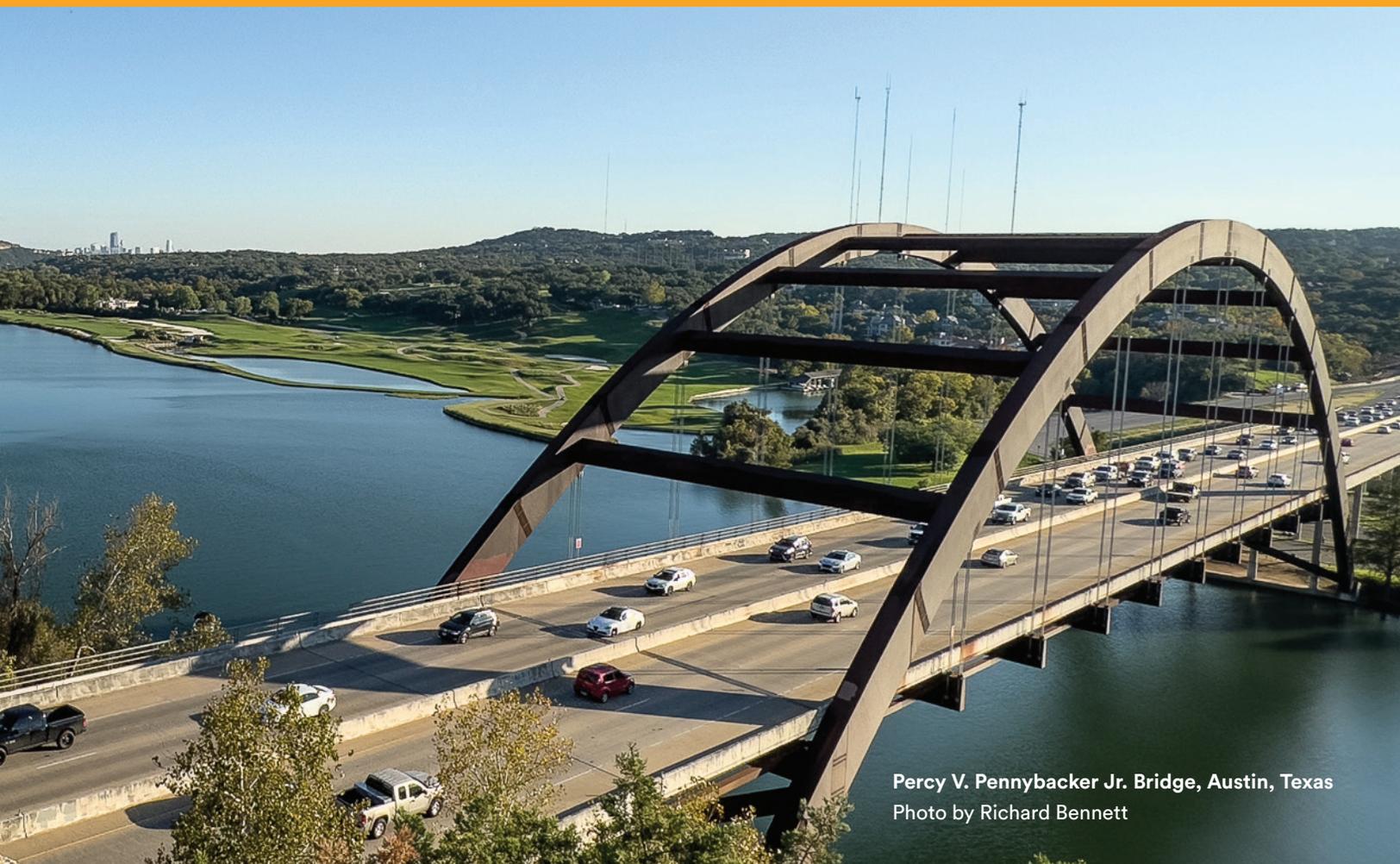


The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



Percy V. Pennybacker Jr. Bridge, Austin, Texas
Photo by Richard Bennett

VOL. 19 NO. 7

FEBRUARY 18, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed” (Genesis 2:24-25). For the next two weeks, we are going to study the foundation of marriage in Genesis chapter two. God made us male and female, and marriage was His idea. Marriage is not a man-made institution, rather it is a God-given gift.

Genesis provides Biblical and moral clarity on God’s perfect design for the home. This is important because the home is under attack in our culture. Divorce is prevalent, sexual sin and gender confusion are rampant, and countless Americans struggle to experience healthy home lives. But Genesis chapter two reminds us that marriage is a God-given blessing, and there is joy to be found when you build your home God’s way.

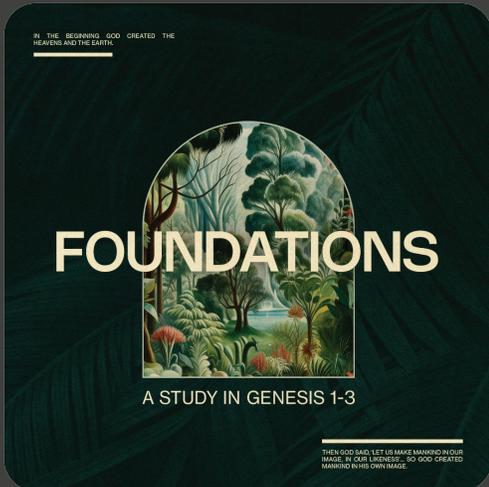
I encourage you to prioritize these next two weeks and join us for worship at 8:45am or 11:15am. Whether you are married, want to be married, or know people who are married, these two weeks are for you. I encourage you to invite a friend, and let’s commit to build our homes together on the foundation of God’s Word.

Onward and Upward,

DR. JONATHAN SPENCER

SENIOR PASTOR





CURRENT SERIES

Foundations

A study in Genesis 1-3

GOT GENESIS QUESTIONS?

Submit your questions for Citizen ATX Podcast by scanning or clicking the QR code! New episodes every Wednesday.



DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, 2026



Bill Hill

512-342-8002



Ethan Wood

512-695-4297

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Hey Church Family,

On February 23rd, **Sharleen Storey** will celebrate her one-year anniversary on staff at Austin Baptist Church. Sharleen serves as our part-time Operations Administrator and does a fantastic job keeping up with the busy needs of our campus.

Sharleen provides tremendous help in working with outside vendors and handling logistics for churchwide events, like *I Love My Church* Sunday. Her strong organizational skills, positive attitude, and servant's heart make a big difference in our day-to-day operations.

Sharleen is also a proud mom to two beautiful children, Rowan and Freya. Please join us in congratulating Sharleen and thanking her for her faithfulness in serving on staff at ABC!



JENNIFER ARAUJO

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Weston Andrew Moore

Born: February 11, 2026

Proud Parents: Perry & Brinkley Moore

Grandmother: Connie Moore



LIGHT UP
YOUR *Home*

UPCOMING EVENTS

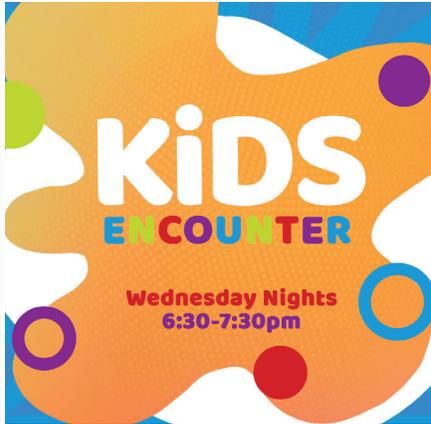


For all event and weekly activity information, please visit
austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS

WEEKLY REMINDERS



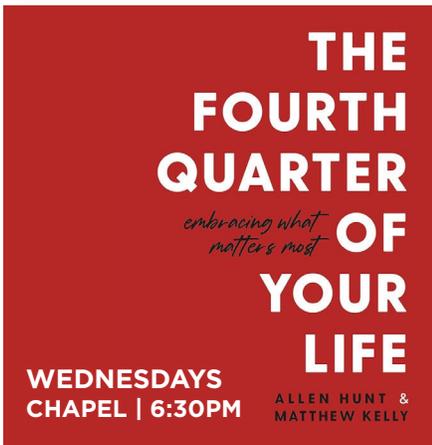
**ABC
Kids Choir**
WEDNESDAYS
5:55-6:25



**KIDS
ENCOUNTER**
Wednesday Nights
6:30-7:30pm



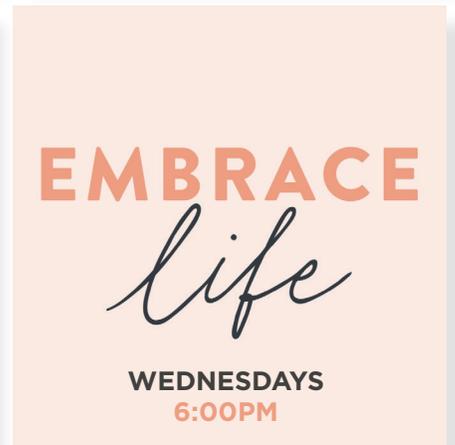
AXIS
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM



**THE
FOURTH
QUARTER
OF
YOUR
LIFE**
*embracing what
matters most*
WEDNESDAYS
CHAPEL | 6:30PM
ALLEN HUNT &
MATTHEW KELLY



EMBRACE
Grace
WEDNESDAYS
6:00PM



EMBRACE
life
WEDNESDAYS
6:00PM

MIDWEEK MENU

NEXT WEEK'S MENU
FEBRUARY 25

COST: \$10 per person;
\$5 for kids' meal (12 & under)

Grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, corn,
bread roll, and salad bar

Please note that Midweek dinner is served in the Café.
Seating for dinner is in the Great Hall until 6:30pm.

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

FAMILY FUN FEST

6:00-9:00PM



SCAN OR CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

FAMILY FUN FEST is a time for the whole family to get together for a great night of games and competition! You will compete alongside your kids in activities such as: recreation, gameshow games, a church-wide scavenger hunt, and more!

This will be a fantastic opportunity to bond with your family while having some fun, spirited competition in the process!

There will also be an award for the best dressed family and dinner will be provided. Dress up, limber up, and come prepared to win it all as a family!

CONTACT: Rachel Tovar

rachel.t@austinbaptistchurch.com

COST: \$20 per family

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

FOOD DRIVE

FEBRUARY 15TH TO MARCH 1ST

In support of the Baptist Community Center food pantry. Donation bins located throughout the church.



SUGGESTED ITEMS:

- Spam
- Hamburger Helper
- Pancake Mix/Syrup
- Jelly
- Chili (with no beans)
- Shampoo
- Can Fruit
- Body wash
- Pop Tarts
- Toothpaste

CONTACT: Jake Ross at jakeross2011@gmail.com



ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Ciao bella friends! 🇮🇹🍋

It's almost time for one of our favorite gatherings of the year—**Twilight Tea on March 8th!** We cannot wait to welcome you back. This year, we're setting the table with a rustic Italian theme. Think warm hospitality, beautiful details, scones, tea with an Italian twist, and a few new surprises to make sure there is truly a seat at the table for everyone. Doors will open at 4:30pm for tea and scones, followed by our program in the Worship Center before we settle in for a lovely tea time together. This day would not be possible without our incredible table hostesses. They don't just decorate tables; they create spaces where community happens. And sisters, we need lots of hostesses this year! I encourage you to prayerfully consider hosting a table and think about who you might invite. You truly are the stars of the show.

Here are a couple of testimonials from those who have hosted before:

“

Hosting Women's Twilight Tea has brought me so much joy—gathering friends from every season of life and inviting them into a beautiful, welcoming space. Many of the women at my tables don't regularly attend church or Austin Baptist, which makes it even more special to watch them experience genuine community and connection. It's a sweet reminder that sometimes all it takes is an invitation and a seat at the table.

-Allison D'Alfonso

“

I love being a table hostess for the Twilight Tea! To experience the setting up of the tables and the amazing creativity of all the hostesses is something you don't want to miss. It is energizing to be a part of it and to watch the beauty unfold. The Tea is a special time to connect with your sisters in Christ and share delicious food, laughter, great conversations, and the love we all have for our Lord and Savior. I encourage you to host a table and invite your friends and family. You and your table guests will leave the Tea with joy-filled hearts and the feeling of being more woven into the ABC family.

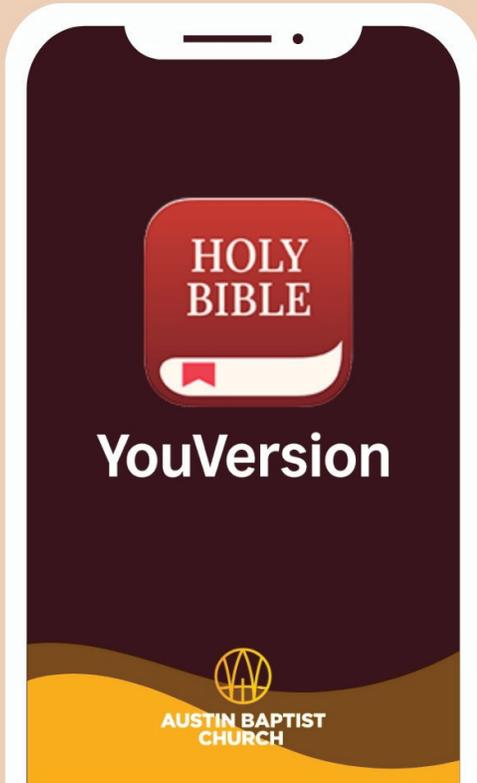
-Kim Anawaty

“

Hosting a table at our Twilight Tea has always been a joyful and rewarding experience for me. I've hosted since the very first Tea, and each year I love seeing how the ladies enjoy the fellowship and beauty of the evening. One especially meaningful year, I used my mother's china and included a small framed photo in her honor, which made the table deeply personal. Hosting a table is a simple but beautiful way to serve and bless others, and I encourage anyone to consider hosting for our next Twilight Tea on March 8th.

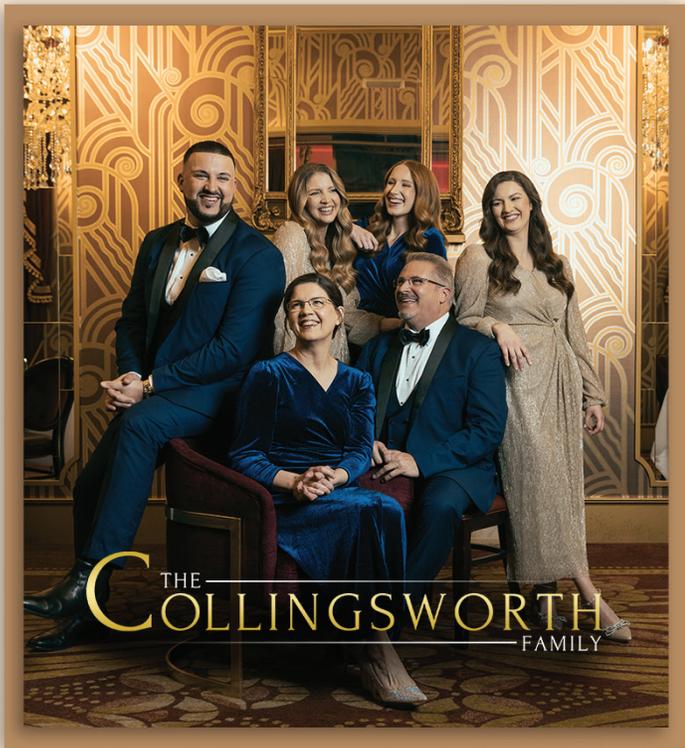
-Kathy Dixon

REGISTER: austinbaptistchurch.com/TwilightTea2026



FOLLOW ABC ON THE BIBLE APP

Get weekly sermon content right in the app. Scan to follow us!



THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY PRESENTS
CLASSICS & HYMNS
 SPRING TOUR 2026

AUSTIN, TX
 AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH
 7016 RIBELIN RANCH DR AUSTIN, TX 78750

**THURSDAY,
 FEB 26, 2026**

CONCERT AT 7PM
 AGES 14 AND UNDER ARE FREE

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
iTICKETS
 OFFICIAL TICKET PROVIDER



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are excited to host The Collingsworth Family for their CLASSICS & HYMNS Spring Tour at ABC on Thursday, February 26th!

We are in need of volunteers to assist on that day. All volunteers will receive a FREE TICKET to the show!

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Annie
Armstrong
Easter
Offering®

YOUR GENEROSITY IS
more than a gift

WEEK OF PRAYER: MARCH 1ST-8TH



AnnieArmstrong.com
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® is a registered trademark of WMU

100% of your gifts
fuel missionaries
and their ministries

WHAT IS THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING?

The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO)** is the primary way Southern Baptist churches fund missions in North America. One hundred percent of gifts given to AAEO go towards supporting more than 3,000 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada.

WHAT IS THE WEEK OF PRAYER?

Each year, churches observe the **Week of Prayer for North American Missions** by praying for missionaries, their ministries, and their families. This year, the official dates are *March 1st–8th*. These missionaries and church planters depend on your prayers to open hearts and help them disciple new believers. Learn some of their stories at the link below (or scan the QR code) and see how you can be praying specifically each day.

WEEK OF PRAYER GUIDE



From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

When I was a young teenager, my family owned some property on the lake, with plans to one day build a house on it. It was across the street and down a house or two from the house I grew up in, but we liked it because “it was on the lake.” My father was trying to determine the best plan to dispose of a large amount of driftwood debris that had floated into our cove and was left there as the water receded. He decided to just do a controlled burn of the debris pile. The pile was bordered by water on one side and was pretty far from the grass on the other. With some shovels and hoes, he reasoned that we should be able to handle any sparks that got upwind on the grass. East Tennessee winters are usually very moist, but for some reason that was not the case that year. Things were very dry on that sunny February day when we set the debris pile on fire. Things were going swimmingly until the wind changed and whipped the small fire into a very large fire, a fire larger than any of us had ever experienced. The embers were jumping several feet into the air and then falling onto the dry grass. Initially we were doing pretty well putting out the small fires with the shovel, but then there were just too many. As the fire began to get out-of-control, I jumped on my motorcycle and rode quickly up the street to my house, while Dad continued fighting the fire. I called the volunteer fire department (with a rotary dial phone that seemed to take forever). The dispatcher informed me that there were several out of control fires in the county that day, and they would try to get there when they could. I rode back to find that much of the field was now burning and my father was working feverishly to prevent the flames from getting to a fence that separated our land from another large adjacent field. In the meantime, the flames were headed toward the street and whirlwinds of fire were leaping several feet at a time. Fortunately the wind was blowing away from the adjacent neighbor's house. But, unfortunately, the wind was blowing toward the historic “Harvey Farmhouse” directly across the street. “Rivermont,” as it was called, was built before 1900 and we knew it would ignite like a tinderbox. We were all praying as we frantically tried to keep the conflagration in check. My mother, sister, and neighbors had shown up trying to corral the flames. All I could do was try to put out a few small flames as the fire devil jumped the road and lurched toward the old wooden house. My sister had brought a fire extinguisher but wasn't sure how to operate it. A neighbor grabbed it and quickly put out the largest flames before they reached the crispy, dry, unraked leaves around the house. Mercifully, after a couple of hours, the wind and the flames died down enough and the old house was spared. God had answered us and the fire was contained to only our property. Needless to say, we never tried a controlled burn again. We also, for some reason, never ended up building on that property.

When the prophet Isaiah was telling God's people to remember Who they belonged to, he also warned them with fiery imagery about what would happen to those who were against God. Isaiah 66:14-16 says, “When you see this [*God's restoration, protection, comfort, and blessing on His people*], your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants, but His fury will be shown to His foes. See, the LORD is coming with fire, and His chariots are like a whirlwind; He will bring down His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For with fire and with His sword the LORD will execute judgment upon all men, and many will be those slain by the LORD.” I definitely don't want to be on the wrong side of God's angry, fiery rebuke. My experience that day on our lake property makes this picture very vivid to me. This is a good reminder to be sure we know we belong to God, because there is no neutral ground. Jesus tells us, “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters” (Luke 11:23). Believe and belong to Him and flourish like grass!

Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for us all!

In His Joy,

BILL MCGINNIS

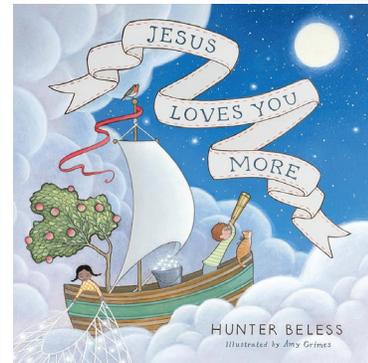
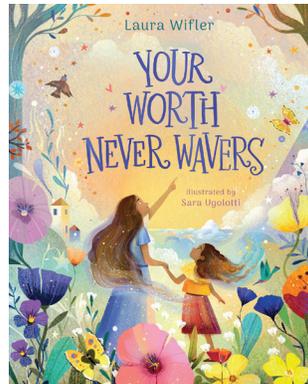
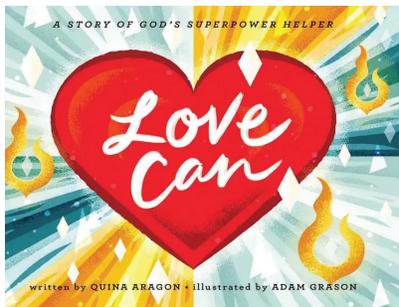
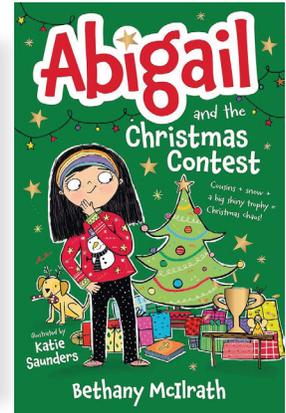
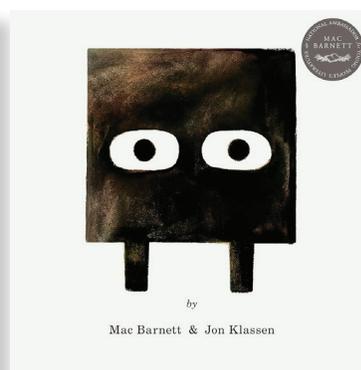
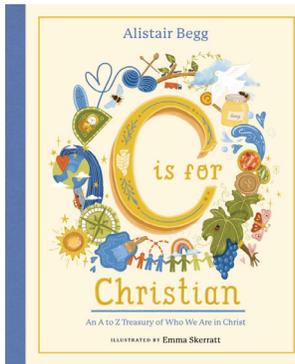
PASTOR OF CARE





ABC Library

Below are some of the new children's books placed recently in the ABC Library! Please come by to browse! The library is located in the Children's Wing near the glass doors that open to the outdoor playground area.



CONTACT: Rita Ervin

Email library@austinbaptistchurch.com

or visit us online at austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:30PM

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG

ABC PODCASTS: austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

ATTENDANCE **02.15.2026**

8:45 AM WORSHIP	597
11:15 AM WORSHIP	303
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	706

FINANCIAL REPORT **02.15.2026**

ACCOUNT	FEB. 15, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$58,401.93	\$502,996.26
DESIGNATED	\$3,025.00	\$15,343.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$32,334.33	\$219,564.97
TOTAL GIVING	\$93,761.26	\$737,904.23

JOIN US SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP!

8:45 AM | Choir-led Worship
 10:00 AM | Bible Fellowship Groups
 11:15 AM | Band-led Worship

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED PRAYER?

CONTACT US!

ABC CHURCH OFFICE

Call **512.491.9600** or visit **austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM**

ABC PRAYER TEAM

Email Bill McGinnis at **billm@austinbaptistchurch.com**

FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Mariah Parker, Director of Communications

- **EMAIL:** mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com
- **CALL:** 512.334.8247

Please submit articles and items for The Bridge by the Friday BEFORE publication.



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