

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 the church office or email at oaklandchurchmonroe@gmail.com.

All help will be confidential.



December 1, 2024



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

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

Christmas Cards

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



OCC Processing Night

Monday, December 9th 2-6 PM
The sign up sheet is available in the sanctuary.
15 slots are available!

Christmas Musical

Sunday, December 15th at 6 PM
Snack fellowship to follow.
Please bring a finger food to share!



The Montgomery Family

Sunday, December 29th at 10 AM
The Montgomery Family will lead the worship service!



Those who trust in
the LORD will **soar**
on wings like eagles.

Isaiah 40:31

Oakland Baptist Church
600 E. Sunset Drive
Monroe, NC 28112
704.283.5656
oaklandchurchmonroe@gmail.com
www.oaklandchurchmonroe.org

Sunday, December 1 2024

Looking Forward with Hope

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

The Point: We have a sure hope because Jesus came to us.

The Bible Meets Life: Hope can take many forms. For children, hope might center on what they'll open on Christmas Day. As we get older, hope can shift from excitement to expectation and from surprises to survival.

The United States Army Air Forces Sergeant Lloyd Ponder knew that kind of hope. In a Japanese POW camp during World War II, Ponder had an undying hope for freedom. "I remember thinking, 'If anyone is going to get out of this alive, it's going to be me.'" Ponder reflected, "Determination is the attitude you had to have, knowing you could survive whatever!" What kept him focused on surviving? "Hope makes a difference," Ponder concluded. "If you don't have hope, you're gone. Having hope can get you through anything."

Hope keeps us going, and hope is what Advent is all about. It's not a hope for presents but hope for a Presence. Before the coming of Jesus, God's people leaned in on hope, as they waited for the coming of a savior. As we make this sacred journey to Bethlehem, we can reflect on the hope that was fulfilled and celebrated in the wonder of salvation.

Live It Out: Pray. Our hope in Christ must be cultivated. Ask God to reawaken the hopes that have been dormant in you recently. Enter a life of holy expectation as you journey through this sacred season. **Write.** Is there someone in your life who's struggling to remain hopeful because of circumstance, disappointment, or fear? Write and send this person an encouraging note to say you're praying for him or her and underscore that hope is never lost in Christ. **Serve.** Our hope is activated through service. This week, express your hope by serving someone in need. It may be as simple as helping someone decorate for the Christmas season or reaching out to a stranger to offer radical generosity and help.

Upcoming Sunday Sermon Series

Looking Forward to Christmas

Sunday, December 8 Looking Forward to Peace
(Isaiah 8:20-9:7)

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

BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE

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 12/4

Thursday

Jail Ministry

Choir Rehearsal

The next choir rehearsal
will be Wednesday,
December 4th at 7:45 PM.



Service Attendance

Sunday, November 24

Indoor: 73

Online: 66



Wednesday, November 27

No Online

No Youth

Monthly Budget & Offerings

Budget Needs:

\$17,623.26



November Offering

To Date:

\$15,376.00

Prayer Requests

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 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)

Lottie Moon Week of Prayer

December 1-8

Booklets available in the foyer.

Bible Studies for Life

A new sermon series/BSFL unit starts TODAY. The unit is titled *Looking Forward to Christmas*. Books are available in the SS classrooms and in the vestibule.