

BRO. DAVID LEFLORE

In the second century BC, Judea became the stage for one of the most intense religious persecutions in Jewish history. At the center of this crisis was Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Greek/Syrian ruler whose policies led to the desecration of the Jerusalem Temple in 167 BC and sparked the Maccabean Revolt. These events would permanently shape Jewish religious identity and give rise to the festival of Hanukkah, also known as the Feast of Dedication. Antiochus IV's self-appointed title, "Epiphanes," meant "manifest god" or "god revealed." Many Jews, however, mockingly referred to him as "Epimanes," meaning "the madman," reflecting their view of his arrogance and erratic behavior. While earlier Seleucid kings had allowed Jews a degree of religious autonomy, Antiochus took a far more aggressive approach. Internal divisions within Judea, between traditional Jews and Hellenized elites, gave him an opening to interfere directly in Jewish religious life, including the appointment and removal of high priests. In 167 BC, Antiochus issued decrees aimed at eradicating Jewish religious practice. These included: Banning circumcision, Sabbath observance, and Torah study. Forcing Jews to participate in pagan sacrifices. Installing pagan altars throughout Judea. The most shocking act was the desecration of the Jerusalem Temple. Antiochus ordered a pagan altar, likely dedicated to Zeus, to be erected on top of the Temple's altar of burnt offering. Unclean animals, probably pigs, were sacrificed there. This act is referred to in Jewish tradition as the ultimate sacrilege and is echoed in Daniel 11:31 as the "abomination of desolation." For Jews, the Temple was not merely a building; it was the dwelling place of God's presence. Its defilement represented an assault on the covenant itself. Resistance began when an elderly priest named Mattathias refused to offer a pagan sacrifice. When a fellow Jew stepped forward to comply, Mattathias killed both him and the Syrian official overseeing the ritual. In 167 BC, this act ignited open rebellion. After Mattathias' death in 166 BC, leadership passed to his son Judas, known as Judas Maccabeus ("the Hammer"). Though vastly outnumbered, Judas led a guerrilla campaign against Greek/Syrian forces. In 164 BC, Judas Maccabeus and his followers recaptured Jerusalem. They found the Temple defiled and in ruins. After cleansing it and rebuilding the altar, they rededicated the Temple on the 25th of Kislev, exactly three years after its desecration. Jewish tradition later emphasized the miracle of a small amount of consecrated oil lasting eight days, forming the basis for the eight-day celebration of Hanukkah. The desecration of the Temple and its rededication became symbols of resistance, faithfulness, and divine deliverance, echoed later in both Jewish tradition and the New Testament, where Jesus is depicted attending the Feast of Dedication (John 10:22). In Jewish memory, Antiochus Epiphanes remains not a divine manifestation, but "Epimanes," the mad tyrant whose attempt to extinguish the faith instead strengthened it. Now, the true "Epiphanes," God revealed – Jesus, is in the temple and the Jews fail to see Him for who He is. Instead, they see Jesus as just another "Epimanes" or madman. Now you're all set for the message Sunday.

Bro. David

BRO. ROBBY HARGRAVE

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful church family for your incredible generosity. Because of your faithful giving, Holly Brook now has a new refrigerator and freezer, essential additions that help us serve our church with care and consistency. Your generosity didn't stop there. The extra provision made it possible for us to also purchase a new food warmer.

Holly Brook is truly blessed. From our dedicated staff to the unwavering support of our church family, we are continually reminded that God's provision shows up through His people. Your kindness, prayers, and willingness to give make a meaningful difference each day.

And while the icy weather has had us bundling up, watching snowflakes fall, it has been beautiful to look at!

In Christ,

Robby

TORI LADNER

It's not "Pastor Appreciation Month", but as I sat here trying to figure out what to write about, the only thing that kept coming to my mind was how grateful I am to have a shepherd like Brother David. Over the past few weeks, I have had multiple loved ones go through some hard things and Pastor David has been there to support me and my loved ones whether it be through prayer, words of wisdom, guidance, scripture, helpful articles, answering late phone calls, etc. He has been the type of leader that he's been preaching about for the last couple weeks; a shepherd as opposed to a cowboy. I have been blessed to work under his leadership for 7+ years, but something about the last month has helped me to gain even more respect and adoration for the shepherd we call Pastor David. Satan is trying to attack pastors and church leaders and it's working. Please stand in the gap with me as we pray for Brother David and Connie and all of our staff and ministers! Pray that God would continue to protect our marriages and families and that we would continue moving forward doing the work that God has called us to. Thank you brother David for leading me, my family, and the church so well.

In Christ,

Tori Ladner

 FEBRUARY
Monday

Choir Practice -
5p

Tuesday

Men's Bible
Study-8a

Ladies Bible
Study - 6:45p

Wednesday

AWANA
Youth Group
The Nest
The Den
5:30p - Dinner
6p - Class Starts

Thursday

Men's Bible
Study- 7:30a

Ladies Bible
Study - 9:30a

Game Night - 3p

Friday

Pickleball - 2p

WEEKLY

February 3rd
Holly Stitchers-
9am

February 13th
Night to Shine
6pm - 9pm

February 14th
Valentines Day

MICHAEL BEATY

Spring is here, and so is new music! Whether you love to sing, play an instrument, or work behind the scenes, we have exciting opportunities for you to be part of our worship ministry.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

If you're interested in singing in the Worship Choir this spring, join us Monday nights at 5 PM in the Worship Center for rehearsal. We have some great new songs to learn together!

If you play an instrument and are interested in playing with the band on Sundays, I'd love to visit with you. Give me a call at 254-592-2172.

HELP NEEDED: CHOIR ROOM MOVE-IN

We're planning to move back into the choir room in February, and we need your help! If you're available to assist with any of the following projects, please contact me at 254-592-2172.

Here's what we need to accomplish:

1. Carpet cleaning – If you have experience with carpet cleaning, we could use your expertise to get spots cleaned.
2. Music organization – Help us move and sort the choir music the church owns.
3. Shelving pickup – We need trailers and workers to go to Stephenville to pick up some very nice shelving a church is donating to us.
4. Shelving installation – Assistance installing the new shelving in the choir room.
5. Music shelving – Help put the choir music onto the new shelving once it's installed.
6. Choir chairs – Help bring the trailer with the choir chairs from the church garage and get them unloaded and put into place.

As you can see, there are lots of moving parts! Your time and talents make our worship ministry thrive.

Let me know if you're willing to help with any of these projects.

Look forward to worshiping with you this Sunday!

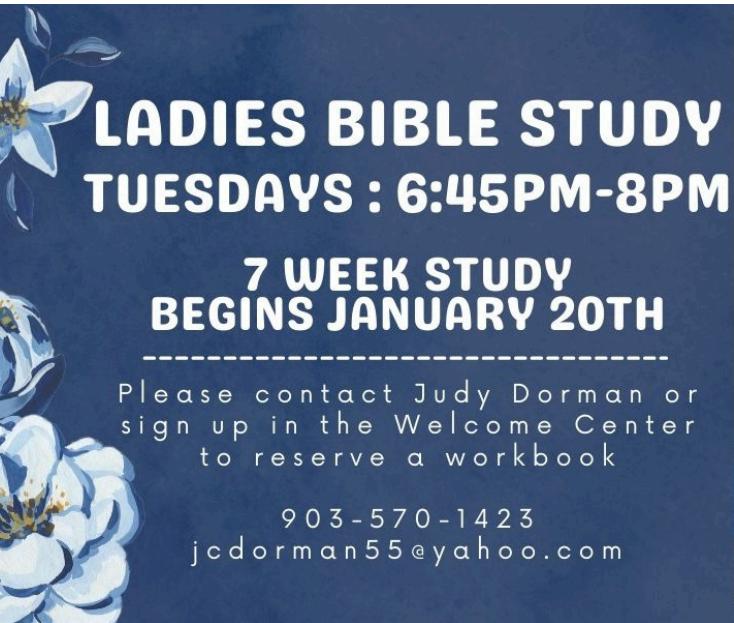
Michael Beaty

RYAN JONSE

Hey church! Hope all of y'all stayed safe and warm during the freeze. Our youth students are gearing up for our Disciple-Now in March. Please be in prayer for our college leaders, our host homes, our D-now speaker, our band, and all of our students who will be attending. I really am super excited to see what God has in store for us. On another note, we got our youth camp dates. Youth camp will be from June 29th through July 3rd. We will be attending FUGE camp at Southwestern Theological Seminary. If you have any questions about either of these events, please reach out to me at 903-472-1621.

Ryan

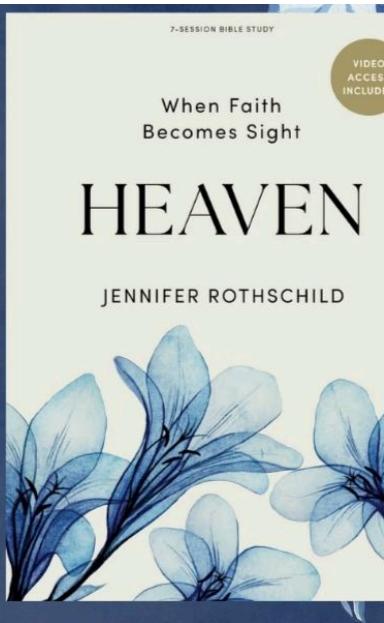
ANNOUNCEMENTS



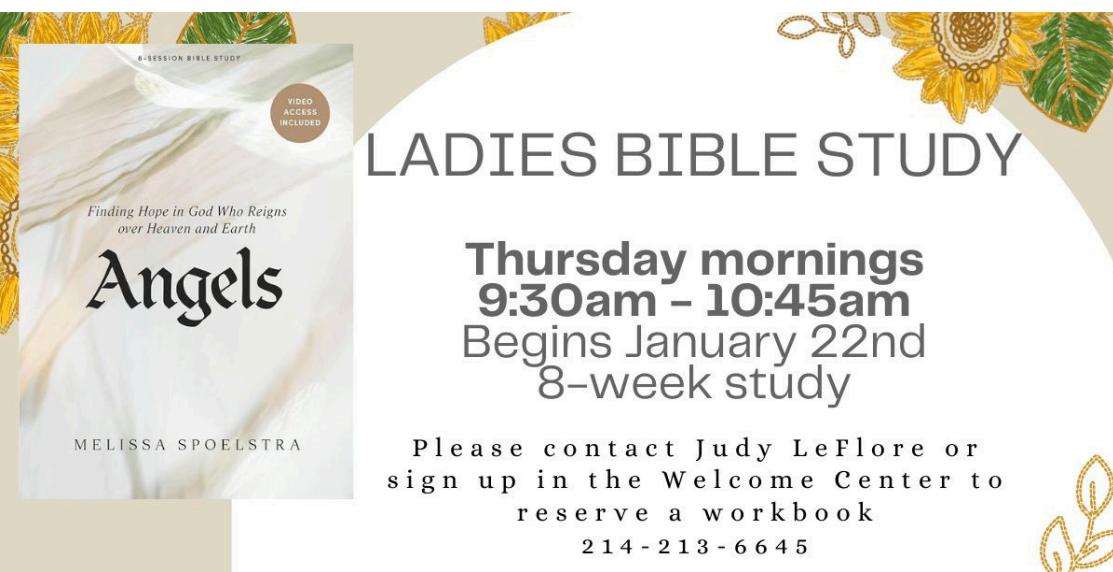
LADIES BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAYS : 6:45PM-8PM
7 WEEK STUDY
BEGINS JANUARY 20TH

Please contact Judy Dorman or sign up in the Welcome Center to reserve a workbook

903-570-1423
jcdorman55@yahoo.com



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
Nancy Hamilton 1
Rick Davis 2
Lily Myers 2
Raelynn Hartman 3
Hunter Higley 4
Barbara Bradley 5
Caleb Searcy 5
Glenda Tillman 6
Paula Gauthier 6
Luke VanDerWilt 9
Alma Simmons 10
Sherry Martinez 10
Carol Snow 11
Linda Williams 11
Nancy Long 12
Amber Perkins 12
Rick White 14
Dawson Freeman 14
Nichlos Stotts 15
Bridget Cisneros. 15



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

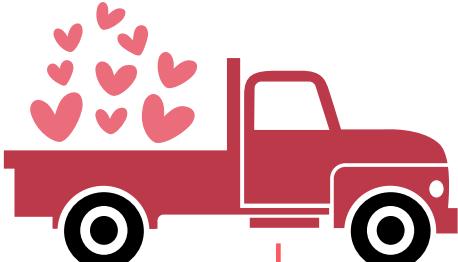
Thursday mornings
9:30Am - 10:45am
Begins January 22nd
8-week study

Please contact Judy LeFlore or sign up in the Welcome Center to reserve a workbook
214-213-6645

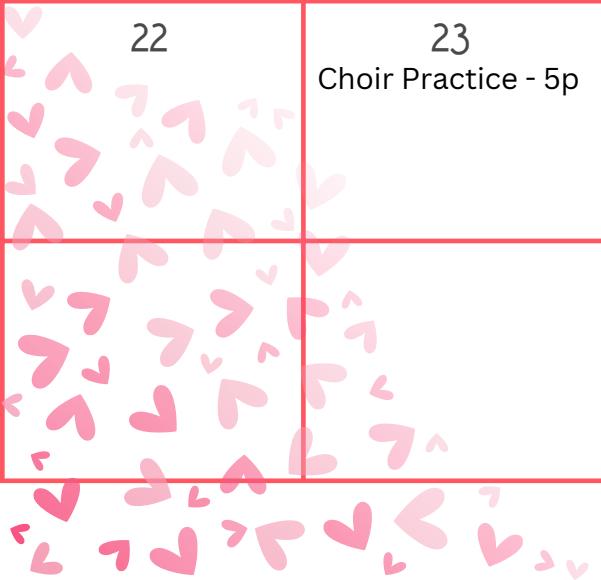


Night to **Shine**
TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION
HBBC.Live/NTS

February 13, 2026



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Choir Practice - 5p	3 Men's Bible Study- 8a Holly Stitchers - 9a	4 Trinity Choir - 9:30a Youth Ministry & AWANA - 5:30p The Nest & Den 6p	5 Men's Bible Study- 7:30a Game Night- 3p	6 Pickleball - 2p	7
8	9 Choir Practice - 5p	10	11	12	13 	14 
15	16 Choir Practice - 5p ★  ★ PRESIDENT'S DAY	17 Men's Bible Study- 8a	18 Trinity Choir - 9:30a Youth Ministry & AWANA - 5:30p The Nest & Den 6p	19 Men's Bible Study- 7:30a Game Night- 3p	20 Pickleball - 2p	21
22 	23 Choir Practice - 5p	24 Men's Bible Study- 8a Holly Stitchers - 9a	25 Trinity Choir - 9:30a Youth Ministry & AWANA - 5:30p The Nest & Den 6p	26 Men's Bible Study- 7:30a Game Night- 3p	27 Pickleball - 2p	28 