



Antioch Connection

TAYLORED TALK a message for His people

FAMILY CONNECIIONS MONTH

Dear Antioch Family,

It's September, we're kicking off "Family Connections" month at Antioch and I couldn't be more excited. It's time to bring the family together! This is our time to connect, grow, and maybe even have a little fun along the way.

On September 1, we started new worship service times — 8:00 am and 10:30 am — to better accommodate our thrust towards greater discipleship for everyone. Our Children's and Adult Sunday School sessions are making a comeback this month. We also have an exciting line up with new Christian Education opportunities just for you. There are C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups for Adults, Singles and Married Couples, so get ready to dig into the Word and share some laughs (and maybe a few snacks) with your church family. (See page two for a snapshot of the classes). For more details go to www.antioch-church.org.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who planned and participated in our recent Quarterly Business Meeting and Taylored Talk. Your dedication and service to our church family do not go unnoticed.

September also brings National Back to Church Day (8th)—a perfect opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us as we worship together. Also, if you know someone who hasn't been around in a while —or ever— this is the ideal time to bring them. With students returning to school, it's a busy season, but we have an array of exciting activities planned for everyone. Be sure to follow us on social media to stay updated.

We are shifting together as a church family, UNITED as one body in Christ. Remember, God created and still anoints families, and we are part of His larger family. Stay tuned for more exciting news!

I love you and there's nothing you can do about it!

Pastor T



2024 "Shift...Greater Is Coming!"

"But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children —" Psalms 103:17 NIV

Inside this edition:

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- ◆ Assimilation and Connection
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Join Us For

Tuesday Morning Prayer

7—7:30 AM Dial (945) 218-0090, access code 1846260

Family Bible Study: Wednesdays

at 12 Noon In-Person Only; 7 PM In-Person and Virtual with dinner and homework stations from 5:30—6:30 PM

SonRise Bible Study, Thursdays 6 AM

Friday Morning Bible Study, 9:30— 11 AM

Family Connections Month



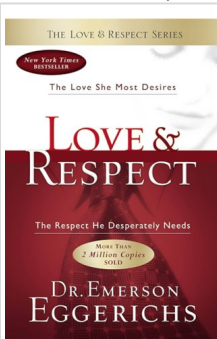
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New Worship Service times started September 1st: 8:00AM & 10:30AM

which allow for your participation in

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES from 9:30 AM–10:15 AM

In addition to our ongoing weekly Bible Studies, below are some of the new spiritual growth opportunities offered or developed just for you. This twelve week C.A.R.E.S. series will start September 8th and run through November 24th. Our goal is to provide meaningful opportunities for every member to serve and to grow. Pray about it and then be about it. Pre-registration is required for these classes. You may register online. Also, check out the full line up Antioch Bible Studies on our website.



Married Couples

***Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs* by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs**
Experience deeper connection and improved communication in your marriage, family, relationships and faith. This Bible study will be led by Deacons Capers and Beverly Brown.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Rev. Jim Harden

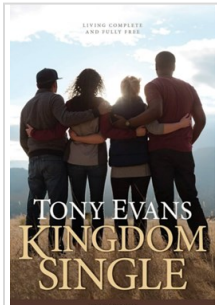
Learn More about the Holy Spirit and His role in your life.



How To Build a Strong Prayer & Devotional Life

Rev. Rochella Marable

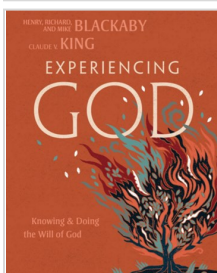
Develop and strengthen your prayer and devotional life.



Singles

***Kingdom Single: Living Complete and Fully Free* by Tony Evans**

If you're single and feeling incomplete or even like a second-class citizen in Christian circles, Dr. Tony Evans wants to encourage you to live fully where you are. Kingdom Single will encourage you to see yourself as complete in Christ and free to serve Him. It will empower you to live as Kingdom men and women in a corrupt culture. This class will be led by Sister Kiah Spinks.



Adults all ages

***Experiencing God* by Henry, Richard, and Mike Blackaby**

Do you want to take your relationship with God to a new level? This classic Bible study has helped millions of people do just that. Newly revised *Experiencing God* will help you understand seven key facts about God that many Christians miss. In learning these, you can open the door to a deeper faith, greater obedience, and profound change in your life. This study will be led by Brother Joe Alexander.

Family Bible Study resumes , Wednesday September 11th

Journey with Pastor Taylor as we study verse by verse through a book of the Bible. Deepen your knowledge of the scriptures and engage in discussion. This is a churchwide family Bible Study which starts at 7:00pm. There is a nutritious dinner for all from 5:30 pm—6:30 pm with a study hall for children and youth to complete their homework prior to Bible Study. Children and Youth have unique Bible Study lessons for their age groups while adults partake in Bible Study to feed and encourage their souls. This Bible Study is streamed via the Antioch website, YouTube, and Facebook.



There is also an In-person Bible Study for adults at 12 Noon on Wednesdays for those who enjoy the in-person experience but can't make the evening gathering.



Antioch Connection

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS



Iron Sharpeners Summit: Pastor Kevin B. Taylor wore the toolbelt of truth as he equipped over 100 leaders with the right tools for kingdom building. He challenged us all to be a STAR team versus a team of stars.



August was an exciting time. Our Children and Youth brought glory and honor to our Father. Each Sunday, they were in charge of the worship services — greeting members and friends, ushering, leading praise and worship, and welcoming our guests.



Recent HS graduate, Tzipora Kahrs, delivered a prayer of thanksgiving in preparation for the doxology.



Each Sunday in August, God showered Antioch with blessings including baptisms, baby dedications, new members receiving the Right Hand of Fellowship and so much more. At the altar, we prayed for God's grace, guidance, and protection for our college students, children, youth, and teachers as they start the new year.



Parents and family stood in support of Xavier A. Myers' dedication to God as Pastor Taylor reminded us that children are a gift from God.



Antioch's Office of the Senior Pastor modeling C.A.R.E.S. as they supported Freedom High School delivering backpacks for Back to School Night. Our STAR team is committed to community outreach, working together, and serving together.





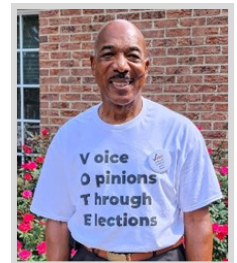
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MEMBER RECOGNITION



Congratulations Dr. Michelle Edwards on becoming the new Executive Assistant to our Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin B. Taylor. Dr. Edwards is an accomplished educational leader, executive coach, facilitator, and social innovator with 30 years of experience in school administration, instructional leadership, and nonprofit management. Originally from Chicago, she moved to the DMV area to serve as a principal in Washington, DC, and has since dedicated her career to advancing educational equity. As the founder of The Idari Collective, Dr. Edwards empowers people of color, especially women leaders, to thrive in work and life. Michelle is also a passionate advocate for racial reconciliation in the Christian church, an avid reader, board member, adjunct professor, and advisor at the University of Virginia. She has two adult sons, Darren and Dante. Michelle and her family were members of Antioch from 2003 –2007. She served in the Music Ministry.

Congratulations Rick Butler has been a member of Antioch Baptist Church since 1998 and has served as a Deacon and a vocalist with the choirs. Beyond Brother Butler’s service with ABC, he has legislative experience with the Army Legislative Affairs Office for the Secretary of the Army. Further, Rick has worked with and trained members of Congress, House and Senate on operational Army Affairs. In July 2024, Rick assumed the role as lead servant for the Justice Empowerment Ministry (JEM). Given his experience and skills and following prayer with his wife, Camille, Rick felt compelled by the Lord to take on this role.



He and Camille ask for your prayers and your engagement with JEM! Brother Butler is a classically trained vocalist from Hampton University with a Bachelor of Science in Music. He has performed at some of the most noteworthy concert hall venues including the Kennedy Center, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (Oprah Winfrey Theater) and Carnegie Hall, to name a few. Singing is his joy and service to the Lord! His favorite scripture is, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* *Philippians 4:13*

Congratulations

ADVANCED DEGREES

Ivy Benton

Regent University
Master of Education (M.Ed.)



Patrick Cloud

University of Virginia
Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Arrington Evans

Magna Cum Laude
Virginia Commonwealth University
Bachelor of Science in Political Science

Marquitta L. Foster

Doctor of Philosophy Health Science
Liberty University

Alexandra Holmes

University of Virginia
Bachelor of Science in Statistics

Alexis Novell

George Mason University
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

Congratulations

Antioch's very own, the Honorable Kiah D. Spinks, was recently appointed by the Virginia General Assembly to serve as a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge. In June, Kiah was sworn in as a Special Justice in the 31st District of the Commonwealth of Virginia. On August 16th, the formal investiture ceremony was held. The Chief Justice administered the Judicial Oath to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of the 31st District of Virginia at the Prince William County Courthouse in Manassas.



Spinks, a dedicated member of Antioch, was celebrated by relatives, friends, and her Antioch family in the heartfelt ceremony that was marked by decorum and dignity. It also had its share of humor as her sister, Kenya Savage, serenaded her with Biggie Smalls, one of Kiah's favorites.

Kiah, formerly the managing partner at Spinks Law PLLC, earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Morgan State University and her juris doctor from the North Carolina Central University School of Law.





Antioch Connection

LET'S CELEBRATE FAMILY!

September is Family Month at Antioch, and we are thrilled about the various activities that will bring us together as a church family. Antioch always has been a place where strong familial connections and ties are celebrated and a community where everyone can feel the love and support of a close-knit church family.



As we look forward to the events and gatherings planned for this special month, it's important to reflect on how God continues to add to our church family. Antioch has been blessed with a rich history of traditional family structures. But as our community grows, we also must embrace the diverse ways families are formed today. From single-parent households to blended families, and from grandparents raising grandchildren to those without biological families nearby, the definition of "family" has broadened.

Our challenge and opportunity as a church is to witness to these families with the same warmth, love, and acceptance that always has characterized Antioch. We must ask ourselves, how can we make sure that every family, regardless of its structure, feels welcomed and included? How can we create spaces and ministries that speak to the unique needs of all families in our congregation?

This month, let's celebrate the diversity of our families, while continuing to build on the strong connections that have made our church a beacon of God's love. As we continue to SHIFT for Greater, the entire community and surrounding counties will know that Antioch CARES. Together, we can ensure that Antioch, and all who God adds to the church, will feel that our church is a place where everyone feels at home.

Food For Thought! *By Deloris Witcher*



"As a man thinketh so is he." Proverbs 23:7a NKJV

If your thinking is impaired, are you your best you? Consider then your brain health. Unlike other organs, the brain cannot be seen or felt. Yet, mindfully caring for it is important. Brain health research shows that nutrition plays a huge role in optimizing brain function, maintaining cognitive capacities, and preventing brain-related diseases. Shockingly, only about 10% of Alzheimer's cases, according to experts, can be traced to genetics alone. Poor nutrition and lifestyle choices can cause "stinking thinking." Brain-nourishing foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids—such as fatty fish, nuts, and leafy green vegetables, physical exercise, and brain games—can help keep your "noggin" jogging.

Talk to your doctor about lifestyle changes and if you should get a flu, COVID, or RSV shot. Many local hospitals are at capacity because of surges in Covid and RSV.



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT NEWS YOU CAN USE!



Thank you, Antioch, for helping us to soar! These are the words Freedom High school used in response to your love and support. Antioch, you provided 201 backpacks this summer. This enabled us to deliver school supplies and support to Freedom High School, Woodley Hills Elementary, and to our Antioch families.

We enthusiastically await the return of our students. Bible Studies resume on Sunday, September 8th with Children's Sunday School and Youth Encounter from 9:30 am—10:15 am. Then on Wednesday, September 11th, we will resume Kingdom Kidz and the Encounter Experience. Dinner and homework start at 5:30 pm, and classes begin at 7:00 pm.

Get ready! Beginning in October, we will hold Children's Church every third Sunday. Greater is coming!



Antioch Connection

Justice Empowerment Ministry (JEM)

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” Proverbs 31: 8-9 NIV

The Justice Empowerment Ministry (formerly the Community Awareness Ministry, founded by Deacon Howard Boone) has had a powerful year and is actively serving Antioch. In June, Deacon Kevin Tann, passed the torch of leadership to Brother Rickey C. Butler. Under Brother Butler’s leadership, along with guidance from his spiritual advisor Rev. Michael Coppedge, JEM will follow three key tracks: 1) Education (Knowledge), 2) Activities (Action), and 3) Youth (in collaboration with Rev. Simpkins). The ministry hosted a “Voter Focus Day” on Sunday, August 18th. Mrs. Nancy Hall, a Voter Precinct Manager and certified Voting Expert, assisted JEM with their voter registration efforts for Focus Day #1.



Left to Right: Rick Butler, Nancy Hall, David Hall and Camille Butler



Left to Right: Beverly Wilson, Kevin Tann, Rick Butler, Janice Brangman, and Nancy Hwa

Mrs. Hall and her husband, David, attended our worship services. Following each worship service, the team shared early voting information, answered questions, and encouraged everyone to register and vote in the November elections. On August 29th, Ms. Nancy Hwa, Regional Director, Center for Common Ground, delivered a presentation to JEM on how their organization can be resourceful to JEM in helping to Get Out the Vote (GOTV), through phoning and/or post carding activities. A second “Voter Focus Day” is scheduled for September 22nd and will feature education, activities, and youth initiatives.



Early Voting Locations & Hours

September 20 - November 2 at three Early Vote Centers	October 24 - November 2 at 13 locations across Fairfax County
Locations & Hours: Fairfax County Government Center 12000 GOV'T CENTER PKWY, FAIRFAX Weekdays: 8 am - 4:30 pm Saturdays (9/21, 10/26 & 11/2): 9 am - 5 pm Sunday (10/27): 1 pm - 5 pm Mount Vernon Governmental Center 2511 PARKERS LN, ALEXANDRIA Weekdays: 1 pm - 7 pm Saturdays (9/21, 10/26 & 11/2): 9 am - 5 pm Sunday (10/27): 1 pm - 5 pm North County Governmental Center 1801 CAMERON GLEN DR, RESTON Weekdays: 1 pm - 7 pm Saturdays (9/21, 10/26 & 11/2): 9 am - 5 pm Sunday (10/27): 1 pm - 5 pm	Locations & Hours: Burke Centre Library Centreville Regional Library Franconia Governmental Center Great Falls Library Herndon Fortnightly Library Lorton Community Center Mason Governmental Center McLean Governmental Center Providence Community Center Sully Governmental Center Thomas Jefferson Library Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library West Springfield Governmental Center Weekdays: 1 pm - 7 pm Saturdays (10/26 & 11/2): 9 am - 5 pm Sunday (10/27): 1 pm - 5 pm

For a full list of locations, hours, and an interactive map, check out FairfaxVotes.org/early!



VOTE: Make it a Family Affair!

As stated by Michelle Obama, “Do something!” Brothers and Sisters, we can no longer afford not to do something about GOTV. There are approximately nine weeks before Election Day. GOTV stands for “get out the vote” and signifies a concerted effort to register voters and increase voter turnout during elections. This can be done without regard to political leaning or can be organized by political groups aiming to increase turnout among voters who support a particular candidate or cause.

There are several GOTV activities that family members can do from home. The following sites are provided for your convenience and assistance to GOTV! [Everything You Need to Vote](#) and [vote.org](#)



Antioch Connection

Healing is a Journey!

Grief is inevitable and something we are all bound to experience at some point in our lives. Grief is a natural response to loss and may affect everyone differently. For some, that response may be handled in a private or quiet manner while others may be more open to sharing their pain. During the grief period, joining support groups or ministries while having open discussions amongst others often can be an effective way of coping with grief.



Lisa Black and her father Richard Tyler

The Grief Share Ministry has been at Antioch for a number of years and is open to members, family members, and friends dealing with grief. Currently led by Sister Lisa Black and Sister Debra Beasley, the ministry was created to support those experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one and to aid in their healing journey. The Ministry was led previously by Rev. Jeffrey and Sister Brenda Gaines and Sister Sandra Streeter. Sister Black is shown above with her beloved father, Richard Tyler, who transitioned after this photo was taken at her doctoral graduation ceremony at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. He was Lisa's inspiration for deciding to lead the Grief Share Ministry.



Debra Beasley

The ministry provides a safe space for participants to process their grief with others who are grieving also. The Grief Share program is guided by scripture, and the healing process is facilitated from a spiritual perspective. The Grief Share Ministry meets virtually for 13 weeks and will begin on Monday, September 9th at 7:00 pm. If you are currently on a grief journey and are in need of support during the healing process, consider joining this ministry. Sister Black states, "Grief Share is a program providing spiritual support to those in our community who are grieving. Participants learn that grieving is a journey and how we grieve is unique to each of us." You can get a sneak peek into the Grief Share Ministry sessions by checking out this [video](#) or contact Sister Lisa Black at lisatylblack@outlook.com or Sister Debra Beasley at debrabeasley22@gmail.com.



New Antioch FFX Interview Series: Coming soon...

Part 1: Who Is: Antioch FFX?

Part 2: Who Is: Pastor Taylor and Lady Leona?

Antioch has a new Interview Series to provide members and friends more information about Antioch Baptist Church. In the first episode, Pastor Taylor shares his vision for our church and his commitment to Antioch C.A.R.E.S.— being a church that is Charitable, Adapts, Relational, Evangelizes, and Serves. Pastor Taylor says, "Simply put I want our church to be, number one, Christ centered. Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. And number two, I want us to be intentional about being at least five or six generations worshiping and growing together in our faith."

In the second episode, you'll learn more about Pastor Taylor and Lady Leona's personal stories. Did you know he originally wanted to be a doctor or that she loves "Minute to Win It" games for family game nights? Pastor Taylor says, "Above all, I want every generation in this community to know that we care. That's what everyone can hold us accountable for ... our C.A.R.E.S. report". Let's ask ourselves: How are we doing? Are we really out in community? Are we really serving? Are we really giving? Are we open to change? Or do we want to do what we have always done? Lastly, he said, "I'll never be satisfied until every member at Antioch is a servant in at least one ministry. That's how we'll know that Antioch C.A.R.E.S."

In honoring founding Pastor John Q. Gibbs and the four founders who prayed with him for a year before the first service was held, Pastor Taylor said, "Antioch is built and birthed on prayer. That's where our hope has to be — every member of our church praying for God's will to be done in His church and in our lives."

Sister Candace Homer is the host of the Antioch FFX interview series.





Antioch Connection

Assimilation and Connection : Our Discipleship Process

We sat down with Sister Tanya Easley to better understand the new discipleship process and her role as Director of Assimilation and Connection and here's what she shared.

The Assimilation and Connection team focuses on ensuring our first time guests and visitors feel Antioch's relational warmth. From the time people come onto the Antioch campus (or visit us virtually) to membership and ultimately ministry selection, the assimilation and connection process begins.

It starts with the Assimilation and Connection team (ACT) providing exceptional guest services during our worship services and select programs. The hope is that each first-time guest will at some point consider Antioch as their church home. But we must be intentional about connecting with them and inviting them to fellowship with us as they get to know our church.

ACT also walks with new members on their discipleship journey – helping them to deepen their relationship with God through connection to Christian education and serving in ministries. Depending on how a new member unites with Antioch (as a candidate for baptisms or by Christian experience) the following classes are required to complete their membership journey:

- Baptism Readiness is for children and youth candidates for baptism.
- Starting Point is for new believers who are candidates for baptism.
- New Member Orientation is required for all who join and utilizes the spiritual gifts survey.
- Right Hand of Fellowship is extended to all new members as they are presented to the congregation.
- The next step for adults is the Biblical Foundations class.

All new members are encouraged to attend at least one Bible Study and serve in at least one ministry.

We asked Sister Easley a few questions. Her responses follow each question.

What prompted you to accept the position as Director of Assimilation and Connection.

After much prayer, I recognized this was an opportunity to help with the growth of our church. God sent us a great Pastor and gave him a vision. I believe this role is critical to that vision, and I want to do whatever I can to help execute God's plan. I always say, "God gives us grace for every assignment." God opened this door, and I believe He will equip me to lead in this area.



How do you plan to get the job done?

I understand this is a huge assignment. I am building a core team that will serve with me, and we will eat this elephant one bite at a time. I am considering ways our team can collaborate with our deacons to help new members connect with other members in the church. We are using the new Shelby church management system to build our membership groups to ensure new members and visitors are supported through this assimilation and connection process. The team is supporting our ministries by helping members decide where they will serve using their identified spiritual gifts.

How can we (members) help you?

Everyone wants to feel that they belong; that they are valued and appreciated. We are all a part of their journey. When you see visitors, approach them and welcome them. Share with them how excited we are that they chose to worship with us. Get to know new members and introduce them to others. The more people they know, the more Antioch feels like home.

Thank you to the Assimilation and Connection team and my fellow staff members for working diligently to assist with getting sixteen new members through the discipleship process during the months of July and August. Our work has only just begun.





Antioch Connection

Biblical Foundations: What We Believe And Why It Matters

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus calls us to make disciples but to do that we really need to know what we believe. Antioch's Biblical Foundations class is a valuable resource that can help with that. The class walks students through 20 foundational beliefs that every Christian should know.



Dr. Dmitri Perkins

The eight-week class is taught by Rev. Keith Phillips and Dr. Dmitri Perkins, who were among four instructors asked to create the course. Deacon Cedric Mann and Rev. Charlie Sanders were the other two instructors. Rev. Phillips and Dr. Perkins have taught Biblical Foundations for about two years, with nearly 100 students completing the class so far.

Rev. Phillips said he and Dr. Perkins "really enjoy teaching the class and watching people go 'Aha! We never thought of this that way before.'" The goal is for everyone at Antioch to take the course eventually. Biblical Foundations is for everyone — whether you're a brand new believer or a seasoned saint.



Rev. Keith Phillips

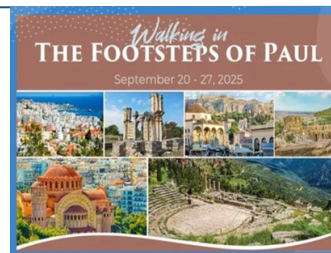
"This class grounds believers in the fundamentals of Christian beliefs," said Rev. Phillips. "We all need a refresher from time to time." The course examines topics such as:

- The inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture
- The characteristics of God
- What is sin?
- What are justification, sanctification, and glorification?
- What are demons and angels?

The next Biblical Foundations class will begin on September 8th and will run through October 27th. The class is held from 9:30-10:15 a.m. each Sunday. "We believe this class will be fun and fulfilling at the same time," Rev. Phillips said. If you're eager to build a strong foundation of faith, or you want to further develop your Christian walk as a mature believer, please register for Biblical Foundations at www.antioch-church.org. For more information, contact Rev. Phillips at keithphillips1989@gmail.com or Dr. Dimitri Perkins at perkins72@gmail.com.

September Save the Dates:

- ★ Sept 1: Gen C/Young Adult Sunday
- ★ Sept 2: Labor Day
- Sept 8: National Back To Church/Grandparents Sunday
- Sept 8: Sunday School All Ages & Biblical Foundations
9:30—10:15 AM
- Sept 8: Kevin Tann Initial Sermon 3 PM
- Sept 9: Gen C Topical Bible Study 7:30—8:30 PM
- Sept 11: Family Bible Study 12Noon In-Person only and 7 PM
- Sept 12: *Walk Through Fire* Book Discussion 7 PM
- Sept 15: Spouses' Sunday
- Sept 17: Greece/Turkey Study Tour Zoom 7—9 PM
- Sept 20: Family Game Night 6—10 PM
- Sept 24: Feed The Homeless
- Sept 26: Caring For Caregivers 7—8:30 PM
- Sept 28: Men's Forum 8—10 AM
- Sept 29: Intergenerational /Family Sunday



Join Pastor Taylor on a study tour to Greece and Turkey—September 2025.

Please register by **December 20th**. Contact: Rev. Rochella Marable at [rcmarable@cox.net](mailto:rcmorable@cox.net)



Antioch Fairfax (FFX)
Help us spread the good news and increase our social media presence.

 Facebook
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 Instagram
www.instagram.com/antiochffx

 X (formerly Twitter)
twitter.com/AntiochFFX

 YouTube
www.youtube.com/antiochfairfaxstation

