

JULY 2026

OAK GROVE CHURCH
A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



THE OLD IS NEW NEWS

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

...A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” — Psalm 33:12

Two hundred and fifty years ago, a new nation emerged with a bold hope—that people might live free, pursue righteousness, and order their common life under principles shaped by moral conviction. As we mark this anniversary, we rightly give thanks for the blessings God has poured out on our land. But Scripture reminds us that the true strength of any nation does not rest in its founding documents, its military might, or its economic power. It rests in the spiritual condition of its people.

Psalm 33:12 is not a declaration of political identity—it is a spiritual truth. A nation flourishes when its people walk in the fear of the Lord, honor His ways, and allow His wisdom to shape their common life. And this is where the Church becomes indispensable.

Across 250 years, the Church has quietly carried the deepest responsibility in America—not to preserve a political system, but to preserve a spiritual witness. Governments can restrain evil, but only the Gospel transforms hearts. Laws can promote justice, but only Christ produces righteousness. National celebrations can stir gratitude, but only the Holy Spirit can produce repentance, renewal, and hope.

The well-being of the United States has always depended more on the faithfulness of God’s people than on the decisions of its leaders. When the Church is strong—rooted in Scripture, alive in prayer, bold in witness, generous in love—the nation is strengthened. When the Church grows cold, distracted, or divided, the nation loses its moral compass.

John Wesley once said that the early Christians “changed the world not by political power, but by holy living.” He believed the Church’s greatest gift to any nation was a people who lived out the Gospel with sincerity, simplicity, and conviction. That remains true today.

The most important contribution any believer can make to the United States is not a vote, a policy argument, or a patriotic display—though these have their place. The greatest contribution is a life shaped by Christ.

- When a Christian forgives, the nation becomes more whole.
- When a family prays, the nation becomes more stable.
- When a church serves the poor, the nation becomes more compassionate.
- When believers pursue holiness, the nation becomes more righteous.

When disciples share the Gospel, the nation becomes more hopeful.

America does not ultimately rise or fall on the strength of its institutions, but on the faithfulness of its people to God. On this 250th anniversary, the Church is called not to nostalgia but to renewal. We honor our nation best by returning to the foundations that made it flourish: reverence for God, commitment to truth, love for neighbor, passion for discipleship, and a willingness to serve sacrificially.

This is the “primitive church” Wesley longed for—a community marked by holiness, simplicity, and mission. And this is the kind of Church America needs today.

A Prayer for Our Nation at 250 Years

Lord God, We thank You for the blessings You have poured out on our country across these 250 years. We acknowledge that every good gift comes from You alone. Strengthen Your Church to be faithful, courageous, and holy. Raise up disciples whose lives shine with the character of Christ. Heal our divisions, renew our hearts, and restore our witness. Make us a people who love justice, pursue mercy, and walk humbly with You. And may the United States be blessed—not because of its power, but because its people honor You as Lord. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Psalm 33:12 is not a declaration of political identity — it is a spiritual truth.

...IN THE KNOW...

ALL MEN'S CHOIR

On Sunday, July 5, we will have an All Men's Choir for Worship. All men are invited to come to the choir room at 9:45 am to practice a familiar hymn. Come on men, let's fill the choir loft!

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club will not meet in July.

CANCER COMPANIONS

Cancer Companions (CC) is an OGC support group tailored specifically for cancer patients and their caregivers. CC meets twice a month on the second and fourth Friday at 10:30 am. In July, we will meet on the 10th and 24th. If you know someone suffering from this awful disease, be sure and pass the word to join us.

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

No Second Sunday Breakfast in July. We will resume on August 9.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir Rehearsal will resume on July 15 at 6 pm.

NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, July 18. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Admin Council will meet Sunday, July 19 at 11 am.

GOOD TIMERS

Good Timers will not meet in July.

MES CIRCLE

MES Circle will not meet in July.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Beginning August 5, Pastor Ted will lead a Bible Study, *The Letter to the Romans*, at 6:30 pm in the church parlor. Books are available for \$20.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING

Faith Responders, a disaster response and recovery ministry, will have a basic disaster response training on Saturday, August 8 from 8:30 am—12:30 pm at OGC.

Welcome New Members!



Rosemary Lambert, Joann Burks, Eric and Ginny Reynolds, Michael Yost, Tony and Gayle Shifalo, Matt and Jess Banes, Taylor Banes, Stephen Rook



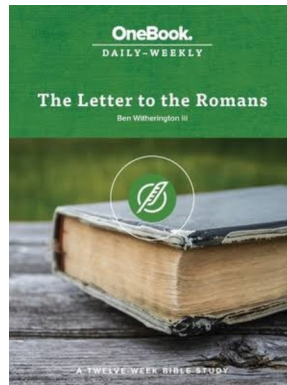
SET APART

from



Sunday, July 12

OAK GROVE CHURCH WORSHIP



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

BEGINS AUGUST 5

6:30 PM

CHURCH PARLOR

Books available for \$20



OAK GROVE CHURCH

August 8

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Learn essential disaster response skills
with hands-on training with Delvin Foret.
No experience necessary!



...CHILDREN...

Our children had a great time at Camp Wesley Pines! Thank you for supporting them.

VBS was so much fun!! We hosted around 45 children each night and shared the good news of God, the ultimate shepherd! Thank you to each and everyone who helped make it a success! We were able to collect \$553.60 for our Food Pantry!



Camp Wesley Pines



...YOUTH...

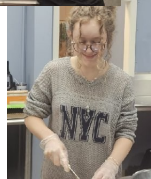
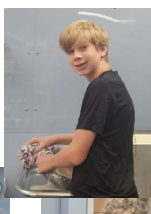
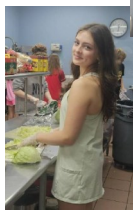
Our youth had a great time at Kentucky Mountain Bible College. Thank you for your generous support at the Dessert Auction that made this summer trip possible. We were truly blessed.

JULY EVENTS

12 Youth @ The Findleys at Big Bay Lake	5:30 pm
19 Youth @ The Carpenters at Lake Serene	2-4:30 pm
26 Youth @ Big Woods	4-7 pm



Dessert Auction



Wednesday Night Meals and Activities Resume August 5!

...ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS...

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Brian & Heather Richardson
- 4 Matt & Jess Banes
- 6 Rod & Kathy Courtney
- 10 Matt & Ashley Lamar
- 18 Lath & Kaycee Hairston
- 19 Jimmy & Felecia Carpenter
- 22 David & Cindy Oubre

BIRTHDAYS

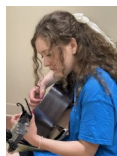
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Candace McDonald | 18 Susannah Hansson |
| 1 Harley Grace Sterling | 18 Frank Woodruff |
| 2 Carol Standland | 20 Larry Johnson |
| 5 John Fisher | 21 Chris Cain |
| 5 River Langham | 22 Joe Shelton |
| 9 Alyssa Bell | 23 Neil Powe |
| 9 Zach Lishman | 25 Rodger Banes |
| 10 Gabe Entrekin | 25 Tony Shifalo |
| 11 Woody Gammell | 26 Clara Dickerson |
| 12 Cline Ladner | 26 Cindy Smith |
| 12 Jillian Porter | 27 Matt Banes |
| 13 Jamie Shelton | 28 Judy Parker |
| 16 Cindy Pace | 29 Barry Dickerson |
| | 31 Bill Entrekin |

...THANK YOU...

Dear Oak Grove Church,
Thank you for your loving contribution to the Animal Rescue League in remembrance of our mother, Jimmie.
She loved our church and wished she could have attended more.
Love,
David and Beth Bankston

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent for my birthday.
The Oak Grove Church has always meant a lot to me. I also enjoyed visiting with the members that came to my 100th birthday party.
With Love,
Lina Fortenberry

Oak Grove Church,
Thank you to the Oak Grove Church family for the donation to St. Jude's in memory of Amy Carter. We are all so thankful for the caring and the prayer for Amy and her family during their difficult time.
Mike, Coyote and Memphis Carter
John and Laura Hojem



KMBC



VBS



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