

Oak Level Baptist Church

7720 Oak Level Road Bassett, VA 24055
(276) 629-7973 olbc@comcast.net
www.OakLevelBaptist.org

Volume 49

SHARING THE JOURNEY

November/December 2025



November Birthdays

Nov. 02	David Hurd, Sr.
Nov. 03	Gary Thomas
Nov. 04	Marcia Miles
	Barbara Mabe
Nov. 08	Jason Howell
Nov. 11	Jordan Gilley
Nov. 13	Brandon Keen
Nov. 20	Kristi Thomas Carter
	Doug Ramsey
Nov. 21	Emily Sara Boswell
Nov. 24	Dolores Thompson
Nov. 30	Zachary Turner

December Birthdays

Dec. 04	Joshua Howell
Dec. 06	William Griffith
Dec. 07	Shirley Foley
Dec. 10	Kenneth Keen, Sr.
Dec. 12	Homer Hodges
Dec. 13	Megan Keen
Dec. 15	Peggy Morris
Dec. 16	Chelsea Thompson
Dec. 17	Isaiah LaBounty
Dec. 18	Betsy Henny
	Jean Thomas
Dec. 22	Ira Seay
Dec. 24	Howard Webb
Dec. 25	Barbara Slate
	Sue Seay
Dec. 26	Charlotte LaBounty
	Susan Gillespie
Dec. 29	Kelly Gray Conner

Greetings church family! What a wonderful opportunity to sit and pen this newsletter writeup. As I sit and compose this it is currently 6AM, I have my coffee sitting here at my end of the dining table where most of my business is conducted. Isn't it a good thing to have that time (whenever it is during the day) to sit and think, meditate, pray, and get ready for the day? This newsletter will be covering the remaining two months of the year: November and December. You all know that I look very much forward to November every year because that means I get to spend a good deal of time in the deerstand! This year is no different; thank God for His Providence to see us to another November and December. Even though the weather has not yet caught up with the calendar, it's a wonderful time of year. Pretty soon the radio stations and Hallmark channel will be awash with Christmas music and movies. On the other side of the coin, we've seen some difficult times in our nation and our world. This writeup isn't going to re-hash any of that because I've preached about it a lot over the past months. BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front) in Army speak, let's give it to God. I was thinking this morning about the hymn "Have Faith in God". Remember the chorus to that hymn: *Have faith in God, He's on His throne; have faith in God, He watches o'er His own; He cannot fail, He must prevail; have faith in God, have faith in God. As we enter into this last part of the calendar year: have faith in God. As we face possible uncertainty in the world around us: have faith in God. When there are things that come up in our own personal or family life: have faith in God. After all, isn't that exactly what we learn from the celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas? We thank God for His Providence, His protection, His blessings; and we thank God that in His precious love, He gave His Son to be our salvation. What wonderful promises! As we go through the waning weeks of this year, we have such blessings in worship to look forward to; namely our annual Veteran's Sunday on November 16 followed by our annual Thanksgiving fellowship and then our celebration of the Advent and Christmas season. You don't want to miss these blessings! Be in prayer for these services, invite people to join us in worship, and come and praise and worship the Master!*

Daniel
Philippians 4:13



Collection and blessing of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be **Sunday, November 2**. OLBC has assembled 47 shoeboxes to ship to children around the world. We still need funds to ship the shoeboxes. We only have funds to ship about 27 boxes. If you have not given to this effort, please consider donating a monetary gift. Each box costs \$10 for shipping.

BUSINESS MEETING

The 2026 budget will be presented on **Sunday, November 2** for review. Any changes to the budget will need to be addressed at the quarterly business meeting on **Wednesday, November 12th**. The 2026 budget will be presented for adoption on **Sunday, November 23rd**. It is very important that we have a quorum on these two dates. Please plan to attend the business meeting and worship service on the 23rd.

VETERANS DAY SERVICE & THANKSGIVING MEAL

On **Sunday, November 16**, there is a special service planned to celebrate Veterans and the Thanksgiving season. Be sure to invite any veterans you know, so we can honor their service to our country. Please provide the name of a veteran currently serving or has served you'd like to be included in the Veteran's Day Sunday bulletin insert. Email Pastor Daniel or Sheila by **Thursday, November 6**. A covered dish Thanksgiving meal will be held after the worship service. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. Ham will be provided by the church.

THE MEANING OF ADVENT

Advent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation and anticipation for the arrival of Jesus Christ, celebrated during the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word itself comes from the Latin "adventus," meaning "arrival" or "coming". It commemorates both Christ's first coming as a baby and anticipates his future second coming. During this time the tradition of lighting the advent candles is observed. The four candles on the Advent wreath represent the light of Christ entering the world. One candle is lit each Sunday, marking the progression of the four weeks of Advent. Each candle represents a theme for each week of Advent — **hope, peace, joy, and love**. Be sure and join us this Advent season beginning on **Sunday, November 30**, as we celebrate the coming of the Messiah!



hermission

A MOVEMENT OF WOMEN ON MISSION SINCE 1874

Tuesday - November 18 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday - December 16 - 6:30 p.m.

HOPE PACK FOR THE GOOD NEWS JAIL MINISTRY

It is the season, and we have officially kicked off our annual "Hope Pack" effort for inmates and staff for this holiday season. Each Christmas season your Chaplain and Chaplaincy Support Team coordinates a ministry of the community to touch inmates and staff at the Martinsville City Jail and Henry County Adult Detention Center. We collect funds to purchase items to fill a small gift bag for the inmates, and to provide some candy bars and chocolates for the staff as well. Your donation will purchase items to go into a small bag to share God's Love with inmates. There will be some practical hygiene items like socks, toothpaste, soap, Shampoo, & deodorant, as well as some candy and snacks. The Correction's Staff receive bags too, but the Chaplain's Chocolate and snacks continue to be given out to officers in the following weeks as a reminder of the chaplain's ministry. I hope you will prayerfully consider adding this outreach to your Christmas list! I hope you will be able to provide hope to an inmate again this year with your help, gifts, and cards.

In Christ,

Joe Collins, Chaplain

*OLBC will collect a special offering on **Sunday, November 30** to support the "Hope Pack" ministry.

Thank you, church, for missions giving over the last year!

- 66 OCC Shoeboxes shipped
- \$374 GNJM Hope Bags
- \$640 WMUV trip to Peru
- \$170 Parachute for school in Peru
- \$741 Pregnancy Care Center of M/HC
- \$750 Disaster Relief
- \$305 Global Hunger
- \$920 Alma Hunt Offering
- Provided sunglasses, readers, toothbrushes to Kenya Medical Missions trip
- Sponsored Missionary Kid with college supplies

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 SDARM 8 am – 1 pm - FH
2 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Shoebox Collection	3	4	5 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	6	7 Women's Get-Away	8 Daniel Collins – Reserve Duty Weekend SDARM 8 am – 1 pm - FH
9 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest Speaker Jack Surma Budget Presentation	10	11 Church Secretary on Vacation	12 Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.	13	14	15 Set up for Thanksgiving Meal
16 Veteran's Sunday Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Thanksgiving Luncheon following Worship Service	17	18 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	19 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22 SDARM 8 am – 1 pm - FH
23 Vote on 2026 Budget Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	24	25	26 No Church Activities	27 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	28	29 SDARM 8 am – 1 pm - FH
30 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am						

Deacon of the Month – Debra Brown

Counters of the Month – Ken Turner & Pat Gusler

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	4	5	6 Daniel Collins – Reserve Duty Weekend SDARM 8 am – 1 pm - FH
7 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest speaker Metz Family Christmas – FH at 12:30 pm Newsletter Info Due- Jan/Feb	8	9	10 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	11	12	13 SDARM 8 am – 1 pm - FH
14 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	15	16 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20 SDARM 8 am – 1 pm - FH
21 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	22	23 Church Secretary on Vacation	24 Church Office Closed Christmas Eve No Church Activities	25 Church Office Closed Christmas Day	26	27 SDARM 8 am – 1 pm - FH
28 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Serv. – 11:00 am	29	30 Church Secretary on Vacation	31 New Year's Eve No Church Activities Church Secretary on Vacation			

Deacon of the Month – Doug Ramsey

Counters of the Month – Doug Ramsey & Donna Winebarger