SMALL GROUPS A DROP FROM THE ALTAR SENIOR ADULTS EVENTS

# the messenger Ive oak church magazine / september 2023

FROM THE **PASTOR'S** DESK

### SEQUOIA

SURROUNDING YOUR CHILDREN WITH A BIBLICAL ROOT SYSTEM

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US

FAMILY WORSHIP

## **NEW YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUPS!**

### **YOUNG ADULT** COED CLASS

Gospel of John



### Sundays at 8:45 AM in the FLC (Upstairs)

Led by Brayden Lott



### **YOUNG ADULT** COUPLES CLASS

The Meaning of Marriage

Launching Sunday, September 10, 8:45 AM in Room 212

Led by Krist & Katie Norsworthy

### 07 from the pastor's desk

Peace is something we all desire to have, but few of us understand how to find it.

### 10 family worship

Strong ministry to young people bulks up the ministry muscles of the entire congregation.

### 12 sequoia

Bringing kids to church will help them know that other people believe and that church is a safe place to learn about Jesus.

### 13 the gospel

From Centrikid, an easy explantion of the Gosepl for kids.

### newsletter & updates

### 05 small groups

Join in with over 700 attenders in 20 Bible Study Groups.

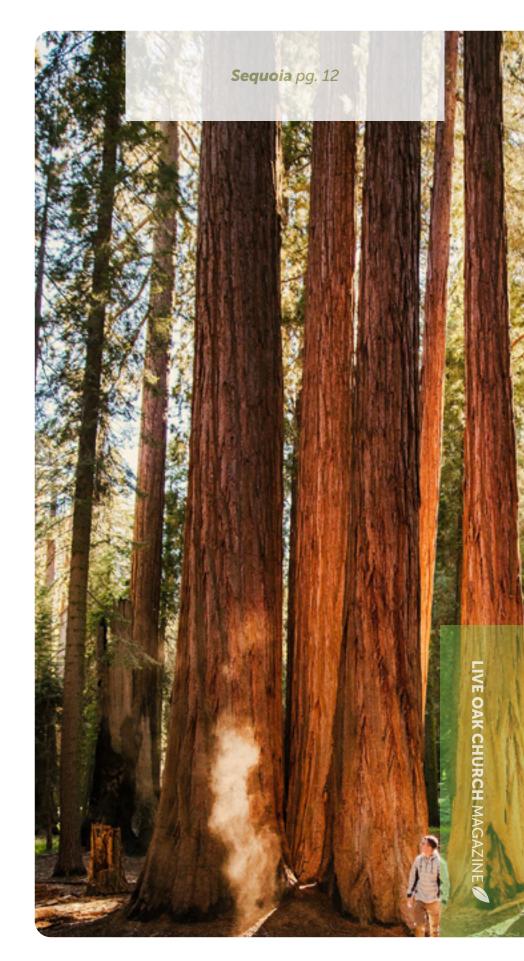
### 14 senior adults

Reflection allows us to become better disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### 16 helping the most helpless

We are taking steps of faith, and we ask our Church to be in special prayer for this ministry as a whole.

4 MONTHLY EVENTS14 A DROP FROM THE ALTAR22 MEET OUR TEAM



SUNDAY

8:00 AM Worship Service

8:45 AM Student Ministry:

8:45 AM Adult Small Groups:

9:30 AM Children's Church

9:30 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Kid's Min

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

8:45 AM Children & Pre-Teen Sunday School Sherri Gardner: K-3rd - Room #214

See Page 5 for Full List

Jonny Carroll - Upstairs in FLC

6:30 PM Men's Home Bible Study - Robert Poole's House

6:30 PM - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month - Chapel

Stephen Hebert - Bible Prophecy: The Essentials

9:30 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel

10:00 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:

11:00 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel

6:30 PM Women's Deeper Life - Chapel

6:30 PM Men's Deeper Life - Room #201

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC

7:00 PM Refuge - Room #201

9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online

6:30 - 7:20 PM Dr. Mark's Class - Adults

Jodi Rushing: 4th - 6th - Room #213

# **SEPTEMBER 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 -

Linda Johnson: 7-11th Grade - Upstairs in FLC

Nathan Lott: 12th Grade - Age 25 - Upstairs in FLC

### – 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.

0

1.077.00

### LIVE OAK LADIES

Bingo Night Friday September 8 (See Pg. 20)

**Prayer Bible Study** 9:30am Mondays (See Pg. 23)

Bible Recap 6:30pm Wednesdays in Room #202

### **KID'S MINISTRY**

Father Son Retreat (See Pg. 6)



### FRIDAY

THURSDAY

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



### SUNDAYS Starting at 8:45 AM

Young Adult Couples Class // Meaning of Marriage // Krist & Katie Norsworthy - Room #212 Young Adult Coed Class // Gospel of John // Brayden Lott - Upstairs FLC Median Adult Coed & Couples Class // The Book of Revelation // Dickie Davis - Room #202 Senior Adult Class // Explore the Bible // Room #201 Pastor's Class // 2nd Timothy // Dr. Mark Crosby - Choir Room New Member Class // Bro. Sam LoBello - Room #102

### Starting at 9:30 AM

Robert's Coed Class // *Book of Romans* // Room #211 Todd & Sealy Couple's Class // *Book of James* // Room #202

### Starting at 6:00 PM

Nathan Lott - Young Adult Group - FLC Layne Hutchinson's Doctrinal Study (Coed) - Room #202

### WEEKDAYS Monday

9:30 AM - Ladies Bible Study // When You Pray // Mallory Williams-Chapel.
6:00 PM - Deeper Life Men: Explore the Bible - David Tate - Room #201
6:00 PM - Deeper Life Women // Isaiah: Striving Less & Trusting More // 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

Coed Home Group // 2nd Peter // Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home Ladies Bible Recap - Jeanette Clark - Room #202 Worship & Study // *Reasons to Believe* // Pastor Mark - Sanctuary

### **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 // Book of James - Coed // 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

# OCT. 20 @ 5P - OCT. 21 @ 2P

ATHER San

### **CAMP ISTROUMA**

20

**OVERNIGHT RETREAT** 

REGISTE

# \$15 PER PERSON // DINNER & BREAKFAST INCLUDED

RETREAD

ARCHERY - CLIMBING WALL - LAKE FRONT ACTIVITIES PAINTBALL - BIBLE STUDY

t is September, and summer is almost officially over. What a summer we had here at Live Oak Church. It was a summer filled with youth/student activities, from Connect Camp to Music Camp. It was a time for lifechanging decisions for Messiah, which resulted in several baptisms all summer long. Our attendance has been increasing (almost every Sunday) as many are joining us, and others are returning after the concerns over COVID-19 seem to be decreasing.

In the month of September, many physicians and therapists see an increase in volume in their practice as school resumes and as the vacation days of summer return to the responsibilities and routines of life. The reason for this is possibly the level of conflict that occurs within one's own heart and soul and the conflict one has with their family, their past, or with God.

Whenever there is conflict, there is often stress, anxiety, and feelings of distress. In other words, we lack peace, comfort, and confidence in life when we are experiencing any



### PEACE IS SOMETHING WE ALL DESIRE TO HAVE, BUT FEW OF US UNDERSTAND HOW TO FIND IT...

conflict. When peace leaves our home, our heart, or our life, we become frantic and worried and start becoming someone we were not created to be.

This is why Jesus mentions the word peace throughout His ministry. Peace is something we all desire to have, but few of us understand how to find it and then keep it. It seems that peace continues to want to allude to us, and thus, for many, we live

# FROM THE **PASTOR'S DESK**

in turmoil with ourselves, with others, and with God.

In the month of September, we will be looking at "Making peace with those areas of life that are important and necessary for a happy and meaningful life." We will look at Making Peace with God, Making Peace with your Past, Making Peace with yourself, and Making Peace with your loved ones.

We all want peace, but often, it alludes us and, therefore causes us to feel anxious, depressed, and disconnected. We hope you will join us for the month of September as we look at Making Peace.

Hope to see you Sunday!

Dr. Mark Crosby Senior Pastor

# FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

FULL TUMMY BAGS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

# WE NEED 20 VOLUNTEERS EACH MONTH KIDS 5 & UP CAN ATTEND WITH THEIR PARENTS

# DATES TO FILL BAGS ARE UPDATED MONTHLY

# **REGISTRATION ON THE APP**

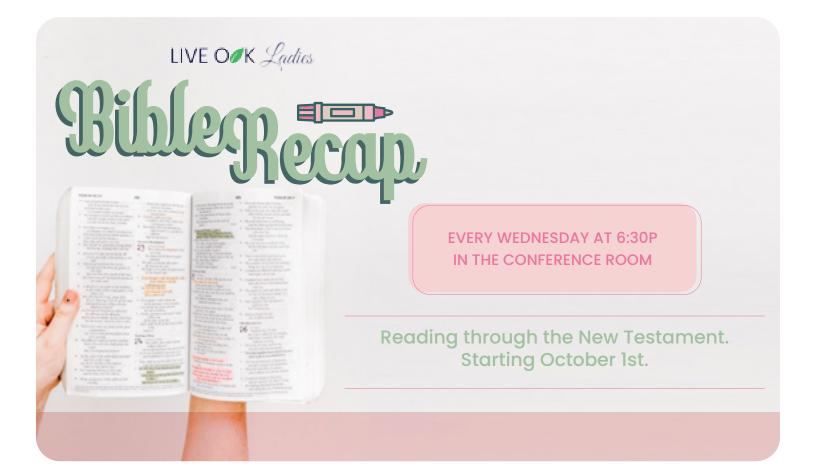


PACKING LOCATION AT ABUNDANT LIFE

# 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





### by ment burne

Worship Ministry is involved in so much more than just what you may see on a Sunday morning. One of our priorities at Live Oak Church is to minister to the entire family holistically. In Worship Ministry, one of the tools we use to accomplish this is using similar songs to connect different environments in worship. Each Sunday, our Kids and Preteens are led in worship with at least one of the same songs being led in the Sanctuary (often, both of their songs are pulled from the same list). While your kid or preteen may be in a different service, this helps provide points of connection between the songs being led across campus, helping families connect with one another in worship. You can discuss the lyrics (theology) in these songs during your drive-time with your kids. When one of these songs comes on the radio or your streaming playlist, you can worship along with these songs together. It's truly a powerful thing when families worship together (Nehemiah 8-9).

We also believe that no platform is more important than another. Many of our main stage worship leaders rotate through and also lead in our Preteens services on Sunday mornings - myself included. Investing in the next generation is one of our primary callings as the church, passing the baton of faith to the next generation: "one generation will declare Your works to the next and will proclaim Your mighty acts" (Psa. 145:4). The Lord has done some amazing things through these moments of worship with kids and preteens, and has continued to grow these areas of ministry.

On Wednesday nights, our Preteens and Student Ministries worship services are both led primarily by students. This year, we've had as many as 9 students actively leading their peers in worship weekly leading vocally, as well as playing synth, guitar, and bass. A few weeks ago, many of you were led by this group for the combined Wednesday night service that was held in the Sanctuary. Some of these students have been leading with us for over 3 years - which is an eternity for a high school-aged student!

These students' commitment to serving the Lord and this church as they develop a faith of their own is such an encouragement! Reggie Joiner has said, "If you want a kid's faith to grow significantly, give them something significant to do." Every week, these students use their gifts to point their peers - and adults - to Jesus Christ. That's the most significant thing we can do with our lives! I love leading with these students, and have gotten to know them and their heart for the Lord. They each recognize worship as so much more than the songs we lead, or even the lyrics we sing. Worship is about pointing our lives, and the lives of others, to see a clearer picture of Jesus, and then giving our lives to ascribe worth (show value) to Him.

All in all, Worship Ministry leads for 8 worship services every week. Half of these services are for Preteens and Students. Yet there is just as much thought, time, and energy given to these services as there are to the Sanctuary services. Every person is a soul to be pointed to and surrendered to Jesus - no matter their age. Dr. Kara Powell has said, "Strong ministry to young people bulks up the ministry muscles of the entire congregation." If anything, our ministry to kids, students, and preteens is one of the most important things we can invest our time in - not only as a Worship Ministry, but in the church as a whole. I'm grateful for each of the students and volunteers who serve in the church to pour into the next generation, building the faith of students and our entire church at the same time. 🥖

# rightnow MEDIA

# A GIFT FROM OUR CHURCH

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



This past month, my family had the opportunity to travel to the state of California as part of Lauren's senior trip from high school. As part of the trip, we were able to visit Sequoia National Park. I've heard these trees are big, and have even seen pictures, but you truly cannot grasp the actual size of these trees from pictures. To stand by these trees in the middle of a forest is nothing less than awe-inspiring. They were majestic.

As I do when I'm out and about in nature, I am in awe of how great and marvelous our God is. Now Louisiana has its beauty, this season of drought excluded, however, these trees were on another level. The verse that kept coming to mind was Psalm 8:9, "O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!"

Out of breath and hiking all through these massive trees, my mind went down a rabbit trail of all the questions that I had about these trees... How do they withstand fires, what is their root system like, how fast do they grow, and how do they continue to grow when in seasons of drought?

The nerd in me went on a rabbit trail of exploration about Sequoia trees when I got to the hotel that night. In my findings, it caused me to think about the children of Live Oak that I am entrusted to teach. As I was reading all about these magnificent trees I wished the kids at Live Oak could see these trees for themselves. Now what did I learn about these trees that would even cause you to want to keep reading? Bear with me for a little longer.

The root system of a sequoia tree is quite interesting. You would think that such a massive tree would have deep roots, when in fact they do not. Despite their massive size, these trees have quite a shallow root system. Their root system extends outward. They are designed to anchor the tree and provide stability, rather than digging deep into the ground for water. These trees have root systems that only go down about 6-12 feet, and what's even more interesting is that these trees rarely fall over. How in the world can something so massive and something that weighs a lot only have roots that aren't that deep?

What's interesting is that these trees roots are woven together with other trees of their kind. The sequoia trees are holding one another up. They depend on one another for what they need to sustain life. Their strength supports one another. So it is with your children. They cannot



learn and grow in love with Jesus without a good root system that they can intertwine with. Here are two things that I believe can help your children to have a good "root system," or foundation in their faith.

As your child goes to school, they are required or at least strongly encouraged to read books. So it should be with the Bible. Deuteronomy 6:7, "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." Talk about Jesus frequently in your house with your children. Make Him a part of the daily conversations with your kids. Read from the Bible before they can truly understand it. As you continue to talk about God and read the Bible as a family, they will learn that the Bible has a purpose and the Bible will become real to them.

Bringing your children to church consistently will help them to know that there are other people that believe in Jesus and that church is a safe place to learn about Jesus.

I've said this many times before, but my church family is closer to me than my extended family. My church family is part of my spiritual foundation as they challenge me to learn and grow in my faith.

Surrounding your children with a good Biblical root system will help them as they grow to know that when the rain comes and winds blow that they are safe in the arms of their heavenly Father because their root system, or house, was built on the Him. *I* 

# GOSPLANFORME

gos·pel - noun. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revielation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17

# We sinned.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23

# God provided.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16: Ephesians 2:8-9

# Jesus gives.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9

# We respond.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13







### newsletter & updates



In Psalm 139:23-24, we learn to ask God to help us and self-examination, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Reflecting on who we are, who God is making us, how God is working in us, and how God is working around us will allow us to live more fully Christian lives. Christian reflection will allow us to step away from the worldliness of life and reorient ourselves to our Savior and Creator. Reflection will truly allow us to become better disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our next fellowship day will be September 5th, at 11:00 a.m., at the Cafe Phoenicia in Central. Please make sure to sign up at the connection center or call me. The cutoff date for signing up is September 3rd.

We still have about 15 spots available for the Branson trip this November. If you have any questions, please contact me.

## 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.

## "Jesus has set fire to the fence in America."

- Marvin Collins

# The second secon

ave you been visiting Live Oak Church? Considering becoming a member? We have a New Members Class just for you! This class begins the first Sunday morning each month at 8:45 and ends on the fourth Sunday. In these four sessions you will encounter life changing truths and learn more about Live Oak Church. You will look at Salvation in 3-D, learn to Enhance Your Relationship With God, Examine the Stages of Spiritual Growth and Discover Your Spiritual Gifts. This class meets in Room #102 and recycles each month. You can sign up for our New Members Class at the Information Desk. We look forward welcoming you into our Live Oak Church Community of Faith!

# HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US

### by Gideon Rossman and Stephen Hebert

After much prayer, discussion and planning, the consensus is strong that it is time to move forward. On Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have another conference in the Family Life Center from 5-7pm. As before, the meal will be catered. This time, however, we will be sharing with the group what we've been up to, various ways to refer people for help, and how as a Church we can get involved in helping the most helpless among us. We are taking steps of faith, and we ask our Church to be in special prayer for this ministry as a whole, that the Lord leads us into plans and actions consistent with His heart (Psalm 72 : 12 - 14). As we roll out this ministry, we are open to new ideas, so feel free to email Pastor Stephen at Stephen@LiveOak.Church. Everyone has a role in this important ministry, even in the formative stage!

A significant part of our work to help unborn children and their families will involve partnerships with community organizations such as the Woman's New Life Clinic (WNLC). As a Christian, lifeaffirming counseling and medical clinic, they have been engaged in this work for over 20 years. During this time, they have helped countless women and men in many life challenging circumstances. According to their mission statement, WNLC is "a Christian organization promoting the sanctity of life, the dignity of women, and the sacredness of sexuality through medical and mental health services". To fulfill this mission, they provide free services such as pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, abortion pill reversal, material support, fertility awareness education, and low-cost women's healthcare. They also provide free professional counseling for unplanned pregnancy, past abortion,

postpartum depression, miscarriage, and stillbirth. They have two clinics in Louisiana, one in Baton Rouge, the other in New Orleans.

There are many ways to partner with Woman's New Life Clinic, and one way that Gideon has been doing this for the past few years is through an activity he has enjoyed for most of his life - Running! Each fall, WNLC hosts a road race in downtown Baton Rouge, called the Born to Run 5K Fun Run, as a fundraiser to support their mission. The event this year is scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023, starting at 7:30 am. Anyone can join in this event by signing up as an individual runner or walker, joining a team, donating, or helping sponsor the event. If you or anyone you know would like to participate in or help sponsor the event, feel free to reach out to Gideon at tgross6733@ gmail.com or text (225) 405.2964. He is forming a team for Live Oak Church, and we would love for you to take part in it!

By partnering with Woman's New Life Clinic and other life-affirming, community organizations like this, our Church can strengthen our relationship with their staff and volunteers, as well as connect with the community. We complement one another, and together we can strengthen and build up the body of Christ, while in the process bless the women, men, and babies that are needing help.

Please continue to pray for our Church, our ministry, our pastors, our driven laity and those we seek to help – in our Church and in the surrounding community.

# 8 Week Course Beginning September 20

# FAITH

**STUDENTS AGES 11 – 17** Sign Up on the App by Sep. 18 newsletter & updates





September 9 Prayer Breakfast & Study 7:30 AM in Room #202. Topic: Daniel: Faithful in the Fire... Navigating a Corrupt Culture.

September 23 Axe Throwing & Lunch 11 AM at The Gym in DS





**LIVE OAK MEN** Finding encouragement, support, instruction and protection by Riding in the Herd.

newsletter & updates



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.

The teaching and sharing that takes place within our group is helpful and enriching. What is taught is often life changing! If you wrestle with addiction issues we are here to assist you on your journey to life recovery!

Your questions about our REFUGE Ministry can be answered by calling our Church Office at 664-4801 or email Bro. Sam at sam@liveoak.church.

# THURSDAYS AT 7 PM

WE MEET IN ROOM #201. COME JOIN US!

# LIVE OOK Ladies BINGSOS



20 LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE | SEPTEMBER 2023





### live oak church

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.



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



Rev. Sam LoBello Director of Adult Ministries



Jim Otken Treasurer

Trish Graves Children's Ministry Director



Rev. Chris Lacara Maintenance Director



Kim Pamplin Counseling Office Manager



Faith Storck Children's Ministry Assistant



Rev. Krist Norsworthy Communications Coordinator



Ila Clark MDO Program Administrator



Linda Holdman Administrative Assistant



Katie Norsworthy Office Secretary



Austyn Chopin MDO Curriculum Administrator

# LIVE OOK Ladies 7-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

BEGINNING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 9:30-10:30A IN THE CHAPEL

Tallet

Registration Required

CONTACT FAITH@LIVEOAK.CHURCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

Led by Mallary Williams

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 YOUR 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	BRINDAIL
STREET ADDRESS	CILL
EMAL	
PROMART PHONE	HOME MOBILE WORK OTHER
FIRST TIME GUEST	RETURNING GUEST
MEMBER OF LIVE OAK CHURCH	
FAMILY INFORMATION	
SPOULE (F-APPLICABLE)	BRINDATE
CHILDREN (F. APPLICABLE)	BRINDAIL
OHLDREN (F APPLICABLE)	BETHDATE
CHILDREN (F APPLICABLE)	BRTHDATE
IHAVE A PRAYER REQUEST	I WANT TO JOIN LIVE OAK
	UPDATE MY INFORMATION
IAM INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY GROUPS	
○ TODAY I ACCEPTED JESUS AS MY	SAVIOR

LIVE O/K

Located at the Information Desk

# **GET CONNECTED TODAY!**