

THE OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH MESSENGER

July, 2026

Rev. John Alexander – Pastor
Norma Lewis – Worship Leader
Anna Taylor – Pianist
Christie Rhom – Secretary
828-274-3221



Vacation Bible School

July 12th – 16th

6:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Preschool through Adult

THE PASTOR'S PEN

The fourth of July is one of my favorite holidays because of the warm weather, the fireworks, and the food all the while enjoying the company of family. It's also one of my favorite holidays because we are celebrating our independence and freedom as a nation. As important as it is to celebrate what the Lord has done for our country, it is important to celebrate the independence and freedom the Lord has given to us individually.

Galatians 5:1 says, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, has set us free! What has He set us free from? As the Apostle Paul said He has set us free from "the yoke of bondage." We were bound to and a slave to our sins and we had no way of saving ourselves, but Christ paid the sin debt by taking our place on the cross receiving the Father's wrath that we deserve.

Another great verse on our freedom in Christ is in Romans 6:18 which says, "Being then made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness." Not only are we free and saved from our sins and made righteous through His shed blood, but we are also given the great purpose of being servants of Christ! There is no greater calling than to be His servants. He has a plan and a specific purpose for every one of us. Apart from Christ there is no freedom, and because of the freedom we have received through Him we should be thankful, and we should always reflect on what He has done for us. May the Lord continue to bless each of us as we continue to serve Him together.

Pastor John

LISTENING HEARTS

WMU met on Saturday, June 6th at 2:00 p.m.

We recognized our Father's by making a \$100.00 donation in their honor to Baptist Men on Mission.

Food items are still being collected for a neighborhood food box. Some items needed are canned soups, beans, rice and canned meat such as tuna and chicken.

America will turn 250 years old on July 4th. This is marking the historic **Semi-quincentennial**...say this three times fast! LOL

Our July project is supporting our Veteran's Quarters which houses men who served in the military.

Don't forget to pray for our Vacation Bible School. Date is Sunday, July 12th through Thursday, July 16th. If you would like to support financially, money is needed to purchase food and snacks, place in an offering envelope marked **VBS Food** and place in the offering plate.

Next WMU meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Love to all,
Sherry and the Women
of Listening Hearts



MUSIC CORNER

Worship Leader:

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond".

I am so thankful to be an American and live in a country where we can worship God, own and read the Bible, gather to study, share Christ with a lost world, and serve Him daily.

Romans 6:18 *"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness"*. Our Father paid the debt for our sins, John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*. God's offer of salvation is inclusive, meaning absolutely no one who believes is excluded. *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"*. Matt. 28:19

Have a great 4th of July, make great memories with family and friends!

In Christ,
Norma

Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

1) eiVn _ _ _ _ _

2) ilLy fo teh elaVly

3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ _ _

4) estMar _ _ _ _ _

5) eJuss _ _ _ _ _

6) okRc _ _ _ _ _

7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _ _

8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ _ _

9) voaSir _ _ _ _ _

10) doLr _ _ _ _ _

11) ishCrt _ _ _ _ _

12) ehSprhed _ _ _ _ _

13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _ _

14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _ _



What do all these words have in common?

Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Adult and Children's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	2 Coffee, Tea and Conversation 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room	3	4 
5 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.	6 Office Closed	7 Adult and Children's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8	9	10 Listening Hearts 2:00 p.m.	11 Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.
12 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship	13	14 Happy Hearts 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall	15	16 45 + 6:30 p.m. Welcome Center	17	18
<<<< VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 6:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. EACH EVENING >>>>						
19 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.	20	21 Adult and Children's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	22	23 Young Adults 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room	24 Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.	27	28 Adult and Children's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31	