

THE LAMPLIGHTER – JUNE, 2020

311 Cypress Street – Mt. Carmel, Tennessee 37645 - 423-357-7241 – www.ogbchurch.org



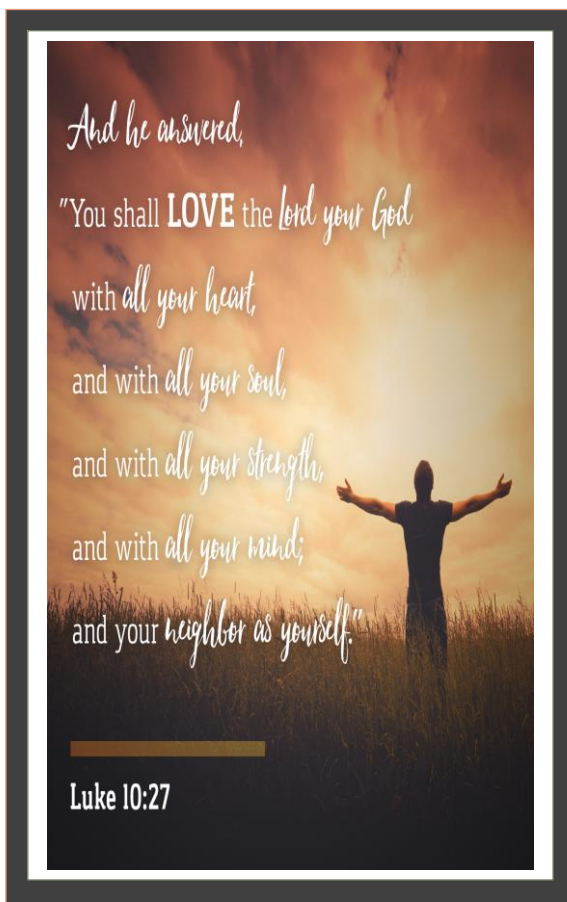
Dear Friends and Family of Oak Grove,

When I was a kid we lived in Arkansas. Every year during Christmas break we would drive to Morristown to be with family. It was a 12+ hour trip. My sisters and I would get really excited to cross over the Mississippi River at Memphis and see the Tennessee state sign over head. We had it in our minds that once we were in Tennessee we had to be close to Granny's house. Dad understood we were still 8 hours away. When we asked how much longer he loved to reply 10 more minutes.

As we begin to cross the next step in the process of dealing with the virus we are asking the question, "How much longer?" We have moved from no service to online service. Then we moved from online service to drive-in service. Now we are about to have our first inside service. Along the way I have been excited to see how the people of this church have stepped up to help neighbors, help people in need in our community, minister to grieving families, and try out new forms of small group.

I have also been amazed at how God has moved so strongly in different forms of worship. When the church started online services during Pastor Benny's time here, there were just a few views each week. Now, hundreds and at times we have thousands of views for a single service. I believe that will continue far into the future. When we started having drive-in service, we were not sure how many people would attend. Amazingly, we have had 65-75 cars each week. That probably equates to 125-175 people. (A quick thank you to all of our sound people and parking lot workers that serve faithfully each week.) Not only are people attending, we are having visitors and the response I receive from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. As one person said, "Having service outside and worshiping God while seeing the sky and birds and all that He has created is amazing." It has been a huge success. We intend to keep having this option as long as people are still attending and finding it helpful.

Now we are looking to add an inside service. It's the next step on the journey. Many people are looking forward to attending an inside service. Others, are more than a little cautious, and that is understandable. As we move inside, we know things will be different. In the beginning we will not have a choir. Doug is doing a great job with the praise team. I really enjoy the way he is switching people so we can hear from many of our choir members. We will practice safe distancing for attendees. At every turn we will be attempting to keep everyone as safe as possible.



The leadership team has been meeting regularly and building a process for returning safely. As a result they agreed to adopt 10 practices we will be following for inside services.

1. Sign in --- We are having everyone sign in so we can respond quickly if there were an attendee who tested positive. Everyone is going to want to know as soon as possible.
2. Temperature Taken --- We will be taking everyone's temperature with a non-contact forehead thermometer. Someone may think they have allergies when in fact, they may have the flu. For this reason, we want to keep everyone safe and allow people who have a temperature to attend at a later date.
3. Orderly seating --- I know everyone has a favorite spot for nesting. Unfortunately our sanctuary that normally holds more than five hundred will be reduced to holding less than half the normal amount. In an effort to safely distance and still seat the most people possible, we will be ushering everyone to a seat.
4. Stay seated --- We will be reminding everyone to remain seated until the end of service. We realize most people have not seen each other in weeks and would like to reacquaint, but for everyone to be confident and safe, we will not be able to move around.
5. Orderly Exit --- We will be releasing everyone by row at the end of service. This is to help congregants remain a safe distance from others.
6. Masks are Available --- We have chosen not to make masks mandatory. However, we do encourage people to wear them, particularly if they have allergies and are sneezing a lot.
7. Offering Recepticals in the Vestibule --- We feel that safest practices mean not passing the offering plate. The less everyone touches common items, the safer everyone feels.
8. Removal of Hymnals, Bibles, and envelopes from the back of pews --- This is in an effort to cut down on the number of touches an item receives.
9. Bulletins on Pews --- We will lay a bulletin in each seat so everyone can have one, and they are handled as little as possible.
10. Illness Reminders --- We want to consistently remind everyone to stay home and watch the service on social media or listen over the phone if they feel under the weather in any way. What you may think is an allergy could be a bigger problem. We will all feel better if everyone who feels bad remains at home until they feel better.

We want to say thank you ahead of time for helping us use the safest practices possible. We hope that by enduring a little inconvenience now, we will show the world that we care about people. It is simply a different way to show love.

Finally, for those of us asking, "How much longer?" The answer is still the same, "Ten more minutes." Thank you for your patience, ministry, and encouragement during this time. May God continue to bless us in a mighty way.

Pastor,
Todd Haley



Dear Church Family,

As the year 2020 continues, we find more and more things that are changing our lives! I can't remember the last time that we haven't done some type of Easter musical, been able to have our regular choir rehearsal, sing to a full sanctuary of people, or have an inspiring worship service!

I must admit that after singing to an empty sanctuary during the livestream recordings, our drive-in services have been a real blessing to me. I have enjoyed just having the opportunity to see the faces of our congregation and speak to our church family, even if from a distance.

Many choir members have asked about when we will gather again and I must admit that I have no idea how long it will be. Experts warn that singing may be a leading way that the virus is transmitted through air borne pathogens, but keep the hope that we can sing again as a choir sooner rather than later!

In closing, thanks to the many of you who have been so faithful to continue to come to our drive-in services and to those who watch from home and listen on their phones as well. Stay safe and God bless each of you!

In Christian love, Doug

Greetings!! I hope that each of you are doing well in these crazy times. It has been great seeing many of you all at drive in church, although I would like to talk to you face to face. But we must do what we must do at this time.

I hope that all of you have been keeping up and perhaps even increasing your study time in God's word. I mentioned last month that my family and I have been reading a chapter a day and discussing that during the evening. Well we hit the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew and have gotten bogged down in that. So now we are reviewing about 15 verses per day, but having a great time studying together.

Hopefully all of you enrolled in Sunday school have been able to participate in a study this past month. I know that Richard's class has been meeting virtually online and that Kathy is teaching her class on Facebook. I have been posting my class session too. So you should have a few options to choose from in case you have not found one yet. They do not measure up to in-person classes, but they are still a way for you to stay current in Sunday school material.

Beginning in June, we start new material in Sunday school, studying Proverbs and the Song of Songs. This will be a great study and I hope that each of you will participate. Most of you should have a Sunday school book for the new quarter as each of your teachers have been out delivering books to their class members. If you did not receive one, please contact your teacher or the church office and we will get one in your hands right away.

Please feel free to call me or your teachers if you have questions about the material or about how to participate in a class that is going on. I pray that each of you are well and know that we are praying for you all.

Blessings, Eric



Our Christian love & sympathy are extended to:

- *The family of Neta Wells in her death
- *Rosetta Harvey & family in the death of her brother, J.T. Wooten
- *Carol Boshaw & family in the death of her son, Charles York
- *Trudy Price & family in the death of her mother, Betty Watson
- *June Stone & family in the death of her son, John Stone
- *Kermit & Reba Roberson in the death of their son-in-law, John Stone
- *Elsie Fraley & family in the death of her sister, Barbara Oody



Oak Grove Baptist Church,

Just wanted to let our church family know how much you are appreciated, although words can never express how much love has been shown to our family! Thank you all so much for the delicious meal provided after the visitation – which was also so overwhelming with the love and support shown! Thank you also for the Gideon Bibles donated by the church, along with the many calls, cards, texts, and most of all – prayers! Please continue to remember our family in your prayers through our journey ahead.

*Seth would have been shedding tears of joy to see all the love and support that has been shown to our family. Love to all of you!

Tom & Sonya Hensley, Shea & Patrick Fleming, Allison Jenkins

Thank you for the prayers, thoughts, calls and cards. Also for the three Bibles that were donated in memory of my brother, J.T. Wooten.

Love, Rosetta Harvey



Congratulations to Tristan & Taylor Kincer on the birth of their daughter, Kinsley Jean Kincer. Kinsley was born April 10, 2020 weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. Wayne Stovall, Sr. is the proud great-grandfather.

Congratulations to Kaitlyn DeFord and Josh Wright on the birth of their son, Tucker Alexander Wright. Tucker was born May 8, 2020 weighing 6 lbs. 14.6 oz. Brad & Ashley DeFord are the proud grandparents, Dinah DeFord the proud great-grandmother.

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate our
Class of 2020 College Graduates
We're proud of you!

*Congratulations to Jeb Lambert for earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education K-12 from East Tennessee State University.

*Congratulations to Marla Odom for earning a Master of Education Degree from King University.

*Congratulations to Autumn Strickler for earning a Bachelor of Nursing Degree from East Tennessee State University.

Operation Christmas Child



For the month of June we are collecting new baseball caps and sunglasses for boys and girls. Our target ages are 10-14 year olds. We would love to collect enough items to send 250 shoeboxes.

The last several months, we know it has been difficult to get out and shop for items for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gifts. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please mark your envelope "Shoebox Ministry". Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!



HOORAY FOR FATHERS

A Houston newspaper asked readers to send in thoughts about their fathers. Letters flooded in, and what people wrote about their fathers is most inspiring.

A few comments:

*Dad was always there for me. He sacrificed to make sure that we had what we needed.

*When disappointment came my way, Dad said, "Son, real life ain't about getting what you want, but more about doing something with what you get."

*My dad was disabled, but he worked hard to make sure we children had a good education and lived moral lives. He would say, "I want you to succeed more than I did."

*My dad wanted us to be Christians and took us regularly to church.

What would you write about your father?



Each Father's day, we collect a special offering to benefit the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. This offering provides funds to assist in caring for senior adults and those with intellectual disabilities. If you would like to contribute, please mark your envelope "TBAH".

Thank you!

BLOOD DRIVE



March Regional Blood Drive

Oak Grove Baptist will host a Blood Drive on Wednesday, June 3 from 2-6 p.m. Our local blood banks are in need of folks who will unselfishly give during this time. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office (423-357-7241, angela@ogbchurch.org), as donations will be accepted by appointment only. Please note that the church will not be open during the drive. A waiting area will be available underneath the covered drive-thru. All participants will receive a t-shirt and a snack.

YOUTH NEWS

We have finally been able to set a date for our High School Senior Recognition Day. We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 14. Graduates and parents - I will get with you on the details about the morning services. We will have a cookout that evening at 6:00p.m. for the graduates and their families. The cook out will be held at Oak Grove.

I wanted to let the youth know that we are planning a mission trip to Ocoee in October. All the school systems have fall break at the same time this year. The date for the trip is October 12-16. I am excited that Ocoee is allowing us to come during that time. I will have more details in the coming weeks.

Ramona Adams

Oak Grove Class of 2020



Drew Byerley
Volunteer High School

Drew,

For the past 18 years we have prayed for, watched over and guided you. But it is God who made you into the young man you are today! As this chapter closes and another begins, remember always put God first! Stay the compassionate, caring, intelligent, funny and loving person you are. Reach for and run towards life and where God is leading you. The next chapter is starting so GO FOR IT!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Brody Carmack
Dobyns-Bennett High School

Brody,

We are so proud of the young man you have become. You were a strong-willed child and sometimes we thought we would never survive. You have taken that trait and accomplished so much. Please do not ever change. Always put God first in your life and you will go far. We wish you the best as you start college life at the University of Tennessee.

Love,
Mom and Dad



Joseph Clark
Volunteer High School

Joseph,

Where do I even begin...You simply amaze me!! You are kind, caring, thoughtful, and compassionate. These past 18 years have passed in a blur and now you are graduating high school. How is that even possible? Soon you will embark on a new journey; start a new chapter in your life and I am so excited for you. I know you will do great things! My prayer is and has always been that you keep God first, seek His guidance, and follow the path He has for you. I am over the moon proud of you and can hardly wait to see what you do to change your world to make it a better place. I love you more than you will ever know...to the moon and back, times infinity and beyond!!!

Love,
Mom



Ashley Counts
Volunteer High School

Ashley,

You have had to fight your whole life for what others take for granted. We want you to realize just how proud we are of you and how excited we are to see what your future holds! You are an amazing young lady with so much potential and we hope that you don't hold back and will allow the world to see who you really are. We thank God for letting us be your parents! Remember Jeremiah 29:11

Love,
Mom and Dad



John McPheron
Volunteer High School

John,

It seems like only yesterday you were born and now you are graduating from high school. We are so proud of the young man you have become. It is our pleasure to be your parents! Remember to keep God first in your life and He will direct your path.

We love you!
Mom and Dad



Callie Stidham
Dobyns-Bennett High School

Callie,

We have loved watching you grow up and are so very proud of you! Continue working hard toward your goals. Don't hold back! Always remember your relationship with Christ is the most important thing in your life and the best way to keep that "20/20" vision is to walk by faith and not by sight! We will forever be your biggest fans!

Love always,
Mom and Dad

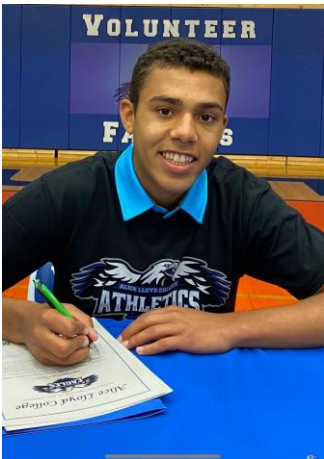


Abram Stovall
Volunteer High School

Abram,

We are so very proud of you. May the Lord direct your path.

Love,
Mom and Dad



Chris Strickland
Homeschool

Dear Chris,

Wow! We are amazed at what all you are accomplishing and how you have grown into a very mature young man. You have worked so very hard at Byerley Construction to obtain your goals and dreams. This fall as you leave for Alice Lloyd College, remember that we will be your biggest fans on and off the track. Enjoy cross country and track as you hunker down and study hard to obtain your Criminal Justice Degree. You will be a great officer of the law! Keep your eyes on the Lord and look to Him always.

Love,
Mom and Dad



James Strickland
Homeschool

Dear James,

We can't wait to see what all you accomplish in life! We are very excited that you will be attending Northeast State Community College this fall to obtain your Computer Information Systems Degree. You will make a great Computer Programmer as there is hardly anything you cannot figure out lol! Always be mindful of how the Lord has blessed you and watched over you! Don't ever forget that He has good for you. Keep pressing on and look for Him to open doors for you!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Leanna Strickland
Homeschool

Dear Leanna,

We can't believe you are graduating! We couldn't be more proud of you for your willingness to follow the Lord in His plan for you. You are working so hard at Food Lion so that you can attend Clear Creek Baptist Bible College this fall. We know that the Lord will provide for you! Please keep close to Him and use your compassion to help others along the way! You are very special to us! Don't forget that!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Alex Tucker
Volunteer High School

Alex,

As your senior year comes to an end, we are so proud of your accomplishments. Your humbleness and kind manner will forever be with you. We are blessed to be a part of your life! The never quit and do the best you can do attitude will get you so far in life. There are great things to come. We can't wait to see how you grow and make a difference in the world. Just remember to put God first in everything you do!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Champ Wagner
Dobyns-Bennett High School

Champ,

We are so proud of the young man you have become and all of your accomplishments! We can't wait to see what the future holds for you! Always keep God in your life! With Him nothing is impossible!

We love you & Congratulations,
Mom and Dad

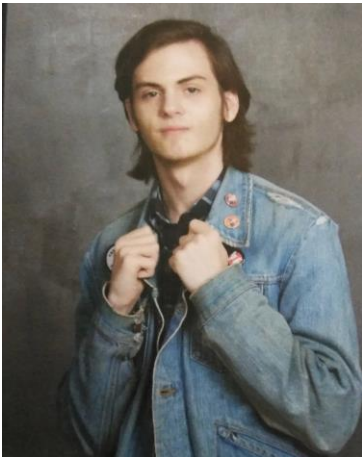


Mackenzie Whitten
Volunteer High School

Mackenzie,

How can you be a senior already? We are so proud of you and love you very much. We have enjoyed every second of these past seventeen years and cannot wait to see God continue to work in your life! Reach for the stars!

I love you the mostest!
Mom and Dad



Jared Williams
Volunteer High School

Jared,

We love you and are so proud of you. Since the moment you were born, you have brought love and laughter into our lives. You have become a remarkable young man. These are verses for you. Proverbs 22:6 and Jeremiah 29:11.

Love,
Mamaw and Papaw



Piper Whitmore
Dobyns-Bennett High School



Piper,

We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments from Preschool to High School. Our prayer for you is that you will remember Proverbs 3:5-6 as you go off to Middle Tennessee State University this fall.

We love you so much and want you to know that the Whitmore gang will always be there for you no matter what.

God Bless and Love You,
Brent, Frances and Bill

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 2:00-6:00 Marsh Regional Blood Drive at OGBC	4	5	6
7 9:30 Early service (Sanctuary) 11:00 Drive-In service	8	9 	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 Early service (Sanctuary) 11:00 Drive-In service	15	16	17	18	19	20 
21 ★ HAPPY FATHERS DAY ★ TBAH Offering 9:30 – Sanctuary 11:00 – Drive-In	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:30 Early service (Sanctuary) 11:00 Drive-In service	29	30 