



MARCH 2021 CHALLENGER

OAKGROVEBC.ORG

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

CONTACT

396 Oak Grove Road
Gray, TN 37615
oakgrove@oakgrovebc.org
(423) 477-3141

Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 9AM-2PM

STAFF

Pastor

Sherrel Nave

Minister of Music

Jonathan Casteel

Minister of Students

Joe Baker

Director of Children's Ministry

Tonya Coleman

Financial Secretary/Custodian

Tammy Yarber

Ministry Assistant

Pam Parker

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I greet you all in the Wonderful Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. It is hard to believe that March is here already, time is passing quickly. Of course, it seems that time stood still this past year with all the troubles and trials of the pandemic. It has been a trying time with so much suffering and loss. My heart still grieves over the loss of my brother Joey. Our family is so very grateful for all the prayers and acts of kindness shown to us during this difficult period. I hope that you will continue to pray for us, especially my sister-in-law Pam, as we try to move forward. We have comfort and assurance that Joey is with the Lord in the heavenlies and for that we are thankful and hopeful. We must continue to pray for all those who still suffer and for those who grieve.

It is such a blessing to be worshipping together in person once again. Beginning on March 7th we will resume Sunday School classes and at 6 p.m. we will resume SOS and evening services. We will also launch our new children's ministry Oaks and Offshoots. On March 10, we will begin to meet again at 7 p.m. for Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer. Getting these ministries up and running again will be challenging and it will require patience, participation, and prayer. I know that God will bless and equip us as we move forward, and I firmly believe that our greatest days lie ahead. The rich history of Oak Grove Baptist Church is a testament to the faith, strength, and perseverance of this fellowship. The Lord has placed us in the middle of a tremendous mission field. We have a wonderful opportunity to reach so many people with the gospel of Christ. My friends, let us begin now to pray for a great harvest and a time of revival!

I want to thank you all for your faithful financial support over the past year. You have made it possible for us to continue the work of the ministry and I pray that God will richly bless your generous and sacrificial giving. I am aware that some of you may not be quite ready to return to church and we totally understand. I want you to feel comfortable and safe so just know that we love you and look forward to seeing you in person as soon as you're ready. I love you all and I'll see you in church or online!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Sherrel



He will
cover you
with his
feathers,
and under
his wings
you will
find refuge.

PSALM 91:4, NIV



ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIANITY

(Excerpted with permission from Bible Studies for Life)

Sunday School will resume March 7 at 9:45 AM.

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

What is the deal with Christianity?

This question is hardly new. People have been asking it as long as Christianity has existed. Sometimes, they ask the question in wonder: “These people seem so ordinary...so why does it seem like they have something I don’t have?” Other times, they ask in exasperation: “Who do these Christians think that they are?” And sometimes they’re puzzled: “You really believe a guy rose from the dead and is coming back in the sky?”

People are good at misunderstanding Christianity. Even believers can misunderstand some of the basics of the faith. That’s why it is important that we focus on the essential truths. In these seven sessions, we’ll be exploring things like:

- God’s nature
- Humanity’s purpose
- What sin is
- Jesus’ death, resurrection, and return
- The work of the Holy Spirit

By the end, sure, I pray that you come out with a richer understanding of Christianity than you had before. But more than that, I pray that you come away with a different view of this figure at its center – a man who was dead, who isn’t dead anymore, and whom people haven’t been able to stop talking about for two thousand years.

Robby Gallaty, Pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church
Hendersonville, TN

IN-PERSON & FACEBOOK LIVE “SIMULCAST” SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM SUNDAYS

March 7	The Nature of God
March 14	The Purpose of Humanity
March 21	The Nature of Sin
March 28	The Death of Jesus



DATES TO REMEMBER

5 World Day of Prayer
7 Restart Sunday School, SOS
Launch Oaks & Offshoots
10 In-person Wed. Bible Study Begins
14 Daylight-Saving Time Begins
20 First Day of Spring
28 Palm Sunday

Thanks

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I want to thank each and every one of you for the prayers you sent up on my behalf. Also, I want to thank you for the cards and phone calls. They meant a lot to me; they were encouraging and uplifting.

God Bless You All
Charlotte Davison

THE MISSION MOVES FORWARD

North America is a mission field and missionaries face challenges from secularism to language barriers to a historic health crisis. Yet, in spite of the obstacles, God's mission always moves forward. And the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) is the primary way we support mission 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 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering 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 North American missions will be observed March 7 – 14 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. Prayer guides and AAEO envelopes will be placed in each pew beginning Sunday, March 7. Our offering goal this year is \$1,200.00. 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 in spreading the hope of the gospel.

~Patricia



Attention, Youth! Mark your calendars for March 7 at 6:00 PM! SOS will be starting back up! Joe, Karen and I are so excited to be with you again. We are going to celebrate with a party! In fact, a Christmas party since we did not get to celebrate in 2020. Easter is only four weeks from March 7. How appropriate to celebrate these two special holidays so close together! So ask a friend to come with you and let's celebrate Jesus together! We can't wait to see you!

Love in Christ Jesus,
Sharon

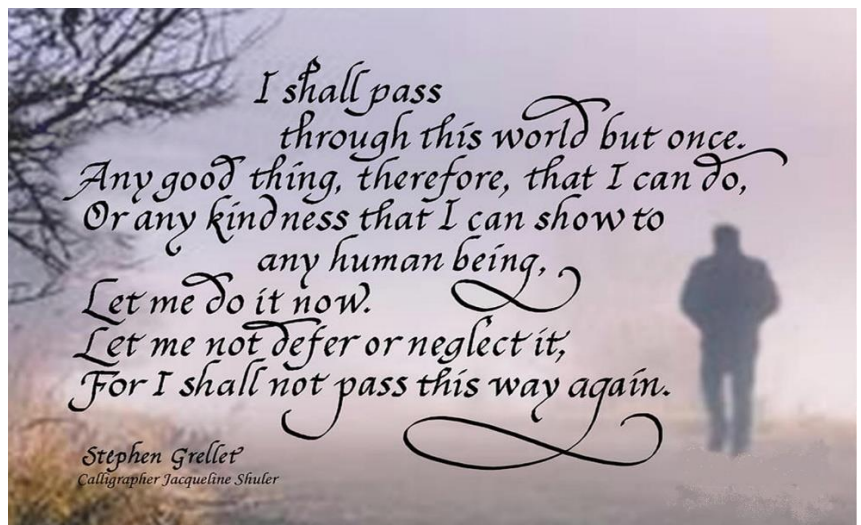


Amara Ivy Sibbitt
Born February 8, 2021 – Weight 7 lbs, 7 oz.
Proud Parents – Noah and Sierra Sibbitt
Grandmother – Laura Sibbitt
Great Grandmother – Charlotte Davison



Thank you for participating in the Agape Women's Services Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Although it was a little different this year, you still showed your support and invested in the lives of women and in life itself. The fundraising this year was focusing on finishing their capital campaign that will allow them to renovate their new property and better serve the community and their clients. As of writing this article, they have raised \$904,000 which is 73% of their goal of \$1,250,000. That is such a blessing. Again, thank you for your support and continue to pray for this ministry.

~Patricia





As we just completed the month of February, and since February is typically the month of “love” due to Valentine’s Day being on Feb 14th each year ... I’d like to start off this article by saying in Christian love that I Love You all very much! It is my continued honor and privilege to serve the Lord each week as the Minister of Music at Oak Grove. As we continue to deal with the Covid19 Pandemic, it is with optimism that I can say that I think we are seeing the “light at the end of the tunnel”. My hope and prayer is that we will begin regathering at church as we close out February, and perhaps begin reforming the choir in March. I am planning on trying to work up at least a short Easter Cantata, which will be performed on April 4th at 11am.

As we begin to regather as a choir, we will certainly have to keep safety a top priority and will be observing social distancing. Mask wearing will be a difficult task for singing purposes, so we will work through those issues as we get to them. I do need your help with singing specials each Sunday, especially as we regather for in-person services. If you are interested in singing a special or playing an instrumental, I would be happy to talk to you and get you on the schedule ASAP. Feel free to call or text me at 423-217-5826 to let me know or see me at church. As always, thank you for your prayers and support as we proceed forward in reopening our church and regathering for worship and fellowship opportunities. If I can ever be of any help in any way, please don’t hesitate to let me know. Take care, be safe, and God bless!!

~Jon Casteel

REACHING OUT TO THE LONELY

The story is told about a New York City policeman investigating a case. He made a phone call, but even before he finished dialing, he somehow knew he had made a mistake. He let it ring, though. The phone rang once, twice - then someone picked it up. “You’ve got the wrong number!” a husky male voice snapped before the line went dead.

Mystified, the policeman dialed again. “I said you got the wrong number!” came the voice. Once more the phone clicked down.

“How could he possibly know I had the wrong number?” the policeman asked himself. A cop is trained to be curious - and concerned. So he dialed a third time. “Hey, c’mon,” the voice said. “Is this you again?” “Yeah, it’s me. I was wondering how you knew I had the wrong number before I even said anything.” “You figure it out!” The phone slammed down.

The policeman sat there for a while, thinking. Then he called the man back. “Did you figure it out yet?” the man asked. “The only thing I can think of is nobody ever calls you.” “You got it!” The phone went dead for the fourth time.

Chuckling, the officer dialed the man back. “What do you want now?” asked the man. “I thought I’d call - just to say hello.” “Hello? Why?” “Well, if nobody ever calls you, I thought maybe I should.”

We live in a world of lonely people (many of them, ironically, surrounded by other lonely people). And all of our technology hasn’t made things any better. Today, you can have hundreds of Facebook friends, but not have one person who will be there when you need them or who will listen when you have something to share.

Many in the world are like the Psalmist who said, “I am like a desert owl, like an owl living among the ruins. I lie awake. I am like a lonely bird on a housetop.” (Psalm 102:6-7, NCV).






Sometimes, that loneliness expresses itself in a gruffness and an apparent attempt to push people away. In reality, there’s an aching desire to know that someone truly cares, that someone loves them unconditionally, and that someone is willing to listen. Jesus reached out to those who were “outcast”, experiencing loneliness. May we, as his people, keep our eyes open to those around us every day who live in loneliness, and may we share the love of Christ in a way they may have never seen before.

~Alan Smith, ‘Christian Voices’



First Day of Spring – March 20

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer	4	5  Ralph and Brenda McDaniel	6
7 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship SS and Worship In-person & on Facebook Live Facebook Live SS starts at 10AM	8	9	10 7:00 PM In-person Bible Study & Prayer	11	12  Emory Deel and Gerald Fields	13  SET YOUR CLOCKS Ahead!
14 Daylight-Saving Begins 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship SS and Worship In-person & on Facebook Live Facebook Live SS starts at 10AM	15	16	17 7:00 PM In-person Bible Study & Prayer	18	19  Rodney Hale and Vergil Stout	20 
21 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship SS and Worship In-person & on Facebook Live Facebook Live SS starts at 10AM	22	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24 7:00 PM In-person Bible Study & Prayer	25	26  Vergil and Mary Ann Stout	27
28  Palm Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship SS and Worship In-person & on Facebook Live Facebook Live SS starts at 10AM	29	30	31			

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Return services requested

