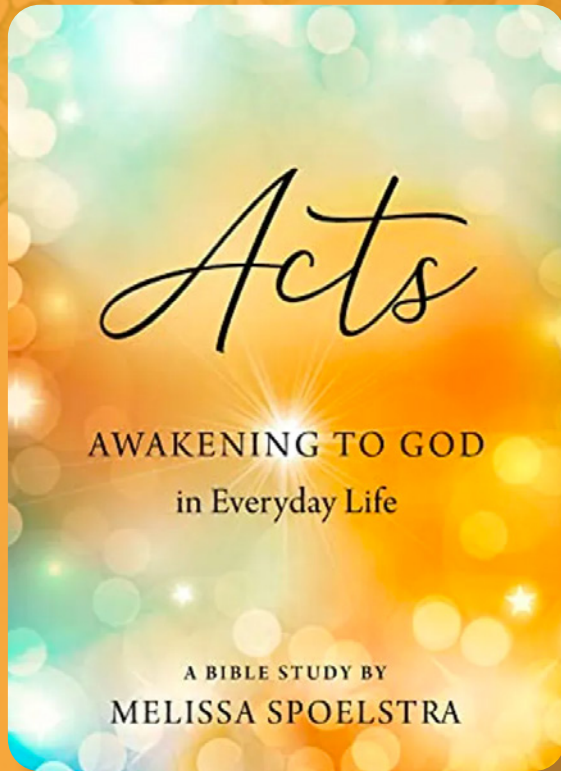


the messenger

LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE / JANUARY 2024

Happy
New
Year

DEEPER LIFE GROUPS



DEEPER LIFE FOR WOMEN

**Book of Acts:
Awakening to God
in Everyday Life.**

**Mondays at 6:30 PM
In the Chapel.**

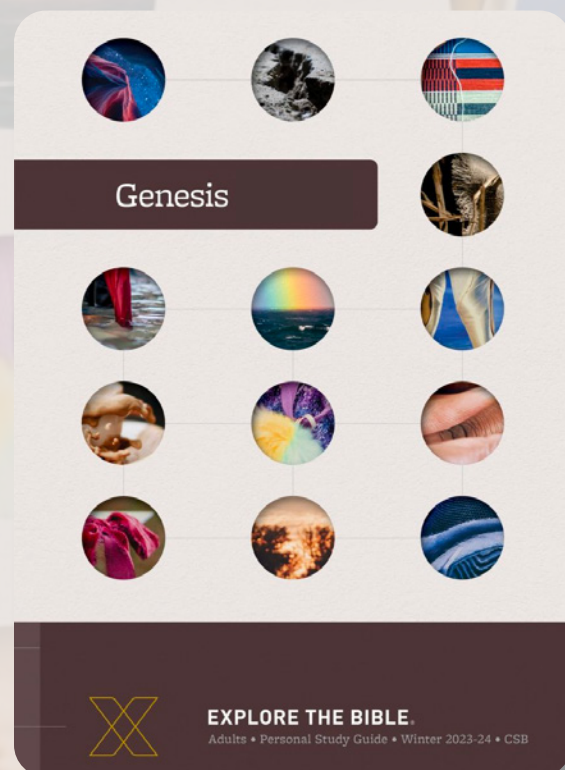
Led by Jan Tate

DEEPER LIFE FOR MEN

**Book of Genesis:
Humanity's Origin Story**

**Mondays at 6:30 PM
In Room #202.**

Led by David Tate



brand new things pg. 13

in this issue...

07 **from the pastor's desk**

In January, we will begin a series on what it means to begin again, start anew, and grow in the faith.

08 **worship**

Styles, methods, and cultures change, but the foundation of Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

13 **brand new things**

We can't wait to see what brand new things God is going to do in kids ministry at Live Oak Church. This is sure to be quite an adventure!

14 **what's your view?**

How you view God impacts how you experience of Him.

17 **senior adults**

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LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2024 | 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:
 Nathan Lott: 7-12th Grade - Upstairs in FLC
8:45 AM Adult Small Groups:
 See Page 5 for Full List
9:30 AM Children's Church - FLC
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 Kid's Min - Children's Church - FLC
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 - Bible Prophecy: The Essentials

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC
9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online
6:00 - 7:15 PM Kingdom Kidz: K - 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 Worship & Study - Adults

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

- 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@liveoak.church

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

MEN'S MINISTRY

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

LIVE OAK LADIES

Bible Journaling
Friday January 13 at 10AM in the FLC



church
map



SMALL GROUPS

SUNDAYS

Starting at 8:45 AM

Young Adult Couple's Class // *Gospel of Mark* // Krist & Katie Norsworthy - Room #212
Young Adult Co-ed Class // *Gospel of John* // Brayden Lott - Upstairs FLC
Median Adult Co-ed & Couple's Class // *The Book of Revelation* // Dickie Davis - Room #202
Senior Adult Class // *Explore the Bible* // Layne Hutchinson - Room #201
Pastor's Class // *Gospel of Luke* // Dr. Mark Crosby - Choir Room
New Member Class // Bro. Sam LoBello - Room #102

Starting at 9:30 AM

Co-ed Class // *Book of Romans* // Robert Poole - Room #211
Couple's Class // *Book of Daniel* // Todd & Sealy Pettavino - Room #202

Starting at 6:00 PM

Young Adult Group // Nathan Lott - FLC
Co-ed Doctrinal Study // Layne Hutchinson - Room #202

WEEKDAYS

Monday

6:00 PM // **Deeper Life Men** // *Explore the Bible* // David Tate - Room #201
6:00 PM // **Deeper Life Women** // *Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life* // Jan Tate - Chapel
6:00 PM // **Men's Discipleship Group** // *Topical* // Robert Poole's Home

Tuesday - 6:30 PM

Bible Prophecy: The Essentials (1st & 3rd Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel
Grief Support Group (2nd & 4th Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Co-ed Home Group // *2nd Timothy* // Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home

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 // **Men's Group** // *Gospel of John* // Jim Otken - Room #202
6:00 PM // **Co-ed** // *Book of James* // Robert Poole - Room #202

Second Saturday of Each Month

7:30 AM - **Men's Prayer Breakfast & Study** // *Daniel: Faithful in the Fire* // Sam LoBello - Room #202



Large Group Bible Study

JOIN DR. MARK TO HEAR
HIS TEACHING ON
REASONS TO BELIEVE

"ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND IS
USEFUL TO TEACH US WHAT IS TRUE AND MAKE US
REALIZE WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR LIVES. IT
CORRECTS US WHEN WE ARE WRONG AND
TEACHES US TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT. GOD USES IT
TO EQUIP HIS PEOPLE TO DO EVERY GOOD WORK."
- 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NLT

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6:30-7:20



COME JOIN US !

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Sometimes, it's hard to believe we are beginning a new year. Looking back on 2023, this was our first year as an independent church, and seeing how God blessed us in 2023 was so exciting. In 2023, we saw a major increase in attendance as so many new faces and families joined us. We saw many familiar faces returning after the Covid lockdowns and concerns. We also saw many ministries start, and some old ones get a new opportunity to grow and thrive.

In 2024, we look forward to seeing what God will do through some of the ministries He is raising up. The small groups, student ministries, and children's ministries are expanding, which is a wonderful sign of a healthy and growing church. Our weekday ministries and special ministries



IN 2024, WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT GOD WILL DO

are all doing well and helping many to grow in their faith. I am so excited and grateful for our Wednesday night apologetics (defending the faith) service. We have seen so many grow in their faith and walk with God.

So, in January, we will begin a series on what it means to begin again, start anew, and grow in

the faith. Faith is so important in today's world with all of the upheaval and uncertainty. With the war in Israel and Ukraine, and with the political division becoming greater and the threat of world war all around us, it is crucial that we give our faith, hope, and love a "boost" and a fresh start as we begin a new year.

So come see us in January as we preach on how to Begin Again. I hope you have a blessed 2024 and make Live Oak Church your place to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Hope to see you Sunday!


Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor



The term “worship” is unfortunately misunderstood in many circles, or has extra baggage attached to it that clouds its simplicity. The word worship simply means, “ascribing worth to someone or something.” In the case of Christian worship, God’s people are created to worship Him - every single one of us. Paul writes that we are to “offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship” (Rom. 12:1). No conditions are built into this passage because we’ve been created to worship our Creator and our Savior in all seasons and all places.

When we come before the Lord in worship, we draw closer to Him, and He meets us there. We pray with eagerness, sing with hearts abandoned, and study God’s Word with intentionality. As we recognize our need for God, there is a deep desire to know God better, and to understand the way He relates with His people. Theology (the study of God) isn’t just reserved for pastors or seminary students. Theology is intended for all of God’s people. Our theology leads us into deeper doxology - the ways in which we praise God. As our hearts and minds are informed and led by the Word of God, our theology informs our doxology, our doxology leads to a greater emphasis on theology, and on it grows.

Matt Boswell (a worship pastor in TX) has said, “the rhythm of worship is revelation and response: our beliefs about God’s revelation dictate our response.” Our study of God both informs why we worship, and shapes how we engage in worship. The closer we draw to God in prayer, in study, and in relationship, the more we long to know Him further.

Throughout Scripture, we see hundreds of calls and commands to “sing to the Lord.” Throughout Scripture and in history, the people of God

have met with each other and with God, singing songs of worship and praise. There is both a vertical (to God) and horizontal (to each other) nature to singing, and a filling of the Holy Spirit as we sing (Eph. 5:18-20). When we gather together as the body of Christ for corporate worship, the only appropriate type of singing is that which glorifies God. We sing to the Lord and for His glory. As we do this, believers are edified (built up), and reminded of our salvation. This propels us to share the hope within us and leads others to saving knowledge in Christ.

In light of this, we remember that who we are singing to (God) and what we are singing about (the Gospel) will always be more important than the how. Styles, methods, and cultures change, but the foundation of Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). “The message must never change, but the methods and means must be ever-changing to bring an ever-changing generation to the knowledge of the never-changing truth of Jesus” (John Bisagno, former pastor of FBC Houston).

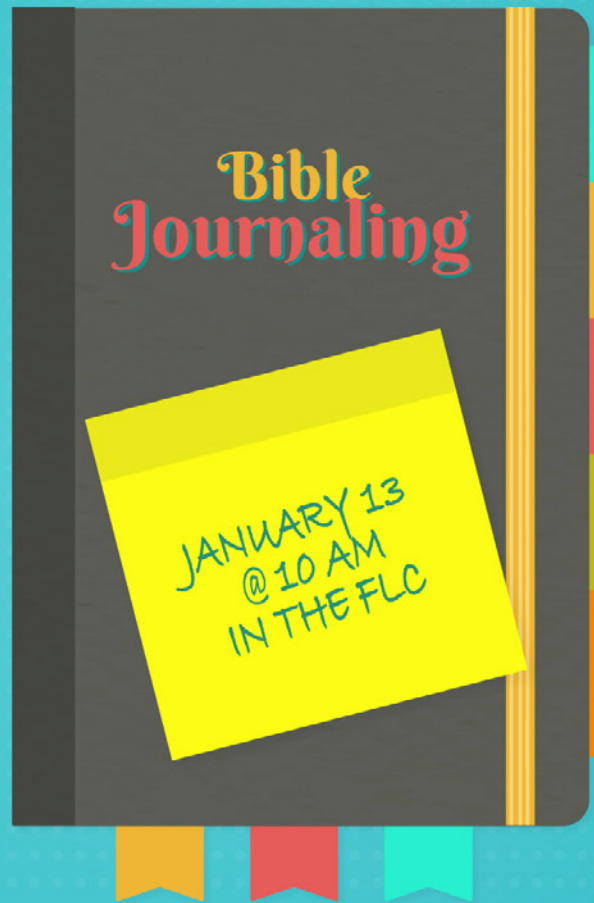
Songs don’t save. Only Jesus can. Songs themselves are just words and melodies, simple vehicles to communicate the Gospel. Yet, when we worship through singing, we are saying ‘the truths in these songs echo what my heart says about You, God. One of the ways I can express my love for You in this moment is to sing of Your covenant love.’ Only Jesus has the power to save, bringing light and salvation to the world. May our personal study and devotion of the Lord draw us into deeper worship of Him. As we gather together, may we spur one another on to worship more fervently, study more deeply, and pray more passionately. 🌿

LIVE OOK Ladies

Bring your Bible and any supplies you may have. Don't have any supplies, don't worry, we've got you covered!

BRING A SNACK TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

18+ | No registration required.



LIVE OOK Ladies



A Sweet Gathering

Join us for an evening of chocolate!
Saturday, February 10 at 6:30p
Registration Required / 18+

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THURSDAYS AT 7 PM



REFUGE

At Live Oak, our Addiction Recovery Ministry is called REFUGE. For God's Word declares, "Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." REFUGE is a Christ centered support group helping people who struggle with addiction. REFUGE has a unique blend of instruction, support, encouragement and accountability.

Led by Sam LoBello
Room 201



Women's Share Group!

A great opportunity for ladies
to share and connect.

Led by Ashley Gonzales
Conference Room

**CONSIDERING
BECOMING A
MEMBER OF
LIVE OAK CHURCH?**

It begins right here!

CONNECT CARD

IF YOU ARE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU! BE SURE TO FILL OUT THIS CARD AND BRING IT TO THE CONNECTION CENTER. WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY.

CONTACT INFORMATION

TODAY'S DATE

NAME BIRTHDATE

STREET ADDRESS CITY

EMAIL

PRIMARY PHONE HOME MOBILE
 WORK OTHER

FIRST TIME GUEST RETURNING GUEST

MEMBER OF LIVE OAK CHURCH

FAMILY INFORMATION

SPOUSE (IF APPLICABLE) BIRTHDATE

CHILDREN (IF APPLICABLE) BIRTHDATE

CHILDREN (IF APPLICABLE) BIRTHDATE

CHILDREN (IF APPLICABLE) BIRTHDATE

I HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST I WANT TO JOIN LIVE OAK

I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM UPDATE MY INFORMATION

I AM INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY GROUPS

TODAY I ACCEPTED JESUS AS MY SAVIOR

LIVE OAK

Located at the Information Desk

GET CONNECTED TODAY!

BRAND NEW THINGS

by Faith Storck



Each year I have a verse or word for myself, and/or the ministry that I am working with. For 2024, the verse that I picked out was Isaiah 43:19, “For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”

It really is funny how God orchestrates things in our lives even when we have no idea what is about to happen. When I claimed this verse for 2024, I had no idea what all was about to take place in my life, and in children’s ministry.

If you don’t know what I’m talking about, keep on reading so you know what brand new things are happening here in children’s ministry at Live Oak Church.

Back in September 2023, Trish and I were in the office one day and she informed me that she was offered the job to become the business administrator for Live Oak Church. We’ve always joked in the office about how our lives in 5 year segments. In my little cry session with her, I told her I thought I had her for 5 more years in kid min. If you’ve ever had the chance to work with Trish, you know that she

has such a heart for the people of this church. She is one of the greatest people that I’ve ever had the privilege of working with/for. She’s such a great friend, and such a calm presence in the midst of my chaos. I will miss sharing an office with her, and all the laughs, however I am sure she is so glad to have her own office now so she can have some peace and quiet! I know that Trish will be the best business administrator for Live Oak Church, and I can’t wait to see her excel in this role!

Faith, “For I am about to do something new.”

No, I am not leaving. Don’t think is my resignation letter, as some parents do when I send an e-mail saying I will miss their child (because they are moving up to a new age group and out of kids ministry). After much prayer and many, many conversations, I decided, after being offered this position, to try to fill these big shoes that Trish has left vacant. You see, above all, I want what is best for the children of this church, and I didn’t know if that was me. However, I do want to be a willing vessel for God, and I didn’t want to miss out on something new that God had in

store for me and the children of this church. I would covet your prayers as I make this transition, and as we look for someone else to step into my old role.

What does this mean for those that have children in kindergarten through third grade? Nothing will change for the time being, until someone is hired to take over kindergarten-third grade. I will still be teaching your children until then. Parents that have children in this ministry will be the first to know when something changes. Until then, anytime you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Parents and Children of Live Oak Church, “For I am about to do something new.”

There are some big changes taking place within our facilities.

Beginning in January, our nursery hallway will now only have children that are in the infant, one and two year old classes.

Our preschool, three and four year old classes will now be held in the children’s church area on Sundays.

Our current kids in kindergarten

through third grade will now meet in the FLC (gym) on Sundays at 9:30 and 11. (Wednesdays will still take place in the children’s church area.)

There will be new places to check your children in, and new safety measures will be put in place.

Please make sure you read your e-mails to know what all is happening in the nursery, preschool and children’s ministry in the days and weeks to come.

Connect Camp, “For I am about to do something new.”

When I picked this verse this year, I also had no idea that this verse would be the theme verse for Connect Camp. I can’t wait to see what brand new things that God will do in and through the kids in our community as they attend Connect Camp. Registration goes live in February, so make sure to stay tuned for more information.

I can’t wait to see what brand new things God is going to do in my life and in the kids that are a part of Live Oak Church. This is sure to be quite an adventure, and I can’t wait to see what God has in store! 🌿

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

by sam lobello

Dr. Robert McGee points out that experiences in our life impact how we view God. He goes on to say that our view of God impacts how we experience God.

How do you view God? Some view Him as a grandpa in the sky asking Him for what they want. Others view God as a policeman watching to correct them. Still others view God as having too much to do to be involved in the details of their life.

My former pastor had hopes of serving his country in the Air Force. That's how he viewed his future. The direction of his life changed when God called him into the ministry. As a result, he experienced God as his Commander-In-Chief. In his Daily Quiet Time, he reported to duty to receive his orders for the day to serve the Kingdom of God.

David, the son of Jesse, grew up to be king over all of Israel. As a boy he had a lot of experience as a shepherd. He understood how dependent the sheep were on the shepherd to guide them, to provide for them and to protect them. He knew that the shepherd's presence was essential for the well-being of the sheep.


From those experiences in his life as a shepherd, viewing his lambs as in need of his care, David declares in the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my Shepherd." In his reign as king, and throughout his life, David

experienced God as His Shepherd. David looked to God for comfort, protection and provision. He sought His presence. He communed with God and looked to Him for guidance. He saw himself as dependent upon the Lord, his Shepherd.

I came up in a home where my father was often absent and unavailable. He had several stays in V.A. Hospitals and spent the last 15 years of his life in a nursing home. As a result, I didn't have the privilege of experiencing a father's oversight, guidance and care. Since I became a Christian some 47 years ago, I have approached God as my Heavenly Father. He is always present with me. He doesn't get disabled. He will never leave me or forsake me. He has provided me with constant guidance and care.

So, what's your view...of God? For how you view Him impacts how you experience God. Dr. McGee points out that there may come a time in our life when we need to renew our view of God.

Something to consider as you ponder your view of God...how you will experience God. In 2 Corinthians 6:18 we find these words, "I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

So, what will be your view...of God? 



DONATION BIN

Monthly Materials Drive

COLLECTIONS IN
CHURCH FOYER

HELPING THE MOST
HELPLESS AMONG US



LIVE OAK CHURCH

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

5 Ways to Give



IN PERSON

PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE WOODEN BOXES LOCATED INSIDE LIVE OAK CHURCH



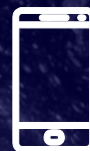
MAIL

MAIL YOUR GIFT TO P. O. BOX 709 WATSON, LA 70786



ONLINE

GIVE ONLINE AT LIVEOAK.CHURCH/GIVE AND SELECT "GIVE NOW"



TEXT

TEXT "LIVE OAK" TO 77977. FOLLOW THE LINK AND ENTER THE AMOUNT YOU WISH TO GIVE



RECURRING

VIA THE "ONLINE" OR "TEXT" OPTIONS, SELECT "MAKE A RECURRING GIFT"



SENIOR ADULTS



by Landra Reed

The senior adult ministry team would like to wish you and your family a very Happy New Year! I would like to apologize once again for canceling the cookie bake. This bothered me more than you will know. On that note, if you are interested in being part of the senior adult ministry, please contact me at 225-400-1687.

On January 12th we will get together in the FLC to watch the movie "Heaven's War." We will also have lunch from JJ's subs, along with popcorn and candy. This is a movie do not want to miss! This is a free event. But please make sure to sign up so that I may order the appropriate amount of ham and turkey sandwiches. The final day to sign up is January 8th. 🍌

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11





2024 MEN'S MENU

January 6 - Top Golf

March 9 - Axe Throwing

May 4 - Crawfish Boil

June 14-15 - Gridiron Men's Conference - Huntsville, AL

July 30 - Steak Dinner Fellowship

November 9 – LSU v Alabama Game - Home Fellowship

ONGOING

Home Bible Study at Robert Poole's - Mondays at 6:30 PM

Deeper Life Bible Study - Mondays at 6:30 PM - Room #201

Play & Pray Basketball - Thursdays at 6:00 PM - FLC

Refuge Addiction Recovery - Thursdays at 7:00 PM - Room #201

Iron Man's Bible Study - Fridays at 5:30 AM

Prayer Breakfast/Study - Second Sat. at 7:30 AM



A DROP FROM THE ALTAR

by sam lobello

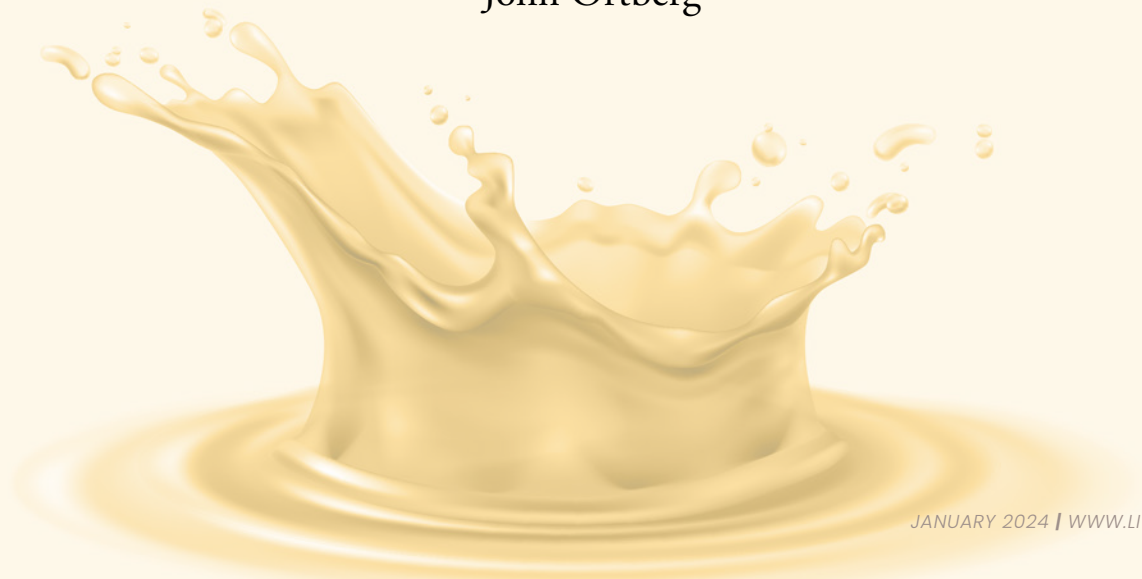
One of my seminary professors used to say to his class while teaching, “This is a drop from the altar.” He was communicating to his students that what he was about to say was important and may well appear on the next test.

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.

“Gratitude liberates us from the prison of being self centered.”

John Ortberg





We've got a beach house in Orange Beach, AL and all we need is you!

LIVE OOK Ladies

Beach Retreat

FEBRUARY 22-25, 2024

Join us for fun, food, shopping, devotions, and more!

THERE ARE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPOTS AVAILABLE SO DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER!



LIVE OOK CHURCH

QUILTING MINISTRY

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

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY BY WRITING QUILTERS IN THE "OTHER SECTION" OF YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPE. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOU SUPPORTING US!

LIVE OAK CHURCH GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

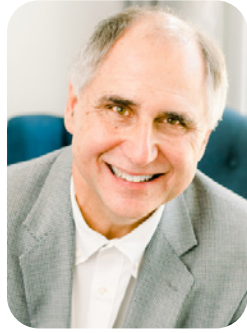


JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF at Live Oak Church

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month
6:30pm in the Chapel

For More Information Contact: Pastor Stephen
Stephen@liveoak.church

meet our team



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor



Rev. David Orges
Executive Pastor



Rev. Nathan Lott
Young Adult &
Student Pastor



Rev. Trent Barnett
Worship Pastor



Rev. Stephen Hebert
Minister of
Pastoral Care



Trish Graves
Business
Administrator



Faith Storck
Director of
Children's Ministry



Linda Holdman
Administrative
Assistant



Rev. Sam LoBello
Director of Adult
Ministries



Rev. Chris Lacara
Maintenance
Director



Rev. Krist Norsworthy
Communications
Coordinator



Katie Norsworthy
Office
Secretary



Jim Otken
Treasurer



Kim Pamplin
Counseling Office
Manager



Ila Clark
MDO Program
Administrator



Austyn Chopin
MDO Curriculum
Administrator

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.

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
FAITH
TO BE AN
Atheist

PRESENTED BY DR. FRANK TUREK



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

8:00, 9:30, 11:00am
AND
6:00pm



LIVE OAK CHURCH