

REFLECTIONS

You probably know someone who is quietly experiencing a melancholy Christmas. Melancholy is an old word that describes feelings of sadness, loneliness, or grief. When Bing Crosby popularized the song “*I’ll be Home for Christmas*,” he was echoing the longing of thousands of soldiers fighting through the harsh winters of World War II. Some did make it home for Christmas, but for most, it was *only in their dreams*. The song conveys the dissonance between our expectations and the realities of Christmas. Christmas time is partly about being home with family and dear friends. The separation of miles and circumstances, heartbreak, or the loss of a loved one often turns this holiday season into a difficult time for many. When financial pressures, stressed relationships, and dreary days are added to the mix, depression soon blankets the soul.

When Elvis Presley popularized the song “*Blue Christmas*,” he was echoing the pain of unrequited love—the break-up of two former lovers. One has moved on, the other has not. The loss of a love brings an inner ache that seems to grow deeper during the holiday season. The empty chair across the living room. Sharing the children and grandchildren with other families who have their own traditions. The loneliness of an isolated soul.

A Blue Christmas Service is the name given to a Christian time of prayer and reflection, usually held the night of the winter solstice, for those who have experienced grief and loss during the year. It is designed to bring peace and comfort for those going through the long night. December 21 is on Wednesday this year. We will be having a Blue Christmas Prayer Service at 6:30 that evening at the church. Join with us, in person or in spirit, as we intercede for all who may be having a melancholy Christmas this year.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Bring comfort. And let’s experience the love and power of God together.

Bro. Darryl

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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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The Evangel

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

VOL LII December 16, 2022 No. 49

JOYFUL
Merry
AND
Blessed

Our Church Family

LIVING CENTERS

Zarrow Pointe Kaiser Health Center #214 Dorothy Lee

AT HOME

Alice and Bill Barrett	Paula McPherson
Elizabeth Burke	Georgia Metcalf
Berta Caldwell	Bonnie Nutting
Marion Corbett	Leslie White
Lydia Ford	Mary Ruth Whitman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

22 Michelle Pearcy
27 Margaret VanHorn
29 David Dryer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December 24 John and Rita Snellgrove 35 Years

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to *Caryn Parker Perrier* on her graduation from Northeastern State University with a Masters Degree in Accounting.

END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

The following information is from IRS publication 526, Charitable Contributions: “You can deduct your contributions only in the year you actually make them in cash or other property. A check that you mail to a charity is considered delivered on the date you mail it.” Therefore contributions should be received by the church postmarked by December 31, 2022, which is on a Saturday.

Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
**10:00 a.m. The Wonder of It All:
What Wonderous Love Is This!
Luke 2:51-52**

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we reflect with Mary on the wonder of God’s love and grace found in Jesus. “O the wonder of it all, just to think that God loves me.” Invite your friends to church this week and be blessed.

11:15 a.m. Bible Study & Conversation
11:55 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

10:00 a.m. Monday Morning Prayers
Call (712) 832-8330, then access code: 887-7647

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

5:00 p.m. People’s Pantry Ministry
Clothes Closet Ministry
6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Prayer Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Behind the Scenes



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday Evening at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Morning Service

with Sunday Brunch at 10:00 a.m.

CONSIDER YOUR PART IN OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR WORLD MISSIONS.

Our Christmas Card Post Office Box is located in the south foyer to share your Christmas cards with the church family. Take the money you would have spent on postage and apply it to our *Lottie Moon Global Missions Offering*.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need\$ 1,904.00
General Receipts December 11\$ 1,654.00
Special Offerings December 11\$ 30.00

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