show strength. My interest in machines and how they work began early on the farm, and in many ways that curiosity helped lead me into engineering. I was not especially looking forward to a desk job, even though that is much of what my day job became. But the same desire to understand,

build, repair, and improve remains. Whether the tool is a wrench, a tractor, a computer, or a simulation model, the work still begins with paying attention.

Of course, clay can resist. I know I can. I can be impatient, proud, distracted, or convinced that I know the final form better than God does. The farm has taught me that resistance is not unusual in living things or stubborn machines. But it has also taught me that patience matters. You do not force every problem the same way. Sometimes you apply steady pressure. Sometimes you wait. Sometimes you step back, get a better tool, ask for help, or try again tomorrow. I am thankful that God’s patience is greater than mine.

To say we are handmade by God is to say that our lives are not accidents and not mass-produced. We are known personally and formed intentionally. Psalm 139 says, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” That is an intimate image. God’s creative work is not distant or mechanical. It is near, purposeful, and personal. He made us with minds to think, hearts to love, bodies to serve, and hands to bless.

So, when we use our hands to create, repair, cultivate, feed, build, or serve, we are doing more than completing chores. We are bearing witness, even quietly, to the God whose hands made us. A table built well, a fence repaired faithfully, a meal prepared with love, a machine restored to use, a garden tended, a child helped, a neighbor served—all of these can become small echoes of the Creator’s care.

I still spend much of my week in engineering simulation, working with things I may not physically touch. I am grateful for that work. But I am also

grateful for the farm, where work has weight, tools have handles, animals



need care, and the land reminds me that creation is not theoretical. God has truly blessed me with many experiences and opportunities. He has led me from my beginnings on the farm to my work as an engineer, and He has blessed me with family and friends with whom I can share all of it. Between those two worlds, I keep learning the same lesson: God is the Maker, and we are made. God is the Potter, and we are the clay.

I hope to keep learning to receive God’s shaping with trust. I want to notice His hands in ordinary work: in the repairs that require humility, in the seasons that cannot be rushed, in the people He gives me to love, and in the responsibilities He places before me. If my hands can be useful in His hands, then even the simplest work can be for His glory. The same God who formed the soil, the animals, the fields, and the stars has also formed us. We are handmade, in His greater plan.



A LETTER

to my friend

Dear friend,

I hope you're doing well. I just want to remind you that you are wonderfully and uniquely made, and I am glad you're here.

Whatever is weighing on your heart and mind today, remember that it's not too big for the Lord. He cares about you, and He is always with you. I hope that you walk with peace and confidence knowing that the Creator of the universe knows you by name, and that you were made on purpose for a purpose.

I'm cheering for you!

It Takes All of Us



MEET DAVID

We can't wait for you to meet David Bedekovich and learn more about how he serves in our Special Needs Cafe Ministry. If you ever see him serving, be sure to stop and say, "Hi!"

pg. 24

MEET DANIELLE

Danielle Hamel, our Chapel Cafe Manager, is not only a pro at making lattes, but her heart for others impacts so many people each week. We can't wait for you to meet her!

pg. 25

MEET HANNAH

You may have seen Hannah Patterson, our Tender Shepherd Preschool Coordinator, around TBC before, and that's because she has a true passion for serving. Chapel Kids, Vacation Bible School, Worship - she exemplifies using your gifts for the Kingdom!

pg. 26

Meet David,

A Volunteer for the Special Needs Cafe Ministry

How long have you been serving on the cafe team?

I basically started when they first opened. So, it's been a year.

What is your favorite part about serving on the team?

My favorite part about just serving on the team is the interaction with friends; it's just peers. And just the interaction with customers, basically, which is related to McDonald's [my job]. So it's similar to the environment, mostly. I love the volunteering part too. I love this stuff - like the registers - and I love making drinks. I love all of it.

What is your favorite item on the menu?

Oh, I actually love the grilled cheese personally. Mine would be, I would say the grilled cheese with proscuitto. I do the hot honey. It is very sweet. It's very good. I would say that's my go-to, and it's the most popular I would say.

Did you have to learn to make the food and drinks?

I kind of did that even when doing the baking stuff [Wonderfully Made], and then the prep, a skill that I was used to, like putting cheese in the pans or making sandwiches.

We heard that you will be running the cafe on Mondays starting this fall! What kind of food will you be serving?

The sandwiches! It's the most popular, and honestly, it's the most easiest menu. It is easier to just keep it simple.

Why is serving on this team important to you?

In general, I like serving, and everybody working together is the only way everything can get accomplished... as soon as the customer places the order, they pay, and the time that it takes to make it and get it to them takes teamwork. It's really all about teamwork.



Meet Danielle,

Our Chapel Cafe Manager

When did you start serving at TBC?

I started volunteering in the café eight years ago. We [my family] first started coming here on Saturday nights, and I started volunteering in the Café to do something different. With four kids at home, it was a nice outlet and change of pace. I volunteered for a few years, and then the Café needed someone to do inventory. I would come in one day a week to do inventory and ordering, and volunteer on the weekends. A little after that, I came in once a week, then twice a week, began working the counter, and everything fell into place. I love our customers - I love being here on Sundays because I like to see everyone and see how they are doing! I felt like the Lord was really leading me here.

What is your favorite thing about running the café?

The people. I really like the customers and helping people feel cared for.

The Chapel Cafe is one of the many amazing ministries we have here at TBC! For those who may not know, how does the café operate as a ministry behind the scenes? What all does it encompass besides weekends?

One way is that we provide lunches for various camps (we feed the counselors). In partnership with our Hospitality Team, we provide food for staff/Elder events, Chapel Group appreciation events, volunteer appreciation events, various ministry events, bereavement lunches, and we're open during the week to the public.

How has serving in the café uniquely impacted your perspective on ministry?

Serving in the café in particular, you see a lot of people on the weekends, and something I am passionate about is helping those who don't feel seen. Because when you come in here, and I see you're alone, maybe you don't have family with you - that connection I feel is super important. The café is very much an outreach! I want everyone to feel that they belong and that they're welcome here. But if you're coming

into this big building alone, it can be super hard and intimidating. So if I see you around often and then I don't see you for a while, I will try to find you to make sure you are okay! One way we love to make people feel cared for in the café is by knowing their order if they're a regular; we pay attention! All the volunteers know the customers and what they like, don't like, and so on. If you want to help people be seen, loved, and cared for, serving in the café is a great place

For someone considering volunteering, how did serving help you find your own place here at TBC?

I felt like by serving in the café, I was utilizing the gifts God has given me. I have always loved hospitality, being social, getting to know people, and serving others. Signing up to serve at the beginning (back then, I was just serving on the third Sunday of the month) really helped me find a small group of people to be friends with. One of the things I always say when people come to TBC and feel that it's so big here is that you have to find and plug yourself in somewhere, wherever your gift is.

Are there any fun things happening in the cafe that the congregation can look forward to this fall and winter?

Starting in the fall, we will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 AM - 1 PM, normal hours on the weekends, and then Wonderfully Made [our Special Needs baking ministry] will be running the cafe on Mondays! We always have a salad, sandwich, and something hot - not just smoothies and coffee!

Want to Join the Team?

The Chapel Café is always looking for friendly faces to help out!

If you are interested in serving, you can scan below to get plugged in!



Meet Hannah,

Tender Shepherd Preschool Coordinator

What brought you and your family to The Bible Chapel?

We moved to the Pittsburgh area from Chicago a little over three years ago. Both my husband, Tyler, and I grew up here, and we always talked about moving back home once we had three kids. We already knew about The Bible Chapel and Pastor Dave [DiDonato], so we knew we wanted to try it out. We also had friends who attended, so we got hooked pretty quickly. Within about a month, we decided this was going to be our church home.

At that point, our kids were three years old and six-month-old twins, and honestly, I felt really lost in motherhood. I had been serving in the church my whole life, and I've always been passionate about ministry, worship, and the gifts God has given me. However, you can really lose a lot of yourself in motherhood - in the best of ways! - but you also need to reclaim those parts of yourself. Once we realized The Bible Chapel was our home, Tyler and I talked about what it would look like for me to carve out time to serve. He has his own callings and serves as well, but he told me, "We need to find this time for you because it's important."

About six months after arriving, I reached out about serving on the worship team, and within a year of joining the church, I was on stage singing. I've now been on the worship team for two and a half years.

That's wonderful! Do you serve in other areas as well, or primarily with the Worship Team?

The Worship Team is where I primarily serve, but within that ministry, other opportunities have opened up. Shortly after I joined, Suzie [Ackerman] talked to me about leading worship for the Monday night Women's Gatherings, and I loved stepping into that space! I realized that serving isn't just about what you get out of it, but the connections you make are such a gift. At those Monday night gatherings, you're face-to-face with women of all ages and generations who serve in entirely different areas. My soul needed that connection with wise women who are so full of joy. If I hadn't carved out that time, which can be hard as a mom, I would have missed out on being with them. It truly filled my cup.

Then last year, Miranda [Malanos], who leads worship in Chapel Kids, asked if I'd be interested in joining the lead team for VBS worship. I jumped at the chance because VBS held a special place in my heart growing up. And then there's Tender Shepherd Preschool - my kids have been in their



preschool program for a couple of years, and it's been amazing for our family. They have a great team running the ship, so they don't need volunteers often, but whenever they did, I was all about it. I loved that ministry so much that I'm actually on staff with them!

What was it that truly sparked your desire to step out and serve?

I knew God had given me certain gifts, especially creatively and in singing, and I wanted to use them outside of motherhood as well. I still use those gifts inside my home, and I know my children benefit from that - my family is my primary ministry, and I wouldn't change that for anything. Still, I knew others could benefit from those gifts, too. Deep down, my heart was longing for connection, community, and those intimate moments with God that can sometimes feel hard to find in a busy season of life. I knew that in serving, I would find community and a quiet space to simply sit in His presence.

We often serve to bless others, but we usually end up being blessed ourselves. How has God shifted your heart, your perspective, or your relationships through serving? Have you experienced a spiritual shift in your walk with Him?

A hundred percent. As a mom of young children, I was craving His presence in a way that was often difficult to find. Intentionally carving out space to glorify Him and sit with Him was exactly what my heart needed. As I spent more time in His presence, my prayers shifted. I started asking, "God, would You please ignite a fire in my heart for reading Your Word that I haven't had in years?" My spiritual walk was missing that; I didn't feel distant from God, but I felt stagnant. We all go through those seasons, but as I stepped into serving and kept praying that prayer, God answered it. This past year, I've genuinely wanted to be in His Word every day. I'm excited about the new things He wants to reveal to me. I was blessed to grow up in a wonderful Christian home, so I've known these Bible stories since I was young. But sitting down to read them now, seeing the overarching big picture of Scripture, and making fresh connections has been a great blessing. The more you dive in, the more you crave Him.

Serving on the worship team - or any ministry team, really - also challenged me to make sure my service was a genuine reflection of my heart. I asked myself, "Is my worship authentic? Is my service authentic?" To ensure it was, I made a point to spend intentional time with God at home with my husband and children before stepping onto the stage. When you prioritize that, God reveals what He wants from you, and you truly begin to see the fruit of it. He has ignited a real fire in my soul.

If you were sitting across from someone who wants to serve but feels unqualified, overwhelmed, or nervous about taking that leap, how would you encourage them?

Just do it! It sounds simple, but honestly, just take the step. God will bless it, come alongside you, and give you the strength you need. He will be your peace, your calm, and your strength in the midst of any hesitation. Where you feel inadequate, He will make you strong. It might sound cliché, but it is so true. Even though I already knew what my gifts were, I still hesitated. My kids were so little, and I kept thinking, "Can I really commit to this? What if it's too much?" But the moment I said, "Okay, I'm going to do this," God started opening the doors to make it possible. Plus, every person you meet in ministry is there to help you. They will walk alongside you until you feel confident.

It's also been such a blessing for our children. They see us and say, "Daddy serves at church this weekend, and Mommy serves this weekend. When I get bigger, I want to do that, too!" Our daughter even asked, "Mommy, can I lead worship with the kids?" Modeling that servant heart for your children creates fruit not just for the church, but for your home.

Before we had kids, Tyler and I served together a lot. Now, we've had to find a new dynamic. Even though we serve in different areas, knowing we are on the same team has been amazing for our marriage. We get to support each other and watch how God uses our family for His kingdom.

Is there anything else you would love for our congregation to know about serving?

Serving leads to growth - growth in community, growth in the Spirit, and growth in your relationship with God. When you serve, you aren't just giving; you are receiving. You offer your talents to bless the church, but you are equally blessed by the connections and community you gain in return. It creates a wonderful domino effect: the more you serve, the more you want to spend time with Him. You meet people, hear their stories, and begin to truly understand the unity of the body of Christ - that we are so much more alike than we are different. Experiencing that firsthand through serving is an absolute gift. I'm deeply passionate about it - everyone should serve!

If you are interested in serving, you can scan below to get plugged in!



CHAPEL SPORTS

Women's Fitness
Mondays, Thursdays, + Saturdays

Children's Open Gym
Begins October 26

Open Gym Volleyball
Begins September 14

CHAPEL MEN

Large Group Gatherings
First + Third Thursdays

Men's Thanksgiving Breakfast
November 21



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

CARE

Cancer Care | First + Third Thursdays
Beginning September 3

DivorceCare | Mondays
Beginning September 14

Dementia Care Support Group
First Monday + Thursday of Each Month
Beginning September 3

GriefShare | Thursday
Beginning September 3

Women's Recovery | Mondays
Beginning September 14

Men's Recovery | Tuesdays
Beginning September 1

CHAPEL WOMEN

Moms Together
Begins September 14

Moms in Prayer
September 24, October 29,
+ November 19

CHAPEL SAGES

Fall Kick-Off | September 16

OUTREACH

Informational Meeting
October 11

Operation Christmas Child Begins
October 17

Outreach Weekend
October 24/25

TENDER SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

First Week of School
Begins September 9

RESOURCES

Discover TBC
October 4, + November 1

Ready. Set. Go. Conference
September 19



CHAPEL STUDENTS

56 Fall Kick-Off
September 6

Chapel Student Fall Kick-Off
September 13

56 Bootcamp Retreat
October 2-4

Chapel Students Kingdom Night
October 18

56 Fall Festival
October 25

CHAPEL KIDS

Family Movie Night Friday
November 13

YOUNG ADULTS

Fall Kick-Off
September 14

Weekly Gatherings
Mondays beginning September 21

SPECIAL NEEDS

Respite
October 2, October 16,
November 6, + November 20

back to school

1.

Prayers for the
Upcoming Season | pg. 32

By Naomi Paul



2.

Memory Verse for
the Family | pg. 36

By The Creative Arts Team

3.

Family
Devotionals | pg. 38

By Julie Lawrence



4.

Journal
Prompts | pg. 41

Prayers for the upcoming season

by Naomi Paul,
Director of Tender Shepherd Preschool

ACRONYM FOR PRAYER

P. A. R. T. A. Y

PA

Praise and Adoration:

Psalms 145:1-3, 8-9,
1 Samuel 2:1-10,
Psalm 103:1-5

Repentance:

1 John 1:9,
Proverbs 28:13,
James 5:16

R

T

Thanksgiving:

Psalms 9:1, 100:4-5,
145:10-12, 105:1

Y

Ask:

Philippians 4:6,
Romans 8:26,
Hebrews 4:16

Yield:

Ephesians 3:10-21,
Hebrews 13:20-21,
Romans 15:13

An Essential Gift and Privilege for Every Classroom and Home

As a new school year unfolds and we prepare for a busy rhythm of learning and growing, we should remember that education is more than lessons, assignments, and report cards - it is the shaping of hearts, minds, character, and faith. We have a wonderful gift from God Himself for teachers, parents, and students to help accomplish this goal - it is prayer! Prayer is an essential gift and a privilege from God for every classroom and home. Through prayer, we can handle our unique responsibilities and benefit from the strength, wisdom, and peace that come from seeking God daily through prayer and studying His word. A beautiful pause throughout the day for prayer benefits everyone.

The renowned theologian R.C. Sproul once said that "prayer is to the Christian what breath is to life...". It is the only way to truly communicate with the living God. Sproul taught that prayer is far more than presenting a list of requests to God, but rather a means to align us to focus on God's holiness, sovereignty, and our relationship with Him.

However, for many of us, it is the first thing that gets crowded out by a busy schedule and the last thing we return to when life settles down. Here are some key elements of prayer:

Prayer is not simply talking at God but communing with God. Prayer nurtures our relationship with the Father and aligns our hearts with His will. As we posture ourselves before the Lord in prayer, the Holy Spirit helps us bring our hearts into the proper frame of mind to desire obedience.

God's sovereignty is not a reason to avoid prayer. People sometimes ask, "If God already knows everything and is in control, why pray?" Just as an earthly father already knows what his child wants, he still wants his child to ask him so they can communicate. If God already knows what we want and need before we ask Him (Matthew 6:8), then prayer clearly is not giving Him information that He did not know. Instead, most Christian theologians teach that prayer changes and softens the heart of the one praying. It is the process through which we align our hearts with God's will, grow in dependence on Him, and deepen our relationship with Him, much like a conversation with someone you love is not simply about exchanging facts, but about building a relationship.

A PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON PRAYER

When teachers, parents, and students pray for one another, a powerful partnership is formed. Classrooms become places of encouragement. Homes become centers of faith and support. Children grow up knowing they are surrounded by people who care deeply for their well-being. May we lift up prayers for our teachers, parents, and students, and trust Him to provide wisdom, strength, protection, guidance, and grace for the school year ahead.

Below are some model prayers for our school community, teachers, and students; join us in praying for the next school year.

A PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

Heavenly Father, we bring before You our students - their minds, hearts, and the days ahead. You know every class they will walk into, every assignment that will challenge them, and every friendship, every person they will meet along the way. You see the year ahead of them even now, and I trust them into Your hands.

Lord, please grant students courage to walk through new doors, curiosity to ask questions, and the comfort of knowing they are safe even when Mom or Dad is not in the room. Let them find friendship, wonder, and the simple joy of learning something new. I ask that You go before them, just as You went before Joshua, so they need not be afraid - for You are with them wherever they go (Joshua 1:9).

May You help students develop confidence, character, and a sense of purpose. May they remember that they are never alone and that You care about every detail of their lives. Help these students grow in knowledge, character, and faith. May the children grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52).

When schoolwork feels overwhelming, remind them that they can ask You for wisdom, and You give it generously, without finding fault (James 1:5). Help them trust You rather than relying solely on their own understanding. Let them acknowledge You in everything they do, trusting that You will make their path clear (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Surround them with good friends and caring teachers. Where there is struggle — academic, social, or emotional- meet them there, Lord, and give them strength for each day.

When they feel anxious about tests, friendships, or fitting in, remind them to bring those worries to You rather than carry them alone. Replace their anxiety with peace and remind them that You have not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Equip them with the courage to be kind to classmates who are overlooked, the strength to make good choices even when it is hard, and the boldness to let their lives

reflect You. Let their light shine before others, so they see good in them that points back to You (Matthew 5:16).

On the days they feel unsure of themselves, remind them that they are fearfully and wonderfully made, and that You knew them before they ever walked into a classroom (Psalm 139:14).

Protect their heart from comparison, insecurity, and the pressure to prove themselves. Remind them that their worth was settled long before this school year began — they are Your workmanship, created for good things You have already prepared for them (Ephesians 2:10).

Give them strength for early mornings and long days. When they grow tired, let them not lose heart, but find their strength renewed in You, running without growing weary (Isaiah 40:31).

Thank You, God, for a new year of growth ahead. Be with us every step of the way.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Heavenly Father, Thank You for the gift of learning and for every teacher, parent, and student in our community. Grant our teachers wisdom and patience as they guide young minds. Give parents strength, discernment, and peace as they nurture their children. Lord, please bind children, teachers, and parents together, home and classroom, in trust and partnership, so that this year every child grows, every teacher is sustained, and every parent finds peace. Lord, protect our schools, fill our classrooms with kindness, and help us encourage one another in love. May everything they do bring honor and glory to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR PARENTS

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” — Proverbs 3:5

Heavenly Father, we bring parents before You as this new school year begins with their child/ children entering a new classroom, with new teachers, new routines, and all the uncertainty that comes with it.

Give them a spirit of wisdom, that they may grow not only in knowledge but in understanding. Let them trust You with their whole heart, and lean not on their own understanding. Rather, that they know You in all their ways, so You can direct their paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Protect parents from undue fear and anxiety. Fill them instead with Your peace and remind them that You willingly bear their burdens daily (Psalm 68:19).

May parents have the courage to be kind when it is hard, patient when they are tested, and confidently rooted not in their performance, but in knowing they are Yours. Let them shine as a light, letting their good works point back to You (Matthew 5:16).

Renew their strength for the early mornings, the packed lunches, the homework battles, and the emotional weight of watching their children grow up a little more each year. When they grow weary, let them not lose heart, for the harvest of good parenting is worth the effort in due season (Galatians 6:9).

Remind them they are not alone in this task. You are the One who would walk beside them and lead them as their Good Shepherd (Psalm 23:1). Their job is to plant and water in faith; you are the One who gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

Grant parents grace for their own mistakes and patience with themselves on the hard days. Let them lead their homes not by fear, but by love, and let that love be a covering over their children this year (1 Peter 4:8).

Lord, for the parents of preschoolers, grant them peace as they release small hands they have held so close. Ease their worry, steady their hearts through tears at drop-off, and remind them daily that trust is itself an act of love. Give them assurance for the transition and confidence that their children are safe, loved, and cherished in preschool.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR TEACHERS



Dear Lord, we pray for every teacher. You call them to a work that matters deeply where they have the privilege and challenge of influencing lives every day. They encourage, instruct, guide, and care for students from many different backgrounds and experiences. Their work often extends far beyond the classroom. We ask that You bless them and strengthen them as they shape minds, shepherd hearts, and give of themselves day after day. We pray for our teachers, that God would provide wisdom in decision-making, patience in difficult moments, creativity in teaching, and strength and energy when demands feel overwhelming.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all.” — James 1:5

Help teachers to see the unique gifts in every child and encourage them to feel safe, valued, and confident. May their words build them up, their actions reflect compassion, and their classrooms be places of joy, laughter, discovery, and peace.

Bless the families they serve and help them to work together to nurture each child’s mind, heart, and spirit.

Renew their strength on the hard days. When they grow weary in a task, let them rise up with wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).

Fill them with patience and gentleness for every child in their care — the eager ones, the struggling ones, the ones who test their limits and the ones who go unnoticed. Let love be the root of everything they do, a love that is patient and kind, which keeps no record of wrongs and never gives up (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Remind them that their work is not unseen by You. Whatever they do, let them work with all their heart, as working for You and not for people alone, knowing they will receive their reward from You (Colossians 3:23-24).

Encourage them when they doubt their impact. Let them trust that You are able to do immeasurably more than they can ask or imagine, through the effort they have poured out in ordinary, faithful days (Ephesians 3:20).

For those teachers in our community who do not know you, may this year be the year they get to know you. For those teachers who already know you, may their light shine brightly so that others would be drawn to You through them. May their own walk with you be strengthened during this school year.

Thank You, Lord, for every teacher who shows up, who cares, who keeps going. Bless them richly this year. May everything they do bring hope, joy, and honor to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

memory verse for the family



by The Creative Arts Team

A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

As the new school year begins, we wanted to share one of our team's favorite verses for your family to memorize together - along with a few reasons why it means so much to us!

JOSHUA 1:9

*Written long ago, but
foreshadowing what is to come*
LAURIE DONOVAN

Honoring a command takes work
JOSHUA SMELSER

HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU?

This is a directive + a surrender
LINDA JAMES

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.

*The Lord holds our thoughts, and
He knows what we feel.*
SUE BERRINGER

DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE

*Confidence to tackle the unknown. This is a promise
from God.*
PAIGE MONTGOMERY LAURIE DONOVAN

DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD

I feel peace + comfort knowing God is with me.
ELISE AHLBRAND

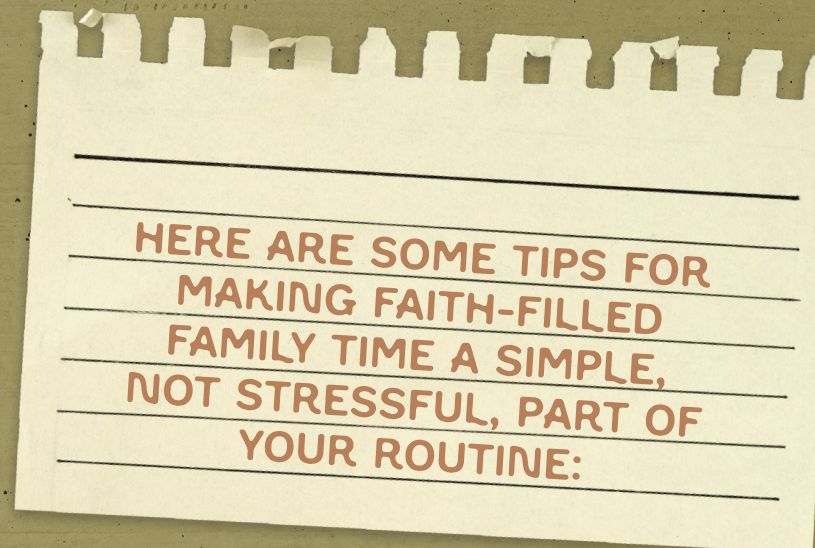
YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU

Relationship with God.
JOSHUA SMELSER

WHEREVER YOU GO.

*We don't meet Him somewhere,
He is with us. We are not alone.*
ALEXIS STRICKER

By Julie Lawrence,
Chapel Kids Associate Director,
Elementary K-4, South Hills



family devotionals

1.

Do it at the same time of day.

For our family, bedtime is our time to slow down and connect. For your family, it may be first thing in the morning or maybe around the dinner table. No matter the time of day, making it at the same time establishes a routine that your family looks forward to each day, and you are less likely to skip it!

2.

Don't put pressure on it being EVERY day.

This is especially true if your family is implementing devotional time for the first time! Start with a goal of three times per week, then add more days as it starts to flow well.

3.

Don't expect this time to be perfect.

We all dream of our children listening intently to us, in awe, as we teach them about God, but that simply isn't the case some of the time... okay, most of the time. Let your kids ask questions! The important thing is that you are together, planting seeds, creating a routine of learning about and praising God!

4.

Pick engaging reads.

Pick engaging, biblically sound texts that fit your kids' ages and stages.



After a long, schedule-free summer, it is refreshing to settle back into a routine with your family. With school, fall sports, work, and other commitments, our schedules can fill up quickly! It's easy to let weeks pass without intentionally focusing your family on God. Before the busyness of fall sweeps you away, this is the perfect time to make a plan to set aside meaningful time together to grow in God's Word.



Here are a few recommendations that we have loved:



1.

Roar Like a Lion
BY LEVI LUSKO
AND TAMA FORTNER

90 daily devotions

2.

The Biggest Story Bible Storybook
BY KEVIN DEYOUNG

This walks kids through the whole Bible in storybook form. Each story is a few pages long and ends with a prayer.

3.

Indescribable
BY LOUIE GIGLIO

(along with the companion titles: How Great Is Our God and The Wonder of Creation)
100 daily devotions

this school year...

Take a moment to answer the journal prompts below as you think and pray about the new school year.

This school year, I want to pray for...	
This school year, I want to have the courage to...	
This school year, I want to celebrate...	
This school year, I want to learn...	



*The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

*Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”*



NEXT GEN

WONDERFULLY MADE... **Together!**

By Becky Breneman
pg. 46



48

HOURS TO CHANGE LIVES

By Sarah Cook
pg. 48



By Becky Breneman,
Chapel Kids Director, South Hills

Wonderfully Made... Together!

Have you ever noticed that no two people in your family are exactly alike?

When I look at my own children, I see how one loves bugs while another loves crafting. One sibling could eat Ramen noodles every day, while another would choose chicken nuggets! One of my kids is loud and silly, while another is quiet and thoughtful.

Isn't that amazing?

Even though your family shares the same home, church, vacations, and so many memories, God made each of you

wonderfully unique. There is no one else in the whole world exactly like YOU! God gave you your own personality, talents, interests, and gifts, and He did that on purpose. But here's something even more incredible...

God didn't just create you. He carefully placed you in your family! Every person in your family is unique, and when you love, encourage, and help one another, you fit together like pieces of a puzzle.

Each puzzle piece looks different, but every piece is important. When all the pieces come together, they create one beautiful picture. That's how God designed families! We each have different strengths, gifts, and ideas, and together, we can love Jesus, serve others, and show the world what God's love looks like.

Now that's a "Wow, God!" moment!

EPHESIANS 2:10



FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11



THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP.

Family Activity: Create Your Family Puzzle!

YOU'LL NEED:

1. A blank craft puzzle or cardstock/poster board
2. Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
3. Scissors (if making your own puzzle)

HERE'S HOW:

1. Draw and cut out a puzzle with one piece for each family member (or use a blank puzzle).
2. Give everyone their own puzzle piece.
3. Decorate your piece with things that make you you! Draw your favorite foods, hobbies, colors, animals, sports, Bible verses, or anything that shows your unique personality. Don't forget to write your name on it!
4. Put all the pieces together to create your family's one-of-a-kind puzzle.
5. Display it somewhere special—a picture frame, canvas, bulletin board, or even the refrigerator!

Every time you see your family puzzle, remember to thank God for creating each person uniquely, placing you together as a family, and giving you the opportunity to love, encourage, worship, and serve Him together.

48

HOURS TO CHANGE LIVES

By Sarah Cook,
Associate Director of Chapel Students, South Hills

Each year, our Chapel Student Ministry hosts an annual winter retreat, The Break. Students load onto buses and head to Oglebay Resort for a weekend set apart from the distractions of everyday life. From check-in to pick-up, we have just 48 hours with our students, but we believe God can do incredible things in that short amount of time.

The practice of retreating is deeply important because it reminds us that we are not meant to be shaped

by this world but are instead called to live as ambassadors of Jesus. The Break gives students the opportunity to step away from their normal routines, slow down, examine their hearts, and be refreshed in Christ. For students who attend and may not yet know Jesus as their Savior, this weekend provides an opportunity to learn more about who He is while being surrounded by a loving, Christian community without the distractions of everyday life.

This past year, students participated in four large-group sessions and two breakout sessions centered on the theme *Ultimate Reality*. Throughout the weekend, we explored the contrast between God's promises and the lies of the world, challenging students to identify and tear down the idols that compete for their hearts. The goal was to begin a wave of transformation by helping students anchor their identity firmly in Christ.

At the end of the retreat, students are challenged to respond to what God has been teaching them and to consider how they will carry those lessons into their everyday lives. We have seen many students leave The Break with a refreshed spirit, a new perspective, and a deeper commitment to Christ. We have even had students begin a relationship with their Heavenly Father for the very first time. Praise God!

I care deeply about this 48-hour weekend because I have experienced The Break from many different perspectives. I was a student when these retreats first began. Later, I had the privilege of serving as

a Small Group leader, where I walked along students in meaningful, life-changing conversations. Now, I have the privilege of helping plan and steward this weekend, with the desire that every aspect points students to Christ and brings Him glory. None of this would be possible without our faithful leaders, families, and volunteers who continually invest in the next generation. Their willingness to serve, encourage, and disciple students is vital to creating an environment where students can encounter Jesus.

As we prepare for The Break this coming January, we invite our church family to partner with us in prayer. Pray that the Lord would prepare and soften students' hearts, provide safety throughout the weekend, that the weather would not be an issue, to strengthen and encourage our leaders, and transform lives through the power of the gospel. We are expectant that God will continue to work in and through these 48 hours.

If you're interested in signing your student up for The Break 2027, you can scan here for more info!



PSALM
139:14

I praise you because I am
fearfully and wonderfully
made; your works are
wonderful, I know that
full well.





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 **GO • SEND • PRAY!**

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.

Share the gift of Jesus with kids all over the world by packing a shoebox with Operation Christmas Child (OCC)!

Shoeboxes will be available in the Main Lobby before and after services beginning **OCTOBER 17/18!**

Be sure to save the date!



Here are our upcoming mission trips!

Women’s Panama
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 6

Panama Camp
JANUARY 10-16

Dominican Republic
JANUARY 16-24

Hungary
MARCH 14-21

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



Interested in learning more about our upcoming mission trips?

JOIN US FOR OUR

Global Outreach Mission Trip Info Meeting
OCTOBER 11 | 12:15 PM | RM 141



MEET THE *Blumenstocks*



We are excited to welcome the Blumenstocks to our South Hills Campus for Outreach Weekend on October 24 and 25! Before they arrive, here is a quick look at who they are and the incredible work they do.

Jim and Karen Blumenstock are from Cedarville, OH, and were married in 1996. They have an adopted Taiwanese daughter, Ella, who was born in 2004. Soon after graduating from seminary, Jim began serving as a pastor of youth and missions at his church. It was at this time that he spoke with the Vice President of Cornerstone University and became interested in Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (ABTS). ABTS was founded by a missionary to Thailand in 1983 after local Christian leaders there requested Bible training. ABTS offers accredited, graduate-level education

through Cornerstone University for church leaders throughout Asia. Students at ABTS take two weeks of intensive classes at the seminary, then go home to complete their homework over the next three months. This makes theological degrees accessible to Asian church leaders without having to move overseas.

In July of 2001, Jim and Karen were accepted by their sending agency, ABWE, to work with ABTS to provide graduate-level education for church leaders throughout Asia. In March of 2011, Jim was installed as the new Dean of ABTS.

Jim continues to teach while also overseeing all operational and administrative functions at the school. In addition to the classes held at the seminary, Jim travels to Myanmar, Cambodia, Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and India teaching a variety of courses in two-week modules. The students include local pastors, Bible teachers, missionaries and lay leaders. Karen ministers in various ways, including as a fitness instructor. Ella has been attending college in the US since the fall of 2022. The Bible Chapel has partnered with the Blumenstocks since 2014.

Next Steps

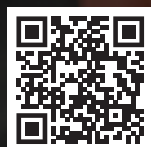
Discover TBC

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!

OCTOBER 4

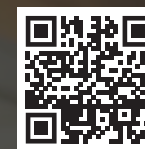
NOVEMBER 1

DECEMBER 6



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.



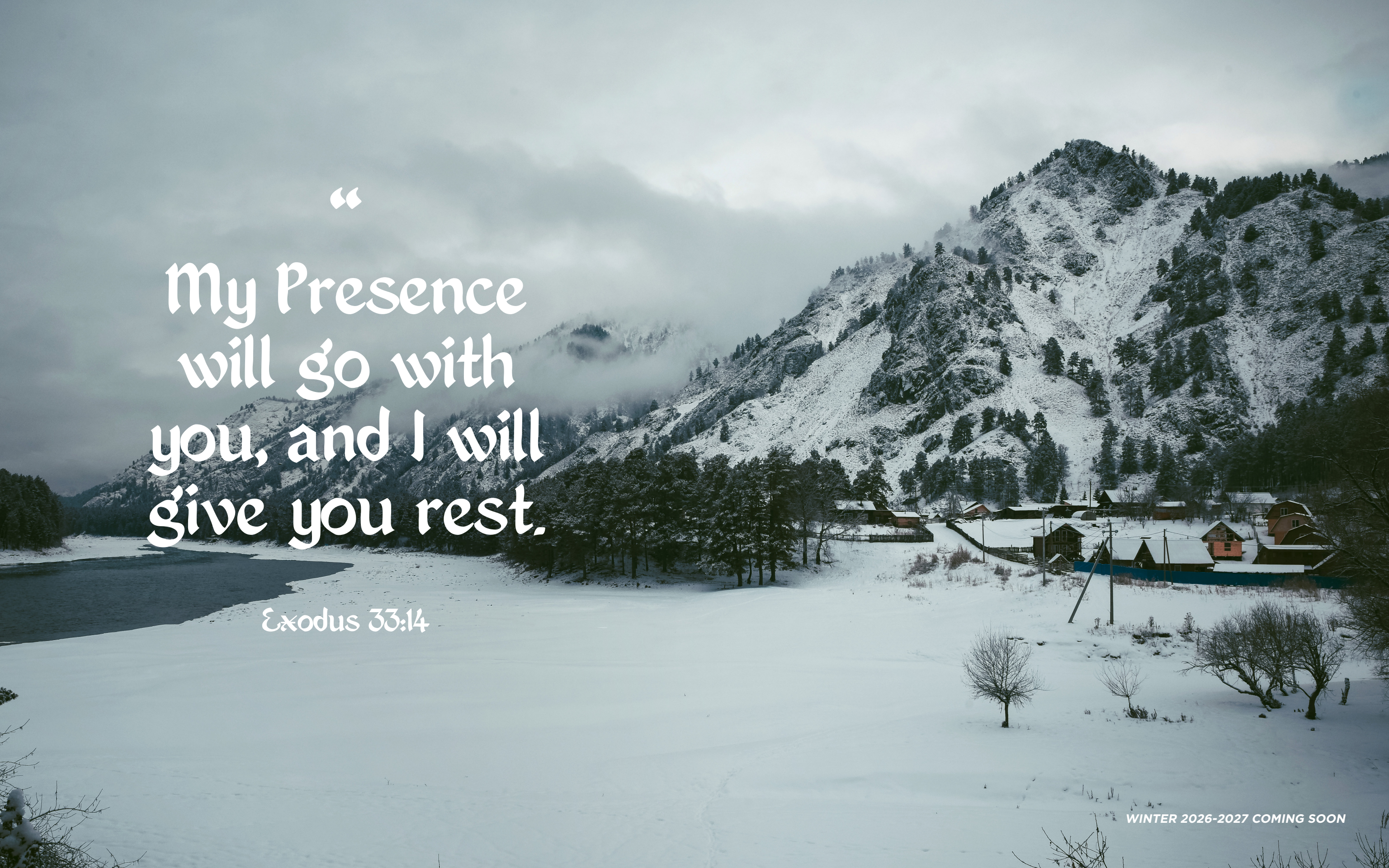
QUESTIONS?

We would love to hear from you!



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



A serene winter landscape featuring a snow-covered mountain peak in the background, partially shrouded in mist. In the middle ground, a small village with wooden houses and snow-laden roofs is nestled at the base of the mountain. The foreground is a vast, flat expanse of snow, with a few bare trees and a small, dark, frozen body of water on the left. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

“
My Presence
will go with
you, and I will
give you rest.

Exodus 33:14



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