

White Oak Witness

Aug/Sept 2025

From Pastor Amy's Desk

Dear Beloved White Oak Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I'm writing to share something important with you regarding my upcoming schedule and ministry at White Oak. This summer I will be taking a **six-week spiritual renewal leave**, a time set apart for prayer, rest, and renewal.

This period of leave is provided for in the United Methodist Book of Discipline and has been prayerfully and thoughtfully approved by our District Superintendent, the Reverend Nathan Malone, as well as our Staff Parish Relations Committee and Church Council. I am deeply grateful for their support and for your continued trust in the care of our shared ministry.

The purpose of this leave is not a vacation, but a time to tend to the deeper places of my spiritual life—to reconnect, refocus, and renew the well from which I draw to serve. As your pastor, I want to be faithful not only in doing the work of ministry but also in being rooted in God's presence and listening to His voice. Jesus often withdrew to quiet places to pray, and I seek to follow that same rhythm.

I want to assure you that you will be in excellent hands during my time away. We have secured strong, capable, and spirit-led individuals to bring the Word each Sunday and to guide the life of the church during my absence. All pastoral care needs will be fully covered, and the leadership of our church will continue forward with strength and grace.

My spiritual renewal leave will begin on Monday, August 11 and will conclude when I return, from the mission trip to Kenya. I will be back in the pulpit on **Sunday, October 5th.** I look forward to returning to you refreshed, renewed, and ready for all God has in store for our future together.



During my time away, I am honored to share that I will be traveling to **Kenya** to help lead a **Pastors' Conference** at **Gateway to Victory School**, where area pastors will gather for encouragement, learning, and spiritual renewal. It is a blessing to partner in ministry with our brothers and sisters across the globe, and I carry your prayers and support with me as we grow together in God's mission. The conference will be held at Gateway School beginning, Monday, September 22nd- Saturday, September 27th. My exact travel dates are waiting to be determined.

Thank you for being a church that understands the importance of spiritual rhythms. I'm honored to be your pastor, and I carry you with me in prayer as I step away for this sacred season. With deep love and gratitude,

Pastor Amy

Guest Speaker Schedule

Sunday, August 17th - Rev. Gary Grogg, retired UMC District Superintendent

Sunday, August 24th - <u>LeRae Collins</u>, Interim President of Holston Foundation

Sunday, August 31st - Fifth Sunday Sing Along, CLM's and Worship Leader will coordinate sharing of Glory Sightings and prayer request.

Sunday, September 7th - Rev. Barry Kidwell, Pastor of Mustard Seed Ministries

Sunday, September 14th - Bob Lockaby, Lay Leader for Hiwassee District

Sunday, September 21st - Rev. Dr Susan Arnold, Director of Congregational Connections for the Holston UM Conference

Sunday, September 28th - Bishop Richard Looney, a retired Bishop in the UMC and formerly served White Oak back in the day! And is currently 91 years young!

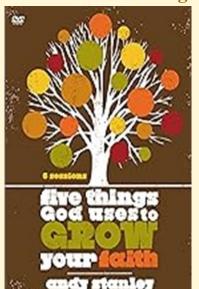


Bible Study

Wednesday, Zoom Only at 6:30 PM

New Study Coming August 6th

"5 Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith" by ANDY STANLEY



Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you. Imagine how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things if you knew with certainty that God was in all of it and was planning to leverage it for good. In other words, imagine what it would be like to have PERFECT faith.

In this study, Andy Stanley builds a biblical case for five things God uses to grow BIG faith. This Bible study will begin on Wednesday, August 6th and run for six weeks ending on Wednesday, September 10th, facilitated by Kiley Gunter.

Please join us via Zoom

Meeting ID: 423 877 6042 followed by #, followed by our password 6042#. You can also join by phone at 1-646-558-8656, then put in meeting ID 4238776042 followed by the # (you can expect a few seconds delay before the next prompt). You will be prompted to enter the participant ID, just hit # and then you will be prompted for a password, you will enter 6042# and you will hear that you have been joined to the meeting.









What's Happening

Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School & 10:45 AM Worship in Sanctuary, Zoom & Facebook Live

9:45 AM Youth Sunday School, on the 3rd floor in the youth hall

Every 1st Sunday Holy Communion

Every Sunday Except the 1st Sunday & 5th Sunday, During Worship, Children Ages K-5th

grade go to Children's Church

Trustee's Meeting every 2nd Sunday of the month in the Library @ 12:30 PM

Every 5th Sunday, Holston Children's Home Offering

Monday Church Office Closed

Tuesday Church office hours 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Church Council Meeting Every 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Library @ 6 PM

Women's Prayer Time on Zoom Only @ 7 PM

Wednesday Church office hours 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

6:30 PM Adult Bible Study on Zoom Only

6:30 PM Adult Small Group in Fellowship Hall

Youth Small Group @ 6:30 PM with dinner in Fellowship Hall

Thursday Church office hours 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

AA Meetings @ 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

United Methodist Women of Faith (formerly UMW) meet every 1st Thursday of the month

in the Library @ 11 AM

Friday Church office hours 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Saturday Church Office Closed

Every other Saturday Girl Scout Troops Meet from 2 PM – 4 PM in the Children's Area

Save the Dates

Tuesday, August 17th Church Council

Sunday, August 31st NO TOWN HALL (Cancelled)

Sunday, September 7th District Conference 3pm at Ooltewah UMC

Saturday, October 4th Pet Blessing (outside Sanctuary) 10-2pm









Prayer Focus

for the Month of August/September - Our Church

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." NIV

Week of August 17th - Prayers for our children, teachers, and staff as they get started for a new school year.

Week of August 24th – Praises to God for ALL of our children & youth.

Week of August 31st - Prayers for our Elderly & Shut In's that they may feel connected to the church

Week of September 7th - Praises for our Ministry Partnerships

Week of September 14th - Praises for the "Great Cloud of Witnesses" that have laid the foundation of ministry at White Oak for 98 years!

In Prayer For...

- Prayers for the healing of Wetherly Kennedy as she is currently in the NICU recovering from a brain aneurysm and a craniotomy surgery that occurred on Tuesday, August 5th.
 Our prayers are for her to be able to come off ventilator and be healed from the strokes and MRSA that she has developed.
- Continued prayers for Larry Young as he recovers from recent hospital stay in Nashville for repair of his LVAD. Praises to God for bringing Larry through this surgery, so he once again has blood circulation to his brain and heart.
- Prayers for Sandra Parker, as she is currently undergoing dual immunotherapy infusion treatment and will finish treatments this coming Friday. Our prayers are for the cancer to start to shrink in the name of Jesus!
- Prayers for Anne Jay, as she continues to heal from COVID.
- Prayers for Carol Standifer as she continues to heal from foot surgery.
- Prayers for Effie Nesin as she continues to heal and get strong from her hip surgery and upper respiratory infection.
- Prayers for Lauren Byrne, daughter of Kristine Johnson.
- Prayers for Katlyn Levi, granddaughter of Eloise Carpenter, Katlyn's father had a heart attack and died on July 1st and Granddaughter, Torrie as she enters her senior year in college.
- Prayers for Irma Hyde.
- Prayers for Brian Walker, father of Paige Walker, as he is having a heart ablation on July 21. Prayers for grandmother, Barbara Barnes, and extended elderly family members, Larry Graham, Mickey Graham, Peggy Carothers.
- Prayers for Amy Cunningham, niece of Jim Cunningham, as she is in transition of dying from cancer.
- Prayers for Molly & Koah Miller as they grieve the loss of Caleb Josiah.
- Manny Monzon and the Monzon family, as Manny struggles with addictions and needs guidance and protection of his family and healing for all of them.
- Pray for Clata, her family, and Ms. Eve to find a safe, happy, and joyous home.
- Pray for Allie Nelms as she transitions into this next phase of life at Stamford University.
- Pray for Liz Robertson, Karol Robertson, and the Finnell Family. Bob Finnell, Liz's Uncle, passed away on Friday from cancer.

If you have a PRAYER REQUEST you can fill out one of the Purple papers in the pews and drop it in the plates during worship service on Sunday, or email it to the church office. (whiteoakchurch@epbfi.com)



Right Now Media



rightnow MEDIA

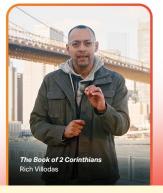
A Free Gift from Our Church

Free Access to +25,000 Bible Study Videos— Anytime, Anywhere, from Any Device

















Financial Update

TEXT <u>Tribe</u> to <u>73256</u> and go directly to our Realm Giving App.

Thank you again for your faithfulness to our Tribe. One of the realities of having a church is the need for money. No, how much you give or even if you give is not tied to your salvation. But your satisfaction and your contentment certainly are.

It costs to have a safe and comfortable place to gather for worship and to do all the things needed to keep the church going. So we have no hesitation in asking you, our Tribe, to help us out, especially this month.

In June we spent \$5000 more than what we received. If you have slacked off in your giving, we ask you to catch up. Our revenues are below our budgeted revenues so far this year. If you are new to giving, please allow the Lord to lead you.

In August we have a quarterly payment for our primary insurance and our yearly renewal for our Flood insurance. These 2 expenses are \$5500. Thank you for helping us fund these this month.

If you ever want to see the office records they can be viewed any time. Thank you.

Lynn/Pat/Chuck Treasurer

We are committed to being open and transparent. More detailed reports available upon request.

Email whiteoakfinance@epbfi.com

Trustees Update



Trustees have voted to move forward with painting the steeple since it has been over 10 years since it was last done. Funds will still need to be raised to fully complete this project.

We are short \$1200 for this project. This is one of many repairs that the church building needs. You can donate through the Realm App under Exterior Repairs to help our congregation raise the additional funds needed.

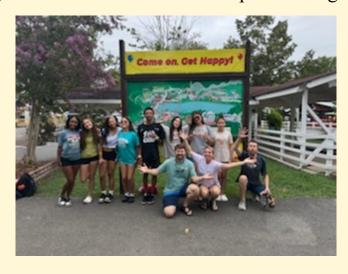
Thank you to everyone that continues to give to make these projects happen.



Youth Group

Wow, what a summer! We had the best end to of summer trip to Lake Winnie! (pic by Mollie Sawyer)

Join us this week as we start a new series called Faith Foundations. We will delve into the story of God's creation and redemption through Jesus.



Youth group (6th grade-12th grade) meets on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm-7:30pm.

Dinner is provided each week. Transportation is available. Contact **Maddy Easterly** at **maddy.easterly@gmail.com** for more details.

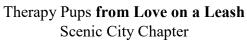
Downside Up - Summer Camps 2025

We had a couple visitors at our summer camp!!!



Therapy horse, Cookie, from Hearts & Hooves Corral







Our next big event is Camp
Wakawalu -- our family camp
weekend with about 125 people
attending each year.
It is September 12-14 at Camp
Lookout. If anyone would like to
volunteer in the
kitchen, donate, or help with the
families during the weekend please
let us know.

https://www.downsideupinc.org/





2232 Lyndon Ave. ttanooga, TN 37415 Comments - Pirayen Requests:
423-877-6042 reoakchurch@epbfi.com
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Thank you foil
risiting our church!
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Get Connected!

Join In-Person, on ZOOM or Facebook Live for Worship!

Topic: White Oak UMC Worship

Time: Sunday 10:45 AM EST in the sanctuary.

You can also join using the Zoom information below or on Facebook Live

Meeting ID: 423 877 6042 followed by #, followed by our password 6042#

You can also join by phone at 1-646-558-8656, then put in meeting ID 4238776042 followed by the # (you can expect a few seconds delay before the next prompt). You will be prompted to enter the participant ID, just hit # and then you will be prompted for a password, you will enter 6042# and you will hear that you have been joined to the meeting.

SMALL GROUPS

- The Hilander Class meets in the Chapel at 9:45 AM with rotating teachers of Mary Alice Thomas, Pauline Howard and Frank Parker.
- The Women's Group is meeting in the HEM Ministry classroom on the 2nd floor at 9:30am with Hillary Morgan leading.
- The Men's Discipleship Class is lead by Bill Fetherolf in library at 9:45 AM
- Children's Sunday School is meeting on the 2nd floor at 9:45 AM with Adelaide Weaver.
- Women's Prayer Time is meeting on Tuesday's at 7:00 PM Zoom Only
- Bible Study is meeting on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM on Zoom Only
- Adult Small Group is meeting on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship hall
- Youth is meeting in person on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall, dinner provided.

Please FILL OUT a Connection Card and drop in the offering plates to get more connected.

Our website is up and running! whiteoakumc.org

Have you experienced a loss, and you now carry the weight of Grief?

Resources

You are not alone. Our center offers **The Grief Recovery Method**; an evidenced based program to

help you understand and process the emotions of Grief.

Individual and group classes are available.

- Grief Recovery Method
- Helping Children with Loss
- Pet Loss



For more information, email, call, or text **Karen Sarnosky** Adv.GRMS, CPC karen@griefchatt.com 423-888-7322 www.griefchatt.com

The Family Justice Center of Chattanooga, TN 423-643-7600

The FJC serves residents of Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga by co-locating services in a trauma-informed environment to:

- Address intimate partner and family violence
- Address abuse of older adults through elder justice services
- Address human trafficking

All services provided at the FJC are **FREE** and **confidential** -- no appointment is necessary during regular business hours.

We also have bilingual staff to serve the growing Hispanic/Latino population.

Services provided:

- Assistance in creating a personal safety plan
- Help finding a safe place for you, your children, and pets
- Education and awareness regarding domestic violence, elder abuse, and human trafficking
- Referrals to services available in Chattanooga
- Civil Legal services and help with obtaining Orders of Protection
- Personal support in court appointments
- Emotional support

LOCAL Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault CRISIS HOTLINE 423.755.2700

Available 7 days a week,

Downside Up Inc.

We help children with disabilities and their families build community through our creative spaces and experiences.



- Theresa Nix, founder & CEO
- downsideupinc@gmail.com
- downsideupinc.org

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. While some areas may be currently able to connect to the Lifeline by dialing 988, this dialing code will be available to everyone



across the United States starting on July 16, 2022.

When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary.

The current Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis,



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Phone: 423-877-6042

Email: whiteoakchurch@epbfi.com

whiteoakumc.org

2232 Lyndon Ave Chattanooga, TN 37415

Monday: Office Closed

Tuesday: 9:00-4:00

Wednesday: 9:00-4:00

Thursday: 9:00-4:00

Friday: 9:00-12:00