



NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

EIC: 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.

Why Pray?

For the Christian, praying is supposed to be like breathing, easier to do than to not do. We pray for a variety of reasons. For one thing, prayer is a form of serving God (Luke 2:36-38) and obeying Him. We pray because God commands us to pray (Philippians 4:6-7). Prayer is exemplified for us by Christ and the early church (Mark 1:35; Acts 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 4:23-31; 6:4; 13:1-3). If Jesus thought it was worthwhile to pray, we should also.

Another reason to pray is that God intends prayer to be the means of obtaining His solutions in a number of situations. We pray in preparation for major decisions (Luke 6:12-13); to overcome demonic barriers (Matthew 17:14-21); to gather workers for the spiritual harvest (Luke 10:2); to gain strength to overcome temptation (Matthew 26:41); and to obtain the means of strengthening others spiritually (Ephesians 6:18-19).

We come to God with our specific requests, and we have God’s promise that our prayers are not in vain, even if we do not receive specifically what we asked for (Matthew 6:6; Romans 8:26-27). He has promised that when we ask for things that are in accordance with His will, He will give us what we ask for (1 John 5:14-15). Sometimes He delays His answers according to His wisdom and for our benefit. In these situations, we are to be diligent and persistent in prayer (Matthew 7:7; Luke 18:1-8). Prayer should not be seen as our means of getting God to do our will on earth, but rather as a means of getting God’s will done on earth. God’s wisdom far exceeds our own.

For situations in which we do not know God’s will specifically, prayer is a means of discerning His will (see James 1:5). Prayer was instrumental in the Spirit's sending of Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:1–3). Solomon asked for “wisdom and knowledge,” and God gave him that and much more (2 Chronicles 1:10–12).

Prayers un-prayed will be prayers unanswered. If the Syrian woman with the demon-influenced daughter had not prayed to Christ, her daughter would not have been made whole (Mark 7:26–30).

Con’t on Pg. 3

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM

Adult Services AND Children’s (0-12 years) Programs

Youth (6th -12th grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM

Wednesday P.M. Service: 6:30-7:30 PM

A Word from Pastor David Shields

Dear Church Family,

Most Christians struggle with prayer. We all know that our prayer lives need to be improved, but we are never quite sure how to do it. Or in some seasons, we know what to do, but cannot bring ourselves to do it. I wanted to share with you some steps I take when I feel my own prayer life struggling and then answer some objections you may have to my suggestions.

The first thing I do when my prayer life is floundering is pray the Scriptures. Instead of not praying or drudging through half-hearted words, I simply pray the Lord's Prayer. It only takes a few moments, and I always find it works on my heart. Or, I return to the Psalms and pray them. Israel and the early church regularly prayed through the Psalms, and I often find the words my heart is searching for somewhere within them.

Another place I turn to for help when my prayer life is struggling is written or pre-made prayers. Books like *The Book of Common Prayer* and *The Valley of Vision* have been particularly helpful. Some of the most helpful prayers have been from the prayer book *Every Moment Holy*. They are simple liturgies for everyday things like the finishing of a good book or a prayer for gardening. There was one prayer written for changing diapers that we had framed and placed over our diaper changing station. I prayed it multiple times a day with my kids, and it always helped my own heart. It was so theologically rich and Christ-focused that it could not help but make me want to pray more.

One of the main objections I hear from people when I suggest trying these things is that prayer should always be spontaneous and from the heart. I agree these are good things to aim for and may even be the best. However, it is interesting that the Bible never commands our prayers to be spontaneous. Nor does the Bible ever prohibit praying other people's words. I don't mean to suggest that praying the Scriptures or other written prayers is the best or only way to pray, but they are valid, biblical, and Christ-honoring ways to pray. And I find that when I pray them, they help my own prayers be better.

May the Holy Spirit aid us all in our prayers as we do our best to honor Christ.

Pastor David

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

If the blind man outside Jericho had not called out to Christ, he would have remained blind (Luke 18:35–43). God has said that we often go without because we do not ask (James 4:2). In one sense, prayer is like sharing the gospel with people. We do not know who will respond to the message of the gospel until we share it. In the same way, we will never see the results of answered prayer unless we pray.

A lack of prayer demonstrates a lack of faith and a lack of trust in God’s Word. We pray to demonstrate our faith in God, that He will do as He has promised in His Word and bless our lives abundantly more than we could ask or hope for (Ephesians 3:20). Prayer is our primary means of seeing God work in others' lives. Because it is our means of “plugging into” God’s power, it is our means of defeating Satan and his army that we are powerless to overcome by ourselves. Therefore, may God find us often before His throne, for we have a high priest in heaven who can identify with all that we go through (Hebrews 4:15-16). We have His promise that the fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much (James 5:16-18). May God glorify His name in our lives as we believe in Him enough to come to Him often in prayer.

Gotquestions.org

What’s Happening at TBF

- WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND SHARE Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Join us for a time of prayer and praise followed by a lesson from Pastor David.
- DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- DISCIPLESHIP CLASS - THE PRAYER PRACTICE meets Sept. 14th and 28th
- MEN’S BIBLE STUDY - RUTH meets Sept. 8th and Sept. 22nd
- WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - New Study LUKE IN THE LAND Starts September 11th
- WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING - Sept. 9th 1 PM
- PARENTING CLASS - Meets Sept. 9th and 23rd
- TBF YOUTH -
- AWANAS - Every Wednesday 6:30 PM

Kindred Community

Meets September 9th from 6–8 PM
At FMUC - Duncan
Sponsored by Impact 580

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 Beautiful Day 580.786.6009

REV 4:8

Discipleship Class

Meets September 21st and 28th

The Prayer Practice

by John Mark Comer

In the hurry, distraction, and noise of the modern world, few things are more difficult or more rewarding than developing a life of prayer. As an apprentice of Jesus, it is vital to set aside time to be more deeply connected with the Father.

The Prayer Practice offers spiritual exercises, reflection questions, guided readings, and additional resources to help you and your community. Be equipped to:

- Develop a daily rhythm of prayer using both liturgical and personal approaches
- Engage in various forms of prayer, including gratitude, lament, and intercession
- Listen to God's voice through practices like *Lectio Divina*
- Move beyond words to experience contemplative union with God

Discover how dedicating intentional time to communicate and commune with God can lead to a transformed life, deeper spiritual growth, and a renewed sense of partnership with God in the world.

TBF MEN'S MINISTRIES

This year (2025-2026) our focus is two-fold: Jesus' / God's presence in our life and our relationship with Jesus. We will be studying the books of Ruth, 1 John, 1 Peter, 1 Samuel chapters 1 through 8, and John chapters 3 and 4 using the respective BSF WordGo study materials.

CONSERVATIONS WITH GOD
TBF Youth Room 6:30-7:30 PM
Led by Wolfgang Deeg

RUTH

- **Session 1 (Sept. 8):**
- **Session 2 (Sept. 22):**
- **Session 1 (Oct. 6):**
- **Session 2 (Oct. 20):**

Our first study is a 4-session study of the book of Ruth. The Book of Ruth tells the story of how God used a faithful non-Israelite woman to bring restoration to God's people. It's an example of love and loss and depicts a beautiful redemption in Ruth and Naomi's life pointing us toward Christ's redeeming work. In this 4-session study you will see how God's purposes and sovereign plans interplay with the human experience, with our lives.

TBF Women's Ministries

New Ladies' Bible study
Begins Thursday September 11th (Mornings – 9:30 AM) and
Monday September 18th (Evenings – 6 PM)

Luke in the Land By Kristi McLelland

In our Bibles, we have four Gospels describing Jesus's time on earth: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Land of Israel-the place Jesus walked and taught during His earthly ministry-is often referred to as the "fifth Gospel." Follow Kristi McLelland through Israel as we study snapshots from the Gospel of Luke to see where the stories of the Bible took place. Over seven sessions, challenge the way you read the accounts of Jesus through teaching videos that take you to locations in Israel like Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, and the road to Emmaus. Along the way, you'll see how Jesus, the Messiah, brought His kingdom to earth for everybody.

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ORGANIZATION MEETING

There will be a Women's Ministry organizational meeting on Tuesday, September 9th in the youth room. Discussions will include the Thanksgiving and Christmas mission projects. 1 PM.
All are invited!!!

Super Summer Saturdays - August

We had a precious time of fellowship and learning at the Feast conference in Euless, TX. Kristi McLelland's teaching was spot on as usual. Pastor David was a great chauffeur. 9 of us were able to attend and be blessed. Then we had a follow up time where many of us were able to watch the teaching time from Feast in an impromptu Super Summer Saturday session.



TBF Family Ministries

AWANA

AWANA Every Wednesday in September at 6:30 PM

We would love to have more friends join us, so invite kids you know to AWANA (ages 2 to 5th grade) and their parents to come to Wednesday night prayer and share!

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Brianna.

Parenting Class

SEPTEMBER 9TH AND 23RD 5:30PM

MEETS IN THE CLASSROOM AREA. DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED.



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.

***The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by Jonathan Haidt**

I can't recommend this book enough. It dives deep into how cell phones, social media, and technology have completely damaged a generation of children. The thesis of the book is not surprising, but the amount of hard data proving exactly what is taking place is shocking. I was most surprised by how much of an emphasis he placed on children's need to be outside. There is plenty for Christians to take away here. Even though the author is an admitted atheist, he sees a lot of objective value in spiritual practices. His research and statements on transgender/sexuality were a quick aside that clearly go against the grain of the popular scientific dogma. I wish he had spent more time here, but I suspect he desired to avoid controversy. This is certainly a book I will need to return to. Part of it made me want to become a hermit on a mountain, but it certainly is motivating to take a closer look at how we all interact with technology.

***The Great DeChurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will it Take to Bring Them Back?* by Jim Davis and Michael Graham**

This is the first book examining research on why people have left the church that I enjoyed. My dad had to twist my arm to get me to read this one, and I am glad that I did. My problem with previous books is that they typically provide suggestions for what the church should do based on people who no longer hold to any orthodox doctrine. This one chases the question of why so many have left the church, closely examines the data, and holds to the belief that the church matters.

I found so many insights in this book surprising. I was particularly surprised by the high level of orthodoxy some groups who have left still hold. I was also surprised that just as many have left the church because of its embrace of far-right politics as those who left because their church was not far-right enough. I appreciated that the book let the data speak for itself.

I think this book has great insight for pastors, church leaders, and anyone else concerned about how many have left the church. It faces the facts with honesty without losing hope in the church or the power of the gospel.

Citizenship Papers by Wendell Berry

I have been meaning to read Wendell Berry for over a decade. This collection of political essays was my first introduction to the Christian writer. It was fascinating to read something written so close to 9/11. Many of his criticisms were prophetic and proved to be true of where we were headed as a nation. Some of the essays felt repetitive at points, but that is not surprising in a collection like this. I particularly appreciated his emphasis on how our country can do a better job supporting family farms and rural communities. I didn't always agree with his ideas and idealism, but he always made me think. I am interested in reading more of his poetry and novels after experiencing this.