THE ACORN MAY 2026

Oakland BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

I'm writing about the importance of and the power of praise and worship. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all of our being (Mark 12:30). The most important aspect of loving God is to worship Him. Psalm 29:2 says, "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness." Jesus Himself said, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only" (Matthew 4:10).

Worship is far more than coming to church and going through the order of the service. Worship has to come from the heart and the spirit. My simple definition of worship is to express our love for God and to fully commit to Him. Jesus gave a fuller understanding of worship when He told the woman at the well, "the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24). It must come from our spirit, we must be touched by the Holy Spirit, and we must worship God as He truly is.

Worship first and foremost is for God. It is giving Him the glory He deserves. Worship also changes the true worshiper. It is obeying the greatest commandment, which pleases God. It is an act of humility, because it is acknowledging that God is God and that we are not. It is committing to Him as Lord, rather than being our own lord. It opens our hearts to God's transforming power.

Great things happen when God is truly worshiped. Psalm 22:3 says, "Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel" (ESV). God manifests His presence as He is worshiped. The presence of the Lord always brings about transformation. God does things that only God can do.

Worship helps to open our ears to the voice of God. During Isaiah's incredible vision of God in chapter six, as he confessed his sin and received atonement, which was worship, he heard the voice of God calling, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah's response of commitment was "Here am I. Send me!" In Acts 13:2 we read that while the prophets and teachers in the church in Antioch "were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

Praise and worship are spiritual weapons. Psalm 8:2 says, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained strength because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." "Strength" can also be translated as "praise." Jesus affirmed this in Matthew 21:16, saying, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise." Praise strengthens us and silences the foe, the devil.

In 2 Chronicles 20, Moab and Ammon were threatening the nation of Judah. King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast for the nation. They came together and the king led them in prayer. Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel, a Levite, and he gave instructions from the LORD to the king. The gist of the message was that they were not to be afraid, they were to go out to face the enemy's army, but that they wouldn't have to fight the battle. 20:21 says, "Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army." As they began to praise God, He caused the enemy to turn on one another, and they ended up destroying each other!

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were flogged and thrown into prison in Philippi. They were praying and singing hymns to God when God caused an earthquake. The doors flew open and everybody's chains were loosened. The jailer was going to kill himself, but Paul and Silas led him and his household to faith in Christ.

Dr. Peter Wyns' wife, Joy, had a torn rotator cuff. It was at the point where the only human option was to have surgery. Joy is not against doctors, but she believes highly in the power of God. They were in a time of worship in their church, when suddenly Joy realized she could lift her arm high in praise to God! She was totally healed!

(continued on page 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS & REFERENCE INFO

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PG
Pastor's Pen	1
Upcoming Events	2
Mission Opportunities	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Weekly Deacons	3
The Good News Club	3
Monthly Calendar	4
Prayer Concerns	5

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Send information for the bulletin, newsletter, website or Goshen News to:
communication@oakland-baptist.com

Deadlines:
Bulletin – Noon on Thursday
Newsletter, Website, Goshen – 15th

For updates to personal information please notify any member of the Deacon Fellowship or log into ChurchTrac (link on church website) and update your information.

Contact Information:
Reverend Mark S. Davis
Cell: (540) 292-4668
Email: revmsdavis@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Tues-Fri 10am – 2pm

Deacon Fellowship:
Chair: Ron Taylor: (804) 339-6067
Vice Chair: Tom Sutterfield: (804) 405-4046
Bill Groome: (804) 556-6482
Ricky Harper: (804) 514-6985
Sandy Harper: (804) 514-3871
Frank Smith: (804) 624-0633
Ann Taylor: (804) 339-6085
Church Office: (804) 556-3550

2965 Oakland Church Rd
Gum Spring, VA 23065
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 99, Gum Spring, VA 23065
Website: www.Oakland-Baptist.com

Pastor's Pen (continued)

First things are to be first. The greatest purpose of every person and of the church is to worship God. Let us obey Hebrews 13:15, which says, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name." To God be the glory!

In Christ, Pastor Mark

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 2	**Children's Consignment Sale – 9am – Noon;** All items marked as discount will sell for half the ticketed price!
May 7	**75th Annual National Day of Prayer**
May 7	**Children's Consignment Sale Pick Up** – 6:30-7:30pm
May 10	**Muffins with Mom – Mother's Day** - 9:00am, Fellowship Hall
May 17	**Women on Mission** - 12:30pm
May 20	**Last Wednesday Night Supper/Group Bible Study** – taking a break for the summer
May 21	**Seniors Meeting/Luncheon** – Providence Presbyterian Church – 11:00am
May 27	**Choir practice** – 5pm**; Prayer Meeting** - 6:00pm
May 31	**Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** – 8:00am
May 31	**Goochland Cares Team** – 1:30pm

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES: TOGETHER – SERVING OTHERS – MEETING NEEDS – CHANGING LIVES

Faith makes all things possible…love makes all things easy. Dwight L. Moody

Mt. Gilead Food Pantry - Please continue to support this joint ministry program with your donations of non-perishable food items, plastic grocery bags (all colors including white).
THIS MONTH'S EMPHASIS: Personal hygiene Items (shampoo, soap, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.) and boxes of tissues. Drop off box located in the main hallway.

Glasses for Guatemala – We are collecting prescription eyewear, new and/or gently used reading glasses and eyeglass cases/holders for a missionary in serving in Guatamala. Collection box in the Seekers Sunday School classroom.

Hope for Appalachia - Hope Box Item Collection
THIS MONTH WE ARE COLLECTING: Hair brushes, combs, hair bows, clips or hair ties, lip gloss, and chapstick. Collection box located on the table next to the church office.

See the Goshen Monthly newsletter, "The Goshen News" for additional ministry needs.

Goshen Mission Action Project
Oakland's Goshen Mission Offering Goal: **$1,000**

- Half of this offering will support two mission team ministries in Armenia
- Half will fund critical repairs and improvements to the Goshen Ministry Center and RuraLove
- To give: Checks can be written payable to the Oakland Baptist Church

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. (CSB)

May God richly bless you for sharing your gifts in support of these suggested ministry opportunities.

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

Jason Brooking	May 3
Kimberly Murray	May 5
Glenn Smith	May 6
Joey Berlin	May 9
Christina Clough	May 11
Revia Kramer	May 13
Ron Taylor	May 13
Billie Reid	May 15
Brett Atwood	May 15
Denise Brooking	May 17
Martha Barlow	May 22
Brandon Fields	May 22
Carley Ayres	May 28
Jennifer Rusnak	May 28

ANNIVERSARIES

David & Janet Hawk May 16

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Ann Taylor	May 3
Sandy Harper	May 10
Ron Taylor	May 17
Bill Groome	May 24
Frank Smith	May 31

STAY INFORMED!

In addition to the monthly newsletter, you can get up-to-date information on our website, Facebook and Instagram – Follow Us!

Website: www.Oakland-Baptist.com
Facebook: OBCGumSpringVA
Instagram: oaklandbaptistgumspring

Focus on Being Mission-Minded

A mission-minded church doesn't just gather—it goes. From the earliest days of the church, believers were called to share the hope of the Gospel beyond their own walls, reaching neighbors, communities, and nations with the love of Christ. This calling hasn't changed. Whether across the street or across the world, mission work is simply living out our faith with intentional compassion and purpose.

Being mission-minded isn't reserved for a select few; it's an invitation for every believer. It can look like supporting missionaries through prayer and giving, serving in local outreach, or building relationships that open doors to share the Good News. Each act, big or small, becomes part of God's greater story of redemption.

As a church, when we keep our focus outward, we reflect the heart of Christ—who came not to be served, but to serve. Let's continue to ask how we can be His hands and feet, bringing light, hope, and truth wherever He leads.

MAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	27	28	29 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	Apr 30	1	2 **Consignment – 1/2 price sale** *9:00 am – 12:00 pm*
3 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **The Lord's Supper** *11:00 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Deacon's Meeting** *12:30 pm*	4	5	6 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	7 **75th Annual National Day of Prayer** *12:30 pm* **Consignment – Pick Up** *6:30 pm – 7:30 pm*	8	9
10 **Mother's Day** **Muffins with Mom** *9:00 am – 9:45 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	11	12	13 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	14	15	16 **Mission Stitchers** *9:00 am – 2:00 pm*
17 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Women on Mission** *12:30 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm*	18 **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm*	19 **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm*	20 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	21 **Seniors Luncheon** *11:00 am*	22	23
24 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	25	26	27 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Prayer Meeting (Summer)** *6:00 pm*	28	29	30
31 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Goochland Cares Team** *1:30 pm*	Jun 1	2	3 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Prayer Meeting (Summer)** *6:00 pm*	4	5	6

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tyler Adams
Lesley Alford
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
Dennis Braswell
Mike Carden
Pedro Carrasco
Charlie Childress
Ronnie & Virginia Cook
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Carolyn Ferris
Frances Gillend
April Grant
Robbie Green
Alex Guardino
Judy Gunter
Denise Harper
Hallie Hicks
Stewart Hicks

Jeannie Hyatt
Angela Lewis
Dot Lloyd
Joan Lloyd
Harry McClurg
Mary McCullough
Jessie Magana
Barbara Mayberry
Hazel Morgan
John Nunn
Susan Parker
Sam Pleasants
Casey Ralston
Jane Salo
Steve Smith
Judy Trouch
Kathy Wade
Tony Wade
Martin Walton
Gordon Whitehurst
Glenn & Sandy Williams
Ernie Wootton

Continue to pray for:
Bobby Fields
Jane Morgan Jones
Riley Saunders
Betty Jane Smith
Leah Stiles
Billy Walton
Our Pastor & Church
Our Country
The Holy Land
Outreach Project
Pianist for Oakland

Remember our Servicemen & their families:
Nathan Alford
Gabe Edwards

Please email any additions or changes to communication@oakland-baptist.com by the 15th of each month to be included in our Sunday bulletin

The Acorn

P.O. Box 99
Gum Spring, VA 23065

Church Office: 804-556-3550

www.Oakland-Baptist.com

Oakland
BAPTIST CHURCH