
First Baptist Church of Yantis

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Congregational singing is not just music; we are making music to the Lord in our hearts!



But it looks so cute!

By Pastor Danny Parker

For nine days, Rocky and Jonathan Perkett heard a lone black bear cub wail from its hiding spot in a Coos County logging site. They could drop a tree on it or rescue it. They chose the latter and for two years the bear was like family. Naming her Windfall, the men shared pizza and Dr Pepper with the bear and gave her free reign of their home in the woods outside Coos Bay. The bear slept in Jonathan Perkett's bed, took showers and even had her hair blow-dried. Rocky Perkett says, "We lived with her. We loved her. We treated her like a daughter." (From Seattle Times, Oct 2005). "When you can kiss a bear on the cheek and have it kiss your cheek back, that's love." Perkett says the bear only grabbed him by the throat once, releasing him after they gazed long and hard into each other's eyes." (Fox News)

WHAT! By the throat? Once would have been enough for me. How insane!

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Every young person (and some old folks) may imagine how fun it would be to handle and cuddle a wild animal. Cartoons and movies are full of these imagined encounters. Real wildlife stories abound with naturalists 'living with' wild beasts. And just as often, we hear of the ultimate disasters that result. Timothy Treadwell lived every summer for 13 years among wild grizzlies in Alaska. He ultimately was killed and eaten by one of them. Tippy Hedren had her lions roaming her house. In Tippy Hedren's words (after she came to her senses), "it was stupid beyond belief" to put her family at risk by allowing an animal with "no conscience or remorse genes" to roam free." (Life Mag). The Perkett's were saved by the Oregon Wildlife Department as they forcibly removed the bear to a wildlife sanctuary. Anyone with any sense realizes that wild animals are 'wild' and defy being tamed.

So, it is with sin. The scriptures ask us, "Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?" (Proverbs 6:27). The answer provided is "of course not." James declares (James 1 :15) "Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death." We rationalize many actions, but even the most convincing arguments are mere delusions. God has engineered the world so that consequences result from wrong actions. Can one engage in inappropriate sex without ultimately facing the consequences? - No! Can a person pursue the abuse of alcohol or drugs without paying the price? - No! But surely a person can enjoy the fashionable sin of "gossip," "pride," "unforgiveness," "covetousness", or "bitterness" without impact? - No! Behavior has consequences. Don't think sin can be a lovable pet. Sin can never be tamed. It always destroys. It must be captured and carried away. So often we choose to go our own way rather than God's way. Although it may look different in each of our lives, this is the very definition of sin. We rationalize that our way is safe, but we are deluded. Our poor choices will do more than grab us by the throat now, it will bring destruction and ruin.

Initially, it separated us from God. From the moment we first chose our own way, our relationship with the God, who made and loves us, was broken. Our foolishness had eternal consequences. However, God intervened for us. Jesus died to suffer the consequence for our sin. He paid the price for our foolishness. When (if) we chose to trust Jesus as Savior, He saved us from the eternal consequences of our actions.

But as a Christian we can still coddle sin. It interferes with our relationship with Christ. It hinders our growth in Christ. It still has consequences. Let us not harbor sin. It cannot be tamed. It always brings ruin. Let us put it away through Christ who lives in us.

May Activities

Our quarterly Men's breakfast is on May 2 (May have already happened when this is read).

Gideons will be coming to briefly talk about their ministry on Sunday May 3 (again may be past tense). The Gideons provide free Bibles in a host of languages to people around the world.

Mother's Day is Sunday May 10. As always, we will recognize all our mothers, including birth mothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers, and ministry mothers. Women who invested their lives in the futures of children.

The Senior Adult Rally at Lakeview Baptist Camp will be Thursday, May 14. Transportation will be available. Sign up is on the credenza in the vestibule. The retreat is intended for those 55 and older. Lots of food, music, and preaching. A good fellowship time.

May is a month of school activities.

The regular Wednesday, after-school activities will conclude for the school year on Wednesday, May 13. Baccalaureate will be held at the school at 5:00 on Sunday, May 17. FBC will be help provide a meal and message in partnership with Seymore Bible Fellowship. See Dennis for how you can help out. High School graduation is Saturday, May 23.

FBC's VBS (Vacation Bible School) 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 hamburgers. See Debbie Head to help with VBS and/or the meal.

The quarterly cooking video will be on Thursday, May 21 at 11:00 am.



May Youth Update

Pastor Dennis Wagner

April was a powerful and meaningful month for our student ministry. Over several Wednesday nights, we walked through the Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection of Jesus. These were emotional and intentional gatherings as students were confronted with the weight of the cross and the hope of the empty tomb. It has been encouraging to see students not only hear the Gospel clearly but also begin to understand how it applies to their everyday lives.

Looking ahead, we are beginning a new series focused on mental and emotional health titled "My Friend is Struggling With..." This series will equip students to think biblically about real struggles they and their friends face. Please be in prayer for this series—that it would be both truthful and compassionate, pointing students to Christ as their ultimate hope.

We are also grateful for the strong attendance we've been seeing. God is clearly bringing students through our doors, many of whom are hearing the Gospel consistently and being challenged to respond to it. Pray that this continued exposure would lead to genuine life change.

With summer approaching, camp is right around the corner. This is one of the most impactful weeks of the year, and we are asking for intentional prayer even now. While camp is always fun, our primary goal is that students clearly hear the Word of God and that it takes root in their hearts, leading to real transformation. Please also pray that we can move students off the waitlist and get as many there as possible.

I will have a prayer guide available on the credenza in the vestibule, so please take one and start saturating our students, leaders, and the week of camp with prayer now.

To help support the camp, we will be hosting two hotdog fundraisers in May. Continued on back .

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 09:00 AM to 10:00 AM

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

Quarterly Cooking Videos will continue with our next video happening on 21 May.

Great recipes and lunch following the video.

Game Days will follow the Cooking Videos then possibly every month (stay tuned for updates).

The Spring Sr Adult Rally at Lakeview Retreat will be 14 May 2026. The Speaker is Ron Peacock from the Northwood Church in Longview. The Worship Leader is Mike Powell from FBC Redwater.

If you are needing transportation, please be at the First Baptist Church in Yantis Thursday morning by 7:30 am.

The first will be on Saturday May 9 from 11 am to 1 pm. The second will be on Saturday May 30th 11-1 PM. We would love for you to come out, grab lunch, and support our students.

Additionally, we will be partnering with Seymore Bible Fellowship for a Baccalaureate service at the school Sunday, May 17th. We'll need help serving a meal, so if you're interested in volunteering, please let Pastor Dennis know.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. God is at work, and we are excited to see how He continues to move in the lives of our students.

Your Church Staff

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Music Ministry

Craig Ingram

As we move toward the summer months, I have been reflecting on how much of a joy it is getting to know each you! Thank you for your warmth, your patience, and your willingness to sing, even if it is just from the congregation.

With Memorial Day approaching, I'd love to invite anyone who is interested to join a special choir for that Sunday. This will be a meaningful opportunity for us to honor those who have given their lives in service, while also lifting our voices in hope and gratitude. You don't need to be a regular performing member of the Dallas Opera and Choral Society to participate—just a willingness and a desire to worship together. Rehearsal details will be shared soon, and I promise to keep things accessible and encouraging for all.

As we head into summer, when schedules shift and travel pick up, I want to encourage you to stay connected in worship however you can. I'm also excited to continue introducing a mix of familiar hymns and a few new selections in the coming weeks. My hope is that our music reflects both the deep roots of our faith and the living, active work of God in our lives today. Congregational singing is not just music; we are making music to the Lord in our hearts!

If you've ever thought about getting more involved, whether singing, helping with music, or simply sharing ideas, I'd love to hear from you. These early months have already shown me that this is a church that sings with sincerity, and I'm grateful to be part of it. Looking forward to worshipping together this Memorial Day and this next Sunday, no matter when you're reading this!