



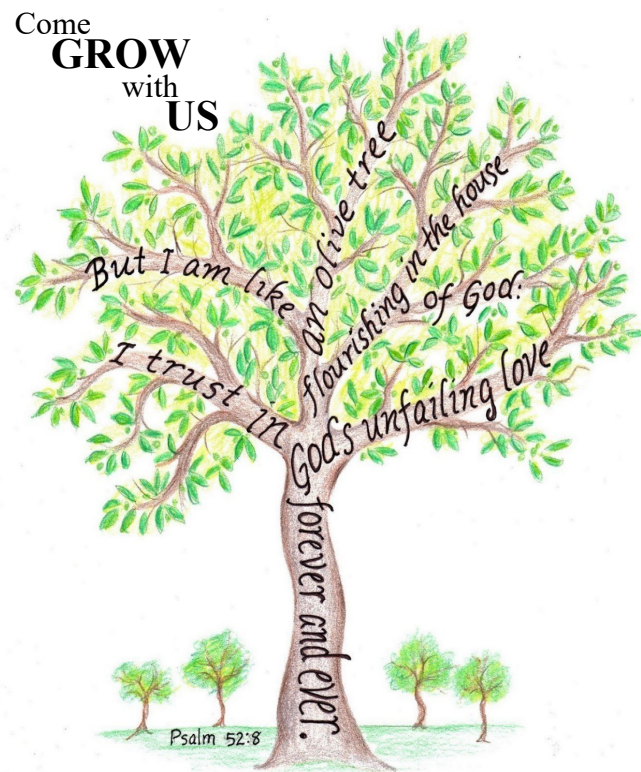
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February 2025: Verse of the Month



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

February 2025

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Pastor David's Corner

Love

Those who have never experienced true love cannot imagine its power. It is so powerful that Solomon said that it is "as strong as death." It is not mere emotion but *much* deeper, cutting to the core of our being. It consumes us, body, soul, and spirit.

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, its jealousy as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame.⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it. If a man tried to buy love with all his wealth, his offer would be utterly scorned. (Song of Solomon 8:6 NLT)

Many emotions seem similar to love. Admiration. Friendship. Interest. Lust. But true love strikes deeper. It cannot be extinguished or quenched, no matter how many waters may be thrown onto it. If entire rivers were to be redirected onto love they would not overflow.

It is also priceless. This is a love that cannot be measured or counted. But the Bible tells us that "if a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised." True love cannot be purchased. It is about heart and spirit. Our very lives. Things that money cannot buy.

The Bible tells us true love is not a passing feeling but an entirely new way of living. It is a byproduct not of human emotion but fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). This Spirit-inspired love is patient and kind. Never jealous or arrogant. It "never fails." Faith, hope, and love may abide, "but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:4-13).

Solomon may seem to have written about romantic love. But ultimately he described a love that can come only from God, the kind of love that He has for us, but also a picture of the kind of love we need to have for Him. A love of passion and selfless devotion. Giving and not receiving. A love that consumes us. A love that changes our lives.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.² And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.³ And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing...^{8a} Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 8a)

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Danny Anderson
(Eddie's Brother)

Eddie & Candy
Anderson

Gary Clontz

Marlene Crider

Lela Crump

Peggy Dean

John Efird

Cindy French

Sam & Wanda

Goodwin

Ray Greene

Nan Helms

Grady & Judy Hill

Rodney Johnson
(Renee Helms' Son)

Prayer requests
continued on page 4.



Church Membership

For those who desire to join Oakland Baptist Church, please fill out a church membership card, located on the front row of chairs in the sanctuary. Ask an usher or Pastor David for guidance.

Thank You Note

Oakland Family,

The phrase is simple and the words are few, but behind them is a whole lot of appreciation and LOVE for each one.

Much thanks for all the prayers from each one. Also for the Christmas gifts. I love each one of you. Praying for each one of you. Missing one and all.

P.S. GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL!

Gary Clontz

New Cleaning Team



We are excited that Armando & Vilma will be cleaning our church building! They will rotate through cleaning four different sections of the church.

Thank you to those who suggested cleaning companies and individuals to the Building & Grounds team!

January Attendance

Wednesday, January 1 (No Online)

Sunday, January 5 (42 Indoor + 107 Online)

Wednesday, January 8 (58 Online)

Sunday, January 12 (41 Indoor + 89 Online)

Wednesday, January 15 (44 Online)

Sunday, January 19 (62 Indoor + 127 Online)

Wednesday, January 22 (110 Online)

Sunday, January 26 (50 Indoor + 70 Online)

Wednesday, January 29 (48 Online)



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.



Haley's Ministry Prayer Requests & Praises

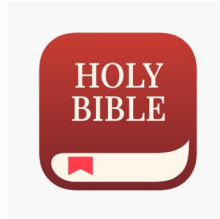


- Pray that the Lord would continue to remind Haley of His faithful love and abundant provision in all areas of life.
- Please pray that the Lord would bring more staff to the WASH team!
- Pray for the many students and staff across the country at Cru Winter Conferences this month. This is a great time for them to recruit for their spring break and summer mission trips. Pray that God would call students to serve with Cru.

Bible Event in the Bible App

A QR code for each Sunday's Bible event in the Bible app will now be in the church bulletin. To access the Bible event in the Bible app, just open the camera on your smartphone and aim it at the QR code as if you were focusing in to take a picture. A link should pop up on your phone that you can click on and go straight to the Bible event in the Bible app.

Each Bible event contains the Scripture for that Sunday, as well as links to the bulletin, newsletter, and webpage.



Backpacks of Hope Reminder

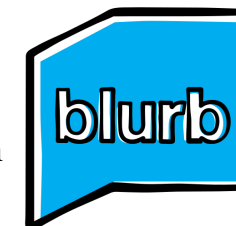


The backpacks ministry will not continue in the Spring semester.

Thank you to those who have donated food and/or donated monetarily to this ministry!

Bulletin/Newsletter Blurbs

Do you have a small business that offers services that our church members may be interested in? Send your business/contact info and service details to the church office to be 'advertised' in the bulletin.





January 2025
Offerings
\$12,140.00
Budget Needs
for February
\$17,571.84

HELP PREGNANCY CENTER
Our Heart is Centered on You

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Places You Can Help:
Receptionist, Female Peer Counselors, Male Peer Counselors, Class Instructors, Spanish Speaking Peer Counselors & Class Instructors, Floater, Nurses/Sonographers, Helping Hands (Clothing Ministry), Male Mobile Unit Drivers, Prayer Warriors, Sponsor A Baby Shower or Single Moms Class

APPLY TODAY!

Help Pregnancy Center

More information can be found on their website:
www.monroehelp.com

Prayer Walk

Join with Heart for Monroe as they hold a prayer walk at Monroe High School on February 6th at 6 PM.

What is a prayer walk? We meet for a quick group prayer in the school lobby and then break off individually (or form small groups) to walk throughout the school and pray. Please invite members of your church, small groups, friends, and family members.

Youth Lock-In

Youth, thank you for coming out to the lock-in on January 17th! We had a fun time playing Bingo, Among Us, Sardines, and Four Corners!

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
2 Session 3: The Attitude in Worship 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	3	4 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	5 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	6 Jail Ministry	7 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Set Up	8 Fellowship Hall Reserved
9 Session 4: The Benefits of Worship 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	10	11 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	12 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	13 Jail Ministry	14 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Set Up	15 Fellowship Hall Reserved
16 Session 5: The Lifestyle of Worship 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	17	18 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	19 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	20 Jail Ministry	21	22
23 Session 6: The Gathering for Worship 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	24	25 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	26 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	27 Jail Ministry	28	



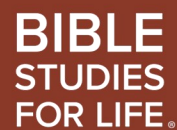
PRAYER REQUESTS

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
Carolyn Street
David Welch
(Irene's Son)
Irene & Don Welch

Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

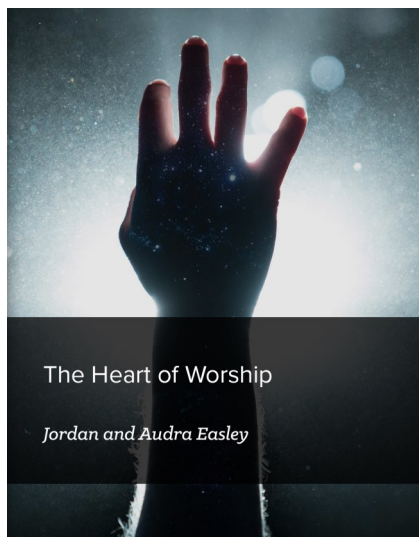
THE HEART OF WORSHIP

February 2: The Attitude in Worship
February 9: The Benefits of Worship
February 16: The Lifestyle of Worship
February 23: The Gathering for Worship



Bible Studies For Life Summary *The Heart of Worship*

If cats have nine lives as the old wife's tale suggests, many churchgoers would have to admit that they have at least two. There's the life lived day after day in their workplace, social circles, and family activities. And then there's the life lived at church; hands folded reverently, songs sung softly, and their almost-new Bible in their lap.



The truth is, even people who don't think about it that way would have to admit there is some truth to that description. Though such a life can be comfortable, it doesn't seem to rise to the abundant life Jesus promised His disciples.

Worship—the way the Bible teaches it—changes this paradigm. Once we understand that worship is more than the songs we sing before the sermon or the offering we give when the plates pass, the dots start connecting.

Life—the true abundant life we are called to live—awaits those who pursue a life of worship that connects our pews to office cubicles and our houses to mission fields. Our call to make disciples begins with a call to worship.

The journey starts right here.

New Ministry Partnership on OBC Campus

Pastor Ron Flowers and his church plant will use our facilities to meet on Sunday mornings at 11:30 AM & Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM for Bible study.

You can learn more about Pastor Ron & the Living Streams Worship Center at thelivingstreams.com

Sunday, February 2nd will be their first Sunday meeting for worship in Oakland's sanctuary!



Ladies Bible Study Save the date!

Ladies, you are invited to attend our Spring Ladies Bible Study, starting on Monday, February 17th at 6:30 PM.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the sanctuary, or you may contact the church office.

Books are available for purchase on Amazon (ISBN: 978-1988984193)



New Sunday School Class

Save the Date!

Starting Sunday, March 2nd, there will be a new adult Sunday School class for ladies, with Julie as the lead teacher.

More details coming soon!

