

A REAL CHURCH for REAL PEOPLE

R	eaching the Lost	John 3:16-17
E	quipping for good works	II Timothy 3:17
A	ctive in ministry	Colossians 3:17
L	oving each other	I John 3:17



October 2020

The Oak Grove Link

First Church of God ~ Oak Grove, LA

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Youth Pastor, Josh Canfield 318-418-0264

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:35-36 NIV

Two thousand twenty has been a wild year. And it seems that every time I think that surely things in our nation cannot get much worse, I am proved wrong. It is to the point where I do not know that anything would surprise me. If someone would have told me at this time last year all we would experience in 2020, it would have been unbelievable. But here we are, and it does not seem like it is going to let up. But beyond the COVID Pandemic there seems to be another mass sickness going around. I am troubled by the attitude and condition of our nation. There is an anger and even a hatred that continues to gain strength as battle lines are drawn and defended. All the while, our Lord is grieved. How are we as believers to respond in times like these? Instead of anger and hatred, as followers of Jesus we are called to express love and mercy. Jesus calls us to love our enemies and do good to them. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus instructs us to pray for those who persecute us. These are not easy commands to put into practice because love and mercy are not our natural response to those who set themselves up as our enemies. But if we are going to be effective as we share the good news of the gospel, we need to share with others the same love we have received from God. It is a love that is merciful and kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. A love that Jesus modeled for us as he looked down from the cross and said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." As you strive to live for the Lord each day, make the choice to express his love and mercy with everyone you encounter, even your enemies.

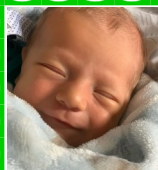
In Christ,
Bro. Jonathan

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ~ October items now being collected:

- * Flashlights w/ extra batteries
- * Small dolls
- * Matchbox cars
- * Pencil sharpeners
- * Rubber balls



A collection box is in the foyer for these items



CONGRATULATIONS !!
to Lane & Destin Myrick on the birth of their son, Westin Lane. Westin was born on September 16. He weighed 7 lbs, 13 oz. and was 21" long. Proud grandparents are Randy Myrick & Elise Navarro.

AND

to Blake Stutts VanMol on the birth of her son, Bennett Louis. Bennett was born on September 29. He weighed 9 lbs, 3 oz. and was 21" long. He is welcomed home by his big brother, Luke. Proud grandparents are Tammie & William Stutts.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

We're very thankful for our leaders!!



Ladies' Exercise Class in FLC ~ Thursdays ~ 10-10:45



W. C. SCHOOLS FALL BREAK

October 16-19



C. E. Team & Bd. of Directors Meetings
Sunday, October 11 == following a.m. worship



Children's Christmas Choir
Practice for the Christmas Musical begins
Sunday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m.

PRAYER NEEDS

Christ Way Community Church
The Awakening Church--
[New church plant in Natchitoches]
New Converts
The Lost
Our Missionaries
Our Pastors & Staff
Our Troops
Unspoken Requests

Jack & Carolyn Albritton
Libbie Berry
Cecil Boyte
Russell Bracey
Joe Broadway
Chris Brown
Lavelle Brown
John Carroll
John Caston
Connie Clack
Orville Coody
Carla McLemore Costello
Marie Costello
Estelle Creech
Steve Creech
Helen Crook
Johnny Crosby
Mary Lois Crowe
Saundra Crowe
Wayne Crowe
Helen Elkins
Teresa Elliott
Peggy Franks
Dee & Lamar Frith
Wayne Galyean
Jerry Germany
Louise Gunter
Peter Gunter
Wayne Hancock
Kaki Harbin
Jerry Harper
Mildred & Charles Hayman

Rhonda Horton
Dot & Bro. Paul Hunter
Phil Hutson
Caliece Irby
Verne Irving
JaNeal & Cecil Wayne Jones
Stephanie Jones
Michelle & Debbie Kharuf
Connie McNeil
Jimmy Melton
Todd Mills
Mike Neathery
Margaret Ninemire
Jason Oldham
Jean Oldham
Carolyn O'Neal
Bobby Owens
Brandon Palmertree
Fred Pepmiller
Joy Peterson
Myrtle & Joe Pat Phillips
Katherine Pichoff
Fran & Melba Reemes
Buddy Ross
Ruthie Rucker
Don Smith
Cindy Spann
William Stutts
Linda Thomas
Howard "Gourd" Tullos
B. J. Zaunbrecher

New This Week

Juanice Crosby
Buddy Kelley
Trent Riley

**Local, State, & National Leaders*

**Those with Co-Vid 19*

**Continued Storm Recovery*

YOUTH NEWS

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

This past Friday and Saturday I had the privilege to go with Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Elizabeth to Lake Charles. On our way down I did not know what to expect. This would be my first time to see the effects of a hurricane since moving to Louisiana. I was very surprised by what I saw. There was much physical damage to trees and building structures everywhere. When I added this to the last 6 months of the COVID pandemic, I became overwhelmed. I could not imagine the overwhelming emotions the people of Lake Charles and surrounding areas could be feeling. I can understand the need to pray continually, but how do I rejoice and give thanks? Yet we have this hope that in Christ while we will still face trials we can go through them in a peace that transcends all understanding. Would you join me in prayer for our brothers and sisters in the southwest of the state? May God grant them peace and strength in this time.

Your Brother in Christ,
Josh



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

On-site: Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship can also be seen live at
www.facebook.com/ogfcog or on YouTube
[YouTube videos are posted later in the day on Sundays]

Wednesday Activities

Youth Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Children's Class @ 6:30 p.m.

Adult Prayer Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
[meet in conference room]

September 27

OFFERING

ATTENDANCE

On-site
Sunday School 48
Morning Worship 101

Weekly Needs	4,808.00
Tithes	7,944.00
Sunday School	18.00
Youth	50.00
Missions	195.00
Total	8,207.00

Contributions can be mailed to
FCOG ~ P. O. Box 1012 ~ Oak Grove, LA 71263

CHILDREN'S FALL FESTIVAL

We are hoping to do
a community outreach
activity on Saturday, October 31.



As with everything else in this COVID world in which we now live, there are many restrictions limiting what we can do. Our C. E. Team is working on a plan. Any suggestions or ideas you may have are welcome. Please watch your bulletin & newsletter for more information.



**Daylight Savings Time Ends on
Saturday, October 31st**

Set your clocks back one hour or you will be an hour early for church.



You are invited to celebrate the wedding of
Elise Navarro and Randy Myrick

~~ Saturday, October 10 ~~
Two o'clock in the afternoon

First Church of God
209 S. Briggs St. -- Oak Grove, LA

"Centered" ~ A Discipleship Study Group

will begin on Sunday night, October 4 @ 5:30 p.m.

Classes are available for men, women, & youth

[Please sign up by September 30 so
we can be sure to have enough books]



Practice for Kids' Christmas Musical will also begin on Oct. 4 @ 5:30 p.m.