

# REFLECTIONS

I do not understand *Taylor Swift*, but she understands today's cultural environment. Last week she released *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*, a double record album with 31 new songs. An unprecedented 1.4 million albums were sold within the first 24 hours at \$15 each. The math on that is too high for me to understand. I am an older gentleman and catching all the words in her music is hard. This is her eleventh album, so there is a great deal of backstory in her music. I can listen to the album free right now. I do understand her sentiments in songs like *I Can Do It with a Broken Heart*, *Who's Afraid of Little Old Me?* and *Guilty as Sin?* My novice assessment is that Taylor Swift is in the tradition of the confessional poet and her songs seem like a peek into her private daily journal. That is why they are so relatable to her fans, who come from all age groups. She seems to have a very strong work ethic and business sense. She understands our culture.

Seminarians are taught that for missionaries to reach any foreign people group, it is wise to learn the culture and traditions of the people as well as the language. Missions is hard because it requires work, patience, empathy and understanding. It moves us outside our comfortable ways into unfamiliar places seeking to build healthy relationships. Taylor Swift leads a cultural "church" where people gather by the thousands to sing her songs of pain and suffering, joy and love. All manner of groups gather to discuss her lyrics and piece together the timelines of her life and relationships. Her every move is watched because she has such a profound influence on a world-wide scale. On a personal note, I believe there are parallels to Christianity which should not be ignored. The American church is in a Post Evangelical shift. The old wineskins of evangelicalism are breaking apart. The tenants of faith are being replaced by the tenants of secular politics. The confessions of faith are being replaced by the greediness of power and money. The good news of the gospel is being corrupted by meanness, cruelty, and exclusion directed towards sinners and outsiders. God loves us all. Jesus died for us all. Christ is Lord of all. Let's always confess Jesus.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Share the Good News. 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

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.

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 LIV

April 26, 2024

No. 17

...live  
your life  
in a manner  
worthy  
of the  
gospel  
of Christ...  
Philippians 1:27, NRSV

# Our Church Family

## AT HOME

Kevin Avery	Paula McPherson
Alice Barrett	Georgia Metcalf
Elizabeth Burke	Bonnie Nutting
Joe Crotser	Annette and Dennis Parker
Marion Corbett	Margaret Van Horn
Lydia Ford	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 9 Bill Ess

## TIMOTHY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OBU

The Timothy McKinley Scholarship Fund is available for full-time students attending **Oklahoma Baptist University** in Shawnee for the **2024-2025 school year**. Applications are due **by May 5**. Contact the church at [office@bradenpark.org](mailto:office@bradenpark.org).



**COMBINED WORSHIP**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**MONTE LOS OLIVOS**  
**and**  
**BRADEN PARK**

**MAY 5**

# Looking Ahead

## SUNDAY, APRIL 28

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

**10:00 a.m. Indestructible Joy Part 2**  
—**Philippians 1:21-30**

Our sermon series **Pure Joy** continues this week with the amazing story of the beginnings of the church at Philippi, the very first church formed in Europe. It is all about Joy. Invite your family and friends to church this Sunday and be blessed.

11:15 a.m. Ladies Bible Study  
Conversations with the Pastor

11:55 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## MONDAY, APRIL 29

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

## TUESDAY, APRIL 30

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

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

5:00 p.m. People's Pantry Ministry  
Clothes Closet Ministry  
Light Community Supper

**6:30 p.m. Prayer Service**

## SUNDAY, MAY 5

**10:30 a.m. Special Combined Service**

# Behind the Scenes

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**TO OUR**  
**COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 5**  
**10:30 A.M.**  
**OUR CHURCHES TOGETHER**  
**FOLLOWED BY A**  
**FIESTA DINNER**

## THANK YOU HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Last Sunday night's Spring Tulsa Together Service was outstanding in many ways. Our deep appreciation is extended to our Hospitality Committee for their delicious meal for the OBU Choir and refreshments for the Reception afterwards: Russell Ford, Patty Hickman, Ben Shepard, and Katy Cook.

## FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 2,073.00
General Receipts April 21 .....	\$ 1,755.00
Special Offerings.....	\$ 0.00

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