The Witness

November 2026

First Baptist Church of Yantis

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Pastor Danny Parker

Noisy! Proud! Oblivious! Some would say stately, but I would say dumb! Without doubt condemned. With names like Harry, Zack, Katie, Charlie, and Woody, they were not special. Instead, facing a death sentence, they were doomed. But then set free for no good reason! If not for undeserved grace, they would have died. Now they ought to be really thankful.

Who were these master criminals? What did they do? Well, actually they were all turkeys, doomed to be eaten at a White House dinner. But purely by grace, they were pardoned. Never again would they face the prospect of death by cook. Instead, they were sent to live out their existence at petting zoos, research facilities, and stud farms (is there such a thing for turkeys?).

Interestingly, most of the pardoned turkeys died within a relatively short time after being pardoned. Overweight, not bred for life, but for food, their prospects were not good. And often they escaped one fate, only to fall prey to another. A turkey pardon is fleeting. And they are too stupid to even appreciate it.

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The presidential pardon tradition has been official since 1987. However, stories go back as far as Lincoln. It is reported His son Tad appealed for the life of a turkey given to the family on Thanksgiving. Dad responded to his son, by setting the turkey free.

Now that sounds familiar. There is another Dad that responds to His Son, as the Son asks for a pardon for the unworthy. God the Father, grants pardons to all those His Son, Jesus, brings to Him. And He brings all who trust in Him as Savior.

We are very much like those turkeys. We are proud and oblivious of our fate. Unworthy and not special. But Jesus decided to die in our place. Now we have the opportunity to live by trusting in Him. And our pardon is not temporary, but it procures eternal life. It promises a transformed body in the days ahead; one that ultimately will be changed and will continue forever with our Savior. Now that is really a reason to be thankful.

The question becomes, 'are we truly grateful?' Does our life reveal it? Do we become so caught up in ourselves or in everyday chaos that we squander the life we have been given? And die like a turkey that gained little out of his rescue.

I trust that is not us. Let us remember what has been done for us. The grace. Undeserved but given out of a heart of love and pity. With every bite of turkey, may we be reminded. And rejoice. And intentionally be thankful.

November Activities

I trust you enjoyed the various folks that filled in for me while I was on vacation in October. They all did a great job. I feel so blessed to have so many gifted people to handle responsibilities whenever I am out. The Lord's work never misses a beat.

Perhaps as you read this, you will be enjoying our "Day of Renewal" with Dr. John McCartt, who will be speaking on Sunday, November 1 during both the regular AM and a special PM service (6:00 PM). He is a great friend, colleague, and a mentor from my days at Lavon Drive Baptist Church in Garland, TX. He had a profound impact on my early Christian life and ministry.

The rest of November will be busy. It starts with Men's Breakfast on November 7, 8:00 AM. Mickey Head will be the guest speaker. This will be a great time.

Following breakfast, the deacon ordination council will be held for the prospective new deacons, Mickey Head and John Mayes. The council will consist of ordained pastors and deacons. On Sunday, November 8, during the regular morning service, we will be ordaining both Mickey and John. A reception for these two men will follow the service, with sandwiches and cake.

The Rehobeth Baptist Association annual meeting will be held Sunday, November 8 at First Baptist Church, Mt Vernon. It begins at 4:00 PM with a meal and business meeting. This will be followed by optional breakout sessions and a ministry fair. At 6:00 PM the evening concludes with a time of worship. Shelly Huff will be recognized for her 20 years of service as well.

An evening of Pies and Praise will be on Sunday, November 15, at 6:00. Bring a pie (or other dessert) and we will have a sugared-up time of singing and eatin'. For those that don't drive at night, please ask someone for a ride. We have lots of folks that would be willing to bring you.

We also have a cooking video coming up on November 9 at 11:00 AM. I'm sure there will be some really good seasonal recipes. My favorite part is the food that is provided for lunch.

Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry is underway. Grab some empty boxes and fill them up. The boxes must be back in church by November 16.

Finally, note the church office will be closed on Wednesday Nov. 25 ,Thursday, Nov. 26. Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, November 29 during the morning service. And a heads up that the Church Christmas Dinner will be on Sunday, December 6, immediately after church.



Authentic Youth Ministry

Pastor Dennis Wagner

What a month it has been in Authentic Youth! God has been moving, and we are so grateful for the chance to share some of what He's been doing among our students.

This month we wrapped up our series through First John, where we spent several weeks on one big question: How can I know for sure that I belong to Christ? John wrote so that believers "may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13), and our students worked through what that looks like: walking in the light, loving one another, holding to the truth about Jesus, and resting in the faithfulness of God. Our prayer is that every student leaves this series with real assurance in Christ, and that any student who is still unsure would know that Jesus is ready to receive them.

We also had a powerful worship night focused on the throne of God. Together we looked at the picture of heaven's throne room and remembered who sits on it. It was a sweet time of lifting our eyes off ourselves and onto the King who reigns over all things and is worthy of all our praise.

The highlight of the month was our Invite Night, when we brought in evangelist Jon Harper to preach the Gospel to our students. We had numerous first-time guests in our largest crowd. Pizza was eaten, fun was had, and prizes were won, but by far the most important thing that happened was that Jesus was proclaimed. About 20 students made decisions for Christ that night. Some turned from sin, some committed to start truly living for Him, and several made decisions for salvation! We are rejoicing over what God did. Please pray for us as we follow up with each of these students. We want to walk with them, answer their questions, and help them take their next steps in following Jesus.

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Your Church Staff

Pastor: Danny Parker

Youth Pastor: Dennis Wagner

Senior Adult: Steve Couch

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Senior Adult Ministry

Pastor Steve Couch

- Please join us on Monday November 9th at 11 am for our world-famous cooking video in the Family Life Center

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

Looking Ahead to November

We have a full month ahead, and we would love your prayers for each of these:

-Blackout Night (November 11): Our next Invite Night is a glow-themed Blackout Night. For some students, this could be the first time they ever hear the Gospel. Please pray that students invite their friends and that hearts would be open to the Light of the World.
-Friendsgiving: We're planning a Friendsgiving for our students in November, a time to eat together, give thanks, and keep building the kind of community where students feel known and loved.
-AY Serve Team: We are beginning to roll out a student leadership team focused on discipleship, service, and leadership development. Please especially pray for this. We want to raise up students who love Jesus, serve others well, and lead their peers toward Christ.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. We could not do this without our church family standing behind these students.

