

November 2024



OAK GROVE CHURCH
A Global Methodist Church

The Old Is New News

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

..... A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

If you are reading this newsletter two things are true: the world hasn't come to an end and Jesus still saves. As of this writing I have no clue who the winner of this year's presidential election is going to be, and I suspect I am as concerned about the future of our country as all of you. And yet, our Scriptures (that we claim to be the sole and preeminent guide for our lives) tell us to "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment." (Romans 13:1-2) To be clear, I'm not suggesting there is never an appropriate time or situation where resistance is called for, but I am saying that until such a time comes, it does us no good to fret over it – "birds of the air" and all that. "Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to their life?" (Matthew 6:25-27)

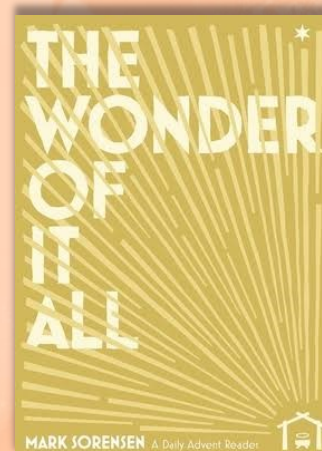
We just got through reading from the prophet Jeremiah in our Bible in a Year devotional and I am reminded of Jeremiah's God-inspired words of hope: "For thus says the Lord...I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you." (from Jeremiah 29:10-13) That prophecy was meant for Israel in the face of Chaldean (Babylonian) exile, but it is as appropriate for us today as it was for the Israelites 2600 years ago. The world isn't likely to end any time soon (though admittedly the possibility is probably not absolute zero). But in any case, we should be all about being ready when the time comes. If we make that our focus, then at the end of the day (pun intended) it doesn't matter if the world ends next week, next year, or millennia from now, the fate of our souls will be secure. I choose to plan for the future with Jeremiah's promise from God in hand, trusting that God's plans are for my welfare and that my future is one filled with hope.

So, looking to the future, I want to invite the entire church to attend our second District Rally (formerly known as Charge Conference). The rally will be held on Sunday, November 17th at 3:00 pm, and will take place at Ellisville Methodist Church where a former pastor of yours, Mark Anderson, now serves. I know not everyone can make it, but I would like to see a strong showing in support of our newly consecrated (formerly provisional – now official) Mississippi-West Tennessee Conference of the Global Methodist Church. If you have never been to one of these rallies (and even if you have really), while they are a time of codifying the official business of our church that governs the year to come, even more so in this new expression of Methodism these are intentional opportunities to worship with our brothers and sisters from other congregations within the Hattiesburg District.

I don't think I need to remind anyone that the joyful season we are headed into is one of hope. What some of us hardened old timers sometimes need reminding of is the wonder represented by the seasons of Advent and Christmas. I will be leading a sermon series and devotional study through advent called *The Wonder of it All*, and invite you to join your church family in the journey. The devotional itself is a daily read and is available for pickup now, but I urge you to wait to start reading it until the appointed time (December 1st), as it will take on more meaning if we do this together. I will also be offering a time to discuss our daily readings following our Wednesday night meal from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. I would love everyone take part in the study, but even more so I hope you will take this opportunity to devote a few minutes every day to growing closer to God.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ted

"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)





... IN THE KNOW ...

THE GROVE @ OGC MOMS GROUP

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MoMs) is a ministry that offers friendship and support to all mothers through praying, faithsharing, wonderful conversations, and support. A MoMS group meets the first Friday of each month (November 1) at OGC from 9:30-11:00 am. Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Tish Edwards or April Brewer.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Don't forget to set your clock back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Club invites you to a complimentary breakfast in the Family Life Center from 8 am until 9:45 am on Sunday, November 3. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by the men and share some early morning fellowship before Sunday School and Worship.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 3 is All Saints Sunday. During worship, we will remember the lives of all the Saints who have gone before us this past year. This special day will be a time of celebration of the hope of resurrection that we share.

POINSETTIAS

Sunday, November 3 is the last day to order poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary at Christmas in memory or in honor of someone. Order forms are available in the foyer. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Please make checks to MES Circle.

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club will meet Monday, November 4 at 5:30 pm to provide security, greeters and ushers for the Night of Praise and Worship at 6 pm. Next meeting TBA.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

OGC invites you for a night of Praise and Worship on Monday, November 4 at 6 pm. Join us to hear MSU National Champion and former outfielder for the Miami Marlins, Tanner Allen, as he shares his amazing testimony. The USM Wesley Foundation Worship Team will lead us in worship.

THANKSGIVING MEAL

The MES Circle 49th annual Thanksgiving Meal is Sunday, November 10 from 11 am until 1:30 pm. Come get a delicious meal all the trimmings for \$10 per plate. (6 yrs and up) Dine In or Drive Thru. You may also preorder a pan of dressing for \$20. There is an order sheet in the office.

NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, November 16. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed Wednesday, November 27-Friday, November 29. There will be no Wednesday meal or

activities on November 27.

THE BLESSING TREE AND BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

The Blessing Tree will be placed in the foyer on Sunday, November 17. On the tree will be the names of the children of our Food Pantry recipients. If you would like to bless and be blessed, pick a child and their wish list from the tree to shop for Christmas gifts. The gifts will be given to the children at the Birthday Party for Jesus on Saturday, December 14 from 9-11:30 am in the Family Life Center. Further instructions for shoppers will be available next to the Blessing Tree.

MARCH OF ANGELS

All children are invited to bring an unwrapped child's gift to church on Sunday, December 8 to lay at the altar. These gifts will be given to needy families in our community this Christmas. Bring your gift and meet "Miss" Kaycee in the FLC hallway at 9:45 am to prepare for the march.

COAT DRIVE

Cooler weather will be here soon! To help our neighbors in the community in need of a coat, the annual coat drive has begun. You may bring a new or gently used coat of any size to the Family Life Center.

GUIDEBOOK 2025

The new 2025 Guidebook will be published in January. The Guidebook contains needed information for you such as contact information, birthdays and anniversaries, committees, classes for all ages, 2025 budget and ministry programs. In the month of November, there will be a table in the foyer with copies of the contact information and birthdays and anniversaries for you to check to make sure your information is correct. If your information has been unintentionally left out, please add it to the list. And, if you would, please write the year of your birthday by your name. Our system automatically goes to 1900 if the correct year is not added. So the majority of you are 124 years old in our system!

GIFT TO JESUS

A tradition we practice is the annual "Gift to Jesus" offering taken up at our Christmas Eve service. The Gift originated as a capital fund campaign for the building of the Family Life Center. We set a goal of a \$100,000 offering to Jesus to glorify God. The giving was set for the Christmas Eve service to honor Jesus' birth. We continue the giving today as a continuation of our faith.

The Finance Committee recommended and the Administrative Council approved for this year's Gift to Jesus to be used to pay off the Cameron Property debt and to reduce the line of credit we have at First Bank due to disaffiliation.

For the Christmas Eve Service, there will be an offering plate by the entrance to the sanctuary for your "Gift to Jesus." Also, please remember you may drop it off in the office, place in the offering plate on Sundays or give online at www.ogchurch.life.

...CHILDREN... November is here and I am feeling so BLESSED, GRATEFUL, AND THANKFUL!

I am so BLESSED to be a part of such a giving church family that is always willing to step up and help out even if it means dressing up in costumes! Everyone had such a fun time at Trunk or Treat. It takes all of us participating in some capacity to make this a successful event and I would say it was another successful event!! We aren't sure of the exact number of people who attended but it was a lot! Everyone had a great time and enjoyed our hospitality. THANK YOU for helping us shine God's love to the community by supporting this event in so

many ways. I appreciate it more than you know.

I am so GREATFUL for Rodger and Cindy leading our children in our Christmas program. They are great and you are all in for a special treat this year. Our littlest ones will be ringing bells and our older children will be rocking and rolling to bring you "The Best Christmas Song Ever, with Yanzy". While we are fewer in numbers this year, these kids will be bringing a blessing and a smile to all our faces! *(Parents: Please make sure your kids are here each Sunday and Wednesday night to practice. If they have speaking parts or solos, please help them learn their parts)*

And, I am so THANKFUL that the playground renovation is underway. A big thank you to all who have donated and are supporting this big project. I appreciate our Trustees and especially Ray, for getting our wall straight again and our foundation back in order. Our children will be enjoying their playground for many years to come. I look forward to having a safe place for them to play again soon.

Please continue to keep our children and children's ministries in your prayers.

In His Service,

Kaycee



...YOUTH...WINTER AGENDA

NOVEMBER

- 3 Youth Meeting: 5:30-7 pm
- 4 Worship and Praise with Tanner Allen: 6 pm
- 6 Dinner: 5:30 pm
Youth Meeting: 6:30-7:30 pm
- 10 Volunteer for Thanksgiving Meal: 11 am—1:30 pm
Youth Meeting: 5:30-7 pm
- 13 Dinner: 5:30 pm
Youth Meeting: 6:30-7:30 pm
- 17 Youth Meeting: 5:30-7 pm
- 20 Dinner: 5:30 pm
Youth Meeting: 6:30-7:30 pm
- 26 Volunteer at Christian Services
Serving Thanksgiving meal at the Soup kitchen: 11 am—1 pm
- 27 No Youth

DECEMBER

- 1 Youth Meeting: 5:30-7 pm
- 4 Dinner: 5:30 pm
Youth Meeting: 6:30-7:30 pm
- 8 Choir Cantata
- 11 Dinner: 5:30 pm
Youth Meeting: 6:30-7:30 pm
- 14 Volunteer at Birthday Party for Jesus: 9-11:30 am
- 15 Children's Christmas Program
- 18 Dinner: 5:30 pm
Youth Meeting: 6:30-7:30 pm
- 22 Youth Christmas Party
(Details to come)

Glory Touching Earth

A CHRISTMAS WORSHIP MUSICAL
PRESENTED BY
Oak Grove Church Choir
Sunday, December 8 @ 6 pm

The poster features a warm orange and red background with a silhouette of a nativity scene and a large firework exploding in the sky.

Oak Grove Church Children Present

BEST CHRISTMAS SONG EVER
WITH YANZY

Sunday, December 15 // 6 pm

The poster has a yellow background with musical notes, Christmas trees, and ornaments.

Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service
5:30 pm

The banner is red and features a chalice, a host, and a lit candle.

...FOOD PANTRY DONATION...

Amy Griffin and Callie Wilson from Cooperative Energy and in partnership with Extra Table graciously delivered much appreciated and needed peanut butter and jelly to the Oak Grove Church Food Pantry. The donations were sent into their office in Hattiesburg from eleven member systems located throughout Mississippi delivering power. Thank you Cooperative Energy and all the member systems involved.



Food Pantry Coordinator, Molly Reynolds, accepts the food donation.

Thank You!



Dear Oak Grove Church Family,
 During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. The vase of beautiful flowers to commemorate Jack's home going was so thoughtful. Thank you,
 The Family of Jack Post (Father of Alison Post)

Oak Grove Church,
 I just wanted to let you know that the fall Blood Drive was one of the most successful blood drives that The Blood Center has had at your church so far. We were able to collect 20 units of life-saving blood with 4 others trying but not able to give. Thank you all for all the support that you give to the community blood program. Oak Grove Church is such a loving and giving church to this community. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do for you all.
 Thanks,
 Beverly Clark, The Blood Center

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal
5:30-6:15 pm
Adults: \$7 Children: \$3 Family Plan: \$20

November 6
Menu: Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole, Creamed Corn, Seasoned Green Beans, Garden Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts
Children's Menu: Chicken Nuggets/FF
Shoppers: Nancy Amacker/Pat Bennett
Class to Serve: Security Team
Desserts: Betty Entrekin, Candice Entrekin, LaNita Fisher, Woody Gammel, Kaycee Hairston, Tess Hammond

November 13
Menu: Hamburger Steak w/Onions & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts
Children's Menu: Hamburgers/Tater Tots
Shoppers: Laura Baird/Peggy Woodruff
Class to Serve: Security Team
Desserts: Laura Hojem, Penny Kochtitzky, Melinda Lucas, B.J. Mathias, Julie McDonald, Susan McQueen

November 20
Menu: Chicken Spaghetti, Broccoli, Garden Salad, Texas Toast, Assorted Desserts
Children's Menu: Pizza and Salad
Shoppers: Fred/Jane Boudreaux
Class to Serve: Security Team
Desserts: Kim Morgan, Dawn Nuss, Jamie O'Quinn, Cindy Oubre, Cindy Pace, Judy Parker

November

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

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|------------------------------|------------------------|
| ANNIVERSARIES | 8 Janelle Hagenson |
| 2 Bus & Jeanine Cook | 9 Aidan Kelly |
| 7 Jonathan & Sarah Wilkerson | 15 Candice Entrekin |
| 8 Larry & Peggy Bullion | 17 Charlie Gerald |
| 16 Neil & Adelia Powe | 17 Brody Sullivan |
| 19 Bob & Esther Attkisson | 23 Christian Smith |
| Bobby & Judy Brown | 24 Bobby Brown |
| 27 Fred & Jane Boudreaux | 24 Peggy Woodruff |
| BIRTHDAYS | 28 Sarah Findley |
| 2 Jeanine Cook | 29 Scott Findley |
| 2 Tori Shelton | 29 Belinda Jo Mathias |
| 7 Christy Dickerson | 29 Judah Mathias |
| 7 Raven Sterling | 29 Katherine Wilkerson |