



# NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

EIC: Wendy Powers

*The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually.*

# INCARNATION

Incarnation is a term used by theologians to indicate that Jesus, the Son of God, took on human flesh. This is similar to the hypostatic union. The difference is that the hypostatic union explains how Jesus' two natures are joined, and the Incarnation more specifically affirms His humanity.

The word incarnation means "the act of being made flesh." It comes from the Latin version of John 1:14, which in English reads, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." Because of the near-exclusive use of the Latin Vulgate in the church through the Middle Ages, the Latin term became standard.

Biblical support for Jesus' humanity is extensive. The Gospels report Jesus' human needs including sleep (Luke 8:23), food (Matthew 4:2; 21:18), and physical protection (Matthew 2:13-15; John 10:39). Other indications of His humanity are that He perspired (Luke 22:43-44) and bled (John 19:34). Jesus also expressed emotions including joy (John 15:11), sorrow (Matthew 26:37), and anger (Mark 3:5). During His life, Jesus referred to Himself as a man (John 8:40), and after His resurrection His humanity was still recognized (Acts 2:22).

But the purpose of the Incarnation was not to taste food or to feel sorrow. The Son of God came in the flesh in order to be the Savior of mankind. First, it was necessary to be born "under the law" (Galatians 4:4). All of us have failed to fulfill God's Law. Christ came in the flesh, under the Law, to fulfill the Law on our behalf (Matthew 5:17; Galatians 4:5).

Second, it was necessary for the Savior to shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). A blood sacrifice, of course, requires a body of flesh and blood. And this was God's plan for the Incarnation: "When Christ came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering [under the Old Covenant] you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me'" (Hebrews 10:5). Without the Incarnation, Christ could not really die, and the cross is meaningless.

God did an incredible work in sending His only begotten Son into the world and providing us with a salvation we do not deserve. Praise the Lord for that moment in which "the Word became flesh." We are now redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:19).

GotQuestions.org

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**Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM**

Adult Services AND Children's (0-12 years) Programs

Youth (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM

**Wednesday P.M. Service: 6:30-7:30 PM**

# A Word from Pastor David Shields

TBF Family,

This Advent season our sermon series is going to be focused on the Incarnation. Incarnation is a big theological word which describes God taking on a human body. This is the central act we remember during the Christmas season. We remember that Jesus Christ took on a human body and was born to a virgin in Bethlehem. There are a few reasons I want us to spend time this December thinking about the incarnation.

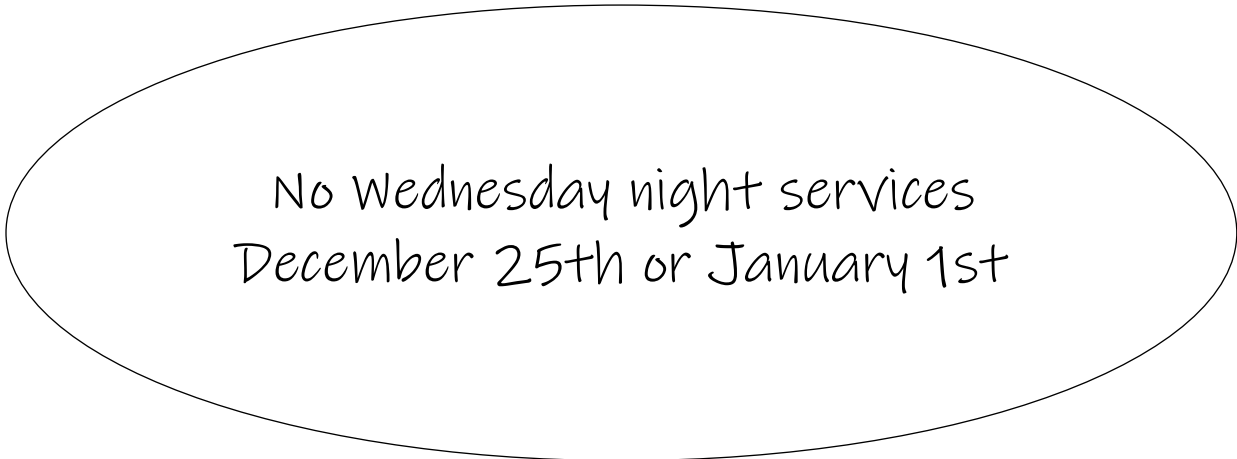
The first reason is because it is one of our foundational beliefs as Christians. You cannot be a Christian without believing in the incarnation. If Jesus is not God incarnate, then our entire faith falls apart. Since this belief is so foundational, it bears reminding ourselves about it. We refresh ourselves on the fundamentals so that our faith can stay secure.

Another reason is because Christians do not always understand the incarnation. The American church has become largely theologically illiterate. They do not understand basic doctrine and in some cases don't even believe it. I've been shocked to meet Christians who don't believe the incarnation and don't understand why that would be a problem. My hope is that this series will help all of us understand its significance better.

The last reason I want us to study the incarnation is because it helps us gaze at Christ. I am of the firm belief that any time spent thinking, meditating, or hearing about Jesus is good for our souls. Studying the incarnation is studying Jesus. Doing so will help us better behold the wonder and glory of who and what Jesus is.

This will be a different kind of series for me to preach and for us to go through. We will still stay rooted in the Bible, but it will be more of a theological sermon series than I typically preach. But I think the incarnation is worth our time and effort. And my prayer is that it will help us better worship Christ this holiday season.

In Christ,  
Pastor David Shields



No Wednesday night services  
December 25th or January 1st

# What's Happening at TBF



**Merry Christmas**

**Tea and Tinsel:  
Immanuel God With Us!**

**Saturday, December 7th**  
From 5 PM - 7 PM!  
Hosted at Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

The season's chaos can leave us lonely, drained, or overwhelmed. Join us for a conversation about Christmas to reflect on Christ and remember the reason for the season. Let's come together to recognize the beauty of Christ this Christmas!



**Sprinkle for Baby Shields**

**Sunday, December 8th**  
Immediately following Sunday Service

Join us in celebrating the impending arrival of Baby Shields

*Children are a gift from the Lord;  
they are a reward from Him.*  
Psalm 127:3



Wassail Night

*Come,  
let us  
adore  
Him.*

**WASSAIL NIGHT**

**December 15th**  
**5:30 PM**  
**POT LUCK MEAL AND SINGING**



Christmas Eve Service

*Christmas Eve Service*

**6:30 PM**

# Opportunities to Serve

## **Awana Volunteers Needed.**

Looking for fun on Wednesday nights? Have a love for God and want to plant seeds in the lives of children? Be a TBF AWANA Volunteer. There's something for everyone. Please see Pastor Rob Girvin for details.

## **Let's give our moms a break....**

Volunteers needed in the nursery and pre-school areas on Sunday mornings. Sign-up Sheet in the Foyer. Please see Pastor Rob Girvin.

## **Bible study childcare worker needed.**

Childcare is needed for the Thursday morning study. Please let us know if you know of someone available on Thursday mornings who loves kids and could use a little extra spending money. See Jean Crow if you know of someone or want to volunteer.

As each has received a gift, use it  
to serve one another, as good  
stewards of God's varied grace.

I Peter 4:10

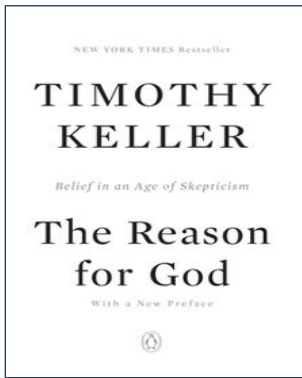
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# Kindred Community

December 12th 6-8 PM

Hosted by New Hope West

If you are a TBF woman with a heavenly husband or know of a woman you would like to invite to this event, please RSVP by December 5th - Jan Palovik 580.786.6009



# Discipleship Class

December 15th

## The Reason for God

by Timothy Keller.

How could a loving God send people to hell? Why does he allow suffering? Can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong"? Responding to the questions of open skeptics and ardent believers, Keller's writing draws from literature, philosophy, reason, and real-life conversations to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly, rational belief.

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.

Discipleship class led by Mike Palovik

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# TBF Men's Ministries WISDOM

PRAYER, PSALMS, AND PROVERBS

TBF Youth Room 6:30-7:30 PM

Led by Wolfgang Deeg

- **Session 1 (Nov. 4):** Solomon's prayer for wisdom (I Kings 3)  
Hear Solomon's prayer, inspired by his father David's passion for God. Solomon asks the Lord for wisdom with a wholly dependent heart, and God replies with abundant grace.
- **Session 2 (Nov. 18):** Psalms  
Sing praises with selected psalms of David, whose hymns of faith lead God's people wisely across time. David models how to cultivate wisdom in every circumstance by living in worship of the Lord.
- **Session 3 (Dec. 2):** Proverbs  
Pray through the words of Solomon's book of Proverbs, where God's inspired instruction, warnings and even humor have the power to inform and transform the believer's walk in this world.

King David and his son King Solomon demonstrate: **the foundation of all wisdom is loving reverence for God – Wisdom is His glorious Person revealed in the Word.** Personal, transforming, and everlasting wisdom comes from God who graciously makes Himself known and gives His people wisdom. Will you know, love and worship God through faith in Jesus and treasure His Word today? **Will you go to God for the Wisdom only He provides?**

# TBF *Women's Ministries*

Christmas Outreach Project with Gabriel's House.

Dec 5th

We will be cooking and serving the kids of Gabriel's House as they celebrate their Thanksmas Feast.

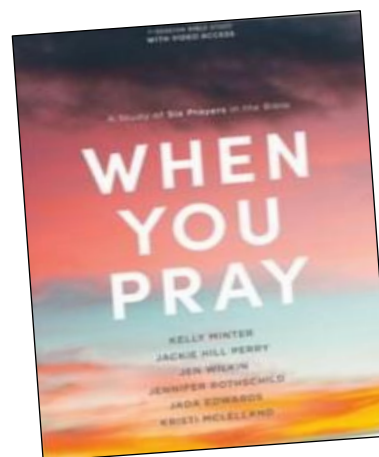
The dinner will be held at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:30 PM.

If you would like to help cook then join us between 3:30 and 4. If you just want to help serve then come around 4:30 PM.

New Ladies' Bible study beginning 1/16/25.

When You Pray by Lifeway Women.

A study of 6 prayers in the Bible that will inspire your own prayer life, strengthen your faith and unite your heart to Jesus. See the sign up in the foyer so we can be sure to have enough books.



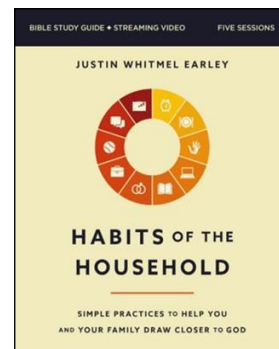
Thanksgiving Baskets. Thank you to all who donated, boxed and distributed our 30 baskets. It was obvious that the need is great and was greatly appreciated. You all are such a generous church family!

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## Parenting Class

Tuesdays at 6 PM  
Meets at TBF in classroom

Habits of the Household  
Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms  
By Justin Whitmel Early



# TBF Family Ministries

Happy December, church family!

As we enter into the true Christmas season, the Halloween candy has been eaten, and the turkeys have been carved, meaning that we can finally put up our Christmas decorations and begin to listen to Christmas music. With someone who is musical in our house like Hannah, it seems like there is always music in our home, either her singing (or one of the children) or we are listening to something. As the Scrooge in our family who thinks we should celebrate Thanksgiving before we start listening to Christmas music, I often get outvoted by everyone else. Last week we were listening to advent music, and the hymn, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," began to play. This is one of my favorite hymns because of what it reminds us of. This month, given that it is the month that we celebrate the birth of our Savior, I would like us to think about Jesus through the song "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus."

I think part of the reason this song is one of my favorites is because it does not feel like a Christmas song, much like a lot of the tried-and-true hymns. In the first verse, Jesus' first coming is discussed. It is so easy to keep Jesus in the manger, especially in this season. Jesus' birth is very important; He was born a man and, as such, could be our perfect representative. But Jesus did grow up and faced every trial that we face and faced them perfectly. He performed miracles, healing the sick and even raising the dead. Through His first coming, He opened a way for us Gentiles to worship God even though we were not part of the chosen family; we were adopted into the family of God through the sacrifice of Jesus. I love "Away in a Manger," but Jesus is so much more than simply a baby in a manger. He is the King of kings who laid down His crown and got off His throne to stand in our place and bear the judgment for our sins and wear a crown of thorns. This first verse reminds us of why we celebrate our Jesus, born to set His people free, to bring joy to every heart and to bring hope to all the earth.

The second verse reminds us of Jesus' second coming. This year the youth have been walking through Revelation. This has been equal parts tiring, confusing, and gratifying. It has reminded me once again how awesome His return will be. It is so easy to fall into the trap of keeping Jesus in the manger, and it is equally easy to keep Jesus in the clouds, destined to return one day in the far future, but for now, we can live how we want because Jesus is not coming back yet. Jesus' second coming is present, it is going to happen sooner rather than later, and while this second coming is going to be judgment for those who rebel against the Lord, it will be a sweet day of entering into the Kingdom of God. This truth should paint how we interact with everyone; we should encourage the saint and petition the sinner.

The final thought that I would like to add is as much as I enjoy a Bing Crosby song, or learning for the thousandth time how a hippopotamus makes a good Christmas present, what we listen to impacts what we think. If we listen to how all we want for Christmas is "you" or how cold it is outside, that will cause us to think differently than if we listen to music that points us to Jesus. That will change our perspective on this season. As we go through this season, remember the reason for the season: we are celebrating our King, who came and will return one day soon.

In the love of Christ,  
Pastor Rob

**\*\*Youth Bible Study -- Sundays 6-7 PM TBF Youth Room -- Journey Through the Bible**

# David's Book Recommendations

Like many pastors, I am a big fan of books. The following books are all books you can find on my bookshelf, and I would be more than happy to lend them to anyone who would like to read them.

## **Your Jesus is too American: Calling the Church to Reclaim Kingdom Values over the American Dream by Steve Bezner**

This is a gentle and pastoral book. It is not written to browbeat and condemn all those people over there doing it wrong. He does not go after any particular party or groups of people, which will disappoint some. Instead, it is a gentle call to come back to Jesus. The argument is how much better the kingdom of God is than any worldly alternative.

Most of the book goes through values of Jesus and how they are different from American values. It is more positively focused on the better way of Christ than the wrong way of the world. He still addresses sexuality, politics, and race. He does so in a way that is clear and firm on traditional Christian teaching without arguing for a particular partisan stance or policy position. This book was so focused on Jesus and the gospel it was impossible for me not to like it.

## **The Wild Robot by Peter Brown**

This is a cute book with a great story about a robot who lives on a wild island and learns to care for the animals. It is mostly a cozy light-hearted read. My children absolutely loved it. It had short chapters, some 2 pages and others closer to twelve. They would always beg for more and once we reached a certain part of the story demanded we finished it all. I'll be picking up the next books in the series.

The movie is actually better and is one of the best-animated movies I've ever seen. It streamlines the plot and adds a deeper emotional journey for the characters. But the book is still enjoyable in its own right.

## **Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe by David Maraniss**

Jim Thorpe is one of those characters whose life has been surrounded by so much mythology it is difficult to ever know the true story. Maraniss does a great job cataloging Thorpe's life and separates the facts from fiction as often as possible. The most impressive part of the book is how well he explains the context of Thorpe's life. Each reference or place is explained and fleshed out in ways that floored me. It never feels like you are reading about random disconnected moments in Thorpe's life. Instead, an entire point in history is being explained.

The primary weakness of the book is that I still don't have a great sense of Thorpe as a person and it is probably difficult to ever know. He was a nomadic alcoholic who abandoned multiple families while continually traveling the country trying to make a living. He was reserved about his true feelings most of the time. He understood his fame and usually was trying to navigate it in his public statements. I wish I could have learned more about his inner life, but that task seems impossible.

Despite the weakness, this is a wonderful book. It stands head and shoulders above most sports biographies as a genuine historical work. More than anything, this book reminded me of how fleeting an unfulfilling greatness and fame can be.