

# First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. L No. 01

Website: [www.fbcoakridge.org](http://www.fbcoakridge.org) • Email: [fbcoffice@fbcoakridge.org](mailto:fbcoffice@fbcoakridge.org)

January 06, 2026



Don't miss our upcoming Trivia Night and Soup Supper, Sunday, January 25, at 5:00 p.m. Come for an evening of great fun, food and fellowship. Bring your favorite soup or dessert to share. The church will provide drinks and bread.

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# REFLECTIONS

*"Calling them like I see them"*

Two things for this first article of the year.... Maybe three.

First off, as you are reading this, it's now Epiphany, which is the season of the church year that follows Christmas. It always happens on January 6, which if you count down from Christmas, will finally make sense out of that one Christmas carol with all the birds in it! Quit distracting me. We've got serious business to talk about. Epiphany literally means "coming of the light." Jesus is the light of the world, so it makes sense to have a season about reveling in that light, right? Well, for our purposes on Sunday mornings, we'll be talking about what Jesus tells us about *us* being the light of the world. And also the salt of the earth. I can't say any more now because then I won't have anything left to say this Sunday. But here's a pretty image.

Second: the last Sunday of this month will be our annual Team Trivia Night and soup supper. Bring some soup or a dessert to share and then join a table to answer my inane



questions. Your whole table comes up with the answers together. It's a team sport, so don't worry about having to know everything. It's a bunch of fun and a great way to chat up folks you may not know yet in the church.

That's really all I planned on saying, but thinking about my conversation with Family Life, I wanted to urge all of you who are part of teams and committees to come together in this first part of the year. Family Life put a bunch of their stuff on the calendar and that really helps to make sure we all know what we're doing and not booking things on top of one another. Do us a favor. Meet up, figure out your meeting times and let the church office know what you come up with. It really helps out a lot. OK that's it. Go study up on State Capitals or something.

*Peace, Rory*

## *Before His Presence with Singing*

*Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.*

I've said it multiple times before, but I'm going to say it again. And if you're tired of hearing it, just turn your head for a moment. I love plainspeak hymns. Hymn texts that sound conversational and not like manufactured poetry.

Today's hymn is a product of the 21st century. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend are the authors. Their hymn, "Speak, O Lord" is a jewel.

There's an element to this hymn that isn't spelled out in the text, but which is essential to reaping the rich produce that lies within. That element is the work of God. The singer petitions God to "speak, plant, teach, test and help" us. The singer then needs to listen, grow, learn and cooperate. God's presence and God's action are inescapable essentials to worship, and to life in Christ.

Uniquely, the first and third stanzas of this hymn don't rhyme. Message trumps rhyme. And in the second stanza, which does happen to rhyme, it's almost as if the rhyme happens accidentally and not on purpose. Nowhere do I get the sense that words have been carefully rearranged to make a rhyme. And yet, the message and the content are complete, and the substance of the final product is poetic in quality. The petition, asking that God speak to us, is fully articulated with many facets sparkling in the singing.

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us,  
shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,  
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace, we'll stand on Your promises.  
And by faith, we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory

In Christ, *Tim*

JOIN US FOR  
**BIBLE STUDY**

**We will resume Wednesday night Bible study this Wednesday, January 7, at 6 PM in the fellowship hall**

**CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL  
ALSO RESUMES AT 7:15 PM.**



**The Fellowship Table scheduled for this Friday, January 9 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.**



**Meetings: Council  
& Committee**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Sunday, January 11, 2:00 p.m., RM. 105

**DEACONS MEETING**

Sunday, January 11, 3:00 p.m., RM. 105

**PERSONNEL MEETING**

Sunday, January 11, 4:00 p.m., RM. 105

## **AGAPE NEEDS!**

The Agape Help Center needs clean winter clothing for adults and children. Items can be put in bins near the front and rear entry doors. Also, clean out your kitchen cupboard and donate in-date food. Thank you!

## **ECUMENICAL STOREHOUSE**

**Our schedule for service will resume in January as follows:** Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, through the end of Jan. 2026.

Signup sheets will be available in the foyer and the church office. If you have questions, please contact Linda Williamson at (865) 805-5949 or Jim Williamson at (865) 719-6409.

## **ECUMENICAL NEEDS!**

The Ecumenical Storehouse is also in need of gently used or new twin blankets and bedspreads as well as twin, full, and queen mattress covers.



## **Discussion Group**

**Movie:** Star Trek Into Darkness (2013) starring Chris Pine.

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

**Time & Place:** Friday, Jan. 16, 6:30 pm at Joy Reedy's home (109 Downing Drive, O.R.)

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



**LIBRARY TEAM MEETING  
Monday, January 19, 2:00 p.m.**

## Prayer Requests

**SYMPATHY:** The First Baptist Church family extends heartfelt sympathy to Jan Stoutland at the passing of her husband, Ollie Stoutland, who passed away Saturday, January 3, 2026.

The family will receive friends Saturday, January 31, from 1 -2 PM at First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge. The funeral will follow at 2 PM.

**IMMEDIATE:** Jan Stoutland. Kathy Keathley (Lola Murray's sister-in-law). Pat Row. Beth Ingle. Ellin Ward. Harold Matelski (Lee Howell's father-in-law). Jim Gibson. Ellie Bounds (Tim Bounds' sister-in-law). 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. 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). 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). Vicki Heidle. Andrew Bobbett (son of Diane Ray's friend, Nan). Sherry Bath (Gigi Naeve's friend). Jim Walls. Stoney Lowell (friend of Jodie Johnson). 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.



## NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING

### ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE

Katie Landis, RM. 217.

### COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING

Lynn Edd Story, RM. 107.

Dot Senn, RM. 105.

### LIFE CARE OF BLOUNT COUNTY

Norval Ziegler, RM. 141.

### SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE

Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

### THE GLEN AT OAK RIDGE

Jean Webster, RM. 102-103.



Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

[www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming](http://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

## 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)