

REFLECTIONS

Celebrity news has surpassed the old-fashioned soap opera, although some of us still remember Luke and Laura. With the Grammys behind us and the Super Bowl and Oscars headed our way, who can avoid hearing about the misadventures, drama, controversies, loves and losses of the headliners of entertainment, sports, and politics today? What do you know of Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce? Who was snubbed by the award givers? Whose tweet set off a firestorm of applause and outrage this week? There is so much celebrity news you may not know the answer to that last question?

He sent out a perfectly gentle and caring question to his followers on X, formerly known as Twitter. Then his innocent and sheltered world was unexpectedly rocked like an earthquake in Oklahoma. I am speaking, of course, of *Elmo*. I assumed a Muppet’s life was fairly simple like any TV personality: sitting in a make-up chair, rehearsing lines, hitting the mark when the director says “Action,” sleeping on a shelf the rest of the time. I did not realize Elmo was also a celebrity influencer. I should have known better because we are all influencers. Elmo asked his followers: *Elmo is checking in! How is everybody doing?* The responses came in overwhelming numbers—10’s of thousands followed by 100’s of thousands, soon a million and a half people shared how hard things were. Because of this Elmo was invited to talk about mental health on the *Today Show*. Comedian *Larry David*, listening off stage was enraged, charged over to Elmo, and began to strangle the Muppet saying he could not listen to this any longer. David offered a reluctant apology. Elmo accepted the apology, but later David publicly retracted his apology to Elmo. The next day Elmo tweeted: *Wow! Elmo is glad he asked! Elmo learned it is important to ask a friend how they are doing. Elmo will check in again soon, friends! Elmo loves you.* ❤️

We should all have a friend like Elmo. No matter who you are, you are an influencer. Someone is looking at you and maybe thinking, so that’s how I am supposed to... act as an adult; talk when I’m mad; treat elderly people... The questions always become then, how am I doing in my own soul today? How am I influencing others?

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. You are a Christian influencer. 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  
Worship  
Bible Study & Conversation

**Wednesday Evening**  
The People’s Pantry  
The Clothes Closet Ministry  
Prayer Service

9:20 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
11:15 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

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Bill Ess, Music Minister

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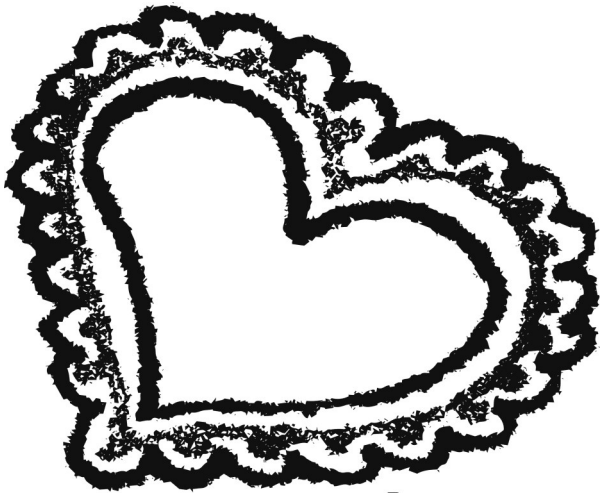
The Evangel

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

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No. 6



TRUST IN THE LORD  
WITH ALL YOUR  
**HEART,**  
AND DO NOT LEAN ON  
**YOUR OWN**  
**UNDERSTANDING.**

PROVERBS 3:5, ESV

# Our Church Family

## AT HOME

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### February

16	Rodney Epp
21	Russell Ford



# Looking Ahead

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. The Promise of Wisdom and Understanding**  
—Proverbs 3:5-8 and 13-18

How are you sleeping these days? Do you find it increasingly difficult to understand the times and your place in the world? It may be time to embrace God's promises of wisdom. Invite your family and friends to church this week and be blessed.

- 11:15 a.m. Church Valentine Chili Dinner  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal to follow

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 10:00 a.m. Making Bible Promises Personal**

# Behind the Scenes

## CHURCH VALENTINE DINNER THIS SUNDAY

Join with us for our annual Valentine Dinner this Sunday, **February 11**, following the morning worship time. The featured potluck menu includes various pots of home-made chili, salads, fruit and desserts.

## OUTSIDE OF BUILDING CLEANING UNDERWAY

Good efforts are underway to clean the outside of the church education building and the flowerbed walls along Yale Avenue and the office entrance on Fifth Street. Thank You to Pastor Francisco Gaona and a contractor for power washing our facilities.

## NEW LIGHTING INSTALLED

Replacement fixtures and new lights have been installed in the Ladies Bible Study Classroom across from the kitchen, and in the entrance hallway by The People's Pantry. Thank You's go to David Dryer.

## LADIES BIBLE CLASS BEGINS NEW SERIES

A new series, *Defined: Who God Says We Are*, by popular teacher *Pricilla Shirer*, continues with the second lesson in the series on Sunday, February 18. This is an eight-week video and discussion study on our uniqueness in God's creation led by Connie Connely.

## FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 2,073.00
General Receipts February 4.....	\$ 1,350.00
Special Offerings.....	\$ 0.00

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