

ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

**Church of Jesus Christ
Oak Grove Restoration Branch**

**Volume 19, Issue 6
November/December 2023**

***"... and He will teach us of His ways, and
we will walk in His paths ..."* Isaiah 2:3**



Evening Campfire Service



(Drone pics provided by Todd Lavigne)

On Sunday evening, September 17, a campfire worship service was held at the church, with over 60 in attendance. Valerie Lidberg led campfire songs. In addition, special testimonies were shared by Susan Freeze, Eric English and Jessica Holmes. In their testimonies, they recalled special memories of other church camp and reunion campfire services.

Following the service, the Fun and Fellowship team provided s'mores and other treats.



See page 3 for more pics from the campfire service.

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Of Such is the Kingdom of God

--- by Mark Griffin, Associate Pastor

As I contemplate and ponder the Pastor's Word for November and December, it is early October, and September has just ended. The temperatures have cycled in the upper 80's and lower 90's, and I know the coolness of Fall is close at hand, when temperatures will settle comfortably into the 60's and 70's.

I eagerly anticipate the changing of colors from greens, blues and yellows to oranges, reds and ochres; of such is the kingdom of God. I have no say or control over the weather, the temperatures, or how and when the colors change; yes, I know there are "scientific" reasons these things occur, but it is in the time of His choosing that the season will change.

Of such is the kingdom of God.



This is God's creation—the heavens and earth. He told Moses to "*write the words which I speak.*" He says "*By mine Only Begotten I created these things.*" God spoke and there was light, God spoke and there became a firmament in the midst of the waters, God spoke and the waters under heaven were gathered together and there was dry land. God created the grasses, the fruit trees that bear fruit, and the herbs that yield seeds. "*And I, God, saw everything that I had made; and behold, all things which I had made were very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day*" (Genesis 1:33).

God is the author and finisher of all things, "*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last*" (Revelation 22:13).
Of such is the kingdom of God.



As we move into the Thanksgiving season and the time of year we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us remember our heavenly Father and sing and shout His praises for the many blessings bestowed upon us because of His love for us.

We find the following words in Matthew: "*Wherefore, seek not the things of this world; but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God and to establish his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"

(Matthew 6:38).

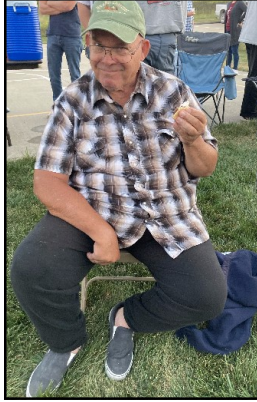
Of such is the kingdom of God.

OGRB Pastorate

Presiding Elder: Mark Nunn
Associates: Elder Mark Griffin
Elder Jeremy Lidberg
Priest James Bullard
Elder Charlie Booth

Do you have a personal testimony to share?
Please contact Debbie Norman for Zion's Call.

More Campfire Service Pics



The Everlasting Covenant — My Personal Response

by Susan Booth

On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, the Restoration Women's Council-sponsored class at OGRB was titled *The Everlasting Covenant *Our Personal Response** and was led by Synthia DeBarthe of Oak Grove.

I wrote the following thoughts in my notes as the class progressed:

God has promised that if we look upward, walking and having peace with Jesus Christ, we will also walk right into Zion! Heaven and Earth will come together through His Living Spirit.

Obedience, repentance and endurance are crucial (with free agency ever present) as we choose to embrace Gospel Truth and prepare for the Great Tribulation that shall cover the Earth. Zion begins in our inner self and it will grow outward and reflect our covenant with Jesus Christ.

The Everlasting Covenant promises the fruition of Zion—a great and marvelous work! It is the Lord's cause. It is up to us individually and corporately to respond and accept His call!

Don't resist or refuse the Gospel—must be baptized! God awaits our response. Follow the basics of Christianity. Possess inheritance again. Tap into gifts and blessings available to all through the Holy Spirit. Establish Zion on Earth. Expect, God, Jesus Christ and angelic ministry.

Synthia encouraged goal-setting to strengthen faith and knowledge of the Gospel. She suggested starting with daily/weekly goals and working towards monthly/yearly goals for Zion:

Daily/Weekly Goals I Came up With

- Scripture reading, prayers, study good books, follow basic Christian values.
- Fill the body with Christ's light to be able to comprehend ALL things! With an eye single to His Glory!
- Think, feel, and act with a community of believers in righteousness and truth for Zion.
- Listen for God's still small voice. Seek wisdom to perpetuate purposes of God.
- Share faith, testify of my experiences and my love of Christ and the Gospel.

Monthly/Yearly Goals I Came up With

- Remember God, Jesus and Holy Spirit thru the Sacrament of the emblems (bread/wine).
- Righteousness check-up: Is Holy Spirit my guide? Is truth translated into action? Maintain distinctive Restoration truths.
- Review history and compare it with where we are today. (Isaiah 24:5)
- Be a positive example. Share with others. How well have I come to know my neighbors?
- Care for man/nature. Use the things of this world in the manner designed of God. (DC 128:8c)
- Compare "notes" with others. Be accountable and hold others accountable.

The Church as a whole must be aware that God is REAL and He has a purpose, as outlined through prophecy in Holy Scriptures, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants. Expect personal encounters—spiritual changes required—God will protect His Zion.

Genesis 9: 21-23 *21 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant, which I made unto thy father Enoch; that, when men should keep all my commandments, Zion should again come on the earth, the city of Enoch which I have caught up unto myself. 22 And this is mine everlasting covenant, that **when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy;** 23 And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch.*

What is your personal response?

Go to www.ogrb.org and click on Women's Department, Women's Fall Classes 2023 and watch Sept 19 Video;
print out Class Handout; write down YOUR Personal Response to the Everlasting Covenant!



OGR B *Seniors Group*

Left: Sheila Lidberg, Gena Martin, Larry and Mary Clark, Delores Heater.
Right: Dennis Heater, Mike Stice, Gerry Bird, Pat and Hal Chadwick. Not pictured Sheri Nunn.



Speaker System:
Mark Nunn

The Oak Grove Seniors met at the church on Saturday, October 7th, 2023, to watch a streamed episode of the PBS Series *“Secrets of the National Parks; Zion and Bryce Canyon.”* This documentary captured many breath taking panoramic views as it took us on a personal journey through hard to access and less frequented areas inside these two National Parks in Utah.

As we watched this large projection on the Sanctuary wall, it made you feel like you were almost there. You just didn't have to do the hiking to get there or experience the vertigo.

After the video, the group moved into the fellowship hall to visit and test out the different snacks each one brought to share. It was a very enjoyable “Autumn” afternoon with friends.



by Sheri Nunn

Encouragement at Prayer Service

Elder Aaron Smith was presiding at the Wednesday evening prayer service on October 11th. At the conclusion of the service, he was led to read Psalm 91 to those in attendance.

We share it now with all those who read this newsletter—for encouragement. Our times are challenging and uncertain, and the inspired thoughts in this Psalm remind us to lean upon the Almighty Lord God.

PSALM 91

God's protection of the righteous.

- 1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God; in him will I trust.
- 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
- 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day,
- 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.
- 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil befall thee; neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
- 12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
- 13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
- 14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high because he hath known my name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Upcoming Events

Nov 4 Women's Prayer Breakfast 9:00am



Nov 4 at Eric/Sarah English home 4:00pm

Nov 5 Priesthood Devotion 4:45pm
Priesthood Class 5:00pm

Nov 7 Women's Fall Study Class 10:00am

**Nov 11 Branch Thanksgiving Dinner
5:00pm**

Nov 14 Women's Fall Study Class 10:00am

Nov 18 Zioneers/Zion's League visiting,
followed by dinner at Culvers

Nov 19 Priesthood Class 5:00pm
Priesthood Meeting after Evening Service

Nov 21 Women's Fall Study Class 10:00am

Dec 3 Priesthood Devotion 4:45pm
Priesthood Class 5:00pm

Dec 9 Women's Department Christmas Party
at the home of Kristen Davis

Dec 16 "High School Age" Zion's League event
at South Chrysler Restoration Branch

Dec 17 Adult Choir and Bell Choir Christmas
Program 10:30am

**Dec 17
6:30pm**



**Children's
Christmas Program**



THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE.
Tell your neighbors, friends and family!

Worship Schedule		Sacrament Service 1st Sunday of each month
		8:00 am Priesthood Prayer Service
Sunday Morning Early Worship	9:00 am	9:00 am Time of Quiet Meditation
Church School	9:15 am	9:15 am Prayer Service
		10:15 am Song Service
Sunday Morning Worship Service	10:30 am	10:30 am Sacrament Service
Sunday Evening Worship Service	6:30 pm	6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Prayer and Testimony Service	7:00 pm	

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."
(Psalm 122:1)*



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Church Phone: (816) 690-6996
*Watch most of our services by going to
our church website! (Click on "Video")*

Youth Pages Nov.-Dec. 2023

Zioneers/Zion's League "Chopped"

By Joshua Lavigne, Zioneer

In addition to doing church cleaning, the Zioneers and Zion's League did an episode of "Chopped" (based on a TV cooking competition). We split into four teams; one team had four people and the rest had three.

The main ingredients for the first round were ground beef, Worcestershire sauce, and pretzels. Most of the teams made burgers. For the burgers, my team used eggs to hold the meat together; the Worcestershire sauce was also cooked into the burgers; our pretzels were in homemade cheese dip. Another team made "Monster Burgers." The eyes were made of cheese and the arms were made with the pretzels. The third team also made burgers. The fourth team made something different—good looking meatball subs.

For dessert, the main ingredients were whipped cream, corn flakes, and pound cake.

So, we split into different teams and got to work. My team hollowed out the cake and put Nutella in the middle with a side of a dirt cup (pudding and cookie crumbs). The next team made a "luxurious mountain of high calories" with bananas at the bottom of a mound of the pound cake and a whole container of whipped cream! One judge said, "That is pure gluttony. I'm pretty sure it is a sin to eat this!" The third team made a pound cake covered nicely with whipped cream and had chocolate sauce drizzled on top. The fourth team made sandwiches covered with whipped cream and sprinkles (corn flakes).

At the end, Valerie Lidberg did a slideshow about what we learned, and then we talked about the parable of the talents that comes from Matthew 25:15-30 (see Youth Page 4).

May GOD bless you in all that you do.



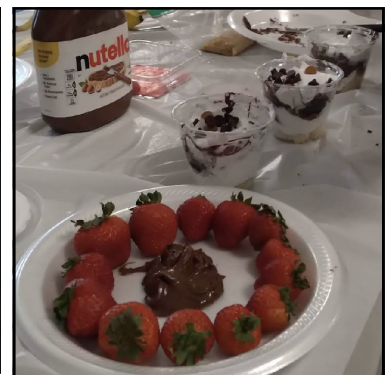
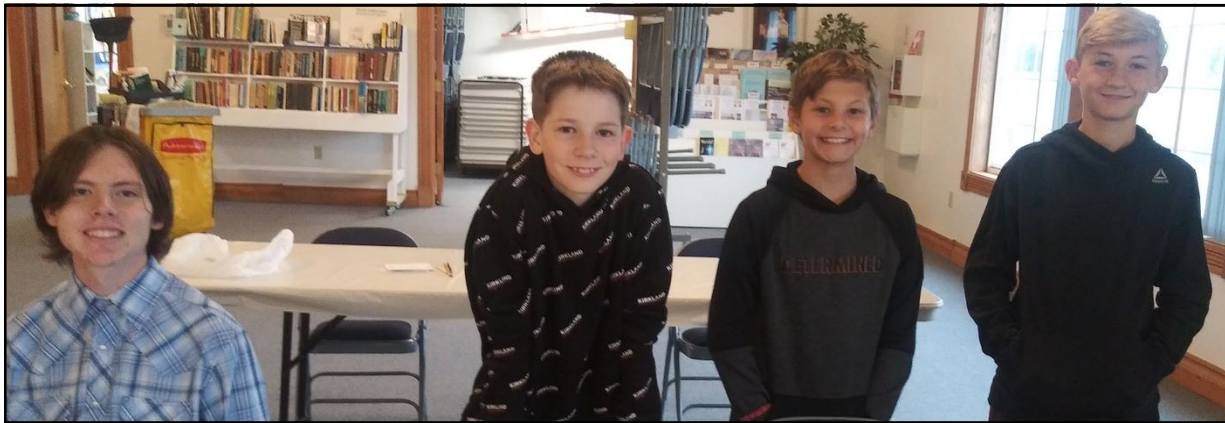
The MONSTER
BURGER



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THE JUDGES



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Zioneers/Zion's League Enjoy "Service" and "Fellowship"

By Mike and Valerie Lidberg, Youth Leaders

We had a really fun Zion's League/Zioneers activity on October 14th. The youth started the evening by cleaning the church. We then moved into a two-course cooking challenge.

The youth were divided into teams and then were given three ingredients which they were required to use in a recipe of their own creation. They had a whole pantry of extra ingredients to add to the required ingredients.

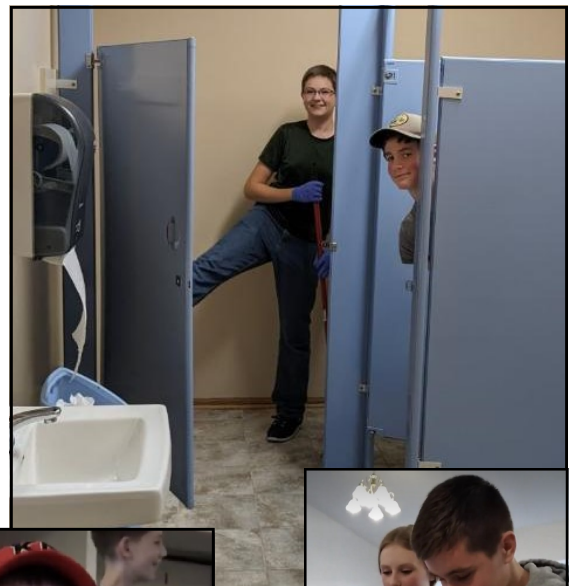
The three ingredients the teams were given for their main course were: ground beef, pretzels and Worcestershire sauce. The three ingredients required for the dessert round were: pound cake, corn flakes, and whipped cream.

The teams came up with imaginative and unique ideas for their food creations, and everyone worked together really well.

One of the highlights of the event were our guest judges: Ashley Seymore, Lauren Smith, and Ethan Hill. They acted out their part so well—it made the evening really fun, and the leaguers loved having them there (see Youth Page 2).

Our next events include serving and cleaning up at the Branch Thanksgiving Dinner on November 11th, and Friendly Visiting and dinner on November 18th. The high-school-aged Zion's League (grades 9-12) have been invited to join the South Crysler Zion's League for the evening on December 16. Please watch the bulletin for more information on these events.

If you have questions, please feel free to call Mike (816-651-2181) or Valerie (816-651-2140).



Youth Pages *Nov.-Dec. 2023*

Coloring Page

Matthew 25:15-30

