



MARCH 2023 CHALLENGER

OAKGROVEBC.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/OAKGROVEBAPTISTCHURCH, GRAY, TN
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLmls7Ps35ldJjKsNv3yKA>

CONTACT

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Office Hours
Wednesday and Thursday 9-4
Friday 9-3

STAFF

Pastor
Sherrel Nave

Minister of Music
Jonathan Casteel

Minister of Students
Joe Baker

Director of Children's Ministry
Lori Casteel

Financial Secretary/Custodian
Tammy Yarber

Ministry Assistant
Susan Rouse

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

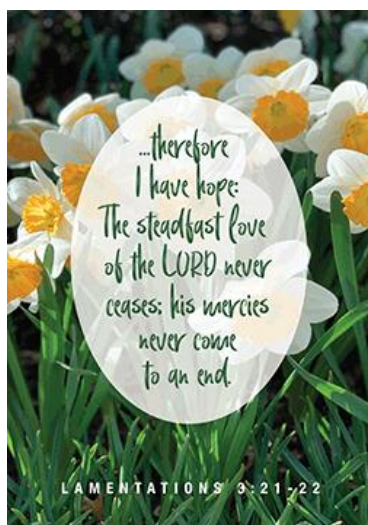
I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hope you're doing well. I want to begin by encouraging everyone to please continue to pray for the people of Turkey and Syria who were impacted by the terrible earthquakes. As you probably know, we support the ministry of Kaya Essen, who serves as a missionary in a region near the epicenter of the quakes. We have already sent a financial gift to Brother Kaya to help with some of the pressing immediate needs. In addition, he recently informed us of a very special need regarding at least 35 orphaned children whom he helps. They are in urgent need of housing for these children. Kaya needs to raise \$25,000 in order to obtain a building that can accommodate the kids. It is a costly endeavor but there are a number of other churches involved and I am prayerfully asking you to give what you can over the next few weeks. We will distribute special offering envelopes throughout the sanctuary as well as the front and ramp door entrances. Thank you in advance for your gracious giving.

A few weeks ago I began preaching a series of messages on revival from the Book Of Jonah. I felt led to use this sermon series to help us kick start a time of revitalization for our church. This revitalization process will involve looking at the current state of our fellowship. A church survey is already circulating throughout the congregation and townhall meetings are taking place. The purpose of these meetings is to share information and ideas with one another about how we can improve church ministries and stimulate growth in the present and the future. The second meeting will take place on **Sunday night, March 5th at 6 pm.**

We are all burdened about the future of Oak Grove, and we all want to see growth, especially in the area of children and youth. I believe that this can happen. Nothing is impossible with God. So, let's work diligently and pray fervently and ask God to send a time of refreshing and a great harvest to us here at "The Grove"! I love you all and I'll see you in church or online!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Sherrel





My Encounter With Jesus

(Excerpted with permission from Bible Studies for Life)

We are living in an epidemic of loneliness and isolation. A recent study revealed that 36% of Americans experience a serious level of loneliness. That is even greater in some groups, like young adults and mothers with small children. Relationships and connection matter. We need those in order to thrive.

This spring, we are going to see what happens when people encounter Jesus in their moment of need. He reached out to a woman alone at a well, healed a man born blind, showed compassion to a woman caught in sin, and willingly died on a cross and was raised from the dead to meet our greatest need. Jesus was always meeting and transforming people just when they needed Him most.

If you have ever needed Jesus to meet you, transform your life, or show you compassion, then there is a message here for you. However, be prepared. Jesus often asked those He encountered difficult questions. He caused them to think about their lives, sin, and futures. He was even known to ask them to do difficult things, but this is how transformation works. It happens as we encounter Jesus.

- Chad Keck

If we are missing your name on our anniversary or birthday list or if a correction is needed, please call 477-3141.

10:00 AM SUNDAYS

Facebook Live Sunday School will begin at 10:00 AM on Sundays.

March 5	Jesus Met My Greatest Need
March 12	Jesus Restored My Life
March 19	Jesus Gave Me Grace and Forgiveness
March 26	Jesus Opened My Eyes to the Truth

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 3-World Day of Prayer
 March 5-12- Week of Prayer
 March 12-Daylight saving time
 March 17- St. Patrick's Day
 March 20 -First day of Spring



Pam and I are looking forward to seeing you ladies for our first ladies fellowship on Thursday, March 16, at 6:30. Food and drinks will be provided, just bring yourself and ask a friend to come with you.

Our theme this year is on the Women in the Bible how they served God! I know I can learn from them and the guest speakers that we will have this year. Our first guest speaker will be Pam Parker and she will be speaking of the needs in our area who need volunteers very badly, many of which we are not aware of.

Our prayer, as I said last month is Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them. That is our prayer, for our Ladies Fellowship, that Jesus is in the midst of us, and our soul focus is on Him!

Love and prayers, Pam and Sharon

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Surrender



What a privilege and opportunity it is to utterly come to the end of one's hope — not only to run out of answers but to run out of questions. To be beyond fighting, to come to that suspended animation where we are so confused and so weak that we can neither fight [nor] run. When you come to the end of yourself, you find the beginning of God. And there and nowhere else, you find the answers you seek. You find fulfillment for the longings of your soul.

—Max Anders

Christian symbol



SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



Happy Saint Patrick's Day from everyone at SOS! The month of February was hard on our youth due to covid so we were only able to meet just once and our lesson was on LOVE, JOHN 3:16. This month we will be studying Philippians 1:9-21, JOY! NO MATTER WHAT!!!, please be in prayer for us as we study God's Word. Thank you again, for supporting our youth. I have an art project for the youth when we have VBS in June. I am in need of hardware, old screws, washers, nuts, bolts, small nails, small metal objects that the youth can use to make a cross. (See Photo) I will be very grateful for any hardware you can supply the youth for this project. Thank you in advance for your help.
God Bless, love in Christ Jesus, Sharon



Thanks to all who volunteered to help with the children's ministry recently. It is nice to have so many wonderful teachers to guide future generations. We want to be ready when the kids we are praying for show up with their families.

VBS will possibly be the last week in June this year due to Jon having to work a summer camp. We will be asking for Volunteers to sign up in March. The title of VBS is Keepers of the Kingdom. It is made by Answers in Genesis. The theme of it is standing strong in today's battle for truth. You will see lots of knights, dragons, and castles, and possibly even some princes and princesses.

Please continue to pray for our ministry to the children. If you have any ideas, we hope you will share them with us. We want to do what we can to bring children and their families to know Christ as their Savior.

Limiting distractions

Getting a cell phone is a major milestone for kids — and a huge decision for parents. Despite our boys' complaints, we made them wait longer than most of their peers. We emphasized accountability, monitoring and time limits. Out of curiosity, I checked my own phone usage. It was more than double the limit we set for our kids! I came up with reasons (excuses, really) why I needed more time.



But God stopped me in my tracks and prompted me to use a "time's up" notification. It helps me be intentional about removing distractions. What diverts you from God's best? Are you listening to him and then redirecting your attention? God, speak clearly — and prompt us to listen!

—Janna Firestone



Annie Armstrong (1850-1938)

Annie was born in Baltimore at a time when there was little opportunity for women. Yet, her devotion to Christ led her to a life of service and leadership. She organized women to pray, to give, and to meet the needs around them. She challenged pastors and churches to action and rallied vital support for missionaries. Ultimately, Annie was recognized as a national Southern Baptist trailblazer for her visionary leadership that still inspires millions today.

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."
—John Wooden

Words of
WISDOM

"God doesn't just give us grace; he gives us Jesus, the Lord of grace."
—Joni Eareckson Tada

ANNIE
ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

UNITED

North American
Mission Board

United Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) is the primary way we can support missions efforts in North America. One Hundred percent of gifts given to AAEO are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving across the United States and Canada.

Every gift to the AAEO goes to train, resource and send thousands of missionaries involved in church planting and compassion ministries across the United States, Canada, and their territories.

The week of Prayer for the North American missions will be observed March 5-12 to pray for missionaries, their ministries, and their families. Prayer is the fuel for spiritually sustaining missionaries in places where the gospel is greatly needed, but often opposed.

AAEO prayer guides and envelopes will be placed in the sanctuary pews beginning Sunday, March 5. Offering will be collected through the whole month of March with a church goal of \$1000. With your support and gift, thousands of missionaries will be resourced to serve unreached communities and make an eternal impact.

Let's do our part of spreading the hope of the gospel.

Because I Care: Thoughts from a OGBC Member

I am pleased about the ongoing efforts of our staff and church council in the revitalization of OGBC. I know the last 3 years have proven to be detrimental for church growth in most churches. Not just Covid causes for loss of attendance, but many members have passed and others are homebound or in nursing homes.

Just like many churches, we are an older congregation of members. It is evident our priority should be set on reaching younger couples and therefore, reaching children. We have the least number of children ever attending Sunday School and Children's Church. We have great teachers and leaders, but they need help and that is being addressed now. Some of our teachers are 70+ years old and still doing a great job, but they can't teach forever. Therefore, we must train new teachers and helpers to work with new kids when they come to church.

Likewise, we need to start more adult Sunday School classes which are age appropriate. Whether it being adult men and adult ladies, or a mixed class, the need is there to give options for current and new attendees.






I am totally aware the task at hand will not be easy. Some churches are seeing growth in different areas whether it be Sunday School, the worship hour, children's programs, or music ministry. I think most important might be some structured church wide visitation promotion.

I am confident when we have our church town hall meetings many good ideas will come forward. Regardless of our efforts, it is evident we need repentance, revival, and a renewed spirit to become a mindset for achieving our goals for church growth. Because I Care and I know you do too!!

Needless to say, prayer is a given during this process.

MARCH

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 	4
5 6PM 	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 	13	14	15	16	17 	18
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	





Oak Grove Baptist
Church
396 Oak Grove Road
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Return services

