

# GLORY REVEALED

White Oak Witness

*From Pastor Amy's Desk*

Jan / Feb 2026

## Rebuild

*A New Year Reflection in the Season of Epiphany*

As we step into a new year, we do so not in the quiet stillness of Christmas, but in the bright, revealing light of the Epiphany season. Epiphany reminds us that God is still showing up, still making things known, still revealing light in places we did not expect. This year, the word that has been stirring in my heart is **Rebuild**.

Rebuilding begins first within us. The past seasons of life; personally, congregationally, and globally have taken their toll. We carry weariness, grief, and questions about what comes next. Yet Scripture gently invites us not to be defined by what has been lost, but by what God is still doing. Through the prophet Isaiah, God says, *"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"* (Isaiah 43:18–19). Rebuilding does not mean erasing the past; it means trusting that God can make a way forward even through wilderness and dry ground.

For me, rebuilding my spiritual life this year means creating space again. Space for prayer that is honest, scripture that shapes my thinking, and trust that God's Spirit is at work even when progress feels slow. Rebuilding is rarely flashy. It often happens quietly, one brick at a time. Choosing hope, practicing faithfulness, and showing up again and again.

This same call to rebuild extends to us as the Church of White Oak UMC. Rebuilding is not simply about programs, attendance, or buildings, though those matter. It is about reclaiming who we are called to be; a community rooted in Christ, open to the Spirit, and committed to loving God and neighbor. Epiphany reminds us that the light of Christ is meant to shine through us, guiding others toward hope. The good news is that we do not rebuild by our own strength alone. Paul's words in Ephesians ground us in promise: *"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations"* (Ephesians 3:20–21).

This promise matters. God's power is already at work within us, within each person, and within this congregation doing more than we can yet see. Rebuilding is not about sheer effort or anxiety over outcomes. It is about trusting that God's power is greater than our limitations and God's imagination exceeds our own. When we rebuild with God we rebuild with hope.





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In this new year I believe rebuilding will require four postures. Much like the four legs of a table. It is impossible to take away any one of these four postures when seeking God's plan for renewal and rebuilding. All four are needed and required.

First, **Patience**: rebuilding takes longer than we wish, and progress is often slow and hidden.

Second, **Participation**: the Church cannot be rebuilt by a pastor or a committee alone. Every member's prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness matter.

Third, **Perseverance**: there will be setbacks, disappointments, and days when it feels easier to settle for what is familiar rather than press toward what is faithful.

Lastly, **Pardon**: (forgiveness) in order for God to answer our prayers, our hearts need to be clean and open. Mark 11:25 – *“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”*

As we begin this new year, my prayer is that we will rebuild together with patience, courage, and expectation. I invite you to pray with me:

What might God be asking you to rebuild in your own life; faith, trust, rest, courage, joy?  
And what might God be asking *us* to rebuild together as a church rooted in love, hospitality, and service?

Epiphany light reminds us that God is not finished with us yet. There is still more to be revealed, more to be restored, and more to be imagined together.

May this be a year where we rebuild with faith, trusting that God will accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine, for the glory of Christ and for the good of all generations. So, let this be our shared prayer as we step into this Epiphany season:

**“Lord, rebuild my heart in Your love, and rebuild Your church in Your power.”**

As we invite Christ to rebuild us from the inside out, White Oak UMC can become again a place where light is seen, hope is heard, and people discover that God is not finished with them or with this congregation. May the God who begins good work among us carry it on, and may this be a year when the word **Rebuild** becomes a living testimony of what God has done in us and through us. May we trust that God is making a way where none seemed possible. May we perceive the new thing God is doing among us. And may the light revealed in Epiphany guide us as we rebuild faith by faith, heart by heart, and community by community to the glory of God!

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Amy*

# GLORY REVEALED

## Sermon Series

### “Glory Revealed” Sermon Series Continues

In this sermon series, we began with Epiphany. Epiphany Sunday is a celebration of the light that was revealed to the world. That joyous recognition reminds us of the gift that incarnation made known to us and to all of creation.

So, the question becomes for the season that follows Epiphany, is what? What does that light do for us and to us and what do we do because that light has been revealed to us? I invite you to embrace the gift of light that is Jesus the Christ, and to extend an attitude of gratitude as we stand in the promise of glory.

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – “Give You as a Light”

John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – “Carrying the Light”  
*Youth at Resurrection*

Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – “What is Good?”  
*Holy Communion Celebrated with Family Worship*

Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – “Call to Action”

Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – “Glory Revealed”  
*Transfiguration Sunday*

Matthew 17:1-9

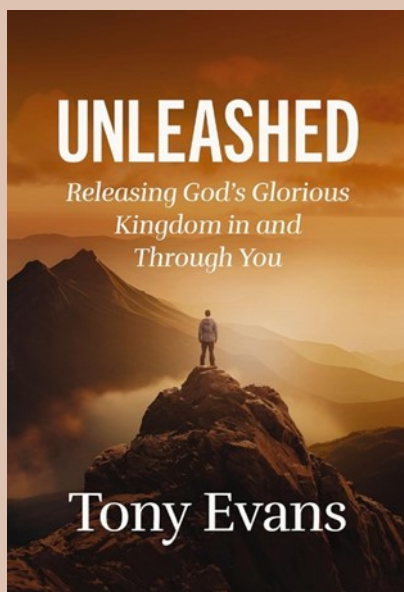
**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18th @ 6:30pm**



# GLORY REVEALED

## Bible Study

**Wednesday, Zoom Only at 6:30 PM**



“Releasing God’s Glorious Kingdom in and Through You”  
By Rev. Dr. Tony Evans

Experience life to the fullest with an intentional alignment to God’s rule and power. In this six session series, bestselling author and pastor Tony Evans teaches about the Holy Spirit’s power that is within us and how we can release it to greatly impact the kingdom of God both now and for eternity. As followers of Jesus, we have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of Christ. We live in this world but are now informed by another. It’s time for kingdom people to unleash kingdom work for the glory of God.

Study began on January 7<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on Wednesday, February 11th. Each Session is on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM on ZOOM.

**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.

# GLORY REVEALED

## What's Happening

### Sundays

9:30 AM– Sunday School

10:45 AM– Worship in Sanctuary (Zoom & Facebook Live)

\*Every 1st Sunday Holy Communion

\*Children's Church (Ages K-5th)- *except the 1st & 5th Sundays*

\*Every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holston Children's Home Offering

Trustee's Meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month in the Library (immediately after worship)

Church Office Closed

### Mondays

### Tuesdays

AA Meetings @ 7:30AM in the Fellowship Hall

Church office hours 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Church Council Meeting Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Library @ 6 PM

Women's Prayer Time on Zoom Only @ 7 PM

### Wednesdays

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

### Thursdays

Church office hours 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Every other Thursday Girl Scout Troops Meet from 6 – 7:30 PM in the Children's Area

AA Meetings @ 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

United Methodist Women of Faith (formerly UMW) meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month  
in the Library @ 11 AM

### Fridays

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

### Saturdays

Church Office Closed

Every other Saturday Girl Scout Troops Meet from 3PM – 4:30 PM in the Children's Area



# GLORY REVEALED

## Prayer Focus

### January/February – WOUMC Leadership

Isaiah 41:10 NIV *“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.”*

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Week of January 18 <sup>th</sup>  | Prayers for our leaders taking office on the 2026 Church Council   |
| Week of January 25 <sup>th</sup>  | Prayers for our Youth Leaders and Youth as they experience Resurrection 2026, may hearts be ignited! They leave on Friday, January 23- return Sunday, January 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Week of February 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Prayers for our White Oak Worship Team, for strength, protection and discernment.  |
| Week of February 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Prayers for all of our Sunday School teachers and small group leaders.   |
| Week of February 15 <sup>th</sup> | Prayers for Pastor Amy for renewed strength, focus and discernment, as we head into the Lent Season.   |

## Save the Dates

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, January 20th     | Church Council @ 6pm in Library                           |
| Friday, January 23rd-25th | Resurrection Weekend– for Youth in Pigeon Forge, TN       |
| Thursday, February 5th    | UWF (United Women in Faith) meeting @ 11am in Library     |
| Sunday, February 8th      | Trustees Meeting immediately following Worship in Library |
| Wednesday, February 18th  | Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30pm                            |

# GLORY REVEALED

## In Prayer For...

- Prayers for Mrs. Celia Hill and her eyesight.
- Bonnie Kilgore for a full recovery from the Flu.
- Mary Alice Thomas for a full recovery from Bronchitis.
- Prayers for Susan Borum as she prepares for hip replacement surgery on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Prayers for Josh Wadel dealing with some health issues.
- Prayers for Maddox Gilliam, grandson of Susan and Craig Borum, as he was tentatively diagnosed with Legg-calve-Perthes disease.
- Prayers for our teachers and students as they return to school after winter break, for safety and wellbeing of mind, body and spirit.
- Prayers for the children of Gateway to Victory School in Kericho, Kenya.
- Prayers for the Mission team as they make plans to go back to Gateway To Victory in Kenya for a house build and pastors training on Grief Recovery. Tentatively late September.
- Our deepest sympathy extended to Mrs. Celia Hill as her siter in law, June Mahan, passed away on New Years Day, January 1, 2026. **A memorial Service will be held at the Chapel at Dalton UMC on Sunday, February 15th at 3pm with family visitation at 2pm.**

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@epbf.com](mailto:whiteoakchurch@epbf.com))



## Power of Presence

As a follow-up from Pastor Amy's Message on January 11<sup>th</sup>, on the "Power of Presence"

Jesus' baptism reminds us that...

**"Ministry begins not with power or performance, but with presence."**

Our presence matters more than we often realize.

When we listen deeply.

When we stay instead of turning away.

When we embody compassion rather than judgment.

**We bear witness to the God who is always present.**

With the upcoming observation of Martin Luther King, Jr Day, rather than just using the day as a day off from responsibilities, can we allow our "presence" to show up and make a statement for the glory of God of doing good for others in our church community? With the realization that our church body represents many different communities, find a volunteer opportunity in your home community, and teach your children the importance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's life.



**MON JAN 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 | 10AM - 12:30PM**

# MLK DAY CLEANUP

**Meet at Red Bank City Park | 3817 Redding Rd.**

**RSVP at [redbanktn.recdesk.com](http://redbanktn.recdesk.com)**





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## Financial Update

**TEXT Tribe to 73256 and go directly to our Realm Giving App.**

2025 has ended. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your CHEERFUL giving. Your paper 2025 giving statements will be available in the sanctuary for the next 2 Sundays. Please pick yours up if you are able. Otherwise we will mail them out.

2026 has started and right off the bat we have a \$10,000 expenditure for HEAT. Although most of us think that Pastor Amy's sermons and the Holy Spirit have kept us warm! According to Malone Heat & Air, the unit should be in their possession in the next few weeks and shortly thereafter bringing warmth to the sanctuary. So far you have given \$5000 towards the \$10,000. Thank you for that. Wouldn't it be 'cool' to raise all \$10,000 to keep us 'warm'? The HEAT payment option will be available through the end of January in the Realm App.

The 2026 budget is in its' final stages of preparation for presentation to the Church Council next week. All our ability to plan for the Kingdom of God comes from your Pledge Cards and your giving. So please check your Bibles and your sun visor to make sure you have turned in your Pledge Cards.

Again we can't thank you enough for your gifts in 2025. We actually INCREASED our cash reserves in 2025, after falling short in 2023 and 2024.

***2 Corinthians 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.***

Thanks,  
Chuck/Lynn/Pat  
Treasurers- White Oak United Methodist Church

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

Email [whiteoakfinance@epbf.com](mailto:whiteoakfinance@epbf.com)

# GLORY REVEALED

## Youth Group

It's almost time for our annual trip to the Resurrection Youth Conference. Resurrection is an annual weekend retreat filled with worship and spiritual growth for youth and youth mentors.

Each year thousands come together in Pigeon Forge, TN, to celebrate the God of The Resurrection. Through inspirational words and music led by nationally known speakers and musicians, young people encounter the Lord in new and deeper ways.

Please keep these youth in your prayers Mia, Avery, Olivia, Lyric, Sophia, Ila, Conner, Ace, Jay & Avery as they continue to grow in their faith!

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](mailto:maddy.easterly@gmail.com) for more details.

## Trustees Update

Happy new year from your new 2026 trustees' team.

We'd like to introduce the new trustee's team for 2026. Sandra Cunningham and J.D. Calhoon will be co-chairs of the trustees. This will be J.D.'s second year as co-chairman and it will be Sandy Cunningham's first year as co-chairman. Our returning members with lots of great experience are Chris Nesin and Alan Hayes. Our new members are Solomon Frimpong, Lindsay Miles, David Schwabenbauer, Craig Borum, and Brooks Kennedy.

Our first order of business was to order a new heating unit for the sanctuary. We had an emergency meeting and decided to order the unit from Malone's heating and air, we are hoping the unit will be installed by the end of January or first part of February, but that depends on a few floating factors. We will keep the congregation updated.

Please don't forget that we have a box outside of Liz's office for any issues that you may see around the church and want to make the trustees aware of or feel free to reach out to any of our new trustees and ask them some questions or give them some information. Our trustees' meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month immediately following the Worship Service.



**Next Meeting** will be held in the Chapel after worship service on **Sunday, January 25th!** All are welcome to attend!

White Oak is turning

**100!** ... in 2027.

It's time to start planning now!

We are looking for **THINKERS** and **DOERS** to join the

**Centennial Committee!**

This is a family celebration, so we would love to have many members bringing ideas and carrying them out.

Some ideas are time sensitive like interviewing long standing members.

If you are interested contact **Paige Walker** (901) 355-0623.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!**

## Ministry Partnerships

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

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](http://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](mailto:downsideupinc@gmail.com)
- [downsideupinc.org](http://downsideupinc.org)



#### White Oak Bicycle Co-Operative

The White Oak Bicycle Cooperative is a volunteer-run non-profit 501(c)(3) community bicycle organization that provides free access to bicycles, repair services, and safety

education to schools, partner organizations, and communities across Southeast Tennessee.

P.O. Box 15102  
Red Bank, TN 37415

[contact@whiteoakbicycle.org](mailto:contact@whiteoakbicycle.org)  
<https://www.whiteoakbicycle.org/>



#### April Nesin

423.271.9878 [april@truenorthts.com](mailto:april@truenorthts.com)

#### Mary Vassar Hitchings

423.271.9879 [maryv@truenorthts.com](mailto:maryv@truenorthts.com)

#### Melissa Gonzalez

(423) 271-9839 [mgonzalez@truenorthts.com](mailto:mgonzalez@truenorthts.com)





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**[whiteoakumc.org](http://whiteoakumc.org)**

2232 Lyndon Ave  
Chattanooga, TN 37415

<i><b>Monday:</b></i>	<i><b>Office Closed</b></i>
<i><b>Tuesday:</b></i>	<i><b>9:00-4:00</b></i>
<i><b>Wednesday:</b></i>	<i><b>9:00-4:00</b></i>
<i><b>Thursday:</b></i>	<i><b>9:00-4:00</b></i>
<i><b>Friday:</b></i>	<i><b>9:00-12:00</b></i>