



600 E. SUNSET DRIVE
MONROE, NC 28112
704-283-5656
oaklandchurchmonroe@gmail.com
www.oaklandchurchmonroe.org

January 2023: Verse of the Month

Immediately Jesus spoke to
them. "Have courage! It is I.
Don't be afraid."
Matthew 14:27

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES AT OAKLAND

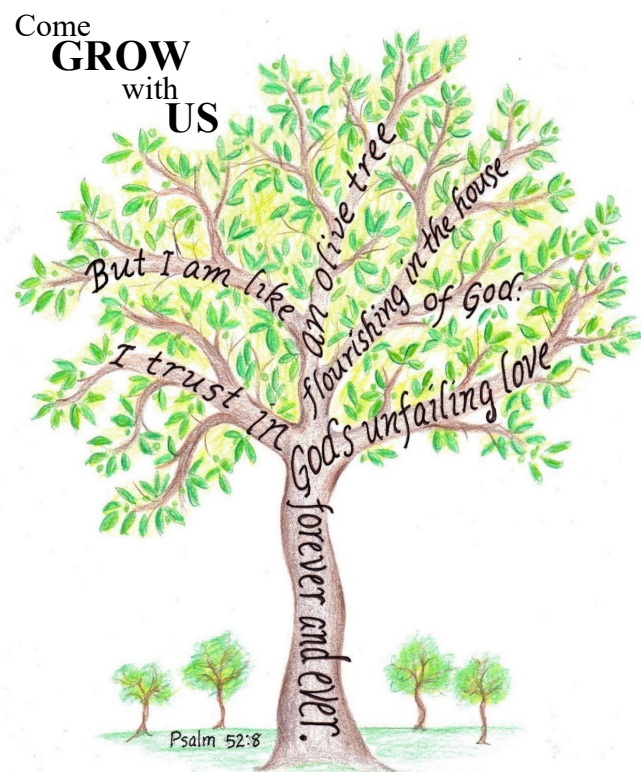
Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School

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

January 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor David's Corner	1
Prayer Requests Happy New Year Deacon's Meeting Fellowship Meal Church Council December Attendance	2
January Calendar	3
Prayer Requests Upcoming Sermon Series BSFL Summary	4
Fitness Room Missing Dish Jail Ministry Backpacks for Hope	5
Budget & Offerings Lottie Moon Offering Envelopes Being God's Man Article	6
Being God's Man Article Continued	7
Monthly Bible Verse Weekly Opportunities	8

Pastor David's Corner

A Change of Conversation

I noticed something interesting the other day when speaking with some young folks from one of our ministry partnerships. The entire conversation centered around their ministry and what they have been doing, are presently engaged in, or what they were feeling led to do in the near future. It was exhilarating and energizing! I walked away feeling very encouraged that a group of God's children, led by His Spirit were actively living out their vision of God's mission for them individually and collectively. The neat thing is that their dialogue very much reflected the mission and their passion to see it come to fruition.

I began to reflect on other chats of recent involvement and found the language and subject matter to be quite different. Seldom was the ministry or mission of our church even mentioned. Most of my latest exchanges on the home front focused on earthly concerns; inflation, health, illness & injury recovery, meds, medical procedures, doctors, nurses and hospitals, oh my! These were all very real and certainly understandable to both hear and speak, but I was left with a sense of draining, walking away from each of these somewhat discouraged.

Thinking on these differences, I began to wonder when the tipping point occurred. When did we get to a place in life where we gave up on our place in the kingdom of God and its growth and advancement? When did the troubles of life overtake us to the point that surviving took priority over thriving? When did we stop looking outward, and keeping our focus inwardly driven? When did our goal to get through another day usurp our desire to make a better tomorrow, either for us, our church, or those outside of our walls?

Perhaps it's time we intentionally stopped talking altogether, began to assess the thrust of our daily, normative conversation, and purposefully changed our narrative to more accurately reflect the gospel directives in the Bible. Have you heard yourself lately? Can you hear God's Word uttering a different tone or message? Maybe it's time for a change, for the better; for His children, for Him! It might just be that God is calling us to a new language, laden with His vision, producing in us fruit for His kingdom!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie & Candy
Anderson
Adin Beatus
Elise Byers
Brenda Carnes
Gary Clontz
Terry Cox
Marlene Crider
Woodrow (Lela
Crump's Grandson)
Peggy Dean
John Efird
Cindy French
Sam & Wanda
Goodwin

Prayer requests
continued on page 4.

Happy New Year

A New Year's Prayer: "The Lord bless
you and keep you; the Lord make His face
shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn His face toward you and
give you peace."
Numbers 6:24-26



Deacon's Meeting

Sunday, January 8th at 1 PM in the sanctuary.



Fellowship Meal & Bible Study

Join us for chili & cornbread at our next fellowship
lunch on Wednesday, January 11th at 11 AM in the
Fellowship Hall. A Bible study will follow the meal.



Church Council Meeting

We will hold a church council meeting on
Thursday, January 19th at 7 PM.

If you have information from your team on getting started back up as
we open up post-Covid please come out and share! We will be looking
at ways we can work together to help our church grow. If you cannot
attend but still want to share, please email
oaklandchurchmonroe@gmail.com with your info by that Thursday.



December Attendance

Sunday, December 4 (51 Indoor + 114 Online)

Wednesday, December 7 (15 Lunch + 71 Online)

Sunday, December 11 (49 Indoor + 139 Online)

Wednesday, December 14 (58 Online)

Sunday, December 18 (58 Indoor + 107 Online)

Wednesday, December 21 (No Online)

Sunday, December 25 (135 Online)

Wednesday, December 28 (No Online)



"Christian Sabbath"

Sunday is usually the best time to observe the Sabbath, but not for everyone. Many first responders need to work on Sundays. Apparently, criminals like to work on weekends also. Medical professionals can't all rest on Sunday either, can they? Shift work is common in many professions. Do these weekend workers get a pass on rest and worship? No. They need to be more creative and determined than most believers.

Sabbath is a practical plan that works. Flexibility is the key.

The New Testament never mentions Sunday as a "Christian Sabbath." Many first-century Christians chose to worship on Sundays because it was the day of Jesus' resurrection. It was decreed as official, not by Scripture, but by Emperor Constantine early in the fourth century. Some early Christians worshiped on Saturday, others on Sunday, and some on other days of the week.

A literal Sabbath is simply stopping one full day a week to rest and worship instead of catching up or getting a head start. Sundays in the USA are still the most conventional and convenient time to worship for the majority. The key is flexibility, mixed with a healthy dose of obedience.

Disconnecting

Sabbath rest is more than slowing down. It is more than a speed bump for you to work away from the office at a more leisurely pace. Remember that Sabbath literally means to STOP. Sabbath gives us the freedom to disengage from work so we can re-engage with our faith, family, and friends. For a literal 24 hours, we can and should disconnect from the normal workload to reconnect with those we are working to support.

You might agree with the "should" but are not convinced about the "can." It is hard to succeed in our culture without working harder than the next person. You likely experience pressure to be productive, and it is hard to stop working when you are falling farther behind each week. Add to that, most of us have cellphones, smartphones, computers, and tablets that give us around-the-clock access to our business life.

The only way I can disconnect from my job is to turn it on "airplane mode." I disable my devices at home before they disable me! It sounds drastic, even punitive, but I'd rather be connecting with my faith, family, and friends than with my job on my day off. I firmly believe that is what God expects of me.

Burnout is not a result of working too hard; it results from resting too little.

Faith & Humility

Consistent Sabbath-keeping requires a generous amount of humility and faith. To take Sabbath seriously, we will have to right-size the importance of our roles at work, home, and church. The pressure to produce will meet you at almost every attempt, so be prepared to have your resolve regularly tested.

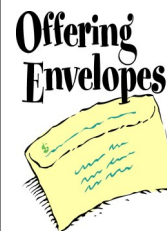
If you are among my many driven friends eager to become emancipated from their crazy calendars, know that you are not alone and that God will empower you to do what He instructs you to do.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Total Received: \$760.00
Thank you for giving to the
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®



Offering Envelopes

There has been a delay in the shipment of our 2023 offering envelopes. Generic offering envelope will be available in the SS classrooms and vestibule until the shipment arrives.

Being God's Man

By Mark Dance

The Sabbath is a Practical Plan

Balance is an illusion. Life is too unpredictable to balance. A better biblical goal is to live a life in rhythm. Athletes understand the need for a preseason and off-season. So do accountants and politicians. Even nature's seasons and cycles remind us of God's rhythm.

Jesus demonstrated how our lives could be in a healthy rhythm between life and vocation. We see Him oscillating between work and rest. Sometimes He would encourage the crowds to stay and eat, heal one more person, or pray all night. Other times He would retreat to the lakes, mountains, or wilderness for rest and renewal. One time Jesus even slept through a life-threatening storm. Why? Because He was tired!

A healthy Sabbath lifestyle includes seasons of intense work, followed by periods of intentional rest. Rhythm is a series of sprints and recoveries. A life of work, rest, and worship is abundant life. Jesus wants and expects us to live abundantly and fully.

"So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. On the seventh day God had completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it He rested from all His work of creation" (Gen. 2:1-3).

Deacon's Magazine article continued on page 7.

JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Session 5: Courage in Place of Fear 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	2 Office Closed	3	4 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	5 Jail Ministry	6	7 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
8 Session 6: Joy in Place of Fear 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 1 PM Deacon's Meeting	9	10	11 11 AM Fellowship Lunch & Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	12 Jail Ministry	13	14
15 Special Focus: Valued By God 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	16 Office Closed	17	18 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	19 7 PM Church Council Meeting Jail Ministry	20	21
22 Session 1: Does It Agree with the Bible? 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	23	24	25 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	26 Jail Ministry	27	28
29 Session 2: Does It Bring Conviction? 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	30	31				

December 2022
Offerings

\$13,214.00

Budget Needs
for January

\$18,566.08

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ray Greene
Sadie Griffin
Doris Hannah
Mike Helms
Nan Helms
Rodney (Renee Helms' Son)
Grady & Judy Hill
Gabe Horne
Lory Parker
Louise Parker
Irene Welch
Mary Jane (Irene Welch's Niece)
Walter (Irene's Brother-in-law)

Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

PUTTING FEAR IN ITS PLACE

January 1: Courage in Place of Fear

January 8: Joy in Place of Fear

VALUED BY GOD

January 15: Valued By God

HOW TO DISCERN THE VOICE OF GOD

January 22: Does It Agree with the Bible?

January 29: Does It Bring Conviction?

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE®**

Bible Studies For Life Summary

Valued By God

Mary Louise McDonald valued life. She was my mentor, and this godly lady radiated Christ in her countenance, voice, and touch. When I first met her as a college student in the late 1990s, she had just transitioned from a walker to a wheelchair due to health issues brought on in her 30s. She did not allow a wheelchair to limit her from serving her church, sharing the gospel, or being the prayer warrior for thousands of people until her homegoing in August 2020. Her life was full of significance and value.

We say we value life, but more often than not our society places people into tiers based on whose lives offer more to the rest of society. Though our words say that every life is valuable, our actions—and inactions—speak volumes as the unborn, disabled, and elderly are devalued by society. Believers should treasure every life the same way God does.

In Psalm 139, we will see just how much God values each of us. In this psalm, David expressed joy that God made him and knew everything about him. David recognized his life was valued by the One who created him because his Creator had given his life meaning and purpose.

God values life—and so should we.



Fitness Room



Planning your New Year's resolutions? Come and try out our fitness room (available to church members). Workout equipment in the room includes: dumbbells (3-25 pounds), barbells, resistance bands, yoga mats, treadmill, stationary bike, weight bench, and an assortment of other equipment.



Missing Dish

We are still missing a cream-colored Corningware dish that held green beans. Please double check that you picked up the correct dish from the Thanksgiving meal. If you grabbed this dish, please bring it to the Church Office. Your dish is in the kitchen!



Jail Ministry

Pray for the jail ministry team and the people they minister to; pray that they will respond to the gospel that is presented. Looking to get involved in the jail ministry? Please contact Stacey!



Backpacks of Hope

As we head into a new semester, please pray for the backpacks ministry and for the 10 Monroe Middle School students who will receive food each week. Bags include a selection from the following items:

Applesauce, Beanie Weenies, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Chicken Noodle Soup, Fruit Cups (Fruit Medley, Orange Slices, Peaches), Grits, Macaroni & Cheese, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter Crackers, Pop Tarts, Pork & Beans, Pudding Cups, Raisins, Ramen Noodles, Ravioli, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup

If you feel led to purchase food items, please drop them off in the church office!

Ministry Need

If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry, please contact the church office. Nan is looking for someone to take her place in this ministry as she will be recovering from back surgery for 3-6 months.

**BACKPACKS
OF HOPE**