

REFLECTIONS

I was expecting better than this in 2022. There are still no flying cars. We were supposed to have robots that would serve us breakfast in bed. By 2022 we were supposed to have rid the world of hunger, cured the worst of the diseases, and be nations working together for peace and security for all. America would be a united and “shining city on a hill” for all the world to see how democracy really works. I thought if I ever lived long enough to see 2022, the world would know of Jesus and Christians would be the salt of the earth. But here we are. The future is today, and we are still a mess. As someone recently put it, “We are all going through similar storms, but we are riding them out in very different ships (*dramatic pause*) or floaties.”

I was expecting better than this about Covid-19. Here we are again, only it is still 2,000+ Covid deaths per day in the U.S., even with this “milder” variant. Omicron is “milder” mostly for the vaccinated. Out of an abundance of caution, as the disclaimer everywhere says, we have closed in-person worship until the end of January at least. In our somewhat older congregation, too many have reported being exposed and quarantining themselves. I take my lead from the area school districts who are making the open/closing/virtual decisions only for about three days at a time. Positive cases of Covid are racing through our schools, students and teachers alike. Yet above all, we have a faithful God who shelters us, heals us, and is with us even to the end of it all.

I was expecting better than this in 2022, but here we are. We live in a sinful world with some of sin’s consequences painfully visible to all. We are all sinners who have fallen short of the glory of God. The wages of sin, sin’s pay day, is close at hand. Paul calls the wages of sin death. But we have the gift of God, His son Jesus. Undeserved, unearned, unmerited in any way. The theological term is salvation—gracious forgiveness. We are empowered by God’s Spirit and guided by His word. We are His disciples because we obey Christ’s teachings to love, heal and forgive unconditionally. Christ expects better of us. The future is today. The Good News is real. Everyone around us was also expecting a better future. Let them see Jesus.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Tell the Good news. And let's experience the love and power of God together while we are apart.

Bro. Darryl

PERIODICALS
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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

Sunday Morning
Continental Breakfast 9:20 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

Sunday Evening
Sanctuary Choir 5:30 p.m.
Worship 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister
Bill Ess, Music Minister

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The Evangel



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

VOL LII

January 21, 2022

No. 3

The time has come ...
The kingdom of God is near.



**Repent
and
believe
the
good
news!**

Mark 1:15

Our Church Family

LIVING CENTERS

Zarrow Pointe Kaiser Health Center #214 Dorothy Lee

AT HOME

Alice and Bill Barrett
Elizabeth Burke
Berta Caldwell
Marion Corbett
Russell Ford
Paula McPherson

Bonnie Nutting
Waneta Reynolds
Ben and PJ Shepard
Margaret VanHorn
Leslie White

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January

30 Sandra Smith

February

4 Connie Connely



Looking Ahead

The church is not having in-person worship services

January 23 and 30th.

We are able to worship online through Facebook
at *Braden Park Church Tulsa*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

The Sweep of Our Faith
—Hebrews 11:1-6

This Sunday we begin a series of messages based on Hebrews 11. This series looks at the sweep of the history of the people of faith who all find the power of God's grace. Join with us this Sunday on-line through Facebook.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

5:00 p.m. People's Pantry Ministry
Clothes Closet Ministry (limited access)

CONNECTING WITH THE CHURCH

You can join with us through the church Facebook page. Search Facebook for **Braden Park Church Tulsa**, and then select "Add friend" to friend us. Confirmation of your request will automatically include you each time we post a new message or announcements. You can also find **The EVANGEL**, sermons, and other information at our church website.

www.bradenpark.org

Behind the Scenes

PROPERTY REZONING UPDATE

The Tulsa City Council ruled in favor of the neighborhood and our church when they *unanimously denied the request* to rezone the property to CS, a higher commercial level. Our appreciation extends to the neighbors from the Turner Park and White City neighborhoods, as well as the members of our churches who participated in this process. Our neighborhood Councilors are Kara Joy McKee (District 4), Crista Patrick (District 3), and Mykey Arthrell-Knezek (District 5). Councilor McKee made the motion to deny the application.

ORDER FREE HOME COVID TEST KITS

Every household in the U.S. is now eligible to have 4 Covid test kits for free. To order your kits go to www.COVIDtests.gov. and sign up. You are asked for your name and address. You are Not asked for your Social Security Number or for a credit card. The kits will be mailed out near the end of January.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTION RECORDS

The **Individual Contribution Statements for 2021** are being prepared this week for mailing. Please notify the church office if you fail to receive your report by February 7.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Budget Need | \$ 1,936.00 |
| General Receipts January 16 | \$ 925.00 |
| Special Offerings January 16 | \$ 00.00 |

Thank You to all who are providing sustaining tithes and offerings.