



## NOVEMBER 2020 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](mailto: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

### SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods."

~Psalm 95:2-3

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I greet you all in the loving name of Jesus and hope you are doing well. The end of 2020 is in sight and I'm sure you're all glad to see it come to a close. It has been a challenging year to say the least and my hope and prayer is that we will see this health crisis end soon. Regardless of how things go we must continue to pray and keep the faith. Let's continue to pray for the health care workers and hospital staff as well as the teachers and educational staff around our region. Please remember the families that have lost loved ones during the pandemic both here and around the world. The recent spike in the number of cases has been a cause for concern and so I hope that everyone will keep up the health safety practices and let's do what we can to bring the numbers down. It is a challenging time and we're all weary and probably experiencing fatigue at this point, but we must hold on and pray. I know that God will see us through.

The beauty and glory of God is on display here in the Mountain Empire region. The changing colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of our creator God. I love this time of year! We are indeed blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth. The current plan is to continue our altered schedule through the end of the year. So, we will have in-person gathering on Sunday mornings only with Wednesday evenings and adult Sunday School continuing on Facebook Live. Hopefully, we can resume a full schedule sometime in January 2021. We will have special musical guests, Phillips and Banks, on Sunday morning November 8<sup>th</sup>. They were such a blessing when they were here before so please keep them in your prayers. We will social distance during the service and provide overflow room if needed.

On November 26<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Thanksgiving. I wish you all the very "Blessed", lol, did you see what I did there? Seriously, I hope you have a wonderful time of fun, food and fellowship. Ephesians 5:20 says, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ." I know that it has been a difficult year and many of you have faced hardships. However, it is important to be thankful, not just one day a year but every day. Despite the many challenges this year has brought, we still have so much for which to be thankful. I am truly thankful for this church family that has loved me and cared for me so much over these past few years. I am thankful for my son, Joshua, who is a joy and blessing to my heart. I am thankful for the love of God and salvation through Jesus Christ. There is always something to be thankful for so take time during your day to say, Thank You Lord.

I want to thank you all for the cards and gifts of appreciation during the month of October. It was such a blessing. I love you all and I'll see you in church or online!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Sherrel

## Oak Grove Baptist Welcomes



Sunday November 8 at 11AM

---

### THE DEACONS BENCH

I really love this time of year. I miss all my Deacon families and the visits. Pray that soon this Pandemic will end. Pray for our church during this time that when this ends that we all come back together and worship the true living Savior Jesus. I want to say that I like to call folks, but through the week it's hard for some of us to the way we work anymore. This is a special time of year as we give thanks to the One who saved us by his Mighty Power and Grace. We love you folks, and we do care. Please pray for one another as we go through this period in history as it unfolds. The world is dark outside so we must let our lights shine and let folks see Jesus in us.

Thank you,  
The Deacons



### ALL IN: A LIFE OF COMMITMENT

*(Excerpted from Bible Studies for Life Fall 2020 Personal Study Guide)*

The current Bible Studies for Life Sunday School series focuses on commitment in a believer's life. Jesus spent three years fulfilling His earthly ministry, and during those three years He talked a lot about commitment. Jesus made it clear that commitment was a key part of being a follower of Christ. In the Gospels, we see many examples of people who followed Jesus because of what they hoped He could offer them, but they weren't truly committed to following Him, no matter what. When Jesus encountered those folks, He consistently challenged them to "count the cost" of following Him. "All In" looks at the call on a believer's life to be committed to Christ, His Word, the church, prayer, worship, and His mission. One of the most beautiful things that we must acknowledge is that God committed to us first before He called us to an "all in" commitment. You're encouraged throughout this study to count the cost of following Him. What you'll discover is that you can never make any greater or more fulfilling commitment than that of being fully committed to God and doing His work.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 3 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day
- 15 OCC Shoeboxes Due
- 24 Facebook Live Bible Study
- 25 No Wednesday Service
- 26 Thanksgiving - Church Office Closed
- 27 Church Office Closed

\* \* \*

*SOS, Oaks and Offshoots, small groups postponed until 2021.*

---

### FACEBOOK SATURDAY "SUNDAY" SCHOOL

**11:00 AM Every Saturday**

"All In: A Life of Commitment" is the current Bible Studies for Life Sunday School series. The Facebook schedule is as follows:

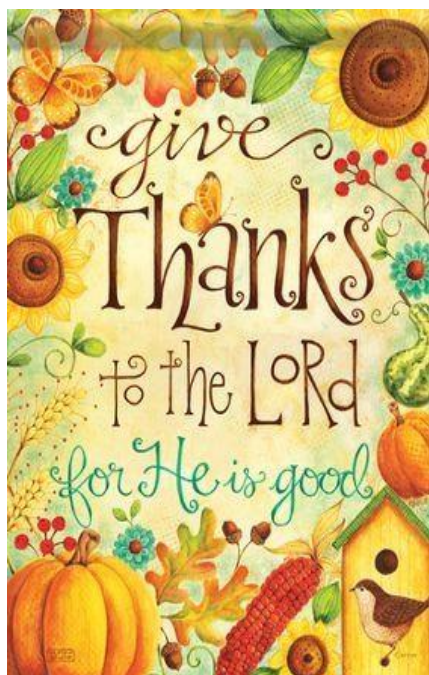
November 7	Committed to His Church
November 14	Committed to Pray
November 21	Committed to His Worship
November 28	Committed to His Mission



## A VETERANS DAY PRAYER

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.



Would you take a job that required you to dress like those around you? Would you learn their language? Practice their customs? Would you give all of your hard-earned money to feed those people around you during a famine and a war? Lottie Moon did just that.

Lottie was born in 1840 to wealthy Christian parents. She was 18 when she dedicated her life to Christ and was baptized. She became a teacher in Kentucky and Virginia; then God called her out from all her blessings to be a blessing to the Chinese. Yes, it was more than a job that demanded much work to know the people: it was a calling.

Each year now at Christmas, donations are collected to fund missionaries on the field. The Lottie Moon offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. Our church goal this year is \$1200.

On November 29, prayer guides will be available for each day through December 6. You may use the daily guide at breakfast devotions or in your daily Bible study. Envelopes will be available for your donations through December. Thank you for praying and giving.



## GROWING THROUGH GRATITUDE

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude "fertilizer for the mind" because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn't always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn't grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. "Give thanks in all circumstances," he writes, "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



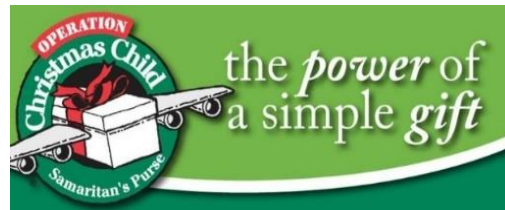


As we look forward to 2021 and prepare to begin a new children's program called *Oaks and Offshoots*, we were tasked with closing and thoughtfully distributing items from the AWANA store. I would like to thank everyone who has donated their time, gifts, and money to support the AWANA store over the last 15 years. Your generous donations were an encouragement to our children as they memorized scripture and were greatly appreciated.

I also want to thank Tonya for helping me clear out the store and organize where the items should be donated. We were able to fill and donate thirty Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse. We thank church members who donated shipping cost for those pre-packed boxes. We donated four huge lawn trash bags full of items to Marine's Christmas Toys for Tots. These items were dropped off at the Veteran's Warrior's Canvas. Because of this donation, Dan and I were able to explain the AWANA program and to witness. Oh, what a blessed day it was! Also, we donated to the Boys and Girls club much needed school supplies, books, backpacks, lunchboxes, and craft supplies. I'm very proud of Oak Grove Baptist and my generous church family, thank you all.

Love and prayers,  
Sharon

thank  
you!



Operation Christmas Child is coming to a close. Filled shoeboxes are due by Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> so I can get them to the drop-off location where they will be prepared for delivery to the distribution center in Boone, NC. After arriving in Boone, volunteers will then go through each box to make sure all items qualify. After that, they are taped up and packed in a boy or girl container. What a glorious feeling it is to know that some boy or girl in a hard to reach place will receive your box full of love and get told the gospel.

Thanks to all who participated. Start shopping the sales and clearance racks for next year!

Blessings,  
Patricia



## USE IT ALL UP










About two-thirds of Americans say eating Thanksgiving leftovers is more important than eating the actual holiday meal. That's one of the few times people hope food is left on the table.

When it comes to giving out blessings, God doesn't want any leftovers to remain. In Genesis 12:2, God blesses Abraham so he will be a blessing to others.

Charles Stanley writes: "A hoarded blessing is never enjoyed as richly as a shared one. Using your gift to meet someone else's need glorifies God by demonstrating his grace at work in your life. Don't let his generous provisions end with you. Pass them on and discover the joy of a never-ending cycle of blessings."



# NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Morning Worship 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>7:00 PM Facebook Live</b> Bible Study & Prayer	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Emory Deel & Gerald Fields	<b>7</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> <b>Facebook Saturday</b> <b>"Sunday" School</b>
<b>8</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Morning Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>7:00 PM Facebook Live</b> Bible Study & Prayer 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Ralph & Brenda McDaniel	<b>14</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> <b>Facebook Saturday</b> <b>"Sunday" School</b>
<b>15</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Morning Worship  Shoeboxes Due	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>7:00 PM Facebook Live</b> Bible Study & Prayer	<b>19</b> <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>20</b>  Rodney Hale & Vergil Stout	<b>21</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> <b>Facebook Saturday</b> <b>"Sunday" School</b>
<b>22</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Morning Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>7:00 PM Facebook</b> Bible Study & Prayer	<b>25</b> <b>No Service</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>  NO Meals <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>28</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> <b>Facebook Saturday</b> <b>"Sunday" School</b>
<b>29</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Morning Worship 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

Oak Grove Baptist Church  
396 Oak Grove Road  
Gray, TN 37615



Return services requested