



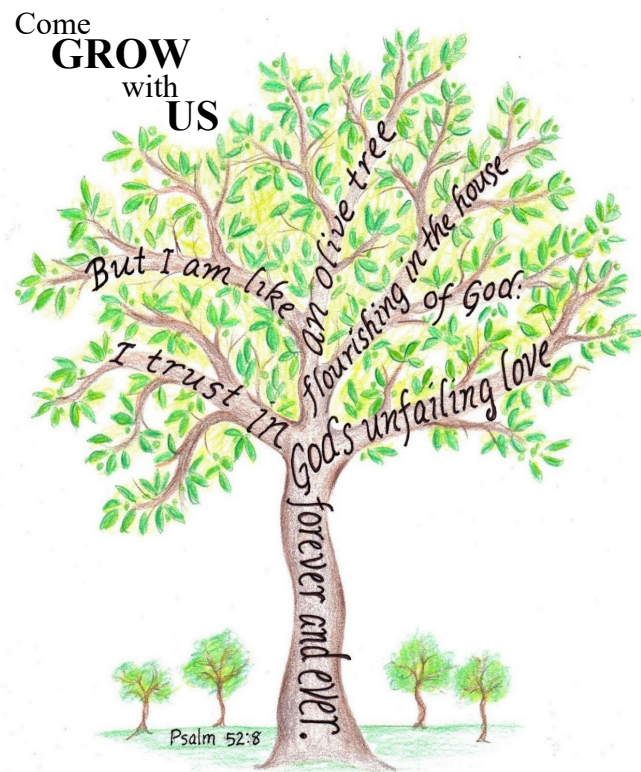
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**December 2024: Verse of the Month**

For God did not send His Son  
 into the world to condemn the  
 world, but to save the world  
 through Him.  
 John 3:17

**WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES  
 AT OAKLAND**

- Sunday** 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Indoor Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service Online (Facebook)
- Wednesday** 6:30 PM Wednesday Youth (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Worship Online (Facebook)



**CONNECTING TO GOD & ONE ANOTHER**

December 2024

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*Pastor David's Corner*

**Give Thanks**

Paul was a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (*Eph. 5:19-20*). Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated—if ever a person had a right to complain, it was him, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving!

Think of it: Always giving thanks for everything—no matter the circumstances! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation. Thanksgiving—the giving of thanks—to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. We must not allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with others.

Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.

In the ancient world, leprosy was a terrible disease. It hopelessly disfigured those who had it, and it permanently cut them off from normal society. Without exception, every leper yearned for one thing: To be healed. One day 10 lepers approached Jesus outside a village, loudly pleading with Him to heal them. In an instant He restored them all to perfect health—but only one came back and thanked Him. All the rest left without a word of thanks, their minds preoccupied only with their condition and their own healing.

It's important to note that ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. One of the Bible's indictments against rebellious humanity is that "although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him" (*Rom. 1:21*). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

Common courtesy is not always common. People take for granted the ways others help them, how God Himself rescues daily. In a culture of entitlement and expected retributions, many look for handouts as owed them, even if individually undeserved! God may be the last one thanked for His blessings.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, "Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving" (*Psa. 147:7*). Paul wrote, "Be thankful" (*Col. 3:15*). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian.

Why should we be thankful? Because God has blessed us, and we should be thankful for every blessing!

# PRAY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie & Candy Anderson  
 Gary Clontz  
 Andy Cook  
 Marlene Crider  
 Lela Crump  
 Peggy Dean  
 John Efird  
 Cindy French  
 Sam & Wanda Goodwin  
 Ray Greene  
 Alan Haynes' Family (Eddie & Candy's Neighbors)  
 Nan Helms  
 Grady & Judy Hill  
 Rodney Johnson (Renee Helms' Son)

Prayer requests continued on page 4.



### Christmas Cards

Starting on Sunday, December 1st, there will be tables in the hallway near the church offices for Christmas cards for active church members.

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
Week of Prayer: December 1-8



### Choir Rehearsals

Come sing with the choir on Wednesday, December 4th & December 11th at 7:45 PM as they rehearse for the upcoming Christmas Musical!

### Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas!



### Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Thank you for packing shoeboxes! We collected 40 boxes at OBC (and many more boxes were delivered directly to the UBA!)

### November Attendance

- Sunday, November 3 (40 Indoor + 70 Online)**
- Wednesday, November 6 (53 Online)
- Sunday, November 10 (49 Indoor + 99 Online)**
- Wednesday, November 13 (64 Online)
- Sunday, November 17 (50 Indoor + 99 Online)**
- Wednesday, November 20 (44 Online)
- Sunday, November 24 (73 Indoor + 66 Online)**
- Wednesday, November 27 (No Online)



### Ladies Fall Bible Study

Thank you ladies for coming out to our Fall Bible Study on Tuesday nights!



### Youth Lock-In

Youth, mark your calendars for Friday, January 17th. All active members of the youth group are invited to a lock in.



### Church Workday

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Fall Church Workday on November 2nd! (Please note: not everyone who came out is in this photo!)

# DECEMBER 2024



## Operation Christmas Child Processing Night

Monday, December 9th 2-6 PM

The sign up sheet is available in the sanctuary.

Only 15 slots are available!

### Our Vital Signs

Is it time for a checkup? How are your vitals?



### The Montgomery Family

The Montgomery Family will lead the worship service on Sunday, December 29th.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<b>1</b> Session 1: Looking Forward with Hope 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>2</b> Lottie Moon Week of Prayer	<b>3</b> Lottie Moon Week of Prayer	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> Lottie Moon Week of Prayer Jail Ministry	<b>6</b> Lottie Moon Week of Prayer	<b>7</b> Lottie Moon Week of Prayer 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
<b>8</b> Session 2: Looking Forward to Peace 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>9</b> 2-6 PM Operation Christmas Child Processing Night (Sign Up)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> Jail Ministry	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Session 3: Looking Forward to Joy 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 6 PM Choir Musical	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>19</b> Jail Ministry	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Session 4: Looking Forward to Love 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship with Communion	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! Office Closed NO Youth/Online Worship	<b>26</b> Jail Ministry	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Session 5: Looking Forward in Worship 9 AM SS 10 AM The Montgomery Family	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

November 2024

Offerings  
\$15,376.00

Budget Needs for December  
\$17,623.26



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Lillian Lewis  
Zack Little (MMS  
Counselor)  
Richard & Tammy  
Lovingood  
Richard Lovingood's  
Sister  
Mike Lunsford  
Pam Majewski  
Lorraine McClellan  
Debbie McKnight  
Louise Parker  
Richie Raines  
Karyn Shauan  
& Family  
Carolyn Street  
David Welch  
(Irene's Son)  
Irene Welch

### Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

#### LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

December 1: Looking Forward with Hope  
December 8: Looking Forward to Peace  
December 15: Looking Forward to Joy  
December 22: Looking Forward to Love  
December 29: Looking Forward in Worship  
January 6: Looking Forward with Expectation



#### Bible Studies For Life Summary

##### *Looking Forward to Christmas*

*"I can't wait for Christmas!"*

That's a universal statement. As children, we longed for the coming of Christmas morning. As an adult, I still say that! I can't wait for the celebration, the reunions, the food, and the worship. The celebration of Christmas is in the waiting. We step into the story and learn that waiting is holy and transcendent. And we must remember that we are still waiting and looking forward to Jesus again. This is the beauty of this ancient journey called Advent, which simply means "coming." We prepare to celebrate. We return to Bethlehem, and we look forward to the day when Jesus will return and make all things new.

*"Lord, may we not be like the Bethlehem visitors, so busy with the day-to-day tasks, the census commitments, that we fail to notice Your presence. Lord, may we not be like the innkeeper, giving the best rooms to mortals and giving God our stable. Lord, may we not be like Herod betraying the glory of Jesus at the altar of control and ego. And may we never forget that this God-With-Us Savior is here."*

That's what it means to celebrate Advent. It's good news of great joy to all people.

Looking Forward to Christmas

Chad Keck




## Oakland Baptist Christmas Musical

### Sunday, December 15th 6:00 PM

### Snack Fellowship to Follow

### 600 E. Sunset Drive, Monroe, NC 28112