SMALL GROUPS | DROP FROM THE ALTAR | SENIOR ADULTS | EVENTS

## INCOME CHURCH MAGAZINE / M RCH 2023

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER LETTER

#### LOST YOUR MARBLES

**FIND OUT MORE** 

ABOUT OUR

at all times & IN ALL SEASONS

FROM

DESK

**STRIVING** TO HAVE A

LIKE MARY

HEART

THE PASTOR'S

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## FAMILY FAMILY EVENT

### MARCH 26, 2023

#### This event is for our entire church family





Dinner Included
Registration Required
Rain date April 2
Bring chairs or
blankets to sit on

×

#### MARCH 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 - Battlefield of the Mind

#### WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC 9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online 6:00 - 7:15 PM Kingdom Kidz: Kindergarten - 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

#### - ADULT EVENTS -

#### NEW MEMBERS CLASS

8:45am in Room #102 4 Week class that restarts the first Sunday of every month. Email Sam LoBello at sam@liveoak.church

#### **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

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

#### MEN'S MINISTRY

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

**LIVE OAK LADIES** Bible Recap Wednesdays at 6:30PM in the Room #202.

Ladies Bingo Night May 12 at 6:30PM

Ladies Tea April 1 at 10AM (tickets required)





e are approaching the Easter season. A time of warmer weather, longer days, and flowers blooming. It is a special time of the year. I love this season because it is an annual reminder that after the cold of winter comes the warmth of Spring.

This reality parallels our faith in Messiah in that after his crucifixion and death comes his resurrection and the promise of ever lasting life. In the month of March we will be teaching and preaching on the event that changed how we see ourselves, sin, Messiah, and God's love. In the month of March we will focus on the Cross of Jesus and what it means, why it happened, and who benefits from this event. We will explore the prophecies of the cross, the purpose of the cross, the people around the cross and the person on the cross. In this series we will see how God put everything together exactly as He declared, showing that every detail has purpose and meaning for us all.

The Cross is the symbol of God's judgement meeting God's grace as God judges sin by crucifying His only begotten son as our substitute while giving us His amazing grace, forgiveness and promise of life. If you don't fully understand that, then please join us for this series as we break this down



This is a time of rejoicing, reflecting and reminding the world that Jesus has conquered death and offers eternal life!

to demonstrate how God made a way for our forgiveness, salvation and adoption.

This is a time of rejoicing, reflecting and reminding the world that Jesus has conquered death and offers eternal life, the greatest gift one can know. I hope you will join us this Easter season as we remind the world there is life and hope in knowing the Messiah and that by knowing him we can live life abundantly and eternally.

Hope to see you Sunday!

#### MAN Dr. Mark Crosby

Senior Pastor

#### articles & devotions

#### FROM THE **PASTOR'S DESK**

## LOST YOUR NAR BES

by Faith Storck

I'm sure throughout all the conversations you've had in life, you've heard the phrase "lost your marbles" once or twice along the way. "Lost my marbles" is a phrase that dates back to the mid-1800s. Over the years, this phrase has gone though many different definitions. While looking up this term, I've found that it means "to go insane, to lose one's mind, or to become angry." Well let me tell you, parenting is not for the faint of heart, and if you've been a parent for any length of time, I'm sure you felt like you've lost your marbles once or twice along the way. I don't know if you've ever heard of the legacy marble bag, but if you've been around Live Oak Church and have a child, you probably have. If you don't know what I'm talking about, Legacy Marbles are a physical representations of how much time you have with your child. The day your child is born, you have 936 weeks until your child turns 18. Each week that passes, you lose one marble. The whole hope behind the legacy marbles is for parents to see how much time they have left in hopes that they will "seize the day" and do more with the time they have with their children.

#### articles & devotions

As I was thinking about time spent with children, I looked up what others had written about parenting and ways to NOT lose their marbles. Some of them are just downright hilarious, while others, I just have to shake my head at. Apparently in order to NOT lose your marbles, you should: eat your cookies in the bathroom, keep your makeup in the kitchen, wine, ditch the multitasking, ask yourself if it will matter in five years and don't be "that mom" (the one that says "I'd never do that"). Clearly the best advice in that article was to eat your cookies in the bathroom.

At the time that I am writing this, I have approximately 3 more marbles until my daughter, Lauren, turns 18. I clearly am not ready for that, but what I have learned over the years is that I "lost my marbles" quickly.

Moms and Dads, I know you are in the thick of parenting, and some of you think that eighteen years is so far away and that you have plenty of time, but let me break it to you nicely, you don't. I never understood how true the phrase "the days are long, but the years are short" was until a few years ago.

If I could think of verses to help parents to "seize the day", the following two verses come to mind. "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12 and "Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:16

Traveling is very important to me and my husband, Chris. Some of the best times that I have ever had with Lauren were on vacation. Whether it was watching bubbles fly from the top deck of a cruise with Lauren when she was three, or deciding to do this thing called "glamping" in the desert, these are the moments I remember. These are not extraordinary adventures, but more simple things. These are the times I love to spend with Lauren and away from the hustle and bustle of life. I remember talking with Lauren when I booked camping in the desert. I asked her what she thought about doing that. She told me, "well it will either be a good or bad, but it will be memories."

My quiet Lauren is always up for an adventure when traveling because she loves making memories. The places are amazing, but what I love most are the conversations that take place when we are hiking up a mountain, or riding in a car. I love to see her dad taking the time to show Lauren how to look through a scope to find the animal in the mountains. I want Lauren to know that we love spending time with her. We want her to know that she matters to us.

I want Lauren to know that she can come and talk to us about the big and little things and that mom and dad are her safe space. I want her to talk to us about what's going on in life and be able to point her to what her heavenly Father says about certain topics in order to help her navigate this thing called life. I'm pretty sure if you are reading this, you do too.

Parents, time is precious, and we aren't promised tomorrow. If I could give you any piece of advice from someone who didn't "seize the day" as much as I could have as a parent, it would be to ask yourself what you want your child to remember about their childhood. Did you spend your time with them wisely? Did you invest in your child's spiritual health? Did you teach your child who God is? Did you pray together as a family? Did you teach your child to turn to the Bible when they have questions? Did you spend time together doing meaningful things, or were you just so busy that you didn't take the time to "stop and smell the roses." Did you respond in a manner when your child messed up big time, that they knew that mom and dad still loved them? Did you make memories with your child? Did you go on vacation together? Did you laugh? Did you show your children that life is fun? Above all, did you point your child to their heavenly Father.

I know the days are long. Trust me, some of them are *really* long. However, the years are really short. If I could challenge you as a parent, it would be to make the most of every moment and be intentional, because before you know it, you'll have lost all your marbles.



ATALTIMES & SEASONS Vient barnett

Last month, we looked at the topic of joy in worship. We often associate worship more with joyful, celebratory times where we're thankful for what God has done. We generally don't idealize the difficult times in worship when we're struggling, crying out, and desperate for His presence. Yet we are called to approach God in worship at all times with a sense of holy expectancy - expecting His love to radically change our lives for His glory. This type of worship is often referred to in Scripture as "waiting on the Lord" (Isa. 40; Psa. 27).

Both joy and lament are critical to a lifestyle to worship because they provide a clearer picture of our heart for the Lord. Our heart isn't always rainbows and butterflies. As Christine Caine has said, "In our worship, we need a margin for lament." The words "lament" or "mourn" aren't ones we use often, but a lament is a "passionate expression of grief or sorrow." You see, it's okay to not always feel hopeful, joyful, or like we have our lives all together. What's important is where we turn in those low moments of life.

David Crowder has said, "Every second is an opportunity for praise. There's a choosing to be made. A choosing at each moment." When we make the choice to worship in spite of our circumstances, it puts God in a clear view and helps us to see our situation and our world through God's eyes rather than just the lens of our present difficulty, and the fear that goes along with it. Our window is only so big; God's perspective is so much bigger and so much clearer of what's going on, what's coming next, and how to navigate through this.

We often want to see things happen at our pace, but sometimes life takes a little longer than we'd like. Sometimes God's plan unfolding takes a little longer as well. Growing up, my pastor often said "Growth doesn't happen on the mountaintop; growth happens in the valley." If we can reframe our difficult seasons and low valleys as an opportunity for growth, it will change our perspective. We'll begin to see what God wants to do in us, through us, and around us in this season in our lives as we focus our hearts on Him. "Sometimes praise is repetitively desperate, but it's often in these repetitious cries that purer praise is found" (David Crowder).

In the book of Lamentations, the prophet Jeremiah writes about the Israelites mourning the destruction of Jerusalem. King Nebuchadnezzar had laid the city to waste, killed thousands of people, and destroyed the temple of God. People didn't have anything to eat or drink, and enemies were seeking all kinds of harm for the Israelites. It was an incredibly dark and difficult time. In the middle of this lament, Jeremiah reminds the Israelites of this truth of God's nature: "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him. The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, for the soul that seeks Him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord" (Lam. 3:22-26).

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases! No matter how dark the situation may seem, our God is brighter. Regardless of how big the giant we're facing may seem, our God is bigger (just ask David about Goliath). Jeremiah reminds us that the Lord is our portion, His mercies are new everyday, so we can and should place our hope in Him alone.

In Isaiah 30:15, the Lord says, "In repentance and rest is your salvation; in quietness and trust is your strength." Our calling as believers is to worship the Lord at all times, and in all seasons. Worship Him now, later today, tonight, and again tomorrow morning. In all circumstances, hope, wait, and seek the Lord. Lay your heart before Him, asking for greater trust, patience, and reliance on Him.

Rest in the faithfulness of the Lord today, and begin to see how He is working in your midst to draw hearts closer to Him - your heart and the hearts of not-yet-believers around you. May we lay our fears and our sins before our Savior and worship in the renewal and strength He provides new every morning.



#### LİSTEN & SUBSCRİBE

visit this link or search *Live Oak Church* on your favorite podcast app https://liveoakchurch.buzzsprout.com



#### STRIVING TO HAVE A HEART LIKE MARY

#### by Chris Lacara

There are so many times when I look across our campus and notice projects that need to be started or completed. Other times, I get so focused in a on a project that I lose sight of everything else around me. I can either get upset that there is not enough time in the day to complete the potential projects while completing normal weekly

duties, or I can focus in on one project to work through each week. Many times, I find myself taking the frustrated route. I find though that when I take a more focused approach, projects get completed.

One of the greatest joys about my job is serving our church to the fullest extent. There are plenty of moments in our lives that are full of distractions. We try to complete so many tasks we forget to look at what's important. The same goes for me in my daily life. I can very easily get caught up in all the things that need to "ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS ABOUT MY JOB IS SERVING OUR CHURCH TO THE FULLEST EXTENT."

be completed and miss sight of why I am in the position I have at Live Oak.

My main focus is to serve Christ, the people of our church, and our community. In Luke 10, Jesus goes to the house of Martha and her sister Mary. Martha spends so much time preparing and serving that she never listens to what Jesus has to say or share. Her sister Mary, sits at the feet of Jesus and listens with great joy. Of course, Martha

> gets upset at Mary for not helping with the food preparations, but Jesus tells Martha to not be anxious and be consumed with the tasks around her, but instead look to Jesus and focus on Him. Jesus has given us a great example of what it means to serve, but also to not forget that Jesus is the center of our service and without Him, our service becomes empty.

My main focus for volunteers is that they will be fulfilled spiritually through their service. Striving to have a heart like Mary with a constant ear to Christ's teachings

is our main goal in the Maintenance Department. 🖉

If you would like to know more, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at chris@liveoak.church.

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#### live oak church



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## 

#### 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 - Miracles of Jesus - 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

#### <u>Monday - 6:30 PM</u>

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 Battlefield of the Mind - (1st & 3rd Tuesday) - Stephen Hebert - Chapel

#### Wednesday 6:30 PM

Worship & Study - A Reason to Believe - Pastor Mark - Sanctuary Coed Home Group - Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home Ladies Bible Recap - Room #202 - Jeanette Clark

#### <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

#### <u>Friday</u>

5:30 AM - Gospel of John - JMen's Group -Jim Otken - Room #202 6:00 PM - 1 John - Coed - Robert Poole - Room #202

#### Second Saturday of Each Month

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

newsletter & updates







"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE INSULT YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU, AND FALSELY SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU BECAUSE OF ME. REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN IS GREAT; FOR IN THIS SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU." MATTHEW 5:10-12

#### by Landra Reed

We had a great time searching for gators and eating at Minddendorf's. It was definitely an adventure. So what can top that?

We have an exciting trip coming up for you on April 17th. We will be adventuring to the Alexandria Zoo! The cost is \$10 per person and we will leave the church at 7:00 a.m. we should

arrive at the zoo approximately around 9:00 a.m. From there we will enjoy a private demonstration and feed some of the smaller animals and koi fish. We have 50 spots available so if you want to bring your grandkids make sure to sign up quickly. We should arrive back at the church between 4:30 and 5:00 PM. *I* 

LIVE OF CHURCH

QUILTING

MINISTRY

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

### DID YOU GET YOUR LETTER?

You are formally invited to become a member of Live Oak Church. Join today! On October 30, 2022, the members of Live Oak United Methodist Church voted by a 99% margin to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Conference. Subsequently, the Louisiana Annual Conference of the UMC formally affirmed the church's disaffiliation.

As of January 1, 2023, the organization formerly known as Live Oak United Methodist Church became Live Oak Church. Since this is a new organization, everyone has the opportunity to become a member of this brand-new church. The process for someone wishing to join Live Oak Church will remain the same, with candidates for membership completing a four-session class before membership is conferred. However, each person receiving this letter was a Live Oak United Methodist Church member, and

eligible for a "transfer of membership." For a limited time only, you can "transfer" your membership to Live Oak Church by affirming and signing the Live Oak Church Statement of Faith and professing your faith in Jesus Christ.

To help with our record-keeping, this period of "membership transfer" will be open until April 9, 2023. Once this window closes, those wishing to join Live Oak Church will be required to complete our New

Members Class.

To "transfer" your membership, we simply ask that you pray, read the Live Oak Church Statement of Faith (included in this envelope) in its entirety, complete the information form included with this letter, and return it to the church office via one of the following options:

Mail: Live Oak Church Attn: Linda Holdman 34890 La Hwy 16 Denham Springs, LA 70706

Scan the completed form and email it to office@loumc.org

Submit the completed form to the office M-Th 8a-6p or F 8a-12p In Person: Submit the completed form to the Information Desk on a Sunday morning One form is required for each membership transfer. Please do not include information for multiple

God has already done amazing things and opened doors for a new season of blessing and growth! We are thankful for your continued commitment to this amazing community of faith.

Rev. David Orges

Executive Pastor

If you are a member and did not get a letter, let the office know ASAP!

> Make sure to turn it in by Easter!

## 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! newsletter & updates



#### Support. Instruction. Accountability.

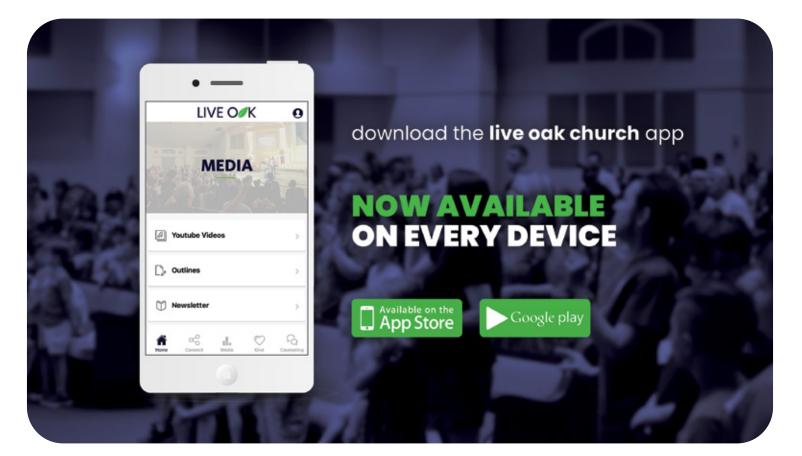
#### "Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."



#### Thursdays at 7 PM

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





MAR. 2023 | WWW.LIVEOAK.CHURCH 19

newsletter & updates



rightnow MEDIA

FRANCIS CHAN



Saturday, Mar. 11 at 7:30 AM **at Our Men's Prayer Breakfast in Room #202** 

Gridiron Men's Conference June 16-17, 2023 Sign up now on Church App or by emailing sam@liveoak.church

Cost: \$175





May 6th at 1 PM Under FLC Awning Free Event

live oak church



#### 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 live in one of two tents, content or discontent."

- Dr. Mark Crosby

## 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 Director of Worship Ministries

#### 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



Krist Norsworthy Communications Coordinator

#### OFFICE



MAINTENANCE

Chris Lacara Maintenance Director



Linda Holdman Administrative Assistant



Kim Pamplin Office Professional



Thanette Hunsberger Office Professional

#### Chris Lacara



#### **REGISTRATION GOES LIVE MARCH 5**



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