

WORSHIP OF THE KING IS ALL THAT MATTERS

by Pastor Scott Boerckel

The story of the Bible can be summed up in one sentence: God is at work among people to demonstrate that He alone is qualified to build His kingdom.

However, this means that we should ask two more questions:

- 1) Why is this so important?
- 2) How do we respond?

WHY WORSHIP OF THE KING IS SO IMPORTANT

The reason that this is so important is that, from the Garden of Eden, we human beings have been devoted to kingdom building for ourselves. The capacity to view life and even eternity from the lens of “what’s in it for me?” knows no bounds. It explains everything from why two-year-olds all of a sudden want a toy simply because another two-year-old has shown interest in it, to why we get

...continued on page 2

CALENDAR

December 1

First Sunday of Advent

December 13

Ladies' Christmas Tea

December 15

Choir & Orchestra

Christmas Concert

December 24

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 & 5:30pm

December 25 & January 1

NO Wednesday evening
programs

January 1 Chronological
Bible Reading Plan Begins

Advent at The Oak

Prepare your heart for the Christmas season!
Advent devotion books will be available soon.

Coming in 2020

New logo, website, signage, and more (page 6)

East White Oak Bible Church

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frustrated by slow traffic, to why nations go to war. What is worse, we not only kingdom build for ourselves but as Christ followers, we can even put a spiritual spin on our kingdom building efforts. So, people can get all lathered up over silly things like music preferences or lifestyle choices, not because of the “principles” that they so eagerly share, but really they are wanting to have a “kingdom” where what they like rules.

Of course, God is not content with our kingdom building, and He will eventually smash all those efforts. The hardest thing is when our kingdom building actually succeeds for a time. This gives the false impression that we are doing right, when in fact

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we are completely counter to God. Examples of this sort of problem are found in the lives of Samson (who was complacent toward God because he successfully fought the Philistines), David (who was complacent in his personal life because he had been victorious on the battle field), Solomon (whose wisdom did not protect him from his unwise kingdom building marriage alliances), Hezekiah (who wanted his life to go on longer than God told him), and the disciples (none of whom took up the towel to wash feet because they were arguing about who was greatest in the kingdom).

So, be careful. You may have a nice “kingdom.” A fine house, a good job, nice Christian friends, health, and prosperity. Those things can tempt you to keep building your kingdom. We can even begin to expect that God exists in order to give us all those things! How shallow; how sad; and ultimately how disastrous this kind of thinking can be. Your control over these things can feel great, but really all of them are out of your hands. And these things, while fine in themselves, are not the end. Instead, they are to be the means to an end—the white-hot worship of God in relationship to God’s Son in the power of God’s Spirit. All of life—ALL of life—is for the building of God’s kingdom, not our own.

HOW WE RESPOND

It is difficult to see our own kingdom building efforts. It is much easier to see them in others. So, how can we respond to this broken desire in us to build our own kingdoms? How can we make progress in overcoming this desire and seek God’s kingdom always and only? Let’s think about three ways.

#1 Read the Word of God. If the Bible is God’s communication to us that He alone can build His kingdom, then the reading of scripture will hammer home to us again and again the folly of personal kingdom building efforts and the joy of seeking God’s kingdom. This is how Jesus put it, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” Matthew 6:33. The Bible is not to be used as a good luck charm; it is not even best used as inspirational material to help me make my life better. Rather, it is to be used as a mirror for our souls. It is intended to reveal human fallenness in kingdom building. It is intended to reveal the glorious and magnificent King and His delightful kingdom which is worth selling all we have to attain.

#2 Pray. Now, it is easy to pray wrongly, and much of our praying can fall in the category of wrong praying. Think about your petitions to God. Are they simply about making your life and the lives of those whom you love easier and more successful? Are they about asking God for blessing on the building of our own kingdoms? If so, we should be careful and if necessary repent of this. Now, it is not wrong to pray for yourself; it is not wrong to pray for others. What is wrong is if we are praying for the ease of our lives so that we can be even more independent of God.

The prayer of Hezekiah when he was told that he was going to die is instructive. “In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed to the Lord, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign. But Hezekiah’s heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord’s wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem” (2 Chronicles 32:24-25). It was not wrong to pray for healing. What was wrong was the kingdom building heart behind the prayer for healing. Hezekiah wanted to build his own kingdom. See how his kingdom building was successful, because God granted it. However, Hezekiah loved God’s gifts far more than God Himself. He loved those gifts as part of his own



Judean kingdom—“Hezekiah had very great wealth and honor, and he made treasuries for his silver and gold and for his precious stones, spices, shields and all kinds of valuables. He also made buildings to store the harvest of grain, new wine and olive oil; and he made stalls for various kinds of cattle, and pens for the flocks. He built villages and acquired great numbers of flocks and herds, for God had given him very great riches” (2 Chronicles 32:27-29). Fortunately, he repented of such foolishness, “Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the Lord’s wrath did not come on them during the days of Hezekiah.” (2 Chronicles 32:26)

The most radical prayer we can pray is the one that our Lord taught us in what is called *The Lord’s Prayer*. Jesus taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come; your will be done.” (Matthew 6:10). What are we saying when we offer this prayer? We are saying, “I do not want my agenda or my world to be at the forefront. I do not desire the building of my kingdom. I want whatever builds your kingdom, God. I want You to be exalted as king.” This moves us away from the idea of God as a cosmic genie, the idea of God as

We are not merely called to put to death our desire for personal fulfillment. We are called to be worshipers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

the one who exists to please me, the idea of God as somehow deficient if He does not answer my prayers the way that I want him to do. Instead, we are saying that simply being part of God’s glorious kingdom is more than enough for us; it is in fact what we were made for.

#3 Commit to Seek God’s Kingdom. The third way to overcome this broken desire to build our own kingdoms and the seek God’s kingdom instead is to commit to all of life as worship of King Jesus.

We live in an age of personal fulfillment, and yet, never have we been less fulfilled. We marry, and also divorce, because we think it will help us become personally fulfilled. We decide where we live, what kind of work we will do, how many children we will have, when we will retire, and how we spend our time—all of it based on what we think will be personally fulfilling. However, this is the road to hell itself. We ourselves are not the source of ultimate authority, not even for our own lives. In fact, the Bible tells us that we must kill this desire to live for personal fulfillment.

“Put to death what is earthly in you ...” (Colossians 3:5).

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24).

However, the best way for us to seek God’s kingdom is not merely to put to death our desire for personal fulfillment. By His Spirit, Jesus awakens in us a new and more worthy affection—to lay hold of the joy of relationship with Him. He calls us to commit all of life to the worship of Him as King. It is in this growing affection for Jesus as King that our shallow decision making is changed.

Practically, here is how this should change our lives.

- When we have choices, will we seek what looks most fulfilling, or will we take to the Word of God and to prayer to seek God as King?
- When we parent, will we seek what seems fulfilling to us, or will we disciple our children to follow Christ as King, no matter if it makes us immediately happier or not?
- When we sort out how to use our time, will we spend it on what gives us more immediate pleasure, or will we redeem that time for the purpose of God’s glory and find real joy in that affection?
- When we spend our money, will we use it for personal fulfillment projects, or will we use it as joyful stewards of God to worship Him better as our King?
- When we seek counsel, will we seek it from someone who is trying to help us become a more fulfilled human being or will we seek it from someone who is trying to help us become a better more joyful worshiper of Jesus Christ as King?

The difference is huge in all these questions, for in the former cases, everything is based on what will make us immediately “happy.” In the latter case, there will be some challenging obedience to Christ as King that in the short term could make us profoundly “unhappy.” Ironically, the very pursuit of personal fulfillment leads to a deadness

“You have made known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11)

and hollowness to life, while the pursuit of worship of Christ leads to an incredibly fulfilling life. This is because fulfillment is not found in the pursuit of fulfillment but in the pursuit of God, for that is how He created us. “You have made us for Yourself,” Augustine put it, “and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.” “You have made known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11).

Ultimate joy and pleasure is found, not in the seeking of personal fulfillment and pleasure but in seeking God’s kingdom.

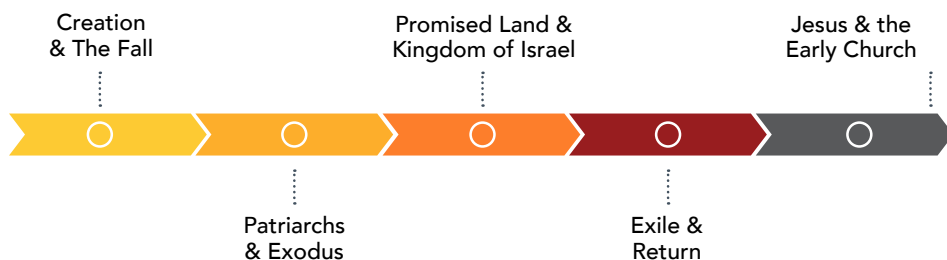
Jesus was seeking our best when He taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come; Your will be done.” He knew that ultimate joy and pleasure is found, not in the seeking of personal fulfillment and pleasure but in seeking God’s kingdom. This is the normal, radical life of the true believer in Jesus Christ. Jeremiah was a prophet that many would call “unhappy” and personally unfulfilled. The Lord revealed this beautiful truth to him, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.’” (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Here is a beautiful Puritan prayer. I urge you, my brothers and sisters of The Oak, to make it yours:

“ LORD OF ALL BEING, there is one thing that deserves my greatest care, that calls forth my ardent desires, that is, that I may answer the great end for which I am made—to glorify thee who hast given me being, and to do all the good I can for my fellow men; Verily, life is not worth having if it be not improved for this noble purpose. Yet, Lord, how little is this the thought of mankind! Most men seem to live for themselves, without much or any regard for thy glory, or for the good of others; They earnestly desire and eagerly pursue the riches, honors, pleasures of this life, as if they supposed that wealth, greatness, merriment, could make their immortal souls happy; But, alas, what false delusive dreams are these! And how miserable ere long will those be that sleep in them, for all our happiness consists in loving thee, and being holy as thou art holy. Give me grace always to keep in covenant with thee, and to reject as delusion a great name here or hereafter, together with all sinful pleasures or profits. Help me to know continually that there can be no true happiness, no fulfilling of thy purpose for me, apart from a life lived in and for the Son of thy love.”

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For Christ and His kingdom,
Pastor Scott



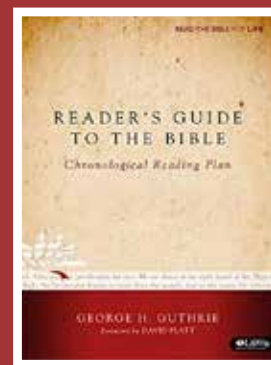
COMING TO THE OAK IN 2020

JOIN US ON A CHRONOLOGICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Have you ever wondered where Job or Esther or the prophets fit into the story of the Bible? Experience all the events, prophecies, and teaching of Scripture in chronological order. Make plans now to join us on January 1, 2020 as we launch a new year of reading the Bible together!

Experience
the Story from
Beginning
to End

Six reading assignments
each week (one day off)



We will follow George Guthrie's Chronological Reading Plan. **Read on the free YouVersion Bible App or follow along on a printed plan.**

An OPTIONAL Reader's Guide will be available to purchase online including daily summaries, reflection questions, and a timeline.

More information coming soon!

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be part of an Adult Bible Fellowship?

Maybe your knowledge of Christ and your love for Christ have grown over the months or years of gathering on Sundays for the *CELEBRATION* that is called worship. But maybe you haven't yet developed relationships of mutual care and spiritual nurture. What's next?

It is finding a *COMMUNITY* with whom you can become connected and live out the "one another's" peppered throughout the New Testament, like "encourage one another," "pray for one another," and "love one another." Here at The Oak these sorts of communities are called Adult Bible Fellowships. Learn more at ewo.org. Click "Connect," "Adults," then "Adult Bible Fellowships."



"For the past 16 years, we've been a part of the Fellowship of the Rings ABF. We started attending the class as soon as we were engaged to be married. Perhaps unsurprisingly for an Adult Bible Fellowship, it is our regular practice to look into God's word each week. I think being part of a group of believers who are working our way through the scriptures together is a tremendous benefit because we get to see how the Holy Spirit uses the word in application to each other's lives. However, an even more precious part of our time together on Sunday morning is our prayer requests. The composition of the class has changed over the years from primarily newlywed couples to one which represents a far more diverse set of believers. Being able to pray for each other, even as we are going through many different phases of our lives, has been a great blessing in my life and something that I think has accelerated the work the Holy Spirit has been doing in our lives over the years."

—Don & Stacy Spaulding

COMING TO THE OAK

IN 2020

Updated Website, Logo, Signage, and More



Written by the Elders at East White Oak Bible Church

When you think of East White Oak Bible Church, what image comes to mind? Do you see a building, a logo, a message, or the people?

We believe the church is made up of the people purchased by Jesus' blood. We are defined by the message of the Gospel! The church is not a building.

So how should our logo, signs, website, and promotion materials fit into the ministry of East White Oak? We're glad you asked! Throughout our history, East White Oak has continued to look to the future and ask how we can effectively minister to the community around us. Though our message will not change, we desire to communicate East White Oak's values and mission in a way that connects with the community around us. We want to break down barriers that prevent people from coming into our church. We want to be welcoming and meet people where they are! Romans 15:7 says, "Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

East White Oak's longest-term pastor, Reuben Zehr, expanded our reach beyond the rural roads, drawing from Normal and Bloomington, likely influenced by Zehr's radio ministry on WJBC radio. This sense of community outreach via radio led to a focus on visibility throughout the next eighty-five years as the church budgeted for items such as direct

mailings, magazine, phonebook, and newspaper advertisements, billboards, television commercials and sermon telecasts. As these communication tools became less effective over the last two decades, the visibility budget has been decreased year after year. We are now faced with a culture whose contemporary communications are found through our website and an online digital presence. What does this mean for our visibility budget and strategy for 2020 and beyond?

Did you know that the very first impression of our church for many guests is our website? Did you know that visitors generally make a decision about whether or not they connect with a ministry within 8 seconds of visiting a webpage? We believe that it is important to continually improve and update our church materials in order to be attractive and welcoming to our guests and members, as well as those who are interested in our church—hopefully giving us the opportunity to connect with them in a deeper way and share the real heart of our ministry. Though we have made progress in improving our digital outreach, we feel that more can be done to improve our communications.

After much discussion among the staff and elders of the church, we have decided to hire a local Christian design company to assist us. We feel it is the best use of our resources (staff, finances) to help us accomplish our goals with excellence and efficiency. We are excited to work alongside this company over the next few months as we make changes to our logo, website, signage, and more.

Refreshing a church identity is much more than just designing a cool logo. It is our goal to clearly commu-



nicate a comprehensive understanding of East White Oak Bible Church's values and mission so we can accurately reflect them in all of our ministries and communications. We want to glorify God in how we communicate who we are to the world!

THE ELDERS HAVE SET THESE GOALS FOR 2020:

1. We want an attractive and functional logo at the center of our effort to create simple, consistent, and recognizable communications from East White Oak Bible Church.
2. We want a contemporary look to our communications that appeals to a wide variety of people both within and beyond the congregation.
3. We want to develop common and unifying terminology used across our ministries to make communication about East White Oak as simple, consistent, and understandable as possible.
4. We want to create an attractive, easy-to-use website as functional as possible so we have one place for people to go for information and communication within the church.

Completion of this work is forecast for Spring of 2020, and we are so excited to go through this journey as a church. We will keep you informed throughout the process!

TIMELINE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS



1934 - 1971
REUBEN ZEHR RADIO BROADCASTS AND RADIO RALLIES AT EAST WHITE OAK

1949-2007
ADVERTISEMENTS PLACED IN PHONE DIRECTORIES, MAGAZINES, AND MORE



2004-2010
TELEVISION ADS, "FOR TODAY" RADIO PROGRAM, CABLE BROADCAST

2010-TODAY
RESPONSIVE WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA: FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM





UPDATE



Community Garden

LSC Community Garden

- by Caleb Phillips

It all started in a garden (the Bible that is). God created and then charged humanity with picking apples, harvesting cucumbers, and looking after animals. One of the deepest forms of intimacy between creator and the pinnacle of his creation is for humanity to “tend the garden”. The garden became the site of the first love story, the first wedding took place in the garden, and most likely the first argument about whether the grass was long enough to cut.

The land after the fall is sometimes an ugly site. It has been infested with weeds, bugs, and old ice cream shops. That’s where our land is. The Living Stone Communities garden is on the site of an old ice cream shop. The soil is acidic, rocky, has lots of weeds, and not enough shade. And God has given us the charge once again to “tend the garden”.

Over the last two years LSC has been restoring that small piece of West Bloomington (it’s only 40’ by 40’). Cover crops and nutrients have helped restore the soil. Volunteer hours and recycled barn wood have produced raised beds for flowers and benches. Generosity and local non-profits have provided rain barrels. We have had our setbacks, and sometimes the process takes longer than we would have liked. However, beauty is coming back, restoration is in progress.

In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul tells his listeners that we are in the business of reconciliation. Restoration is our job. We do life with people who come from broken homes (86%

of kids who attend Irving grow up in single parent homes), who are addicted to drugs, who are chronically homeless, who never see their children, and who struggle day to day with finances. The garden reminds us that restoration is possible.

Over the next couple of years, we intend to plant a fruit tree, build a tower for strawberries, start a program for children during the summer, and rent out raised beds to community members for their own usage. It might be slow work, but building relationships takes time. Restoring all that was lost and damaged takes time.

At the end of the Bible we read about another garden. A place where God and man dwell with one another in peace. A place that brings restoration and healing to God’s creation. We are not there yet. But we like to think that our small piece of land will be a place of healing, restoration, and renewal. A peach tree will be planted, tomatoes will be harvested, and new relationships will be forged. Relationships that will bring the created back to their creator.



Tree House Bible Club



Tree House Bible Club

- Kerry Van Gundy

God is truly able to do more than we can ask or think. Years ago, when we had our first Good News Club for grades K-5, right after school, in the Irving school library, we weren’t sure that we would even have a second Good News Club. That first year some things didn’t go so well, and the school actually asked us not to return (“no room”) the next fall. But, believing God is sovereign, we looked at other options. Through that “problem,” God led us to the property at 502 S. Morris (the present site of Integrity

Counseling), and ultimately right next door to the dingy garage that was transformed into The Hub! We praise God that this month we began our TENTH year of an after-school program, and He is definitely blessing us beyond what we could ask or think. We now operate as Tree House Bible Club, and have two separate clubs, one on Tuesdays and one on Thursdays. The Tuesday club, led by folks from The Oak, has 14 clubbers, grades K-2. The Thursday club, led by folks from LSC, has 17 clubbers, grades 3-5. We praise God that there are eight families connected to LSC who have children involved in THBC, accounting for almost half of the total clubbers. We are already seeing fruit and an openness, seeing God's hand in the students' lives, and we're so excited for this school year. It's encouraging to see these boys and girls and their families commit to a Christ-centered program, especially when there are so many activities offered, even to elementary children. Please pray along with us for God to work in these young ones, that they would know Him better, love Him more, and follow Him in all their ways.

Taking the Gospel to West Bloomington Through Hoops and Hearts

— by Dave & Jessica Wolfe

Jesus states in Matthew 28, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” This summer the “Generations” gospel community (named because they span the ages of 78 down to 7) sought to obey Jesus by living as a family of missionary-servants to the youth of west Bloomington. They are looking for ways to intentionally love the young people from around the neighborhood—specifically to kids who come around daily to play basketball in our driveway. It is not uncommon to have anywhere from 8-15 young people daily at our home. The hoop has opened up so many opportunities to develop relationships with young people and their parents throughout our neighborhood. These kids are also many of the students that Dave teaches at Bloomington Junior High School! “Generations” came up with an idea to do a few 3-on-3 basketball tournaments at The Hub, running from June until the end of July to love on these kids some more. God brought many kids each time we hosted an evening tournament, and they loved it! We all had such a great time playing ball, eating food, and connecting in relationship. Each night the youth listened intently as the Gospel was shared by Todd Haynes, Coach Coughlan, and John McLain.

These students are hungry for relationships, curious about life, receptive to Biblical truth, and consistently coming around. The basketball nights allowed us to serve together, to live like family together, to live on mission together right in our backyard. There was very minimal planning, and it was so impactful. Praise God! We have pictures of these kids in our homes so that we can be continually praying for them. We are praying and planning about what steps to take next to build deeper relationships that will lead them to Christ. Thank you, East White Oak, for praying for them too.



3-on-3 Basketball



GOD'S SHIELD & SAFE TOWER

IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

By Kris Seifert, Children's Ministry Director

We are created to know God-to love Him and enjoy Him forever, and God equips us from the “get-go” to do just that! From birth our brains are collecting information about God. What is He like? How does He act? What does He think about me? Children do this by observing life around them. What kind of information do the people and places in their lives share with them that help them know who God is?

By what we say and do, we communicate to people who God is. Every Sunday at The Oak, children hear God's truths from His Word. Every Sunday, loving adults interact with them. And every Sunday children step into the physical building called East White Oak Bible Church. All of these people, places, and experiences send messages to our children and families about God.

Here at The Oak we want to be purposeful in communicating to our children and families that God loves them, cares for them and keeps them safe. Further, it is our responsibility to provide a safe place for children to receive the love and truth of God. How do we do this?

We have many practices and policies in place to help keep our children safe. Some of these include:

- An application process for all Children's Ministries volunteers that includes a Registered Sex Offender search
- Locks on all classroom doors in case of an emergency
- Reporting procedures for accidents and suspected abuse or neglect

- Two adults in every classroom
- Sharing and practicing procedures for fire, severe weather, and lockdown situations
- Specific bathroom policies and procedures

You may have noticed lately that there have been changes in Children's Ministries! The changes made relate specifically to our children's safety.

What have we done to help provide greater safety for our children?

- Created one entrance into Children's Ministries. This helps us see all who are visiting us!
- Updated the check-in and pick-up procedures to a computerized system requiring those picking up children to have proper identification generated by the computer.
- Added locked doors into the nursery and toddler area. In the event of an emergency, these doors can be closed and locked providing a safer barrier for children in this area.
- Introduced restricted access to the Children's Ministry wing by requiring all who wish to enter the area to have either the proper tags or to sign in at the Children's Ministries Welcome Desk.

What if I need to visit the Children's Ministries wing or Resource Room? Can I do this?

Absolutely! If you need to be in the Children's Ministries area (including the Resource Room located in the Children's Ministry wing) simply do the following:

1. Stop at the Children's Ministries Welcome Desk where you will be asked to sign your name and the time you are entering.
2. Wear the badge you are given the entire time you are in the Children's Ministries area.
3. When you leave, return the badge to the Welcome Desk and indicate the time you are leaving on the sign in sheet.



What's ahead as we look to provide a safer environment for our children?

Future plans include installing security cameras. This will help us to be more fully aware of who is in the Children's Ministries areas at all times.

It is true that safety procedures can be inconvenient. They take extra time and effort. But they are necessary to provide greater safety for our kids. The world we live in has grown increasingly unsafe for our children. Churches are a number one target of child predators. Churches are seen as open, welcoming places—and they always need people to serve their kids! Therefore, churches seem an easy place to receive access to children. We want to do as much as we possibly can to put barriers in place to prevent harm coming to any one of our precious children.

A big thank you to all who are giving extra time and effort to provide a safe environment for our children! It is a worthy cause! May God cover our children with His wings of safety. May He be our shield and safe tower!



WANT TO STAY UPDATED WITH THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE OAK?

Sign up for our E-bulletin mailing list. You'll receive a digital copy of the bulletin each Thursday, along with e-mails highlighting upcoming events or important news.

Go to ewo.org and click "Resources," then "E-Bulletin." Fill out a brief form and you'll be part of our mailing list!

WELCOME TO THE EAST WHITE OAK LIBRARY

From the East White Oak Library Team

We are so thankful to all who gave and worked to create our new church library space!

God was good in providing the resources to make this space available for our church body—a space where we can find help and encouragement through Christian materials, and also to have a comfortable space to meet. If you have not yet visited the library, be sure to stop in for a cup of coffee and browse the materials available. A library staff person is on hand Sunday mornings before each service to answer any questions. But you are welcome to visit the library any time the church building is open. We hope this will be a space where our church body can gather for fellowship, learning, and encouragement. May it all be to God's glory!



Thank you to all who attended the Library Open House on October 6!

We appreciate all the suggestions and hope to add more resources that will meet the needs and interests of those who use the library. We have had to redistribute resources to accommodate the available shelves. The library team spent a significant amount of time weeding out older/irrelevant books before the move. We are looking forward to making the library more current and relevant for everyone who uses it! We are especially excited to have more space available for children's books...so watch for more children's books and series to be added to the library.



New children's books added:

A series by New Growth Books which tackles relevant issues for children from a biblical perspective: ***God Made Me Unique*** (Helping Children See Value in Every Person), ***God Made Boys and Girls*** (Helping Children Understand the Gift of Gender), ***God Made Me and You*** (Celebrating God's Design for Ethnic Diversity)

The ***"Tales That Tell the Truth"*** series—combining stunning illustration with faithful, Bible-centered story-telling.

Good News for Little Hearts series is a wonderful collection of children's books that touches on real life situations: ***Buster's Ears Trip Him Up***, ***Jax's Tail Twitches***, ***Zoe's Hiding Place***

New books for adults:

The Logic of God — Ravi Zacharias (52 readings that explain how and why Christianity, the Bible, and God are still relevant, vital, and life-changing for us today.)

Palau: A Life on Fire — Luis Palau gives insights into his ministry but mostly reflects on what he's learned, not what he's accomplished.

Devotedly: The Personal Letters and Love Story of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot — written by their daughter, Valerie Shepard, this book ties together 5 years of journal entries and letters between Jim and Elisabeth.

Embracing Obscurity — by an anonymous author who took this topic to heart!

Plugged In: Connecting Your Faith with What You Watch, Read, and Play — Dan Strange explains how to engage with culture and use it for God.

Something Needs to Change — David Platt discusses what it means to give your life for the gospel — to finally stop talking about faith and truly start living it.



WINTER ELECTIVES

Sunday Mornings
February 2 – March 8, 2020

- Discovering Membership** *EWOBCElders / 9:00am*
- Responding to Life's Difficulties** *Eric Rhodes / 9:00am*
- Christ-Centered Parenting** *Jon Scott / 9:00am*
- The Art of Neighboring** *Pastor Justin Waples / 9:00am*
- The Prayers of Jesus** *Dirk May / 10:30am*
- Building Your Life on the Promises of God** *Dave Rowden / 10:30am*

LADIES' CHRISTMAS TEA

DISCOVER THE NAMES OF JESUS: WHO IS HE?

Bring a friend!

Step away from the bustle of the season and reflect on the wonderful gift of Jesus!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:30-8:15 p.m. | Gymnasium
East White Oak Bible Church

Hot drinks, sweet treats, and savory snacks will be served.

**** Reservations Required ****

Registration opens November 21 at ewo.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS



M.O.M.S. Christmas Party

Friday, December 6, 9:30-11:30 am in Room 172. All moms are invited to come enjoy fellowship at our annual Christmas celebration! Childcare is provided. Contact Jessica Mann for information about this event!
jessicamhatcher@gmail.com



New Highest Groups are forming

Meet weekly with three to five women seeking to develop a transforming, life-long relationship with Christ. Develop spiritual practices, study scripture, and share your journey with others. Groups set their own schedule and location. Contact Sue Jackson for details.
s_jackson44@yahoo.com



January 18 "Gather" Brunch

You're invited to gather with us for conversation over brunch. In a superficial, distracted world, join us as we press pause and connect on a deeper level. Watch for sign-up information in December.



Women's Winter Bible Studies

Thursday morning and evening studies will include a Precept-Upon-Precept study on Judges and a Stonecroft study on the Holy Spirit. Studies begin February 6. Watch for more details and sign-up information in January.



**east white oak
youth ministries**

WINTER RETREATS 2020

This year's Winter Retreats will be a great combination of fun, adventure, spending time with friends old and new, and learning more about God and his Word.

"The Ski Trip" is how you'll hear the Senior High trip referred to frequently because of the added opportunity afforded by the longer weekend. But actually—skiing is optional! In reality, only about half of the group goes to Cascade Mountain to ski or snow board while the other half of the group stays back at Lake Waubesa Bible Camp in McFarland, WI. Depending on the weather, you can participate in a wide variety of activities including sledding, broomball, "The Slide," skating, and indoor competitions created by our fantastic adult volunteers.

Also, Senior Highers—decide ahead of time whether you will be a part of the Sunday Night "Talent/No Talent Show." Start planning now—talent is not required, but creativity is encouraged! The show is a fun time for all whether on the stage or not.

Junior Highers don't have the opportunity to go skiing because of the shorter weekend, but still have a great time with a variety of fun things at Lake Waubesa including all the regular camp activities plus our legendary "Saturday Night Special Event"!

Both retreats have a lot of fun and community building opportunities, but each is solidly built around the core purpose of learning and applying God's Word to our lives. We bring in special guest speakers for the events who love the Lord and his Word and have a lot of fun with our students. We'll have many opportunities to get into God's Word, so bring your Bibles, a notebook and a pen!

Registration for both trips will open soon!

JUNIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT



JANUARY 24-26, 2019
Lake Waubesa Bible Camp
McFarland, Wisconsin

SENIOR HIGH SKI TRIP & WINTER RETREAT



JANUARY 17-20, 2019
Lake Waubesa Bible Camp
McFarland, Wisconsin
Skiing is optional!



FOR this REASON



EAST WHITE OAK BIBLE CHURCH

ADVENT '19

Through faith in the power of the cross I am set free from the bondage of my sin. FOR THIS REASON, I will live to share the love of Jesus to the world around me! (Ephesians 2-3)

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH PURPOSE.

Advent is a season filled with expectation. It's a time when we remember the world waiting for a coming Savior and celebrate the way the world changed when Christ was born.

But if we're being honest, it's also a season filled with madness. As Christmas approaches, the focus of Advent sometimes gets lost amidst the chaos and craziness that comes with the holiday season. To help you focus your attention on the heart behind this special season, we've created a four-week devotional guide to walk you through Advent. Our prayer is that as you turn your eyes to the coming Savior this Christmas season, your hearts will be transformed as you remember the birth of the King who came to save us.



**ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKS WILL BE
AVAILABLE DECEMBER 1.**



THE *Highest* NAME OF *Heaven*
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**
EAST WHITE OAK BIBLE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019 • CONCERTS AT 2:30 & 5:00 PM

Featuring the East White Oak Choir and Orchestra