

A NEW START

White Oak Witness

From Pastor Amy's Desk

March / April 2026

A New Start – Easter Is Coming!

As we journey through the final days of our forty day Lenten season, our hearts are turning toward the joy of Easter morning. On **April 5th**, we will gather to proclaim the greatest good news the world has ever known: *Christ is risen!*

Matthew tells us that early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb (Matthew 28:1–10). What they expected to find was death and finality. Instead, they encountered an empty tomb, a messenger from heaven, and the astonishing announcement: **“He is not here; for he has been raised.”**

In that moment, everything changed. Fear turned into joy. Mourning turned into hope. The end they expected became a **new beginning**. Easter is God’s declaration that death does not have the last word. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God gives the world and each of us a **new start**.

During these forty days of Lent, we have walked a spiritual journey together. Lent invites us to slow down, reflect, confess, and open our hearts to God. It is a season of preparing ourselves not by striving harder, but by learning something deeper: the gift of **receiving**.

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples. John tells us that Jesus breathed on them and said, **“Receive the Holy Spirit”** (John 20:22). Just as God breathed life into humanity in the beginning, the risen Christ breathed new life into his followers. The Spirit was not something they could earn or manufacture. It was a **gift to receive**.

And that gift was never meant for only a few. In the book of Acts, when Peter was speaking in the home of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell upon everyone who heard the message (Acts 10:44–46). The Spirit was poured out freely—across boundaries, across backgrounds, across every dividing line.

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The same invitation is extended to us today.

Easter is not only a celebration of something that happened long ago. It is a living promise that the risen Christ is still breathing new life into his people. The same Spirit given to the disciples... the same Spirit poured out in Acts... is the Spirit God longs for us to **receive today**.

As we approach Easter Sunday, may we come with open hearts. Let us lay down what burdens us, release what we cannot carry, and make room for the life God desires to give.

This Easter, let us receive anew—

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

And as we receive, may the resurrection of Jesus Christ become for each of us what it was for those first witnesses at the tomb:

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I look forward to celebrating the joy of Easter with you.

Halleluiah He is Risen,

Pastor Amy

Town Hall

Our Town Hall Meeting will be on Wednesday, **March 25th, at 6:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall, with dinner served.

This is an opportunity to hear the latest business of the church and ask any questions that you may have of the leadership, while enjoying a good meal with your White Oak family!

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Living Cross

Do not forget to bring your fresh flowers to place on the cross outside the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

Be sure and take a photograph too. It makes a beautiful church and family memory!



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Sermon Series

“Renewed in Mercy” Sermon Series Continues

The Lenten journey may seem overly familiar. Indeed, we have been here before. There is comfort in the familiar. Many of the rituals and practices of this season are comfortable. They give us a sense of place, like being home again. This can be a good starting place for the season, an invitation to walk the paths we have walked before.

Sunday, March 15th – “Journeying in Grace”

Psalm 23

Sunday, March 22nd – “Redemption Road”

Psalm 130 & John 11

“Journey's End / A New Start” Holy Week Sermon Series

Welcome to the roller coaster we call Holy Week. We begin with a parade and then attend a dinner party that is followed by a trial and condemnation, an execution, and a burial. Then, there is an unimaginable surprise. Whew. Hold on to your hats. Even though we have been here before, we make this journey because he made this journey for us. We watch and we listen, and we follow at a distance because that is the best we can do. We shout and we sing; we weep, and we rejoice, because to make this journey is to embrace being alive with all the passion and the promise life offers. We make this journey because, once again, we need to learn how to begin again. Join us for the end and the beginning.

Sunday, March 29th – Palm Sunday “Marching Orders”

Matthew 21:1-11

Friday, April 3rd – Good Friday “Reaching Destination”
Worship Service at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

John 18:1-19

Sunday, April 5th – Easter Sunday “A New Start”
Holy Communion Celebrated

Matthew 28:1-10

**Palm Sunday- March 22nd,
Good Friday - April 3rd at 6:30pm,
& Easter Sunday- April 5th**

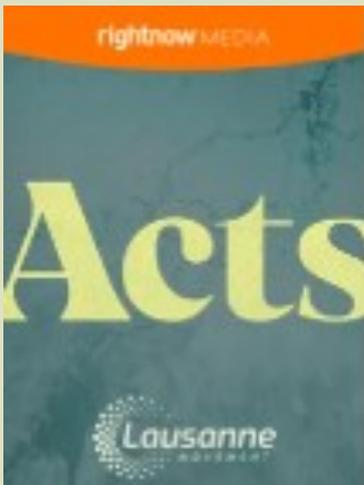
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Bible Study

Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Acts

By Francis Chan



In this compelling six-part series from the book of Acts, church leaders from nations around the world equip us to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Join Francis Chan, Anne Zaki, Chadwick Mohan, Anand Mahadevan, Jorge Salazar, and Kwasi Amofo, and be inspired to lead as servants, overcome opposition in community, face persecution with boldness, and reframe your workplace as your mission field.

This study will begin Wednesday, April 15th and will run through Wednesday, May 20. Facilitated by Kiley Gunter and Pastor Amy. Each Wednesday 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.

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Prayer Focus

Month of March/April – **The Power of The Cross**

John 12:32 – *“And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”* It is in the light of this scripture that we’ll examine the phenomena of the power of Jesus’ cross to draw all humanity to himself.

Week of March 15th

Week of March 22nd

Week of March 29th—Palm Sunday

Week of April 5th—Easter Sunday

Week of April 12th

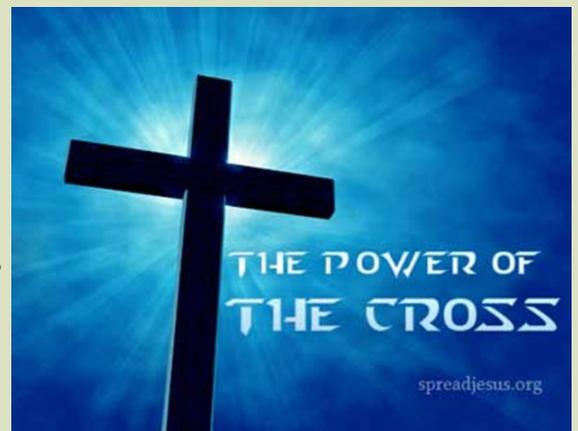
Pray and meditate on John 3:16-21

Pray and meditate on Ephesians 1:7

Pray and meditate on Matthew 26:14-30

Pray and meditate on Matthew 28:1-10

Pray and meditate on Romans 5:6-11



Save the Dates

Friday, March 13th-20th

Tuesday, March 17th

Saturday, March 21st

Sunday, March 22nd

Wednesday, March 25th

Saturday, March 28th

Sunday, March 29th

Friday, April 3rd

Sunday, April 5th

Hamilton County Spring Break

Church Council at 6pm

Church Workday 9-12pm

Thrivent Charitable workshop @ 12:30pm Library (Lunch provided)

Town Hall @ 6:30pm Fellowship Hall—(dinner provided)

Annual Easter Egg Hunt 11-1pm

Palm Sunday– followed by Holy Week

Good Friday service @ 6:30pm

EASTER!!!

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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.

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In Prayer For...

- Prayers for Mrs. Celia Hill, as she will have the DMEK Procedure for recovery of her eyesight on Thursday, March 12th in Birmingham, AL.
- Prayers for Tony Martin, as he finishes up his chemotherapy.
- Prayers for Linda Parker as she seeks relief from lower back pain that is affecting the sciatic nerve, caused by Arthritis.
- Prayers for Maddox Gilliam, grandson of Susan and Craig Borum, as he was tentatively diagnosed with Legg-calve-Perthes disease.
- 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 September 17-29th.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Chris Nesen, as his mother, Janet Nesen passed away February 7th. The family will host a Celebration of Life Service at 1 PM on Saturday, April 25th at Bethesda Methodist Church located at 800 Hardy Road, Pulaski, TN

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)

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Financial Update

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

Wow! Where did February go?? I blinked and it was March! And now March is about halfway gone. Thank you for your contributions to God and to your Tribe. Without your gifts, our ministries would not survive and prosper. We believe God is pleased at our effort and our results. GLORY!

Whether by plate, mail, Realm, text, or hand delivery, we Thank you. We will also honor your gifts through your will and your estate. What a great way to leave a living legacy here at White Oak UMC.

Our money reserves are holding good. All bills presented have been paid. Praise God!!

Thank you for your tithes, your offering, your time, and your witness.

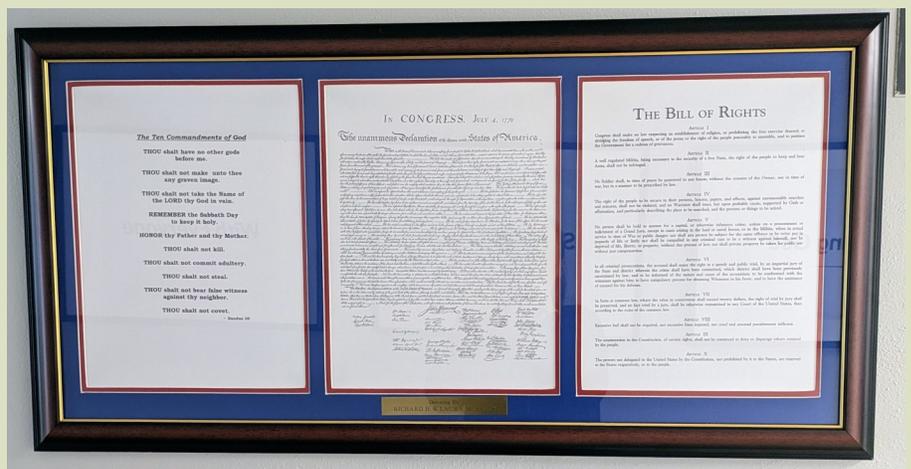
Any time you have a question about the church's finances, please ask us

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@epbfi.com*

New Additon

Thank you Laura Bales for donation this plaque that is a new addition outside of the Church Library.



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Youth Group



Thank you for always supporting our youth with dinners on Wednesday nights and helping with transportation. We appreciate you!

We had fun on our girls' day out at Buff City Soap making our own bath bombs. Last week the youth made 12 ready-to-go food/hygiene bags for the houseless community and those in need.

There will be **no youth** on March 18th (Hamilton County Spring Break) or March 25th (Town Hall at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall).

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.

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Trustees Update

Hello from the trustees! We have got a few updates for our congregation.

1. We have a new air conditioner in the kitchen that is 12,000 BTUs and should cool the kitchen as much as needed.

2. We have a new baby swing in the playground, and you can see Tres enjoying it.

3. We repaired the plaster wall leading into the children's area (pictured to the right). You will see the before and after.

4. Brush was moved from the side of the church in the large parking lot that was cut down by EPB.

5. Shrubs under the stained-glass windows outside the sanctuary on the large parking lot side, have been cut down and it looks really nice. We plan on keeping shrubs height lower than the stained-glass windows so we can continue to see their beauty.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

White Oak United Methodist Church
COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 28TH FROM 11-1 PM

Easter Egg Hunt Starts at 11:30 PM

FREE TO EVERYONE

White Oak
Bicycle Co-Op
-Bike Rodeo-
Giving Away
Bikes & Helmets

**Want to Volunteer
Scan the QRcode Below!**



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 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!

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>