

First Baptist Church of Yantis

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The Helpless Animal

Pastor Danny Parker

We had only moments after returning to Kansas from several days in Texas, and it was 100+ degrees outside. "Danny!" Janice called urgently from the basement. I quickly ran downstairs to the basement to find her looking intently into the window well outside the window. Then I saw it looking back at me with intense, appealing eyes. It was a small furry thing, similar to a squirrel but without the fuzzy tail. It looked scorched and near death as it lay baking in the rocks with no place to hide from the sun and no means of escape. Who knows how long it had been there?

Here was a creature in desperate need. How could I help? I went to the garage and found a broken baseboard. Carefully, I laid the board into the four-foot-deep window well. Surely, with its claws it would scamper up the board. But as I watched, the creature just looked at me in fear and lay on its back in the corner of the rock.

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Next, I went to the garage and got a wooden ladder and wedged the ladder sideways as an escape platform, but the creature only began to dig frantically at the bottom of its prison. No matter how much I tried to help, it did not take advantage of what I was doing for it.

Then a light came on in my mind. I ran and retrieved a long piece of plywood that was covered with an old blanket. It was wide and provided plenty of grip for the animal to literally just walk out. I slid it into the hole. The scared animal really appreciated it. Not to escape, but to hide under it to get away from the sun. After a little bit, it finally moved to the proper side of the escape plank, but instead of using it to find freedom, it used it as a means to lean against the window. It would jump at the window trying to get into the house. As we watched from inside, it was sad to see the animal, frantic to escape, jumping repeatedly against the window. Its eyes reflected desperation, as if it was pleading with us to let it in. Meanwhile, the reality was that all it needed to do was turn and take the path that had been provided for its escape.

Isn't that just what happened to us? We were trapped in the window well of our own sin. There was no way for us to get out, and we were dying without hope. However, God saw our condition and reached down to provide us the way out. He provided Christ to die for our sins; to enable us to be forgiven and freed from sin. But instead of making the way out, we struggled and fought and went the other way. Freedom and escape were available. We needed only turn to Christ and take the way of escape. Romans 5:6 "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners." Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

And it happens even as a Christian. The Lord invites us to walk with Him. To find help in the everyday struggles of life. To overcome the sins that still haunt us. To find peace in the midst of our chaos. Yet, we pushed away. We try to do it our way. We keep attempting to repeat the path that has never worked. Instead, He invites us to follow His way. To be intentional to take the way of escape. He offers - we must choose to respond.

By the way, my animal (a prairie dog) finally made its way out and escaped. I am glad I did, too. And I desire to keep following Him - the path of freedom and escape.

June Activities

FBC's Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held June 3-6 (Yes, Wednesday - Saturday). The last day of VBS will conclude with a meal for workers, kids, and parents. The meal will include a fish fry, hot dogs, and the fixings. Should be about 12:30 or so. The entire church is invited to the fish fry, as well as kids, parents, and workers from VBS.

Deacon meeting for May/June will be held on Monday, June 8, at the regular time of 6:30.

Church family, we invite and encourage each of you to attend our upcoming business meeting on June 14. These meetings are an important part of the life of our church, where we come together in unity to hear updates, discuss ministry plans, and prayerfully make decisions for the future God has for us. Your presence, voice, and support matter greatly. We hope you'll join us as we work together to strengthen our church and continue serving our community faithfully. A light lunch will be provided.

Tammy Mayes will be talking about her mission trip to Belize during the mission's time on Sunday morning June 14.

Father's Day is Sunday June 21. Let's honor our fathers. They are so important to our homes.

Youth camp will be Sunday, June 28 - Friday, July 3. Be praying for the youth and workers as they travel to camp in the Dallas area.



Authentic Youth Update

Pastor Dennis Wagner

As we wrap up another school year in Authentic Youth, we are thankful for all that God has done over the past several months. We ended our Wednesday night year by walking through a series on emotional health. This is such a prevalent issue students are facing today, yet it is often something the church stays quiet about. Our prayer throughout the series was to point students toward biblical truth, honest conversations, and ultimately toward Christ as their hope and foundation.

Now that school has come to a close, we are excited for a fun, intentional, and gospel-centered summer together. Summer gives us unique opportunities to build relationships, disciple students, and create moments where students can grow deeper in their faith and community.

We are especially thankful for the incredible fundraising season God has provided for camp this year. Thank you to everyone who has prayed, donated, volunteered, supported fundraisers, and encouraged our students along the way. Because of your generosity, we are looking forward to taking 22 students to camp this summer. Please continue to be in prayer for our students, leaders, and the work God will do during that week. I will also have a camp prayer guide available soon for anyone who would like to pray more specifically.

Please pray for me as I will be travelling to speak at Camp Grace in North Carolina this June. I am grateful for the opportunity to preach and invest in students from across the country, and I would appreciate your prayers for wisdom, clarity, and that students will respond to the gospel.

Thank you again for loving and supporting Authentic Youth. We are expectant for what God will continue to do in the lives of our students.

Also, thank you to our wonderful leaders who have selflessly served and allowed God to use them to invest in our students' lives this year!

Senior Adult Ministry

Pastor Steve Couch

We have several new activities lined up for our Senior Adults this year.

Walking in the Gym on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Come walk at your own pace and enjoy the fellowship with everyone.

Your Church Staff

Pastor: Danny Parker

Youth Pastor: Dennis Wagner

Senior Adult: Steve Couch

Music Leader: Craig Ingram

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Music Ministry

Craig Ingram

As we begin the month of June, I am thankful for the faithfulness of our church family and the opportunity we have each week to worship the Lord together through music. Summer often brings changes in schedules, vacations, and busy days, but it is always encouraging to gather and lift our voices in praise.

Music has a special way of reminding us of God's goodness and strengthening our hearts. Whether through beloved hymns, special music, or congregational singing, our desire is to honor Christ and encourage one another in worship. Thank you to everyone who participates in choir, specials, and congregational worship each Sunday.

As we move into the summer months, I encourage each of us to continue keeping worship as a priority. Even during busy seasons, the church family needs one another, and our worship together is an important testimony of God's faithfulness.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." – Psalm 98:4



Volunteer at First Baptist Church

If you are interested in joining our volunteer ministry, we have many opportunities to choose from. Contact the Church office for more information. Email: fbcyantis@peoplescom.net
Phone: 903-383-2393

We are currently looking for assistance in the following areas.

- Children's ministries need teachers for Wednesday after school kids 2026/2027 school year and weekly Sunday School/Children's Church.
- Hospitality is a good place to show off your skills in the kitchen while providing relief for our current volunteer staff.
- How about joining our Praise Team! Let your talent uplift our congregation on Sunday mornings.
- Do you have an interest in the Audio and Visual industry? Helping in the A/V booth is a great place to start.