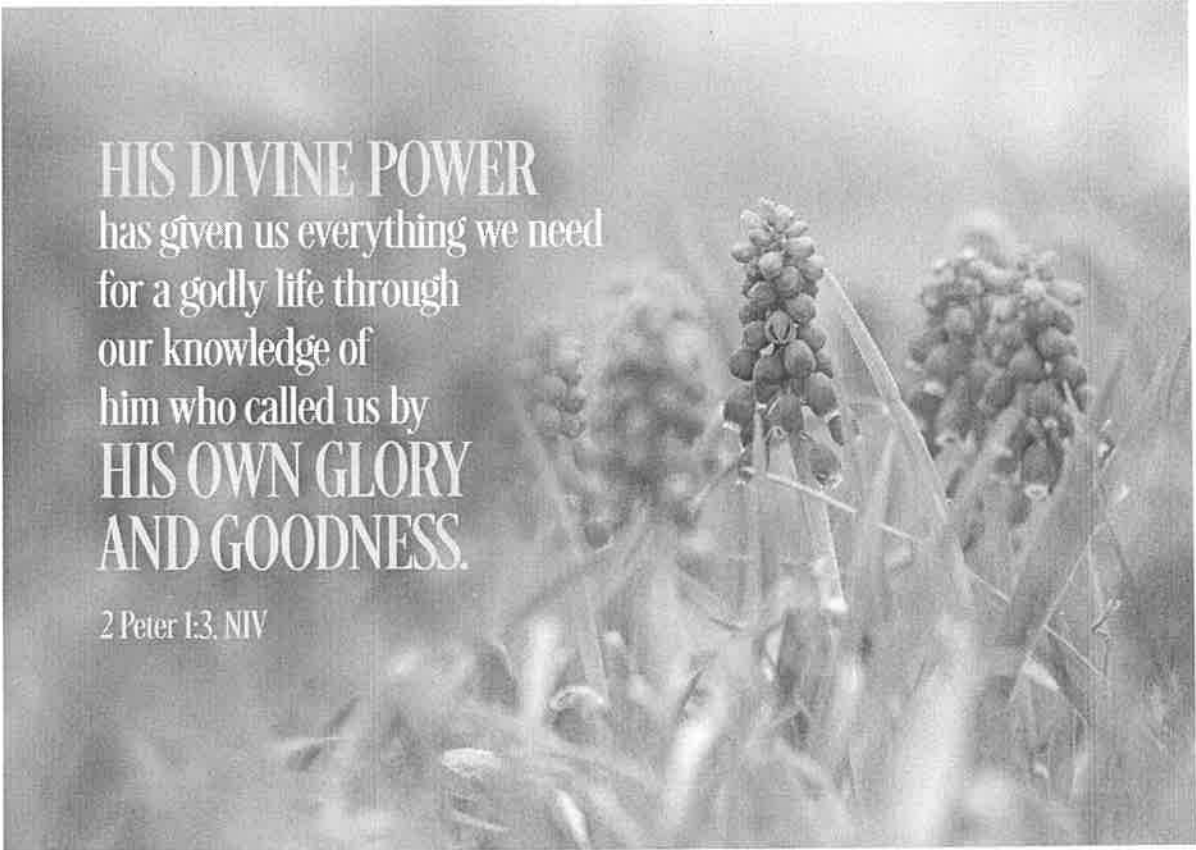


THE OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH MESSENGER

May, 2026

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



HIS DIVINE POWER
has given us everything we need
for a godly life through
our knowledge of
him who called us by
HIS OWN GLORY
AND GOODNESS.

2 Peter 1:3, NIV

THE PASTOR'S PEN

I am always excited when the weather starts to get warm after a long and cold winter! The grass is now growing, the leaves are growing on trees, and the flowers are blooming. Soon the pools will be opened, vacations will be taken to the beaches, and cookouts will be in full swing. We know summer is around the corner!

Jesus, while giving His Olivet discourse to His disciples before He went to the cross to die for the sins of the world, had this to say, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors (Matthew 24:32-33)." Jesus masterfully used the illustration of leaves growing on a fig tree pointing to the summer season to highlight the signs of when He will come to the earth for the second time.

Some of the signs of Jesus' return are: hearing of wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6), famines, pestilences (diseases), earthquakes in divers or various places (v. 7), being hated of all nations for His name's sake (v. 9), many being offended because of our faith in Christ (v. 10), many false prophets deceiving many (v. 11), and the gospel of Jesus Christ being preached in all the world (v. 14). Each one of these have taken place and are taking place right now, but Jesus said, "these are the beginning (v. 8)."

What does all of this mean? It means, Jesus is coming back soon!! How do we prepare for His return? First of all, we must be ready to meet Him. Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If you don't, please come and talk to me. Secondly, do our loved ones know Jesus? All of us probably have a family member or friend that isn't saved. Last of all, is there someone we come across daily that doesn't know Him?

That leaves us with a sense of urgency! We must be about the Father's business! We must be telling our loved ones and as many as possible about the love of Christ! We must be telling how He died for our sins and rose from the dead! May Oakley Baptist Church be the light of Christ in the Oakley community and abroad!

Pastor John

LISTENING HEARTS

Our WMU met on Saturday, April 11th at 2:00 p.m. There were five ladies present and we discussed plans for Mother's Day.

A total of \$1,381.00 was collected for the Annie Armstrong offering. A check was mailed to the Baptist State Convention. Thank you for supporting this mission.

We continue to support the Baptist Children's Home Food Round Up. Do Not bring food items. We are collecting money which will be used to purchase gift cards for the cottages.

During the next few weeks, send someone a "Thinking of You" card. I bet it will put a smile on their face.

Next WMU meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th at 2:00 p.m.

Love to all,
Sherry and the Women of
Listening Hearts



A new Grief Share session has begun Tuesday's from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and will continue at the same time each Tuesday for 13 weeks. Make plans to join. Everyone is welcome.

Jo Ann Young and Sherry Dotson

MUSIC CORNER

Worship Leader:

"Open My Eyes That I May See" Clara H. Scott composed the words and the music after Psalms 119:18 "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold the wondrous things out of thy law".

Each time we sit down to study the Word let us pray this verse and I Samuel 3:9 where the boy Samuel was taught, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth".

Clara Scott was born just outside of Chicago in 1841, composed this beautiful hymn in 1895 and it became her best-known hymn.

1. Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key,
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready, my God, Thy will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!
2. Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready, my God, Thy will to see;
open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!
3. Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready, my God, Thy will to see;
open my mouth, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

"The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those who are bowed down; The Lord loved the righteous." Psalm 146:8

Love in Christ Jesus,
Norma



A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" 3 1 m 2 m 3 nd 2 d 4 f
y 4 5 r s 3 nc 2 r 2 f 1 3 th, wh 3 ch
f 3 rst l 3 v 2 d 3 n y 4 5 r gr 1 ndm 4 th 2 r
L 4 3 s 1 nd 3 n y 4 5 r m 4 th 2 r
2 5 n 3 c 2 1 nd, 3 1 m p 2 rs 5 1 d 2 d,
n 4 w l 3 v 2 s 3 n y 4 5 1 ls 4 ."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

2026

[illegible]