

SMALL GROUPS | GRIEF SUPPORT | SENIOR ADULTS | EVENTS

the messenger

LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE / FEBRUARY 2023

JOY!

AND
THE
LORD
ADDED...



CONNECT CAMPS
GATHERING

FROM
THE
PASTOR'S
DESK

A DROP
FROM
THE ALTAR

YOU ARE
ENOUGH

as a parent, do you believe
these truths about yourself?

8 Week Course Beginning March 1st

FAITH FORMATION



STUDENTS AGES 11 – 17
Sign Up on the App by Feb. 27

articles & devotions

07 **from the pastor's desk**

If ever we need to experience God's love and share it in our families, churches, and communities it is now.

08 **you are enough**

God will use you to shape the way your child sees Him and help your children understand the way God sees them.

10 **joy**

Is there joy in your worship?

12 **and the Lord added**

There are several philosophies of church growth.

newsletter & updates

15 **senior adults**

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do..."

16 **grief support**

The Grief Support Group had their annual Christmas Dinner in December

19 **kids ministry**

Some of our team spent a few days getting ready for Connect Camps.

5 MONTHLY EVENTS

14 SMALL GROUPS

19 A DROP FROM THE ALTAR

22 MEET OUR TEAM

joy! pg. 10



LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE

LIVE OOK Ladies

Spring Tea

APRIL 1 • 10A • FLC

Guest Speaker
Jill Dasher

TICKETS GO ON SALE MARCH 1

\$10/PER TICKET | AGES: 7TH GRADE & UP

FEBRUARY 2023 | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A TIME AND A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

For more information about groups and events visit www.liveoak.church or call (225) 664-4801

- WEEKLY CALENDAR -

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Worship Service
 8:45 AM Children & Pre-Teen Sunday School
 Sherri Gardner: K-3rd - Room #214
 Jodi Rushing: 4th - 6th - Room #213
 8:45 AM Student Ministry:
 Linda Johnson: 7-11th Grade - Upstairs in FLC
 Nathan Lott: 12th Grade - Age 25 - Upstairs in FLC
 8:45 AM Adult Co-ed Sunday School Classes:
 Pastor Mark Crosby - Choir Room
 Dickie Davis - Room #202
 Sam LoBello - New Members Class - Room #102
 8:45 AM Senior Adults Sunday School Class:
 Layne Hutchinson - Room #201
 9:30 AM Co-ed Sunday School Class:
 Robert Poole - Room #211
 9:30 AM Children's Church
 9:30 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel
 9:30 AM Worship Service
 10:00 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:
 Jonny Carroll - Upstairs in FLC
 11:00 AM Children's Church
 11:00 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel
 11:00 AM Worship Service

MONDAY

6:30 PM Women's Deeper Life - Chapel
 6:30 PM Men's Deeper Life - Room #201
 6:30 PM Men's Home Bible Study - Robert Poole's House

TUESDAY

6:30 PM - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month - Chapel
 Stephen Hebert - Battlefield of the Mind

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC
 9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online
 6:00 - 7:15 PM Kingdom Kidz: Kindergarten - 3rd Grade
 6:00 - 7:30 PM Axis 456: 4th, 5th and 6th Grade
 6:00 - 7:30 PM Student Ministry: 7th - 12th Grade
 6:30 - 7:20 PM Dr. Mark's Class - Adults
 6:30 - 7:20 PM Bible Recap - Ladies - Room #202

THURSDAY

6:00 PM Men's Play and Pray Basketball - FLC
 7:00 PM Refuge - Room #201

FRIDAY

5:30 AM Iron Man Study - Room #202
 6:00 PM Adult Co-ed Bible Study - Room #202

- ADULT EVENTS -

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

8:45am in Room #102
 4 Week class that restarts the first Sunday of every month.
 Email Sam LoBello at sam@loumc.org

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

6:30pm in the Chapel
 Second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
 For more information email Stephen Hebert at stephen@loumc.org

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Prayer Breakfast
 Second Saturday of each month at 7:30am in Room #202.

LIVE OAK LADIES

Bible Recap
 Wednesdays at 6:30PM in the Room #202.

- STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULTS -

FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

Friday, February 3

Considering Becoming a Member of Live Oak Church?
 It begins right here!

CONNECT CARD

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE CHURCH, PLEASE USE THIS CARD TO GET CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AND YOUR FAMILY INFORMATION. THIS CARD WILL BE USED TO ADD YOU TO THE CHURCH ROSTER AND TO NOTIFY YOU OF CHURCH EVENTS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

AGE:

SEX: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

CHURCH INFORMATION

☐ FIRST TIME GUEST ☐ RETURNING GUEST

☐ MEMBER OF LIVE OAK CHURCH

FAMILY INFORMATION

NAME OF SPOUSE:

NAME OF CHILDREN:

NAME OF CHILDREN:

NAME OF CHILDREN:

CHURCH INFORMATION

☐ CHURCH A PROVERB REQUEST ☐ WISH TO JOIN THE CHURCH

☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM ☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM

☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM ☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM

☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM ☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM

☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM ☐ I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM

LIVE OAK

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January was fantastic as we saw our pre-COVID attendance numbers back. During a time when churches are closing, denominations are splitting, and “none’s” are growing; by the grace of God, we are experiencing the faithfulness of God’s people and God’s blessing here at Live Oak Church.

We are so grateful for the attendance on Wednesday night for our “Reason To Believe” worship service. To see over 500 people on our campus on Wednesday night is amazing, humbling, and exciting. So we are off to a good start in 2023.

In February, we have a “sermon series” tradition of preaching on “Love, Marriage, and Relationships.” We have always found this series to be a blessing to most of our congregation in that these areas are areas most of us face daily. This month we will look at how to create relationships and marriages that are strong, stable, secure, and safe. We will also look at what God’s Word says about love; and the importance of understanding how God’s love changes our lives and relationships.

There is so much happening in our world as we experience mass shootings, rioting,



FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

*If ever we need to
experience God’s love and
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churches, and communities
it is now.*

invasions in Europe, threats from China, and record-breaking weather events, just to name a few; if ever we need to experience God’s love and share it in our families, churches, and communities it is now.

We hope you will join us this month as we focus on Love, Marriage, and Relationships.

Hope to see you Sunday!



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor

YOU ARE ENOUGH



by Trish Graves

I don't just want my kids to be moral. I don't just want them to know all of the biblical rules for behavior. I don't just want them to go through my home with good grades, and no drug addiction. I want them to leave my home with a hunger and passion to know God personally and to be used by Him to accomplish great things for His kingdom.

— Sally Clarkson

“Raising your kids will be the hardest thing you ever do, and it will hurt more than anything you’ve ever done.”

That was the words of my father-in-law when we had our first child in our twenties. We had only been married two years, were still figuring each other out, and had no idea what he meant. It didn't take long though to fully understand. Parenting is HARD.

There are so many books, YouTube videos, and podcasts on parenting that it can be overwhelming. Everyone seems to know the perfect formula for raising exceptional kids. But what you will quickly figure out is that there is no perfect formula. Parenting is fun, challenging, joyful and frustrating, all at the same time. And we often wish that someone would just tell us how to solve all of our parenting problems and help us navigate the tough situations and hard conversations. When gut-wrenching situations hit us hard, we can't quit or ball up in a corner and fall apart. We have to manage these challenges, even when we don't feel like it.

Sometimes biblical parenting goes against what the “experts” are telling us. The purpose of biblical parenting is to train children to know God, love God, and honor Him. This can't be achieved by behavioral training alone; it requires a transformation of the heart. So much of the information available to us about parenting focuses on behavior modification and not much is said about teaching children that God loves them even more than we do, that they have a purpose and that He has plans for them.

Things begin to change in a child's mind when they start to realize how important they are to God. That he formed them in the womb and put his thumbprint on them. In my job, I see a lot of broken kids. Kids whose identity is coming from their peers or their influencers. We talk a lot about how they were made by God, for God, and for a purpose. They have to be told over and over, because the world teaches them differently. The world teaches them they aren't smart enough, tall enough, pretty enough, strong enough, athletic enough, skinny enough, and so much more. The only way a child can break through the pressure to “be enough” is to teach them how much God loves them. Tell them every day. Tell them before they leave for school in the morning. Tell them before they go to a friend's house. Tell them before every competition. Tell them. Back it up with scripture. Get your Bible out and show them God's word about them.

One last thought... as a parent, do you believe these truths about yourself? As adults, we are greatly influenced by our culture and environment. Do you know and understand how much God loves you? That He has plans for you and made you in His image? Jeremiah 1:5 says “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” Parenting is a lifelong commitment and you have to be ready to play for the long haul. There isn't one experience, episode or conversation that gives you the answer, but over time, God will use you to shape the way your child sees Him and help your children understand the way God sees them. And because God loves you, God is FOR you. He will help you as you fulfill your responsibility of raising your children. 🌿



EXPERIENCING GOD BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

Our Experiencing God Women's Bible Study meets on Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. This study will be led by Jan Tate.

This may be the most rewarding Bible study you have ever been involved in. Many people have been told about God and have read about God, but do not know Him personally.

This Deeper Life study will help you actually encounter and experience God and develop a personal relationship with Him. God wants to be your best friend. This study will help make that happen.



Worship songs talk often about the “joy of the Lord,” or “rejoicing” in God’s presence and His goodness. Depending on what translation of the Bible you prefer, there are roughly 200 instances of the word “joy” and another 200+ instances of the word “rejoice” throughout the Scriptures. So what is true joy? What does Biblical rejoicing look like?

In today’s culture, we often use the terms “joy” and “happiness” interchangeably. But true joy - the joy the Scriptures speak of so often - is a deeper, richer source than just happiness itself. No circumstance or situation can take joy from us. If we see happiness as “surface level,” then joy is the deep-rooted, foundation of life and unshakeable rejoicing within our souls.

Psalms 87 speaks of worshippers declaring to the Lord, “all my fountains are in You.” These fountains are a well-spring of life, bursting forth from the deepest places of our souls. As worshipers, we can declare this line with the psalmist when our ultimate joy is rooted in the

never-ceasing well of Christ - our joy for His glory. Each of us will still experience seasons of pain and difficulty, or grief and loss - that is part of the nature of the human experience living in a fallen world - but deeper than each of those struggles is the joy of Christ’s saving work in our lives, the “joy of His salvation,” and the promise of God’s faithfulness through every season.

One of the notable mentions of joy in the Scriptures is found in Psalm 51. Here, David is repenting of his sin for committing adultery with Bathsheba. In this psalm, David declares “create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit” (Ps. 51:10-12). As David repents of his sin, he pleads for God’s grace and compassion to wash him and make his life clean again. In this process, David specifically lists God restoring the joy of His salvation in his life. For David, and others throughout history, they recognized “the joy of the Lord

is their strength” (Neh. 8:10). David knew it is essential for God’s saving work to produce the fruit of joy in a believer’s life. As we reflect and respond on what the Lord has done to forgive us, to cleanse us from sin, and to restore our relationship with Him, we cannot help but respond with thankfulness, gratitude, joy, and ultimately, worship.

As our lives are centered around the joy of the Lord, we are called to serve Him and His church from the overflowing fountain of His work in our lives. Psalm 100:1-2 encourages us to “shout joyfully to the Lord all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing.” Gladness is not just an emotion. Gladness is a byproduct of our joy, the deep-rooted substance in our lives.

Is there joy in your worship? Regardless of your background, your perspective, or your preferences, does Christ’s salvation produce joy in your life that overflows into worship? Does the atoning work of Christ to pay for your sins and renew your heart produce a heart that rejoices in His salvation? Do others see that joy within you, flowing out to shine His light into a dark and depressed world? If not, may you pray like David: “God, create in me a clean heart; restore in me the joy of Your salvation.”

This month, we are introducing a new song into the life of the church called “House of the Lord” by Phil Wickham. This upbeat worship song is a great declaration of the joy that should be present in the lives of all believers. As Phil Wickham said, “The house of the Lord isn’t something made by hands or by man. It’s you and it’s me who call ourselves believers in Jesus.” As believers, we each have a calling and a commission to impact the world with the love - and the joy - of Jesus Christ. The world around us desperately needs to experience the life-transforming power of His love, and have their lives changed by the deep-rooted joy of Christ. Jesus himself prayed in John 17:13 “that they (we) may have the full measure of My joy within them.” Jesus prayed for His joy to be bursting forth within us. He prayed that the deep-rooted source of our joy would be centered and grounded in the fullness of Christ’s joy - enduring the cross, defeating the grave, and interceding on our behalf (Heb. 12:2).

May each of us be encouraged to take a stand for our faith and share the hope of Christ’s joy within us. That is our calling and commission as believers. Let’s share the joy of the Lord inside of us with those around us - in our schools, our jobs, our homes, and even our church. Let the house of the Lord sing praise! 🍷

true joy — the joy the Scriptures speak of — is a deeper, richer source than just happiness



...AND THE LORD ADDED...



by Sam LoBello

There are several philosophies of church growth.

The Methodist Denomination proposes that you grow a church through the Worship Services. As Jesus is exalted and God's Word is proclaimed, people come together in corporate worship as a community of faith to extend thanks and praise to God. As a result, God is glorified and believers are edified. In addition, those that are not believers hear the Gospel proclaimed and have the opportunity to believe in Jesus and be saved.

The Baptist Denomination proposes that you grow a church through the Sunday School as people come together in Small Groups to study God's Word together. As a result, people feel connected to the life of the church and as people study God's Word and fellowship together, people's needs are discovered and ministered to. In addition, those that are not believers hear the Gospel proclaimed and have the opportunity to believe in Jesus and be saved.

I don't know that one of these church growth philosophies alone is adequate. What I do know is that the Acts 2 model of church growth is.

"42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in

need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

v. 42a-Bible study

v. 42b-Fellowship

v. 42c-Prayer

vv. 44-45-Ministry

v. 46-Worship

And as they did, they were filled with awe, joy and praise unto God. And as a result, God added to the church those who were being saved!

As these first century believers participated together in worship, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, ministry the F.O.G. moved over them. The favor of God...and GOD added to His church! People came to saving faith in Jesus and the church grew!

I am grateful to God for adding to Live Oak Church even through the trying times of the 2016 flood, the COVID Pandemic and our disaffiliation from the United Methodist Denomination. We serve an awesome God! The only true and living God. He is willing to show His favor to those who humbly seek Him and graciously add to His church. 🍀

Biblegr Recap



LIVE  OK Ladies

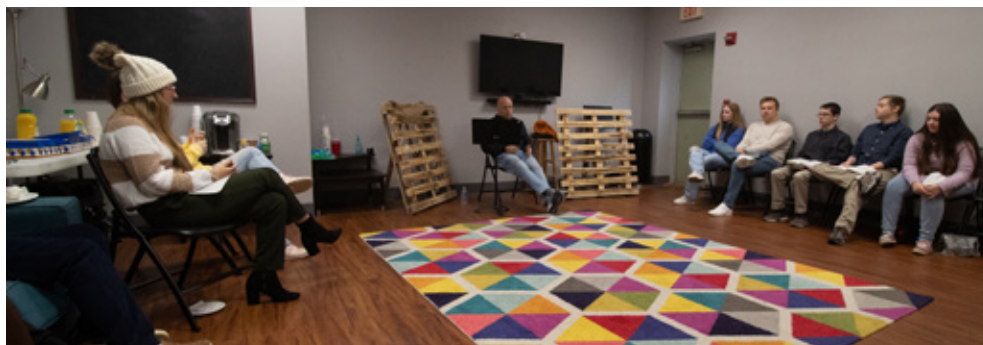
Read through the Bible in a year with the encouragement, help and support of your fellow sisters in Christ.



EVERY
WEDNESDAY
AT 6:30P
IN THE
CONFERENCE
ROOM



SMALL GROUPS



- SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS -

Starting at 8:45 AM

Pastor's Coed Class - 2nd Timothy - Choir Room
Dickie's Coed Class - The Book of Acts - Room #202
Bro. Sam's - New Member Class - Room #102
Wesley Senior Adult Class - Explore the Bible - Room #201

Starting at 9:30 AM

Robert's Coed Class - Book of Romans - Room #211
Todd & Sealy Couple's Class - Miracles of Jesus - Room #202

Starting at 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

5:00 PM - Nathan Lott - Young Adult Group - FLC
6:00 PM - Layne Hutchinson's Doctrinal Study (Coed) - Room #202

- WEEKDAY SMALL GROUPS -

Monday - 6:30 PM

Deeper Life Women - Experiencing God - Jan Tate - Chapel
Deeper Life Men: Explore the Bible - David Tate - Room #201
Men's Home Group - Robert Poole - Robert Poole's Home

Tuesday - 6:30 PM

Grief Support Group - (2nd & 4th Tuesday) - Stephen Hebert - Chapel
Battlefield of the Mind - (1st & 3rd Tuesday) - Stephen Hebert - Chapel

Wednesday 6:30

Worship & Study - A Reason to Believe - Pastor Mark - Sanctuary
Coed Home Group - Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home
Ladies Bible Recap - Room #202 - Jeanette Clark

Thursday

6:00 PM - Men's Play & Pray Basketball and Lesson - Jim Otken - FLC
7:00 PM - REFUGE Addiction Recovery - Sam LoBello - Room #201

Friday

5:30 AM - v Gospel of John - JMen's Group - Jim Otken - Room #202
6:00 PM - 1 John - Coed - Robert Poole - Room #202



SENIOR ADULTS



"COMMIT TO THE LORD WHATEVER YOU DO, AND YOUR PLANS WILL SUCCEED. IN HIS HEART A MAN PLANS HIS COURSE, BUT THE LORD DETERMINES HIS STEPS." -PROVERBS 6:3

by Landra Reed

There's a peace that comes with putting your trust in the Lord. A type of peace that has no room for fear. It makes your heart leap with joy and your voice singing praises, "Thank you Abba Father!"

February is the season of love. So let's join together to celebrate one another. This Valentine's Day, February 14th, we will

join together at Longhorn in Denham Springs at 11:00am for lunch. Make sure to sign up at the kiosk or with Nancy McGraw. You may also call me [Landra].

On March 3rd we are going on a swamp tour, and then having lunch at Middendorfs. There are approximately only 10 spots left for the swamp tour. If you wish

to meet us for lunch however, you may do so at 12:30. The cost for the swamp tour is \$50 per person. Make sure to sign up with Nancy McGraw, or the kiosk, or myself. We will be leaving the church by coach bus on the 3rd at 7:40 a.m. 🌿

LIVE OAK CHURCH

QUILTING MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS AT 8 AM IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
COME JOIN US!



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



The Grief Support Group had their annual Christmas Dinner at Duke's in Watson on December 13th.



LIVE OOK CHURCH

we are driven by a single goal:
to do our part in leading people
into a growing relationship with
Jesus Christ

JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF

at Live Oak Church

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month

6:30pm in the Chapel

**For More
Information Contact:**

Pastor Stephen

Stephen@loumc.org

REFUGE

Support. Instruction. Accountability.

"Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."



Thursdays at 7pm

**STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.
WE MEET IN ROOM #201.
COME JOIN US!**



Check out the back cover of *The Messenger* for dates!





Opportunities for Men in February

Mondays at 6:30 PM

Deeper Life Group...The Gospel of John...Room #201
Home Bible Study...Book of Romans...1403 Weeping Willow DS

Thursdays

6:00 PM...Play & Pray Basketball w/ Lesson...FLC
7:00 PM...REFUGE Addiction Recovery Group



Launching
Saturday, Feb. 11
at 7:30 AM
at Our Men's
Prayer Breakfast
in Room #202

Gridiron Men's **Conference**

June 16-17, 2023

Sign up now on Church
App or by emailing
sam@loumc.org

Cost: \$175





A DROP FROM THE ALTAR by sam lobello

One of my seminary professors used to say to his class while teaching, “This is a drop from the altar.” He was communicating to his students that what he was about to say was important and may well appear on the next test. As a result, it would be wise for us to remember it.

As I have journeyed through life God has given me “Drops from the Altar” from time to time. I have tried to remember them and apply them to my life. I will share one with you each month. I hope you find them to be helpful in your journey, as well.

***“God doesn’t cause, but uses...
TROUBLE to teach us to trust Him
TEMPTATION to teach us to obey Him
TRESPASSES to teach us to forgive”***

- Rick Warren



MEET OUR TEAM

Coming together from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, our skilled team of pastors and ministry professionals are the backbone of Live Oak Church. Their ideas and leadership help shape the direction and mission of our organization as we continue to grow.

PASTORAL



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor



Rev. David Orges
Executive Pastor



Rev. Stephen Hebert
Minister of
Pastoral Care

WORSHIP



Rev. Trent Barnett
Director of
Worship Ministries

YOUNG ADULT & STUDENT MINISTRY



Rev. Nathan Lott
Director of Young
Adult and Student
Ministries

ADULT MINISTRY



Rev. Sam LoBello
Director of Adult
Ministries

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Trish Graves
Children's
Ministry Director



Faith Storck
Children's
Ministry Assistant

MOTHER'S DAY OUT



Ila Clark
Mother's Day Out
Program Administrator



Austyn Chopin
Mother's Day Out
Curriculum
Administrator

FINANCE



Jim Otken
Treasurer

COMMUNICATIONS



Krist Norsworthy
Communications
Coordinator

MAINTENANCE



Chris Lacara
Maintenance
Director

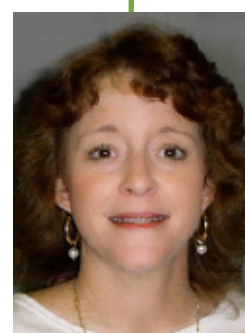
OFFICE



Linda Holdman
Administrative
Assistant



Kim Pamplin
Office
Professional



Thanette
Hunsberger
Office
Professional



connect CAMPS IS COMING

JUNE 5 - JUNE 9

connectcamps.com/denhamssprings