



JULY 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

Lori Casteel

Financial Secretary

Tammy Yarber

Interim Secretary

Adrienne Yarber

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I greet you all in the wonderful name of Jesus our Savior and hope you are doing well. It is hard to believe that June is gone already, the year is going by so fast. The Spirit of the Lord is moving in our services and our attendance is increasing week by week. I want to say to those that may still be worshipping with us from home that we miss you and hope to see you in person soon. Thank you for watching online and for your continuing financial support. Indeed, I want to thank our entire congregation for your faithful financial support over this very challenging last year. I am confident that God will richly reward your generous giving.

I want to thank our Children's Ministry Director, Miss Lori, and all those who worked tirelessly to help make our VBS a great success this year. We had a good turnout and the kids seemed to really enjoy this year's theme and activities. Ministering to children and helping to pour the Gospel of Jesus Christ into their lives is such an important and eternally beneficial act of Christian service. So, thanks again everyone for all your help!

The month of July brings with it the joyous celebration of our nation's independence. It is impossible to overstate how truly blessed of God we are to have been born in this nation and to have the freedom we enjoy every day. America is not a perfect nation by any means, and it seems at times that we have turned away from God. As a church we will continue to pray for revival and awakening to come to our land and we will continue to stand on the truth of God's word. But it is important to the time this month (and each day really) to thank God for the many blessings and benefits we have experienced as a nation. In doing so, let us be mindful that our trust is not in government but rather in the Sovereign God of the universe who gives us life everlasting. The only real freedom that we can know in this life is found in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ! So yes, revel in the joy of being a citizen in this great nation but rejoice even more that you are a citizen of God's Great Kingdom!

I love you all and I will see you in church or online!

In Christ's Service,
– Pastor Sherrel





(Excerpted with permission from Bible Studies for Life)

In June we began the Sunday School series "The Church God Desires." At the end of July we will start "Elijah: Living Outside The Comfort Zone". Serving God and Others. In the right setting and context, serving God can seem easy and enjoyable. But many times, our service to God calls us to a place where the work might be strenuous and the people are difficult or even antagonistic. As we mature in Christ, we are willing to step outside of our own comfort zones to serve God by serving others.

**IN-PERSON & FACEBOOK LIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 AM SUNDAYS**

July 4	Vigilant Against Complacency
July 11	Faithful in All Things
July 18	Sufficient in Christ Alone
July 25	Serve with Courage



June was a wonderful, but short month for SOS; however, I am so proud of our youth attending the two nights we had and the week of Vacation Bible School. Thanks to Lori and Jonathan, along with Joe and Karen, seeds of salvation were truly planted. For July we will start working on the blankets for the homeless. We are still collecting items for the homeless now through October (see below). The youth, Joe, Karen, Dan, and I thank you in advance for all donations, and we are very grateful for your prayers. Our lesson for July will be Rooted In God's Word. Scripture: Psalms 1:1-3, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Romans 1:19-20, 2 Peter 1:3, and Romans 10:9-10. The message is when you are planted in God's Word, He will produce growth in your life. Please be in prayer for the youth as we grow in Christ.

Love and prayers,
Sharon

The youth started collecting items for the homeless in April. They will be continuing this through the month of October. Below are some suggestions on what is needed. Please be in prayer for us as we try to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

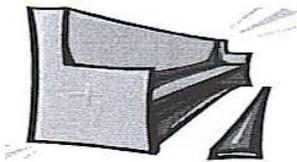
Suggested items for homeless ministry: soap, washcloths, towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, Blistex or creams for lips, hand sanitizer, deodorants, sunscreen lotions, hand cream, body wash, body lotions, wipes, reading material, Bibles, shampoos, hats, gloves, t-shirts, underwear, socks, mints, flip flops, water, feminine hygiene products, Kleenex tissues, anything you can think of that a person or child might need. Most of all, pray for the Homeless.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Joe, Karen, Dan, and Sharon



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1 – Nominating Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM
- 4 – Independence Day
- 14 – Quarterly Business Meeting
- 22 – Newsletter Articles Due
- 27 – Deacons' Meeting



DEACON'S BENCH

We must be about the Father's business. Whether it is post-COVID or not, so I ask you all to pray that we pick the right time to start visitation back up again. Keep in mind the local stores, neighbors, friends, and your help to ask them to come visit Oak Grove Baptist Church. All folks remember the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children" especially the line "Red & yellow, black, and white, they are precious in his sight". Everyone has a story to tell, so use yours, it is original. Just tell them what Jesus has done for you, or what he is doing now. There is a lot of talent in this church. Just look around and see what the Lord is doing. Jump in! You will be amazed how He will use you if you let Him. It is His amazing grace, so share it. Ask folks to come to Sunday School and worship. We have the good news!

The Deacons
– Boots Yarber

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work during Vacation Bible School. I am amazed by our wonderful church family and the way everyone comes together to make things happen! I was really sick for two nights of VBS, but many wonderful people stepped up and made sure it was running smoothly. Thanks to all those who helped decorate, taught, led, planned snacks, encouraged others, prayed, gave money to kids for offering, prepared snacks, and those who were willing to do whatever was needed. Thanks also to those who helped take down the decorations on the last night.

During VBS, we averaged about 30 kids per night. Children were taught about Paul and Silas, Jonah, God as our ruler, the plan of Salvation, and David and Goliath. The kids also loved the Mystery Island theme and have probably been singing the theme song since VBS was over. We raised \$1,000 for Operation Christmas Child, and we are planning to get the children to help us make the boxes in the coming months.

I am looking forward to many more events for the children that will bring more children into our church so that salvation seeds can be planted. I am considering hosting a back-to-school celebration, as well as a fall fest. Let me know if you have any ideas and/or any feedback as we look to begin planning for next year's VBS soon. On a more immediate note, we will be working an outreach booth with the Holston Baptist Association at the Appalachian Fair Grounds on Friday August 27th 7:00-9:30 PM and Saturday August 28th 6:00-9:30 PM. Anyone interested in volunteering please see Lori.

– Lori Casteel
Children's Ministry Director



As the Operation Christmas Child Project Leader for the church, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lori for choosing Operation Christmas Child as this year's VBS mission project. She told me after much prayer that God confirmed her decision.

A big thank you to all the children and generous adults for their generous donations. We had a competition each night between the boys and the girls to see which group could bring the most money. The week ended in a tie, and we collected \$1,000. AMAZING!!!

The plan is to purchase items for the boxes, have a packing party in the Fall, and have the children help fill them. More details coming soon.

Again, thank you and I know if the children receiving these boxes could thank you in person they would.

– Patricia Deel



HOPE DEFINED

Hoping does not mean doing nothing. ...It means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusions. It is not compelled to work away at keeping up appearances with a bogus spirituality. It is the opposite of desperate and panicky manipulations, of scurrying and worrying.

And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion or fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert expectation that God will do what he said he will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way and in his time. It is the opposite of making plans that we demand that God put into effect, telling him both how and when to do it. That is not hoping in God but bullying God.

–Eugene Peterson

A Long Obedience in the Same Direction



It has been wonderful to get the choir back together and singing for our church each Sunday morning, and it has also been great to see so many people coming back to our services as we are getting back to normal at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Thank you to all the choir members who have rejoined the choir and been singing with us each week the past few months. There are still several of you who I would love to see back in the choir, and I would also love to have NEW members join the choir as well. If you are interested in joining the choir, we have choir practice at 5PM every week that we have evening services. If you would like to perform a music special for us during our weekly services, I am looking for new and existing singers to sign up to sing for our Sunday morning services. This is for any singers, instrumentalists, or even special reading that could be a blessing to our congregation. If you are interested, please sign up in the choir room or let me know and I will add you to the schedule. Also, I have been working on an online course to teach people how to play piano, guitar, as well as read music. It is a very basic course intended for total beginners. If you would like to take this course online, please let me know and I will set you up as a full access member free of charge for any church member. All you need is a valid email account and online access. Thank you to everyone for your continued prayers and support of our church ministries. If you ever need anything, please do not hesitate to let me know. You can call or text me anytime at (423)217-5826 or (423) 742-7775. Thank you and God bless!

– Jon Casteel
Minister of Music



A Gentle Answer

As it does this year, July 4th fell on Sunday in 1937. While Pastor Eldred Johnston led worship that morning in Paulding, Ohio, local kids set off firecrackers nearby (restrictions were rare back then). Realizing he needed to act, the pastor slipped outside during a hymn and found the revelers.

But instead of scolding or shouting, Johnston stayed calm. “I used to enjoy shooting fireworks too,” he said adding that he knew it was a fun way to celebrate. “But many in this town are gathered in worship, and the noise is very distracting. All I’m asking is that you wait until church services are over – about noon – and then shoot firecrackers all you want.” The pastor smiled at each youth and returned to church.

Recounting that experience in Liberty magazine, Johnston said he half-expected to hear defiant explosions. Instead, the kids waited respectfully until worship was over. When conflicts loom, may we heed that example – and this advice from Proverbs: “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (15:1 NIV).



JULY
2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 PM Nominating Committee Meeting	2  Rodney Hale & Vergil Stout	3
4 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM SOS Oaks & Offshoots	5	6	7 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Youth Rooted in the Word	8	9  Linda Gardner	10
11 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM SOS Oaks & Offshoots	12	13	14 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Youth Rooted in the Word	15	16  Barbara Dixon & Charlotte Davison	17
18 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM SOS Oaks & Offshoots	19	20	21 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Youth Rooted in the Word	22	23  Ralph & Brenda McDaniel	24
25 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Deacons' Meeting 6:00 PM SOS Oaks & Offshoots	26	27	28 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Youth Rooted in the Word	29	30  Emory Deel & Gerald Fields	31

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

Return services requested

