

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Web: oakstone.org | **Facebook:** /oakstonecommunitychurch

OAKSTONE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Welcome to OakStone Community Church

September 14, 2025

Message: "...comforted by God." (continued)

Passage: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 | **Speaker:** Pastor Bill Wolter

Upcoming Events & News

Save the Date - Women's Christmas Brunch: December 13th

The OCC Women's ministry Christmas brunch will be held on December 13th. Mark your calendars, more details to follow. Questions? Contact Janet Wolter at (951) 970-2208 or janetwolter51@gmail.com.

Family Fellowship & Feast - October 5th

Immediately following our service, we will be having our monthly Family Feast and Fellowship. If you are able, please bring a dish to share and either way please stay and enjoy the fellowship.

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study – 9-10 AM

We will be meeting at Janet's home. We are going through Ruth. If you would like to attend or need more information please contact Janet Wolter at (951) 970-2208 or janetwolter51@gmail.com.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study – 6:30-7:30 PM

We are continuing our study in the Book of Nehemiah. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bill at (951) 970-2262.

Birth Choice Baby Supplies

Please remember to pick up some supplies for Birth Choice as you are out and about today. Thank you for being His hands and feet to those who have babies.

Ministry to Pray for This Month – Mission Aviation Fellowship

Will and Julie White have served with Mission Aviation Fellowship since 1996. Will has used his pilot and mechanic skills to provide transportation and support for missionaries in Suriname and Haiti, taking on roles such as flight scheduler, and disaster relief coordinator, and Chief Pilot.

Please remember to pray for the ministries & missionaries that OCC supports on a monthly basis:

Birth Choice of Temecula; Colina de Luz: Jim Drake; Global Recordings Network; Mercy Projects: Pastor Jeff & Paula Thompson; MAF Missionaries: John & JoAnn Munsell; Calvary Chapel Bacolod: Pastor Joe & Billie Rosmarino; MAF Missionaries: Will & Julie White; Lori & Pastor Mike: Ministering in Southeast Asia

Important Information

PLEASE there is no food or drink, except water with a lid, allowed in the sanctuary. We thank you for your cooperation.

Our **FOOD PANTRY** is available for those who need it.

An **AUDIO LISTENING DEVICE** is available for those who need assistance in hearing the message. Inquire at the sound booth.

INTERNET ACCESS is available: go to "occ", the password is "oakstone".

The Heart of a Shepherd

Where was God?

This morning, as you read these words, it's been twenty years (25 years now) and a few hours since the world was shaken by the sight of an airliner striking the north tower of the world trade center. We had only begun to process what happened when seventeen minutes later another shock. United flight 175 was flown into the South tower building. As people were seen leaping to their death from the burning buildings, many were asking, how could this happen? Where was God?

Allow me to offer some thoughts for the one's asking, "where was God"? We may never know how many turned to Him in their final seconds of life and although there are many questions. The word of God does offer some answers. For the ones who had received Jesus Christ, whether years before this moment, or in the inferno, they each had a promise from God.

"I will never leave you nor forsake you" Hebrews 13:5. That may be hard for us to imagine in these moments, but again we are reminded that God promised to be with us through our journey whether in times of joy or through the valley of the shadow of death. As the psalmist wrote, ***"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" Psalm 23:4.*** For the believer, a moment of terror became an eternity of unspeakable joy. His holy word says, ***"He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over" Psalm 23:3, 5.***

Where was God on September 11, 2000? Just as He was 1980 years ago, with the thief on the cross, He was in the north tower at 8:46 am. And He was there in the South tower at 9:03 am.

Just a note: I received the following message on Facebook from a dear friend the very morning I began writing this devotion. It is a present-day illustration of God being ever present in His believers. It reads:

"Thank you, dear Jesus, for never leaving me. You were there through the darkest hours of my battle with Covid Pneumonia. Your word is sure, and your love is unfathomable. So many simple lessons learned in the darkness. Thank you for whispers of hope."

Blessings,

Pastor Michael
(reprint from 2021)

Tithes & Offerings

As you are led, place these in the designated box in the back.