

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MEMBERS

Alec, Angie, and Debby Harvey multiple health problems, **Olivia Twitchell** health problems, **Donna Rike** MS home recovering after tendon repair surgery in elbow, **Pam Thomas** upcoming knee surgery, **Donnie Thomas** home recovering from hernia surgeries, **Doris Heskett** – recovering from skin cancer removal

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Cancer

Perry Montague (Debby Harvey's cousin) kidney cancer, **Shirley Forrester** (Diane Tye's sister-in-law) stage 4 cancer undergoing treatments, **Bill Richardson** (Olivia Twitchell's friend) cancer in both lungs, **Dick Wiles** (Larry Wiles' brother) prostate cancer, **Ina Storey** (former Oakland member) diagnosed with cancer, **Ron Shirley** (Diane Maddux's brother) PET scan showed cancer free but still needs energy and weight stabilization, **Pam Shirley** (Diane Maddux's sister-in-law) diagnosed with ovarian cancer surgery went well & chemo being planned

Other Illness and Life Challenges

Rodney Roberson (brother of Donna Rike) recovering from carpal tunnel surgery, then fell and now needs knee surgery, **Chris Roberson** (Donna Rike's sister-in-law) transferred to a higher level of care for multiple health problems, **Lucas Walters** (Debby Harvey's cousin) Down syndrome and other health concerns starting special needs school, **Augusta Washington** (Donna Rike's niece) histoplasmosis infection caused vision loss in one eye pray it doesn't spread to other eye, **Denise Craig** (Donna Rike's sister) 2 serious heart blockages, **Mark Ward** (Property Assessor/Carol Mitchell's boss) broke both ankles, **Joy Dacus** (friend of several at Oakland) recovering after hip repair surgery, **Loretta Morgan** (Debby Harvey's sister) fell, fractured tibia and had severe infection also

David French – Zambia, Africa

<https://zambiamissions.org/>

Curry Montague – Hungary

<http://www.kregyhaza.hu>

Tennessee Children's Home

<https://www.tennesseechildrenshome.org/>

Local Evangelism and Outreach:

SomerOak Senior Living – Worship Service Each

Sunday at 1 PM

<https://someroakseniorliving.com/>

Oakland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 105, 35 McAuley St., Oakland, TN 38060

901-465-4294

Welcome to the worship service of the Lord's Church at Oakland

December 14, 2025

www.oaklandtnchurchofchrist.com

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Night Worship: 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Special Prayer Requests..... | Tim Stanz |
| Singing..... | Greg Artz |
| Come, Thou Almighty King..... | 63 |
| Sing to Me of Heaven..... | 595 |
| Prayer..... | Gene Jenkins |
| Hilltops of Glory..... | 797 |
| Lesson..... | Greg Artz |

And the Word Became Flesh

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Living by Faith..... | 382 |
| He Paid a Debt..... | 458 |

Lord's Supper

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Communion Comments..... | Tim Stanz |
|-------------------------|-----------|

Men to Serve

Joe Rike & Alec Harvey

Contribution

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Children's Songs/Closing Song..... | |
| Announcements/Closing Prayer..... | Greg Artz |

Today's Lesson

Morning Assembly
And the Word Became Flesh
John 1:14

Evening Assembly
Christmas Fellowship

Announcements

Welcome visitors! We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us! Please fill in a Visitors' card and put it in the collection plate.

COMING EVENTS

December 14 – Christmas Fellowship at the Miller's Home
5 PM

December 24 – No Mid-week Bible Class and Devotional

December 28 – Congregational Singing Service 5 PM

Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jalynne Smith (12/9) | Candy Gossett (12/12) |
| Cayla Smith (12/15) | Rylie Jenkins (12/17) |
| Carol Mitchell (12/23) | Kenneth Gossett (12/27) |

Anniversaries

None

Read Through the Bible in a Year

December 14 – December 20, Hebrews 5– 2 Peter 3

Small Groups

A few years ago, I heard a story of a church that looked as though they were really thriving. They had about 500 people attending, had many outreach ministries reaching their community, and many people were coming to Christ and to church through their ministry. The problem was that the church was not growing in numbers. People were leaving as quickly as they were coming in. They found that the majority who left were not attending another church, they just stopped going to church altogether. Those who were leaving were almost impossible to bring back into any community of faith.

The minister realized that something had to be done, so he called up the last 12 people baptized and invited them to supper at his house. These were all new Christians and very excited to be invited to the minister's house. After supper, he sat them down and asked if they wanted to know the future. They all said "yes!" So he said, statistically speaking in the next two to three years, two of your marriages will have broken up and the shame will cause you to leave the church, three of you will have a conflict with someone in the church and you will leave the church, one will have a tragedy and lose faith and leave, two will have a moral failing and leave, and two will lose interest and drift away. In two to three years, out of this group, only two of you will be attending church and only one of you at this church. There was dead silence in the room. All these wide-eyed Christians were about to say, "surely not I, Lord." When one of them spoke up and said, "What can we do to change the statistics." The minister said, "you can get together and as a group decide that you are not going to let anyone go."

That is exactly what they did. These strangers formed a small group and supported each other through the tragedies, divorces, conflicts, and failings, and in four years, only one had left the church never to come back. The church went from losing 10 out of every 12 converts to losing only one. That church that was so great at evangelism learned the hard way that small groups are essential for the growth, encouragement, and perseverance of any Christian.