

MEET OUR TEAM | A DROP FROM THE ALTAR | SENIOR ADULTS | EVENTS

the messenger

LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE | MARCH 2024

FROM THE
PASTOR'S
DESK

BIBLE
STUDIES

THE
WEIRD
YEARS

BLESS
GOD

Egg My Yard



Live Oak Church "Easter Bunnies" will scatter candy filled eggs in your front yard for Easter morning fun to help raise money for children in our community to go to Connect Camp.



24 Eggs for \$25
Deadline: Monday, March 25th

the weird years pg. 10

in this issue...

07 **from the pastor's desk**

As followers of Jesus, we can offer hope, life and truth.

10 **the weird years**

This season of parenting can be tough, however, God has a purpose and a plan for your preteens.

15 **bless God**

Worship isn't merely songs or music. Worship is a life surrendered in full obedience to God's will.

17 **senior adults**

"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

4 MONTHLY EVENTS

5 SMALL GROUPS

21 A DROP FROM THE ALTAR

22 MEET OUR TEAM

MARCH 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 Ministry - FLC
9:30 AM Preteen - Chapel
9:30 AM Worship Service
10:00 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:
 Jonny Carroll - Upstairs in FLC
11:00 AM Children's Ministry - FLC
11:00 AM 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 Preteen: 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 (pg. 20)
Second Saturday of each month at 7:30AM in Room #202.

LIVE OAK LADIES

Decorate Easter Eggs (pg. 18)
March 9

ADULTS

Bingo Fund Raiser for Connect Camp (pg. 11)
March 8

CHURCHWIDE (See Back Cover)

Family Easter Event
March 17



church
map



BIBLE STUDIES

Blue = Small Group Red = Large Group

SUNDAYS

Starting at 8:45 AM

Young Adult Couple's Class // *Easter: Jesus' Life, Death & Resurrection* // 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

9:30 AM // **Women's Study** // *Hope for the Hurting* // Mallory Williams - Chapel

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

5:30 PM // **Ladies Bible Journaling** (2nd Tuesdays) // Jenny Bauer - Room #202

6:30 PM // **Bible Prophecy: The Essentials** (1st & 3rd Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

6:30 PM // **Grief Support Group** (2nd & 4th Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Co-ed Home Group // *The Book of Acts* // Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home

Worship & Study // *Reasons to Believe (Apologetics)* // Pastor Mark - Sanctuary

Thursday

6:00 PM // **Men's Play & Pray Basketball and Lesson** // Jim Otken - FLC

7:00 PM // **REFUGE Addiction Recovery Group** // Sam LoBello - Room #201

Friday

5:30 AM // **Men's Group** // *Book of Acts* // 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





CAMP IS COMING

CAMP IS COMING

CAMP IS COMING



**REGISTER ON
THE CHURCH APP**

This morning (6:30 AM) started with dozens of text messages about those in our church and community who have passed away in the past 24 hours and the number of people who are in serious condition (Hospice care, ICU, ER).

These are the text messages and phone calls no one wants to give or receive. It brings sadness to your heart and deep concern for the loved ones and family members who are experiencing the grief, loss, and uncertainty of their family members.

For many in ministry, this is the most difficult part of ministry. Trying to bring hope to the grieving, life to the dying, grace and truth to those who are questioning, doubting and struggling.

However, as followers of Jesus, we can offer hope, life and truth because of the greatest event the world has ever known, which is the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. The resurrection of Jesus declares to the world that death has been defeated, life continues, and reunion awaits all who believe in Jesus the Messiah for everlasting life.

As my "hero in the faith" (Dr. D. James Kennedy) would always say, "heaven is free gift, it cannot



***"AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS,
WE CAN OFFER HOPE, LIFE
AND TRUTH BECAUSE OF THE
GREATEST EVENT THE WORLD
HAS EVER KNOWN"***

be earned or deserved, but only received as the gift of God to all who believe."

That truth is found throughout the Word of God, and it brings hope to the hurting, life to the dying, and truth to the doubting.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us a reason to have hope, joy, and confidence in the most troubling and heartbreaking of circumstances.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Therefore, the Bible gives us reasons to believe and reasons why we can have hope in the Messiah. In the month of March, we "kickoff" what we call the "Easter Season," whereby we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the resurrection of the Messiah. An event predicted and fulfilled to exact detail giving us confidence in our faith in Messiah.

In the month of March (as we prepare for Easter Sunday) our focus will be on "Reasons." Reason for Messiah to come into our World; Reason for the Return of Messiah; and Reason for the Resurrection.

So come join us this month as we seek to bring hope, life, and truth to a world who is struggling and seeking reasons to believe.

Hope to see you Sunday!


Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor

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



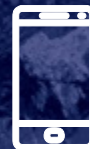
MAIL

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"

YOUNG ADULT COUPLES SMALL GROUP

rightnow MEDIA



Join us as we take a deeper look at
Jesus's life, death, and resurrection.

5 Weeks Starting March 3, 8:45 AM

Room 212

Led by Krist & Katie Norsworthy

LIVE OOK Ladies

LEGO NIGHT

APRIL 12 @ 6:30P

\$10 | DINNER SERVED | 18+
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

THE WEIRD YEARS

by Faith Storck

My first year out of college, I taught sixth through twelfth graders at a Christian school. There were ages that I loved, and then there were ages that I just thought, “Man, these kids are just weird.” As the years have gone by and as the world has changed, so has the ages of phases our children go through. If I had to say what the weird years were now, it would be fifth and sixth grade. These kids are fighting battles we don’t know about. They face things that you and I have never had to face. I often thank God that social media wasn’t around when I was making less than ideal decisions. (I’m also thankful social media wasn’t around so there’s no proof of bad hairstyles and clothing choices.)

During the weird preteens years, they often begin to question their identity and purpose. This is a time for parents to get in the trenches and help your children through this phase. Here are seven practical ways that you can help your preteen in finding their identity and purpose.

Encourage your preteen to reflect on their interests and strengths. Help them explore what makes them unique and special.

Make sure your preteen has positive Christian role models who

exemplify strong character and values. Your preteen should have at least five adults in their life that can help them through life. That is why we have small group leaders here on Wednesday nights to pour into the life of your children.

Create a safe and open environment for your preteen to express their thoughts, questions, and concerns. Listen to them, validate their feelings, and provide guidance when needed. My dad once told me that when something big or bad happened with Lauren, that I needed to make sure my response was appropriate. I needed to make sure that when it was most important, she knew that we were a safe space to talk to, and that we would be there for her. I would lose my mind if she couldn’t find her shoes for church on a Sunday morning, but when it really mattered, I even surprised myself in my response. Because we handled that situation with Lauren appropriately, she now knows she can come to us at anytime and we are her safe space.

Engage in discussions about faith and a relationship with Jesus. Encourage them to ask questions and for them to seek understanding.

Attend church services, and do Bible study together as a family.

Encourage your preteen to participate in activities that align with their interests and values. Be mindful of these activities taking precedence and priority over Jesus.

Remind your preteen that their worth and identity is rooted in God's unconditional love. Help them understand, and remind them daily that they are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14, "I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Last but not least, parents, please provide guidance on media consumption. Discuss the influence that media has on identity formation. Help your preteen make wise choices about the books, movies, music, and the social media they engage with. If I could throw out one thing as a parent of an 18, almost 19 year old, it would be to

make them put the phone down and have face to face conversations with others.

Oh parents, this is a tough age. Do you remember how those years were for you? I was not a model child during this age. Truth be told, I'm surprised I'm still living after those years. Jesus saved my life, because I'm surprised my didn't momma slap the life out of me!

Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This season of parenting can be tough, however, I know God has a purpose and a plan for the preteens of Live Oak Church. I also know He will teach you a lot about yourself through these years, and a lot about your children. I am praying Isaiah 41:10 over you as you are in the preteen trenches. 🌿

The graphic features the text "connect CAMPS" in red and blue, followed by "BINGO" in large blue letters with red exclamation marks on either side. To the right is a 3x3 grid of circles containing the following text:

- FRIDAY
- MARCH 8
- 10AM
- REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED
- FLC (with a white star on a red background)
- BRING A SNACK TO SHARE WITH OTHERS
- \$10/PP
- MONEY GOES TOWARDS CONNECT CAMPS SCHOLARSHIPS
- JOIN US!

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

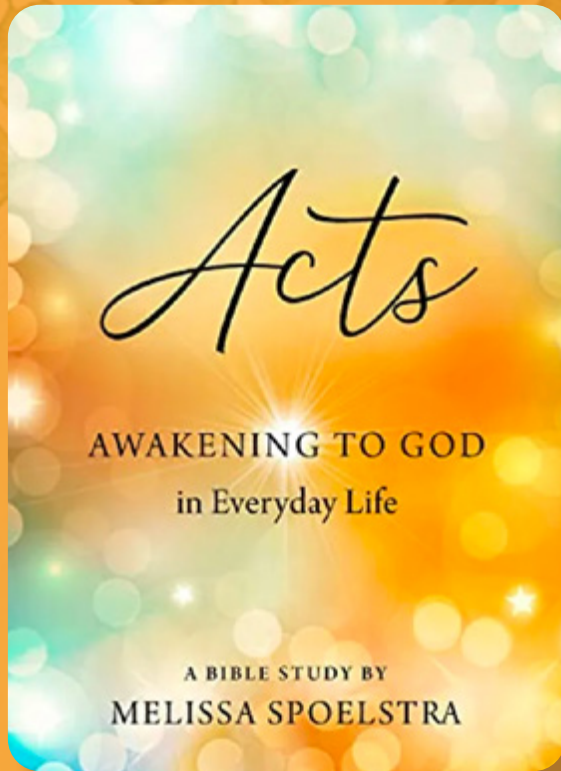
TODAY I ACCEPTED JESUS AS MY SAVIOR

LIVE OAK

Located at the Information Desk

GET CONNECTED TODAY!

DEEPER LIFE GROUPS



DEEPER LIFE FOR WOMEN

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

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

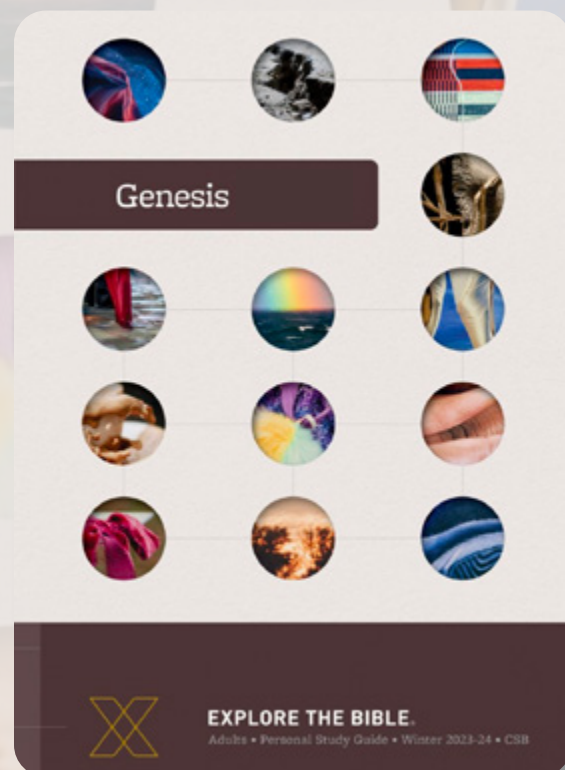
Led by Jan Tate

DEEPER LIFE FOR MEN

**Book of Genesis:
The Patriarchs...Bringing
Their Stories to Life**

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

Led by David Tate



REFUGE

Support. Instruction. Accountability.

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



Thursdays at 7 PM

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

BLESS GOD

by Trent Barnett

Last month, we introduced the song “Bless God” by Brooke Ligertwood (co-written by Brandon Lake and Cody Carnes). This song challenges us to focus our hearts on blessing God at all times and in all seasons. Even when times are difficult or uncertain, we should look to find the places where God is moving and working in our lives.

During Sunday services, I often read from Psalm 34:1-3: “I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord, let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt His name together.” It’s a great passage and reminder for us to worship the Lord together. The Psalm goes on to declare: “the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry” (v. 15), and “the Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit” (v. 18). What an incredible promise of God’s provision and grace that sustains us, and gives us life.

When we experience the nearness of God in the middle of our brokenness, or we see Him respond to our cry, our only response is one of worship!

Worship isn't merely songs or music. Worship is a life surrendered in full obedience to God's will.

As Paul writes, we “offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your true and proper worship” (Romans 12:1). Worship is giving our hearts affection to Him because of His great love and surpassing kindness for us - that meets us where we are, that changes us, and gives us hope and a future in Him.

Jesus is the firstborn over all creation. The One who emptied Himself, took on human flesh - who bore our sin on Himself, and defeated sin, death and the grave. He is the risen and reigning Lamb who sits upon the

throne. How can we *not* worship? When we experience the presence of God, our hearts can't help but worship Him fully. It's surrendering our whole life to the Lord, being “all in” as Dr. Mark taught a few weeks ago. All in for Christ - whether we're in the sanctuary or the darkest valley, the fields of plenty or when our hands are empty.

When we understand our life is in Christ alone, we then look for opportunities to lift our hearts and voices in worship. With a clearer picture of God's love, we can then “sing if you've known His grace” and “sing if you love His name” because we've experienced His love. We recognize Christ alone is “worthy of all our praise.” May we bless God and praise His name - even when no one is watching, even when the days are difficult - even when our worship is costly! God is always worthy of our worship and worthy of our hearts fully surrendered to Him. May our prayer be: “every chance I get, I'll bless Your Name.” 🌿

Just For YOU

find yours in the lobby





SENIOR ADULTS

by Landra Reed

"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

Romans 6:9



We had an amazing turnout for Valentine's Day, and I hope we do the same this March. On March 20th we will be heading to the Dinner Bell. Our reservations are for 11:15 so we need to leave the church by 9:30 a.m. . We will be taking a coach bus. There are 50 seats available so please make sure to sign up. If you plan on going and you're driving yourself you still need to sign up. The cost is \$15 per person. I hope each and every one of you have an amazing Easter Sunday filled with family, friends, and laughter.

Women's Share Group!

A great opportunity for ladies
to share and connect.

Led by Ashley Gonzales
Conference Room

THURSDAYS AT 7 PM

LIVE OAK Ladies

Decorate Easter Eggs

March 9 at 6:30p

(if you want to decorate)

BRING A DOZEN
HARDBOILED EGGS
TO DECORATE

FLC | 18+ | Dinner provided

Hope for the Hurting

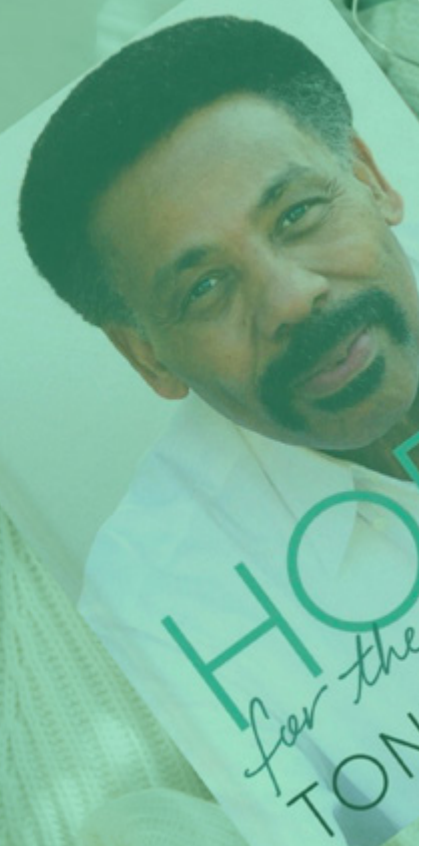
LIVE OAK Ladies

9:30-10:30A IN THE CHAPEL

Registration Required

CONTACT FAITH@LIVEOAK.CHURCH
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Led by Mallory Williams





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 !



MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN HELPING MEN BE MEN

SIGN UP NOW!
GRIDIRON
 MEN'S CONFERENCE®



George Foreman



Phil Waldrep



Willie Robertson



Daniel Dickard



James Merritt

COMING TO MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
KYLE IDLEMAN'S NEW STUDY
ONE AT A TIME: EXPLORING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS



2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
7:30 AM
THE CONFERENCE ROOM.



A DROP FROM THE ALTAR

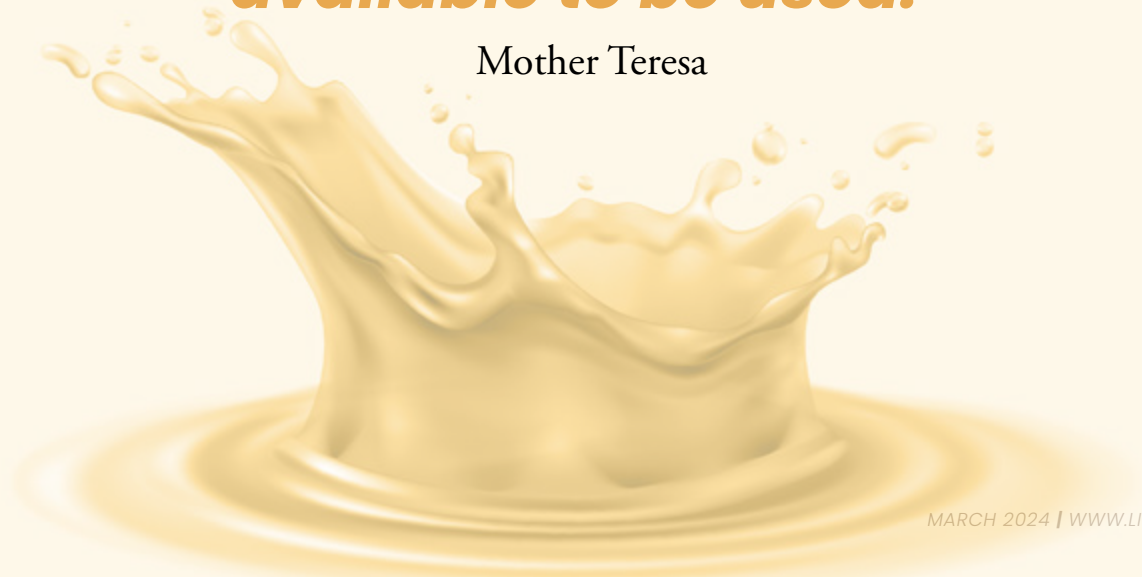
by sam lobello

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.

“I don’t claim anything of the work. It is His work. I am like a little pencil in His hand. That is all. He does the thinking. He does the writing. The pencil has nothing to do with it. The pencil is just available to be used.”

Mother Teresa



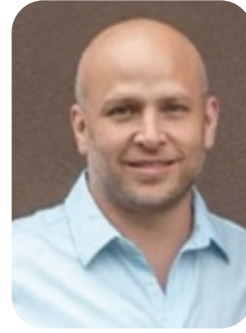
meet our team



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

Reach Us At
info@liveoak.church
-OR-
Any First Name +
[@liveoak.church](mailto:info@liveoak.church)
ex. name@liveoak.church



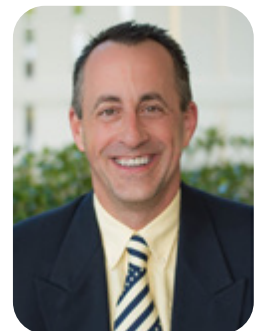
Kim Pamplin
Counseling Office
Manager



Ila Clark
MDO Program
Administrator



Austyn Chopin
MDO Curriculum
Administrator



Jim Otken
Treasurer

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.

rightnow MEDIA

MARCH WINDS BLOWING A GIFT YOUR WAY

Free Access to +20,000 Bible Study Videos—
Anytime, Anywhere, From Any Device



Scan the QR Code to Create Your
Free Account and Start Browsing

android chromecast  iPhone & iPad **Roku**  tv fireTV

FAMILY
Easter
EVENT

MARCH 17, 2024

This event is for our entire church family

REGISTER ON THE APP

