

STAND FIRM & HOLD FAST



White Oak Witness

Oct / Nov 2025

From Pastor Amy's Desk

From the Pastor's Heart: A Season of Renewal and Gratitude

by Pastor Amy

Dear White Oak Family,

I want to begin by expressing my deep gratitude for the gift of time away for Spiritual Renewal Leave. What a blessing it has been to step aside for a season; to breathe, to listen, and to allow God to renew my spirit. Your support and prayers made this time possible, and I return to you with a heart filled with peace and gratitude.

During these past weeks, I experienced renewal in so many ways. I enjoyed intentional time with my family, finding a new rhythm of prayer and quiet with God. I even began horseback riding lessons, something that was both exhilarating and deeply therapeutic. Those moments in the saddle became a tangible lesson in faith: learning what I could control, letting go of what I could not, and trusting the gifts that God has already placed within me.



I have learned there is something sacred in the art of horseback riding—a rhythm of trust and grace shared between humans and horses. Riding *Lady Mercedes*, a beautiful Tennessee Walker, has been a lesson in balance, humility, and awe. With her smooth gait and gentle spirit, she reminds me that strength and gentleness can dwell together. Each ride is a conversation without words, and a partnership built on trust and respect. In her steady stride, I see the handiwork of our Creator God, who crafted such majestic creatures to teach us patience, courage, and the quiet joy of moving in harmony with His creation. I am grateful to Cindy the owner and my instructor/counselor at Hearts & Hooves Horse Therapy in Soddy Daisy, TN.

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This season also brought moments of deep grief and grace. I walked with families through the loss of our beloved members **Mrs. Evelyn Wolff** and **Connie Doyle**, and I continued to grieve the passing of my dear friend, **Wetherly Kennedy**. In each of these sacred moments, God reminded me again that faith is not passive—it is a movement. It is trust in the unseen, and it is gratitude even when our hearts are tender.



One of the greatest blessings of this time was traveling to Kericho, Kenya to teach at the Pastors Conference hosted by Gateway to Victory School. Standing alongside fellow ministers and sharing God's Word was a humbling and joy-filled experience. I went to pour out what I could, but I returned feeling that I had received even more than I gave.

I carried Wetherly in my heart, as she had planned to go with me to help the teachers at Gateway. I honored Wetherly in my teaching to the pastors and celebrated Wetherly by loving everyone and sharing joy.

Wetherly left so much joy with the children and families of Gateway last

February and I am forever grateful for Chuck & Cris Darsey who not only introduced me to the ministry and family of Gateway to Victory School but have also traveled with me each time. God has used Chuck & Cris to open my heart, expand my heart and help to heal my heart. We are always Better Together!



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My time away renewed my faith and deepened my understanding that wholeness is found in gratitude—not only in physical healing or answered prayers, but in the quiet, steady trust that God is with us in every step, every season, and every breath.

Thank you, White Oak family, for the grace to rest, reflect, and return refreshed. I am so grateful to serve alongside you as we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love—trusting that God is always doing a new thing among us.

With love and deep appreciation,

Pastor Amy

Spiritual Takeaway: Faith in Motion

Faith is not a still or silent thing; it moves, breathes, and grows as we learn to trust God in every circumstance. Whether through moments of joy or seasons of loss, God invites us to step forward with open hearts, learning what to hold and what to release. True wholeness comes not just from healing, but from gratitude—the deep awareness that God is present in it all, guiding, teaching, and renewing us day by day.



Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

This verse has been special to me ever since I walked the halls of White Oak, for the first time in July of 2015. In this season God spoke this scripture over me once again, as I feel the renewal, gratitude, and trust in God’s movement. This verse reminds me that God is always creating new paths in our lives, even when we can’t yet see them.

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New Sermon Series

“Choosing Faith” Sermon Series Continues

In this worship series, we invite you to examine what it means to be people of faith. We are the people who are choosing faith.

<u>Sunday, October 19th</u>	“Persistent Faith”	Luke 18:1-8
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<u>Sunday, October 26th</u>	“Humble Faith”	Luke 18:9-14
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<u>Sunday, November 2nd</u>	“Love Increasing”	Luke 19:1-10
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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, Holy Communion and Family Worship

“The Days Are Surely Coming”- New Sermon Series Begins

As we close out the liturgical year, we return to the promises of God, the promise of a new reality, a new hope, and an ongoing presence that will usher all of creation into this new kingdom and kingdom of relationship and joy. It is, in a way, a pre-Advent anticipation that ends with a celebration of the Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday. Though this series is grounded in the Hebrew scripture lectionary texts, Christ is the center of our worship and the ground of our hope. Let us be reminded that the days are surely coming when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

<u>Sunday, November 9th</u>	“The Latter Splendor”	Haggai 2:1-2:9/Luke 20:27-38
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<u>Sunday, November 16th</u>	“Rejoice Forever in Creation”	Isaiah 65:17-25/Luke 21:5-19
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<u>Sunday, November 23rd</u>	“Christ the King Sunday”	Jeremiah 23:1-6/Luke 23:33-43
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Sunday, November 30th will be the first Sunday of Advent.

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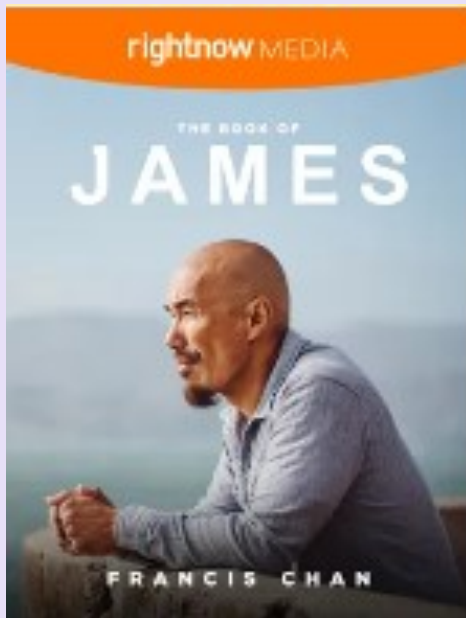


Bible Study

Wednesday, Zoom Only at 6:30 PM

“The Book of James”

BY: FRANCES CHAN



True faith produces fruit. A faith without action and without life change is ultimately a dead faith. The book of James speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus—the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves and get-your-hands-dirty discipleship that is borne out of an authentic relationship with the risen Lord. James writes to believers who know suffering, who've faced trials, and who ultimately desire a deep relationship with God.

Francis Chan unpacks the dense truth contained in the book of James in front of the iconic backdrop of San Francisco, the city where he lives and ministers. Through 6 weeks, Francis works through James verse-by-verse, challenging followers of Christ to move beyond a private, intellectual knowledge of God and His Word, to a vibrant faith that impacts every square inch of life.

Series began, Wednesday, October 8th and will continue through to Wednesday, November 19th, each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM on ZOOM, led by Kiley Gunter & 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.

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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 5th Sunday, Holston Children's Home Offering

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

Mondays

Church Office Closed

Tuesdays

AA Meetings @ 7:30AM in the Fellowship Hall

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

United Methodist Women of 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

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In Prayer For...

- Prayers for the Pierce Family while they grieve the loss of Andy, Blake Pierce's dad.
- Prayers for the Doyle Family. Connie Doyle passed away on Sept. 21st and will be buried at the national cemetery in New York.
- Prayers for Lauren Byrne and her little one coming soon.
- Prayers requested for Gary Grogg, Jennifer, Denise, Owen, David, Becky, Phil and Marcia from Eloise Carpenter.
- Prayers for the Morgan Family as they prepare for the arrival of Wyatt Hillard.
- Prayers for Amy Cunningham, niece of Jim Cunningham, as she is in transition of dying from cancer.
- Prayers for Martha Bishop and her family as she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and had a double mastectomy.
- 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 Sally Berger, Debbie Scott's mother, who is in Siskin recovering from a recent illness and hospital stay and still having complications due to AFIB.
- We share our sympathy with the family of church member, Barbie Bynum, as Barbie transitioned to her eternal home on Sunday, October 12th. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Thursday, October 16th at Hamilton Memorial Gardens on Hwy 153.

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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Prayer Focus

Prayer Focus for October/November– **The Faithfulness of God**

[2 Thessalonians 3:3](#)

“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”

Father God, we thank you for your steadfast love and faithfulness you have shown to White Oak. We thank you oh God, for your blessing to allow us to celebrate 98 years of ministry. God, we pray, that each effort has pleased you, and Father we pray that as we continue to live out our calling at White Oak, that we do so in alignment with what you have ordained for White Oak. Allow us to live out the will and dreams that you have set for White Oak and do all that we do for your glory and honor. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and let the church say Amen.

Week of October 19th Praises for the Faithfulness of our God entrusting White Oak UMC with Financial Resources.

Week of October 26th Prayers for the ministry of Gateway to Victory School in Kericho, Kenya, as they continue to protect & educate the orphaned children that God entrusts to their care.

Week of November 2nd Prayers for the Faithfulness of all the members of White Oak, who have finished their course and now stand in the great cloud of witnesses. Their dedication and stewardship to this church makes it possible for us to enjoy worship today!

Week of November 10th Praises for the Faithfulness of our God entrusting White Oak with children and youth!

Save the Dates

Tuesday, October 21st - Church Council @ 6pm

Tuesday, October 26th - Outdoor Worship (bring chairs)

Thursday, November 6th - United Women of Faith @ 11am

Sunday, November 9th - Trustees Meeting @ 12:30pm

Tuesday, November 11th - **VETERANS DAY**

Thursday, November 13th - Charge Conference @ 6:30pm

Monday, November 17th - District Day with Bishop

Tuesday, November 18th - Church Council @ 6pm

Thursday, November 27th - **THANKSGIVING** (office CLOSED 27th & 28th)

Financial Update

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

“Giving melts away our focus on ourselves, and we begin to live as we were made to live – for the glory of God and the good of others.” John Rinehart

October is Pastor Appreciation month. If you appreciate our Pastor and would like to make a monetary donation to her, please note it on your check or click the dropdown in Realm. We will be making a presentation to her on Sunday, October 26th. (Homemade poundcakes and chocolate croissants work also.)

In September our Revenue exceeded our Expenses by some \$11,000. Thank you for your faithfulness. Remember 10 lepers were healed, but only **One** returned in gratitude to Jesus. Be like the **One**. Tell Jesus thank you for allowing you to give over and beyond.

Our financial office is always open by appointment to view the records and let us answer any questions you have.

Lynn/Pat/Chuck
Treasurers

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

Trustees Update

This month the Parsonage needed repairs to the AC unit and will be getting the new floors installed. New signs were put up in the playground, and the steeple will be painted soon. Thanks for continuing to give of your time, gifts, and your prayers for the church.

If you have any suggestions for repairs and improvements to our campus, please don't hesitate to drop it off in the comment box located outside of Liz's office.



Youth Group

Mark you calendar! The Resurrection Youth Conference is set for January 23-25th, 2026!

If you have questions or are interested in attending please contact Maddy Easterly.



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

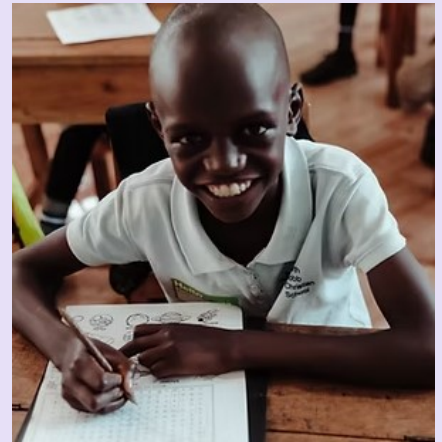
Dinner is provided each week. Transportation is available. Contact **Maddy Easterly** at maddy.easterly@gmail.com for more details.

Notary Public

If you are in need of a commissioned Notary Public come by the Church office during office hours. Liz Robertson, Operations Coordinator, is a Public Notary for Hamilton County.



Gateway to Victory School



Gateway to Victory is dedicated to serving the children of Kenya. Their mission is to love, teach, feed, and nurture them in every way possible. They strive to shape their future, transforming them into happy, healthy, and self-sustaining adults who seek God in all they do.

The school is in Kericho, Kenya and educates, feeds, and ministers to students grades PreK – 8th. Gateway to Victory is a non-profit organization that is run by volunteers who have a heart to serve God through helping the Orphans and Vulnerable children of Kenya. They can attend school through the generous donations of Gateway to Victory Supporters.

Gateway to Victory's sole income comes from donations and student sponsorship. Student sponsorship is only \$420 per year. Below you will find links to our payment platforms. You can make a one-time donation, or you can choose to sponsor a student in her honor. As a student sponsor, you can donate monthly (\$35 per student), quarterly (\$105 per student), or annually (\$420 per student).

Melette Meloy, founder of Gateway to Victory, will be at White Oak speaking on Sunday, October 26th during outdoor worship.

www.gatewaytovictory.org



Make a difference

Change

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!

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>