

WHO WE WILL BE IN 2023

State of the Church Address

January 8, 2023

Pastor Brian

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. ⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

(Acts 2:41–47, NLT)

1. The church is a **FAMILY** of faith.

*“On that day about three thousand **believed** his message and were **baptized**.” (Acts 2:41, CEV)*

*“Although I hope I can come to you soon, I am writing these things to you now. Then, even if I am delayed, you will know how to live in **the family of God. That family is the church** of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:14–15, NCV)*

*“Now you are no longer strangers to God...but **you are members of God's very own family**...and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian.” (Ephesians 2:19, The Living Bible)*

*Because the church is God's answer to my deepest needs,
I commit to be an active part of the Oak Ridge family!*

2. The church is a group that **GATHERS**.

*“A deep sense of **awe** came over them all...They **worshiped together**...” (Acts 2:43,46, NLT)*

*“Love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**.” (Mark 12:30, CSB)*

God wants me to love Him...

- **PASSIONATELY.**
- **SINCERELY.**
- **THOUGHTFULLY.**

- **INTENTIONALLY.**

“You have six days when you can do your work, but **the seventh day of each week is holy** because it belongs to me. No matter where you live, you must rest on the Sabbath and **come together for worship**. This law will never change.” (Leviticus 23:3, CEV)

*Because worship refreshes my soul and honors God,
I commit to worship weekly with my church family!*

3. The church is a fellowship of followers that are GROWING together.

“They spent their time **learning from the apostles**, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together.” (Acts 2:42, CEV)

“Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. **Grow to maturity**. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11, NLT)

*Because I want to become all that God saved me to be,
I commit to run the bases and practice the spiritual habits of maturity!*

4. The church is a community that CARES.

“And all the believers met together in one place and **shared everything they had**. They sold their property and possessions and **shared the money with those in need**.” (Acts 2:44–45, NLT)

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. **Use them well to serve one another**.” (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)

*Because I have been so richly blessed,
I commit to bless others using my time, talent, and treasure!*

5. The church is a movement that’s MULTIPLYING.

“And each day **the Lord added** to their fellowship those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47b, NLT)

Jesus: “And I tell you...**I will build My church**, and the gates of hell shall not [hold out against it].” (Matthew 16:18, ANT)

*Because I want others to experience God’s amazing grace,
I commit to help build His church by doing all I can to reach as many as I can for as long as I can!*

**ACTION STEP
I’M IN!**