



# The Connection

September 2025

A Monthly Newsletter of Turner Christian Church

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## Dear Church... from Pastor Matt

Welcome to September! There is a lot going on this Fall, including new plans for Sunday School and our evening gatherings, but this month I want to focus on our most exciting development: we have hired a new office administrator—Kendra Lambert!

Kendra has been part of our church family since summer of 2023. She was baptized here in February of 24, and she has served as a Sunday school teacher and A/V tech. She has one daughter, Brynn, who attended Little Lamb Preschool.

My goal in this hiring process was to find, not just the best applicant, but the right person for the position. My hope was that we would be able to find someone who was already part of our congregation, who already knows and loves who we are. In Kendra we have found both.

To me, this is exciting for several reasons. First of all, I'm relieved to have finished the hiring process. It's always a relief to check a major box on your to-do list, and to be able to answer big question marks about the future. More importantly, I am excited to have Kendra herself on the church staff. Kendra impressed us with her wisdom, humility, and enthusiasm, and she is definitely an added value to the church office.

Finally, I am excited because this is another reminder to me that God is still working, that he has good plans even when I can't see what they are. I have had a lot of checkboxes and question

marks on my plate this summer, and there are times when I look at everything in front of me and think, "I'm not sure I can do this." But I don't need to "do" everything. I don't need to be in total control (in fact, I *shouldn't* be). I don't need to know exactly how everything will turn out. God is the one in control, he is the one moving his church forward, and he is the one who knows how everything will turn out. And because I know he is in control, I can focus on doing the next thing God has called me to do, and trust that God will work all things together for the good of his people.

There are more checkboxes and question marks ahead of us. This year we will be focusing on equipping the congregation to discern what God is doing in their lives, in our church, and in our community. Our approach to Sunday school and mid-week groups will be simpler this year, and they will be focused on that one goal. But we need not be concerned by checkboxes and question marks, because we remember that God's got this. God has shown no signs of slowing down here at TCC. I see him at work in the new people who have been joining us on Sundays, the relationships that have been growing in the church, the great work being done in our (fully enrolled!) preschool and food bank—I could go on. The important thing is that God has a plan for Turner Christian Church—all we need to do is follow him the best we can.

God bless!  
Pastor Matt

### A Note from Jerry:

Judy and I would like to thank the congregation for the privilege of being able to serve in the church office in one of the best "jobs" in the world. We appreciate all the kindnesses and support we have received from Matt and other pastors and the congregation at large. Be sure to meet and greet our new Office Administrator, Kendra and her daughter Brynn. God has blessed us with Kendra and she is a blessing to this congregation.

## With *Sympathy*

**Frances Knox** passed away on August 16<sup>th</sup> and went home to the Lord. Please keep George and the family in your prayers. Plans are being made for a Memorial Service at TCC on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

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### **Fall Sermon Series: "Prodigal"**

This fall we are going to work through that spiritual journey step by step, following the story of the Prodigal Son. We will be challenged to think deeply about who God is, who I am, how and why we stray, and what it means to come back to God.

## **Youth Ministry**

Teens are an important part of our church! With Pastor Rachel's departure, we need to put together a new plan for youth ministry for this year. If you are interested in youth ministry—if you're a teen, a parent, interested in volunteering, or passionate about supporting youth ministry, please attend our Youth Interest Meeting on September 21st at 6:30 PM.

We need your input! We are working on plans for youth ministry for this year, but we need to hear from you! If you are a teen or parent, if you are interested in helping with youth ministry, or if you are passionate about supporting youth ministry, please come to this meeting! We want to hear your input (especially you teens!)

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## **Fall Sunday School Schedule**

This year we will be organizing the classes in a new way:

- Participants will choose their own "table groups"—4-6 people who will be together through the entire school year.
- Each term, we will divide all the table groups into classes led by a teacher.
- Each term we will reshuffle the table groups into new classes. Our goal is that each table group will get to spend at least one term with every other table group.

In the Fall we will offer two classes:

1. Carol George's group will study the story of the Exodus.
2. The other class will follow the sermon series with a Bible study and discussion that challenges us to think more deeply about our own spiritual journeys, and how we might walk the path of reconciliation more faithfully.

Table groups will be formed at the launch class on September 14th. Classes will begin the following Sunday (Sep. 21st). Anyone who joins after that will be added to a class and then placed in a new Table Group at the beginning of the next term. Contact the Church office if you have any questions!

## **Fall Groups**

For groups this Fall, we are working on creating an evening gathering with something for all ages. The focus of this gathering will be on learning to recognize what God is doing around us in our everyday lives, our congregation, and our community. For families, this will also involve equipping parents to use these conversations for discipling children at home.

This gathering is still in the works, so stay tuned for announcements as we make plans. If you have any questions, or are interested in helping with this event, please contact the church office or fill out a "Next Steps" card.