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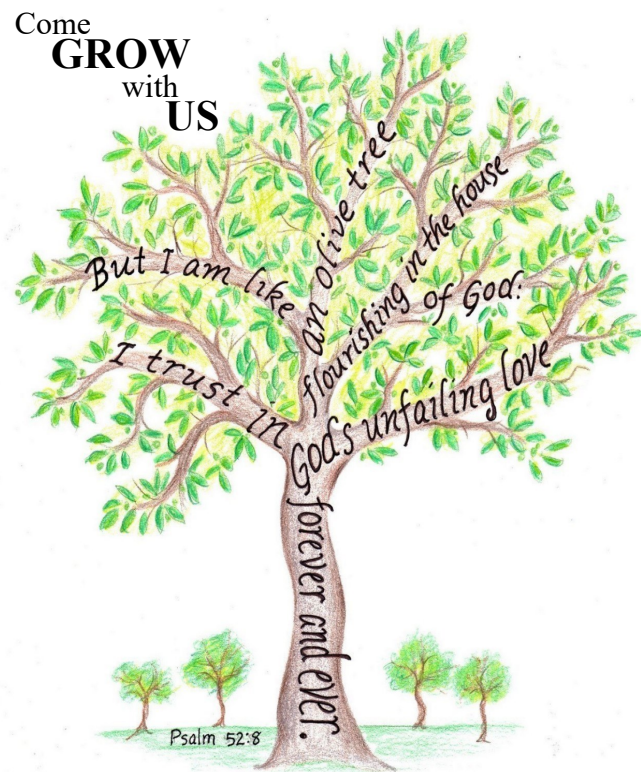
**March 2025: Verse of the Month**

For the Father loves the Son  
 and shows him everything he is  
 doing, and he will show him  
 greater works than these so that  
 you will be amazed.  
 John 5:20

**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**

March 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor David's Corner	1
Prayer Requests	2
Daylight Savings	
Annie Armstrong	
Easter Offering	
Easter Sunday	
Choir Rehearsal	3
February Attendance	
February Calendar	4
Prayer Requests	
Upcoming Sermon Series	
BSFL Summary	5
New Sunday School Class	
Ladies Spring Bible Study	
Jail Ministry	
New Ministry Partnership	
Budget & Offerings	6
Pregnancy Center	
Spring Fling	
March Like A Champion	7
Saving Grace	
Haley's Ministry	
Bible Event	
Bulletin Blurbs	8
Monthly Bible Verse	
Weekly Opportunities	

*Pastor David's Corner*

**The 7 Signs of John**

*"Truly Jesus did many other signs and miracles in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book; but these were written that you may fully believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that in the act of believing, you may have life in His name."* (John 20:30-31)

The first twelve chapters of John are called the Book of Signs. God's revelation through John is very clear as to why He focuses so heavily on these seven miracles. These signs are vivid proof of Jesus' status as the Christ, the Messiah, and that these miracles purposefully point readers to faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The seven pivotal signs, when Jesus *"manifested His glory"* (John 2:11), in the Gospel of John are:

1. The sign of His Glory - Changing water into wine (John 2)
2. The sign of His Grace - Healing the royal official's son (John 4:46-54)
3. The sign of His Authority - Healing the man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-11)
4. The sign of His Provision - The feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-15)
5. The sign of His Presence - Walking on the water (John 6:16-21)
6. The sign of His Light - Healing the man born blind (John 9:1-12)
7. The sign of His Power Over Death - Resurrecting Lazarus (John 11)

**Seven.** Seven is an important number for John, as for all Judaism. It symbolizes perfection, completion, fulfillment, and wholeness. John's use of seven is seen in his seven signs, the seven I AM's, the seven major discourses, and the seven life-changing conversations in the gospel. Seven also implies the seven days of creation and when creation was completed and found to be good. Jesus, now, continues the work that God began in Genesis.

**Wine.** Jesus changed the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. In performing this miracle, Jesus continued creation by taking simple water and rearranging its atomic elements, developing a whole new substance. Jesus revealed a God who is not simply a maintainer of what is, but a creator of what was not.

**Nature.** Jesus proved there were no earthly limits to His heavenly powers. He could instantly create aged wine, He could walk on water, He could heal from a distance, He could multiply foods. Why, Jesus could do the two things that were deemed impossible in that era: give sight to the blind, and raise a dead person to life. As the Son of God, Jesus could operate within the created world or outside of it, depending on what He wanted to accomplish. The signs of Christ, according to John, proved that Jesus was what He said He was; Messiah, Son of the Father, Co-creator, and Sustainer.

**Proof.** What did Jesus point to as proof of His Messiahship? *"John's two disciples found Jesus and said to him, 'John the Baptist sent us to ask. Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?'"* At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind. Then he told John's disciples, *"Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard – the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor."* (Luke 7:20-22). The people need look no further, says Jesus, and neither should you, John. These miracles point to who I really am. These are the signs of my divinity, says Jesus.

# PRAY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Danny Anderson  
(Eddie's Brother)
- Eddie & Candy  
Anderson
- Gary Clontz
- Marlene Crider
- Lela Crump
- Peggy Dean
- John Efird
- Cindy French
- Sam & Wanda  
Goodwin
- Ray Greene
- Nan Helms
- Mike & Renee Helms
- Grady & Judy Hill
- Rodney Johnson  
(Renee Helms' Son)

Prayer requests continued on page 4.



### Daylight Savings

Don't forget to set your clocks forward an hour on Saturday night in preparation for the time change on Sunday, March 9th.

### Annie Armstrong Easter Offering & Week of Prayer for North American Missions

March 2-9, 2025

Lives are being changed both now and for eternity through the impact of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.



### Easter Sunday

Save the Date: April 20th

Who are you inviting to Easter Sunday Worship this year?

### Choir Rehearsal

The next choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, March 12th at **7:30 PM.**



### February Attendance

- Sunday, February 2 (49 Indoor + 87 Online)**  
Wednesday, February 5 (59 Online)
- Sunday, February 9 (43 Indoor + 77 Online)**  
Wednesday, February 12 (69 Online)
- Sunday, February 16 (36 Indoor + 98 Online)**  
Wednesday, February 19 (45 Online)
- Sunday, February 23 (38 Indoor + 82 Online)**  
Wednesday, February 26 (35 Online)



### 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 or email the church office. All help will be confidential.



### Haley's Ministry Prayer Requests & Praises

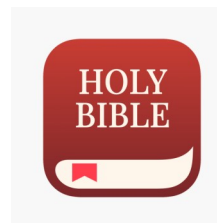
- Pray that the Lord would continue to remind Haley of His faithful love and provision in all areas of life.
- Please pray that the Lord would bring more staff to the WASH team! They have a volunteer joining their team soon—an answered prayer!
- Pray for students who are taking steps of faith to apply for summer missions.
- Pray that God would continue to use Unto projects as an avenue for the gospel to change hearts and lives.
- Haley's next trip with Unto will be this summer to Guatemala, to distribute water filters. This will be the first trip of its kind for Unto, so please pray that it would be successful!



### Bible Event in the Bible App

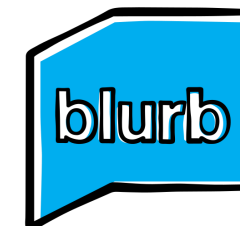
A QR code for each Sunday's Bible event in the Bible app is now in the church bulletin. To access the Bible event in the Bible app, just open the camera on your smartphone and aim it at the QR code as if you were focusing in to take a picture. A link should pop up on your phone that you can click on and go straight to the Bible event in the Bible app.

Each Bible event contains the Scripture for that Sunday, as well as links to the bulletin, newsletter, and webpage.



### Bulletin/Newsletter Blurbs

Do you have a small business that offers services that our church members may be interested in? Send your business/contact info and service details to the church office to be 'advertised' in the bulletin.





**February 2025**

**Offerings**

\$13,941.00

**Budget Needs**

**for March**

\$17,571.84

**HELP PREGNANCY CENTER**  
Our Heart is Centered on You

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**Places You Can Help:**  
Receptionist, Female Peer Counselors, Male Peer Counselors, Class Instructors, Spanish Speaking Peer Counselors & Class Instructors, Floater, Nurses/Sonographers, Helping Hands (Clothing Ministry), Male Mobile Unit Drivers, Prayer Warriors, Sponsor A Baby Shower or Single Moms Class

**APPLY TODAY!**

**Help Pregnancy Center**

More information can be found on their website:  
[www.monroehelp.com](http://www.monroehelp.com)

**Help Pregnancy Center Spring Fling**  
Saturday, March 29th  
11 AM - 2 PM  
480 Help Street, Monroe

Join with Help Pregnancy Center for a day of fun, fellowship, and blessings. This special event is designed to minister to their wonderful clients, offering them a time to relax, enjoy, and connect with their community. Interested in hosting a game & information table, providing food & beverages, or donating door prizes? Contact Rebekah at 704-289-5133 (ext. 124) by Friday, March 21st.

**March Like a Champion Bible Conference**  
March 5-7 (AM & PM Sessions)  
FBC Indian Trail

Learn more (or watch the livestream) at [www.fbcit.org/mlac](http://www.fbcit.org/mlac)

# MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
<b>2</b> Session 1: The Sign of His Glory 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM Spring Ladies Bible Study	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>6</b> Jail Ministry	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Session 2: The Sign of His Grace 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Spring Ladies Bible Study	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	<b>12</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> Jail Ministry	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Session 3: The Sign of His Authority 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	<b>17</b> 6:30 PM Spring Ladies Bible Study	<b>18</b> 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>20</b> Jail Ministry	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved All Day
<b>23</b> Session 4: The Sign of His Provision 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Spring Ladies Bible Study	<b>25</b> 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM Youth	<b>27</b> Jail Ministry	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Session 5: The Sign of His Presence 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	<b>31</b>		<b>6:30 PM Online Worship</b>			



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Lillian Lewis  
Zack Little (MMS Counselor)  
Richard & Tammy Lovingood  
Richard Lovingood's Sister  
Mike Lunsford  
Pam Majewski  
Lorraine McClellan  
Debbie McKnight  
Louise Parker  
Richie Raines  
Carolyn Street  
David Welch (Irene's Son)  
Irene & Don Welch

### Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

#### ALL SIGNS POINT TO JESUS

March 2: The Sign of His Glory  
March 9: The Sign of His Grace  
March 16: The Sign of His Authority  
March 23: The Sign of His Provision  
March 30: The Sign of His Presence  
April 6: The Sign of His Light  
April 13: The Sign of His Power over Death  
April 20: The Ultimate Sign



### Bible Studies For Life Summary

#### *All Signs Point to Jesus*

Recently our family went on vacation. We were excited about the opportunity to go to a local tubing company and float down the river. On the way to the launch, we came across a sign that read: "Bridge Out." While we had never been down this road before, the directions on the GPS were telling us with clarity to continue down the path. So, we continued, while keeping in the back of our minds what the sign had just shown us. Soon, however, we reached the point where we could go no further. The sign had been true! It turns out the GPS hadn't updated to show that the bridge was out. We could see the launch point across the river, but we had to get back in the car and find another way to get there.



Signs are important. Over the next several sessions, we're going to explore eight signs that point to the truth of who Jesus is. Our hope is that you will see how the evidence is clear that Jesus is the Son of God, so that you can grow in your trust of Him. Whether you're a seeker of truth, a new believer, or a seasoned follower of Christ, this study in the Gospel of John will point you in the right direction to the person, nature, power, and identity of Jesus Christ.

### New Sunday School Class

Save the Date!

Starting Sunday, March 2nd, there will be a new co-ed adult Sunday School class, with Julie as the lead teacher.

The class will meet in a classroom near the fellowship hall.



### Ladies Bible Study

The Spring Ladies Bible Study meets on Mondays at 6:30 PM in the choir room!

Books are available for purchase on Amazon (ISBN: 978-1988984193)



### 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!



### New Ministry Partnership on OBC Campus

Pastor Ron Flowers and his church plant are using our facilities to meet on Sunday mornings at 11:30 AM & Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM for Bible study.

You can learn more about Pastor Ron & the Living Streams Worship Center at [thelivingstreams.com](http://thelivingstreams.com)

Sunday, February 2nd was their first Sunday meeting for worship in Oakland's sanctuary. *They are planning to hold a baptism service on Sunday, March 23rd!*