

# THE OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH MESSENGER

February, 2026

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## THE PASTOR'S PEN

How happy are you? Have you made the New Year's Resolution to be happier in 2026? If so, how are you doing with that so far? Some people base their happiness on many different things such as how they feel, how much money is in the bank account, how many material things they can accumulate, and how much they can accomplish. While there is nothing wrong with wanting to feel great, having a lot of money, having material things, and wanting to accomplish a lot of things, there is something wrong with basing your happiness on those things.

Psalm 1:1-3 says, "Blessed (happy) is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

Clearly the psalmist was full of the Holy Spirit when he penned these words. There is no happiness apart from knowing the Lord and meditating upon His Word. If we want to live a life of true happiness, we are not to seek counsel from the ungodly and the things of this world. We are to delight in the Word of God, and we are to meditate (contemplate or ponder) on His Word. If you devote yourself to reading the Bible every day, you will draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ and in the process you will grow closer to being the person He has called you to be. You will be like a healthy tree that brings forth Godly fruit.

Pastor John

## LISTENING HEARTS

WMU met January 10<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. All ladies please try to attend. We will host the gentlemen of the Alberta Bolick home for a Valentine party.

You can still contribute to Lottie Moon. We are just shy of our \$3,000.00 goal. Prayerfully consider your gift.

We are looking forward to completing new missions this year, concentrating on our church family and shut-in's. All ladies are invited to join.

Love to all,  
Sherry

But God  
demonstrates

*his own love*

for us in this:

While we were  
still sinners,

*Christ died*  
FOR US.

Romans 5:8, NIV

## MUSIC CORNER

### Worship Leader:

Please join us for Sunday afternoon Bible Study, Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, **Christ's Sacrifice**, Luke 23:26-49. It is an informal time in the Word of God together for about 45 minutes for all age groups.

The 45+ Class will be Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Welcome Center. We would love to have you for a time together in prayer, Bible study, wonderful food, and hilarious fellowship. It is so good for the family of God to spend time together.

I always think of the beautiful hymn "**Love Lifted Me**" during the Valentine season and realize God's love is the greatest love story ever told.

Love in Christ,  
Norma

### "Love Lifted Me"

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,  
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more;  
But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry,  
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

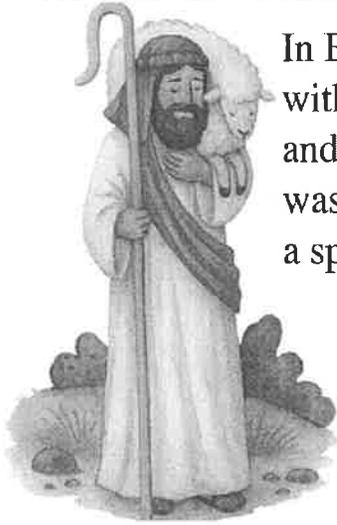
Refrain:

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!  
When nothing else could help,  
Love lifted me.  
Love lifted me! Love lifted me!  
When nothing else could help,  
Love lifted me.

All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling,  
In his blessed presence live, ever his praises sing.  
Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs  
Faithful loving service, too, to Him belongs. [Refrain]

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;  
He will lift you by His love out of the angry waves;  
He's the master of the sea, billows His will obey;  
He your Savior wants to be, be saved today. [Refrain]

# Bible Quiz



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A Salt Solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5, ESV)

## FAITH HOPE LOVE

the greatest of these!  
1 Cor. 13:13

### GOD'S CANDY HEARTS

you are loved	love never fails
love one another	be mine
put on love	God is love

How many times can you find the word "love"?

Help spread God's love to the world!

Play tic tac toe with X's + O's!

Help spread God's love to the world!

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