



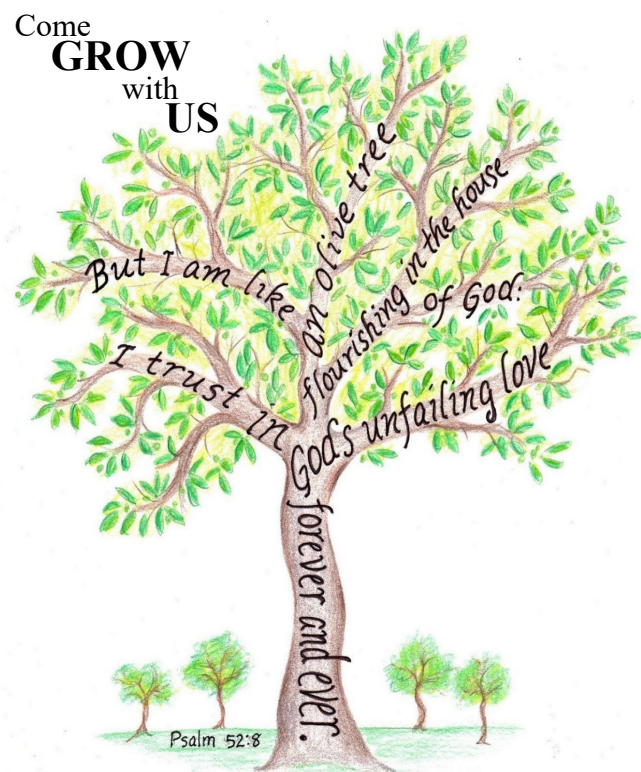
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December 2023: Verse of the Month



**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

December 2023

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Pastor David's Corner

Hope

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this. (Isa 9:6-7) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13)

Oftentimes, throughout life, we end up in seasons of waiting. We wait on answers, wait for trips and vacations, wait for packages to arrive, and the list goes on. A year ago, I found myself anxiously awaiting something I have dreamed about since I was a kid. I've always been an island boy, a child of the ocean, and for as long as I can remember, I have had this dream of the white, gold, red and black sands and pristine waters of Hawaii. I was blessed with global travels in my 20's & 30's, but had never made it to the wondrous archipelago that is the Hawaiian Islands. After saving up for many years the time was set for us to leave, but we found ourselves in San Diego instead. Still, not too shabby! But, I had to endure another impatient year before I could touch down in Maui and place my size 14's in the breathtaking Pacific waters of Kihei. I know it is not that long against eternity, but in the moment, it felt like forever!

Being in a season of waiting is a pretty common experience, but nobody knows waiting quite like God's people in the Old Testament, who waited in anxious anticipation of the coming Savior for over 400 years!

The Advent season, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, is a time of anxious anticipation of what is to come. This inner turmoil mimics the nervous energy children often have leading up to the arrival of Christmas presents under the tree, and for me, waiting for the arrival of smoldering volcanoes, fragrant lavender fields, sweeping island vistas in the top-down Stang, the death-defying road to Hana, Auntie Sandy's warm banana bread and Mama's Fish House! The Advent season is a cauldron, a season of anticipation, a time to refocus our hearts on Jesus the King as we walk into a season of joy and celebration.

Although Christmas reminds us of the coming of Jesus of Nazareth and the time that He walked the earth, it is also a time to remember that we still anxiously await the second coming of Jesus and the fulfillment of His kingdom. We are still in a season of waiting! We wait with hope for the Savior who would "soon" arrive.

As we prepare for this Advent season, let's pause and redirect our hearts and our hopes to the One who will never fail us, to reflect on the coming arrival of our Savior. When we focus our hearts on Christ, we can use His faithfulness all around us as reminders that we can trust Him in any circumstance, even long periods of waiting. May you and I be confident in our God and in His plan. Like Paul, I pray God would bring you peace and joy in all the different seasons as you remember His faithfulness and trust in Him!

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Eddie & Candy Anderson
- Elise Byers
- Jerry & Brenda Carnes
- Gary Clontz
- Terry Cox
- Marlene Crider
- Peggy Dean
- John Efird
- Cindy French
- Sam & Wanda Goodwin

Prayer requests continued on page 4.



Deacon's Meeting
December 3rd at 1 PM in the sanctuary.

Choir Rehearsal

The next choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, December 6th at 7:45 PM.



Christmas Eve Sunday School Breakfast

Make plans to join us for a finger-food breakfast & coffee before Sunday School on Christmas Eve. Please bring in your favorite quick-bite to share.

Christmas Eve Cookie Swap

There will be a separate table open for a cookie swap. If you're interested in swapping cookies, please bring in 20-24 cookies. Bags will be available.



CHRISTMAS Eve Service

Sunday, December 24, 2023 - 6:00 PM
Oakland Baptist Church - 600 E. Sunset Drive, Monroe NC

Christmas Eve Service

Mark your calendars for 6 PM on Sunday, December 24th for our Christmas Eve Service. Invite your friends & neighbors!

November Attendance

- Wednesday, November 1 (128 Online)
- Sunday, November 5 (41 Indoor + 130 Online)**
- Wednesday, November 8 (96 Online)
- Sunday, November 12 (N/A Indoor + No Online)**
- Wednesday, November 15 (137 Online)
- Sunday, November 19 (67 Indoor + 123 Online)**
- Wednesday, November 22 (126 Online)
- Sunday, November 26 (59 Indoor + 129 Online)**
- Wednesday, November 29 (90 Online)



Youth DNOW Beach Weekend

Oak Island, NC
November 9-12

Thank you for praying for this Discipleship Now weekend and for sending delicious snacks!



DECEMBER 2023



November 2023 Offerings
\$12,689.00

Budget Needs for December
\$17,787.33

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering & Week of Prayer for International Missions

The Week of Prayer for International Missions is a special, focused time of prayer for Southern Baptist missionaries serving through the IMB and the people whom they serve. The 2023 week of prayer runs from December 3-10.



Christmas Cards



A couple tables will be set up near the church offices for Christmas cards. Please bring in cards for active church members only.

Haley's Ministry - Prayer Requests & Praises

· Please pray for opportunities to get involved in meaningful conversations outside of work and church in Dallas.

· Please pray for the Unreached Among US team as they prepare to be partnered with a refugee family. Pray that they would be able to welcome this family with the love of Jesus and that the family would feel more at ease knowing someone in a new place.

· Pray that the Lord would continue to remind Haley of His faithful love and abundant provision in all areas of life.

· Please pray for Zahra* and that Haley's team might be able to continue some of the conversations they started at the Women's Conversation Club & Women's Health Clinic. Pray that the seeds that were planted would continue to come to mind.

**Name changed for security*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
3 Session 1: The Importance of God's Name 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 1 PM Deacon's Meeting	4	5	6 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	7 Jail Ministry	8	9
10 Session 2: The Majesty of God's Name 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	11	12	13 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	14 Jail Ministry	15	16
17 Session 3: The Love Expressed in God's Name 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	18	19	20 FH Reserved 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	21 Jail Ministry	22	23
24 Session 4 8:45 AM Breakfast & Cookie Swap 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 6 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> Office Closed	26	27 NO Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	28 Jail Ministry	29	30
31 Session 5 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship						

PRAY

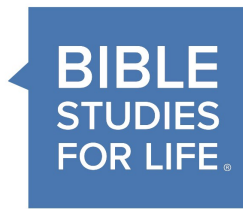
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ray Greene
- Sadie Griffin's Family
- Doris Hannah
- Nan Helms
- Grady & Judy Hill
- Shelia Horne
- Lillian Lewis
- Tammy Lovingood
- Majewski Family
- Louise Parker
- Richie Raines
- Robert Skinner
- Irene Welch

Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

A NAME LIKE NO OTHER

- December 3: The Importance of God's Name
- December 10: The Majesty of God's Name
- December 17: The Love Expressed in God's Name
- December 24: The Salvation Expressed in God's Name
- December 31: The Righteousness of God's Name
- January 7: The Protection of God's Name



Bible Studies For Life Summary

A Name Like No Other



We study aspects of God's name not merely as a theological exercise, but also for application to our daily experience. While honoring God's name is worthy by itself, doing so impacts our lives. We draw closer to Him by knowing more about His nature. We live more securely because His name encourages trust. We love Him better and allow His love to flow through us more fully because of the love expressed in His name.

Why should God's name be important to us? God's name is holy. We demonstrate respect for Him by the way we treat His name. In addition to the commandment not to take God's name in vain (Ex. 20:7), Scriptures demonstrate how God acts for His name's sake (Ps. 23:3; 25:11).

This study will help us understand how God's name reveals His majestic nature. Because of His name, we can trust Him, worship Him, and pray to Him. Whoever calls on Jesus's name will be saved. We appreciate the righteousness of His name. His name encourages us to trust Him with our well-being.

As we study God's name, let's use this opportunity to know and love Him better. Pause along the way and worship Him.

Senior Nutrition Program Volunteers

Union County's Senior Nutrition program helps improve the lives of seniors in the community, and it relies on volunteers like you, who help prepare and deliver meals. Gather your friends and help serve the seniors of Union County by delivering meals. The time commitment can be as little as two hours, with opportunities in Indian Trail, Mineral Springs, Marshville, and Monroe.



Volunteer opportunities include:

- ▶ Driving meals to homebound clients
- ▶ Putting on activities at any of the congregate meal sites
- ▶ Helping in the kitchen

If you are interested in volunteering your time, email SeniorNutrition@unioncountync.gov or call 704-292-2567.

Backpacks of Hope Encouraging Cards

If you are interested in sending encouraging cards to the 10 middle schoolers who receive backpacks of food each week, please place your cards in the church office throughout the semester. Cards may include prayers, Bible verses, or the Gospel. The cards should be written in print and signed with your name.



Operation Christmas Child

Pastor David delivered the 33 boxes from the altar steps to the UBA, and there were many more boxes that people made online or delivered to the UBA themselves.

Thank you for filling shoeboxes and blessing children around the world! Let us continue to pray for the children receiving these OCC shoeboxes this year, that they hear & respond to the Gospel!



Thanksgiving Meal

Thank you for coming out to fellowship and bringing side dishes & desserts to share. We reached our goal of having plenty of food left to send to shut-ins. Thank you to those who delivered those meals to our friends at home!

