



May 2025

Dear church family,

“Summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime. . .” is upon us. Not so fast. May has many things! Mother’s Day, Graduations, Memorial Day. And there is something at Towering Oaks for each of these reasons to celebrate.

May 11, will be a full day with Mother’s Day and child dedication, and that afternoon celebrate the Towering Oaks Christian School Graduation Class of 2025.

May 25, will have a special emphasis on family and guests as we enjoy a memorial day picnic later that afternoon.

I hope you will invite others to join us for a month of celebration!

As we gear up for the summer, please remember our children's camps, youth FUGE, and upcoming Vacation Bible School in your prayers. I am asking that you pray that hearts and minds will be open, and that God will use each of these activities mightily for the advancement of His work in our county.

Thank you again for your faithfulness in all areas of ministry. We move forward, believing you will continue to be faithful in your service and giving. Please continue to pray about what and how God would have you contribute to ministry as a faithful family member. Listen, He will answer! Our financial and volunteer needs in areas of ministry not only remain during the summer months but in many cases grow.

While we continue to offer live streaming of our Sunday Worship service, morning devotions, and our Wednesday Bible study, we hope that you will soon be able to join our faith family in person for wonderful times of worship and building up one another in the faith. And don’t forget, all of our streams are archived on YouTube, Facebook, and can be viewed on our website.

The times in which we live at not like those just 10 years ago. Let’s meet the challenges of the day head on.

You are very much appreciated and loved, and I am still excited to be your pastor



CHILDREN'S
Ministry
NEWS

There is nothing you can do to make God love you more.

There is nothing you can do to make God love you less.

Is there anything harder to fathom than the love of God? It is, indeed, too great for my limited brain to even begin to ponder.

And yet my thoughts have gravitated to this subject countless times in recent weeks.

Have you ever considered how we respond when life doesn't meet our expectations? When we fall on our face? When friends let us down? When we mess up?

Children and adults alike think these setbacks in life must mean we are a failure and somehow unworthy of the love we enjoyed moments before "the hills began to shake."

I'm beyond thankful God is not like people and His love, as Psalm 136 repeats, endures forever—it is eternal.

Be encouraged, my sweet friends...

For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken," says the LORD who has compassion on you. Isaiah 54:10

Whatever your "today" is offering, you can choose to trust God. He is not the God of "what if" He is the God of "nevertheless."

I'm choosing to trust Him today with my health, my family, my friends, my church. I'm choosing to trust Him with all that I do not understand. I'm choosing to trust Him with the unknown. I'm choosing to trust Him because He cannot be shaken.

And you know what? I'm choosing to trust Him with kids summer ministries.

I trust Him to provide finances for camps.

I trust Him to provide all the finances and volunteers needed for Vacation Bible School.

I trust He is nudging many of you reading this and telling you it's time for you to put fears and excuses aside and jump in. He has given us the opportunity to lead the Greene County ESP kids in VBS again this year...3 buses arriving with children—YIPPEE! I pray that excites you as it does me. I can't wait! Until then, let's praise God for His faithfulness and pray for each other.

EVERYONE is invited to join us

Sunday, May 18 4:00-5:30

Teresa Woodard, Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship Northeast TN

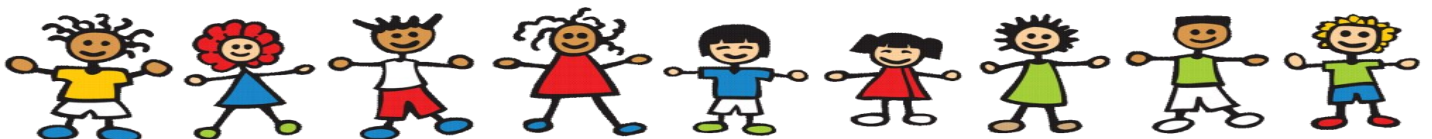
Leading a Child to Christ



From my heart of hearts I hope you will scan this QR code and together we will find your place to serve God in our largest outreach of the year. Let's help children know God's limitless love. I look forward to hearing from you!

I love you and am blessed to serve alongside you,

Shelley



Dear T.O.B.C. family,

Please join me in praying for God to use this group of seniors in a mighty way to impact His Kingdom. Also, please join us after church in the chapel to view senior tables and for graduation on Sunday, May 11 at 2:00.



The Senior Class of Towering Oaks Christian School

Back Row - Left to Right: Cynthia Sawers, Sophia Paul, Tori Ellison

3rd Row - Left to Right: Michael Good, Clara McGee

2nd Row - Left to Right: Gage Ricker, Trinity McLain, Owen Philbeck, Robert Kesterson

Front Row - Left to Right: Mason Collins, Ann Biebel

Honor Cords:

Red/White/Blue - 12+ hours Walters State Dual Enrollment

Blue/Gold - 50+ hours of community service

Blue/Silver - GPA of 3.5 and above

Greetings from The Underground!

April has been a great month for the youth! Krystal and I really enjoyed getting to spend Easter and Holy Week with the youth. We, as Christians, can never overstate how important the story of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ is to us personally. We have encouraged the youth to share the Good News with their friends and be a voice to the lost.

Here are some of the topics we have covered over the past month:

1. **Matthew 21:** The triumphant entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday, and how quickly the crowds turned on him.
2. **Psalm 22:** “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” We looked at the Psalm that Jesus quoted while on the cross: **Matthew 27:46.**
3. **Isaiah 53:** We looked at this famous passage and reflected on the meaning behind these words as they refer to Jesus.
4. **Matthew 26:36-46:** We discussed the scene of Jesus in the garden and his arrest. We also watched a movie clip of this scene, very powerful.
5. **Job & James:** We also took a brief dive into the book of Job to try to understand better how to deal with troubles we face in this life, especially for the youth of this generation. We used **James 1** to help us answer the questions that Job left unanswered- like how we should look at trials and tribulations in life. **James 1:2-5** *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*
6. **Job & Hebrews:** We then looked at the connection between Job and his faith, and what exactly faith means. We used **Hebrews 11:1** for this context- ***Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.***

In May we hope to start a Wednesday night Bible study for the girls on The Armor of God by Priscilla Shirer and a Tony Evans Bible study for the boys titled No More Excuses. This will be an excellent time for the youth to invite and bring a friend to Bible study!

Job 19:25-26 *I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.*

Our Underground Graduates

Tori Ellison

She plans to attend Tusculum and major in Psychology

Her favorite part of youth group: “Being able to grow in my faith with friends at Fuge Camp”!



Layne Miller

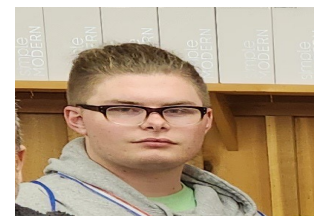
He plans to attend Tennessee Tech University and major in Mechanical Engineering

His favorite part of youth group: “Being able to serve those in need (Helene relief)”

Gabe Smith

He plans to attend Walter State and major in Culinary Arts with a focus in hot foods

His Favorite part of youth group: “Fuge has always been my favorite”



Boy, May got here in a hurry, didn't it? Pretty soon graduations, end of school programs, and summer plans are becoming realities. As much as we look forward to these moments to reflect and celebrate, let me encourage us all to enjoy the moment that we find ourselves in. We can look forward to the future so much that we miss what God is doing right now. God is up to something each day that we risk missing Him in looking to tomorrow too much.

Speaking of looking ahead: Saturday evening May 31, there will be a men's night at the Mission House. We are still finalizing the menu, but I can tell you it won't be pizza. Ha ha ha

We will be watching the movie, *The Forge*, and enjoying time at the campfire outside weather permitting. More details coming soon but go ahead and mark your calendar for the 31st.



It's an honor to serve,
Mark

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 1

Join us for a special prayer event in the chapel
from 5:00-7:00

TOCS High School Graduation

Sunday, May 11 @ 2:00pm
Worship Center

TOCS Showcasers Performance

State Road 47: Friday, May 2 @ 7:00pm
Admission \$5 per ticket for all to attend
Worship Center

Graduate Recognition

Sunday, May 18
Graduating seniors from HS and College will
be recognized during the AM Worship

Ladies Night

Tuesday, May 06
6:00-7:30 PM in the Chapel
Ladies of all ages invited
Childcare provided

PaceSetters' June Outing

Thursday, June 05
Flyboys first home game
Meet there

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 11
All moms will be honored during AM Worship

Annual Church-wide Memorial Picnic

Sunday, May 25 @ 4:30pm

Baby Dedication

Sunday, May 11
Those who have signed up will be dedicated
during the AM Service

Memorial Day Monday, May 26 Church Offices Closed

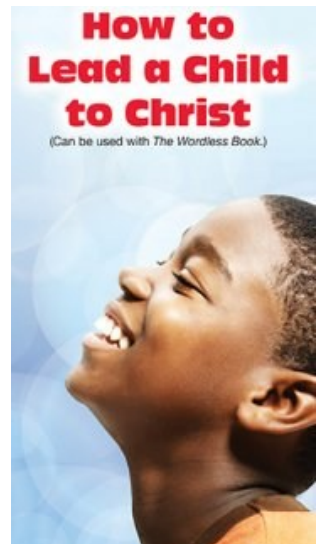
Remember and Honor All Those Who Have
Served and Sacrificed for our Freedom

Sunday, May 18

Teresa Woodard

Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship Northeast TN

4:00-5:30 in the Chapel



For Kids who have completed 4th-6th grade

May 21-23 The Oaks Retreat

Wednesday, May 21 12:00.

Pick up Friday morning 10:30.

\$150



Summer Day Camp

for kids who have completed grades K-3.

Monday, June 9-Friday, June 13

\$120

Hurry! Space is limited



Day Camp will be filled with friends, fun, games, experiments, music, and crafts all revolving around God's Word and the

Wonder of Jesus.



Vacation Bible School

July 21-25 3's-5th Grade

9:00-12:30 FREE

Scan here to volunteer

