

# REFLECTIONS

(This is an adaptation of my article for the Center for Congregational Ethics for July 6—Bro. Darryl)

The editorial cartoon in the Tulsa World (July 12, 2022) shows a night sky over tombstones with the words in the sky saying: Too Many Things That Loom. The tombstones read: Fuel Crisis, Food Crisis, Climate Crisis, Housing Crisis, Mass Shootings, Nuclear War, Ukraine War, Homelessness, and Worse Inflation. It is a crowded cartoon. Our woes run deep and our fears are wide.

I have been trying to make my peace with this little word “woe.” Is it self-pity or is it a curse? Woe is Me and Woe to You. I have found some insight through the Cambridge English Dictionary definition for woe—big trouble, or big sorrow. In the biblical context, the meaning is two-fold: 1) An exclamation of current trouble; or 2) A prophetic word of future trouble, both with an implied “unless...” Unless we change direction, unless we re-frame our days, unless we are gentle with ourselves and others, our lives will be lived out as one long tale of woe. Big trouble.

The Bible readings are a portrait of the woes of despair, Psalm 6; the woes of circumstances, 2 Kings 6:1-7; and the woes of warning by Jesus, Luke 10:13-16. The psalmist exclaims his big trouble as he finds himself fearing death and surrounded by people he cannot trust—unless he prays God would intervene. The workman exclaims his big trouble when the borrowed axe he uses cutting down trees flies off its handle into the Jordan River—unless he turns to Elisha and the others for help in recovering the iron blade. In His commissioning of about six dozen followers sending them “to every town and place where he was about to go,” Jesus gives the warning woes of big trouble coming for the individuals who might reject the message of the kingdom of God—unless they listen and repent. We are in a world of woes—big trouble.

Our daily world of woes come in all sizes of pain and grief. On the days our own list of woes has quieted down, someone always seems to amplify the greater woes besetting the nation, the earth, or the dangers down the street. Some tales of woe are anxiety inducing, others are just plain gossip. All could use a measure of compassion.

Neighbors and strangers alike are looking for faithful and trustworthy people to share the burdens of their multiplying woes. Big troubles are everywhere unless, we, too, go where Jesus is about to go, sharing words of grace, hope and God’s love.

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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.

Bible Study & Conversation

11:15 a.m.

#### Wednesday Evening

The People’s Pantry

5:00 p.m.

The Clothes Closet Ministry

Prayer Service

6:30 p.m.

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister

Bill Ess, Music Minister

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Braden Park Baptist Church  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



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# 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  
Lydia Ford

Paula McPherson  
Georgia Metcalf  
Bonnie Nutting  
Ben and PJ Shepard  
Leslie White

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 21 Patty Hickman

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

July 29 David and Melanie Willets 16 Years

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE** of *Waneta Reynolds* will be held in Fellowship Hall around the tables as we share stories of her life and a meal together, on Saturday, July 23 at 4:00 p.m.

# Looking Ahead

## SUNDAY, JULY 17

- 9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
10:00 a.m. **Healthy Churches Discern the Times**  
—2 Timothy 3 & 4

This week we continue our study of Paul's Pastoral Letters with a deeper look at believers confronting the "last days." Culture wars and false teachings are not supposed to be a surprise to God's people. Invite your friends to church this week and be blessed.

- 11:15 a.m. Bible Study and Conversation  
11:55 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## TUESDAY, JULY 19

- 8:00 p.m. Prayer for the Nations  
Kevin Avery's Facebook Zoom link

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

- 5:00 p.m. People's Pantry Ministry  
Clothes Closet Ministry  
6:30 p.m. **Prayer and Bible Study**



## SUNDAY, JULY 24

- 10:00 a.m. **Healthy Churches Are Faithful Stewards**  
—1 Timothy 6:3-16

# Behind the Scenes

## GOD OF FREEDOM BIBLE STUDY

Our Ladies Bible Study Group, led by *Connie Connely*, will be studying author Jen Wilken's newest study, *God of Freedom: A Study of Exodus 19-40*, beginning July 24. This new study follows the group's concluding study, *God of Deliverance*.

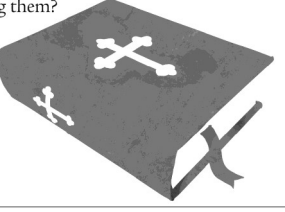
## BARBEQUE DINNER POSTPONED, AGAIN

We are postponing the Church Fellowship Barbeque Dinner until **July 31st**, to provide room and space for the Celebration of Life Service on Saturday evening July 23 in Fellowship Hall.

**Bible Quiz**

A few Bible books have only one chapter. Which of the following is not among them?

- A. Obadiah
- B. Philemon
- C. 1 John
- D. 2 John
- E. 3 John
- F. Jude



Answer: C

## FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need ..... \$ 1,904.00  
General Receipts July 12 .. \$ 1,512.08  
Special Offerings July 12 .. \$ 00.00

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