



# Living Ready

## Living Faithfully in a Distracted World

White Oak Witness

July/Aug 2025

### *From Pastor Amy's Desk*

#### **Living Ready: Remembering My Baptism**

Dear White Oak Families,

As we move through this summer season, I find myself reflecting on the sacred milestones that shape our journey of faith. One memory in particular rises to the surface; my baptism as a child. I was eight years old, just a kid, maybe not fully understanding all the meaning behind it, but I knew it was special. I remember what I was wearing to church that day, as I sat on the wooden pew, waiting for the pastor to call me to the front, as we had talked during the week for the preparation of my baptism. I remember the water; I remember the white gown I wore into the water of the Baptistry. I remember the gentle hands of my pastor, who happened to be my maternal grandfather, and the church family gathered around me. I also remember the song they sang that day:

*"Buried with Christ, my blessed Redeemer, dead to the old life of folly and sin..... Living a new obedient but free. Dead to the joys that was enthralled me, yet tis not I, Christ liveth in me."*

That old hymn has stuck with me over the years. Maybe it's because even as a child, I sensed something sacred was happening. That moment planted something deep in me, a seed of faith that would keep growing.

Now, as a United Methodist pastor, I see baptism a bit differently. It's more than a moment. It's more than a ceremony. It's the beginning of a journey with Jesus. It's God's way of saying, *"You are mine. You are loved. You are never alone."* Whether we're baptized as babies or older children or adults, it marks us forever as part of God's big family. Your baptism is a declaration: You belong to God. You have been claimed by grace. And you are sent to live in the light of resurrection.

Our United Methodist tradition teaches that baptism is not merely a ritual, it is a sign of God's grace, a visible word of an invisible truth. In baptism, we are marked as God's beloved, joined to the Body of Christ, and invited to live in the power of resurrection life.

Paul writes in Romans 6:4, *"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life."* That new life is not always easy, but it is always possible, because Christ lives in us.



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The song from my baptism still sings in my heart, reminding me that baptism is all about new life. Just like Jesus rose from the grave, we rise from the waters ready to live a new kind of life; one filled with love, forgiveness, and hope. Baptism is not a one-time event to be tucked away in a photo album; it is a calling. Each day, we are invited to remember our baptism and be thankful. We are called to “die daily” to sin and rise daily in Christ, to live as those who are “Living Ready”; ready to serve, to forgive, to bear witness to the hope within us.

This summer, as your family enjoys time together, picnics, road trips, and pool days. I invite you to take a moment to talk about baptism. If your children have been baptized, share stories about that day. If they haven’t, let’s talk. I’d love to walk with your family toward that beautiful step of faith.

And whether you’re 8 or 88, remember this: You are a beloved child of God. You were made for more. You’ve been given new life, and we are called to live it boldly and faithfully. Let’s keep Living Ready! Ready to love, ready to serve, ready to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

With joy and gratitude,

*Pastor Amy*

If you would like to listen to the song, “Buried with Christ” that I have referenced above, enjoy this link.

[Buried With Christ - Song](#)

Beloved White Oak,

Thank you for your care, concern, acts of kindness, and faithfulness in praying for me during the recovery from my recent surgery. I am almost two weeks out from surgery, and the Neurostimulator for my bladder was successfully implanted., and I am well on the road to a full recovery. Thank you, God, and thank you, White Oak!

A scripture was shared by Susan & Craig Borum that I had honestly overlooked until they brought it to my attention. Jeremiah 30:17a *“I will give you back your health and heal your wounds,”* says the Lord. This scripture has brought me hope and a reminder of the faithfulness of our God. I share this scripture so that you, too, can be encouraged and healed by our God.

*Pastor Amy*





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## Sermon Series

### “Living Ready!”

*This four-week sermon series will give us opportunity to explore Jesus’ teachings through parables and individuals who were trying to live faithfully in a world full of distractions. We will seek to learn to live focused on our relationship with Jesus, centered on prayer, resisting the distractions, and living ready!*

Choosing grace, practicing prayer, releasing control, and trusting God’s promises, will bring about spiritual transformation that can empower us to live as agents of God’s grace and experience new found freedom.

**Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

“The Better Portion”

Luke 10:38-42

**Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

“Teach Us to Pray”

Luke 11:1-13

**Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

“The One Who Showed Mercy”

Luke 10:25-37

*Holy Communion will be celebrated and served with Family Worship, no children’s church*

**Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

“Dressed for the Kingdom”

Luke 12:32-40

## Right Now Media

### **Get Right Now Media access for personal use :**

1. Go to the website ([rightnowmedia.org](http://rightnowmedia.org)).
2. Register with your personal email account and put organization  
(**White Oak United Methodist Church**).

They will send you an email to set up your account and how to get the app for your phone.

\*If you have issues, you can contact the church at [whiteoakchurch@epbf.com](mailto:whiteoakchurch@epbf.com) .





# Living Ready

## Living Faithfully in a Distracted World

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
Every Sunday Except the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, During Worship, Children Ages K-5th grade go to Children's Church  
Trustee's Meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month in the Library @ 12:30 PM  
Every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holston Children's Home Offering

#### Monday

Church Office Closed

#### Tuesday

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

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, July 15th**

Church Council

**Saturday, July 26th**

Church Workday at 10am w/ a focus on the playground– Lunch provided

**Sunday, August 10th**

Church Trustees Meeting



# Living Ready

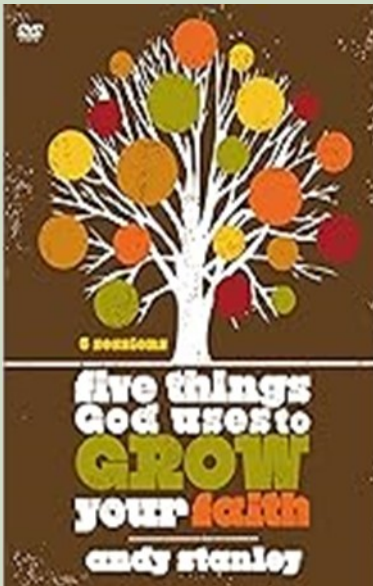
Living Faithfully in a Distracted World

## Bible Study

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

New Study Coming August 6<sup>th</sup>

**“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 6<sup>th</sup> and run for six weeks ending on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.



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## Living Faithfully in a Distracted World

### Prayer Focus– The Power of Prayer

**1 John 5:14** *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."*

There is incredible power and potential in prayer. Through prayer, we invite the God of the Universe into a situation and into our lives. Prayer changes things, but even more prayer changes us. Through prayer, we can reach our full potential in Christ. The disciples said to Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray." As we grow in our prayer life, we become more alive and more engaged with what God is doing. None of us are perfect at prayer, but as we take steps to grow spiritually in our prayer life, the impact is incredible. God will move mountains and God will transform us into people of love, joy, and peace through prayer. Let's become people of prayer and a church of prayer together

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Week of July 20<sup>th</sup></b>   | Pray and meditate on James 1:17, for a <u>thankful heart</u>                            |
| <b>Week of July 27<sup>th</sup></b>   | Pray and meditate on Luke 18:13, for <u>the confessions of our heart</u>                |
| <b>Week of August 3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | Pray and meditate on James 4:2-3, for the <u>petitions of our heart</u> and for others. |
| <b>Week of August 10<sup>th</sup></b> | Pray and meditate on Romans 12:1, <u>for the worship of our heart</u> to God.           |
| <b>Week of August 17<sup>th</sup></b> | Pray and meditate on Hebrews 12:28, <u>for the heart of our worship</u>                 |

## In Prayer For...

- Prayers for Sandra Parker as cancer has returned in her Liver. Sandra is currently undergoing dual immunotherapy infusion treatment, every three weeks for 4 sessions, with a medication therapy. Our prayers are for the cancer to start to shrink in the name of Jesus!
- Prayers for Jim Cunningham, as he recovers from surgery on 7/14 for his spine, so that Jim can have more strength and relief of pain in his back.
- Prayers for Anne Jay, as she continues to heal from having skin cancer removed from top of her head.
- Prayers for Carol Standifer as she continues to heal from foot surgery.
- Prayers for Effie Nesein as she continues to heal and get strong from her hip surgery and upper respiratory infection.
- Prayers for Laura Bales, as she recovers from a stomach virus.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Eloise also asked for prayers for her daughter Denise and husband Steve Marshall, as Steve recovers from surgery on 7/1. Granddaughter, Torrie as she enters her senior year in college.
- Prayers for a Friend of Trish Fricke, "Big Dog" who is recovering from accident and in critical condition at the hospital.
- Prayers for Dean Fricke for a good report and a road to feeling better.
- 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.
- Ashley Stephens, daughter of Pat & Mickey Stephen, please continue to pray for her as she strives for good mental health and sobriety.
- 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.
- Prayers for the family of Caleb Josiah, Caleb passed away unexpectedly in the arms of his fiancé, Molly after he had a motor cross accident, he did have a heart condition. The funeral arrangements will be Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.
- Prayers for Clata, her family, Ms. Eve and herself, to find a safe, happy, joyous home.

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))





## Kentucky Mission Trip

We partnered with Saint Paul's Baptist Church in Barboursville, Kentucky for a Serve Day. We had the personal hygiene table. There were multiple tables including household cleaning supplies, clothing, baby needs, children's ministry, and all things generosity.

All the tables were staffed by volunteers from churches in Barboursville area. Even the rain did not deter the recipients from coming out and picking up what they needed from what we had donated.

Our God is such a big God! It doesn't matter if you have a lot or if you have a little. If you need a lot or if you need a little. God is always gracious. God is always LOVE!

## Youth Group

Thank you for making our spaghetti fundraiser a success! We appreciate everyone who prepared a dish or dessert. The Youth had a great time serving you.

Join us this summer for Summer Fun at Youth Group! Each Wednesday will be a different summer fun activity from water games to Pickle Ball.

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.



## Financial Update

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

Thanks to all who came to the Town Hall meeting. Thanks for 'shaking your sofas and chairs for change for the youth'. They had a big day!

We highlighted the Larry Billingsley Student Scholarship Fund and presented a scholarship to Allie Nelms who is heading to Samford University in Birmingham. Since that time we have received several donations for this fund. Thank you!

Please don't get into the hot summer slump regarding your church donations. Text **TRIBE** to 73256 to give while you are away on vacation. Did you know that the electrical bill at the church **DOUBLES** in June/July/August to keep the church cool? Your contributions are always welcomed.

Is it time for your RMD from your IRA? Please talk to me about how to donate to the church and save you some taxes at the same time!!

Thank you for your Faithfulness!!  
Chuck/Lynn/Pat

*We are committed to being open and transparent. More detailed reports available upon request.  
Email [whiteoakfinance@epbfi.com](mailto:whiteoakfinance@epbfi.com)*

## Trustees Update

The next church workday will be on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 8am. We will be focusing on the playground and exterior of the church building. All are welcome and encouraged to come. There is no job too big or small for us to tackle together. Lunch will be provided!



As you can tell, most of the flood damage has been repaired and new floors have been installed in most of the rooms and hallways. Glory! All that remains is the history room floor and minor modifications to get everything off the floor.

We have been working hard on the following topics this year: parking lot improvements, drainage problems, new signage, accessibility/elevator, parsonage repairs, steeple repair, becoming a 501c3, grants, and many more items on the agenda this year. If you ever want to know more, we encourage you to just reach out.

We also want to thank everyone that helped with clearing the fallen branch in the back parking lot a few weeks ago.

## Connection Card



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Starting a relationship w/ Jesus | <input type="radio"/> An appointment with the Pastor |
| <input type="radio"/> Joining a Small Group            | <input type="radio"/> Baptism                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Volunteering at the Church       | <input type="radio"/> Joining this Church            |

White Oak UMC  
2232 Lyndon Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN 37415  
423-877-6042  
whiteoakchurch@epbf.com



Thank you for  
visiting our  
church!

Comments - Prayer Requests:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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!***

**whiteoakumc.org**



**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,  
24 hours a day, completely confidential**

## Resources

### **8 Week Grief Recovery Groups**

Mondays from 3:30-5:30 pm starting June 23rd or  
Tuesdays from 11:30-1:30 pm starting July 1st

### **4 week Helping Children with Loss Group**

Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm starting July 9th

If you have of anyone interested and the dates don't work, please let me know. I can often create a group or offer individual sessions.

**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,**



**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)



Phone: 423-877-6042  
Email: [whiteoakchurch@epbfi.com](mailto:whiteoakchurch@epbfi.com)  
**[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>