

REFLECTIONS

(This is reprinted from January 2020, lightly edited.)

Can there be a day beyond this night? I don't know any more what is true. I can't find my direction, I'm all alone. The only star that guided me was you. How to rise from the floor - when it's not you I'm rising for? Just do the next right thing. Take a step, step again. It is all that I can do—the next right thing.

One evening during the holidays, Dorothy and I took our grandchildren to see the animated musical, **Frozen II**. I was surprised by the many issues addressed by the movie, including the intense grief and sorrow in the apparent loss of one character's older sister. In her pain and confusion, Anna remembers her sister's words from earlier in the story—if you are ever lost and wonder what you should do, just do the next right thing. This is the moral takeaway from the movie.

Many of the children and teens who saw the original movie when it debuted in 2013 have faced their own personal crises, like family divorce, grief, depression, temptation, and peer pressure. This story gives them a memorable way to find hope in their confusion, and a starting point for making good or even better choices. Right choices matter. Teaching the next generation the difference between right and wrong has always been a challenge. Taking this one step further, the Bible is filled with cautionary stories of those who make wrong choices, and the power of doing the right thing God's way.

I won't look too far ahead. It's too much for me to take. But break it down to this next breath, this next step. This next choice is one that I can make. So, I'll walk through this night, stumbling blindly toward the light, and do the next right thing.

Life is filled with small choices each of us make every day. "What would Jesus do?" was a question that we asked ourselves in our younger years. As people of faith, we are challenged to live morally rich lives by modeling trust in God and listening for His voice.

And, with it done, what comes then? When it's clear that everything will never be the same again, then I'll make the choice to hear that voice, and do the next right thing.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Do the next right thing. And let's experience the love and power of God together.

Bro. Darryl

PS Go to <https://youtu.be/w6g1yQV0dIY> to hear Kristen Bell sing this song, *The Next Right Thing*.

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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

Worship

Bible Study & Conversation

9:20 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evening

The People's Pantry

The Clothes Closet Ministry

Prayer Service

5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

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Bill Ess, Music Minister

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Our Church Family

AT HOME

Kevin Avery	Paula McPherson
Alice Barrett	Georgia Metcalf
Elizabeth Burke	Bonnie Nutting
Marion Corbett	Annette Ford Parker
Lydia Ford	Margaret VanHorn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

22	Michelle Pearcy
27	Margaret VanHorn
29	David Dryer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December

24	Rita and John Snellgrove	36 Years
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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, 2023, which is on a Sunday.

Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. **Abiding in Joy**
—Isaiah 35:1-10

Silent Night, Holy Night proclaims that all was calm, all was bright that first Christmas. But was it? How are your days going? All is calm, all is bright? How do we abide in Joy in times like these? Invite your family and friends to church this week and be blessed.

11:15 a.m. Conversations with the Pastor
Ladies Bible Study
11:55 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:45 a.m. Monday Morning Prayers
Call (712) 832-8330, then access code: 887-7647

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

10:00 a.m. **Abiding in Love - Brunch in Fellowship Hall**
6:00 p.m. **Candlelight Lord's Supper Service**

Behind the Scenes



CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

December 24, Christmas Eve, is on a Sunday this year so special plans are underway for meaningful times together. Everyone is invited to begin the morning with a **Christmas Brunch at 10:00 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Menu includes a Breakfast Casserole including eggs, cheese, potatoes and ham, as well as fruit, coffee, and biscuits and gravy. The time of worship around the tables will include favorite carols, special music from the choir and a brief message titled *Abiding in Love*.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Lord's Supper Service** will begin at **6:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception.

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	\$ 2,050.00
General Receipts December 10.....	\$ 1,189.00
Lottie Moon Global Missions Offerings To Date	\$ 300.00

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