Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 50 **SHARING THE JOURNEY** **November/December 2026**

Greetings and Salutations in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ!

Well, we're into another fall. As you all know, for me this means a lot of time in the deer blind! Of course, we look forward to Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the beginning of a new year. Praise God for His faithfulness in seeing us to another final part of the year.

When we come to this time of year, have you ever noticed that we begin to make plans? We're most definitely planning wonderful Thanksgiving celebrations with friends and family, then of course we plan for Christmastime by buying gifts, cooking, and fellowship with friends and family. We make those plans in anticipation of the observances that we will have over the holiday season. Sometimes those plans don't work out exactly as we plan them, sometimes they do, but I pray that they are all wonderful celebrations. Aren't you thankful, child of God, that God's plans for us always work out (as long as we're obedient to Him)?

Jeremiah quotes God in Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. "Are you aware that God knows exactly where you are and what you are doing right now? Contrary to popular thought, you are not bouncing haphazardly through time and space. The Creator who formed the universe and everything in it has a specific plan for every person on earth – and He has already set everything in place to provide you with a bright future. This is not just in heaven, but also here on earth. The Lord God has great purposes for you. There is Hope! Friend, your eternal future is secure – and because of that you can rejoice. However, God is also intimately interested in your day-to-day living. All of those details, joys, and troubles you yearn to share with another – He wants you to take to Him because only He can truly be trusted to guide your daily steps. So invite Him into your decisions. He knows how to get you where He wants to take you" (Stanley, Every Day in His Presence).

May we be encouraged and take comfort in God's perfect plan for each of His children!

I pray that you are anticipating a wonderful November and December. Remember that we will be observing All Saints' Day and Veterans Day Sunday with our annual Thanksgiving fellowship following service during the month of November and our Advent/Christmas celebration in worship through the month of December. Be sure to keep our worship in prayer and be sure to SHOW UP! God bless and keep you as we enter the final months of the year!

Daniel
Philippians 4:13



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



Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on **Saturday, October 31!**

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Join us for worship service on **Sunday, November 1**, as we honor those loved ones who've gone on to that Victory this year.

BUSINESS MEETING

The 2027 budget will be presented on **Sunday, November 1** for review. Any changes to the budget will need to be addressed at the quarterly business meeting on **Wednesday, November 11th**. The 2027 budget will be presented for adoption on **Sunday, November 22nd**. 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 22nd.

VETERANS DAY SERVICE & THANKSGIVING MEAL

On **Sunday, November 15,** 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 Veterans Day Sunday bulletin insert. Email Pastor Daniel or Sheila by **Wednesday, November 11**. A covered dish Thanksgiving meal will be held after the worship service. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. The meat will be provided by the church.

GOD CARES MEAL & GAMES

Come enjoy a time of fellowship, devotions, good food, fun and games on **Tuesday, November 17 and December 15** at 11:30 am! There will be something to enjoy for all at this event. Bring your favorite dish to share. Pass the word along to your friends and neighbors.

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 29**, as we celebrate the coming of the Messiah!

hermission
A MOVEMENT OF WOMEN ON MISSION SINCE 1874

Tuesday - November 17 – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday - December 15 - 6:30 p.m.

HOPE PACK FOR GOOD NEWS GLOBAL

As I write this, the first cool mornings of Autumn have arrived in my area. I am looking forward to the colorful changing leaves these Fall months, but not so much the clearing them from my yard. I do enjoy morning walks in the brisk air and evenings around the fire pit with friends and family listening to the crackle of the fire as it knocks off the chill.

I look forward also to the season of thanks and of giving that the season brings. I am thinking of Hope Packs and how they encourage the Correctional Officers and remind Inmates that they are not forgotten. Some inmates who were with us last year are already anticipating their Hope Pack this year and speaking fondly of the treats, the Armor book with the puzzles and Gospel stories, and the highly anticipated pair of Socks! Concrete and steel are very cold in the winter, and those items are much sought after. I am grateful for a community that understands that sharing the Gospel comes in many packages, and sometimes God will use a pair of socks or piece of candy to begin the conversation that leads to Gospel shared and Christ trusted as Savior.

In Christ,
Joe Collins, Chaplain

*OLBC will collect a special offering on **Sunday, November 22** to support the "Hope Pack" ministry. Our goal is $300.

THANK YOU!! This was the best year for donations to fill the boxes. Everyone brought plenty of food, cleanup got taken care of, and we packed 60 boxes! The boxes are in the sanctuary for the packers to continue to pray over them before we have a dedication on November 8th and send them on their way. Thank you again.

MISSION EMPHASIS
Good News Jail Ministry
Goal - $300

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints' Day Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	**2**	**3**	**4** Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	**5**	**6** Women's Get-Away	**7** Daniel -Reserve Duty SDARM – FH 8 am – 1 pm
8 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest Speaker – Jack Surma Shoebox Collection	**9**	**10**	**11** Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.	**12**	**13**	**14** SDARM – FH 8 am – 1 pm
15 Veterans Sunday Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Thanksgiving Fellowship after Worship Service	**16**	**17** God Cares Meal & Games 11:30 a.m. WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	**18** Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	**19**	**20**	**21** SDARM – FH 8 am – 1 pm
22 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Ingathering for GNJM Vote on 2027 Budget	**23**	**24**	**25** No Church Activities	**26** Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	**27**	**28** SDARM – FH 8 am – 1 pm
29 1st Sunday of Advent Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	**30**					

Deacon of the Month – Brenda Ferguson

Counters of the Month – Ken Turner & Pat Gusler

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (Daniel Away)	3	4	5 Daniel – Reserve Duty SDARM – FH 8 am – 1 pm
6 2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest Speaker – Jack Surma Newsletter Info Due- Jan/Feb	7	8	9 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	10	11	12 SDARM – FH 8 am – 1 pm
13 3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	14	15 God Cares Meal & Games 11:30 a.m. WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	17 Church Secretary on Vacation	18	19 SDARM – FH 8 am – 1 pm
20 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	21	22	23 Church Office Closed No Church Activities	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day	26 SDARM – FH 8 am – 1 pm
27 1st Sunday of Christmas Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Serv. – 11:00 am	28	29	30 No Church Activities Church Secretary on Vacation	31 Church Office Closed (New Year's Day)		

Deacon of the Month – Pat Gusler

Counters of the Month – Doug Ramsey & Kaye Cannaday