

# REFLECTIONS

(I wrote the following article for the Facebook site, *Center for Congregational Ethics* and the daily lectionary reading for April 8, 2021, based on Daniel 1.)

## Contagious Compassion

What if compassion were like a contagious disease that spread through contact with others? What if, for instance, a police officer contracted compassion from his superior, and then spread it to the others they encountered that day? What difference might it make in a life or two or four?

How would the story of Daniel, in chapter 1, be different without the compassion of the palace master Ashpenaz? Four of Ashpenaz' charges had been force-marched from their homeland hundreds of miles to be immersed in a foreign culture with strangers and stripped of their names. These four young people were bonded by their language, religious faith, and the agonies of their homesickness. They were valued for their abilities, yet they were deemed slaves by the callous and cruel.

According to verses 9 and 10 (NRSV), Ashpenaz was inspired to show favor and compassion to Daniel, but even so, denied the dietary request. Maybe Ashpenaz winked when he publicly said what he had to say. It was the under-guard appointed to oversee the four who demonstrated contagious compassion by allowing the ten-day faith and food test. Compassion brings out the best in ourselves and in others.

Like Daniel and his friends, thousands upon thousands of heartsick and desperate people in 2021 are being forced to move from their homes into migrant and refugee camps, detention centers, and prisons each day. What if compassion were as contagious as the callousness that so easily besets us? I propose a ten-day faith and compassion test. Spread compassion to the stranger, to the neighbor and to yourself, inspired by the gift of God within you.

Darryl DeBorde, Braden Park Baptist Church, Tulsa, OK.

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## The Evangel

Braden Park Baptist Church  
4739 East Fifth Street (5th & Yale)  
Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

<b>Sunday Morning</b>	9:20 a.m.
Continental Breakfast	10:00 a.m.
Worship	11:15 a.m.
Sunday School	
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir	6:30 p.m.
Worship	
<b>Wednesday Evening</b>	6:45 p.m.
Prayer Service	

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Bill Ess, Music Minister

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# The Evangel



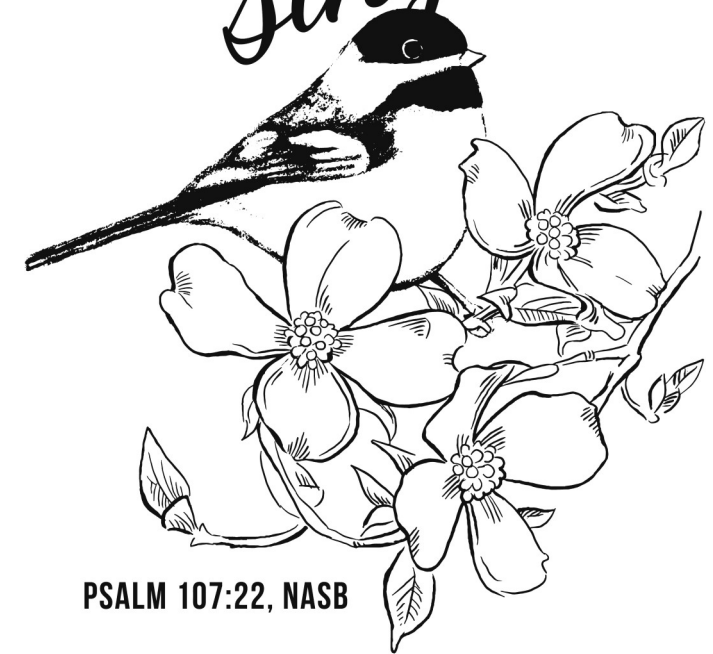
Proclaiming the Good News!  
Braden Park Baptist Church  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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April 9, 2021

No 14

TELL OF HIS  
WORKS WITH  
*joyful  
singing.*



PSALM 107:22, NASB

# Our Church Family

## LIVING CENTERS

Emerald Care Nursing Center #26 ..... Gina Reynolds  
Pawhuska Nursing Center ..... Violet Crain  
Zarrow Pointe Kaiser Health Center #214 ..... Dorothy Lee

## AT HOME

Alice and Bill Barrett	Bonnie Nutting
Elizabeth Burke	Waneta Reynolds
Berta Caldwell	Ben and P J Shepard
Russell Ford	Homer Wager
Gene Lessel	Leslie White

**OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of *Sherrri Breedlove* in the loss of her mother, *Delores Troxel*.

## TENDER CREATION NOW AVAILABLE

*Kevin Avery's* latest book, *Tender Creation* is now available on Amazon in both the Kindle and paperback versions. Kevin says, "I have been disappointed printing costs are so costly these days (making the paperback so expensive), but I am pleased the Kindle version is only \$2.99. My hope is that many can read the book. Also, even if someone doesn't have a copy of the devotional, I will highlight the 21 devotions on Facebook on Sunday mornings.. On Monday evenings (and potentially another time), I will host an interactive time through Zoom for questions, comments and prayer."

# Looking Ahead

**SUNDAY, APRIL 11**  
*(In-Person, At Church)*

**How Great Thou Art!**  
Psalm 107

This Sunday morning we celebrate our return to in-person worship with a service of praise and personal testimonies. We will sing many of the favorite songs and hymns of our congregation, as well as some of the stories of how God has provided throughout the past year. Join with us as we safely gather together to sing God's praise.

**The Online Sunday**  
**Bible Study**

**Tender Creation**  
The Heartbeat of the Gospel

Led by **Kevin Avery on Facebook**  
*Braden Park Church Tulsa,*  
Sundays by 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Evening**  
**5:00 — 6:30 p.m.**

**People's Pantry Ministry**  
Outside in the North Parking lot

# Behind the Scenes

## THE PEOPLE'S PANTRY MINISTRY REPORT

During the last three months, January-March, 95 families, 229 individuals, were provided with groceries for 2,748 meals. 20% of the people served were new individuals in our neighborhood. 12% of our neighbors served are disabled. The pantry has also provided groceries, boots, socks, gloves and hats for several homeless neighbors and others on foot or bicycle. As we have since March 2020, emergency groceries are being distributed outside on the north parking lot by the kitchen curb. We have been able to provide groceries every Wednesday evening in spite of the weather and all the other challenges. Thank you for your on-going prayers and financial support.

## IN-PERSON SUNDAY 10 A.M. WORSHIP

**APRIL 18**     **Praise and Prayer**  
                  **Come Into His Presence**

**APRIL 25**     **A Time for Remembrance**  
                  **Lord's Supper Service**

## FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 1,936.00
General Receipts April 4 .....	\$ 4,305.00
Special Offerings April 4 .....	\$ 00.00

**Thank You** to all who are sending sustaining offerings.