

# Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 49

SHARING THE JOURNEY

January/February 2025

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. As I write this, we are nearing Christmas; in fact, this is being written just before the second Sunday of Advent. Advent is that season where we prepare for the coming of Immanuel - God with us. At this time of year, we also contemplate the beginning of a new year. This newsletter article will be read at the new year, so I have a thought for us as we enter the new year.

We read Psalm 23 most often in the context of funerals. I don't undermine this because it's a necessary passage to provide that comfort when we are grieving the loss of a loved one. I sure am glad, however, that this Psalm speaks to us day by day as well if we consider its meaning and let it speak to us. Think about the opening words of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm: *The Lord is my shepherd...* That's a personal distinction. If you know Christ as your Savior, then the Lord is YOUR Shepherd. *...I shall not want The Lord as your shepherd will make sure you have all that you need (sometimes He'll see fit to bless you with some wants, but He will always see to your needs). He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. Your personal Shepherd will lead you to those "pastures" and "still waters" where you will be nourished and refreshed. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. He will guide you to righteousness (remember as I've said many times: we are not righteous in and of ourselves; we are declared righteous through our faith in the shed blood of Christ). Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Even when the valleys come (and they will), you can be sure that your Shepherd will be right there to guide you through them. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Your Shepherd protects you and anoints you. Because of all this: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Ask yourself this question: Is there a more capable shepherd than God? Can anyone aside from God provide for the flock better? As we enter into this new year, may we be encouraged by our PERSONAL Shepherd and His capacity to see to all our needs (even when that need is discipline). Privileged to be the "Under shepherd" to this flock. God bless you!

Daniel

*Philippians 4:13*



## January Birthdays

Jan. 02	Shirley C. Young
Jan. 05	Ben Morris
Jan. 08	Donna Winebarger
Jan. 10	Ann Stone
Jan. 11	Kyrie Beegley Lori Keen Pruitt
Jan. 14	James Wray Gloria Keen
Jan. 16	Ryan McKee
Jan. 17	Lance Frith
Jan. 18	Kelly Webb
Jan. 20	Jacob Gray Eva Dale Scearce
Jan. 21	Amy Jarrell
Jan. 24	Daniel Collins
Jan. 28	Frances Barnes
Jan. 30	Geraldine Williams

## February Birthdays

Feb. 01	Jon Mark Atkins
Feb. 06	Holly Thompson Simon LaBounty
Feb. 07	Kaye Cannaday
Feb. 08	Sara Seay Toby LaBounty
Feb. 10	John K. Ramsey
Feb. 11	Amy Starita
Feb. 13	Sheila Ramsey
Feb. 14	Martha Sue Meeks
Feb. 16	Jean Martin Lydia Baumgardner
Feb. 18	Sara Gill Martha Jane Gunter
Feb. 21	Tammy Foley
Feb. 24	Amy Lawson
Feb. 27	H.L. Snead

## BUSINESS MEETING

The quarterly business meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 15, at 6:00 PM.** Please plan to attend this important meeting because a quorum is needed and your input is vital to the routine business of the church.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet **Wednesday, January 8**, at 6:00 p.m. Come prepared to plan events for the church calendar through September 2025. Those on the church council include: Pastor, Deacons Chairperson, Music Director, Stewardship Chairperson, Sunday School Director, and WMU Director. Other committee chairpersons are encouraged to attend if they have items to add to the calendar.



## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On Souper Bowl **Sunday, February 9**, please bring **non-perishable food items** to be donated to the Grace

Network and Heavenly Manna. A box will be in the church foyer to place your "soup." Grace Network is our local food pantry and resource for financial help. Heavenly Manna is a food bank located in Franklin County. We will collect items throughout the month of January until February 9.

## THANK YOU

As we close out this year, we do want to Thank You for your support this past year in our many projects and missions giving. This year the WMU and OLBC has:

- Sent reading glasses, sunglasses and toothbrushes to Kenya
- Made and have on hand bereavement bags
- Donated \$590 to Pure Water, Pure Love
- Donated \$730 to the Crisis Pregnancy Center
- Collected food and toiletries for Grace Network (\$200 Value)
- Donated backpacks and clothing items to HumanKind (\$400 Value)
- Gave \$1005 to Alma Hunt offering for VA Missions
- Packed and shipped 66 Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes (\$3300 Value)
- Donated \$738 to Disaster Relief
- Donated \$374 to Good News Jail Ministry Hope Packs

Without the support of each and every one of you, these ministry needs would not have been met.



**Tuesday - January 28 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Tuesday - February 25 - 6:30 p.m.**

## FOCUS ON WMU

**FEBRUARY 9 - 16, 2025**

OLBC WMU wants to engage our church in mission's discipleship and radically involved all age groups in God's mission. WMU provides opportunities to pray throughout the year for missions, as well as opportunities to apply knowledge and passion through giving, serving, and supporting missions.

**LEARN**-WMU promotes missional living by teaching church members of all ages to see the world through God's eyes.

**PRAY**-Through WMU, believers learn how to apply the power of prayer for the spread of the gospel and pray specifically for needs around the world as they learn of missions needs and current social issues as we also pray daily for missionaries on their birthdays.

**GIVE**-By encouraging gifts to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alma Hunt Offering for VA Missions, WMU supports these and other mission personnel as they share the gospel at home and abroad.

**SERVE**-WMU ministries provide opportunities to engage in redemptive, loving service in the name of Jesus to people who need to hear the gospel.

**SUPPORT**-mission efforts through, Samaritan Purse Shoe Box, Grace Network, Good News Jail Ministry, and many more.

All ladies are welcome to join us on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM as we study about missions around the world and pray for our missionaries. We have a fun time of fellowship as we plan our events throughout the year.

WMU WATCHWORD:

"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." —1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> No Church Activities Church Office Closed (New Year's Day)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Communion Sunday Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Church Council 6:00 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Dr. Daniel Collins – Reserve Weekend
<b>12</b> Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest Speaker – Jack Surma	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>29</b> Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.  Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

Deacon of the Month – Debra Brown

Counters of the Month – Jim McMillian & Lance Frith

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Dr. Daniel Collins – Reserve Weekend
<b>2</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest Speaker – Jack Surma	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Focus on WMU Week February 9 - 16						
<b>16</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Newsletter Info Due	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>24</b>  Daniel out all week	<b>25</b> WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>26</b> Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.  Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

Deacon of the Month – Ben Morris

Counters of the Month – Ken Turner & Donna Winebarger