



NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible FellowshipEIC: Wendy Powers

The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually

Thankful

The Bible is filled with commands to give thanks to God (Psalm 106:1; 107:1; 118:1; 1 Chronicles 16:34; 1 Thessalonians 5:18). Most verses go on to list reasons why we should thank Him, such as “His love endures forever” (Psalm 136:3), “He is good” (Psalm 118:29), and “His mercy is everlasting” (Psalm 100:5). Thanksgiving and praise always go together. We cannot adequately praise and worship God without also being thankful.

Feeling and expressing appreciation is good for us. Like any wise father, God wants us to learn to be thankful for all the gifts He has given us (James 1:17). It is in our best interest to be reminded that everything we have is a gift from Him. Without gratitude, we become arrogant and self-centered. We begin to believe that we have achieved everything on our own. Thankfulness keeps our hearts in right relationship to the Giver of all good gifts.

Giving thanks also reminds us of how much we do have. Human beings are prone to covetousness. We tend to focus on what we don’t have. By giving thanks continually we are reminded of how much we do have. When we focus on blessings rather than wants, we are happier. When we start thanking God for the things we usually take for granted, our perspective changes. We realize that we could not even exist without the merciful blessings of God.

First Thessalonians 5:18 says, “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” We are to be thankful not only for the things we like, but for the circumstances we don’t like. When we purpose to thank God for everything that He allows to come into our lives, we keep bitterness at bay. We cannot be both thankful and bitter at the same time. We do not thank Him for evil, but that He is sustaining us through it (James 1:12). We don’t thank Him for harm He did not cause, but we thank Him when He gives us the strength to endure it (2 Corinthians 12:9). We thank Him for His promise that “all things will work together for the good, to those who love God and are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

We can have thankful hearts toward God even when we do not feel thankful for the circumstance. We can grieve and still be thankful. We can hurt and still be thankful. We can be angry at sin and still be thankful toward God. That is what the Bible calls a “sacrifice of praise” (Hebrews 13:15). Giving thanks to God keeps our hearts in right relationship with Him and saves us from a host of harmful emotions and attitudes that will rob us of the peace God wants us to experience (Philippians 4:6-7).

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM MEETING AT TANGLEWOOD

Adult Services AND Children’s (0-12 years) Programs – No Youth (teens) Program at this time.

Wednesday P.M. Service: 7:00-8:00 PM MEETING AT TANGLEWOOD

A Word from Pastor David Shields

Church Family,

We are over halfway through our study of Judges so far. The end is in sight, and we will finish this month. I wanted to share with you some of my larger reflections over the book as we have gone through it. As we have looked at different heroes and judges we have seen them warts and all.

The gospel lets us look at all the darkness and goodness without flinching. We can examine the lives of these judges without having to excuse their sin. Often, we are tempted to try and pretty up the lives of our biblical heroes. We want to excuse moments of weakness. Or worse we try to manipulate the text in order to make them as sinless as possible. But we don't have to. These men and woman are fallen human beings. All of them sin, some of them even sin a lot.

But because the gospel is true, we don't have to be afraid. They are heroes and used by God not because of their goodness, but because of grace. No amount of sin can remove the grace of God. This means that God can still use you and me. We don't have to have it all together. We don't have to be the most righteous people in the world. If God can use these judges, then He can use you and me as well.

Another thought I have had is how connected the entire Bible is. It is almost impossible to study the Scriptures in isolation. Judges only makes sense if you have the context of the conquest in Joshua, the escape from Egypt, and the promises of Abraham. The sinfulness of the people is more clear when you study the law in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. And when we read the Gospels, we see how Jesus is the True Judge. We need to read our whole Bibles. And the more that we do, the more we see how it is all connected.

Finally, I am continually amazed by the grace of God. This is clearly a book filled with wickedness. It is one of the darkest moments in Israel's history. I expected to read it and study more about sin and evil. But I have been surprised at how much mercy and gospel I find in Judges. Even in the midst of this evil there is grace. God continually shows undeserved mercy to His people. He uses even wicked judges to save. This gives me hope. Even in the midst of our own darkest days God is there.

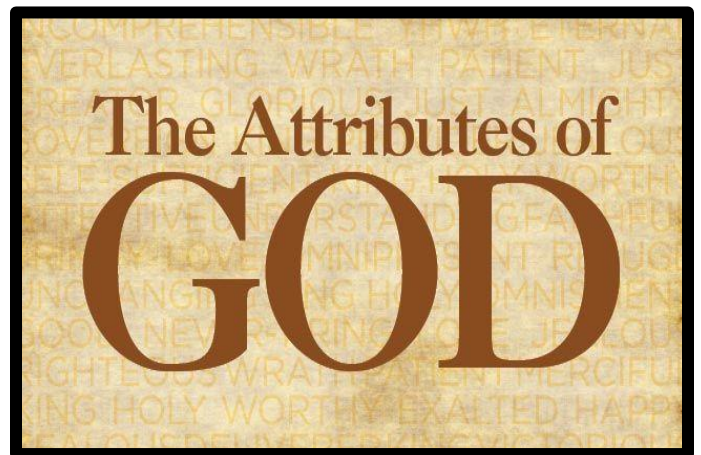
I hope you have been enjoying our study of Judges. I would love to hear from you what you've learned in your own study.

In Christ,
Pastor David

Studies for November



Sunday Mornings



Wednesday Evenings

Thanksgiving

The original thanksgiving celebration was held by the Pilgrim settlers in Massachusetts during their second winter in America in December 1621. The first winter had killed 44 of the original 102 colonists. At one point their daily food ration was down to five kernels of corn apiece, but then an unexpected trading vessel arrived, swapping them beaver pelts for grain, providing for their severe need. The next summer's crop brought hope, and Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer to show the gratitude of the colonists that they were still alive.

These Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom and opportunity in America, gave thanks to God for His provision for them in helping them find 20 acres of cleared land, for the fact that there were no hostile Indians in that area, for their newfound religious freedom, and for God's provision of an interpreter to the Indians in Squanto. Along with the feasting and games involving the colonists and more than 80 friendly Indians (who added to the feast by bringing wild turkeys and venison), prayers, sermons, and songs of praise were important in the celebration. Three days were spent in feasting and prayer.

From that time forward, Thanksgiving has been celebrated as a day to give thanks to God for His gracious and sufficient provision. President Abraham Lincoln officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863, "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." In 1941, Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday of November be observed as Thanksgiving Day and be a legal holiday.

Scripturally, we find things related to the issue of thanksgiving nearly from cover to cover. Individuals offered up sacrifices out of gratitude in the book of Genesis. The Israelites sang a song of thanksgiving as they were delivered from Pharaoh's army after the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 15). Later, the Mosaic Law set aside three times each year when the Israelites were to gather together. All three of these times [Unleavened Bread (also called the Feast of the Passover) (Exodus 12:15-20), Harvest or Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-21), and the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-36)] involved remembering God's provision and grace. Harvest and Tabernacles took place specifically in relation to God's provision in the harvest of various fruit trees and crops. The book of Psalms is packed full of songs of thanksgiving, both for God's grace to the Israelite people as a whole through His mighty deeds, as well as for His individual graces to each of us.

In the New Testament, there are repeated admonitions to give thanks to God. Thanksgiving is to always be a part of our prayers. Some of the most remembered passages on the giving of thanks are the following:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men" (1 Timothy 2:1).

Of all of God's gifts, the greatest one He has given is the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus paid our sin debt, so a holy and just Judge could forgive us our sins and give us eternal life as a free gift. This gift is available to those who will call on Christ to save them from their sin in simple but sincere faith (John 3:16; Romans 3:19-26; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:13; Ephesians 2:8-10). For this gift of His Son, the gift which meets our greatest need, the Apostle Paul says, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

We, like the Pilgrims, have a choice. In life there will always be those things that we can complain about (the Pilgrims had lost many loved ones), but there will also be much to be thankful for. As our society becomes increasingly secular, the actual "giving of thanks to God" during our annual Thanksgiving holiday is being overlooked, leaving only the feasting. May God grant that He may find us grateful every day for all of His gifts, spiritual and material. God is good, and every good gift comes from Him (James 1:17). For those who know Christ, God also works everything together for good, even events we would not necessarily consider good (Romans 8:28-30). May He find us to be His grateful children.

TBF Men's Ministries

JAMES

**Thursday evenings, November 4th and 18th
6:30 pm – TBF UTH Room**

This 2-week study guides us through this practical letter that proves faith works! God-given faith includes power to transform our thoughts, priorities, decisions, and relationships. As we think and act through faith, we experience and enjoy the salvation provided by Jesus Christ.

How should we respond to life's trials? James' letter delivers the answer: whatever comes, choose to live by faith. James digs into our struggles with temptations, unsound speech, conflicts, hardships, and injustice. James pushes into the heart of our needs to give us Jesus. God is near. He invites us to repent. He promises to forgive and restore. Trials are not meant to keep us worried and weak, but to make us strong.

Lesson 1 - Authentic Faith - James 1-2 - Nov 4, 2021

Lesson 2 - Living as a Christian - James 3-5 - Nov 18, 2021

Led by Wolfgang Deeg. Participants will meet to discuss what has been learned from reading relevant chapters and answering supplied questions. Questions, Notes, and Podcasts are available for download from Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). Contact Wolfgang for details. rockdocoo@cablone.net

TBF Fellowship Meal ~ Wednesday, October 20th

A big **THANKS** to Debra Welch and all who volunteered for this special event!!



TBF *Women's Ministries*

As we approach the conclusion to our current Bible study on Tuesday, November 9th, and Wednesday, November 10th, it is with much thankfulness that we have been able to offer two 'in person' venues, one in the home of Jean Crow and one at TBF. It has been a special blessing to all who have served and participated.

Kitte was unable to facilitate this fall because of health issues and she has been missed. She has, however, offered her thoughts about the study, prayerful, honest, grateful thoughts that are meant to be shared. With her permission, her words follow -

"In my opinion the women's Bible study, **"Get Out of My Head"** by Jennie Allen, helped me get out of the pit of anxiety and fear I had fallen into due to concerns about the pandemic and the death of my mother.

I am so grateful that through prayer and the prompting of the Holy Spirit we were directed to resume women's Bible study in person. I believe during a time of elevated illness, caution is necessary and warranted but I had become almost paralyzed by fear.

God's intervention has been to bring us together and bring our hearts back to Him! I know this because so many things have been woven together to show us we are on the right path...Pastor David Shield's sermon series in Judges, the book we received to read, **"Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers"** by Dane Ortlund, answered prayer and increased church attendance, the gracious opening of her home and facilitating by Jean Crow, faithful facilitating by Brianna Shields and Olga Pollock and continued sincere, enthusiastic and caring input and participation by all attendees.

We are so very, very blessed! God is using this study, our church, His word and the Holy Spirit to continue the work He is doing in each of us!

One of my favorite verses memorized during this study is **Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you. I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."**

I thank God for showing me/us the way out of the pit! He is so gracious and faithful! As always, we must keep our eyes on Him and keep moving in His direction!"

It is with great anticipation that we look forward to another study in January. Details will be announced in December. Hope and pray you will be able to join us! If you are being led to join us as a facilitator, please contact one of us. We encourage you to pray, seeking God's guidance in serving the women of our precious church.

In Christ!

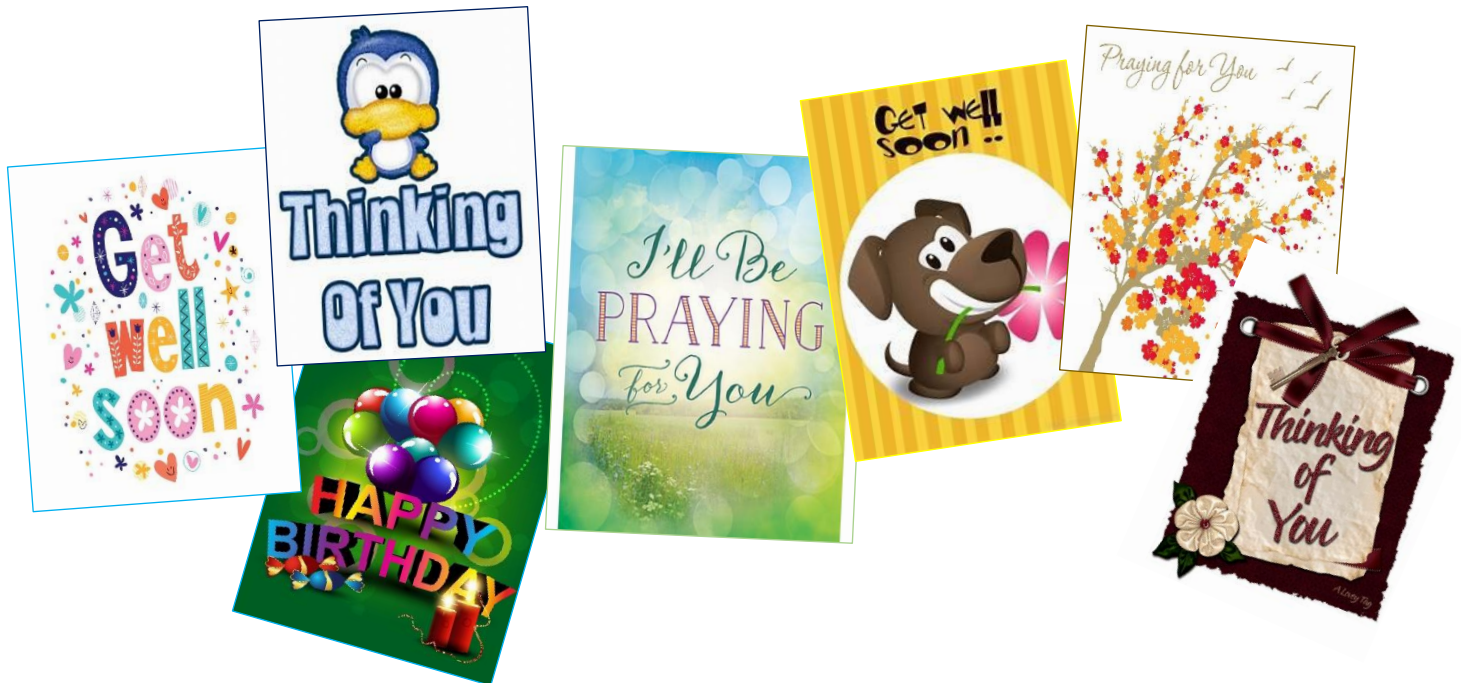
Mimi, Linda, Kitte, Bri, Jean and Olga

Sister-to-Sister

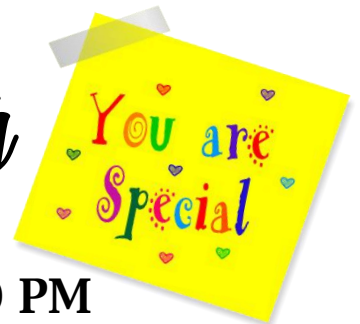
Card Ministry

Lifting One Another Up Through Words of Encouragement

Join me in encouraging our sisters-in-Christ by sending cards of encouragement to our fellow sisters this month. Let your sisters know you are lifting them up in prayer, thinking about them, and care about them with cards filled with kind words of encouragement, prayers, and bible verses.



Kindred Community

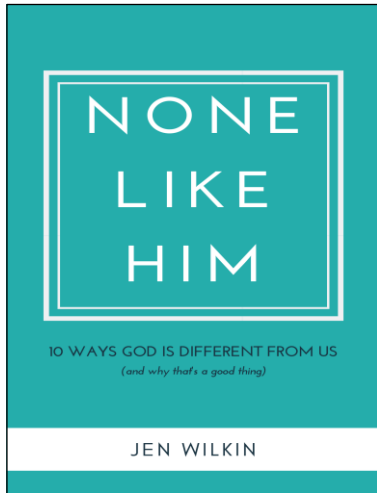


Tuesday, November 9th 5:30 – 7:30 PM
First Baptist Church Marlow
Marlow, Oklahoma

If you are a TBF woman with a heavenly husband or know of a woman you would like to invite to this event, please RSVP on the official RSVP invitation!

David's Book Recommendations

Like many pastors I am a big fan of books. The following books are all books you can find on my bookshelf and I would be more than happy to lend them to anyone who would like to read them

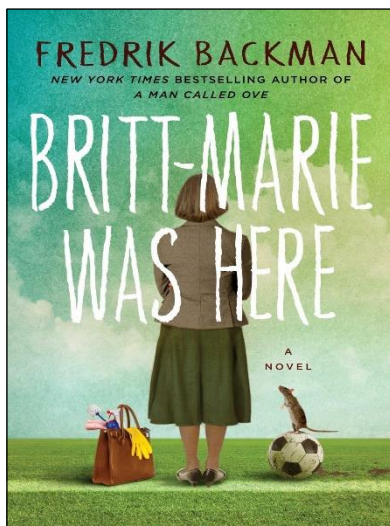
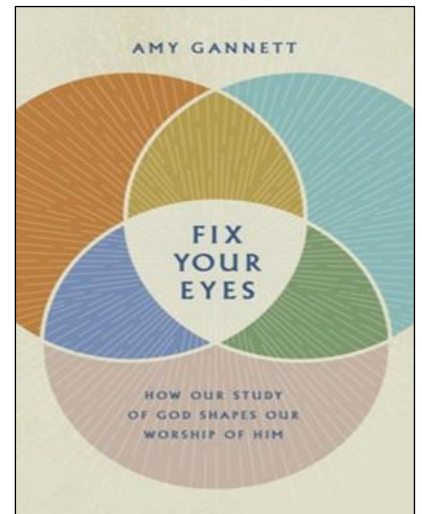


None Like Him 10 Ways God is Different From Us by Jen Wilkin

Small book that packs a mighty punch. Each chapter focuses on a different incommunicable attribute of God. She unpacks the scripture, tackles some doctrine, and then reveals our sinful temptations. She manages to explain even the more difficult attributes of God with ease. I used this book as a resource as we have studied the attributes of God on Wednesday night. Whether you have been able to join us or not, this book is well worth your time. It is a short work that I think is accessible for even high school students.

Fix Your Eyes: How Our Study of God Shapes Our Worship of Him By Amy Gannett

This book is almost a theological primer. It begins in the introduction explaining how all of us are already theologians. The only question is whether or not we are good theologians. It then connects how theology should and does impact our worship of God. The book is not concerned with teaching you the minutia of theology. It is concerned with teaching you things that lead to worship. That is rare, but necessary for a work of theology. I really adored this book. It is accessible for almost all believers. I don't think that those who are nervous around theology should be scared off. But there is much to gain for those more theologically, or academically inclined. She works hard to point why these theological ideas should lead to our worship.



Britt-Marie Was Here by Frederick Backman

This is a Swedish novel by someone who is becoming one of my favorite fiction writers. It is about a 63-year-old woman who needs to get her first job after leaving her cheating husband. She is a bit of a clean freak and a busy-body severing lacking in people skills. She ends up the caretaker of a failing community center in a dying small town. I adored this book and found myself both crying and laughing out loud. What I love most about Backman's writing is his ability to find the beauty in ordinary broken people.

November

2021

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

Psalm 107:1

**O give thanks to the Lord
For He is good
His love endures forever.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Service 7 PM	4 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	5	6
7 Service 9:30 AM	8	9 Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM	10 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Service 7 PM	11	12	13
14 Service 9:30 AM	15	16	17 Service 7 PM	18 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	19	20
21 Service 9:30 AM *Communion	22	23	24 Service 7 PM	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 Service 9:30 AM	29	30				