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PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

The year 2024 is a leap year, meaning February has 29 days, giving the year a total of 366 days as opposed to the common 365 days. This is done so that our dating system will match with the astronomical year or with the seasons of the year. Our system is nice, logical, and for most part rather irrelevant as we buy calendars with the dates printed on them and the most typical reaction to February 29th is, "Oh, look" and nothing more.

But since we have an extra day, what are we going to do with it? Will we spend it at our jobs or perhaps use it to finish all those chores we put off until we "have more time"? Will this "extra" day, be a day of relaxation, going hunting, reading, or catching up on our nap times? Or, will it be just another day in a long stream of days which pass by without notice or particular importance?

Thornton Wilder, in his wonderful play, "Our Town" speaks of life and how even the most mundane of days should be cherished. In the third act, Emily, one of the principal characters in the play, dies. After her funeral she rises from her grave and joins the other deceased people around her. But she refuses to move on wanting above all else to go back and spend just one more day with her family and friends. She wants to revisit a particularly happy day again but the dead around her warn her saying, "No!—At least, choose an unimportant day. Choose the least important day in your life. It will be important enough." But Emily does not listen and returns to the day of her twelfth birthday, a decision which proves painful as her family go about their lives without noticing one another, holding one another close or demonstrating the love they felt for one another, but rarely expressed. Emily then asks the Stage Manager, "Do human beings ever realize life while they live it? — every, every minute?". He replies, "No. The saints and poets, maybe — they do some."

I suppose the meaning behind Wilder's play is that the number of our days matters less than how we live each day. A day lived well might not be a day of honor or accomplishment. It might just be a day when we comforted a crying child; held a loved one; or enjoyed the gift that simple day truly was.

The Psalmist wrote in the 90th psalm, "Teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom." Whether the day is an "extra" or a common day, may we use it to bless others and to grow in the grace of our Lord. Any day, so used, is well lived.

John



REFERENCE INFORMATION

For information to be included in the bulletin, newsletter, website or Goshen News, please submit the information as you want it to appear by the deadlines listed below to:

communication@oakland-baptist.com

Deadlines:

Bulletin – 12 noon of each Thursday

Newsletter or Website – 15th of each month

Goshen Newsletter – 15th of each month

If you have updates to your personal information including address or phone change, please notify any member of the Deacon Fellowship or log into ChurchTrac (link on church website) and update your information.

Contact Information:

Interim Pastor: John Miller

Cell: (540) 229-5366

Email: jtsre@yahoo.com

Deacon Fellowship:

Chair: Ricky Harper: (804) 514-6985 (c)

Vice Chair: Ann Taylor: (804) 556-3519;

(804) 339-6085 (c)

Lesley Alford: (804) 512-3854 (c)

Bill Groome: (804) 556-6482 (c)

Pat Groome: (804) 908-3276 (c)

Sandy Harper: (804) 514-3871 (c)

Frank Smith: (804) 556-4746, (804) 652-9923 (c)

Church Office: (804) 556-3550

(please leave a message)

Located at:

2965 Oakland Church Rd, Gum Spring, VA 23065

Mailing address: P.O. Box 99, Gum Spring, VA 23065

Website: www.Oakland-Baptist.com

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 3-10 **Week of Prayer for North American Missions** The Week of Prayer for North American missions is annually observed by SBC churches to pray for missionaries, their ministries and their families. Prayer is the fuel for spiritually sustaining missionaries in places where the gospel is greatly needed, but often opposed. Prayerfully considering giving. Our goal this year for the Annie Armstrong offering is \$2,000.
- March 9 **Goshen Missions Luncheon** – Begins at 11:00am. In the Family Life Center at Mineral Baptist Church Cost: \$7 each - Reservations required – by 2/29/24 at 1pm - Call 540.894.8440. Come enjoy a meal, fellowship, and hear about Goshen Missions locally and abroad. No matter your age or ability... there is a way for you to be involved in Missions! We can accomplish so much more for Christ when we work together!
- March 16 **Mission Stitches** – 9am – 2pm at Goshen Baptist Association
- March 21 **Seniors Luncheon** – The seniors will meet at Holly Grove Christian Church this month beginning at 11am.
- Ongoing **Hope for Appalachia Virginia – Hope Box Item Collection**
Website: <https://hfavateam.com>
THIS MONTH WE ARE COLLECTING: Tennis balls & baseballs
- Doctors Without Borders** – The Seekers Sunday School class is collecting prescription and non-prescription bottles in for Doctors without Borders. No need to remove the labels.

EASTER CROSS WITNESS <https://eastercross.org/>

Oakland members will once again this year participate in **The Easter Cross Witness**. We have extra crosses on hand at \$6 each if you need one. Please contact Ron Taylor or email communication@oakland-baptist.com. **Place the cross where all can see before Palm Sunday (March 24)**. Crosses are placed blank side out before Easter and are turned on Easter Sunday to display the message that “He is Risen!”



Why the Easter Cross Witness? The Easter Cross Witness seeks to be a catalyst for all of the branches of the church to come together in unity to jointly testify to the single most important event in history. That event is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter Cross Witness believes that celebrating this event together with joy will give those who participate in this witness the opportunity to share with others the hope that is within them.

EASTER CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

March 24	Palm Sunday - Easter Cantata	11:00 am
March 31	EASTER MORNING:	
	Sunrise Service	7:30 am
	Easter Breakfast	8:00 am
	Sunday School	8:45 am
	Easter Worship Service	10:00 am

Time for Celebration!

BIRTHDAYS

Kaitlyn Jones	Mar 1
William Hees	Mar 1
Cole Fields	Mar 5
Eddie Bradshaw	Mar 7
Brandon Klaty	Mar 8
Vicky Kellison	Mar 9
Dan Summitt	Mar 9
Kathy Wade	Mar 9
David Atwood	Mar 10
Michaela Johnson	Mar 12
Brenda Snead	Mar 14
Rhonda Lloyd	Mar 15
Becky Edwards	Mar 17
Noel Brooking	Mar 18
Elizabeth LaSavage	Mar 22
Angie Wright	Mar 24
Tennis Bradshaw	Mar 24
Laura Beth Holder	Mar 25
Thasha Luck	Mar 25
Nancy Franklin	Mar 26
Jerri Sherrill	Mar 27

BIRTHDAYS (CONTINUED)

Jeremy White	Mar 27
Roberta Abbott	Mar 27
Amber Bowmaster	Mar 28
Mandy Durham	Mar 29
Janet Jones	Mar 30
Brianne Hafley	Mar 31

ANNIVERSARIES

Kim & Bubba Rosson	Mar 25
Wendy & Jeff Cooper	Mar 27
Amanda & Austin Cooper	Mar 31

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Ricky Harper	Mar 3
Lesley Alford	Mar 10
Sandy Harper	Mar 17
Ann Taylor	Mar 24
Bill Groome	Mar 31



March 10: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!
Don't forget to move your clocks FORWARD 1 hour!

~ My Daily Bread ~
By Deborah Ann

**Lord, give me today, Your daily bread
let it be on Your Word that I'm satisfied and fed.**

**Let me not go hungry, for the Truth and the Way
fill me with Your wisdom as I go about my day.**

**Send to me Your manna, sweetened with grace
grant unto me strength to run the faithful race.**

**Give me life-giving water, so I'll not ever thirst
remind me to always . . . in my life to put You first!**



March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	Today 27	28 <u>Wednesday Night Supper</u> 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm <u>Group Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Feb 29	1	2
3 <u>Week of Prayer for North American Missions</u> <u>Sunday School</u> 9:45 am – 10:45 am <u>The Lord's Supper</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship Service</u> 11:00 am <u>Deacon's Meeting</u> 12:30 pm	4 <u>Week of Prayer for North American Missions</u>	5 <u>Week of Prayer for North American Missions</u>	6 <u>Week of Prayer for North American Missions</u> <u>Wednesday Night Supper</u> 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm <u>Group Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	7 <u>Week of Prayer for North American Missions</u>	8 <u>Week of Prayer for North American Missions</u>	9 <u>Week of Prayer for North American Missions</u> <u>Goshen Missions Luncheon</u> 11:00 am
10 <u>Week of Prayer for North American Missions</u> <u>Daylight Saving Time Begins</u> <u>Sunday School</u> 9:45 am – 10:45 am <u>Worship Service</u> 11:00 am	11	12 <u>WOM Meeting</u> 7:00 pm	13 <u>Wednesday Night Supper</u> 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm <u>Group Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	14	15	16 <u>Mission Stitchers</u> 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
17 <u>Sunday School</u> 9:45 am – 10:45 am <u>Worship Service</u> 11:00 am	18	19	20 <u>Wednesday Night Supper</u> 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm <u>Group Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	21 <u>Seniors Luncheon</u> 11:00 am	22	23
24 <u>Palm Sunday</u> <u>Sunday School</u> 9:45 am – 10:45 am <u>Easter Cantata</u> 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	25	26	27 <u>Wednesday Night Supper</u> 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm <u>Group Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	28	29	30
31 <u>Easter Sunday</u> <u>Easter Sunrise Service</u> 7:30 am <u>Easter Breakfast</u> 8:00 am <u>Sunday School – Easter</u> 8:45 am <u>Easter Worship Service</u> 10:00 am	Apr 1	2	3 <u>Wednesday Night Supper</u> 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm <u>Group Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Apr 1	4	5
					5	6

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:33-34

The Acorn

**P.O. Box 99
Gum Spring, VA 23065**

Church Office: 804-556-3550

www.Oakland-Baptist.com



Remembered in our hearts & prayers:

James Alford
Matt Alford
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
Rebecca Baker
Eddie Barnett
Joseph Beach
Pat Beach
Abby Beyer
Dennis Braswell
Kim Bryant
Mike Carden
Wanda Carden
Buck Clanton
Joyce Collins
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
Olivia Dougherty
Kevin Driver
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Daniel Gomez
April Grant
Robbie Green
Judy Gunter
Denise Harper
Hilda Harper
Stewart Hicks
Jeannie Hyatt
Lorraine Klein
Josh Landesman
Angela Lewis
Dot Lloyd
Patty McLarty
Jessie Magana

Updated Prayer Request Cont'd:

Jackie Marden
Barbara Mayberry
John Nunn
Wayne Rapp
Jane Salo
B.M. Seal
Diana Shelborne
Isaac Soderlund
Bianca Stevenson
Cherie Thomas
Judy Trouch
Evelyn Wade
Alma Walton
Anne Wells
Larry & Cathy Wells
Russ Whitehead
Gordon Whitehurst
Christian & Molly Zimmerman

Continue to pray for the following:

Bobby & Betty Fields
Jane Morgan Jones
Riley Saunders
Jerri Sherrill
Betty Jane Smith
Leah Stiles
Billy Walton
Our Pastor & Church
Our Country
The Holy Land
Pastor Search Committee
Ukraine
Outreach into our Community

Remember our Servicemen & Their Families:

Gabe Edwards,
Stateside

**The prayer concern is
completely revised monthly
through mentioned prayer
concerns. Please email any
additions or changes to
[communication@oakland-
baptist.com](mailto:communication@oakland-baptist.com) by the 15th of each
month.**