

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLIX No. 10

Website: www.fbcoakridge.org • Email: fbcoffice@fbcoakridge.org

May 13, 2025



This summer all kids Pre-K through rising 5th graders are invited to **Camp Refresh**, a three day experience filled with worship, crafts, outdoor water play, and Bible exploration. Campers will meet from 10am-12pm on June 20-22, Friday-Sunday. Volunteer sign up has begun! We need volunteers to help serve whether directly with kids or behind the scenes preparing supplies and keeping the activities organized and clean. If you can only help some of the days, that is ok! Sign up in the Narthex or contact Hannah to volunteer. Contact info: hv.simic@gmail.com 865.393.0599.



Friday, June 27, 3-7pm • Saturday, June 28, 10am-3pm

We are still accepting donations of gently used clothing, furniture, household items, and more for our June 27 & 28 rummage sale. Money raised from the sale will be used to replace our church windows. Donations can be dropped off at the church.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

In my sermon a few weeks ago, I shared a funny story about how someone recently had a one-word first impression of me that I thought was wildly inaccurate. If you were to sum me up in one word, what would it be? That person said, "handsome," which I found hilarious. Genuinely. I played it up and made a big joke out of it during the sermon and the sermon moved on. "How would you be summed up?" is the question the sermon was concerned with.

I had several people respond to the sermon that day by pulling me aside and letting me know that they do see me as handsome. I even got a lovely handwritten card in the mail from someone who watched the sermon and wanted to encourage me about it. It's all incredibly kind of you. And I want you to know that I hear you. Perhaps I really *am* handsome...

... for a preacher. You can sum up George Clooney with handsome. I'm handsome for someone who reads the Bible for a living, has two kids, and makes pizza every Friday. Context! I'm handsome... for a preacher.

That's a consolation clause on the end of that compliment. Ever had one of those? Your doctor says, "you're in great shape... for your age." You're playing ball and someone says, "nice shot... for a beginner." Absolutely withering. That consolation clause on the end does provide some context, though!

I wouldn't write an article about this if it didn't have a point, so let's get to it. God loves you. That's it. There's no consolation clause on the end of it. I don't mean "God loves you... for a sinner" or "...for a screw-up" or "...for a hot mess." God loves you and there's no further context needed in order for that to make sense.

Cards on the table. I have a hard time accepting compliments without trying to deflect or qualify or diminish. But let's all put our cards on the table and admit that maybe we have a hard time that God really truly loves us because we see all the stuff on our insides and we can't imagine we seem all that lovable. God may **tolerate** me, or **accept** me, or maybe even **like some parts** of me. But can God really love me without a qualifier or some consolation clause at the back end?

Yeah. God loves you. That's it.

...continued

I'll make a deal with you, OK? I'll try to do better about accepting a compliment every now and then (don't do it all the time or I'll puke), if you can live with what comes next. Just let the period stand at the end of the next sentence and sit with it.

God loves you.

Peace, Rory

NO PRAYER MEETING/BIBLE STUDY
THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH.

THANK YOU!

On Sunday, May 11th, we collected \$888.43 for our Mother's Day Noisy Offering. This will go to the Baptist Children's Home! Thank you for giving to this special ministry that First Baptist has been a part of for many years.



Meetings: Council
& Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Sunday, May 18, 2:00 p.m./ RM 105

PERSONNEL MEETING
Sunday, May 18, *3:00 p.m./ RM 105
(*note time change for this month)

Before His Presence with Singing

"Thy wings shall my petition bear to Him"

If you know what hymn that line is taken from, consider yourself a hymn nerd. The hymn is, "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

Do you pay attention to how a hymn is addressed? To whom or what does it refer? Hymns often have the singer/reader addressing God. Sometimes, they address the sinner. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit is the one to whom we sing. In this case, this hymn *about* prayer is addressed *to* prayer. Interesting. If you look really carefully, you'll even notice that, at least in the case of our hymnal, that the "thys are not capitalized. It's because in this unusual circumstance, they don't refer to God as "thy" often does. They refer to prayer.

Prayer calls to us. When life is challenging us, prayer is there calling us to come for comfort, for consolation, for help. It bids us come to the throne and express need, want, concern, desire.

The hymn refers to Mount Pisgah. It is from Mt. Pisgah that Moses was given, by God, a glimpse of the Promised Land. The land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It was to be the Home of the nation of Israel. From Mt. Pisgah, Moses could see God's promise. Prayer calls us to the place from which we can see God's promise. From this perch, we can see our home, and set off on life's journey.

Prayer is also a resting place. A place of refuge and safety. Prayer can be a familiar place, where we are glad to return for comfort and solace.

The hymn writer, William W. Walford, was blind, but oh how clearly he saw! Those around him, in the mid 1800s, knew him to be a brilliant memorizer of scripture, and knew him to be a brilliant preacher of clarity and precision. His grasp of biblical concept is easily evident here in his hymn.

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
to Him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless;
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet Hour of prayer

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
May I thy consolation share,
Till from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight.
This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise
to seize the everlasting prize;
and shout while passing through the air,
"Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

In Christ, **Tim**



Discussion Group

Movie: The NeverEnding Story (1984) directed by Wolfgang Petersen.

Viewing: Streaming on many pay-per-view platforms for - \$4.

Time & Place: Friday, May 16, 6:30 pm at Joy Reedy's home - [109 Downing Drive, Oak Ridge](#)

Questions: Contact Mike Crowell, Brandon Weaver, or Joy Reedy.

LIBRARY TEAM MEETING

Monday, May 19, 2:00 p.m., RM. 105.

Calling All Graduates!



Do you have a graduating senior in your family? Now is your chance to share that news with your First Baptist Church Family. Simply email any information about your graduate to the church at fbcoffice@fbcoakridge.org or call the church office at (865) 483-4615. Please include the student's full name, his/her connection to First Baptist, and when and from what school he/she is graduating. We will publish the graduates' names in the June 10th First Light newsletter. Graduate information needs to be turned in no later than **Wednesday, May 28**.

JUNE FBCFBC

On Monday, June 2, Melody Turner will lead a discussion of Daniel Silva's *A Death in Cornwall*, an action-packed tale of high-stakes international intrigue. This is the 24th book in Silva's series about Gabriel Allon, and it has been described as both thrilling and thought-provoking. Join us at noon as we talk about this book—and remember that you are welcome to bring your lunch.

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Nursery 11:00 a.m. Jackie Laney & Sandra Davidson
Children's Church... Linda Bunton & Hannah Simic

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Nursery 11:00 a.m. Amber Slessinger & Karry Garcia
Children's Church Jodie Johnson & Debbie Johnson

Prayer Requests

SYMPATHY: *Prayers to FBC's former interim pastor, Ray Lloyd and family at the passing of his wife, Gretta, who passed away May 9, 2025.*

A Celebration of Life Service will be conducted at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, TN on May 16, 2025, with visitation from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and the worship service immediately following at 1:30 p.m. Interment will follow at the Union Cemetery in Newport, TN.

IMMEDIATE: Karen McCall. Wayne Elliott (Doug Turner's friend). The Barker family. Miriam Griffin. Debra Belvin. Jack Cowen. Karen McCall. Vicki Heidle. Anna King. Lois Love (Peggy Geldmeier's niece & Mark & Diane's cousin). Alice Peterson (Chris Peterson's wife). Ulrika Leander (Charlott Bounds' friend). Bobby Bowers. Linda Bunton. Mary Judith White (Glenn Northcutt's sister). Roscoe Shipley. Jim Walls. Becky & Eric (friends of Jonathan & Sarah Ray). Stoney Lowell (friend of Jodie Johnson). Jack Burgan (Jeff Burgan's dad). Larry Carter. Dave Bunton. Katie Emmerson (Ellin Ward's daughter). Debbie Pulliam (Carol O'Shaughnessy's sister). Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Sherry Bath (Gigi Naeve's friend). Tammy Lee (Kay Smith's sister). Adrian Flory. Sandra Burns (Johelen Stephenson's cousin). Wanda Vines (friend of Sandy Davidson). Carolyn Maples (Brandon Weaver's aunt). Joyce Dippel (Jan Stoutland's sister). Robert Darnell (Diane Qualls' brother). Frances Darnell (Diane Qualls' mother). Richard Evans. Cheryl King (Diane William's sister-in-law). Ben Davidson (Tom Davidson's nephew).

LONG TERM: Paul May (Robert May's brother). Mary Jane Williams. Darla Sutton. Virginia Griffith (Lisa Bowers' mother). Bobby Cline (Mark Belvin's brother-in-law). Larry Fields. Scott Ethridge. Rick Nation. Jo Ann Tunstall. Theresa Bowers.



Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming



NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING

ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE

Katie Landis, RM. 217.

CANTERFIELD OF OAK RIDGE

Jean Webster, RM. 303.

COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING

Dot Senn, RM. 105.

LIFE CARE CENTER OF BLOUNT COUNTY

Norval Ziegler, RM. 141.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE

Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

Our Ministry Continues Throughout the Week

Church Office: 483-4615 / 483-4657

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rory Naeve
Minister of Music: Rev. Tim Bounds
Minister of Children: Hannah Simic
Minister of Youth: Rev. Shawn Simic
Church Secretary: Lola Murray
Facilities Manager: Chris Peterson

Wednesday Services

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Services

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. Feast (Youth)