



PRESSING ON

From Pastor Amy's Desk

White Oak Witness
September / October 2026

Revive Us Again: Honoring Our Past, Living Our Present, and Building Our Future

Part 2 of 2 - from last months Newsletter

A Three-Year Vision

As we move toward our 100th anniversary, I believe we should prayerfully consider a three-year model for our future:

Year One — Remember and Renew

We celebrate our history, listen to the stories of those who came before us, strengthen our spiritual foundation, and ask God to revive our passion for Christ and His Church.

Year Two — Grow and Equip

We intentionally invest in discipleship and leadership development, creating pathways for people to grow in their faith and discover their gifts for ministry.

Year Three — Multiply and Send

We expand our mission beyond our walls, multiply leaders, strengthen community partnerships, and send disciples into the world to serve in the name of Jesus Christ. This vision will require more than good ideas. It will require prayer, participation, leadership, and generosity. And I believe White Oak is capable of it.

God Can Do More

Ephesians 3:20-21 reminds us: "Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power God can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." — Ephesians 3:20-21, CEB

Notice where God's power is at work: In us. God is not waiting for someone else to build the future of White Oak. God is calling us.

Every person has something to offer. Every person has a gift. Every person can pray. Every person can serve. Every person can encourage. Every person can give. Every person can help make disciples.

And together, what God can do through us is greater than what any one of us could ever accomplish alone.

As we celebrate 99 years, I want to challenge us to consider our giving not merely as an obligation, but as an act of worship and an investment in the Kingdom of God.

If you are already giving faithfully, **thank you**.



If God is calling you to increase your giving, I invite you to prayerfully consider what that might look like. If you have not yet made giving a regular spiritual practice, perhaps this is the year to begin. And if you can give beyond your regular giving, consider how your generosity might help us develop disciples, equip leaders, multiply ministry, and extend the reach of White Oak into our community.

We are not simply paying for the ministry of the church. We are investing in the people God has entrusted to our care and in the mission, God has entrusted to White Oak. The people who gathered under that tent in 1927 gave so that we could have a church today.

Now it is our turn.

What will we give so that someone 10, 20, 50, or even 100 years from now can encounter Jesus because White Oak was faithful today? The tent revival of 1927 was not the end of the story. Neither was the first sanctuary. Neither was the last generation. And neither is today. We are simply the current chapter in a story God has been writing for 99 years.

So let us honor our past with gratitude.

Let us steward our present with wisdom.

Let us invest in our future with generosity.

Let us develop disciples.

Let us equip leaders.

Let us multiply ministry.

Let us strengthen our community.

And let us trust God enough to dream beyond what we can see.

As we begin **“Revive Us Again,”** may God revive our hearts, renew our vision, strengthen our witness, and prepare us for the next chapter of ministry together.

I am convinced that White Oak’s best days are ahead of us, not behind us!

With gratitude for where we have been, joy for where we are, and great anticipation for where God is taking us,

-Pastor Amy



New Sermon Series

Pressing On- New Season, New Sermon Series

A Four-Week Journey Through Philippians 1–4

Life as a disciple of Jesus is not always easy. There are seasons when obstacles, disappointments, conflicts, uncertainty, and weariness can make us wonder if we have the strength to keep going. Yet, from the midst of his own struggles, the Apostle Paul wrote a powerful word of encouragement to the church in Philippi; keep pressing on.

In this four-week sermon series, “Pressing On,” we will journey through Paul’s Letter to the Philippians and discover what it means to persevere faithfully when life does not go as planned. Paul reminds us that our circumstances do not have the final word. Our hope is rooted in Christ, our strength comes from God, and we are never called to walk this journey alone.

Throughout these four weeks, we will be reminded that Christian discipleship calls us to persevere in love for God, love for ourselves, love for our neighbors, and love for creation. We press on not because we have unlimited strength, but because Christ meets us in our weakness and gives us grace for the journey.

As Paul declares in Philippians 3:13–14:

“I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Jesus Christ, is calling us.”

- **Sunday, September 27th** “Striving Side by Side” Philippians 1:21-30
99th Anniversary with Celebration Lunch hosted by the Centennial Committee, immediately following worship service. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Sunday, October 4th** “In Full Accord” Philippians 2:1-13.
Holy Communion, Family Worship Sunday
- **Sunday, October 11th** “The Heavenly Call” Philippians 3:4-14
- **Sunday, October 18th** “Rejoice in the Lord” Philippians 4:1-9



PRESSING ON

Prayer Focus

Prayer Focus for the Month of Sept/Oct
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 20 th	Prayers for the Church Council Leadership	-
Week of September 27 th	Prayers for our luncheon and launch of our Centennial Celebration	
Week of October 4 th	Prayers & praises for our children and all serving who lead and teach our children	
Week of October 11 th	Prayers for our Nursery workers who nurture and care for Little Oaks each week.	
Week of October 18 th	Prayers for our Youth Ministry and leaders	

Mid-day Wednesday Bible Study

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? 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! Moms, if you would like to join and need childcare, please contact me, so that we can plan arrangements.

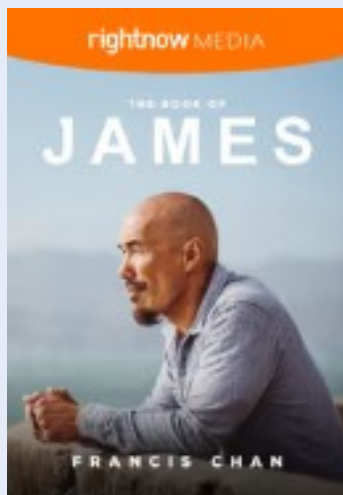
We are currently in Book 3 of Psalms (Ps. 73- 89)

As we walk through Psalm Book 3 , we look 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*

PRESSING ON



Zoom Bible Study

“Book of James” by Francis 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 12 sessions, 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.

This study began Wednesday, September 9th, facilitated by Paige Walker.

Days not meeting

September 16th

October 14th (Hamilton County - FALL BREAK)

October 28th

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.



PRESSING ON

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 PreK-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)

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

12:30 PM Adult in Person Bible Study in the 1st Floor Children's Classroom

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.



PRESSING ON

In Prayer For...

- Prayers for Iva Richardson as she is currently hospitalized for a severe case of Cellulitis. Iva was admitted on Monday, September 7th.
- Prayers for Debbie Scott as she continues her chemotherapy for breast cancer, that was recently diagnosed as stage 2, Debbie has four more chemo treatments and then will be looking at surgery.
- Praises for the success of Sandra Parker's recent surgery to remove her gallbladder and the cancer tumors on her liver. Sandra is currently cancer free, GLORY!!
- Praises for Maddox Gilliam, grandson of Susan and Craig Borum, as he continues to recover from surgery on June 16th at Vanderbilt. Maddox was able to go back to school and doing well with his PT.
- Prayers for Mark Thomas as he recovers from back surgery.
- Prayers continue for Mrs. Celia Hill and her eyesight to improve.
- Prayers for Marsha Fetherolf as she continues her PT from back surgery.
- Prayers for Sheryl Seimer as she is having difficulty with her Liver function.
- Prayers for Vickie Putman as she recovers from recent stroke and an additional fall when she broke her ankle, she is back home from surgery with home health care.
- Prayers for Mrs. Mary Holloway, as she is home bound, and losing her sight.
- Prayers for Theresa Nix, founder/director of Downside Up, as she has finished her chemo treatments for her recent diagnosis of Breast Cancer and is now waiting to plan for surgery.
- 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 his chemo treatment to recover and gain his strength back.
- Prayers for the children of Gateway to Victory School in Kericho, Kenya

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@epbfi.com)

PRESSING ON

Financial Update

Hello faithful White Oak!

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

If you attended the Town Hall meeting, I told you that July was terrible. The expenses far exceeded that revenue. (If you didn't attend, the expenses far exceeded the revenue.) Not because the expenses were higher than normal, but because the revenue was far below normal. You were on vacation; you were doing other things; you were But in August, hot August, you responded and are had a great August! Thank you for your commitment. Thank you for answering the call! Thank you Jesus! Glory! You have never failed and you won't start now!

The air conditioner has been replaced for the sanctuary. If you want to see it, I'll show it to you. She's a beauty. Thankfully Reliable Heat and Air gave us 30/60/90 day payment terms. Glory! The first payment will be made next week from our cash reserves. There is still time to make a donation toward COOL. Each payment is over \$12,000. Hopefully and prayerfully, we can make each subsequent payment from our cash reserves and not have to cash in a CD.

We have our normal expenses to contend with in September plus a few HVAC sheet metal issues that came to light during our quarterly inspections. Hopefully WE can do the labor on these and only have to purchase the parts. Remember our Church Workday 9/19/2026. Whatever work WE (the TRIBE) can do, we save that \$\$ and do not have to pay someone else to do it. Talk to Sandy about what YOU can do.

Speaking of the Town Hall meeting, it was sponsored by New Beginnings. Thank you for your donations, but thank NB for the great food and great cupcakes. We were able to allow them to continue their ministry to the stranded and the houseless.

Thank you for your donations in cash, in checks, and in Realm as well as in time and work. We are blessed.

Any time you have a question or you are just plain nosey, come on in to the finance office and we will show it all to you.

Thanks,

Here's the link for the Realm QR code...

Treasurers (Chuck / Pat / Lynn)

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





Saturday, September 19th - 9am-12pm

All abilities and ages are welcome to attend!

We are preparing for our 99th Birthday Celebration on Sept. 27th!

We will be doing work inside and outside of the church.

Childcare will be provided, so bring the whole family!

We will have Be Caffeinated Coffee and Biscuits.

Come and stay for a little or make a morning of it.

Youth Group

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

Intentional time with hands on mission projects to support our New Beginnings & Shower Up ministries.

When & Where

Wednesdays | in the Fellowship Hall (6:30 -7:45 PM)

Facilitators

Led by **Blake & Maddy Easterly**

*****And shout out to our awesome Youth Volunteers!** Sandy Cunningham, Tish Noll, John Nutt, Mollie & Kaz Sawyer, and Modesty White. Thank You all!

Contact **Maddy Easterly** at maddy.easterly@gmail.com for more details.

Save the Dates

- **Saturday, Sept. 19th** - Church Workday 9-12pm (nursery is provided)
- **Thursday, Sept. 24th** - Charge Conference at 6:30pm
- **Sunday, Sept. 27th** - Membership Sunday (If you are thinking of making White Oak UMC your church home let Pastor Amy know.)
- **Sunday, Sept. 27th** - White Oak UMC 99th Birthday Lunch immediately following Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- **Tuesday, Sept. 29th** - Shower Up 10-1pm (off Signal Mtn. Blvd. across from Christmas Tree Lot)
- **Thursday, Oct. 1st** - UWF (United Women in Faith) meets at 11am in the Church Library
- **Saturday, Oct. 3rd** - Pet Blessing 10-12pm in front of the Sanctuary (all leashed pets are welcome)
- **Sunday, Oct. 11th** - Trustees meeting immediately following Worship in the Library
- **Monday, Oct. 12th - 16th** - Hamilton County FALL BREAK
- **Tuesday, Oct. 13th** - Shower Up 10-1pm (off Signal Mtn. Blvd. across from Christmas Tree Lot)
- **Tuesday, Oct. 14th** - Shower Up 10-1pm (off Signal Mtn. Blvd. across from Christmas Tree Lot)
- **Tuesday, Oct. 20th** - Church Council Meeting 6pm in the Library

Get Connected!

Join In-Person, on ZOOM or Facebook Live for Worship!

Topic: White Oak UMC Worship

Time: **Sunday 10:45AM 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 on Sunday morning with rotating teachers of Mary Alice Thomas, Pauline Howard and Frank Parker.
- The Women's Group meets Sundays in the HEM Ministry classroom on the 2nd floor at 9:45am with Hillary Morgan leading.
- The Men's Discipleship Class is lead by Bill Fetherolf in library at 9:45 AM Sundays.
- Children's Sunday School is meeting on the 2nd floor at 9:45 AM with Libby Young.
- Women's Prayer Time is meeting on Tuesday's at 7:00 PM Zoom Only.
- Mid-day Wednesday Bible Study meets at 12:30pm in the 1st children's classroom.
- Zoom Bible Study is meeting on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM.
- 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



PARENTS

Nursery is Available for Children 6 weeks to 3 years old.

Sundays 9:30am-12:30pm & Wednesdays 6pm-8pm

JOIN OUR TEAM!

WE
ARE
HIRING

\$15 HR

WHITE OAK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NURSERY

Sunday Mornings

9:30am to 12:30pm

Wednesday Evenings

6:00pm to 8:00pm

FOR MORE INFO

call 423.877.6042 or

email whiteoakchurch@epbfi.com



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 started this summer. Shower Up for Red Bank / Signal Mountain Blvd. area was this June. Join us for our next Shower Up on **Tuesday, September 29th** !

This will continue till further notice. We meet off Signal Mountain Blvd. across from the Christmas Tree Lot.

Please contact Pastor Amy to sign up for a Tuesday to serve anytime from 10AM- 1 PM.

Currently we are in need of Men's Size 34-36 jeans or shorts & Women's size small anything.

Annual Pet Blessing



We will be collecting donations for McKamey Animal Center from now until October 3rd.
Use the QR Code above to see their Amazon wish list and give.



McKamey Animal Center
Saving Animals. Helping People.

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

Ministry Partnerships

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

423-888-7322 www.griefchatt.com

karen@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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2232 Lyndon Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37415

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

**Food Pantry OPEN during
Church Office Hours.**