

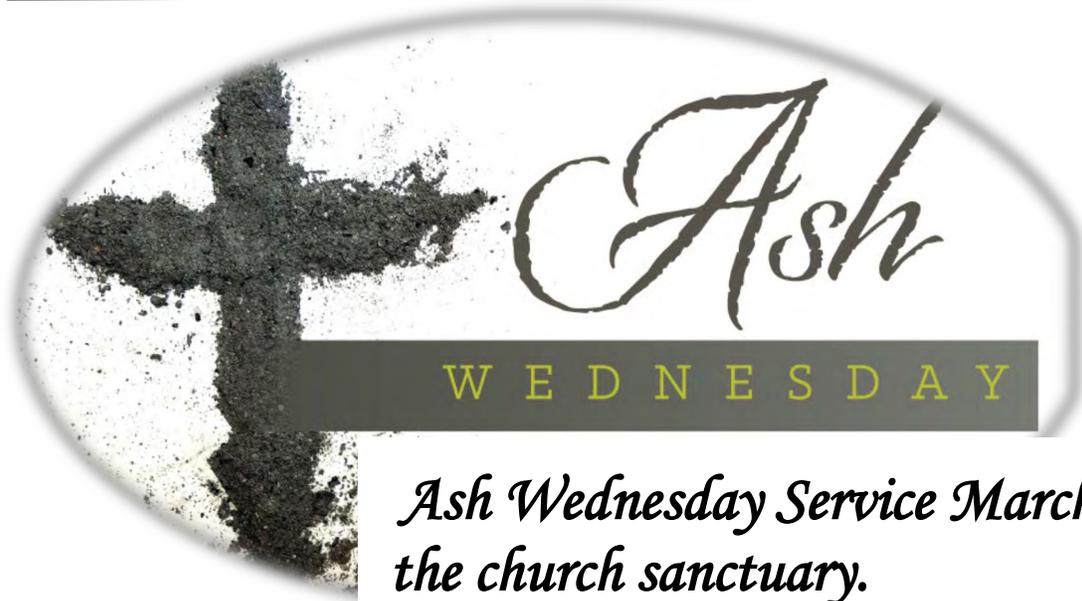
First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLIX No. 05

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

March 4, 2025



Ash Wednesday Service March 5, at 6 PM in the church sanctuary.

COPING WITH GRIEF

Coping With Grief is the topic of a 2 part series led by Dr. Richard Dew to be held at 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall at First Baptist Oak Ridge on March 16 and 23, 2025. Topics to be covered include how can God help, how you can help and how others can help cope with grief.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

The sermon series we're heading into for Lent is called Hunger Strike. A hunger strike, you may remember, is a tool that mostly powerless people will use to affect those who do have power to make some sort of change. By forgoing nutrition, you are essentially challenging the powers that be to make a change before the effects of starvation really make them look heartless. British suffragettes would stage hunger strikes in prison as a way of continuing to protest for women's right to vote. Perhaps the most famous hunger strikes were by Mahatma Gandhi protesting British rule in India.

I'm not suggesting that we all protest the British government by refusing to eat. I'm just thinking of the similarity to Lenten fasting. We're forgoing something (usually food related) in order to achieve some victory with the powers that be. So what powers are we trying to change in Lent? Are we hunger striking to get a better negotiated deal with God? I wouldn't recommend it; we've already got a pretty sweetheart deal as it stands. So, what then?

There's a sharp scholar, Walter Wink, who goes on a 3-book deep-dive on the subject of "powers and principalities" in the Bible. What exactly do those terms refer to? Angels and demons? Elemental spirits? Vibes? To grossly oversimplify, the powers of our world are the things we give credence and authority to. The ancients used to deify the most important factors in their world – sun, rain, crops, fertility, warfare. That's what their world ran on, so they talked about those things like they were gods. Those were their powers.

What are ours? I think one would have to be Media. How do we understand anything about our world? We are more indoors than ever before, more isolated from our communities than ever before, so how do we know anything? Someone tells us and it's huge business. That's a power. What about Technology. I'm tempted to say AI, but AI is just a term tech companies are using to make them sound more advanced and impressive than what they're actually doing. Nevertheless, get more tech seems to be the solution to every problem, from educating children to medical care. Tech is a power. Entertainment, Advertising, Wealth. These are our powers, our gods.

What I'd like to do in our journey through Lent is break the hold of these kinds of powers on ourselves. Can we intentionally go hungry in some of these areas to reclaim the power from the powers that be? On our own – no, at least not me. But the point of all this fasting during Lent is to draw ourselves nearer, nearer, nearer to our Blessed Lord. Strike begins on Wednesday; hope to see you at the meeting.

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

Because I have been given much, I, too, must give.

Using hymns to frame devotion is a no-brainer for me. The inspired words of hymnwriters through the ages have put real devotional meat on the plate for our spiritual nourishment. I find this particular hymn especially compelling. It is nearly impossible to process these words and thoughts without at least *feeling* moved to give. Transform that feeling into behavior, and devotion becomes ministry.

Notice that each stanza opens with a mention of what *we've* been given, and further notice that each stanza progresses to a response from us to share that which has been "lavished so upon me, Lord." It is a rather provoking recipe.

And what clear, direct exhortation! Divide with every person. Share my glowing fire, my loaf of bread, roof's safe shelter.

The hymn calls us to proper gratitude in receiving and proper stewardship in response. Proper stewardship is generosity. Think how things would change in your life, your church, and our world if we understood everything we received to be something we were to share.

I would also point out a poetic device that, for me, makes the art of the poem more compelling. A triple rhyme. The last THREE lines of each stanza rhyme, and yet not a word of the poem feels contrived or contorted to suit the rhyme. It's all conversational language, which (as I have mentioned before), I find soul-penetrating.

Hymns make great tools for devotion. The poetry is memorable, and mentalling singing the words of a hymn keeps it with us beyond the moment of devotion. Let these words and thoughts invade your mind and affect your behavior.

Because I have been given much, I, too, must give;
Because of thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live,
I shall divide my gifts from thee
with every person that I see
Who has the need of help from me.

Because I have been sheltered, fed, by Thy good care,
I cannot see another's lack and I not share
My glowing fire, my loaf of bread,
my roof's safe shelter overhead
That they too may be comforted.

Because love has been lavished so upon me, Lord
A wealth I know that was not meant for me to hoard,
I shall give love to those in need,
shall show that love by word and deed,
Thus shall my thanks be thanks indeed.

In Christ, **Tim**

Thank You

It was heartwarming to read all of your affirmations ... I can honestly say my heart is FULL! Your words of encouragement will help me through this journey. When I am feeling thirsty, I will pull out one of your affirmations from my beautiful water pitcher and read it. How blessed I am to have all of you in my life.

Love ~ Bev

Dianne and I are so very grateful for such a caring church family. The most recent evidence of this was when I was gravely ill. We believe your prayers, the food you brought, the cards you sent, the phone calls, and other expressions of concern were important in my recovery. St. Hildegard of Bingen wrote, "God hugs you." You were that hug in the flesh.

Robert May

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Attention all church members! We are currently accepting donations of gently used clothing, furniture, household items, and more to raise funds to replace our church windows. Donations can be dropped off at the church.

RUMMAGE SALE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

There will be an organizational meeting on Wednesday, March 5, at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall to discuss the upcoming Church rummage sale. Volunteers are encouraged to attend. Questions: contact Jan Stoutland.

Grief Resources in Our Church Library

Our church is so fortunate to have Dr. Richard Dew coming to do two sessions on coping with grief. The church library has a copy of Dr. Dew's book *When Sorrow Comes: What Can God, You, and Others Do to Help Cope with Grief* (Call # 248.86 Dew) as well as the book *A Grief Observed* by C. S. Lewis (Call # 242.4 Lew). We also have a number of other books on dealing with grief, and the top drawer of the vertical file (the filing cabinet just outside the library office) has a folder with other materials pertaining to this topic that you may find useful.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Our church family continues to grow and change, and it's time to update our Church Directory! It has been two years since our last publication, and we want to ensure everyone is included—whether you're new or have been with us for years. There is no church membership requirement to be part of the directory; we simply want to recognize you when we see you!

Starting Sunday, March 9, we will be at the coffee bar in the narthex before and after church to help people and families make appointments to take photos and/or update their details. If your family has grown, adult children have moved out, or you want to update your contact information, now is the perfect time.

If you're happy with your current picture but need to update your contact information, that's great, too! We encourage everyone to participate, so please stop by and see us.

We look forward to seeing you in the updated directory!



MARCH FELLOWSHIP TABLE

The next Fellowship Table is this Friday, March 14, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased immediately before and after Worship Service March 9th. The main entrée will be corned beef and cabbage. 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.

NIGHTLIFE

Beginning the week of March 16, we will be hosting NightLife groups to make a 6 week journey together following The Art of Neighboring. Groups will meet once a week in the homes of host members for conversation and encouragement around the idea of becoming better neighbors in the actual places that we live as a way of following the teachings of Jesus Christ. If you would like to join a group, please sign up in the Narthex.



Discussion Group

Movie: I Can Only Imagine (2018) starring J. Michael Finley.

Viewing: Streaming on many pay-per-view platforms for - \$4.

Time & Place: Friday, April 4, 6:30 pm at Joy Reedy's home - [109 Downing Drive, Oak Ridge](#)

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

APRIL FBCFBC

On Monday, April 7, Johelen Stephenson will lead our book club in a discussion of *Kon-Tiki* by the Norwegian scientist Thor Heyerdahl. The book tells the story of when Heyerdahl and five others set sail in April 1947 from Peru to the Polynesian island of Puka Puka. During the three months on open sea on a balsa log raft, the voyagers encountered raging storms, whales, and sharks. Join us at noon in the library as we discuss this saga of men against the sea. Questions? Dianne May / (865) 414-9766.

Prayer Requests

IMMEDIATE: Paul May (Robert May's brother). Bobby Bowers. Linda Bunton. Jody Walker. Mary Judith White (Glenn Northcutt's sister). Summer Miller (Bill & Johelen Stephenson's daughter). Roscoe Shipley. Duane Bounds (Tim Bounds' brother). Jim Walls. Randy Glass (Paula sister). 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.



Meetings: Council & Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, March 9, 2:00 p.m. in RM. 105.

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, March 9, 3:00 p.m. in RM. 105.

PERSONNEL MEETING

Sunday, March 9, 4:00 p.m. in RM. 105.



**fbc
Oak Ridge**

Loving God. Loving Others

Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming

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)