

OAK GROVE CHURCH

JUNE 2025



# *The Old Is New News*

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

## *A Word from our Pastor*

Have you ever wondered where the name Pentecost comes from? It's actually rooted in Judaism and a cognate of the Greek word for "five," *penta*, literally meaning "fiftieth." In the Old Testament, the Israelites celebrated the Festival of Weeks (or Shavuot) exactly fifty days after Passover, their most important religious festival of the year.

Shavuot itself is a spring harvest festival that while it never carried quite the same level of importance as Passover, it was (and is), nevertheless, a time of joyful celebration. In biblical times, work ceased, and people came to Jerusalem from all over carrying the first sheaves of the wheat harvest for an offering to celebrate God's provision of food.

Pentecost took a distinctly Christian turn early in the book of Acts when 120 followers of Jesus, including his mother Mary and some of his brothers, were all huddled in an upstairs room in Jerusalem, hiding out in fear of the local religious authorities. But they were also waiting. They were waiting for something that Jesus had promised before ascending to heaven...the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly, a sound like a violent wind filled the room where the disciples were hunkered down and tongues of fire descended to hover over their heads. Adding to the miraculous nature of the event, Jesus's followers began speaking in the languages of all the different peoples who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Weeks. It was such a strange event that some of the folks witnessing it thought Jesus's followers were drunk. But Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, rejected that explanation and proceeded to preach one of the most powerful and important sermons in the New Testament.

Peter pointed to the Old Testament prophet Joel's words (Joel 2:28-32) promising just such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all of God's people and how it fulfilled the promise Jesus had made to send an *Advocate* in His stead. This Jesus, whom you crucified, Peter informed the crowd, is the Messiah, God's promised Savior who has conquered sin and death. When they heard Peter's piercing words, the Bible tells us many were "cut to the heart," and asked, "What should we do?" Peter called on them to repent and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Many in the crowd did, and three thousand were baptized that day.

So, what is the significance of Pentecost? In short, it is a seminal moment in God's plan of salvation. For all who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit reminds and assures us that Jesus keeps his promises. Anyone who truly receives Jesus as Lord and Savior receives new life through the Holy Spirit. They are united with Jesus and given the deep assurance that they belong to God and that nothing can separate them from that love so long as they remain in Christ.

Pentecost also marks the birthday of the church. In the Old Testament, God's people consisted only of Israel. Pentecost healed the divisions and animosities created at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), where people were divided by language and race because of their prideful arrogance. At Pentecost, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, folks from every tongue, race, and nation are brought together in Jesus Christ. God has reconciled us to himself through his son Jesus, and through him we have been made one in the church.

Finally, Pentecost reminds us of the church's primary purpose of sharing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Throughout the remaining chapters of the book of Acts, the Apostles and followers of Jesus model for us how to be the church for the world. Indeed, the open-ended conclusion to Acts clearly indicates the church's ongoing mission of proclaiming the gospel until Jesus comes again. When the church shares the love of Jesus in word and deed, it carries out God's purpose and plan of redemption and restoration for our fallen world.

Happy Pentecost Everyone!

*Pastor Ted*

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20

## In The Know

### MEN'S CLUB

All men are invited to Men's Club on Monday, June 2 at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center.

### SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Club is cooking breakfast on June 8 for Second Sunday Breakfast. Come to the FLC from 8—9:45 am for a delicious breakfast and some great fellowship before Sunday School and Worship.

### CANCER COMPANIONS

Cancer Companions (CC) is a support group at OGC tailored specifically for cancer patients and their caregivers. CC will meet twice a month on the second and fourth Friday at 10:30 am. In June we will meet June 13 and 27. If you know someone suffering from this awful disease, be sure and pass the word to join us.

### DRAMA CAMP PLAY

You are cordially invited to the Drama Camp Performance of "Til I Started to Cry" on Friday, June 13 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

### NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, June 21. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

### BREAKFAST AT NIGHT

Join us on Wednesday, June 25 at 5:30 pm for Breakfast at Night. A delicious meal of all your breakfast favorites will be served. Come enjoy this fellowship time during our summer break from our usual Wednesday night schedule. All proceeds from the meal will go to Debt Reduction. Adult meal is \$7.00 and the children eat for \$3.00 with a \$20 max for families. And.....Elvis just may be in the building!!!!!!

### POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday, June 29 is Fifth Sunday Potluck Lunch after worship. Bring your favorite dish to share and come for a wonderful time of fellowship.

### MES CIRCLE

All ladies are invited to MES Circle on Monday, June 30 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center. Our Guest Speakers will be Cynthia Young and Priscilla Brown, the founders of Field House for the Homeless in Hattiesburg.

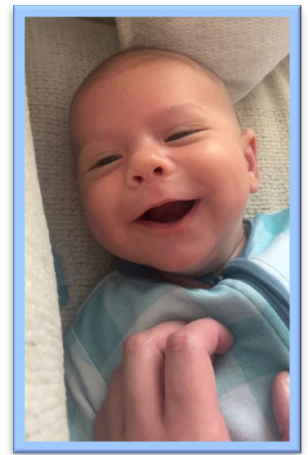
## Jesus loves the little children...



**Vivianne Josephine Harrelson**

March 24, 2025

Granddaughter of David Lishman  
Great Granddaughter of Tish Edwards



**Sawyer Reese Spiers**

April 15, 2025

Son of Brandon and Riley Spiers  
Grandson of Hagan Barber  
Great Grandson of Molly Reynolds  
Great Grandson of Danny McDaniel



**Charlotte Elise Dickerson**

May 9, 2025

Daughter of Garrett and Noel Dickerson  
Granddaughter of Barry and Grace  
Dickerson  
Granddaughter of Mark and Melinda  
Anderson



**Katherine Louise Oubre**

May 13, 2025

Daughter of John David and Rebecca  
Oubre  
Granddaughter of David and Cindy  
Oubre

## Congratulations Class of 2025

**Landen Smith**



## Welcome New Members

**William "Glenn" and Debbie  
Tyrone**



Youth Ministry Annual

# DESSERT

## Auction

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**Sunday, June 1**

**11 am - 1 pm**

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Enjoy the *fun*

Enjoy the *food*

Our Youth will be having their annual Dessert Auction on Sunday, June 1 following worship. Enjoy a delicious burrito and taco bar for lunch and then bid on your favorite dessert. Adult meals are \$10 and children 12 and under are \$5 with a \$25 max for a family. We need desserts for the auction, so thank you in advance! There will also be a children's table for our little ones to purchase a sweet treat. All proceeds will send our youth to camp this summer!

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## Happy Father's Day

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➡ VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4 AT 5:30 PM IN FLC ⬅



Scan to Register

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 15-19**

**5:30-8:15 PM**

The countdown is on! We are just two weeks away from VBS! Invite your friends and neighbors and join us at Wonder Junction. Kids ages 4 through 6th grade will dive into engaging lessons, hands-on activities, and creative crafts that highlight how everything in the world reflects our Creator's greatness. So register today by scanning the QR Code or go to [www.ogchurch.life](http://www.ogchurch.life).



# Thank you

Dear Oak Grove Church Family,  
Thank you to all of the ladies who thoughtfully prepared food for our family during this exciting time of welcoming our newest family member, Charlotte. It was delicious and we enjoyed it so much!  
We can't wait for everyone to meet Charlotte very soon!  
Love,  
*Garrett and Noel Dickerson*

Dear Oak Grove Church Family,  
I want to thank you for all your support, prayers, thoughts, and food during my surgery and recovery.  
Words cannot express how grateful I am to have such a wonderful and loving church family. Your thoughtfulness and concern means so much to me and my family.  
Thank you,  
*April Brewer*

Dear Oak Grove Church Family,  
Thank so much for your donation of "Gideon Bibles" in memory of my mother, Aubrey Beasley. It was the perfect gift!  
I appreciate all the love and prayers during this time.  
Love,  
*Teresa Viehweg*

## VBS Jamboree and End of Year Party!



# Memorial Day



## June Anniversaries and Birthdays

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 David & Beth Bankston
- 3 Scott & Sarah Findley
- 5 Jack & Katherine Shelton
- 10 Larry & Julia Johnson
- 18 Robert & Tess Hammond
- 26 Billy & Julie McDonald

- 29 Jim & Eva Ratliff
- 30 Frank & Peggy Woodruff

### BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Gavin Brewer
- 7 Ezekiel Boudreaux
- 10 Laura Hojem

- 11 Kirk Frazier
- 14 Lila Mathias
- 15 Peggy Bullion
- 15 Tyler Standland
- 20 Millie Smith
- 21 Lynda Arban
- 23 Mark Vaughn

- 24 Megan Mathias
- 26 Owen McDonald
- 28 Will Madaris
- 29 Emma Madaris

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