

First Baptist Church of Yantis

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Change

Pastor Danny Parker

Have you started complaining about summer yet? It takes me about 3 weeks of hot weather. The same is true for winter. The first snow is fun, but quickly the slush and/or brutal north wind makes me long for change. How long before the new car smell is gone, and we long for something else? Kids take about two hours on Christmas morning to get bored with the latest thing and look for something else. It's like change is built into our DNA.

What if nothing ever changed? Life would stand still. Growth would cease. Expectations would fail. Future hope would stop. Stagnation would set in. Like a pond without an outflow, scum would build up. Ultimately, death would take over where life had been abundant. Yet change can strike fear in hearts. Its anxiety can paralyze and incapacitate. Change can be the excitement of life, or it can also mark the loss of that which is loved.

A seed dies, and yet something new sprouts from the ground. A caterpillar no longer is, but instead a beautiful butterfly emerges. The pristine snow melts and produces a muddy mess, and then the pastures erupt into a blanket of green. So why do we sometimes fight change so much? Even the seemingly hard change can be the source of radical impact.

Continued

Yet change hurts. And it can bring on bad things as well. We feel a sense of loss and grief. We feel a sense of powerlessness – we cannot control change – it just happens. And what if it ushers in difficult times. Change can cause us to lose what we feel is so important. Can we be sure that this change will in fact become good? Or will it merely be one more step into hopelessness and sorrow?

So what do we know? Change is certain. Change is hard. Change can bring good or bad. And we have no control. So what do we do? What if there was one who does not change but remained constant and stable? What if this one had power and control? What if He ultimately controlled all change in life? What if He was good? What if He always produces good from change? --- Well there is! He is the God of the universe. He is the Lord of all things. And He sent His Son to die for us so that He could draw us to Himself. And then He uses all change to conform us to His Son's image.

So come personally to know the one who does not change. Let Him be your Father/ God/ Shepherd/ Lord. This Father is the one who is in absolute control. In Him, like a small child I can rest and be at peace even if the rest of the world is in sheer chaos. I can trust in His wisdom and control. I can trust in His love and care. I can trust in His power and might. I can know that He works all things to produce the transformation in my life that is so important. I can embrace change, knowing He has a purpose and plan that He is unfolding good things in every change. Psalms 46:6 "The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ... 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; ... 10 Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Change runs rampant. But our God remains in control. Trust HIM.

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.

- **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.

September Activities

Things are starting to pick up now as Fall is arriving.

The quarterly cooking video will be held on Thursday, September 10 at 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall. This is a time to learn some culinary skills from some of the best cooks in the church. Plus, we get to enjoy the dishes that were made. Don't miss it.

A great opportunity for an outreach will occur on Saturday, September 12 at 9:30 AM here at the Church. We will have the names and addresses of Wednesday afternoon kids'/youth parents so that we can drop by to say thank you to them for letting their kids come to our programs. We will have packages of cookies and information about our church to leave at each home. What an easy way to engage these parents! Even if they aren't home (very possible on a Saturday), we can leave the thank you packages on their doorstep. This is an opportunity to be part of reaching out to families who already have a connection to our church.

Our quarterly business meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13, at the closure of the service. This is the 'mini' version of the business meeting, mainly covering financial and any critical voting needs. At this meeting the church will also have the opportunity to vote on approving two recommended prospective deacons, Mickey Head and John Mayes.

See You at the Pole will be held on Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 AM. Join us around the flagpole at Yantis High School as the youth lead a time of devotion and prayer. Well worth the early morning to participate as our young people declare their faith by praying for the school, the government, and each other.

Note: The church office will be closed for Labor Day. Monday, September 7.

s in control. Trust Him.



Authentic Youth Ministry

Pastor Dennis Wagner

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29)

That verse has become the mission statement of our youth ministry. Our students walk in carrying things nobody their age should have to carry, and some of them have never once been told there's a place to set it down. Everything we do, whether it's a Wednesday night, a Color War, or a text message at 7:00 in the morning, is aimed at getting students face to face with the One who actually gives rest.

A Summer That Built Something

This summer was full, and it was full on purpose. We had a great number of students come through our house and through other events all summer long, building the kind of relationships that make the gospel believable. You can preach to a student for a year but sitting across a table from one changes things.

All of that culminated in our Color War Kick-off, and it was a big hit. Around 40 people showed up, we got covered in color, and we had a blast. Just as valuable, we got to connect with a number of our parents that night.

Midweek Is Growing.

We're several weeks into our fall midweek services, and the numbers keep climbing. We started with around 30 students and had 38 this past week. About ten of those are sixth graders who joined us for the first time this year.

Your Church Staff

Pastor: Danny Parker

Youth Pastor: Dennis Wagner

Senior Adult: Steve Couch

Music Leader: Craig Ingram

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Senior Adult Ministry

Pastor Steve Couch

Cooking Video will be on Thursday 10 September at 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall. Mrs. Debbie Head will be our guest Host for this video. She has several folks lined up to share their recipes. So be sure to come join the fun and enjoy a great lunch.

The Fall Senior Adult Rally at Lakeview Retreat will be Thursday October 8, 2026. The Speaker is Clint Davis, cost is \$20 includes lunch and two snacks. RSVP October 5, 2026 Thank you!

Midweek Is Growing. We're several weeks into our fall midweek services, and the numbers keep climbing. We started with around 30 students and had 38 this past week. About ten of those are sixth graders who joined us for the first time this year.

We're walking through the book of 1 John together. Our students are learning that they can have absolute assurance of their salvation. Not a hopeful guess, but real confidence. They're learning what it looks like to walk with God day to day, and to let Him remove the filters they've been using to present a version of themselves that isn't real. Fifteen students are also signed up to receive a daily devotion texted to them every morning, starting their day in the Word before the first bell rings.

We refreshed some things in our youth room, too. It wasn't about making it trendy. It was about making it a place where any student who walks through that door is immediately welcomed and loved. Come check it out.

What's Coming Up

Three things have our attention. First, See You at the Pole on September 23, completely student led this year. Our students are planning it, running it, and praying it, and you're welcome to come and support them! Second, one of our students is working to get a Bible study off the ground during lunch at the school. Third, we're launching a student leadership team focused on serving and disciple-making.

How You Can Partner With Us

The best thing you can do for this ministry is pray. Please pray for our leaders, Dennis, Sam, Wayne, Christine, Lonny, Quata, and Keith, for unity, for wisdom as we shepherd these students, and for a deep burden for the lostness of our students and for their growth in Christ. We can plan events all day long; only God saves and grows a soul.

Pray for the three things above. Pray for the students reading a devotion every morning and the sixth graders finding their footing. And pray for the students who haven't walked in the door yet. We do this to serve and glorify Jesus, but also to lead these young people to Him.



Craig Ingram

As September arrives, many of us are preparing for new seasons of life. Some are returning to school, families are settling back into routines, and our Wednesday Youth Ministries begin gearing up for a busy fall. While our schedules may change, let's be intentional about keeping Christ at the center of our hearts. One wonderful way to do that is through singing. God has given His people music not simply as a part of our worship service, but as a daily reminder of His goodness, faithfulness, and grace.

The psalmist declares, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation" (Psalm 95:1). Notice that the command is simply to sing with joy. God isn't looking for perfect voices—He delights in hearts that desire to worship Him. Every Sunday, when we gather as a church family, our congregational singing is an opportunity to encourage one another, proclaim the truths of Scripture, and offer praise to our Savior. As you prepare for worship each week, come ready to lift your voice with gratitude for all that the Lord has done.

Thank you for being a church that loves to worship through music. I look forward to seeing you at church throughout this month as we continue to sing together. May the Lord bless you and your family as we enter this new season, and may our hearts always be filled with songs of praise to our King.