

# ZION'S PATH

Since 2005, a publication of the

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

**Volume 18, Issue 3**

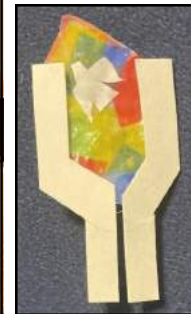
**May/June 2022**

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



## *Easter Service at OGRB*

On Sunday morning, April 17, OGRB celebrated the resurrection of Christ with music and readings. The bell choir presented prelude and offertory selections. The adult vocal choir sang under the direction of Valerie Lidberg. They were accompanied by Rachel Horn on the piano. Newly added this year was a wind ensemble led by Carianne Lidberg. Mark Griffin also sang a solo with his guitar accompaniment.



Thank you, Nancy Green, for making these lovely pins for all the musicians in the Easter service!



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## With Feet Firmly Planted

--- by Aaron Norman, Associate Pastor

The theme for the month of May is “Be strong in the Lord by having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

The word “shod” means to be furnished or equipped with a shoe. As an avid runner, I have learned the importance of having proper footwear, especially when running on steep, narrow and rocky trails. Your shoes have to fit correctly, as well as providing protection and traction. I have run on mountain trails with sheer drop-offs only feet away, where a wrong step could be disastrous. At times like this, I need complete faith that when I place my foot, it is not going to slip.



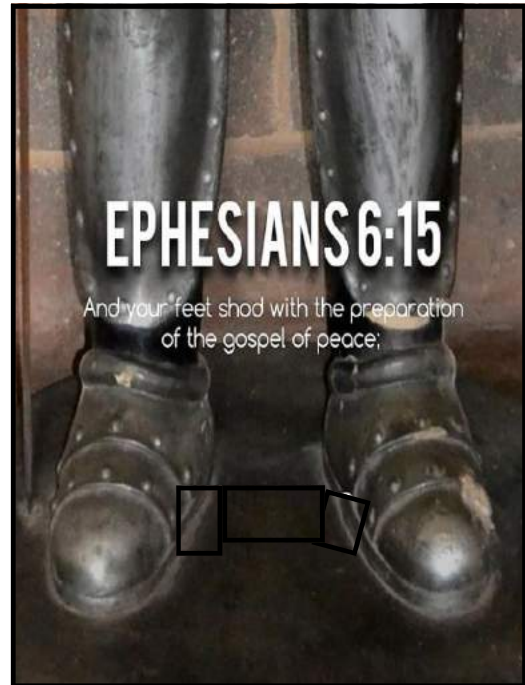
And so it is with our spiritual walk with Jesus. We are all pilgrims in the narrow way and at times our journeys can be rough and rocky. Jesus never promised a smooth, well-groomed path. In fact, when we take up our cross and follow him, we are going to encounter troubles.

Jesus told his disciples, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (**John 16:33**).

As we press forward along the path, it is crucial that we have sure footing. We must have complete faith that when we step forward

our feet will be firmly planted and not slip. The gospel of Christ is the firm and solid ground on which we stand. It was preached from the beginning and will continue, unchanged, to the end. Jesus foretold trouble and turmoil for his disciples (us included), but he told us that “we may have peace” and to “be of good cheer.”

You may wonder how it is possible to have peace during the rocky patches in life, but when we stop focusing on ourselves and look to Jesus, we rely on Him to make our feet sure. Our path will not be made easy, rather He will outfit us with the footwear needed to scale the obstacles in our way. “God is my strength and power; and maketh my way perfect. He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet; and setteth me upon my high places” (**2 Samuel 22:33-34**).



### OGRB Pastorate

Presiding Elder: Don Norman

Associates: Elder Mark Nunn

Elder Aaron Smith

Elder Aaron Norman



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## Baptisms/Confirmations at OGRB

On Sunday morning, March 27, a baptismal service was held at Oak Grove.

Lena Postlethwaite, daughter of Eli and Ashton Postlethwaite, was baptized in water by her grandfather, Priest Darryl Postlethwaite. She was confirmed by Elders Mike Lidberg and Jeremy Lidberg.

David Holmes, son of (Priest) Brian and Jessica Holmes, was baptized in water by his father. He was confirmed by his grandfather, Elder Gary Holmes, and Elder Mike Lidberg.



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## Here for a Purpose — by Cathy White

Excerpt from class at OGRB  
Ladies' Spring Brunch, March 26, 2022

Most of my life, I have believed we were born for a purpose—God's purpose! I am not sure where I got that idea, but I truly believe it.

Recently I have been studying Esther. One of Mordecai's most famous quotes is from **Esther 4:14** "... and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" The king had no idea Esther was a Jew, but she was about to save the entire Jewish nation. God had put her in this place for His purposes.

How do we know we are doing God's will for our lives?

When my first husband passed away from cancer, I was completely lost. I had no career. My children were grown. I believed my entire purpose in life had just ended. Our family was everything to me. I suddenly found myself lost!

I was asked to share my testimony with a group of women. At the end of my testimony I recall saying, "I look forward with great anticipation to what God has in store for me." I sat down, thinking to myself, "Why in the world did I say that?"

You see I had no idea why I had said it, but God did! I was 42 years old and a widow. Not what I had planned.

Many times in the past 30 years I have wondered, as so many in my family passed away, why I was still here. As I sat one Sunday and listened to the sermon I learned the answer to that question. I am still here because I will persevere. Will you persevere? Even when I think I can't, I will turn to God for strength and muddle through. Each one of you is here for a special reason. I do not know what your purpose is, and you may not either, but God knows and it will be revealed to you if you trust him.

**Romans 8:28** reads, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

There are so many unknowns in life. God had a plan that was far beyond my imagination.

One day I heard a woman on James Dobson's radio program. As I began to listen to this woman tell her story I began to weep. God filled me with such a powerful spirit I knew beyond any doubt this was what he was calling Bob and I to do.

In January of 2010 Bob and I went to Bend, Oregon for training to do a horse therapy program.

That September we filed papers in order to become a non-profit corporation. We were told it could take up to three years. However, by January 11th, we had our non-profit and federal ID number.

You see, God found a way for us to do what He wanted us to do! I was afraid, we didn't have enough money, we didn't know enough, we didn't have the right horses. My fears were many. You see if God is in it, he makes a way. What do you feel compelled to move forward with? First, make sure it is God nudging you. Ask for assurances and discernment.

When I moved back to Missouri from Virginia we decided to open a small cafe in Grain Valley. Looking back, I know beyond any doubt that, although I closed it \$110k in debt, God blessed me and He had a plan for that endeavor. Many people came into my life because of that restaurant. But I will never forget the day Leonard Smith came in. I didn't have any idea who he was. I was introduced to him and he said to me, "You don't understand what this is about. It is about the spiritual things, not the temporal things." And with that he paid his bill and left. That stuck with me as I decided to close out that chapter of my life.

You see God uses all things. Not just the good things, but all things.

We can choose to stay at a dead end stop in our lives or we can ask God where He needs us to be. God can take care of all of it, but He needs steady people—those who are faithful!

*Oak Grove Seniors 55+ Group*  
*6:30pm - Saturday, May 28th*

## *Campfire Sing-a-long*



**Attention Oak Grove Seniors: Join us at the church to sing some old favorite campfire songs and hymns.**

1. Bring a lawn chair to sit on.
2. Bring a favorite finger food snack.
3. Bring family members and friends

**Come enjoy our smokeless propane fire pit. If the weather should act up, we will sing in the fellowship hall.**

*Mark and Sheri Nunn*

### **INSPIRATION FOR OUR DAILY WALK**

**Look for the Beautiful**

**Have You Received His Image in Your Countenance?**

**Trust and Obey**

**I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go**

**God Bless America**

**HELP A NEIGHBOR—BE A FRIEND—  
SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!**





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## The Freeze Point — by Susan Freeze

This past March, 2022, I went on a work trip to Washington, DC. At the time of the trip, I was working on my class for the CRE Restoration Women's Council. The title of the class was, "God Does Not Give Us the Spirit of Fear."

The coworker that was traveling with me does not go to any church. At one point on the trip she asked me about my class. I shared the topic and the scripture (**See Romans 8:28**) about all things working together for good. I also talked briefly about how having faith in God helps you not to have fear.



When we were headed back to the airport, we were on a tight schedule. Our driver took us right through the MIDDLE of the Cherry Blossom Festival! It would be like driving through Santa-Cali-Gon on steroids. Why he didn't go around the festival, I don't know. So now we were sitting in traffic, worried we were going to miss our flight. I was praying about the situation. I even shared a testimony with my coworker about Flip and I being stuck in New York traffic prior to our flight to Germany. (Flip had asked me to pray—and the traffic parted!) Even though I shared this and I was praying, I was in a tight knot.

When we finally got to the gate, they were boarding the plane. Once we were in the air, my friend shared that she wasn't worried, because she knew I had been praying. I was struck by this. It was like my friend had more faith in my God than I did. She was calm and collected, I was in a tight knot, even though I knew all things work together for good. If we had not made the flight, there might have been a purpose for that. What if we had to spend another night in DC? I might have had time to share more with my friend about my beliefs. God can use all things for good.

When I returned home, I finished the preparation for my class. One of the books I was reading was

Afraid of All the Things by Scarlet Hiltibidal. In her book she says, "We don't act like children secure in the love of our Father. So often we act like orphans who are desperately looking for love."

Wow! As I thought of my reaction of being all tied up in knots on the way to the airport, I realized that I really wasn't acting like a child of God. I wasn't acting like I believed God would work things out whether we made our flight or not.

As I was finishing my preparation for my class, I happened to listen to Eric Odida's sermon at Oak Grove on March 23, 2022. He said, "We don't act like the children of God. We can't share that we are the children of God with His children, because we don't believe it ourselves. We believe in ourselves, our abilities, our finances and our government."

Essentially, he had the same message that I had just read! Before this, I had always thought I was someone that truly believed in God and that He could do miracles, but I had to contemplate—did I act like someone with true faith? Did I act like a child of God? Sadly, I did not. My friend had more faith in my prayers than I did. Once I had prayed, I should have had peace whether we made the flight or not.

Francis Chan has a quote in Crazy Love that says, "Both worry and stress reek of arrogance. Worry implies that we don't quite trust God is big enough, powerful enough or loving enough to take care of what's happening in our lives." I need to think about that more often. If I am worried and stressed, then I am not trusting God to take care of me.

My hope is that we can all claim our birthright and lose the "orphan" mentality. That we can live like the true children of God that we really are.

And be not  
conformed to this  
world; but be ye  
transformed by  
the renewing of  
your mind, that  
ye may prove  
what that good,  
and acceptable,  
and perfect will  
of God is.  
Romans 12:2



**Have you done your financial accounting?  
It's not too late!**

***"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."***  
**Proverbs 22:6**



Bring canned goods (especially fruit) and boxed cereals—anytime—to donate to the Community Food Pantry in Oak Grove.  
(Place in box in foyer coat area.)

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

## Upcoming Events

**May 1** POZ Combined Sacrament Service  
Waldo Restoration Branch 10:00am

CMRB All-Branch Gathering at  
Odessa Restoration Branch 6:00pm

**May 3** Women's Class (Livestream) 10:00am

**May 5** Women's Meeting at OGRB 6:30pm  
Dinner and class to follow by Jill Etter  
*"The Spiritual Gift of Hospitality"*

**May 8** Elders' Class 7:30am

**May 10** Women's Class (Livestream) 10:00am

**May 13-15** OGRB Branch Retreat at Odessa Hills  
with Knob Noster Restoration Branch

**May 17** Women's Class (Livestream) 10:00am

**May 21** Church Workday at OGRB  
9:00—3:00pm (lunch provided)

**May 15** Aaronic Priesthood Class 5:00pm

**May 22** Elders' Class 7:30am  
POZ Combined Evening Worship Service  
at Waldo—Panel Discussion on  
*"Forgiveness and Reconciliation"*

**May 22-28** Older Youth Camp at Odessa Hills

**May 24** Women's Class (Livestream) 10:00am

**June 4-11** CMRB Reunion at Odessa Hills

**June 12** Potluck Lunch

**June 12-18** Senior High Camp at Odessa Hills

**June 19** Priesthood Classes 5:00pm  
Priesthood Meeting after Evening Service

**June 19-25** Junior High Camp at Odessa Hills

**June 26** Branch Business Meeting

**June 26-30** Junior Camp at Odessa Hills

**July 7** Women's Meeting—class led by Cindy  
Green *"Genealogy Basics"*

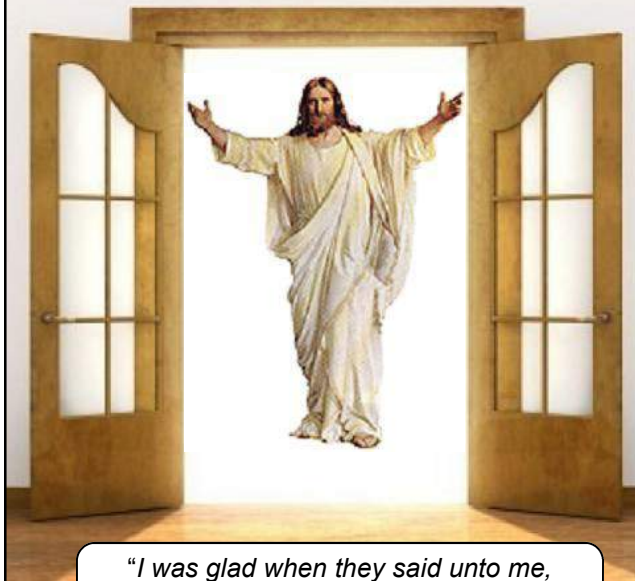
**July 18-22** Vacation Church School at OGRB



**June 4-11** CMRB Reunion at Odessa Hills  
*"He Only is My Rock"*

**July 18-22** OGRB Vacation Church School  
*"Prepare for Victory in Christ"*

*Church of Jesus Christ  
Oak Grove Restoration Branch*



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

**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	

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Oak Grove Restoration Branch  
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Oak Grove, MO 64075  
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Church Phone: (816) 690-6996  
Watch most of our services by going to  
our church website! (Click on "Video")

**Zion's Path**



## Zion's League & Zioneers Activities — by Valerie Lidberg

The Zion's League and Zioneers participated in a fun ice-skating activity on March 12<sup>th</sup>. First, we went to Pizza Street in Independence to have lunch, and then on to the Community Ice Rink at the Events Center. Seven of the youth were able to join us for this event. Most everyone fell at least once with the exception of the Postlethwaits, due to their hockey and ice-skating experience. Everyone had a good time and said they would do it again.



On April 15<sup>th</sup> we had a “cooking challenge” at the church. We had two rounds of cooking— a main dish and a dessert. Each round, we randomly divided the youth into four teams of two. For both the main dish and dessert, they were given three ingredients that they were required to use. There was a pantry of other items that they could choose to add to the required ingredients for their creations. They had 40 minutes to make the main dish and 30 minutes to make the desert. The youth really got their creative juices flowing with their dishes. We were glad to have three guest judges (Chris Allen, Mick and Becky Ballantyne) come and watch the cooking, as well as taste test and score the dishes. The individual with the most points at the end of the competition was Blake Kaullen, followed by Nate Lidberg in second place.

We had a short worship as everyone sampled each other's food creations and ate some pizza. The worship was focused on the Parable of the Talents, relating it to the efforts that each one put forth to make a meal that tasted good. The point was made that if they only used the three ingredients as chosen, it wouldn't have been a successful meal. They had to be creative and go find other ingredients to add to it to make a complete meal.

**We had a fun time and look forward to more fun, fellowship and worship experiences in the future. Be watchful for announcements about Zion's League and Zioneers in the bulletin and encourage all 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders to join us next time!**



**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**

# *He Only is My Rock*

Psalm 62:6-8

CMRB Summer Camps and Reunion

**Reunion:** June 4th-11th

*Directed by Bob & Sheila Schrunk*

**Older Youth** (College-age & unmarried): May 22nd—28th

*Directed by Brian & Monica Twombly*

**Senior High** (10th-12th grade): June 12th-18th

*Directed by Mark & Jamie Bendorf and Jared & Crystal Lind*

**Junior High** (7th-9th grade): June 19th—25th

*Directed by Jeff & Christy Schrunk*

**Junior** (4th-6th grade): June 26th-30th

*Directed by Nicole Capps*

**Register at [odessahills.com/summercamps](http://odessahills.com/summercamps)**

Choose your camp  
based on the grade  
you will be entering  
in the fall.



## WORKSHEET

Would you like to attend a summer camp at Odessa Hills Campground? Here's a worksheet you can use for planning your summer! (There's also a link on our OGRB.org website on the Resources page.)

Which camp am I eligible to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to invite the following friends: \_\_\_\_\_

(Special Note: Contact your Pastor or Branch Treasurer  
if you or your invited friends need financial help in order to participate.)



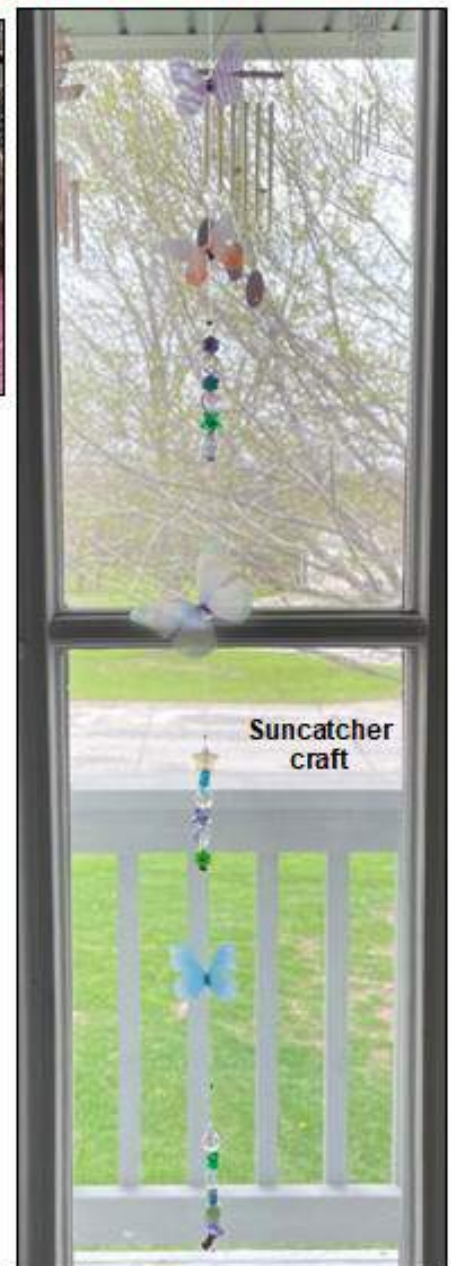
## Women's Department Sponsored Event: "Invite a Friend"

On Saturday, April 23, the Women's Department held an "Invite a Friend" event so that members could share what we believe with non-members that were invited to the event.

After Tammy Griffin played a piano prelude and we sang some hymns, Lisa Postlethwait began the morning with a devotion and a reading of "What We Believe - An Epitome of Faith and Doctrine." (These 12 statements can be found on our OGRB website as well as in the Church Member's Manual.)

April Smith shared her testimony of learning about and joining the church, and Lyle Smith shared reasons why he chooses to remain a member of the church. Then a testimony was read that was written by Susan Booth (who was unable to attend), explaining why she, too, continues to choose to be a member of this church. Following the presentation, food was served and a craft was available, and those present enjoyed a time of fellowship.

**Please make sure to watch the presentation (and share with others as you feel led) by going to our OGRB website; click on "Videos" and choose the "April 23rd Women's Meeting."**





## Women's Department Book Club

On Thursday, April 7th, 6:30pm, we had a delicious supper of baked potato and toppings, salad, and cheesecake bites. That was followed by a discussion of the book Emma Smith: The Elect Lady. We enjoyed many historical insights, presented by Synthia DeBarthe. She also distributed a detailed handout which included extensive information about Joseph and Emma's family, plus an ordered list of many hymns found in the blue hymnal—written by members of the Smith family: (Look them up!)

Unmoved by Fear  
A Calm and Gentle Quiet  
Lord, Let Thy Blessings Rest in Peace  
Brethren Breathe One Fervent Prayer  
Worldly Cares a Moment Leave Us  
Let Us Pray For One Another  
Like the Brook to the Valley  
Zion's Victory Song  
The Morning Light is Breaking  
America  
Marriage  
The Child of Galilee  
Redeemer of Israel  
The Saints Shall Wear Robes  
Organize My Church & Kingdom

You May Sing of the Beauty  
Gathered Where the Waters Glide  
We Take These Children in Our Arms  
One Day When Fell the Spirit's Whisper  
Come, O Come Sweet Comforter  
Let Us Shake Off the Coals  
We Come With Joy the Truth to Teach You  
Tenderly, Tenderly, Lead Thou Me On  
There's An Old, Old Path  
Send Forth the Sowers  
Prayer  
Onward to Zion  
What a Strong and Happy People  
Fulfillment

If you go to our church website, [www.ogrb.org](http://www.ogrb.org),  
you'll find the following ongoing updates on the Women's page:

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* Saturday, April 30 - Restoration Women's Council Spring Gathering - at Living Hope Restoration Branch - "His Blessings Abound"
- \* Thursday, May 5 - Women's Meeting - "The Spiritual Gift of Hospitality" - class led by Jill Etter - with dinner
- \* No June meeting due to CMRB Reunion
- \* Thursday, July 7 - Women's Meeting - "Genealogy Basics" - class led by Cindy Green
- \* Saturday, August 13 - Father/Son Breakfast Roll-Off
- \* Saturday, September 17 - Women's Fall Picnic