

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLIX No. 22

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

November 5, 2025



Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is November 23, at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The church will provide the meat, bread and drinks. Church members are asked to please bring a generous side dish to share, such as: vegetables, salads or desserts. A small donation will be accepted to cover the cost of the meat.



Calling all musicians! You are welcome to participate in the Christmas Music Extravaganza directly after the Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, November 30, at 5:00 p.m. Each musician, young or old, may perform one piece of music. Please share your talents, great or small with all of us.

Please let Rev. Tim Bounds or Miriam Griffin know by Nov. 16, with the name of your piece, and the composer or arranger.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

Many of you know that our family has been in the weeds here recently with Gigi having a work injury on her hand. Some of you know that my mother also had cataract surgery recently (because you've been gracious enough to talk to her about it and try to reassure her). And a good many of you have been asking about how I'm doing because you know that in the middle of all of this, I'm trying to care for everyone and get everyone where they need to go.

First, let me use my privilege of a platform to thank you for all of that. People have sent cards and brought meals and texted and asked and prayed. Lots and lots of prayers. Thank you, genuinely. We're all grateful for the support and I'm very grateful since it was a lot of me to try to be there for everyone in my family when they all needed me at once. You helped alleviate that pressure and I'm grateful.

But on the heels of that, I'm also grateful for the reminder of one of the best parts of church family. When you need support, when the pressure is building, when you feel like there are too many needs and not enough of you to go around, that's what church does really well. There are times when it can feel like most of church life is just running from one meeting to the next, one event to the next, one project to the next until the calendar turns over and we start all over again. It is that, but all of that serves to hold us together for when church family is needed.

I've been refreshing on my marriage counseling materials recently (new resources have come to light), but I still rely on one that's been around for decades now. It's one from the Gottman Institute. Anyway, the Gottman theory is that successful marriages aren't really about big gestures, finding just the right compatibility partner, or some secret set of rituals. Their theory is that marriages are really a bunch of very small little relational moments that stack up to make us resilient for trying times. It's all of the little inside jokes, moments of holding hands, 4-minute phone calls, and a lifetime of getting your spouse a cup of water that makes sure a marriage lasts.

I've been reminded that this is definitely true of the church. It may seem small to eat a Thanksgiving potluck together, or show up on Wednesdays for a business meeting once a quarter, or shake hands on Sunday mornings, but those small things add up. And then when a kindergartener oopsies your wife's thumb in the wrong direction, you've got what you need to survive.

Thanks for all the little things we do together, church. It really helps.

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

"Take my gifts and let me love you"

I'm amazed at the many ways in which God loves me that I take for granted. Stuff I rarely think about. Daily stuff like waking up. Able to rise from a sleepy bed. Able to mobilize myself to work. Able to work! And what blessed work!

This hymn is from our own time, published in 1992 and speaks plainly and directly to our stewardship of what God has given us.

Shirley Erena Murray was one of the twentieth century's greatest hymnwriters. She was born and lived in New Zealand and has penned several profound hymns. As you will see with this hymn, when you read it below, she has a gift for plain speak and clarity.

I love her assertion that "because your (God's) love has touched me, I have love to give away." And the imagery in that same stanza that, "now the bread of love is rising, loves of love to multiply."

Later she refers to the harvest of Christ's own compassion as the "juice that make the wine of God."

Stanza two is a delight to sing, referring to laughter and humor, and flavor and tang! When's the last time you sang about tang?

The final stanza begins, "Take whatever I can offer – gifts that I have yet to find..." What a prayer! So very current! So pertinent and relevant. Need to brush up on stewardship? Read this hymn:

Take my gifts and let me love You,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.
Now because Your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
Loaves of love to multiply.

Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree Your Spirit sowed,
harvest of Your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter –
flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
Tast and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer –
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love You,
God who first of all loved me.

In Christ, *Tim*

Thank You

Thanks for all the food, prayers and the love shown to me and Ollie from our FBC friends. We have been well fed! Also, a big thank you for all the get well wishes. A special thank you to Paula Howell for driving me to my surgery at 4:30 a.m. and Pastor Rory for showing up before surgery.

Jan Stoutland



Meetings: Council & Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, November 9, 2:00 p.m., RM. 105

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, November 9, 3:00 p.m., RM. 105

PERSONNEL MEETING

Sunday, November 9, 4:00 p.m., RM. 105



NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING

It's Never Too Early to Think About Christmas!

November's Noisy Offering Sunday, Nov. 16th will support the Angel Tree program that serves local school children. Rather than pulling tags off a tree in a local store, we will partner with the Family Resource Center of Oak Ridge Schools (FRC). The FRC has provided Christmas gifts for local children in need for over 20 years. The FRC staff screens all families to ensure that they would not be served without this program. Our offering will directly benefit the children.

AGAPE NEEDS

Agape would like to provide cake mixes & frosting to clients in December. Please help in this project. Thank you!

Agape will be closed November 27 (Thanksgiving), December 25 (Christmas) & January 1 (New Years Day)

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

We will be going to Corbin, KY on Saturday, November 15th to help Scarlette Jasper and Olive Branch ministries set up their Christmas box operation that operates out of the gym at First Baptist Church Corbin. We will be meeting at the First Baptist Oak Ridge at 8 a.m. on Nov 15th and will be returning in the afternoon. When we return the youth will have dinner and have some structured time to discuss the experience. Pick up at First Baptist Oak Ridge will be at 7 p.m. Sign up with Shawn.

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Business Meeting is to vote on the slate of officers, deacons, trustees, committees, and service groups. A list of candidates will be available at the meeting.



Discussion Group

Movie: Baby Boom (1987) starring

Diane Keaton.

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

Time & Place: Friday, November 21, 6:30 pm at Joy Reedy's home - 109 Downing Drive, Oak Ridge

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, Nov. 27th & Friday, Nov. 28th

Happy Thanksgiving!

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Nursery 11:00 a.m.Karry Garcia & Susan Williams
Children's ChurchFirst Christian & Lela Moore

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Nursery 11:00 a.m.
Children's Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Nursery 11:00 a.m.Karry Garcia & Susan Williams
Children's ChurchFirst Christian & Lela Moore

Prayer Requests

IMMEDIATE: Cheri & Don Floyd, missionaries to Papua New Guinea (Dianne May's cousin). Nancy Cole (Melody Turner's sister). Mark Bunton (Linda & Dave Bunton's son). Jessica Saddler (Adrienne & Gary Giles' daughter). Ronnie Scates (Julie Keeth's friend). Robert May. Gigi Naeve. Jan Stoutland. Karen McCall. Jimmy Breeden (Joy Arehart's nephew). Jason Byrd (Anna King's husband). Gerhart (Gary) Krogfuss. Mickey Moss. Dayton King (Diane Williams' brother). Callie Walls Foster (Jim Walls' granddaughter). Ray Roach (Tim Bounds' brother-in-law). Carol O'Shaughnessy. Donna Packwood's family. Ray Lloyd. Becky Seiber (Diana Giles' mother). Katie Emmerson (Ellin Ward's daughter). Robert Darnell (Diane Qualls' brother). Anna King. Larry Carter. Dave Bunton. Debbie Pulliam (Carol O'Shaughnessy's sister). Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Adrian Flory.

LONG TERM: Ulrika Leander (Charlotte Bounds' friend). Mary Jane Williams. Vicki Heidle. Andrew Bobbott (son of Diane Ray's friend, Nan). Sherry Bath (Gigi Naeve's friend). Luke Newman. Beth Ingle. Jim Walls. Stoney Lowell (friend of Jodie Johnson). Joyce Dippel (Jan Stoutland's sister). Cheryl King (Diane William's sister-in-law). Sandra Burns (Johelen Stephenson's cousin). Megan Elliott (friend of the Turners). Carolyn Maples (Brandon Weaver's aunt). Ben Davidson (Tom Davidson's nephew). Wanda Vines (friend of Sandy Davidson). Virginia Griffith (Lisa Bowers' mother). Larry Fields. Rick Nation. Jo Ann Tunstall. Theresa Bowers.



Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming

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



NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING

ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE

Katie Landis, RM. 217.

COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING

Dot Senn, RM. 105.

LIFE CARE OF BLOUNT COUNTY

Norval Ziegler, RM. 141.

NHC OAK FARRAGUT

Lynn Edd Story, RM. 223.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE

Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

THE GLEN AT OAK RIDGE

Jean Webster, RM. 102-103.

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)