



SEPTEMBER 2020 CHALLENGER

OAKGROVEBC.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/OAKGROVEBAPTISTCHURCH, GRAY, TN

CONTACT

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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

"Yours, o LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, o LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all."

~1 Chronicles 29:11-12 ESV

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I greet you all in the wonderful name of Jesus and hope that everyone is doing well and staying healthy. These past few months have certainly been challenging and awkward for all of us. I'm sure that most of you, like myself, have grown weary of the situation and all its demands. I want to thank everyone for your faithful financial and prayer support. We could not have carried on without it. I would also like to encourage you to keep living by faith and looking unto Jesus. God will see us through this difficult season. The wise man said, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Hopefully everyone is aware by now that the deacons and I have decided to delay our Sunday School and Children's ministry restart until October 4th. There has been a significant increase in the number of virus cases in our area and we thought it prudent to wait a little longer before attempting to regather in small groups. We will continue to do adult Sunday School on Saturdays at 11 am via Facebook Live. I would like to thank all of our teachers who have taught our online classes. You have done an amazing job! Also, I want to thank our other teachers who have made efforts to stay connected to your students. I pray that we can resume in-person classes very soon.

Due to the current health crisis we have also decided to cancel our annual Homecoming service that had been scheduled for September 13th. I am so disappointed as I'm sure you are, but it was going to be nearly impossible to do it this year. Let's start praying now for next year and I know that we will have a wonderful time.

As we look around at everything that is happening it is easy to get discouraged and even depressed. I would just like to remind us all that current events could very well be setting the stage for Bible prophecy to be fulfilled. No one knows when Jesus will return but He did say emphatically, "If I go away, I will come again..." So keep on keeping on and keep on looking up because He might come today! I love you all and I'll see you in church or online!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Sherrel

Deacon Ministry

DEACONS BENCH

This year we have witnessed history and we are still witnessing it as this pandemic unfolds. Where it ends nobody knows. Things change by the day as scientists look for cures, and as we find out more about this virus it leaves us not knowing what to do but to only trust Jesus for our answers. At Oak Grove we don't want to see anyone sick. I have a friend who goes to a local Baptist church where they saw 15 church members test positive, and some were very, very sick. Our Pastor and Deacons have ruled on the side of caution to open the church wide open until we see what happens as the schools begin to open. We should know here very shortly. Please pray for us. We don't take this lightly, and it weighs heavy on our hearts as to what to do. I know we had big plans for the spring and summer for visitation and little did we know that the Lord had a different plan. We can call our sick and pray for them and show Jesus to our neighbors and have compassion for folks. During this trying time, we do help in time of need. Even if we can't visit, we can be a lighthouse to our community. I miss everyone at church right now. It's even hard to figure out what the new normal is. If you have a need, please reach out to our church no matter how big or small, there may be an answer. After all, prayer changes everything. I can't say we can do everything and fix all situations, but I know the One who can, and we can be in prayer about it all. No situation is too big or small to pray about. If you don't feel comfortable mentioning your situation, just call the church and let it be known that you would like a call from a Deacon or the Pastor. We will get back to you in private. We love you.

The Deacons
Boots Yarber

WASHINGTON
PRAYER
MARCH 20
WITH FRANKLIN GRAHAM

Evangelist Franklin Graham, the president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and Samaritan's Purse, has announced that he will lead a prayer march in Washington, DC on September 26.

Graham is calling on Christians to march and pray specifically for the nation. He says the country is facing multiple conflicts, such as the effects of COVID-19, nationwide protests, and the upcoming presidential election.

"America is in trouble. It's in distress, but we do have hope and that hope is in Almighty God," Graham said in a video posted to the BGEA's website. "We need to pray now more than we've ever done in our life. Our communities are hurting, our people are divided and there's fear and uncertainty all around us. Let's join together and do the most important thing and that is to pray."

Graham is urging believers to petition our sovereign Lord for peace to fall upon the nation. "I hope thousands of families, pastors, & churches will join me! Our nation is in trouble, & we need God's help."

 **SEPTEMBER**
2020

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 7 – Labor Day
- 8 – Church Office Closed
- 11 – Patriot Day
- 22 – Newsletter Articles Due



The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted everyday life for millions of people around the world and has instilled fear in many – including children. Now more than ever, boys and girls need great joy. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This year we hope to deliver more shoeboxes than ever and are trusting God as we make plans to collect Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes during National Collection Week (November 16-23). As we look forward to the coming season, we are monitoring local, state, and national guidelines and making adjustments to help protect the health of those involved in collecting and processing shoebox gifts.

Our church will participate again this year. It may not be like previous years, but we will try to get as many shoeboxes as possible filled and delivered to the drop-off location in November. As soon as boxes become available. I will place them inside the church. Please begin shopping safely for items. You may use a standard size shoebox or wait on the preprinted ones. If you do not want to shop locally, you may want to consider "Build a Shoebox" at:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline>.

As always, thank you for participating and expressing God's love through this simple gift. Deadline for filled shoeboxes will be Sunday, November 15. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

May God bless you.
Patricia

Hello Oak Grove Baptist Church family! This is Kevin Rice. It is my great privilege to be the new Sunday School director. I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve the church in this position. I am very excited about the ministry, and I'm looking forward to working with the staff and teachers to grow our church.

I believe in Sunday School. I believe it is an important part of the spiritual life of the individual and the church as a whole. In the book of Acts we read where the Bible speaks of the early church and says of the followers of Christ, "They were in one accord.." which means they were together. For the time being we can not be together physically, but we can be of one mind. I ask that we don't waste this time.

Paul writes:

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Paul is telling the believers to make the most of their time. Don't waste this time the Lord has allowed us to have. We have been quarantined from public places and gatherings. Our schedules have been reduced. Let us make the most of this time to continue or start new habits of study and meditation of the Scripture so that when we do gather again we can sharpen one another. We can prepare to be a brighter light in this dark world. I challenge you to pray more, study more, and learn more so that when things become more normal we'll know we didn't waste this time. Our community will know what God can do through those who serve Him.

Again, I look forward to what God is going to do in our lives, our church, and our community. If there is anything I can do to assist you please don't hesitate to contact me.

Remember...Love people till they ask you why. Then tell them why.

Kevin Rice
Sunday School Director
Cell: 423-948-0779
Email: rkevinrice@gmail.com

FACEBOOK LIVE SATURDAY "SUNDAY" SCHOOL

Dr. Tony Evans is the author of the first series in the Fall 2020 Bible Studies for Life Sunday School curriculum. "After God's Own Heart: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments" covers the following topics:

Session 1	Place God First	September 5
Session 2	Honor God	September 12
Session 3	Honor Parents	September 19
Session 4	Honor Life	September 26
Session 5	Honor Marriage	October 3
Session 6	Honor All Relationships	October 10

**If you are not yet attending in-person service, please call the office to arrange a time to pick up your Fall 2020 Sunday School Bible Study Guide.*



Sunday, October 4 at 5:30 PM
(Subject to Change if Necessary)



Even though our country remains in chaos, the future of anything is uncertain, and we are all frustrated about a great many things ... just keep in mind, that God is STILL on the Throne in Heaven. He is not panicked. He is not frustrated. He is not uncertain about the future of anything. I've heard this many times throughout my life, but the words have never rung more true than they do right now: "I may not know what my future holds, but I know Who holds my future!" God's got this!

Thank you to all those who have sung for our church congregation, and thank you for your prayers for the leadership team of the church during this time of world-wide pandemic and uncertainty. On a personal note, thank you to all who have purchased my book "Don't Blame God!" I am very appreciative of the opportunity to bring a message about the book in August. If you are interested in getting the book for yourself or someone else, please let me know or simply go to my website at www.CasteelFamilyMinistries.com for details of how to get a copy. Please continue to pray for the church, and as always if there is anything I can do for you, don't hesitate to reach out and let me know.

God bless!!
~Jon Casteel



The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is the annual state missions offering that provides invaluable financial support for ministries that help reach Tennesseans for Christ.

Tennessee Baptists contributing through the Golden Offering provide support for Tennessee ministries *not funded through the Cooperative Program*. The Golden Offering is meeting human needs through Compassion Ministries, Disaster Relief, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, reaching the lost in Tennessee through evangelism, and much more.

The Week of Prayer for Tennessee Missions is a concentrated time of prayer for Tennessee Baptists which coincides with the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, this year September 13 - 20.

Oak Grove Baptist Church will accept contributions to the Golden Offering throughout the month of September with September 27 being our focused Golden Offering collection day. Our goal is \$1200.

Envelopes will be placed in the pews on the first Sunday of September. You may also include your Golden offering amount in your mail-in tithe check but with a note as to the amount for your Golden offering. Thank you for giving!

2020-21 GOTM MINISTRY ALLOCATIONS

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board Ministries

• I Stand for Life Initiative	\$50,000
• Evangelism and Baptism Objective	\$120,000
• Church Revitalization Objective	\$105,000
• New Churches Objective	\$480,000
• Church & Association Services	\$315,000
• Minister Engagement	\$15,000
• Baptist Collegiate Ministries	\$250,000
• GOTM Promotion & Development	\$80,000

Tennessee WMU Ministries	\$105,000
TN Baptist Adult Homes: Special Friends Camp	\$100,000
Associational Ministries (10% of receipts)	\$180,000

2020-21 GOTM Goal\$1,800,000



Starts Sunday, October 4 at 5:30 PM
(Subject to Change if Necessary)

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer	3	4  Mike and Barbara Dixon	5 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School
6 11:00 AM Morning Worship	7 	8 Church Office Closed	9 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer	10	11 Patriot Day  Ralph and Brenda McDaniel	12 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School
13 11:00 AM Morning Worship	14	15	16 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer	17	18  Emory Deel and Gerald Fields	19 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School
20 11:00 AM Morning Worship	21	22  Newsletter Articles Due	23 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer	24	25  Rodney Hale and Vergil Stout	26 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School
27 11:00 AM Morning Worship	28	29	30 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer			

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Return services requested