

CONSIDERING
BECOMING A
MEMBER OF
LIVE OAK CHURCH?

It begins right here!



GET CONNECTED TODAY!

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OCTOBER 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:

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

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

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 Worship & Study - 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.

LIVE OAK LADIES

Conversations Around the Campfire Friday October 13 (See Page 5)

Prayer Bible Study 9:30am Mondays

Bible Recap

6:30pm Wednesdays in Room #202

KID'S MINISTRY

Father Son Retreat (See Back Page)





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 // 1st Peter // 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 Daniel // 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

<u>Thursday</u>

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

GROUP



t looks like (hopefully) some cooler weather is trying to show up in the month of October. October is always a unique month in that it often feels like autumn, football is in full swing, and many start making plans for the Holiday season (Thanksgiving Eve to New Year's Day).

I love the month of October (not just because it's my birthday) because, during this month, I often carve out time to reflect on where the Lord has brought me and where He is directing me in life. I have discovered that the Lord truly sets us free, gives us new opportunities, and causes us to grow in His grace. When that happens, life becomes full, hopeful and exciting.

In the past few months, we have seen some amazing growth in our attendance, ministries, and spiritual formation of so many of our members. So many share how they are growing in their faith, using their spiritual gifts and seeing God work in their lives in wonderful ways.



IN THE MONTH OF
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AND DEFINE US.

What is also exciting is to hear the testimonies of those who have overcome addictions, attitudes, and apathy and are seeing God's grace in a whole new light. There seem to be so many obstacles in today's world that want to crush the hope, joy, and fellowship of God's people. So many of God's people have declared they feel as if they are struggling to find the hope, freedom, and confidence they need to have the joy of the Lord. Others feel they are in a war

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

of bondage as they struggle with relationships, cultural changes, and division. Others feel they are trying to walk through life "wrapped up in chains."

In the month of October, we will be looking at how Messiah breaks the chains that want to confine us, bind us, and define us. Jesus (Yeshua) is a chain breaker! He gives us the power, the hope, and the wisdom we need to break the chains and set the captives free.

So join us in October for the "Chain Breaker" series as we look forward to a new series in a new month..

Hope to see you Sunday!

Dr. Mark Crosby Senior Pastor

LIVE OAK WORSHIP

by Trent Barnett

The heart of a worship leader is to point people to Jesus and help them take steps in their relationship with Him. Leading others in worship is itself an act of worship. A worship leader uses music and lyrics to point people to Jesus - but the songs we play, the melodies we use, and the lyrics we sing are just vehicles used to point people to Jesus. There is no person, no song, no riff that will ever be more important than the person of Jesus. Louie Giglio has said, "We are not offering a show; we're holding out a Savior."

Live Oak Worship is a collection of worship leaders - musicians, singers, artists, and creatives - using the arts to draw people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Each of these individuals have a passion for the Lord, and sincere hearts for worship. They sacrifice their time, talents, and energy to help point others to our Savior Jesus Christ. They've seen the power of His grace and love in their lives, and

want others to experience it just the same. That's why our mission is to foster environments inspiring people to actively engage in worship. As Mike Harland has said, "we are not called to make music; we're called to make disciples."

If you have a heart for the Lord, and want to use your talents to help others pursue Him, I'd love to hear from you! We have several opportunities for you to get involved - whether on Sundays, or midweek, whether you're a singer, musician, or both. Our team also operates with a rotation model, giving volunteers opportunities to serve, while also balancing that with opportunities to be spiritually filled and worship alongside your family. If you'd like to know more, or get plugged in, email me at trent@liveoak.church so I can get to know you, and find the best place to connect you in serving the Kingdom!



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PODCASTS - SERMON OUTLINES - LIVE STREAM - THE MESSENGER

STUBBORN VINE

by Trish Graves

Y'all, I've got a lot of trees in my yard. A lot. It's been extremely dry, the grass is brown and crispy but the weeds are somehow still sprouting up everywhere. And then there are those vines. The vines that have wrapped themselves around my trees and around the branches, almost to the top. It's time; the vines have to go.

The vines had roots that were too deep for me to pull up, so I cut them at the bottom by the ground, then gave them a tug to see if I could pull them out of the tree. There were a few short vines that gave up easily and came down with the first tug. But in most cases, the vine just didn't want to let go. It had wound itself so tightly that I wasn't sure I would be able to pull it down. So I pulled and tugged, as long as I had the energy, because I needed that vine to come down, and I really didn't want to lose the battle. It seemed like it would never budge. But then, as if it had a mind of its own, the vine began to unwind itself and let go. Just like that. And once it started, it just LET GO. It was fascinating to watch it unwind itself. It was as if it just gave up the fight.

Later that evening when I began picking up all the weeds and vines that I had cut and removed, I was amazed at how quickly the vines had begun to die. Once they were cut and removed from the tree, from their source of life, they began withering and turning brown almost immediately.

I couldn't help but think about John Chapter 15 where Jesus says "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire, and burned."

When we stray from the Word, and from our heavenly Father, our source of life, are we like the vine that was able to hold on for a period, but then lose the will to fight and just let go? When we cut off the source of life, how long can we stand on our own before we wither away and die?

I encourage you to spend time in God's word and stay plugged in and connected to your church family. Your children learn by watching, and they want to be you. Teaching them that bible study and church attendance are important is one of the best things you will ever do for your children and your family.

If you would like to get connected with other families or are interested in a bible study, please let us know! We would love to hear from you and get you connected!





by Landra Reed





"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him." (Psalm 28:7, NIV).

It's that time of year when the weather is just a little bit cooler, a little bit crisper, and it is a time for preparing yourself for shorter days and longer nights. After our summer, I am genuinely thankful for this Fall season.

This year, we are going to celebrate fall in October. Our Fall Feast will be on October 27th at 11:00 in the FLC. Meals, drinks, and entertainment will

be provided. Please feel free to bring a dessert. Sign up at the front desk with Nancy or Annie or text me at 225-400-1687.

Our trip to Branson, Missouri, is also just around the corner. I will hand out your itineraries on the day of the Fall Feast.

We will be touring this year with a group from North Louisiana. I am looking forward to starting our holiday season with music, dancing, laughter, and the best group of people I have been so blessed to have in my life.

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.

"We have to be different to make a difference."

J.D. Greear



We all have strengths and weaknesses. We all have sinned. We all have issues.

Coming up, as a child my mom's issue was control. She did the best she could trying to parent three boys without her husband being able to help due to war injuries. After us boys were raised, she did a great job being there for dad the last 15 years of his life after his stroke. But she was controlling. She was very domineering while we were there in the home as kids and to dad.

I resented the way she talked to dad being that he was a 100% disabled veteran. I felt it was unfair to him that he got drafted and sent to Italy in WWII when they were not our ally. As a result, he lost his health and his ability to work. It put pressures of all sorts on our family and mom felt the need to control everything.

When Betty and I got married, mom still felt the need to control. I had enough of it while under her roof and now while out on my own I was going to have none of it. I took a promotion and Betty and I took off to Baton Rouge!

Little did I know I had packed that unresolved emotional luggage from my home of origin into my marriage. I had vowed to myself that no one would treat me like that. As a result, whoever married me was in BIG trouble! I would not tolerate any disagreement or conflict in our marriage. I was brash, abrupt, frustrated and angry.

Betty and I ended up divorced. Afterwards I surrendered my life to Christ. Sometime later we remarried each other. Jesus didn't want me to wreck my marriage a second time out of ignorance, so He pointed out to me in my Quiet Time, my issue with needing to be in control. Farther, He showed me what it was tied to. He let me know that I needed to let go of my feelings toward my mom about her behavior and that would require me forgiving her.

I drove to Texas to talk with her. I shared with her about her controlling attitude toward dad and us boys and how I didn't think there was any sense in it. She responded by saying that I had no idea what was going on behind the scenes between her and dad. I agreed. How could I understand adult stuff, I was only a child then, but I let her know that was what I perceived. And perception to a child is reality. Then I uttered the words that the Lord had sent me there to say, "Mom, I forgive you." I sincerely meant it.

The moment I spoke those words, it was as if a wave came over me. God was setting me free from my need to control others! And the

Holy Spirit revealed to me what had happened. Because I had previously not forgiven my mom, I had retained her sin to myself and became the very person I disliked. You see, by not forgiving her and I had become more controlling than her so she couldn't control me! Then I packed that unresolved emotional luggage into my marriage.

Forgiving my mom set me free from the bondage that I was in due to me having not been willing to forgive her.

I have now been in the ministry for 42 years. The most miserable people I have met in my ministry have been grudge bearers... those who are unwilling to forgive. Their spirit is poisoned with resentment, frustration and bitterness. Believe me, you don't want to be that person!

Once I forgave my mom our relationship improved. In addition, it has helped me in my relationships with others because I don't have to be in control or try to control anything. After all, God is in control!

Considering forgiving someone? You know Jesus commands it. (Mark 11:26) Maybe it would help if you understood what forgiveness is and is not. Check it out on the next page.

FORGIVENE:

IS

- Cancelling a debt
- Removing control of the one who has hurt you
- Giving a gift to yourself to let go of the past, so the past can let go of you
- Forsaking revenge
- Leaving ultimate justice in God's hands
- Ongoing...70 x 7
- Hoping that the offender will know God's grace

IS NOT

- Denying sin occurred or diminishing it's evil
- Enabling sin, abuse and addiction
- A response to an apology (that person may never apologize)
- Forgetting... but you don't bring it up anymore
- Immediately instilling trust
- Always reconciliation. It is an invitation to reconciliation, but it takes two to reconcile
- Covering up a crime

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US



By Lucy Hebert, Gideon Rossman & Pastor Stephen

Our Leadership team with the "Helping the Most Helpless Among Us" ministry is kicking October off with its third workshop on Sunday, October 8th! Live Oak Church is committed to the success and growth of this ministry, and most importantly committed to honoring God and contributing to the Great Commission, by helping those in need. Part of our vision is to provide life affirming resources to individuals who are faced with an unplanned pregnancy. We also want to honor God through a team of people at our Church who are dedicated to offering Christ centered love and support to mothers and their unborn children, and to educate and support men and women, and boys and girls, in making wise Godly choices.

The focus of our last two workshops was on education. With a large attendance, many of our Church congregation had the opportunity to listen to speakers from local agencies provide a foundation for knowledge around the message of supporting human creation by God. More knowledge was gained about what is happening in our state and our community regarding abortion. We received great feedback from various attendees from the workshop on July 9th. The ministry team thoughtfully discussed how to incorporate ideas centered around continued education, local resources and involvement from our Church family. The education theme was also at the core of the workshop that our Live Oak Church staff and counseling team participated in. Licensed and trained staff will be incorporating pregnancy crisis services and offering resources for those in need as a life supporting extension of this ministry.

A lot of activity has taken place preparing for our next workshop. This workshop on October 8th will propel

our mission to the next phase of taking what has been learned over the past several months and putting it into action. Our leadership team is confident that you will be inspired and spiritually touched as you get close and personal with hearing several testimonies directly from the ministry leadership team. This same team has been spiritually moved itself and inspired immensely through preparations for this workshop! You will hear themes of strength, perseverance, healing, forgiveness, and evidence of God's hand in the midst of the storms. Jesus is there, and He catches His children because you belong to Him. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" -Isaiah 43:2. In addition to getting to know the team and hearing their testimonies, we will be diving into specific ways that you can support this ministry with your own active involvement, as well as providing vital resources to contact for pregnancy crisis needs. We encourage you to begin praying for God's guidance in deciding whether or how to become involved while allowing your individual spiritual gifts to shine through. There will be several options to choose from initially and more opportunities will be available in the future as the ministry grows and expands its reach.

We look forward to seeing God's work in this ministry saving lives through the hands of our Church body and hands of all the many community resources and groups who will be working with us. The workshop will be held in the Family Life Center on Sunday, October 8th from 5-7pm. A catered meal will be provided for the attendees. We hope you will join us for this next workshop. Please RSVP by the close of business on Friday, October 6th, by sending an email to Pastor Stephen with your name, phone number, and number attending in your party to Stephen@liveoak.church.



PRESENTED BY





RACE INFORMATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

NORTH BOULEVARD TOWN SQUARE DOWNTOWN BATON ROUGE

7:30 am — Runner sign-in, on-site registration available

8:30 am - 1/2-mile Fun Run/Walk begins

9:00 am - 5K begins

Post-race "Birth"day Party to follow

WOMANSNEWLIFE.COM/BORNTORUN

YOU can help women in need!

Born to Run — Baton Rouge 5K & 1/2-Mile Fun Run is a great opportunity to make an impact on women in need. Both races are open to all ages and skill levels.

Woman's New Life Clinic (WNLC) is a life-affirming counseling and medical clinic that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge communities.







Largest team gets a cupcake party!

Highest fundraising team gets a pizza party!



REGISTER ON THE LIVE OAK CHURCH APP

OR STEPHEN@LIVEOAK.CHURCH



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 14, 7:30 AM

Study Topic: Daniel...Faithful in the Fire





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 OAK MISSIONS



We have several active mission projects, but we would like for you to grow with us. Here are a few:

- We support a couple of out of country missionaries, which includes Peggy Lowe whose work in Honduras we have witnessed first-hand.
- Feeding the homeless in Baton Rouge (stay tuned for our next opportunity.)
- Partnering with Mighty Moms which is committed to fighting the battle against childhood hunger in our local community. Sign up on the Live Oak Church app or contact Coralee Davis to volunteer for the monthly Full Tummy Project where we help prepare Full Tummy Bags that will feed hungry children in Livingston Parish.
- We will be doing a Christmas Mission Project for 2023 (more about that next month.)
- Supporting Sound Radio which presents teaching programs that support the SOUND doctrines of scripture and plays the pure SOUND of Christian Music.
- Spiritual projects at Live Oak Schools which include FCA and blessing the faculty and staff each semester. We hope you will join us with your time, talents, help, and donations!



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

JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF

live oak church

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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



Trish Graves Children's Ministry Director



Faith Storck Children's Ministry Assistant



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

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

Sundays at 8:45 AM in Room 212

Led by Krist & Katie Norsworthy

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

CAMP ISTROUMA

OVERNIGHT RETREAT



\$15 PER PERSON // DINNER & BREAKFAST INCLUDED

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