

Dear Church Family,

We've had a wonderful first few weeks together as pastor and people. You have been so gracious, kind, loving, giving, and patient with us. Thank you!

I want to make sure that as we move forward, you are "ALL IN." What does that look like, though?

Attend. Attend our services and events regularly. This includes Sunday School (9am), Sunday morning service (10:30am), Sunday evening service (6pm), and Wednesday evening service (6pm). Be consistent in your regular attendance.

Study and pray. Read your Bible daily and pray throughout the day. Bro. Tommy Pierce and I lead devotions on YouTube and Facebook Monday through Friday mornings (7:15am). This is to serve as a supplement to your Bible reading and prayer.

Give. Give at least the first tenth (before taxes) of your income to the Lord as a tithe.

Evangelize. Be a bringer. Bring people to church and bring them to a saving knowledge of and relationship with Jesus Christ. Be a soul-winner!

Charity and I are grateful to God to be here with you. We love you already and we are "all in" with you. Let's do our respective parts to reach Greene County, America, and the world for Jesus Christ . . . together.

All In,

PASTOR

October 28, 2025

Dear Hearts,



What do you say when you come to the transition time of retirement after 52 years in ministry and 35 and ½ years in one place? I could never name everyone to whom I am grateful, and words certainly cannot express my gratitude for the many expressions of kindness you have shown through the years, but especially at the retirement reception. Diane, Barbara, Krystal, Pam, Patrick, along with the others who planned, prepared and presented such a beautiful trip down memory lane along with many friends who have meant so much to me over the years made the evening unforgettable. I cherish the memories.

While having retired, I do not plan to sit around. I want to relax for a short time and then slowly transition to ministering in different ways. I promise I will continue to pray for you as I ask that you pray for me--- That God will give discernment and wisdom, and that I may honor and glorify Him in my thinking, the places I go, the things I do, and the words I speak. That I will always remember who I am and Whose I am. That is my prayer for each of you daily.

I am excited about the coming days for Towering Oaks. As I have said so often, the best days are yet to come.

I love you, and the privilege of having served as your pastor all these years.

Dr. James K. "Tommy" Pierce









- A Call to Thanksgiving, 1863 -

Through the past 400+ years of American history, our forefathers have paused to give thanks to Almighty God. 167 times, Presidents have issued Thanksgiving Proclamations. In 1623, Governor William Bradford called the Mayflower remnant "....to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."

In 1863, during the apex of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called our nation to Thanksgiving. Take a moment to ponder the circumstances; the "United States" had lost her unity, brother was turned against brother, and death & division were at every turn. Yet, in the midst of distress, Lincoln paused to acknowledge God's mercy & provision. He didn't ignore the war, the sin, or the disunity. Instead, he praised and thanked God for His mercy and provision, and called a Nation to "…solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledge as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people… a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father"

Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation,-

"The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and even soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequaled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations,

order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict; while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of

November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our <u>beneficent Father</u> who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the <u>Almighty</u> hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the **Divine** purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United Stated States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth."

Abraham Lincoln

Don't wait for a day on the calendar, Praise Him Every Day!

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations."

Psalm 100:4&5

Ever Thankful,

Brother Greg

Overwhelmed.

By circumstance.

By the past.

By worry.

By fear.

By what might be...



Many have spoken to me lately about that I'm-not-sure-I-can-handle-this-another-day feeling. Our enemy has the goal to defeat us. He uses many weapons against us and often times we begin to bend under the pressure like a reed in the wind.

I have been there myself. I have experienced the dread of the oxygen being sucked out of the room.

I know the enemy is relentless and I will face challenges again and again.

When we begin to think we are at the mercy of the battering of the enemy, let's encourage one another to center our thoughts by thinking of what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8). I love this verse more every day. Easily discovered is how each word describes Jesus. Isn't it just like our Father to calm our anxiety by telling us to focus our thoughts on the One who gives us everlasting peace?

Whether the storm is brewing on the horizon or it sweeps in unexpectedly we don't need to be tossed about. We can land on 1 John 3:1

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

Some translations use the word "lavished" in place of "bestowed." Don't you love that word? Lavished!

Yes, overwhelmed.

By the Father's presence.

By the Father's goodness.

By the Father's peace.

The enemy isn't going to toss me about. My faith is in my Savior, my refuge. Do you know my Jesus? I'll tell you all about Him, come see me!

If you know Him, remember Philippians 4:8 and 1 John 1:3 and, to quote Pastor Jeremy, Be a Bringer!

KidsMin news—we are planning to celebrate Christmas Sunday December 14th along with our adult choir. The children will take part in song and skits and by using some of their talents to lead worship.

During the month of November, we will Gobble Up God's Word. You'll receive more info when you bring your children to Sunday School. We hope to see your family. It's a great place to begin becoming a bringer by bringing your family

I love my church family!

Shelley

Thank you for a wonderful Autumn Adventures! You all showed up in great number and support and guess what? Many of you were amazing BRINGERS! What a team!

Notes from the Underground...

Hello TOBC family and friends! October has been an intense month with so many changes taking place. God is at work here, may we continue to serve Him faithfully. We welcome Pastor Jeremy and his family to our church and wish nothing but blessings upon Pastor Tommy and his family. May we ALL continue to walk forward by faith.

October has been "Salvation Month" for the youth group. Over the last four weeks we have been traveling down the "Romans Road" to salvation, looking at key verses that lay a path towards what salvation is and what it means to be saved.

Week 1: Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one" This verse shows that no one is justified as good or righteous before God on their own merits.

Week 2: Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Everyone has sinned, at some point, and have fallen short of the perfection of God's standards.

Week 3: Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners. Christ died for us."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The free gift of God is His Grace! And how do we know this Grace is from His love? Jesus died for us because we were sinners, not because we were sinless.

Week 4: Romans 10:9 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

If you truly believe upon your own free will that Jesus is your savior and confess this with your own words then you will be saved! How simple and how beautiful!

Dear T.O.B.C. Family, The school ministry students have been preparing and looking forward to celebrating our veterans for the sacrifices they and their families have made to protect our freedoms. If you have served our country, please join us on Friday, November 7 beginning at 9:00 in the sanctuary for a celebration and then a brunch in the chapel that gives thanks to you and celebrates what you have done for us.











Please scan the QR code to sign up for emails from the church and your Pastor.





YOU'RE

Drop-In Baby Shower for Michael and Tiffany Adams Saturday, November 1 1:00-3:00pm in the Chapel

They are expecting a little girl!.

Visit their registry at

Amazon/babyregistry.com.



PACESETTERS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER
10TH @ 11:30 AM
LUNCH AT CASA
GUERRERO
MEET THERE:
915 W MAIN ST
SIGN UP IN SS FOLDERS,
THE FRONT PORCH, OR
MAIN FOYER











We have our boxes packed and ready to go!

However, we are still in need of donations to
help cover the shipping charges. We
encourage you to help make a difference in
the life of a child this year. Thanks!