

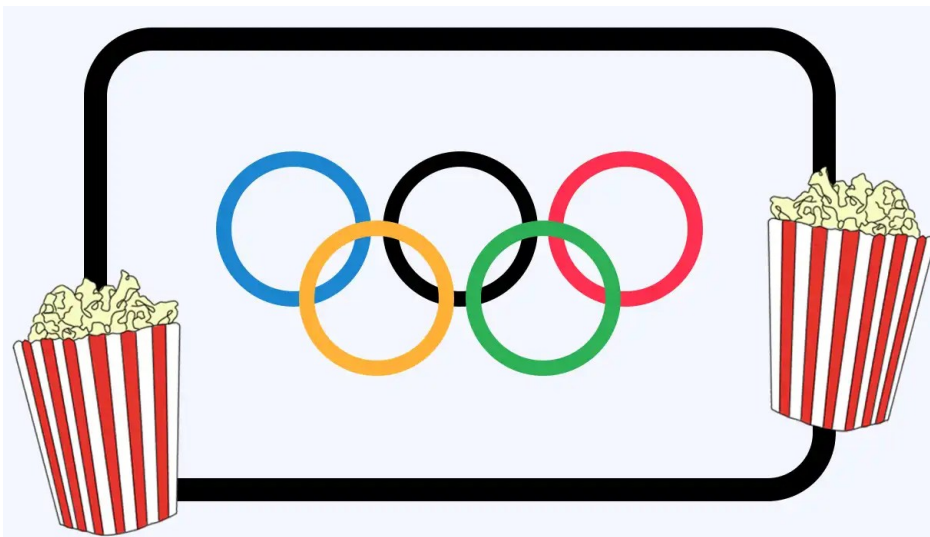
First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. L No. 03

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

February 3, 2026



WINTER OLYMPICS WATCH PARTY

Join us for a Winter Olympics Watch Party in the Youth Area on Sunday, February 15, from 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. Come watch the athletes compete while enjoying plenty of games and Pickleball. Please bring finger foods to share!

FIRST LIGHT (008286) is published weekly except Christmas and July 4 by First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, TN. **Periodicals Postage Paid**, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **FIRST LIGHT**, 1101 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Phone: (865) 483-4615/4657

REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

I've been thinking about the powers that be. That doesn't mean any particular government, but it includes them. The powers aren't just some elite class at the top of the social order, though they certainly have an outsized influence. The powers that be aren't celebrities or influencers or even the majority opinion. The powers that be are kind of all of them and beyond them. It's whatever that thing is that insists that all is normal just the way it is.

But it's not.

We all think of going to work 40 hours a week and then taking 2 days off, and getting a few weeks of vacation a year as normal. But the 5-day workweek wasn't a thing until about 100 years ago, likewise with 8 hour work days, vacation time, motor vehicles, grocery stores, television, the fact that most everyone can read! These are all cool things, but they are unbelievably new in terms of human history and that makes them not normal. They happened because people worked and fought and experimented to make something cool and better.

Likewise, the hard parts of the current reality are not normal either. Just because we've gotten used to hearing stories about powerful people doing whatever they want without repercussions doesn't mean it's normal. Just because we hear stories about violence and injustice every week, doesn't mean it's always been like this. These things aren't normal and they haven't always been this way. That's just the powers that be trying to make sure things keep working in their favor.

As Shawn reminded us yesterday, Jesus has laid out a path to a better way of being, a Kingdom based on God's ways. Jesus' way is about equality, generosity, goodness, and love. The reason why the cool things we have exist are because good people believed they could exist and worked for it. The entire Christian faith is a bold insistence that things can change and that we can do something better, by God.

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

they who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

Today's article is written on the heels of the wake and Celebration of Life for Robert May, a dear and treasured friend. Death is on my mind a lot. Since the death of my brother Mark, who died on the mission field in 1995 from what appeared to be a reaction to an insect bite — a seemingly senseless and random cause of death — I have coped by turning full face to God and putting all of my trust in Him and His plan. He knew where Mark was. Knew Mark's value in ministry, yet Mark's death still somehow fit the plan.

It's very hard not to think of this earthly life as the ultimate. Hard not to feel and live as if the end of this life for those we love, and having them taken from us, is senseless, cruel, and just the manifestation of a bad idea. But the sobering, faith-demanding reality is that God planned it this way, and did so for our own good. 2 Corinthians 4:7 says, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." If you mine that verse for its full meaning, you'll begin to see that God's way is essential and God's way is best.

So, to trust Him wholly, to trust that His plan and His promise is embedded in even the death of our loved ones — sometimes even the untimely, seemingly much too soon death of our loved ones, is to find Him wholly true. Such intimacy with the Father really does bring peace like a glorious river. And it can bring full blessing to the heart that trusts in Him.

Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,
over all victorious in its bright increase;
perfect yet it floweth fuller every day;
perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,
never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

Every joy or trial falleth from above,
traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.
We may trust Him fully all for us to do.
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blessed;
Finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest.

-Frances Ridley Havergal

In Christ, *Tim*



Meetings: Council & Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, February 8, 2:00 p.m., RM. 105

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, February 8, 3:00 p.m., RM. 105

PERSONNEL MEETING

Sunday, February 8, 4:00 p.m., RM. 105

Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

6:00 p.m.

(in the sanctuary)



Discussion Group

Movie: Fail Safe (1964)
starring Henry Fonda.

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

Time & Place: Friday, February 20, 6:30 pm
at Joy Reedy's home - [109 Downing Drive, O.R.](#)

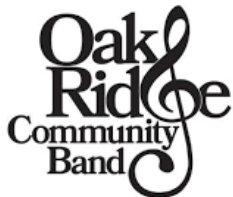
Questions: Contact Mike Crowell, Brandon Weaver, or Joy Reedy.



The next Fellowship Table is Friday, February 13, 12:00 - 1:00p.m. in the fellowship hall. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased immediately before and after worship service on Feb. 8th. The main entrée will be Lasagna. Come as early as 11:30a.m. and enjoy fellowship around hors d'oeuvres, although serving of the meal will not begin until 12 Noon. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Stoutland.

Child & Youth Volunteer Training

A required Child and Youth Abuse Policy training will be held on March 1 from 3:30-5:00 PM in the youth area for all children's and youth volunteers. If you are unable to attend, please contact Shawn Simic to arrange an alternative training session.



WINTER SHOWCASE CONCERT

The Oak Ridge Community Band will present its Winter Showcase Concert on Sunday afternoon, February 15, in the sanctuary at 3 p.m. This is a FREE event and will include band and area musicians in small ensembles or as soloists performing a variety of musical selections. www.orcb.org

*Love is patient
Love is kind...*

1 Corinthians 13:4

Prayer Requests

IMMEDIATE: Dianne May. Nancy Denton. Ray Seiber (Diana Giles' father). Susan Alderson (friend of Mickey Moss). Junell Brock (Peggy Geldmeier's niece). Jan Stoutland. Pat Row. Beth Ingle. Ellin Ward. Harold Matelski (Lee Howell's father-in-law). Jim Gibson. Cheri & Don Floyd, missionaries to Papua New Guinea (Dianne May's cousin). Mark Bunton (Linda & Dave Bunton's son). Ronnie Scates (Julie Keeth's friend). Gigi Naeve. Karen McCall. Jimmy Breeden (Joy Arehart's nephew). Jason Byrd (Anna King's husband). Gerhart (Gary) Krogfuss. 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.



fbc

Oak Ridge

Loving God, Loving Others

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

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)