

#### **Christmas Cards**

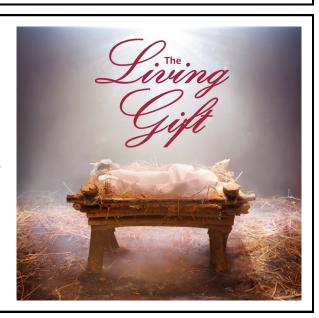
There are tables in the hallway near the church offices for Christmas cards for active church members.

## Christmas Musical

Sunday, December 15th at 6 PM.

Snack fellowship to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a finger food to share!





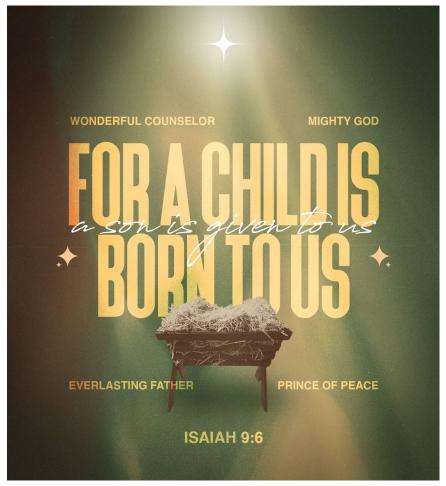
# The Montgomery Family

Sunday, December 29th at 10 AM.

The Montgomery
Family will lead
the worship
service!



**December 8, 2024** 



Oakland Baptist Church 600 E. Sunset Drive Monroe, NC 28112 704.283.5656

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#### Sunday, December 8 2024

Looking Forward to Peace Isaiah 8:20-9:7

The Point: We have peace when we have Christ.

The Bible Meets Life: Hallmark Christmas movies seem to come earlier every year. Some love them. Others, not so much. One thing that's great about these Christmas movies is that they are predictably, inevitably heartwarming. A typical movie occurs in a picturesque small town where a handsome, career-focused bachelor from the big city reconnects with his high school friend. She's recently widowed. A conflict occurs around her cookie shop that's about to be shut down because of some new ordinance passed by the antagonist mayor. But romance between the city guy and his old friend ensues, and the Christmas spirit rekindles the heart of the antagonist, which culminates with a festive celebration and a comical, romantic mistletoe kiss (cue the snowmaker). Hot cocoa, cookies, and peace prevail. It's great for an escape, but life is a little different. Perfect endings and peace are hard to come by on earth, but we all long for it, and perhaps that's why those movies, no matter how predictable, continue to be celebrated. Advent celebrates a different story. It happened in a broken world, full of injustice until the one and only Creator stepped from glory to the grit of this war-torn world to offer us everlasting peace.

Live It Out: Listen. In your time with God, read and listen to the song, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," and reflect on the peace God gives in times of conflict. Meditate. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful" (John 14:27). Spend a moment reflecting of the unique peace God gives. Reconcile. As we reflect on the concept of shalom, ask God to reveal to you someone who you should reconcile or forgive. This week, initiate reconciliation in one relationship and leave the results to God.

## **Upcoming Sunday Sermon Series**

## **Looking Forward to Christmas**

Sunday, December 15 Looking Forward to Joy (Luke 2:4-14)

Sunday, December 22 Looking Forward to Love (John 1:14-18; 3:14-18)



## **Opportunities for Ministry & Service**

#### Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Indoor Worship 10:00 AM Online Worship

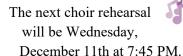
#### Wednesday

6:30 PM Online Worship 6:30 PM Youth 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 12/11

# **Thursday**

Jail Ministry

#### Choir Rehearsal



#### **Service Attendance**

Sunday, December 1 Indoor: 46

Online: 85

Wednesday, December 4 Online: 28

Youth: 7

## **Monthly Budget & Offerings**

**Budget Needs:** \$17,623.26



December Offering To Date: \$9,445.00

#### **Prayer Requests**

Candy Anderson Gary Clontz Marlene Crider Lela Crump Peggy Dean John Efird Cindy French Sam & Wanda Goodwin Ray Greene Alan Haynes' Family (Eddie & Candy's Neighbor) Rodney Johnson Zack Little (MMS Counselor) Richard Lovingood Pam Majewski

> Lorraine McClellan Debbie McKnight

Richie Raines

Karyn Shauan & Family Carolyn Street

David Welch (Irene's Son)

## **Saving Grace**

We have formed a new ministry team, Saving Grace. Our desire is to help our congregation by

meeting immediate needs.

Food, meals, household goods, a listening ear and prayer. We are here. Please call or email the church office. All help will be confidential.