



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16 KJV). This is the gospel. This is the message of Christmas. **This season, as all seasons, focuses upon Jesus Christ and His mission for us.** It is not about gifts. It is not about family gatherings. It is not about decorations. It is not about holiday music. It is not about time off from work/school. It is not about extra hunting opportunities. It is not about Saint Nick. It is all about Jesus, the God-Man, who came to save His people from their sins! Christmas exists because Christ exists! And the good news of His birth and work should prompt us to exalt Him accordingly! Kinda like we did this past Sunday! What a day it was as our worship ministry invited us to come and see the King! Thank you to our choir, orchestra, handbell choir, and technical support personnel for your faithfulness in leading us. (I’m looking for some of you back in the choir loft when January rolls around!)

Of course, the Christmas season is not complete, and I hope you will take time to join us this coming Sunday as we again worship Jesus, the Christ. I will begin a **two-part series from Isaiah 9:1-7** entitled, “**For a Child Is Born,**” and we will celebrate baptism at 10:30 a.m. Moreover, make plans to be at one of my favorite worship services of the year – our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24!** We will then finish the year out in **one Combined Worship Service on Sunday, December 28, at 9 a.m.** Can you believe that? 2025 will be behind us, and 2026 will be a reality! And oh

yeah, our 100 Year Anniversary celebration will begin! As a part of that recognition, we will read daily devotions that were written by current and former members of Temple. **You can pick up the Centennial Devotional Book this upcoming Sunday as you prepare for this significant moment of reflection. A free Centennial Devotion Book is available to each member’s household, and extra copies can be purchased for \$8 in the Church Office after December 21.** The devotional committee, led by Dr. Judith Roberts, did a great job putting the project together. Make sure you pick up your copy before the first of the year!

Finally, I want to say how much my family and I appreciate you, the Temple family. You give, you serve, you minister in Jesus’ name. Every day, I see the grace on your faces and the works in your lives. You constantly live out the Great Commission and give to see the gospel circumnavigate the globe. (To date, you have given approximately \$140,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering alone—getting so close to our \$177,000 goal!). **Let’s finish the year strong by returning the blessings God has given to us through our budget contributions, our Lottie Moon offering, and our Next Chapter investments.** Let’s testify of His goodness, and let’s live out our faith as we abide in Him daily.

Leslie, my kids, and I are so grateful we get to do life and ministry with you. Thanks always for letting us be a part of what our Lord is doing in and through Temple Baptist Church. You are loved dearly! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MINISTER OF YOUNG ADULTS

Andrew Thompson

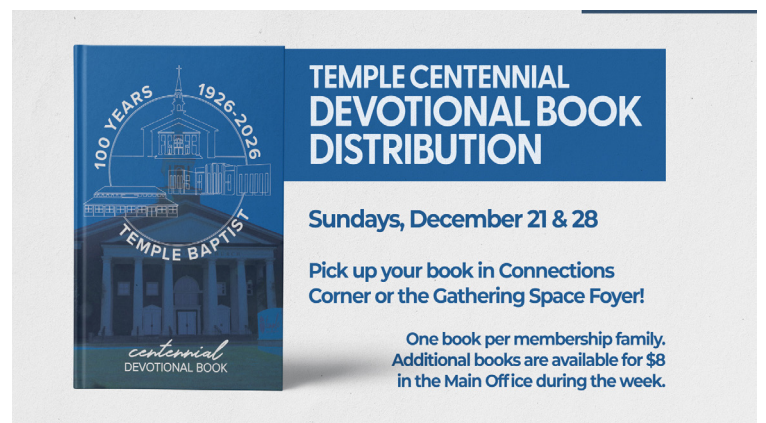
Merry Christmas, Temple Family!

I hope you're enjoying this Christmas season. Christmas at Temple is always such a special time. Ever since I was a child, I've been coming to our Christmas Eve service with my family, and it continues to be one of my favorite traditions. I'm was especially excited for our Christmas Worship Experience this year: **Noel: Come See What God Has Done**. Our worship team, media volunteers, choir, and orchestra worked faithfully to prepare what I felt was a truly meaningful time of worship.

I also want to share an update on one of our new Young Adult ministries. Since September, we've been hosting a Young Adult worship service on Sunday evenings in the Chapel. Many young adults from our community have come to Temple for the very first time through this service. This is a group longing for community and looking for people who are walking through the same season of life.

Would you commit to praying for the young adults in Ruston? Pray that our ministry will continue to be fruitful, welcoming, and effective in reaching them with the hope of the gospel.

Blessings



A portrait of a woman with dark, shoulder-length hair, smiling slightly. She is wearing a leopard print top. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

 Our
Heartfelt
Sympathy
to:



LOTTE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®


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TOGETHER

DONATIONS COLLECTED:
\$139,213.12

CHURCH GOAL:
\$177,000

LEARN MORE AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)



Year-End Contributions

In accordance with IRS regulations,
contributions for 2025 must physically
be in the church's possession
OR postmarked by December 31.

Church Offices will be open
Wednesday, December 31.

I hope the program was a blessing to you and your family. Let's continue to pray for those who attended, especially anyone who may have come to church for the first time. May God do a mighty work in their hearts and use this Christmas season to draw them closer to Him.



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Week-at-a-Glance

December 7-31 - Life Tree Project

Sunday, December 21

9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life;
 Contemporary Worship (GS); Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship | Baptisms (Sanctuary); livestream
 at live.temple.life; Sunday School for all ages
 4 p.m. - Church-wide Caroling (FH); The Springs Caroling (Alpine
 Nursing and Rehab)

Wednesday, December 24

Church Offices Closed - Christmas Holidays
 4 p.m. - Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26

Church Offices Closed - Christmas Holidays

Sunday, December 28

9 a.m. - Combined Worship (Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 1

Church Offices Closed - New Years Holiday



Broadcast Hours: Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (live.temple.life)
Family Life Center Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
The Journey Place Playscape Hours: Monday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 2:30-4 p.m.