



# THE OLD IS NEW NEWS

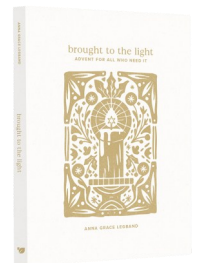
KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

## *A Word from Our Pastor*

It's hard to believe we are on the cusp of Advent. As I write this article, we have already had our first hard freeze, and in typical South Mississippi style, are back in the 80's and getting the shorts back out for one last hurrah! I love the season of Advent and the sacred anticipation it brings. It's a time of year set apart in the Christian calendar to both prepare the hearts of believers for the arrival of the Christ child and to remind us to be on the lookout for His return at the end of the age. Every year, Christians around the world engage in Advent devotions to help them draw closer to God, reflect on His promises, and re-center their lives in Christ amidst the chaos of the holiday season. As most of you already know, I like to do sermon series that go along with a daily devotional at Advent. The reason I like to do that is because of the great need in the world for spiritual focus, calm, and contemplation. As the beginning of the Christian year, Advent's themes of hope, peace, joy, and love provide the perfect backdrop for a reset a lot of us (dare I say most of us) need in order to truly appreciate the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and spans about 24 days, during which we are encouraged to meditate on the key themes listed above. Those themes are not only central to the Christmas narrative, but essential virtues in our daily walk with God. The best Advent journeys will aim to illuminate those truths through Scripture, prayer, and reflection, while helping believers grow spiritually and emotionally as they journey toward Christmas.

That's what we'll be doing together with the Advent devotional/sermon series called *Brought to the Light: Advent for All Who Need It*. By the way, I did not pick this title because of mine and Valerie's situation (though you might think I did when we get started). In fact, I almost didn't use it because I didn't want it to look like I was wallowing in my situation...because I'm not. Yes, I'm tired at times. Yes, we struggle as a household. Yes, I can get very sad on occasion. But at the end of the day, Valerie and I are both filled with the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus Christ, and it felt to me like destiny for *Brought to the Light* to be our guide through Advent this year.



The term Advent is derived from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival." It is both a commemoration and an anticipation—the remembrance of Christ's coming at Christmas and the expectation of His return in glory. Unlike the commercialized holiday countdown, Advent reminds us of God's redemptive plan and invites us into intentional stillness and reflection.

But why is Advent so important, especially since it's not actually in the Bible. In liturgical traditions (denominations) like ours that follow the church calendar, each Sunday of Advent focuses on one of the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. The value of these themes is in how they help shape the rhythms of our Advent Journey and give us focus for spiritual growth and reflection. In a fast-paced, digitally driven world, moments of stillness are rare. The Advent season offers a counter-cultural invitation to slow down and pay attention to what God has done, what He is doing, and what He is going to do. As the year ahead promises to bring new challenges and struggles and joys and celebrations, you are invited to let this season serve as a stabilizing anchor for your life.

Let's travel together beyond the commercial Christmas of the world and refocus it on Christ. Let your understanding of the season be reframed from one of material preparation to spiritual readiness. Use this time to better listen to the voice of God amidst the noise of the world.

*Pastor Ted*

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!' Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem." (Isaiah 52:7-9)*

## CHURCH NIGHT OUT

On Thursday, December 4, the Men's Club invites you to Church Night Out at John L.S. in Sumrall at 6 pm. This is a great night to enjoy some good food and great fellowship. We need to know how many are coming, so if you will contact the church office by December 1, we would greatly appreciate it. We will order from the menu, and each party is responsible for your own bill.

## THE GROVE @ OGC MOMS GROUP

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MoMS) will meet Friday, December 5 at 9:30 am. Childcare is provided.

## MARCH OF ANGELS

All children are invited to bring an unwrapped child's gift to church on Sunday, December 7 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.

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Join the Oak Grove Church Choir as they present *UNTO US*, on Sunday, December 7 at 6 pm.

## MES CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY

All ladies are invited to the MES Circle Christmas Party on Monday, December 8 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center. Please bring a finger food to share. Prayer Partners will be revealed.

## CANCER COMPANIONS

Cancer Companions support group will meet Friday, December 12 at 10:30 pm.

## THE BLESSING TREE AND BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

The Blessing Tree with the names of the children of the families of our Food Pantry recipients is in the foyer. Please stop by the table and see how you can choose children to bless this Christmas. Information and instructions are on the table. The gifts will be given to the children at the Birthday Party for Jesus on Saturday, December 13 from 9-11:30 am in the Family Life

Center.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Join our Oak Grove Children as they present *The 12 Symbols of Christmas* on Sunday, December 14 at 6 pm.

## LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

Wednesday, December 17 will be the last Wednesday Night Meal for this year. Our Wednesday Night Meal and Activities will resume January 14, 2026.

## NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, December 20. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us for our Christmas Eve Family Worship and Candlelight Service at 6 pm.

## 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 for debt reduction.

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](http://www.ogchurch.life).

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

For Christmas, the church office will be closed Wednesday, December 24—Thursday, December 25. For New Year's, the church office will be closed Wednesday, December 31—Thursday, January 1, 2026.

## Children's Ministry

### Growing in Faith, Friendship, and Fun!

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST MONTH

- Our second children's outing was a zoo of a time!! We recognize that faith grows strongest when nurtured both at church and at home. Here are a few simple ideas to help your child continue their journey of faith throughout the month:
- Find ways to give back this season! Some ideas include: volunteer in church or at a local soup kitchen, donate gently used items to those in need, pick a family and invite them to worship!
- Put church on your to-do list! Making it a regular habit of attending Sunday school each week can set children up for healthy habits of attending church regularly into adulthood.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

There's always something fun on the horizon! Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- December 7: March of Angels during church service
- December 14: Children's Christmas Program at 6 pm

#### HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Our Children's Ministry thrives with the help and support of our families and church members. If you're interested in helping, please email [children@ogchurch.life](mailto:children@ogchurch.life) or contact KayCee after Sunday service. Every bit of participation brings us closer together and enriches our program!

## Youth and Family Ministry

### Youth

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 7 6 pm             | Attend OGC Cantata                                      |
| 10 5:30 pm: Dinner | 6:20-7:30pm Youth Small Group                           |
| 13 8:30-12:00      | Youth volunteering for Birthday Party for Jesus         |
| 14 5:30 pm         | Children's Christmas Program                            |
| 17 5:30 pm: Dinner | 6:20-7:30 pm Youth hosting OGC Birthday Party for Jesus |
| 21 3:30-8:00 pm    | Youth Christmas Progressive Dinner                      |
| 24 6:00 pm         | Christmas Eve Service                                   |
| 28 TBD             |   |

### MoMS

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 9:30-11:00 am | Meeting: Childcare Provided |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|

### College/Young Adults

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 1 6:00 pm | Meet at Mo'Bay Beignet |
|-----------|------------------------|

Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!

Oak Grove Church Choir  
presents

# UNTO US

Sunday, December 7  
6 pm

## 12 SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS

Presented by the  
Oak Grove Church Children  
Sunday, December 14  
6 pm



# Christmas Eve

Family Worship and Candelight Service  
6pm



# Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

5:30-6:15 pm

ADULTS \$7 CHILDREN \$3 FAMILY PLAN \$20

## December 3, 2025

Menu: Beef Tips w/rice, English Peas, Carrots, Garden Salad, Biscuits, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Chicken Nuggets/FF

Shoppers: Kaycee Hairston/Lori Terrill

Servers: Dawn Nuss, Cindy Oubre, Kathryn Phillips

Desserts: Susan McQueen, Kim Morgan, Dawn Nuss, Jamie O'Quinn, Cindy Oubre, Cindy Pace

## December 10, 2025

Menu: Loaded Baked Potatoes, Chili, Garden Salad, French Bread, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Pizza and Salad

Shoppers: Tish Edwards/Susan McQueen

Servers: Self Serve

Desserts: Judy Parker, Kathryn Phillips, Adelia Powe, Eva Ratliff, Molly Reynolds, Heather Richardson

## December 17, 2025

Menu: Breakfast at Night

Children's Menu: Same

Shopper: Gloria Bynum

Servers: Youth

Desserts: KayCee Schielder, Cindy Smith, Hagan Smith, Carol Standland, Shannon Sterling, Lori Terrill

Wednesday Night Meals will resume January 14, 2026!

# Anniversaries and Birthdays

## ANNIVERSARIES

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 10 Garrett & Noel Dickerson  | 9 Kathy Neese        |
| 11 Jason & Toni Wesley       | 10 Suzell Cain       |
| 17 Randy & Amy Croson-Webber | 12 Lori Terrill      |
| 18 Alan & Melinda Lucas      | 13 Jane Aultman      |
| 19 Dempsey & Nancy Amacker   | 13 Troy Parker       |
| 23 Mike & Susan McQueen      | 15 Sadie Busha       |
| 26 Joe & Gayle Shearer       | 17 Jackson Lamar     |
| 29 Lon & Belinda Jo Mathias  | 17 Andrew O'Quinn    |
|                              | 19 Cissy Burks       |
|                              | 19 Kaden McCraney    |
|                              | 20 Gayle Shearer     |
|                              | 21 Danny McDaniel    |
|                              | 26 Amy Croson-Webber |
|                              | 28 Olivia Richardson |
|                              | 28 Jamie Standland   |
|                              | 29 Lon Mathias       |
|                              | 31 John Hojem        |
|                              | 31 Lori Anne West    |

## BIRTHDAYS

|                    |
|--------------------|
| 1 Trisa Boudreaux  |
| 5 Ted Fine         |
| 5 Toni Wesley      |
| 6 Donnie Barksdale |
| 7 Kay West         |
| 7 Jessie Mathias   |
| 9 David Bankston   |

Oak Grove Church Family,

Thank you for your faithful giving in 2025. As the end of the year approaches, below are a few reminders regarding year-end giving:

All contributions to Oak Grove Church are tax deductible. Contribution statements for 2025 will be distributed on or before January 31, 2026. Please check your final year-end statements before filing your 2025 taxes.

- Contributions received by **mail must be postmarked** by the U.S. Postal Service on or before December 31 to be applied to your 2025 contribution statement.
- For contributions made **online**, please note that our merchant provider requires a processing window for all online contributions – 3 business days for credit/debit card transactions. Because of the processing window, please be aware that your contribution will be posted on the settlement date (when deposit is made to church checking account,) not the date you scheduled the contribution. As with all banking transactions, online transactions are only processed on business days defined as a calendar day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a federal holiday.
- The Church Office will be closed for Christmas Wednesday, December 24—Thursday, December 25.
- The Church Office will be open on Monday, December 29 and Tuesday, December 30 from 8 am until 2 pm to receive contributions.
- The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, December 31—January 1, 2026.
- All contributions received on or after January 1, 2026 will be posted to 2026 even if the check is dated 2025.

You Can Give Five Ways to the Ministries of Oak Grove Church.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Sundays:  | Drop in the offering plate   |
| Weekdays: | Drop off in the Church Office:<br>Office Hours – Monday through Thursday 8 am – 2 pm |
| Mail:     | 4915 Old Hwy 11, Hattiesburg, MS 39402   |
| Online:   | <a href="http://www.ogchurch.life">www.ogchurch.life</a> – Giving                    |
| Text:     | 877-669-9414 : Text amount with \$   |

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Contact Gloria in the church office, 601-264-8850 or [office@ogchurch.life](mailto:office@ogchurch.life), if you have any questions.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Oak Grove Church

4915 Old Hwy 11 . Hattiesburg . MS . 39402

Phone: 601-264-8850

Email: [office@ogchurch.life](mailto:office@ogchurch.life)

Facebook: Oak Grove Church MS

Web: [www.ogchurch.life](http://www.ogchurch.life)

Youtube: Oak Grove Church MS Worship

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8AM-2PM