

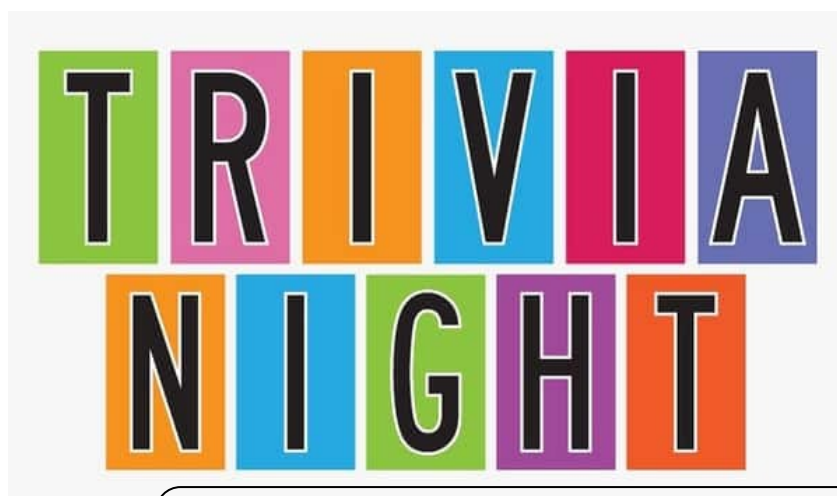
First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLIX No. 02

Website: www.fbcoakridge.org • Email: fbcoffice@fbcoakrige.org

January 22, 2025



& SOUP SUPPER

(RESCHEDULED) Our upcoming Trivia Night and Soup Supper has been rescheduled to **Sunday, February 2, at 5:00 p.m.** Come for an evening of great fun, food and fellowship. Bring your favorite soup to share. The church will provide drinks and bread.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

I was reading Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" this morning and it still speaks. If you're not familiar with it, Dr. King is in jail in Birmingham, AL (go figure) and he's got nothing but time to write long letters. So he uses the time to answer a critical open letter published in the paper and aimed squarely at him from white clergy in that city. Their letter argued that while the Civil Rights movement was a just cause, they thought that it should play out in the courts and not be actively protested in the streets. It was signed by the highest official in every major denomination in that city, including the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, I might add.

Dr. King's response in this letter is a masterclass. He fills his letter with allusions and references to biblical passages, stories, and particular characters. He quotes authorities from across the disciplines of ancient philosophy, theology, and Church history. He refers to the founding fathers and originating documents of the United States. He makes solid, unassailable arguments with impeccable logic. It's beautiful and brilliant.

And it's a scouring prophetic word against the white clergy of the South. To read it even now, is to be challenged again to question our world and look soberly at the state of justice in our society. One lesson that perhaps shall always apply to this country is the fallacy of "well, just wait." The critics say we shouldn't protest or push, but that eventually justice will come. King's letter proves that a bald lie in far better fashion than I could muster here. (Go read it, please!)

But the line that leapt out to me this morning is the one I may take as my own personal challenge this year. King writes, "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." You see what I'm saying? Masterful!

As the days of this year begin to unfold, I will be watching to make sure that my own spirit recognizes the 'inescapable mutuality' between me and people who I may see as different than me. People who migrate to this country, people who are of another gender, those who love in another way, and those who vote against my convictions - ALL of us are "tied in a single garment of destiny." I'm taking Dr. King's letter as it should be taken by one like me: a challenge. Maybe it is for you, too.

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee.

There is an elusive concept here that is very hard to grasp. The English language uses a simple four-letter, two-syllable word to describe it. It would probably help us understand the concept better if the word itself were somehow forbidden except in the rarest of circumstances. In its purest form, it is only encountered in one, singular, unique context.

Holy.

Only God is holy. None other, nothing else is truly holy. Unspoiled, unmixed, unblemished, absolute perfection, untarnished, God is holy.

This hymn offers the worshiper, the singer, an opportunity to express and declare God's holiness.

In English, we emphasize adjectives by using adverbs, usually something like "very" or "totally." Extra emphasis is denoted by repetition, and double repetition is saved for only the superlative. We might say that God is "very, very holy, for example. In Hebrew, one emphasizes the utmost by triple repetition. In Hebrew, the superlative is "holy, holy, holy." Saying it three times is assigning it the extreme.

In the Hebrew text of Isaiah 6, the seraphim refer to God as "holy, holy, holy." That is the highest emphasis. And it is reserved for that one characteristic. Nowhere does the Bible call God "mighty, mighty, mighty." He is never described as "mercy, mercy, mercy." Not even "love, love, love."

This one-of-a-kind holiness stands us in awe of almighty God, and singing, "Holy, holy, holy," offers us a moment of adoration and worship of the utmost utmost.

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee,
Who was and is and evermore shall be.*

*Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth,
and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity. By Reginald Heber*

In Christ, **Tim**

LIBRARY TEAM MEETING
Monday, January 27, 2:00 p.m.

NightLife Hosts and Leaders Wanted

In the coming months, we're going to NightLife, small groups that meet in member homes once a week for 6 weeks. We would like to form multiple groups that can meet on different nights of the week to allow more members to attend a NightLife group. All groups will be studying *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon. If you would like to **host** a group or **lead** the discussion, please contact Pastor Rory rory@fbcoakridge.org.

Peace,
Rory

FEBRUARY FBCFBC

February's book club book is *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery. Lela Moore will lead the discussion. At the age of 67, Emma "Grandma" Gatewood became the first woman to solo hike the entire Appalachian Trail. This book highlights her resilience against a difficult past and how she brought attention to the trail's condition, essentially helping to "save" it through her feat. She became a hiking icon through her story of determination and perseverance. Join us in the library at noon on Monday, February 3, as we learn about this remarkable lady. Questions? Dianne May. Don't forget that you are welcome to bring your lunch!

Thank You

Agape would like all who provided cake mixes and frosting for our clients to know, these items were very much appreciated.



The next Fellowship Table is **Friday, February 14**, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Tickets are \$5 each. Come as early as 11:30 a.m. and enjoy fellowship around hors d'oeuvres, although serving of the meal will not begin until 12 Noon. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Stoutland.



Movie: *On a Wing and a Prayer* (2023) starring Dennis Quaid.

Viewing: Streaming on many pay-per-view platforms for free.

Time & Place: Friday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m. at Joy Reedy's home - [109 Downing Drive, Oak Ridge](#)

Questions: Contact Mike Crowell, Brandon Weaver, or Joy Reedy.

 **Meetings: Council & Committee**

FINANCE MEETING
Sunday, February 2, 2:00 p.m./RM. 105

TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, February 3, 7:00 p.m./RM. 105

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Sunday, February 9, 2:00 p.m./RM. 105

DEACONS MEETING
Sunday, February 9, 3:00 p.m./RM. 105

PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP

When: June 30 - July 4th

Where: Berea College, Berea, KY

Your Cost: \$150

Total cost to the church is \$478 for this reason there is a large fundraising need to keep the student price at \$150. Due to this we are requiring 2 things for student registration:

- 5 hrs of fundraising or missions - Opportunities including pumpkin patch (Oct) and Spaghetti dinner (Apr) as well as missions opportunities through the youth group.
- 5 church attendances - These include Sunday School, Sunday Service, and Feast



Sympathy - The First Baptist Church family extends heartfelt sympathy to the following families:

Connie Mitchell's husband and daughter, Allen & Amber Mitchell passed away Saturday, January 11, 2025. Services were held Saturday, January 18, at the Woodhaven Funeral Home.

John Ray's uncle, *Clarence Harold Dye* passed away Saturday, January 4, 2025. Services were held Monday, January 13, 2025, at Weatherford Mortuary.

IMMEDIATE: Ellen Stephenson (Bill Stephenson's sister-in-law). Robert May. Jane Lovvorn Morse (Debra Belvin's sister). Johelen Stephenson's uncle and cousin. Bill Stephenson's nephew. David Holland & family. Jim Walls. Roscoe Shipley. Lynn Satterfield (Gary Giles' sister). Bobby Bowers and family. Jim Younkin. Becky & Eric (friends of Jonathan & Sarah Ray). Ricky Phelps (Tim Bounds' nephew). Stoney Lowell (friend of Jodie Johnson). Jack Burgan (Jeff Burgan's dad). Larry Carter. Dave Bunton. Katie Emmerson (Ellin Ward's daughter). Debbie Pulliam (Carol O'Shaughnessy's sister). Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Sherry Bath (Gigi Naeve's friend). Mark Ebeler (friend of Carol O'Shaughnessy). Tammy Lee (Kay Smith's sister). Adrian Flory. Sandra Burns (Johelen Stephenson's cousin). Wanda Vines (friend of Sandy Davidson). Carolyn Maples (Brandon Weaver's aunt). Joyce Dippel (Jan Stoutland's sister). Robert Darnell (Diane Qualls' brother). Frances Darnell (Diane Qualls' mother). Richard Evans. Cheryl King (Diane William's sister-in-law). Ben Davidson (Tom Davidson's nephew).

LONG TERM: Mary Jane Williams. Darla Sutton. Virginia Griffith (Lisa Bowers' mother). Bobby Cline (Mark Belvin's brother-in-law). Larry Fields. Scott Ethridge. Rick Nation. Jo Ann Tunstall. Theresa Bowers.



NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING

ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE

Katie Landis, RM. 217.

Jim Walls, RM. 105.

CANTERFIELD OF OAK RIDGE

Jean Webster, RM. 303.

COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING

Dot Senn, RM. 105.

LIFE CARE CENTER OF BLOUNT COUNTY

Norval Ziegler, RM. 141.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE

Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

Our Ministry Continues Throughout the Week

Church Office: 483-4615 / 483-4657

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rory Naeve

Minister of Music: Rev. Tim Bounds

Minister of Children: Hannah Simic

Minister of Youth: Rev. Shawn Simic

Church Secretary: Lola Murray

Facilities Manager: Chris Peterson

Wednesday Services

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Services

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

5:30 p.m. Feast (Youth)



**fbc
Oak Ridge**

Loving God, Loving Others

Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming