#### THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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In January 2003 my life was chaos. I was working two jobs, going to seminary while trying to be a decent husband and father. Life was hectic and harried. Truth be told, I felt like a failure as a husband and dad because of the demands on my time. I started seminary in 2001 and I knew I wouldn't finish until at least 2006 and there was a season, which lasted a couple of months, that I seriously considered quitting seminary. I could only see the circumstances around me and those circumstances told me that I wasn't even halfway through seminary, I was tired and I felt like my family was getting week-old leftovers of my time. What made matters worse is that my seminary professors did a great job of preparing future ministers by frequently reminding us of the pitfalls and difficulties of ministry. I listened intently to story after story of ministry horror stories and I asked myself, "Is this my future? Is this what I have to look forward to?" Combine those thoughts with feeling worn out, being only halfway through seminary and feeling like I'm letting down my family, I can tell you that quitting seminary seemed VERY appealing. I talked with my wife about dropping out and she wisely suggested that I speak to a seminary professor before I did something rash. I scheduled a lunch with Dr. Isam Ballenger, who was my Missiology professor. We met at a Chinese restaurant on a bitterly cold January day and I shared my struggles. At one point I told him, "You professors do a great job of painting a bleak picture of what it looks like to be a pastor! I can't tell you how many ministry horror stories I've heard. I'm not sure this life is for me and I'm seriously thinking of quitting." Dr. Ballenger calmly put down his fork and looked at me, his face full of compassion and care, and he said, "Oh no. Todd don't do that. We've told you those stories to prepare you and maybe we've told too many of those stories. Perhaps we have not told you enough about the blessings of ministry." I will never forget what he said next. He said, "Remember your calling. Don't forsake your call. The blessings of being a pastor of a local church are too many to name. You will miss those blessings." He wisely pointed me back to the time I heard the call of the Lord and then he pointed me forward to remind me of God's sustaining presence, God's promises and future blessings. Dr. Ballenger spoke to me with such care and conviction that I knew I could not quit. If I'd made it this far, then I could certainly finish.

I tell you that story to tell you this story. One of the greatest blessings I've had in ministry is working alongside Linda Gardner.

The Lord sent Linda to be our Administrative Assistant one month after I arrived at Bethel. She's been WAY more than an Administrative Assistant. She truly treated her job as a calling and a ministry. She's visited our congregants in the hospital. She routinely showed up to help with funerals on Saturdays. She listened to us. She prayed with us and prayed for us. She's been a prayer partner and confidant to me. No matter the situation, Linda always found something positive and encouraging to say and always pointed us back to the Lord. She's been the hands and feet of Christ in our office. I have learned so much from her these last 11 years and admire her greatly. Linda retired at the end of September and I want to say a huge "Thank you Linda!" for all of her hard work and tireless dedication. Most of all, I want to thank her for being my friend. I will miss her. We will miss her and we most certainly wish her well and pray that life is full of abundant blessings in her retirement. I also want to thank Dr. Ballenger for his wise words. Had I dropped out of seminary I'd have missed the blessing of working with and knowing Linda and I would have missed 1,000 other blessings along the way.

Perhaps you are in the middle of some difficult circumstances right now. It's so easy to feel overwhelmed when you're in the middle of difficult, trying circumstances. If that's you, take a moment and look beyond the circumstances. Look back and consider all God has done. Listen to the words of Psalm 77:11-13, ""I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. 12 I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. 13 Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God?" Amen. What god is as great as our Lord?! Then, pause and think about your future and the promises God has given you. From Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Remember it is God who holds our future and that future contains blessings untold. Please, don't allow the circumstances you're facing today to overwhelm you. Remember there are blessings untold in store for you! Amen. May God bless Linda and her husband Charles. May God bless you and may God bless Bethel Baptist Church.

Todd



## **Many Thanks**

Dear Bethel Family,

I want to thank everyone for their cards, calls, and concern for my husband Bob and our little dog Precious following Bob's accident. The love and support you gave to us has been amazing and the many prayers you prayed for us have been wonderful and are keeping us going. We are so blessed to be part of the Bethel family.

Love, Ora Smith

Many thanks go out to Bill Rogers for cutting the grass across the street so we are able to turn into the parking lot safely. This is a lot of work, so make sure you let Bill know how much he is appreciated. Thanks Bill.

All of us at Bethel

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you to everyone for all the calls, cards, balloons, prayers and heartfelt concern from everyone for Colby. He's getting better by the day and is happy to be back at church. We are so blessed to be part of the Bethel family.

Judy Barker (grandma) & Colby Robinson

Dear Bethel Family,

Many thanks to the Monday Morning Group and the ladies of the WMU for the help provided before school started. My family very much appreciated the items given with love from your hearts. Have a blessed week.

Carrie Persichini

Dear Bethel Family.

We wish to thank everyone who helped to make Kasey's baby shower so special. A "big thank you" to those who brought food, helped to set up and clean up and most of all for your love and for the wonderful attendance. The people of Bethel are a loving and caring family who are anxiously waiting for the birth of August.

Love and Blessings, Peggy Keatts, Sharon Kenney & Pat Reynolds

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you all so much for the cards, texts, phone calls, the wonderful food and the beautiful basket of goodies during my recent surgery. Most of all, you will never know how much all your prayers meant to me.

Brenda Jeter

Dear Bethel Family.

Dennis and I are simply overwhelmed by your love and support during the last week or so. We wish it was possible to count the number of cards, call, emails, text messages and especially prayers on our behalf. Your care for us has made us feel very special during a challenging time! We are enjoying the lovely basket of fruit and other goodies that arrived at our home today and appreciate your thoughtfulness so much. Dennis is doing better and seems to be responding well to the medication thus far, so we are trying to move forward one day at a time!

Cathy Marshall

## October Birthdays



| 1  | lan Weir        | 17 | Becky Moseley    |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 2  | Parker Mead     | 20 | Kiley Proffitt   |
| 2  | Bryan Trentham  | 20 | Blake Rogers     |
| 3  | Mike Luck       | 21 | Jarrett Elam     |
| 5  | Dan Rogers      | 22 | Kevin Yeager     |
| 6  | Caroline Keaton | 23 | Vernon Sadler    |
| 7  | Brenda Jeter    | 25 | Jennifer Redmond |
| 8  | Ralph Mead      | 25 | Stacey Lamb      |
| 9  | Bubba Colley    | 25 | Jarrett Taylor   |
| 9  | Jenny Hansen    | 26 | Destiny Chong    |
| 9  | Debbie Mead     | 28 | Lisa Brown       |
| 10 | Jacqueline Cody | 28 | David Gillespie  |
| 11 | Teresa Dobbins  | 28 | Jordan Boze      |
| 12 | John Bransford  | 29 | Erin Carlson     |
| 12 | Malinda Davis   | 29 | Sharon Butler    |
| 14 | Bryan Camden    | 30 | Gary Bailey      |
| 14 | Glenn Riley     | 30 | Angela Prater    |
| 15 | Buddy Hicks     | 31 | Shirley Roberts  |
| 16 | Brad Saxton     | 31 | Stuart Condrey   |
|    |                 |    |                  |

# **Hope for Appalachia PK & Kindergartners Bags**

We are collecting the following items for Hope for Appalachia for our Pre-Kindergartners and Kindergartners. Items: New winter hat & gloves, small stuffed animal, box of crayons, box of markers, pencils, toothbrush, full–sized toothpaste, fun toy item,



and coloring book. (Please no candy or snacks). For more info go to https://hfavateam.com or see Pat Reynolds or Frances Morris.

# **Churchwide Yard Sale**

The Community Engagement Team is sponsoring a churchwide yard sale on **Saturday**, **October 5 from 8 am to noon**. Proceeds will go to fund various community projects, big and small.

Sdle

Clean out your attic and start setting aside items you would like to donate. Bring you donations starting Wednesday,
October 2 through Friday, October 4. Leave them in the People of Hope Center. If the door is locked leave your items on the porch and we will move them inside.

Also, volunteers would be appreciated. We will need help during the week prior to the sale and on the day of the sale. If you are willing to help, please contact Sissy Dance, <a href="mailto:ddance9149@gmail.com">ddance9149@gmail.com</a> or (804) 837-5899. This will be a fun time for fellowship and an opportunity to engage with the shoppers. Let's tell them what a great place Bethel is.

# Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—The monthly meeting of the WMU will be Monday October 7, at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope. All women are invited.

<u>Bethel Preschooler Cards/Gifts</u>: If you have signed up to send something to a preschooler, please be sure to remember his/her birthday and any upcoming holidays.

<u>Kroger</u>: To <u>register your Kroger card</u> for missions, go to <u>www.Kroger.com</u> and sign in. Then click on "Community" on the tab bar and click on "community Rewards." The church member number is **QW701**. You will still get your points toward gas.

# Men's Fellowship Lunch October 3

The Men's Fellowship lunch for October is Thursday, October 3, at noon at the Italian Delight Restaurant in Powhatan. If you have any questions, please call Bruce Lewis at 804-467-2886. All men are welcome.

# **Ladies Fellowship Lunch October 31**

The Ladies Fellowship Luncheon will be on Thursday, October 31. It will be at noon at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Midlothian. All women are invited. If you would like more information about the Ladies Lunch, or you plan to attend, please call Shirley Lewis at 804-467-2885 so she can call and reserve a place for you.

# **Wednesday Night Programs in October**



October 2 — Sacred Circle — 6 p.m. October 9 — Sacred Circle — 6 p.m.

October 16 — Sacred Circle — 6 p.m.

October 23 — Sacred Circle — 6 p.m.

October 30— Sacred Circle — 6 p.m.

# **Note from Our Parish Nurse**

Pumpkin Spice and everything nice. Advice from a Pumpkin:

- "Be well-rounded
- 2. Get plenty of sunshine
- 3. Give thanks for life's bounty
- 4. Have a thick skin
- 5. Keep growing
- 6. Be outstanding in your field
- Think big" llar Shamir
- 2024 National Health Observances Calendar (<a href="https://www.wellable.co/blog/national-health-observances-calendar/">https://www.wellable.co/blog/national-health-observances-calendar/</a>)
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month National Breast Cancer Foundation (<a href="https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month/">https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month/</a> Health Literacy Month – Institute for Healthcare Advancement (<a href="https://healthliteracymonth.org/hlm/hlm-home">https://healthliteracymonth.org/hlm/hlm-home</a>)
- Dental Hygiene Month American Dental Hygienists' Association (<a href="https://www.adha.org/">https://www.adha.org/</a>) Note: I have a several pamphlets on the desk in the nursery.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12 NIV

Flu season has arrived (Flu season is between October and May), you can schedule your flu shot at your PCP or local pharmacy. Most pharmacies have walk-in and/or appointments online.

Flu tips from the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands, use hand sanitizer
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Wear a mask

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." UK

May you all enjoy each new day, for it is a gift. Live, Laugh, Love

Blessings, Cindy Luck RN FCN

# **Monday Small Group Sharing and Caring**

The "Sharing and Caring" group meets each Monday morning at 9 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. For more info, contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.



# The Boxcast App



The AV Team has a way to view our complete church services on your Apple TV, Roku, or Smart TV, using the Boxcast app. This will provide a simple high quality means to view our services on your large screen TV so the entire family can watch the service together.

Simply follow these instructions:

- 1. Add the Boxcast app to your device.
- Search for the church's channel by searching for Bethel Baptist Church Midlothian, VA. (NOTE: Spelling and punctuation is important when searching.)
- 3. Once you find our channel the church's logo will appear. Select this channel.
- 4. You are DONE.

Please contact any member of the AV team if you have any questions.

## 4 Ways to Give at Bethel

- **1. In Person:** Drop your check in the offering plate as they pass it in the People of Hope on Sunday morning.
- **2. Send a check to our secure mailbox**: The address is: Bethel Baptist Church,1100 Huguenot Springs Rd. Midlothian VA, 23113.
- **3. Online Giving**: On our Website there is a link to give. Once you click on the link you'll be prompted to give through either your bank account or a credit card. Here's the link for online giving: https://www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org/giving/
- **4. Text Giving**: Simply text the dollar amount you'd like to give to (804)361-8590 and follow the prompts. You'll be asked to enter a debit card or credit card number. The minimum amount for text giving is \$10. The platform we're using is safe and secure and you'll be given the option of an email receipt at the end of your transaction. As always, we are grateful for your contributions to the church and we thank you for your gifts.

# **Charlotte's Pantry**

#### **Upcoming pantry schedule:**

October 9, 2024—5 to 6:30 p.m. October 25, 2024—9 to 11 a.m. November 13, 2024—5 to 6:30 p.m. November 22, 2024—9 to 11 a.m



## **Sunday School Classes**

The following classes are meeting in person:

- The Providers Class meets in the Providers Classroom in the People of Hope.
- The Endeavors Class meets in the Endeavors Classroom in the People of Hope.
- The Salt and Light class now meets in the last room on the right in the Education Building (it is marked Salt and Light)
- Students in grades K-5 will meet in the Jigsaw Room downstairs.
- Students in grades 6-12 will meet in the Youth Room downstairs.

The nursery remains open during the Sunday School hour for our younger children. The zoom class will be from Robert Brooks class in the Providers classroom.

The zoom link is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461349993?pwd=UW0rZ2F0OEp4RU JNVHhlK1pGRmlDQT09 Meeting ID: 874 6134 9993 Passcode: 139739

# **Opportunities for:**

#### Mission/Ministry

- Music Ministry/Choir
- WMU
   (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- Charlotte's Pantry (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (during worship)
- Friends of the Homeless (5th Mondays at 8:30 a.m. (See Ardelle Florence)
- AA Meeting every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- Puppet Team
   (See Andrea Hale)
- Media Center (See Cindy Wight)
- Care Team Ministry, Jane Ruehrwein

#### Fellowship/Discipleship

- Men's Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Bruce Lewis)
- Women's Fellowship Lunch last Thursday of each month at noon (See Shirley Lewis)
- Youth Group Meets every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m.
- Sacred Circle Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday School Classes 9:30

   a.m. each Sunday
- Brotherhood Breakfast (every 5th Sunday)
- JIGSAW children's ministry, every Sunday (See Tina McNeel)
- Sharing & Caring Group meets every Monday at 9 a.m. in POH (See Bruce Bartlam)

# Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3

On Sunday, November 3, Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2 AM! Don't forget to turn your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday night or you will be wondering where everyone is on Sunday morning.

## **Tasty Fall Recipe**

Pumpkin Oatmeal Cookies by delish.com

#### Ingredients

#### Cookies:

1 cup all purpose flour

1 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. kosher salt

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened

1/2 cup packed light brown sugar

1 large egg

1/3 cup canned pumpkin puree

2 Tbsp. maple syrup

1 1/2 cups rolled oats

1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

#### Glaze:

3/4 cup powdered sugar 1 Tbsp. maple syrup Pinch of pumpkin pie spice

1 to 3 tsp. water

#### **Directions**

#### Cookies:

- Arrange racks in upper and lower thirds of oven; preheat to 350 degrees. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper.
- 2. In a large bowl, whisk flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda and salt. In another large bowl, using an electric mixer on medium speed, beat butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg, pumpkin and maple syrup and beat on medium speed until combined, then gradually add flour mixture and beat until fully combined. Stir in oats and pecans (optional). Cover and refrigerate until cold, about 30 minutes.
- Scoop out 16 (1/4 cup) balls of dough and arrange 2" apart on prepared baking sheets. Slightly flatten with the palm of your hand. Bake until cookies are firm and lightly browned, 14 to 16 minutes. Let cool completely.

#### Glaze:

- 1. In a small bowl, whisk powdered sugar, maple syrup and pumpkin pie spice. Add water, 1 teaspoon at a time, until icing is thick but pourable.
- Drizzle icing over cooled cookies. Let stand until icing sets, about 15 minutes. Enjoy!

# October 25, 6 to 8 pm



We need your help! We are hosting our annual Trunk or Treat community event on Friday, October 25 from 6 to 8 pm. This year, like we did last year, we are offering a walk-through experience! All participants will walk in one direction through a Halloween trail behind the church

and finish their time with us by visiting trunks in the People of Hope Center parking lot. We look forward to a fun evening of serving together and welcoming the community onto our campus. To sign up to host a trunk or receive more information, please contact Mary Florence by cell phone (804) 647-5962 or by email at mrsflorence2013@gmail.com.

Candy donations are also needed and appreciated. Please no nuts and candy must be individually wrapped. Drop off in the People of Hope Center.

# **A Note from Our Library**

We have a couple of books that are new to the library that you will want to check out. If you have fond memories of visiting Thalhimers, you will enjoy Elizabeth Thalhimer Smartt's book, "Finding Thalhimers". In it, she explores the history, memories and personal stories behind the store. It's an inspiring story of an immigrant



family who built a successful business from the ground up.

We also have "Remarkably Bright Creatures", the debut novel by Shelby Van Pelt. It's the story of Tova, an aging widow who works at an aquarium, and Marcellus, an octopus who lives there. Their relationship brings Tova closer to finding answers about her son's disappearance. This book has been described as "charming, witty, and compulsively readable".



The deadline for the November Outreach is October 10th. All articles, thank you notes, ministry information and other items should be emailed to the church or dropped off at the church office before October 10th. Please make sure you submit them on time since this will be Kim's first time doing the newsletter by herself. Thank you for your help on this.



By Heather Kerns Preschool Director

October is here which means our preschool classes have settled into their routines and are learning so much and having a blast!. The halls are being filled with student artwork and our teachers are always coming up with the most creative lessons. Seeing kids excited to get out of the car in the morning is the best feeling! And we have once again, been blessed with the most incredible and supportive preschool families who help make our jobs so enjoyable.

This month will be filled with excitement as we go on our annual field trip to Lloyd Family Farms in Rockville, VA, for a morning of hayrides, farm animals, exploration, and pumpkin picking. We will also have a visit from Fire Station #5 during Fire Safety Week. Our classroom lessons this month will center around the changing seasons and all things Fall.

As our preschool continues to grow, we are so thankful for the support of the church. We are appreciative for your patience and willingness to be flexible so that the preschool can bless as many families as possible. This little preschool is just so special and we are going to have an incredible year!

# Operation Christmas Child October thru November 10

It's Shoebox time AGAIN!! Operation Christmas Child begins with you. From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Parents often use the project to teach their kids about giving.



Year-round volunteers support these efforts across the country. Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, and in many places, they also offer "The Greatest Gift", a Gospel story booklet Samaritan's Purse developed for shoebox recipients, and invite children to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program.

Bethel is collecting shoe boxes the month of October and into November. Empty boxes are available in the People of Hope Center and in the parlor. All shoeboxes will need to be returned to Bethel by Sunday, Nov. 10.

(Some information taken from www.samaritanspurse.org)

## **Puppet Trip 2024**

We had a wonderful mission opportunity with the special needs residents of Hope Tree Family Services in Salem, VA. We created an Adult Vacation Bible School around three of the Parables. We shared the bible stories, performed puppet shows, crafts, and games for each parable. We spent much



Ricky Evans, Lisa Evans, Andrea Hale, Frances Morris, Mary Ellis, Cheryl Grubbs, Leah Ellis & Noah Ellis)





Residents making lighthouse craft)



(Puppet and sheep that one of the Residents made)

of our time just loving the residents and sharing the Lord's love. We were able to bless them with all the games and craft items that you donated, they really appreciated those since the residents' love doing crafts and playing games in their homes. They live in houses that have six residents per household sharing the communal living space. We thank the church for the support of the puppet team and the mission trip opportunity.

# **Brunswick Stew Nov. 1**

The Providers Sunday School Class will be sponsoring a Brunswick Stew on Friday, November 1. The entire church is invited to join us in making the stew. It is always a lot of work but also a lot of fun. There will be a pick-up from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 2 and after church on Sunday, November 3. If you did not preorder, you can

purchase stew on Saturday. The stew will be \$12/quart and the proceeds will be split between the Food Pantry, the youth, and Blessing Warriors. Volunteers are welcome and needed especially from 2 p.m. to midnight. You haven't lived until you have tasted Bethel's Brunswick Stew!



# October 2024

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue                                       | Wed  | Thu  | Fi.   | Sat                       |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---------------------------|
|   |  | I<br>Garden Club—10 am<br>Boy Scouts—7 pm | 2 Yard sale donations accepted/bring to POH  | 3 Men's Fellowship Lunch—Italian Delight at noon AA Meeting—5:30 pm COT—5:30 Yard sale donations accepted/bring to POH | 4 Yard sale donations accepted/bring to POH               | S<br>Yard Sale—8 to 12 pm |
| 6   | 7  | 8   | 9  | 10   | H   | 12                        |
| Communion Sunday<br>Sunday School—9:30 am<br>Worship—10:30 am—POH | Sharing and Caring—9 am WMU—10 am POH ESL—9 am (downstairs) Girl Scouts—6:30 pm (downstairs) | Boy Scouls—7 pm                           | Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm<br>Sacred Circle—6 pm<br>Youth Group—6:30 pm<br>Choir Rehearsal—7 pm | AA Meeting—5:30 pm   |   |                           |
| 13 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH                     | 14 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (downstairs) Girl Scouts—6:30 pm (downstairs)            | ISBoy Scouts—7 pm                         | 16 Sacred Circle—6 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7 pm                                       | 17<br>AA Meeling—5:30 pm<br>COT—5:30 p.m.  | 18  | 19                        |
| 20  | 21   | 22  | 23   | 24   | 25  | 26                        |
| Sunday School—9:30 am<br>Worship—10:30 am—POH                     | Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (downstairs) Girl Scouts—6:30 pm (downstairs)               | Boy Scouts—7 pm                           | Sacred Circle—6 pm<br>Youth Group—6:30 pm<br>Choir Rehearsal—7 pm                                    | AA Meeting—5:30 pm   | Charlotte's Parity—9 to 11 am<br>Trunk or Treat—6 to 8 pm |                           |
| 27<br>Sunday School—9:30 am<br>Worship—10:30 am—POH               | 28 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (downstairs) Girl Scouts—6:30 pm (downstairs)            | 29<br>Boy Scouts—7 pm                     | 30 Sacred Circle—6 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7 pm                                       | 31  Ladies Fellowship Lunch—the Four Seasons at noon AA Meeting—5:30 pm  |   |                           |

**Bethel Baptist Church** 1100 Huguenot Springs Road Midlothian, VA 23113

Change Service Requested

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#### **WORSHIP TIMES** 9:30 am Sunday School | 10:30 am Worship

