



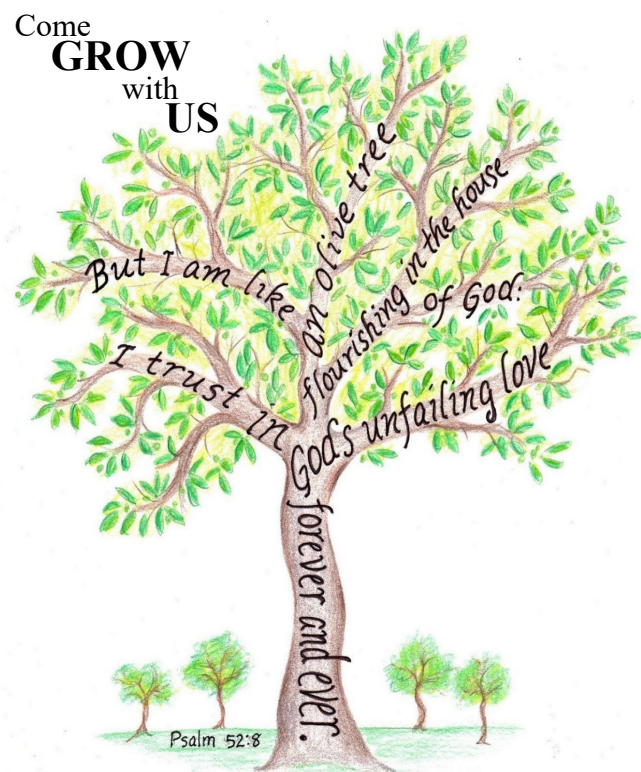
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November 2023: Verse of the Month

You answer us in righteousness,
 with awe-inspiring works, God
 of our salvation, the hope of all
 the ends of the earth and of the
 distant seas.
 Psalm 35:5

**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

November 2023

Pastor David's Corner

Thanksgiving

Are you thankful no matter what? Look at the story of a man who had every right to be bitter—but wasn't.

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The next footsteps in the corridor, he knew, might be those of the guards taking him away to his execution. His only bed was the hard, cold stone floor of the dank, cramped prison cell. Not an hour passed when he was free from the constant irritation of the chains and the pain of the iron manacles cutting into his wrists and legs. Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated—if ever a person had a right to complain, it was this man, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving!

The man was the Apostle Paul—a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19-20). Think of it: Always giving thanks for everything—no matter the circumstances! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation.

Thanksgiving—the giving of thanks—to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. We must not allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with others. "Thanksgiving—the giving of thanks—to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ." Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.

In the ancient world, leprosy was a terrible disease. It hopelessly disfigured those who had it, and it permanently cut them off from normal society. Without exception, every leper yearned for one thing: To be healed. One day 10 lepers approached Jesus outside a village, loudly pleading with Him to heal them. In an instant He restored them all to perfect health—but only one came back and thanked Him. All the rest left without a word of thanks, their minds preoccupied only with themselves, gripped with a spirit of ingratitude. Today, too, ingratitude and thanklessness are far too common. Children forget to thank their parents for all that they do. Common courtesy is scorned. We take for granted the ways that others help us. Above all, we fail to thank God for His blessings.

Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. One of the Bible's indictments against rebellious humanity is that "although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him" (Romans 1:21). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, "Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving" (Psalm 147:7). Paul wrote, "Be thankful" (Colossians 3:15). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian.

Why should we be thankful? Because God has blessed us, and we should be thankful for each blessing! Happy Thanksgiving! May it be our daily response to all that God has done, and will do, for us and through us!!

PRAY

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour on Sunday, November 5th!



Deacon's Meeting

November 5th at 1 PM in the sanctuary.

Choir Rehearsal

The next choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, November 1st & 15th at 7:45 PM.



Thank You Church

Thank you for the Pastor's appreciation gift! Pastor David & Leigh Ann

Christian Sympathy

Rich Majewski (pictured left) went to be with his Lord and Savior on October 13th, 2023.



Sadie Griffin (pictured right) went to be with her Lord and Savior on October 29th, 2023.



October Attendance

Sunday, October 1 (62 Indoor + 165 Online)

Wednesday, October 4 (159 Online)

Sunday, October 8 (54 Indoor + 112 Online)

Wednesday, October 11 (160 Online)

Sunday, October 15 (43 Indoor + 202 Online)

Wednesday, October 18 (169 Online)

Sunday, October 22 (51 Indoor + 124 Online)

Wednesday, October 25 (109 Online)

Sunday, October 29 (46 Indoor + 140 Online)



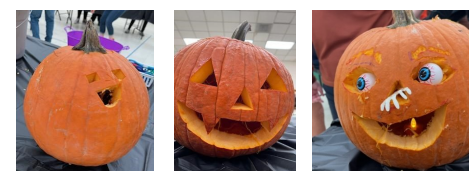
Momentum Tour Rally

Thank you for praying for the three Momentum Tour youth events!



Pumpkin Carving Night

The youth group carved pumpkins on Wednesday, October 18th!



DNOW Beach Weekend

November 9-12

The youth are going on their annual Discipleship Now beach trip in November. Please pray for this event and for the youth attending!



Haley's Ministry - Prayer Requests & Praises

- In November, Unto will host it's first full domestic women's health clinic in Dallas in partnership with the Unreached Among US team. Please pray for the Lord to bring many women to the workshop and that it would be an avenue for Unto to express the kindness of Jesus!
- Praise: Even in unexpected circumstances, Haley has seen the kindness of the Lord in this season and she continues to learn more about the grace and mercy that is ours in Christ.
- Please pray for opportunities to get involved in meaningful community 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 they would feel more at ease knowing someone in a new place.
- Please pray for guidance and peace for Haley in decision making.



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.



October 2023 Offerings
 \$14,224.00

Budget Needs for November
 \$17,787.33

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

November 18 9AM-2PM

Shiloh Valley Elementary School (5210 Rogers Road, Monroe)
 Union County residents are invited to dispose of hazardous household materials at this free event. Bring unwanted paints (up to 5 gallons), pesticides, herbicides, household cleaners, oil, gasoline, and propane or helium tanks (limit 3 tanks per household; grill size only). All materials must be in their original labeled containers. They'll also have a document shredding service available on-site; limit of five boxes per person.

Bring expired or unneeded medications (over-the-counter, prescription, or unknown) to dispose of them safely through Operation Medicine Drop, a service of the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
 Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Shiloh Valley Elementary School - 5210 Rogers Road, Monroe, NC

FREE for County Residents

PESTICIDE, CLEANER, GAS, UNIONCOUNTY



Youth Project
 To help prepare for the Church Work Day, the youth group collected trash around Oakland's campus during youth on Wednesday, October 11th.



NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 Jail Ministry	3	4 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH Set your clocks back an hour!
5 Session 4: Is Jesus the Only Way to Go? 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 1 PM Deacon's Meeting	6	7	8 NO Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	9 Youth DNOW Beach Trip Jail Ministry	10 Youth DNOW Beach Trip	11 Youth DNOW Beach Trip
12 Youth DNOW Beach Trip Session 5: Won't All People Ultimately Go to Heaven? 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	13	14	15 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 Jail Ministry	17	18
19 Session 6: Is Hell Real? 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11 AM Thanksgiving Meal	20	21	22 NO Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed Jail Ministry	24 Office Closed	25
26 Special Focus: God Deserves Our Thanks 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	27	28	29 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	30 Jail Ministry		

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

CONFIDENT IN THE FACE OF HARD

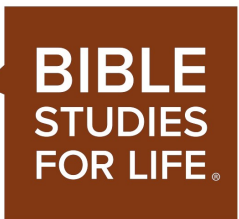
QUESTIONS

- November 5: Is Jesus the Only Way to God?
- November 12: Won't All People Ultimately Go to Heaven?

November 19: Is Hell Real?

GOD DESERVES OUR THANKS

November 26: God Deserves Our Thanks



Bible Studies For Life Summary

God Deserves Our Thanks

It's that time of year. Sandwiched between two holidays focused on what we can get, we have a mere few hours to reflect upon what we already have. During fall, kids seek out candy, and adults seek out pumpkin-flavored anything. When Christmas comes, we frantically shop until our bank accounts drop to ensure we've got the perfect something for every person in our life.

In the middle of all this, we celebrate Thanksgiving. While it used to have more margin around the day, it seems like it now gets lost in the shuffle. Even Black Friday sales invade the space of Thursday's reflections. It almost seems like it's too much to give a full 24 hours once a year to a time focused on gratitude.

Even if we could reclaim the time around Thanksgiving, it really isn't enough. While this country celebrates the holiday, Christians ought to live with gratitude as the soundtrack of our daily lives. Instead of being



confined to a day on a calendar, thankfulness should be the natural ebb and flow of every day. God deserves our thanks. As we study Psalm 65, we will discover many reminders of why we have reason to be grateful.



Thanksgiving Meal

Sunday, November 19th following worship.

The church will be providing the turkey.

Please bring side dish & a dessert to share!

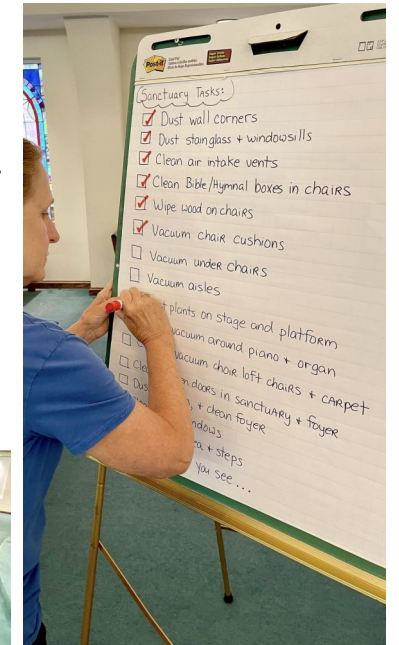
Let us know what you're bringing on the sign-up sheets located in the foyer. Our goal is to have plenty of food so that we are able to send plates to shut-ins.



Church Work Day

The Building & Grounds Team hosted a Fall Workday Event on Saturday, October 14th.

We focused on spreading pine needles all around the church and cleaning the sanctuary and foyer to prepare for the upcoming holiday season. Thank you to everyone who came out for the fall work day!



Backpacks of Hope Encouraging Cards

If you are interested in sending encouraging cards to the 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

OCC National Collection Week is November 13-20.

Empty OCC boxes are available on the altar steps and in the hallway between the church offices.

Bring your filled shoeboxes back by Sunday, November 19th.

