CHILDREN'S CHOIR | SENIOR ADULTS | EVENTS SMALL GROUPS the messenger **FROM** THE PASTOR'S DESK **A DROP FROM** THE ALTAR **THE RISE** OF THE **INFLUENCER POWER TO** KIDS CAN DO BIG REDEEM

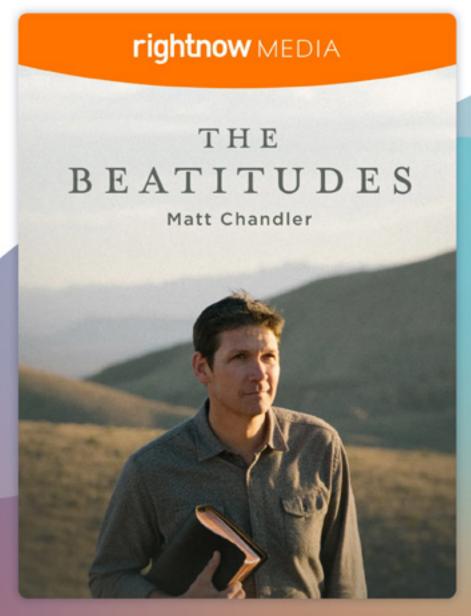
God has taken situations in my life and made them beautiful

**THINGS** 

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# articles & devotions

# 07 from the pastor's desk

If you have struggled with your faith we want to invite you to join us in May.

# 08 kids can do big things

Parents receive all sorts of conflicting information telling them to let children be little, and I think that has spilled over into the area of basic skills

# 10 rise of the influencer

A lot can happen in ten years.

# 12 power to redeem

I've been reminded of times where God has taken what was - the situations of my life - and made them beautiful.

# newsletter & updates

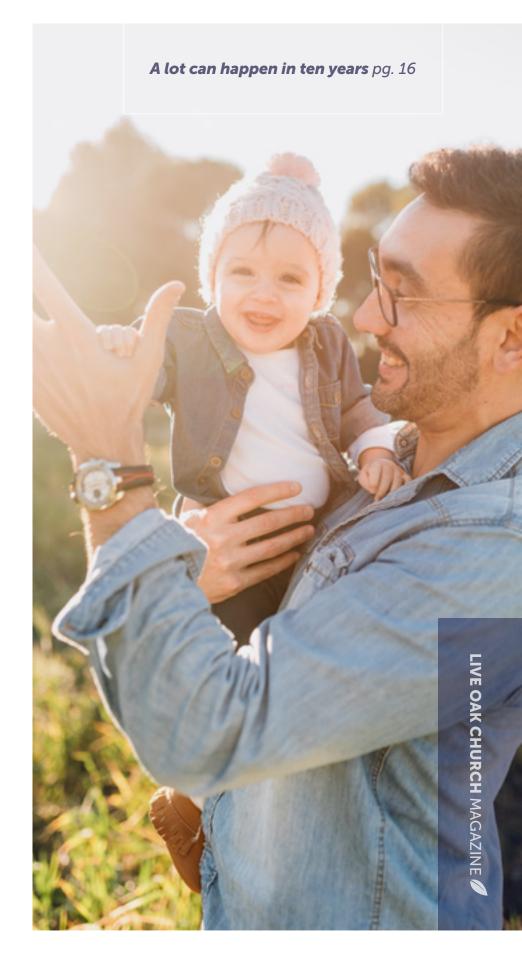
# 17 drops from the altar

I hope you find them to be helpful in your journey, as well.

# 19 senior adults

Events for mom's and dad's.

- 5 MONTHLY EVENTS
- 18 SMALL GROUPS
- 22 MEET OUR TEAM



# CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Peggy Babin

Elisa Bankston

Timothy Bankston

Becca Barnette

Ryan Barnette

Blake Bassett

Tori Bassett

John Berna

Rebecca Berna

Martin Blacklock, Sr

Zacariah Camara

JoAnne Carroll

Cheryl Cashio

Ashley Clark

Keith Clark

Melissa Comier

Tim Comier

Gina Cutrer

Coby Hebert

Lucy Hebert

Amber Hogancamp

Rob Hogancamp

Roman Hogancamp

Tiffany James

Denise Jones

Jacob Langston

Lou Ann Langston

Kateryn Maust

Layla Meng

Michelle McAllister

Connie McClendon

Collin McClure

Mary Medlock

Gary Olson

Brad Perry

Clydia "Mona" Perry

Paul Ridgell

Kyle Robison

Priscilla Berna Rodriguez

Beatriz Ross

Cecil Rushing

Kaye Rushing

Robert Sanders

Brett Savant

Candice Savant

Madison Simoneaux

Ashley Stark

Keith Stark

Jenna Valentine

Stephen Valentine

Kathleen Varnado

Kevin Varnado

Angela Willis

# **MAY 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 - Bible Prophecy: The Essentials

#### WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC

9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online

6:00 - 7:15 PM Kingdom Kidz: Completed 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 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

# - 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 Praver Breakfast

Second Saturday of each month at 7:30AM in Room #202.

Crawfish Boil May 6, FLC

#### LIVE OAK LADIES

Bible Recap

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

Ladies Bingo Night May 12 at 6:30PM

# STUDENTS

Class of 2023

Ceremony for Grads, May 7



# the family answer man







DR MARK CROSBY

**REV DAVID ORGES** 

Join the Family Answer Man program with Dr. Mark Crosby and Rev. David Orges at 12:00noon and 6:30pm locally on WPAE-FM 89.7 / KPAE-FM 91.5.

The Family Answer Man is here to answer your questions from a Biblical worldview to help you and yours have a stronger, healthier, and happier family.

Email your questions to FamilyAnswerMan@liveoak.church



















Find These Episodes and More on the Live Oak Church youtube page!

articles & devotions

look forward to the month of May for a variety of reasons. First of all, it is the beginning of Summer as school concludes for most, vacations are planned, and the temperature rises. I also enjoy some of the special events such as graduations, Mother's Day, and recognizing our newest "graduates" of our Faith Formation class.

Our Faith Formation class is an eightweek class where we (students and I) give reason to believe what we believe. We dig into the evidence of our faith scientifically, prophetically, historically, and theologically. We ask and answer the "hard questions" of life and give evidence that demands a verdict.

The result is that almost all of our students receive the Lord Iesus or have their faith strengthened as a result. We then follow up with Baptism (for many of them) and then share their decision to follow Messiah with the church. It is truly a wonderful and joyful moment.

As we look forward to this event, we are preparing the series in May entitled "Why We Believe." This month we will focus on why we believe, The Bible, The Family, and Evangelism. These are the core beliefs and foundational pillars of our lives.



If you have struggled with your faith we want to invite you to join us in May.

So if you have been challenged or have struggled with what your faith, hope, and love are to build on, we want to invite you to join us in May for some wonderful celebrations, experiences, and services as we celebrate what God is doing as we share "Reasons to Believe."

Hope to see you Sunday!

# **FROM PASTOR'S** DESK

Dr. Mark Crosby

# OUR KIDS CAN DO BIG THINGS



On a normal Wednesday night a few years back, we were serving dinner to the children. I was so busy throwing out slices of pizza to the children that I didn't have time to stop and help a child open up their drink when they asked. This child was in kindergarten at the time and I knew for sure they could do it, since I knew other children could open theirs around 3 years old. I told them they could open their own drink. A little while later, when all the children had gotten their dinner, the same child came up to me and excitedly said, "Mrs. Faith, I did it." I asked the child if he had ever done that before. His response was no, his mom or grandma always did it for him. He was so excited that he was able to open his drink, that I failed to recognize the importance of this accomplishment for him.

I think sometimes, we as parents, myself included, do so much for our kids because it's just easier to do it ourselves, than the train them to do something. I know, I'd rather clean something because I know it would be done to my standards than to teach my child how to do something. But in doing so, we are failing our kids. I believe we are handicapping our kids by doing everything for them.

You might think your child is young, but your child can do more than you think. Am I going to act like I can do something when someone will do it for me? Absolutely not. Same with a child. Can an infant dress themselves? Nope,

but a 2 or 3 year old can with some help. Can your toddler vacuum? No, but they can put their toys away so you can vacuum. Can your 4 or 5 year old cook dinner? Probably not, but they can help clear the table after dinner. Can your 6 or 7 year old do laundry? No, but they can sort the laundry. You get the picture.

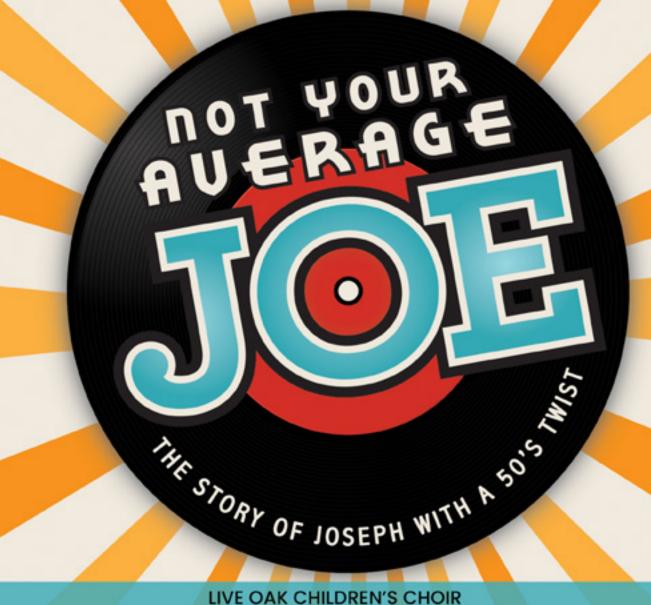
I know parents receive all sorts of conflicting information from all sides telling them to let the children be little, and I think that has spilled over into the area of basic skills, etc. Parents, we need to be constantly teaching our kids for the next step/phase of life. I think we are so busy allowing our children to be little that we fail to realize they can do big things. They can be our helpers. Will it take longer? Sure. However, will it help their self confidence and help them be an active participant in the family? Absolutely.

I believe there are some faith based reasons for teaching our children to do "big things." As Christians, we are called to serve one another. What better way than to teach them how to serve the family of God, then to teach them to serve their family first? Should we treat our children like the Disney princess, Cinderella? Of course not, but they need learn to be a part of a team. Even God gave chores to Adam. Genesis 2:15, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." God teaches against laziness, etc. Part of the ways we can teach our

children discipline in the area of life, begins as we teach them to do things on their own and for their family.

Never has this been more in my face than this past year. As Lauren gets ready to leave for college in August, I am constantly questioning myself on if I taught her this or that. She was leaving the house just last night to drive to go to the movies and I had the thought, if she gets pulled over by a cop for speeding, will she know what a car registration is when they ask for it? Something so insignificant, and I'm praying she won't have to do that ever, but what if? Have I taught her what she needs to know to be a thriving member or society and a good roommate at college?

Parents, oh, let your children be little, but let them help you. You want to be the one to teach them how to do 'this or that'. You don't want them calling you from college asking them how to wash their clothes. Our kids can do more than you think. Teach them for the next step. Praise them often. Watch them grow into what God made them to be. Teach them to serve the family at home, so that prayerfully, one day, they will serve their family at home and at church. Don't let them fool you to think they can't do things because they are young, because our children can do "big things."



# SUMMER MUSIC CAMP 2023

# REGISTER HERE





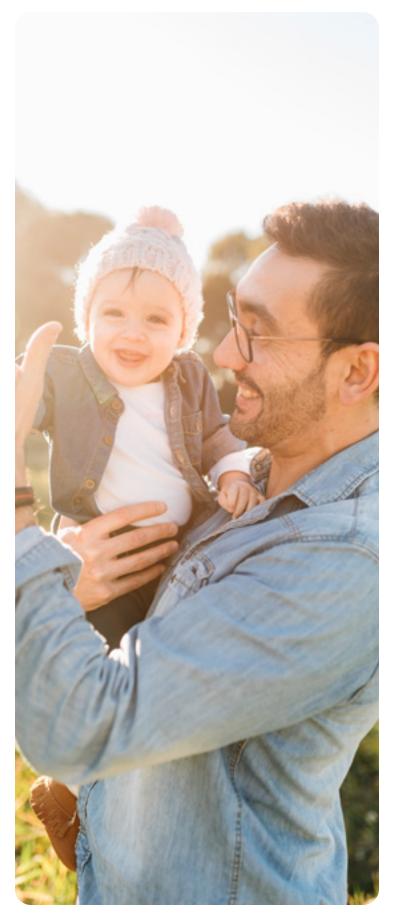
DATES: JULY 10TH-14TH, 9AM-12PM PERFORMANCE: FRI., JULY 14TH @ 6PM

AUDITIONS FOR SPEAKING ROLES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. AUDITIONS FOR SOLOS WILL OCCUR DURING CAMP WEEK. MUSIC WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY-JUNE.

# THE RISE OF THE INFLUENCER

by David Orges

A lot can happen in ten years. Believe it or not, you can pack what seems like an entire lifetime into a decade. In a ten year span of time, your six year old will start driving, and your sixteen year old will get married. In a single decade, a twenty six year old will have kids and make their parents grandparents. The thirty six year old will be over the hill and experience their midlife crisis. The 46 year old will become a first time grandparent and a 56 year old will retire over the course of the next ten years. The 66 year old man will (hopefully) surpass the average life expectancy of a male in the United States, and the 76 year old woman will (again hopefully) surpass the average life expectancy for females in the United States. Those fortunate enough to live from 86 to 96 will have outlived 99.5% of everyone else. In the rare case someone lives to 105, they will have lived in two centuries, said goodbye to all of their friends and many family members, become great great grandparents as they welcome new generations into their legacy, and tell stories about the olden days that seem too fantastical to be true but completely are! What's the point? A decade is a surprisingly long amount of time, but as Jesus's half brother James put it, life vanishes like a vapor. A lot can happen in ten years, and those same ten years can seem like the blink of an eye.



The same is true of society as it is of your life, but the problem is that societal changes have begun to accelerate at an exponential rate and are on the precipice of becoming completely out of control. Completely off the rails. Unhinged. With so much drastic change over the past decade, it's imperative for parents to monitor and meter an appropriate schedule of exposure to the ugly side of this world corrupted by sin.

One of the foundational shifts the last decade has seen is the rise of the "influencer." Social media personalities that are paid to promote brands, products, and ideas through their social media accounts. Gone are the days of big polished marketing campaigns. Corporations, politicians, and special interest groups have embraced the fundamental psychology behind marketing; people trust people. When real people vouch for a brand or a product, we trust what they tell us.

A Neilson study found that 71% of consumers trust advertising, opinions, and product placement from influencers, and 64% of global marketers say it is their most effective paid channel or advertising.

This is the formula behind influencer marketing. Big-money pays regular people to push their products and ideas. People trust people, so we "buy" what they're selling. We trust the experiences of others.

But what if I told you that parents are the single most important influence in the life of a child, not social media influencers, or their friends, or teachers, or coaches. Parents. Most parents wouldn't believe it. In a Parents Empowered survey, parents placed themselves last in the line-up of influences on their children- after friends, teachers, and social media. But when youth answered the same question, they placed their parents first- before family, friends, teachers, and clubs/activities. Don't dismiss that or let its significance slip by. That's a tremendous reason for hope, especially for a Christian parent!

As a Christian parent, there are 5 simple things you can do to help your children develop a faith of their own:

# 1. PRAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Prayer is one of the most significant ways to help your children build a relationship with God. Pray with them daily, and encourage them to pray in their own time as well. Teach them to listen for God's voice and provide them with guidance on how to talk to Him.

#### 2. READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER

Reading the Bible is vital for building a strong faith foundation. Take time to read scripture with your children and explain the meaning and teachings. Start with some of the Bible stories that are easy to understand, and as they grow older, introduce more complex passages. The Gospel of John is a great place to start.

#### 3. ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY

Attending church is an essential part of a Christian's life. Make sure you take your children to church every week and get them involved in the activities and events. This helps them to form relationships with other Christians and solidify their own faith.

#### 4. TEACH THEM TO SERVE OTHERS

It's essential to teach your children to give back to the community and serve others in need. You can do this by volunteering together, or by encouraging them to join a church group that focuses on community service. Charity is at its very core a Christian principle, a natural result of the Holy Spirit in us.

## 5. MODEL YOUR FAITH

As a Christian parent, you are the primary role model for your children. Your actions and behaviors significantly impact their faith journey. Always strive to model your faith, values, and morals. Show them how to pray, how to read the Bible, and how to live a Christian life. And praise in your kids what you want to see repeated.

As a parent you have the opportunity to help your children develop a deep, meaningful, fulfilling relationship with God. The five actions mentioned above will provide your children with a solid foundation of faith, guidance, and love. By instilling these values in your kids, you are not only helping them, but you are also fulfilling God's calling on your life as a parent: to lead your kids to saving faith in Jesus Christ and a growing relationship with Him. Because believe it or not, a lot can happen in ten years, and you can lay an eternal foundation for your children in just a decade. So Influence your children with the level of confidence that they have in your influence.

# POWER TO REDEEM

by Trent Barnett

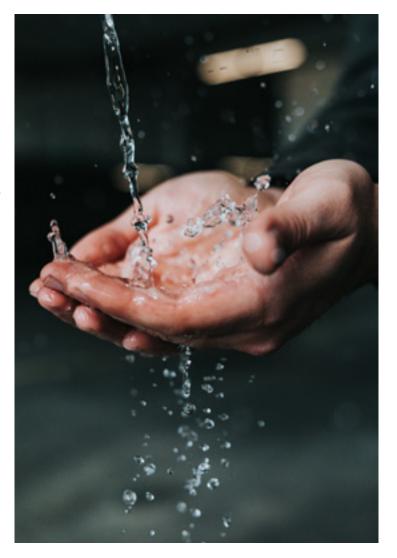
There's a line to a worship song that has been echoing in my head over the past couple weeks. "Power to Redeem" is a song Lauren Daigle released on her first album, featuring David Leonard and Leslie Jordan from the worship duo All Sons and Daughters.

The opening line of the song says, "You take what is and You make it beautiful." Each of us experience situations and seasons in life that are more difficult than others. In the midst of a not-so-great situation, we can believe and trust that God is going to take it and make it beautiful, knowing that "when love floods in, we're restored forevermore." This is a theme echoed throughout Scripture.

In Ecclesiastes 3:11 it is written about God that "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." Throughout Scripture, we see God continually doing new things in the lives of His people. Over and over again, we see God breathe life in places that were previously dry and dead - places where no one saw life anymore.

In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord says, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." What an absurd thought - rivers in the desert?! Yet through the power and wisdom of God, He can bring life in the most desolate of environments - and often in the most unexpected ways. He did it when he provided water for the Israelites to drink, rained manna from heaven, and provided quail for them to eat (Ex. 15:22-16:15) - and that's all from just one story! Even when it seems there is no possible way forward, God can take what is and make it beautiful.

In Revelation 21:5, "the One who is seated on the throne said, 'See I am making all things new." Throughout history, God has continually brought restoration and redemption, life and hope, healing and forgiveness to His people. Even when things feel dark and defeated, God can bring about light and victory. Even when it seems like we're in the middle of a desert, God can bring forth rivers of living water.



As the truth of this lyric and Scriptures like these have been echoing over my life, I've been reminded of times where God has taken what was - the situations of my life - and made them beautiful. It's what He did on the cross. Such an ugly, violent, and despicable act, yet it was necessary for our salvation. God has made the cross beautiful, and something worth celebrating. Through the cross of Jesus, we find life. Through His death and burial, believers have resurrection - just as Jesus did.

The chorus of the song says, "With breath that brings the dead to life, with words that pierce the dark with Light, only by the blood are we set free. With mercy strong to carry shame and nail it to a tree, You alone hold the power to redeem." Let's stay in tune with the new things the Lord is doing in our midst each day. He's continually taking things that are dirty and seem like there is no restoration possible, and turning them to something beautiful. May we see the life and breath God is breathing into each moment, calling and redeeming all things to His Name. Let's sing out to declare in faith that God will take what is and make it beautiful.



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**FRIDAY** 

**MAY 12** 

6:30 PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

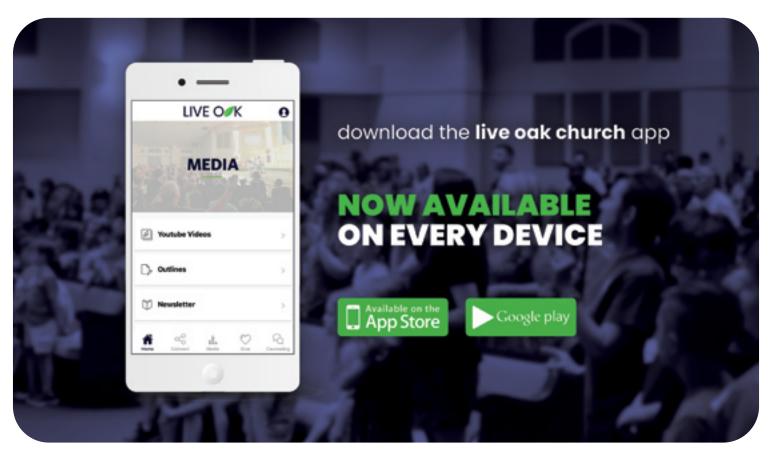


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\$5/PP HELPS COVER THE COST OF FOOD JOIN US!

PRIZES & FELLOWSHIP



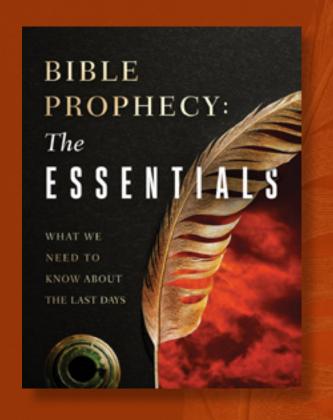


# JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF

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



BIBLE PROPHECY:
THE ESSENTIALS
BIBLE STUDY

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the Month 6:30 PM in the Chapel

# 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.

"You can let a circumstance devastate you or develop you. There is no such thing as instant maturity.

Character takes time."

-Rick Warren



# **SUNDAYS**

# **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 - Ephesians - 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

# **WEEKDAYS**

# 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 - Book of Romans - Robert Poole's Home

# Tuesday - 6:30 PM

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

# Wednesday 6:30 PM

Worship & Study - Ā 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 - Gospel of John - Men's Group - Jim Otken - Room #202 6:00 PM - Topical Studies - Coed - Robert Poole - Room #202

# Second Saturday of Each Month

7:30 AM - Men's Study/Prayer Breakfast - Sam LoBello - Room #202



by Landra Reed

Being Bradley's mom has been the best gift I could ever have dreamt. When I need to be reminded how much God loves me, I think of my love for my son. My heart feels with joy and every time I hear him call me Mom I can't help but smile. It is said that God loves us even more. I can't even imagine more! What a blessing! Mom = Best job ever!

To celebrate our senior mom's, we are having our annual Mother's Day tea at the Lake House off of Old Hammond in Baton Rouge. The date is Monday, May 8th at 11:00 a.m. Please make sure to sign up by May 5th.

This June we will be celebrating our dad's with our annual Dad's Day at Duke's. You will meet Brother Sam at Duke's in Watson on June 13th at 11:00 a.m.

Both of these events are our treat to you, thanking you for all you do!

And last of all, please sign up for the breakfast at IHOP on Wednesday, June 19th. We will meet at the Denham Springs IHOP at 8:00 a.m. for good food and fellowship. The cost is your meal.

# DAD'S DAY AT DUKE'S



Senior Adult Dad's, take a break and join Bro. Sam at Duke's to celebrate you, as a Father's Day treat.

We will meet on Tuesday, June 13th at 11:00 AM at Duke's in Watson.



# Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast in Room #202

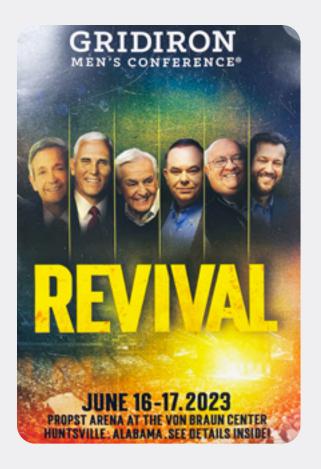
**Gridiron Men's Conference** 

June 16-17, 2023

**40 HAVE SIGNED UP!** 

Sign up now on Church App or by emailing sam@liveoak.church

**Cost: \$175** 





May 6th at 1 PM
Under FLC Awning
Free Event



# Support. Instruction. Accountability.

It's when we shift our addiction (dependency) from our chemical of choice, to a relationship with God, that we begin to experience a life filled with fulfillment, contentment and joy!



Thursdays at 7 PM

WE MEET IN ROOM #201. COME JOIN US!

# 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 Worship Pastor

# 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

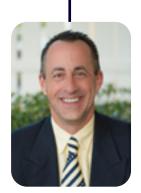


Ila Clark Mother's Day Out Program Administrator



Austyn Chopin Mother's Day Out Curriculum Administrator

# **FINANCE**



Jim Otken Treasurer

# **COMMUNICATIONS**



Rev. Krist Norsworthy Communications Coordinator

# **MAINTENANCE**



Rev. Chris Lacara Maintenance Director

# **OFFICE**



Linda Holdman Administrative Assistant



Kim Pamplin Office Professional

# LIVE OOK 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 7<u>0786</u>



## ONLINE

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



## TEXT

TEXT "LOUMC" 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"