



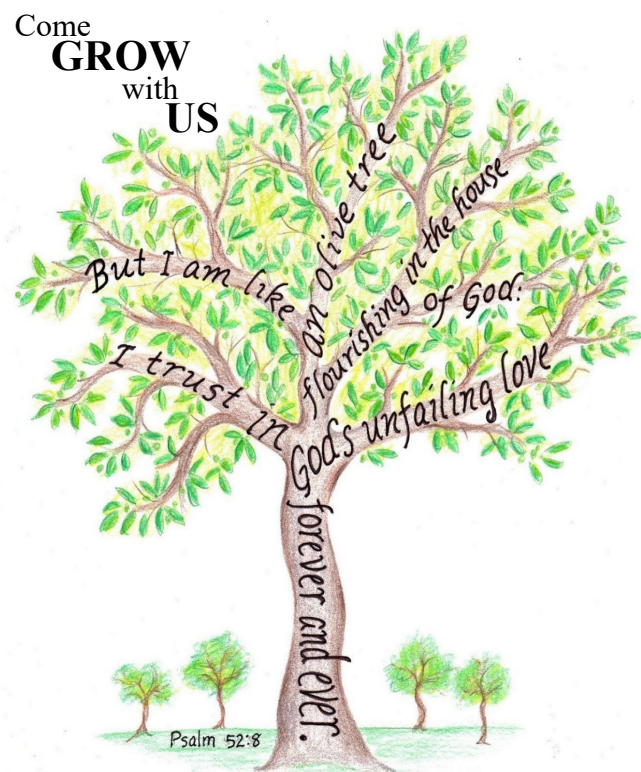
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April 2024: Verse of the Month



**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

April 2024

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Pastor David's Corner

April Showers

Early spring showers bring forth flowers in the month(s) to follow, as the old saying goes. There's a lot of truth in that. Anyone who has done any amount of gardening can attest to the power of hydration to the growth and health of plant life. April tends to be a wetter month than normal in many areas of the country, naturally resulting in an abundance of flora, and even fauna for that matter!

It's no wonder that Jesus relates Himself to Living Water. He is both the giver and sustainer of life! Likewise, it is in the initial wash of His precipitous arrival that we experience a revitalizing freshness and spring-like new growth. This is one of the reasons that baptism in the spring takes on a more visually stimulating experience. Everything is beginning to come to life again, all around are the signs of rebirth!

What a great joy to sit under a covered porch and encounter the gentle rains as they sprinkle a mountain valley below. How wonderful to take in the dazzling array of wildflowers that soon follow. How much more blessed to be among a fellowship of Christ followers witnessing a small cache of sin-dried humanity enter the waters of obedience, to emerge victorious and glorious on the other side!

God is good! All of the time! He is faithful and sustaining during the cold, dark, gloomy days of winter. He is patient and ready and capable of reviving that which appears to many, as dead! He holds living waters in reserve, in abundance, until such time, that they be released to cleanse and to heal and to nurture, you, me, whosoever will, back to life!

April showers bring May flowers. April 7th baptisms, hundreds across our state, and thousands throughout the world, on "Fill-the-Tank" Sunday, likewise point to a fruitful May and many months to follow. Let us all be reminded of what God is doing in our world and in our midst. As flora and fauna awaken all around us, as we savor in the afterglow of our recent baptisms, let us rejoice and give God the glory! Let us praise Him for what He has done, and what He has begun!

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie & Candy
 Anderson
 Jerry & Brenda Carnes
 Gary Clontz
 Terry Cox
 Marlene Crider
 Peggy Dean
 John Efird
 Cindy French
 Sam & Wanda
 Goodwin
 Ray Greene
 Bob Hale
 (Shelia's Dad)
 Doris Hannah

Prayer requests
 continued on page 4.

Easter Cross Decoration

Thank you for taking a few minutes on Easter Sunday to decorate the cross!

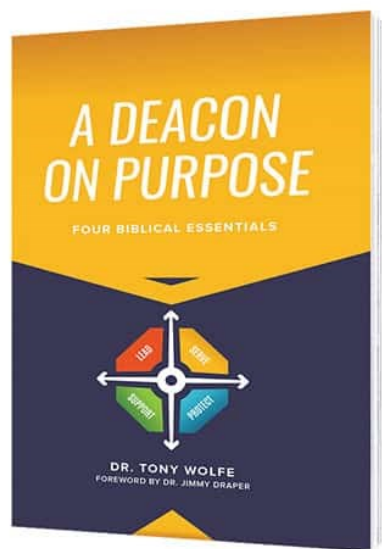


Choir Rehearsal

The next choir rehearsal to prepare will be Wednesday, April 10th at 7:45 PM.

Deacon's Training

The deacons will meet at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 16th, 23rd & 30th for deacon training. They will be going through *A Deacon on Purpose: Four Biblical Essentials* by Dr. Tony Wolfe. This training will cover topics such as:
 Lead By Example
 Serve the People
 Support the Pastor & Staff
 Protect the Peace
 Character and Purpose



Deacon's Meeting

May 5th at 1 PM in the sanctuary.



March Attendance

Sunday, March 3 (59 Indoor + 155 Online)
 Wednesday, March 6 (No Online)
Sunday, March 10 (49 Indoor + 132 Online)
 Wednesday, March 13 (102 Online)
Sunday, March 17 (63 Indoor + 184 Online)
 Wednesday, March 20 (73 Online)
Sunday, March 24 (52 Indoor + 161 Online)
 Wednesday, March 27 (84 Online)
Sunday, March 31 (74 Indoor + 129 Online)



Spring Yard Sale Update

Our spring yard sale at the church is just under a month away, Saturday, April 27th, 8 AM until 12 Noon.

We ask that you finish bringing your **small** items to the church no later than Sunday, April 14th, so we can start the exciting task of pricing everything!

You can begin dropping off the **large** items on Monday prior to the yard sale. Many of those will be staged in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall, so we need to wait until services are over for both our congregation and our Hispanic partners, who use the building on Sunday afternoon. As always, make sure your donations are clean and in good working order.



Julie Cook is beginning to recruit volunteers to work during the yard sale. Please let her or the church office know if you would be willing to help. It's a wonderful time of fun and fellowship and a great way to bless our community and church.

Thank you for all you do and for serving and supporting your church!

Basket Collection

Irene Welch is in need of small/medium sized baskets. She is planning to create flower arrangements to sell at our yard sale. If you have any baskets that you would like to donate to this special project, please contact Irene or bring them to the church.



2ND ANNUAL
 UNION ACADEMY BANDS
MATTRESS FUNDRAISER



EVERY PURCHASE BENEFITS THE BAND STUDENTS!



Twin Matts From \$199 | Full Matts From \$289 | Queen Matts From \$299 | King Matts From \$399

Beautyrest.



Adjustable Base



Luxury Pillows



Mattress Protector

Union Academy Band Mattress Fundraiser

Saturday, April 20th
 10 AM - 5 PM
 Union Academy South Gym

A couple of our youth are in the Union Academy Band. If you are looking to purchase a new mattress, this could be a good opportunity to support the band while doing so.

Contact the Church Office or Taylor Price for more details and to get a coupon.

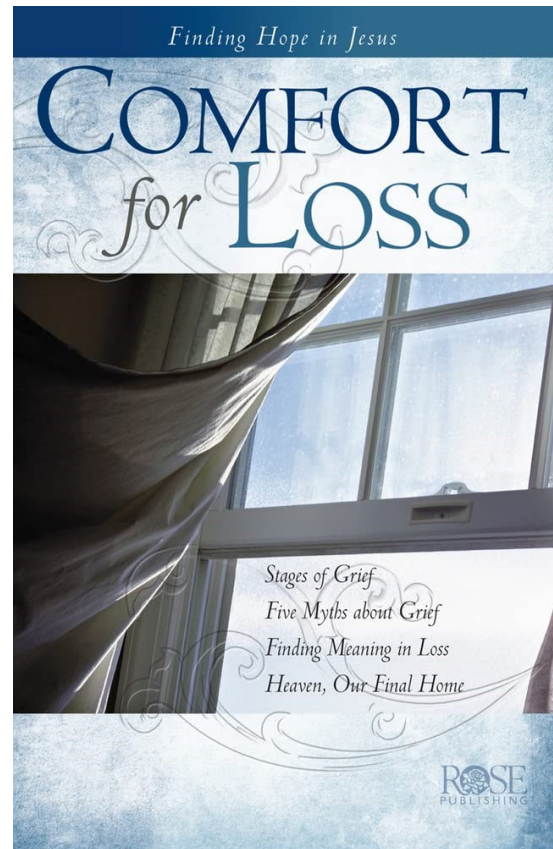
APRIL 2024



March 2024
Offerings
\$14,085.00

Budget Needs
for April
\$17,623.26

Grief Share Group



Have you experienced loss? Do you have grief? Join with others in our church family for a time of grief share, guided by Pastor David.

The next meeting will be on **April 25th at 10 AM**. These sessions will be once or twice a month, depending on the group's availability.

The group will work through the *Comfort for Loss* pamphlet which offers comfort to those grieving the loss of a loved one by offering wisdom from the Bible, the stages of grief and finding meaning in loss.

Haley's Ministry - Prayer Requests & Praises

· Please pray for Haley's sweet helper Rose and her family. Pray that they would know the Lord if they don't already and that God would bless them. Also pray for the families who received training through the workshops in Africa, that the material would be useful for them and that they would in turn teach others what they learned.



· Pray for Haley's continued desire to study the Bible as she starts walking through 1 Peter with a friend. Pray that the Holy Spirit would teach them as they study the Word.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	4 10 AM Grief Share Meeting Jail Ministry	5	6 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
7 Baptism Sunday Session 6: The Mission of Jesus Shared 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	8	9	10 6:30 PM Youth (Cookout) 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 Jail Ministry	12	13
14 Session 1: Built on Christ 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship Small Items for Yard Sale Due	15	16 7 PM Deacon's Training	17 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	18 Pastor David @ Pastor's Retreat Jail Ministry	19 Pastor David @ Pastor's Retreat	20 Pastor David @ Pastor's Retreat
21 Session 2: Sharing Christ 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	22 Start Bringing Large Items for Yard Sale	23 7 PM Deacon's Training	24 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	25 10 AM Grief Share Meeting Jail Ministry	26	27 Yard Sale 8 AM-Noon
28 Session 3: Growing in Christ 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	29	30 7 PM Deacon's Training				

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

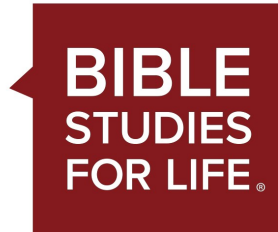
- Hedgepeth Family
- Nan Helms
- Grady & Judy Hill
- Christine Hinson
- Shelia Horne
- Joni Keith
- Lillian Lewis
- Tammy Lovingood
- Mike Lunsford
- Majewski Family
- Evan Manly
- Louise Parker
- Richie Raines
- Robert Skinner
- Irene Welch

Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

April 7: The Mission of Jesus Shared
BEING AN AUTHENTIC CHURCH

- April 14: Built on Christ
- April 21: Sharing Christ
- April 28: Growing in Christ
- May 5: Worshiping God
- May 12: Serving in Christ
- May 19: Doing Life Together in Christ



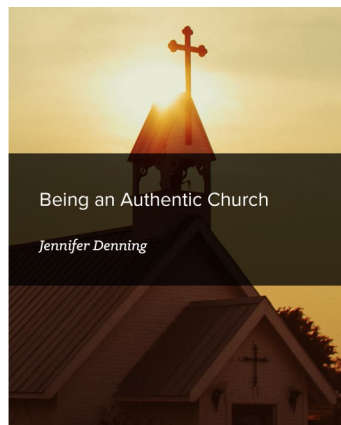
Bible Studies For Life Summary

Being an Authentic Church

The headline read: "Report: 500 Ukrainian Church and Religious Sites Damaged by Russian Military." The article began, "The Russian military has disproportionately attacked evangelical Christians and 'destroyed, damaged, or looted' at least 494 religious buildings, theological institutions, and sacred sites in Ukraine since invading the neighboring nation almost a year ago...."

Russian forces destroyed hundreds of churches, as have many empires through the ages, but they did not destroy the church. The church is sometimes called a building but not just a building. The church is also a charitable organization but not just a charity. It's more than a social group, voting block, or institution. It's the living, growing body of Christ comprised of all who follow Jesus Christ as Lord.

"Congregations across America are weak because many of us church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.... He [God] placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to teach, to give, and, in some cases, to die for the sake of the gospel." In this study, we will rediscover what it means to be an authentic church and how you play a role.



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Total Received: \$1,885.00

Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are used to train and resource missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries. Gifts are also used to create evangelism resources. New churches are being planted, hurts are being healed and lives are being transformed by the gospel because you give.



Fill the Tank Baptism Sunday

April 7th

Baptism is a way to put on display the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Baptism should always be an important step in the life of a believer. For many, this act of obedience is the first way to make the gospel known without speaking a word.



Upcoming Youth Activities

- Wednesday, April 3rd: Homemade Slushies Night
- Wednesday, April 10th: Cookout
(Celebrating a baptism & a graduation!)



A/V Equipment Update



As many of you have noticed, our aging audio-visual equipment has needed upgrading for some time. We have just gotten a quote from CO-DA (they installed our video camera equipment) for a new amp, speakers, sound board and front projector. It's expensive, over \$16k, but feel it will help limit distractions to our worship service and help keep our focus on the Lord and His message going out. If you would like to help fund this updating project, please make a note on your giving envelopes.

We request that you do not take away from your normal tithes to fund this project, but give as God calls. Thank you!