



CORE FAITH

From Pastor Amy's Desk

White Oak Witness

June/ July 2026

"Gradual to All of a Sudden"

I heard a friend share a phrase recently, and it has been on my heart since returning from the Holston Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina: **"Gradual to All of a Sudden."**

From Sunday, May 31 - Wednesday, June 3, I had the privilege of gathering with clergy and laity from across our conference for worship, learning, fellowship, celebration, and the work of the church. It was a week filled with gratitude, reflection, and unexpected moments that reminded me of God's faithfulness.

This year marked a very special milestone for me personally. Twenty years ago, in June of 2006, at Lake Junaluska, Bishop James Swanson commissioned me as a Licensed Local Pastor. I remember standing there with excitement, uncertainty, and a heart full of hope. At that time, the United Methodist Church was celebrating 50 years of women's ordination in full Elder connection. As I looked around at the women who had gone before me, I could only dream of one day becoming an Ordained Elder myself.

This year, the church celebrated 70 years of women's ordination and full Elder connection. As I processioned into worship on Sunday evening for the Service of Ordination and Commissioning, I found myself overwhelmed with gratitude. Not only was I participating as an Ordained Elder, but I was doing so as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry. It was one of those moments that felt almost surreal.

The journey from Licensed Local Pastor to Ordained Elder took seventeen years. At times, it has felt like a lifetime. There were classes to complete, papers to write, interviews, evaluations, appointments, joys, challenges, and countless moments of trusting God one step at a time. Looking back, the process felt incredibly gradual. Yet standing in that worship service, it also felt like it happened "all of a sudden."

Isn't that often how God works?

We faithfully take the next step, and then the next one after that. We pray, serve, learn, grow, and trust. We wonder if we're making progress at all. Then one day, we look back and realize that God has been weaving together a miracle all along. What seemed gradual suddenly reveals itself as a beautiful display of God's grace and glory.



CORE FAITH

This year's conference was made even more meaningful because I was able to share the experience with members of our White Oak family; Paige Walker (our Lay Leader), Sandy Cunningham (Lay Alternate for the conference), and Mary Alice Thomas. It is always a joy to see Lay and Clergy leaders working together in the life of the church.

One of my proudest moments came during the report from the Congregational Development Team, led by Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold that I serve on as well. I was honored to have Iva and Sheldon attend as guests of the conference and share their testimony on stage about their experience at the Catalyst Academy. They represented White Oak beautifully and spoke with authenticity about what God is doing in their lives and through our congregation. Watching them share their story reminded me once again that discipleship is not merely something we talk about. It is something we witness God doing in real people and real lives. Watching Iva and Sheldon grow in their disciple's path, felt familiar in the "gradual to all of a sudden". Glory!!

As wonderful as the week was, my favorite moment came on Wednesday morning during the Sending Forth Service. There is always something deeply moving about that final gathering when clergy appointments are fixed and the conference is sent back into ministry. When the Bishop approved the appointments with the strike of her gavel and appointed me back to White Oak for another year, my heart was filled with gratitude.

This appointment will mark my eleventh year serving White Oak United Methodist Church. What a blessing that is for me and my family!

Over the years, White Oak has become far more than a place I serve. It has become home. Together we have celebrated victories, weathered challenges, grown in faith, welcomed new faces, and sought to follow Christ faithfully. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of walking alongside you as pastor.

As I reflect on twenty years of ministry, I am reminded that God's greatest works often unfold in ways we do not immediately recognize. What feels slow and ordinary today may one day reveal itself as something extraordinary. God's grace is at work in the gradual moments, preparing us for the "all of a sudden" moments that leave us standing in awe.

Thank you for allowing me the joy of serving as your pastor. I look forward with excitement and gratitude to what God has in store for us in the year ahead.

With gratitude,
Pastor Amy

CORE FAITH

Sermon Series

Forming a Family, *Preparing a People*



New Sermon Series **Begins June 7th**

The story of Abraham and Sarah is complex, full of twists and turns, great faith, and crippling fear. Through it all, it is a story about a family that struggles and learns to love in ways that could be an invitation to the whole world. It is a story about the people of God who want to follow, even when their wisdom falls short. It is a story about blessing, about receiving a blessing, and then being a blessing. We begin this season after Pentecost by thinking about the church and about these examples of faith as we consider forming a family and preparing as a people of the church for the world.

Sunday, June 7th

Holy Communion and Family Worship

“To Be A Blessing”

Genesis 12:1-9

Sunday, June 14th

“A Miracle Called Laughter”

Genesis 18:1-15

Sunday, June 21st

Father’s Day

“Hearing the Voice”

Genesis 21:8-21

Sunday, June 28th

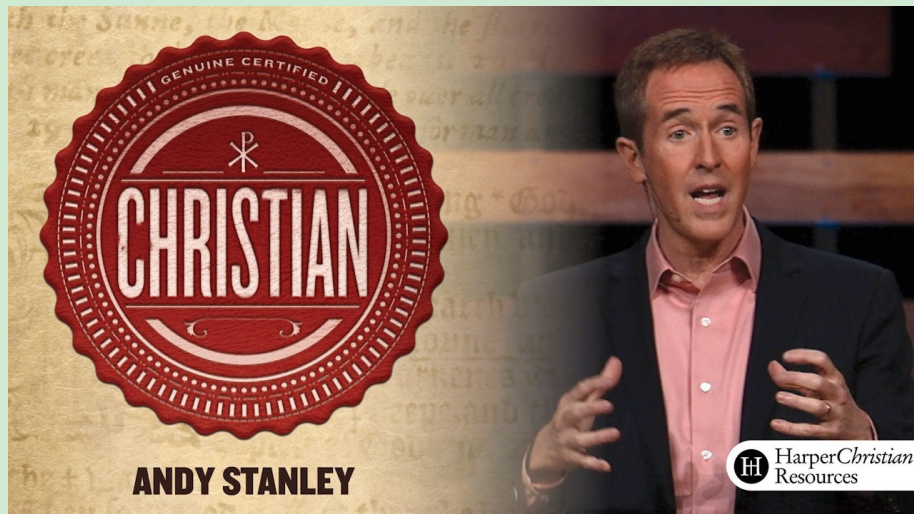
“God Will Provide”

Genesis 22:1-14

CORE FAITH

Bible Study

“Christian” by Andy Stanley



According to Andy Stanley, the words used to describe Christians today often bear no resemblance to how Jesus wanted his followers to live. In *Christian*, an eight-session, video-based study, Andy offers a better term—one that Jesus used throughout the New Testament to describe Christians—that more accurately depicts Christians. Then he leads you through what Christianity should look like today considering Jesus' teachings.

This study will begin June, Wednesday, 3rd – July 22nd, facilitated by Kiley Gunter and Pastor Amy.

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.

CORE FAITH

What's Happening

Sundays

9:30 AM– Sunday School

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

*Every 1st & 5th Sundays Holy Communion

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

*Every 5th Sunday, Holston Children's Home Offering

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

Church Office Closed

Mondays

Tuesdays

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

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

UWF—United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) meet every 1st 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

*Food Pantry is open during the Church Office Hours during the week.

CORE FAITH

In Prayer For...

- Mark Thomas, son of Mary Alice Thomas, had back surgery Thursday, June 11th at Vanderbilt. Please keep Mark in prayers for complete healing and for Robin as she drives back and forth to Nashville.
- Prayers for Maddox Gilliam, grandson of Susan and Craig Borum, as he will have surgery Tuesday, June 16th at Vanderbilt. Maddox was diagnosed with Legg-calve-Perthes disease, earlier this year.
- Prayers for Bill Fetherolf as he recovers from surgery on May 11th and trying to get adjusted to a new prescription while he still has pain from where the Stent was placed in his kidney. Bill will see his new doctor on June 25th.
- Prayers for Marsha Fetherolf as she starts her PT from her back surgery on March 23rd and is in process of skin cancer healing.
- Prayers for Theresa Nix, founder/director of Downside Up Inc., as she goes through chemo treatment for her recent diagnosis of Breast Cancer.
- Prayers for Sandra Parker as she continues treatment of infusions for her Liver cancer, the lesions are slightly smaller and the inflammation is improving! Glory!
- Prayers for Annette Palmer, as she is no longer a candidate for a lung transplant and is battling an autoimmune disorder.
- Prayers for Tony Martin, as he continues to recover and gain his strength back.
- Prayers for Linda Parker as she continues to recover from a fall and hopeful to start PT soon.
- 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 training on Grief Recovery for the school staff. Tentatively September 17-29th
- Praises for the healing Mrs. Celia is experiencing from her DMEK eye surgery on March 12th, her eyesight is improving, GLORY!!

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)



CORE FAITH

Prayer Focus

The Mission of the Church

Acts 1:8- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Week of June 14th Prayers for the recipients of our Food Pantry Ministry.

Week of June 21st Prayers for restoration of relationships between Fathers and Sons and most importantly reconciled relationships to our Heavenly Father.

Week of June 28th Praises for the ministry of Shower Up reaching out to the houseless of Chattanooga and those who serve on this team.

Week of July 5th Praises for the freedom to worship our God freely and the opportunities that we are afforded to share the “Good News” with others in our “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and Ends of the Earth.

Week of July 12th Prayers for youth and Pastor Amy who will be traveling to Camp Bays Mountain for summer Bible Camp this week.

CORE FAITH

Mid-day Wednesday Bible Study

New Mid-day Wednesday Bible Study for the Summer with Pastor Amy.

Looking to join a small group during the day to share in community and learn more of God's word through the encouragement of open discussion, led by the Holy Spirit? Then make plans to join us starting, Wednesday, June 24th for the next six weeks as we study the book of Psalms! We will meet from 12:30-2 PM each Wednesday. Feel free to bring your lunch and eat while we share and learn!

Everyone one is welcome, every age from every generation, male and female. Retired, working, and moms of littles! Hopefully you can come join, even if you are on your lunch break! If you would like to join and need childcare, please contact me, so that we can make arrangements.

We will begin with "Jesus in All of Psalm - Book 1"

We will walk through Psalm Book 1 (Ps. 1-41) to see Jesus in every corner. We start with a short film introducing you to the book and its main themes. Then quick devotional videos will explain what's happening in each section and how it leads us to Jesus.

Videos Presented by David Bowden

Written by the Spoken Gospel Theology Team (Seth Stewart, David Bowden, Christine Kazar) and facilitated by Pastor Amy



Trustees Update

We have several pending items for the trustees. An important one is having the trees that are overhanging our roof on the side of the church by our neighbor cut back and then we'll be able to do repairs on our roof.

Also, one of our picnic tables is broken next to the large parking lot. These tables are very heavy, so we'll be deciding whether to repair or possibly sell for the scrap metal. This has yet to be determined.

A Ministry Partnership sign was put up close to the small parking lot door. A big thank you to Chris Nesin for putting this up, installing an oscillating fan in the nursery, and installing the actuated door mechanism to the door that leads to the ramp outside the Fellowship Hall. (Pictured below)

Also, thanks to Dustin Riddle for installing a new ceiling fan in the parsonage.

In the Sanctuary you may have noticed the wall that is being put up on the stage. This is because of the hard work of Alan Hayes and Rick Parker. (Pictured below)



June Youth Small Group Series

What Is a Christian?

Ever wondered what really makes someone a Christian?

Is it what you believe? Is it how you act, or something deeper?

In this **six-week small group**, we'll dig into the basics of the Christian faith and ask honest questions about what unites Christians across time, cultures, and churches. No pressure. No pretending. Just real conversations about faith, purpose, and God.

Through short videos and group discussion led by **Francis Chan**, we'll explore the essential truths every Christian shares—and how they matter in everyday life.

What to Expect

- Transportation provided, if needed
- Begin with snack supper
- Real talk and meaningful discussion
- A safe space for questions and doubts
- Short video teaching + conversation
- Connection with friends and leaders who care

When & Where - Wednesdays | June 3rd - July 8th from 6:30 -7:45 PM

Facilitators— Pastor Amy & John Nutt



CORE FAITH

Financial Update

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

We are now introducing 2 more needs we have at the church:

COOL - Our 25-year-old air conditioning unit for the sanctuary is failing. \$38,000 is needed for this replacement.

ROOF - Our roof has some missing shingles and needs some repair work. \$3000 is needed for this project.

As you can see these are large expenditures. Your normal gifts fund our normal expenses, but your EXTRA gifts will go to fund COOL and ROOF. If you would like to fund all or any of these needs, write COOL or ROOF on your check or click it in Realm. Thank you.

Thank you for everything; your time, your talents, your gifts, and your witness. Invite someone to visit WOUMC. In other words, God does not want to give you a miracle; he wants you to become a miracle for someone else. This brings to him greater GLORY, which brings you greater blessings. Now that is a GLORY!

Thanks,

Treasurers- White Oak United Methodist Church

We are committed to being open and transparent. More detailed reports available upon request. Email whiteoakfinance@epbf.com

ShowerUp

Shower Grace. Hope. Love.

Chattanooga



In Chattanooga like most cities across the country, there are resources for those experiencing homelessness to get meals, clothing and other necessities. We discovered that there are very few places to get a hot shower and take care of basic hygiene.

That's part of the reason why Shower Up exists. Designed to be mobile so we can go to those we serve, our mobile shower units are clean, safe, and comfortable. We affirm and support the work of all the organizations that serve the poor, the unhoused, and the transitional in our cities. We believe that, together, we can come alongside, provide a unique service, and help our friends and neighbors know that they are loved.

Chattanooga now has its own mobile shower unit and has served in multiple locations around the city where friends who are experiencing homelessness can be served the best.

Together we can Shower Grace, Shower Hope, Shower Love...with Shower Up!

White Oak & Shower Up

Our Newest opportunity to serve Shower Up is going on this summer. Our inaugural Shower Up for Red Bank / Signal Mountain Blvd. area was Tuesday, June 9, and will meet again on Tuesday, June 23rd.

This will continue every other Tuesday till the end of July. We meet on the parking lot between Aldi and the Tractor Supply Store located at 637 Mundy Street Chattanooga, TN 37405.

Please contact Pastor Amy to sign up for a Tuesday to serve anytime from 9 AM- 1 PM.

Save the Dates

- Sunday, **June 14th**— Trustees Meeting (in the library after worship)
- Monday, **June 15th-19th**— 3rd week of Downside Up Summer camp at the church
- Tuesday, **June 16th**— Church Council at 6pm in the library
- Monday, **June 22nd-26th**— 4th week of Downside Up Summer camp at the church
- Tuesday, **June 23rd**— Shower Up Ministry 10am-1pm (Signal Mtn. Blvd—Aldi Parking lot)
- Sunday, **June 28th**— Centennial Committee Meeting after worship
- Monday, **July 6th-10th**— 5th week of Downside Up Summer camp at the church
- Sunday, **July 12th**— Trustees Meeting (in the library after worship)

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

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

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



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
<https://www.whiteoakbicycle.org/>



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