

CHOOSING *Faith*



White Oak Witness

Sept/Oct 2025

From Pastor Amy's Desk

Finding Peace, Love, and Joy

Dear Friends of White Oak,

I want to share with you about the valuable time I recently spent away at the 5-Day Spiritual Academy at the beautiful Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, Alabama. August 11-15th. The theme for our week together was *"Finding Peace, Love, and Joy in Today's World,"* and it could not have been more timely or more needed.

The Academy followed the rhythm of the Benedictine monastic tradition, which offers a sacred balance of silence, solitude, worship, liturgy, deep learning, heartfelt community, and restorative free time. Each day we gathered in prayer – beginning with morning prayer, ending with night prayer, and sharing in the Eucharist before dinner each evening. This rhythm shaped our days and gave a holy framework for everything in between.

The days themselves provided space to pause, to go deeper, and to listen not only to the wisdom of our teachers and the voices of fellow participants, but also to the quiet whisper of God. I found myself in a community that was both ecumenical and Spirit-filled, where differences faded, and the common bond of Christ brought us together. I reunited with some old friends and made wonderful connections with new friends.

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For me, this time away was nothing short of transformational. It drew me closer to the heart of God. It renewed my spirit. It reminded me of the power of silence and prayer, of learning and worship, of community and solitude. I returned carrying new strength, deeper joy, and a renewed sense of peace and love to share with you, my church family. Only God could have known that I would need this renewed sense of strength to face the grief of losing my dear friend, Wetherly Kennedy on Saturday, August 23rd. My heart is still hurting and will continue to hurt, as grief has no set time frame or rules.

I am deeply grateful for this time apart and for your support in allowing me to step away for renewal. My prayer is that the fruits of this experience will overflow into my ministry with you – that together we may discover afresh the peace, love, and joy that Christ longs for us to know, even in the midst of loss and grief.

I will return to preach on Sunday, October 5th and look forward to sharing worship and Holy Communion, together, as a family.

My Takeaway/ Devotional Thought to Share:

Psalm 46:10 – *“Be still, and know that I am God.”*

This scripture captures the essence of pausing, breathing, and finding peace in God’s presence. I have heard this scripture countless times in the past 30 days, and I am still lingering on the mystery of God’s presence. Both through word and stillness.

In the stillness of prayer and the rhythm of worship, we are reminded that peace, love, and joy are not found in the world’s noise but in the presence of God. When we pause, breathe, and open our hearts, we discover that Christ is already here – renewing, restoring, and drawing us closer to His heart.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Amy

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Guest Speaker Schedule

- Sunday, September 14th -** Bob Lockaby, Lay Leader for Hiwassee District
- Sunday, September 21st -** Rev. Dr Susan Arnold, Director of Congregational Connections for the Holston UM Conference
- Sunday, September 28th -** Bishop Richard Looney, a retired Bishop in the UMC and formerly served White Oak back in the day! And is currently 91 years young!

New Sermon Series

“Choosing Faith”

Is faith a gift or a choice? Is it something God does in us or something we do for God? You guessed that the answer is "Yes," no doubt. Faith is a mixture of all that and more. It is a partnership with God as we enter a relationship for our good and the good of the world around us, the community around us. We are choosing every day to live by our faith, to be shaped by our faith, and to submit all our actions and relationships to the measure of faith. 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.

Sunday, October 5th “Faith to Change” Luke 17:5-10
Holy Communion will be celebrated and served with Family Worship, no children’s church

Sunday, October 12th “Whole Faith” Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 19th “Persistent Faith” Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 26th “Humble Faith” Luke 18:9-14

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Bible Study

Wednesday, Zoom Only at 6:30 PM

New Study Coming September 17th

“Why Do We Need the Bible?”

BY: LISA HARPER



The Bible is a wonderful book filled with poetry, historical events, exciting narratives, and stories from the life of Jesus. But because it is an ancient text, it can also be intimidating and confusing. Its complexity makes many people wonder if we even need the Bible—can't we experience God without it? In this six-session series, author and Bible teacher Lisa Harper unpacks the value and importance of the Bible for everyday believers. In this series, we will learn about what the Bible is, how God communicates with us through it, and why we should read it.

Three week series to start Wednesday, September 17th and run through Wednesday, October 1st, each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM on ZOOM, led 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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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

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 Susan Borum. She had a hysteroscopy and D & C on Tuesday, and they were able to rule out ovarian cancer.
- Prayers for Maddox Gilliam, grandson of Susan and Craig Borum, as he was tentatively diagnosed with Legg-calve-Perthes disease.
- Prayers for Sandra Parker and her family as she is getting treatment for her cancer that returned.
- Prayers for Pat Stephen, as she heals from COVID.
- Prayers for Lauren Byrne, daughter of Kristine Johnson.
- Prayers for Josh Wadel dealing with some health issues.
- Prayers for Amy Cunningham, niece of Jim Cunningham, as she is in transition of dying from cancer.
- Prayers for Anette Palmer and her family.
- Prayers for Martha Bishop and her family. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and is having a double mastectomy on the 17th.
- Prayers for the healing of Mrs. Celia Hill's eyes.
- Prayers for the Kennedy family as they mourn Wetherly Kennedy.
- Prayers for the family of Evelyn Wolff. She passed away at 102 years young.

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 the Month of September/October

Prayers for The Congregation and Lay Leadership of White Oak

Philippians 4:13 NLT *“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”*

Week of September 14

Prayers for the Church Council Leadership

Week of September 21

Prayers for our Mission Team going to Kenya

Week of September 28

Praises for our 98th Year of Ministry at White Oak!

Week of October 5th

Prayers for our Nursery workers who nurture and care for Little Oaks each week.

Week of October 12th

Prayers for our Youth Ministry and leaders

Save the Dates

Tuesday, September 16th

Church Council @ 6pm

Sunday, September 21st

United Women of Faith Sunday– Bake Sale Fundraiser!

Sunday, September 28th

Hillary & Jahmes Morgan’s Baby Shower @ 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 4th

Pet Blessing (outside Sanctuary) 10-2pm

Thursday, October 2nd

United Women of Faith @ 11am in Library

Thursday, October 9th

Ministry Partnership meeting @ 12:30pm

Sunday, October 13th

Trustees Meeting @ 12:30pm

WELCOME TO PASTORS CONFERENCE 2025
 Gateway To Victory Gospel Church In Conjunction
 With Washington Heights Church - USA

Guest Speakers

Bp. Lawrence Kirui Host-0724958404	Pst Leonard & Laura Marriage & Family	Amy Nutts Pulpity Ministry	Pst John Evangelism	Pst Joel & Pauline Parenting	Dir. Melette Meloy Gateway School
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Areas Of Discussion And Teachings

**Parenting, Pulpity Ministry,
Evangelism, Mariage & Family**

DATE:-
22ND TO 28TH
SEPTEMBER 25

VENUE:-
ST MARK CATHOLIC
CHURCH - LITEIN

Prayer for Our Kenya Mission Team

Please keep **Chuck and Cris Darsey** and **Pastor Amy** in your prayers as they travel to **Kericho, Kenya**, later this month for the **Pastors Conference** sponsored by **Gateway to Victory School**.

The team will leave on **Saturday, September 20th**, flying into Nairobi before making their way to Kericho. The conference will be held **September 22–28**, with the team returning home on **September 30th**.

Gateway's chaplain, **Pastor Lawrence**, will be hosting the event, bringing together pastors from across the region for encouragement, equipping, and fellowship. Pastor Amy will be teaching on "*Pulpit Ministry*," sharing with fellow pastors about the sacred responsibility and joy of preaching God's Word.

This is an exciting opportunity for White Oak UMC to partner in global ministry, strengthening the church in Kenya and walking alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please lift up Chuck, Cris, and Pastor Amy daily praying for safe travels, fruitful ministry, and God's Spirit to guide every step of their journey.

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

What's going to be your legacy? Provide some for your loved ones, some for WOUMC, and some for your favorite charity. Why leave most of what you have to a charity you have never met? Why exclude WOUMC from your legacy?

Make an immediate charitable gift to WOUMC and witness the joy of your generosity. Or make a deferred charitable gift, retaining control of the gift asset while living, and make a significant gift upon death?

Did you know you can donate to WOUMC cash, publicly traded securities, real estate, closely held stock, QCDs from your IRA, and crops/farm equipment?

We are steps away from creating a 501c3 vehicle whereby you can contribute your RMD from your IRA. Where you can contribute your Qualified Charitable Deduction from an Inherited IRA. Please consider your legacy at White Oak United Methodist Church as you create your will and as you make your year end contributions for 2025.

Lynn/Pat/Chuck
Treasurer

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

Trustees Update

We voted to purchase a live Christmas tree this year for the front of the church for our annual Christmas tree lighting. Some updates for the parsonage are replacing all the rotten fascia around the house and installing a new exterior door that needed replacement. We also managed to find some nice flooring for a good deal that will be installed later this year.

The last update is in the main building with the electrical lighting getting updated. We choose to start in the pastor's office first which has already been completed. Then we decided to start doing some of the other classrooms upstairs. This is all with funds already designated for these much-needed improvements.

We will continue to do what we can with the funds you all so generously give, Thank you!



United
Women
in Faith

Holston Conference

The PURPOSE

United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

**Join us the 1st
Thursday of the month
at 11am in the Library
at White Oak UMC.**

Our MISSION

We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

Our VISION

We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

We face the realities we see in the world, even when they are not the ones we would like to see. However, our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.

**Sunday,
September 21st
is UWF Sunday!**

**Learn more about us at
www.holston.org/uwf**

Our ACTION

Bold action, like faith, takes courage. Our bravery is inspired by God's love and our powerful commitment to improve the lives of women, children and youth. United Women in Faith works for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems that harm women, children and youth- from racial and gender injustice to economic inequality, climate issues and more.



UNITED WOMEN of FAITH

Bake Sale Extravaganza!

Delicious Treats for a Sweet Cause!

Sunday,
September 21st
2025

Before and
After Worship
Service

Entrance to Church Sanctuary
White Oak UMC

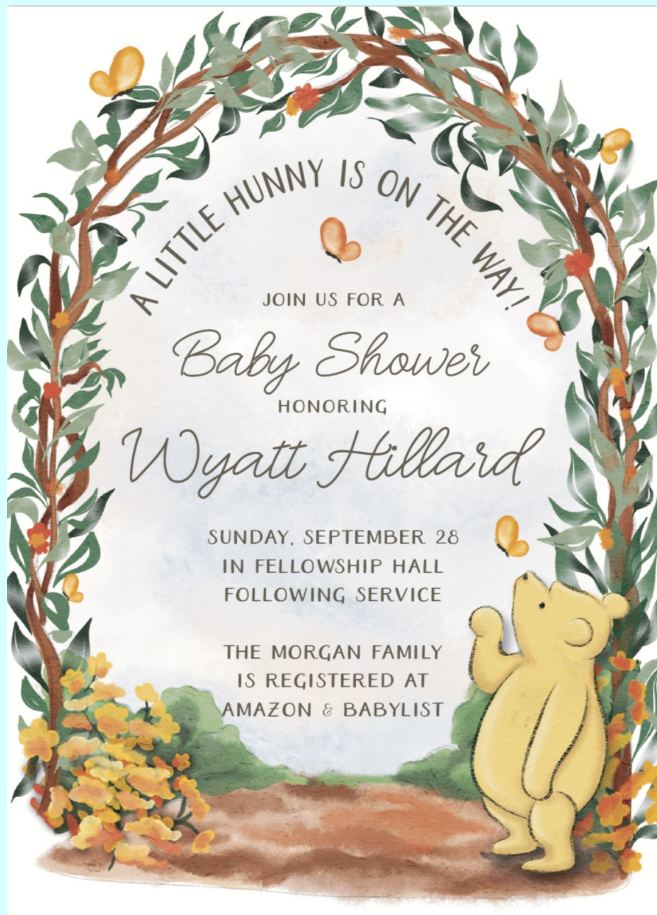
Are you a Baker?

Donate a baked good for the fundraiser!

Email: whiteoakchurch@epbfi.com

Make a donation by texting
TRIBE to 73256
put "UWF" in Memo.

www.holston.org/uwf

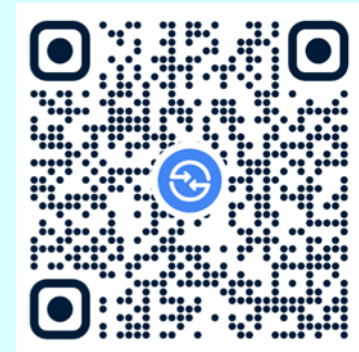


Celebration!

Immediately following the Worship Service we will be having a Baby Shower for Hillary and Jahmes Morgan on Sunday, September 28th!

Please join us and celebrate our newest little one coming soon!

Scan the QR Code for a link to their gift registry.



Youth Group

We are really enjoying our new series called Faith Foundations. We have discussed the story of God's creation and are learning about the redemption of a Jesus.

Come Join in on the conversation!

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.

Pet Blessing 2025



Join us
Saturday,
October 4th
outside the
Sanctuary for our
Annual Pet
Blessing.

All leashed pets are welcome!

You can receive the blessing of St.
Francis of Assisi every year!



We will be collecting donations for McKamey
Animal Center from now until October 4th. Use
the QR Code above to see their Amazon wish
list and give.



McKamey Animal Center
Saving Animals. Helping People.



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

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

Resources

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,

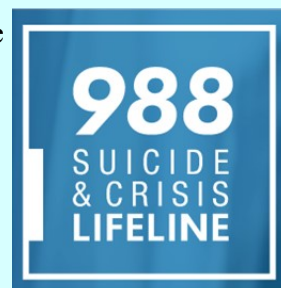
Downside Up Inc.

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



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

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(423) 271-9839 mgonzalez@truenorthts.com



Phone: 423-877-6042
Email: whiteoakchurch@epbfi.com
whiteoakumc.org

2232 Lyndon Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37415

<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>