



# LIVE OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH YEARBOOK 2024-25

*“They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of His splendor.”*

Isaiah 61:3



**JAMES  
ARMSTRONG**  
*Lead Pastor*

As we reflect on another season of ministry, we are reminded that our story is not about programs, numbers, or events, but about Jesus, the hero of our faith.

He is the one who calls us to serve, empowers us to love, and transforms lives through His grace.

As we celebrate the work God has done in and through our church over the last couple of years, let us remember the words of Hebrews 12:2: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

With Jesus at the center, we continue our journey, trusting in His power to lead us forward. May the Lord be glorified as we honor our legacy and forge into the future.

**JESUS IS THE HERO OF OUR STORY.**

For the Kingdom,  
– James



# LIVE OAKS

COMMUNITY CHURCH

## OUR VALUES AND MISSION

### VALUES

**We Gather...**in worship & walk in community.  
**We Grow...**as disciples and in the truth of God's Word.  
**We Give...**in talent, time, and resources.  
**We Go...**to share the good news and love others.

### MISSION

**To equip and encourage people to  
finish well for the glory of God.**

**Our hope is to reach and unleash people  
in, around, and beyond The Villages with  
the transforming message of Jesus Christ.**



## ONE CHURCH – THREE CAMPUSES

### WOODRIDGE CAMPUS/THE GROVE

### SOUTHERN OAKS CAMPUS

### FAITH CAMPUS

We opened our **WOODRIDGE CAMPUS** (behind the Walmart on 466) in 2017 and moved into our 750-seat Worship Center on Christmas Eve, 2021. **THE GROVE** at Woodridge is an outdoor venue featuring an open-air stage with a 26' x 14' HD Jumbotron LED screen and sound system. People can enjoy many of our outdoor events there, as well as worship services broadcast on the big screen, from their cars, golf carts, and lawn chairs.

The ongoing expansion of The Villages prompted us to launch our **SOUTHERN OAKS CAMPUS** in fall 2019. Now located at Buena Vista Boulevard and Highway 44 near Brownwood Town Square, the campus has undergone significant improvements throughout the past couple of years.

In October 2024, after their pastor's departure, **FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH** in Leesburg invited Live Oaks to provide preaching support during their transition. In partnership with our EFCA district, prayerful discussions began about becoming one church family. After months of meetings, shared ministry, and Spirit-led discernment, Faith voted unanimously on July 27, 2025, to become our third Live Oaks campus – an affirmation our elders joyfully confirmed.



# A SEASON OF TRANSITIONS

## PASTOR CHRIS

After 45 years of dedicated ministry, LOCC founding Pastor Chris Holck moves into a season of semi-retirement as Pastor Emeritus.

## PASTOR JAMES

James Armstrong continues to serve Live Oaks Community Church, transitioning from our Executive and Teaching Pastor to our Lead Pastor on April 7, 2024.

## PASTOR SAM

A sad loss for our family as we say goodbye to our dear Sam Benson, who went to be with the Lord on July 4, 2024. We miss you brother.

## PASTOR LEE

Lee Solomon comes out of retirement to fill the Campus Pastor role at Southern Oaks during this critical time. Thanks for this interim season with us.

## PASTOR PAUL

Paul Castillo brings 28 years of ministry, military, and pastoral care leadership to his role as our new Southern Oaks Campus Pastor, beginning July 2025.



# GATHER

**“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.”**

**Acts 2:46-47a**

# WORSHIP THE KING



## AVERAGE WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

**1,700 in 2024**  
**1,817 in 2025**



## EASTER WEEKEND ATTENDANCE:

|                       | <u>2024</u>  | <u>2025</u>  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Woodridge:</b>     | <b>2,503</b> | <b>2,859</b> |
| <b>Southern Oaks:</b> | <b>835</b>   | <b>818</b>   |



## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE ATTENDANCE:

**1,758 in 2024**  
**2,070 in 2025**



# DISCOVERY CLASSES

Offered four times throughout 2024, Discovery Class welcomed both new and long-term attenders who wanted to learn more about Live Oaks. Each 7-week series examined the history, beliefs, and values of LOCC, and served as the first step for anyone choosing to pursue membership.

“This past Thursday the Spirit of God came over me. I think I was born again! I now have a testimony! I have a testimony!” – Discovery Class participant

**New Members: 107 in '24; 103 in '25**

**Total Membership in 2024: 914**

**Total Membership in 2025: 1,004**

# Introducing: The LOCC Pathway

Launched in 2025, the LOCC Pathway builds on and expands our former Discovery Classes, creating a clearer and more meaningful way for people to connect, grow, and discover their place in the life of our church. The Pathway is a simple, intentional journey designed to help people move from visiting to belonging, and from belonging to growing and serving. Along the way, participants learn about the heart and mission of our church, discover how God has uniquely gifted them, build relationships within the church family, and find meaningful ways to live out their faith. The LOCC Pathway unfolds through four steps – Explore, Discover, Compass, and Experience – each designed to help people progress along their journey at Live Oaks and become more deeply connected to the life and mission of our church.

## The LOCC Pathway



# ENCORE

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Encore Small Groups represent each participant's "Florida Family" as they gather each week to discuss and apply the previous weekend's sermon, pray together, serve together, support one another, and enjoy great fellowship.



75 groups  
1,031 participants

"I committed my life to Christ in 1978, but I have never felt like I belonged to a body of believers like I do at Live Oaks. The call to serve and love people not only in church but in my neighborhood is powerful. Since I am a disciple, I desire to disciple others. How I love it – all praise to God!" – Linda Birley

# A Palpable Joy

Nancy McMorran's professional life followed what she calls a "convoluted path." After training as an ICU and ER nurse, she went on to serve in several high-level healthcare-related capacities, earning a degree in managed healthcare from the University of Minnesota and attending the Columbia School of Business Executive Education along the way.

Yet Nancy says the most important turning point in her life happened in a quiet hotel room during a business trip. "Growing up, I believed who Jesus was, but didn't know a personal relationship was possible," she recalls. That night, while watching a sermon by John Hagee on television, she heard the gospel in a new way. Right there, she asked for Jesus' forgiveness and surrendered her life to Him. "Power and position didn't matter anymore," she says. "I felt a peace I had never known."

In 2018, God opened the door for Nancy and her husband Scott to move to The Villages, where Nancy soon found a church home at Live Oaks. After attending services, she joined an Encore Group, where her "Florida family" helped her grow in prayer, knowledge of Scripture, and daily Christian living. "They modeled what it means to listen to the Holy Spirit and follow His leading," she says.

That community became especially meaningful when Scott, her husband of 43 years, passed away in 2022. The Encore Group and LOCC's Widows Connect ministry surrounded Nancy with prayer, encouragement, and what she calls "palpable joy and caring."

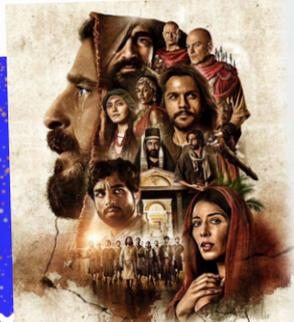
Today, Nancy pours that same love into others – co-leading her Encore Group, serving on the First Response Team, helping facilitate GriefShare's "Loss of a Spouse," volunteering with outreach ministries, and serving on mission teams. No more "convoluted path" for Nancy – today, her journey centers on a simple calling: to invest her gifts, skills, and experience serving Jesus wherever she is needed.



# SPECIAL EVENTS



▶▶▶▶▶  
**SOUNDS OF SOUL  
CONCERT**  
APRIL 6 6:30 P.M.



**THE CHOSEN**  
SEASON 4  
EPISODES 1-8  
5:30 PM  
OCTOBER 11 & 18 WOODRIDGE CAMPUS  
NOVEMBER 1, 8 & 15 LIVEOAKSCHURCH.ORG



**Gold City  
Christmas Concert**



Live Oaks Community Church is hosting the:  
**UGANDA Imani Milele Choir Concert**  
Sept 27 2025 WOODRIDGE CAMPUS 4:30PM  
One Night. Three Campuses. One Voice of Praise.



For Everyone  
**Valentine's Day Concert** \$25  
FEATURING Saxophonist Eirinn Abu  
February 14th, 2025  
HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES at 6 PM  
CONCERT at 7 PM  
@ Live Oaks Community Church | Woodridge Campus



LIVE OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH  
**Festival of Hymns**  
19 January 2025 - 4:30 PM  
Woodridge Worship Center  
No Cost to attend  
Go to [liveoakschurch.org/events](https://liveoakschurch.org/events) or the LOCC App for details



**Hope FOR AMERICA**  
Saluting Our Veterans  
★ November 14 ★  
with Special Guest Maj General James Mukoyama  
Event Begins at 4:00 PM and 6:15 PM  
Woodridge Campus  
Get your free tickets at:  
**LIVEOAKSCHURCH.ORG**



LIVE OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH PRESENTS  
**MOVIE NIGHTS** \$25 for all 3 tickets  
THE CHOSEN SEASON 5  
FRIDAY | MARCH 28TH | 4:30PM  
FRIDAY | APRIL 4TH | 4:30PM  
FRIDAY | APRIL 11TH | 4:30PM  
Hosted at the Epic Theaters in Lake Sumter Square  
Register on our website or on the app  
Call the church Information Desk for help



**ONE NATION UNDER GOD**  
"BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD"  
--PSALM 33:12  
A SPECIAL MUSICAL TRIBUTE  
JULY 4TH, FRIDAY at 4:30PM  
Woodridge Campus  
Live Oaks Community Church  
[liveoakschurch.org](https://liveoakschurch.org)



# BAPTISMS!



7 on March 24, 2024  
4 on August 25, 2024  
8 on April 13, 2025  
4 on May 17, 2025  
2 on October 25, 2025





Each year from 2020 to 2024, LOCC presented “Come to the Light,” a Christmas light and sound experience at The Grove, our outdoor venue on the Woodridge Campus. Attendees from all over the region saw and heard the Nativity story creatively displayed on our jumbotron and narrated by Christian songwriter and recording artist Steve Green; Christmas music synchronized to a light show that animated the oaks, palms, and other special features at The Grove; and a “Silent Night” finale bathed in candlelight presented by the Live Oaks Community Church Worship Choir.

Over the course of 15 December nights in 2024, more than 3,700 guests were treated to this unforgettable, Gospel-centered evening made possible by a tireless tech crew and an average of 35 volunteers nightly.

In December 2025, "The Gift of Christmas" became LOCC's new Christmas outreach. This original musical experience blended beloved Christmas songs with a touching story of a grandfather and grandson discovering the true meaning of Christmas. Through music, drama, and storytelling, the production invited guests to reflect on the hope, love, and redemption found in the birth of Jesus.

Presented over three evenings at the Woodridge Campus, the event featured two performances each night and welcomed a total of nearly 4,000 guests from the church and surrounding community. Following each performance, attendees gathered outdoors at The Grove for a festive Christmas Market with lights, music, local vendors, food trucks, and a bonfire.

After five meaningful years of "Come to the Light," church leaders sensed it was time for something fresh. "The Gift of Christmas" provided a new way to share the timeless story of Christ's birth while creating an inviting outreach for families, friends, and neighbors.



Live Oaks Community Church  
Presents

# Experience The GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT  
THREE NIGHTS ONLY - DECEMBER 16-18 AT 4:30 & 6:15PM

*Begin the Night with*

A heartwarming experience with lights, music, and video that brings the story of Christmas to life through the eyes of a grandfather and his grandson—reminding us all of the hope, joy, and love that still shine today.

*Followed by*

## The Christmas Market

You'll find sparkling Christmas lights, live music, 40 local vendors with unique and handmade gifts, food trucks, and a cozy bonfire where you can enjoy a Christmas night with family

Free Event 12070 CR 103, OXFORD, FL 34484 (BEHIND WALMART® ON 466) 3 Nights Only

**GET YOUR TICKETS AT LIVEOAKSCHURCH.ORG**



# SPECIAL PROFILE: MARY AND JERRY JUDGE



“The steps of a man are  
established by the Lord, And  
He delights in his way.”

Psalm 37:23

**God ordered the steps of Jerry Judge’s life so that he’d be wearing a certain hat at a certain time in a certain place, and his life has never been the same since.**

Navy veteran Jerry Judge and wife Mary Anne moved to The Villages from their lake home in Missouri in 2022. They first visited LOCC when they attended the Veteran's Day celebration the following year. But the crowd was so big they had to sit in an overflow space. Then it happened. "A staff member noticed my military hat and told us someone in the sanctuary wanted to give up their seats to a veteran couple," Jerry recounts. "I was amazed that anyone would do that." Visiting LOCC again the following Sunday, the Judges were invited to join a team forming to serve a few days with OM Ships in Florence, South Carolina. They said "yes." On the first morning in Florence, team members shared about their walks with Jesus. "Listening to the power and conviction in those stories," Jerry recalls, "I felt the Holy Spirit showing me my life's purpose – to honor and praise God above all else. My life was changed forever." Today, the Judges enjoy their Encore Group, serve with OM Ships and other ministries, and spend time with their two grown children and four grandchildren as often as possible. "Most people come to The Villages for the lifestyle or weather," Jerry says. "I believe the good Lord brought me here to meet and learn about Him through Live Oaks."



GROW

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”

Acts 2:42a



# Sermon Series 2024

- “Everything I Need to Know, I Learned in Sunday School”
- “Unsinkable Faith: The Anchor of Our Hope” (1 Peter)
- “The Fruit of a Spirit-filled Life” (Galatians 5:22-23)
- “21 Days of Prayer” (New Testament passages)
- “The Power of Oneness” (Unity in the Body of Christ)
- “Thankful Life” (Old/ New Testament on Gratitude)
- “Messiah, the Coming Savior” (Fulfilled Prophecies)

# Sermon Series 2025

- The Book of Ecclesiastes
- “Empowered: Unleashing Your God-given Gifts”
- “One Nation Under God” (Passages from Daniel & Psalms)
- The Book of Daniel
- “I Am: The Defining Claims of Jesus” (Passages from John)
- “Born for This” (Passages from Isaiah, Matthew, and John)

# Guest Speakers 2024

- **Bob Utley, April 6-7**

“Life in the Spirit” (Ephesians 4, 5, 6)

- **Bob Utley, September 21-22**

“An Authentic Prayer Life” (John 17)

- **Greg Ogden, October 26-27**

“Doing the Lord’s Work in the Lord’s Way”



# Guest Speakers 2025

- **Richard Blackaby, February 7 - 9**

“Experiencing God Through the Storms”

“The Seasons of God”

- **Don Whitney, March 21 - 23**

“Pray Through the Bible” Seminar

“Discipline Yourself for the Purpose of Godliness”

“If God Is for Us, Who Can Be Against Us?”





# 2024 SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

- **Bible Interpretation Seminar** with Bob Utley, April 5
- **Passover Seder**, April 8-9
- **“Stop the Trafficking”** Conference with Jeanne Allert, April 17
- **“Compassionate Faith: Serving Together to Change the World”** with General André Cox of the Salvation Army
- Prayer Seminar with Bob Utley, September 21
- Discipleship Weekend with Greg Ogden, October 26



# 2025 SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES



- **“Experiencing God Through the Storms”** w/ Richard Blackaby, February 7
- **“A Biblical Guide to Spiritual Warfare”** w/ Pastor James, February 26
- **“Pray Through the Bible”** Seminar w/ Don Whitney, March 22



# '24 - '25 DISCIPLESHIP STUDIES

## Winter Bible Studies

Coed: 5 in '24; 5 in '25

Women's: 5 in '24; 4 in '25

Men's: 2 in '24; 2 in '25

## Spring Bible Studies

Coed: 3 in '24; 5 in '25

Women's: 2 in '24; 3 in '25

Men's: 3 in '24; 2 in '25

## Summer Bible Studies

Coed: 2 in '24; 1 in '25

Women's: 2 in '25

## Fall Bible Studies

Coed: 5 in '24; 6 in '25

Women's: 6 in '24; 5 in '25

Men's: 1 in '24; 2 in '25

## Bonus Bible Studies

LOCC served as a host site for Bible Study Fellowship and Community Bible Study offerings.

## **DISCIPLESHIP ADVENTURES WITH PASTOR JAMES**

- Ark & Creation Discipleship Adventure, September 8-14, 2024
- Ark & Creation Discipleship Adventure, April 6-12, 2025
- Paul's Missionary Journey, October 1-14, 2025
- Asia on Mission, October 30 - November 10, 2025

# Men's Ministry "Gathering of Champions"

With every men's breakfast, Men's Day event, service project, and other gathering of men, we pursue spiritual growth as we cheer each other on to live our lives with the power of purpose in Jesus Christ.



- **"Unstoppable!"** Breakfast - January 27, 2024
- **"Winning the War in Your Mind"** with Dr. Clifford Ashe III - February 23, 2024
- **"Show Me the Father"** Men's Movie Night - September 18, 2025
- **"David's Mighty Men"** Weekly Gathering - launched September 25, 2025
- **"Men's Breakfast"** Quarterly Gathering - launched November 7, 2025

*"Words cannot express the closeness, love, and gratitude I'm feeling right now. I feel the presence of God again. I felt so hopeless. When the four of us sat together at the men's breakfast, you really showed the true compassion and love of God to someone you did not know. I was at my lowest point in my adult life when I met the three of you - I couldn't see a way out of the darkness. Thank you all for being the hands and feet of Jesus to me."*



# Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry of LOCC plans and hosts a variety of women's outreaches, events, and service projects throughout the year, not only for fun and fellowship, but also for inspiration and spiritual growth.

## Events

- **“Resilience”** Miriam Neff
- **“The Hike of Your Life”** Jackie Redmond
- **“Scoops and Smiles”** Ice Cream Social/ Bible Verse Bingo
- **“Being a Woman of Influence”** Carol Kent
- **“Shameless”** Beth Moore
- **“Purse Scavenger Hunt”**
- **“You Were Made for a Purpose on Purpose”** Lisa Allen
- **“On Butterfly Wings”** Steven Barr
- **“One Another Project”**
- **“Matinee with a Message”**
- **“Scripture Card-Making”**
- **“Going Beyond”** Priscilla Shirer
- **“Prepare Him Room”** Kelly Minter

# Special Profile: Carol Robinson



**Carol Robinson's desire to grow in the Lord is insatiable. It's part of why she loves Live Oaks. But it hasn't always been that way.**

*"...But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." - 2 Peter 3:18*

Raised Catholic, Carol considered herself a Christian. “But I had no personal relationship with the Lord,” she says, and she began to feel an “emptiness stirring in my soul.” Then Carol’s daughter in Texas sent her a daily devotional, suggesting that they read and discuss it together remotely. “That was the beginning of many devotionals, opening the Bible for the first time in my life, and reading God’s truth.” Seeking a Bible-based church, Carol and husband Roger decided to attend the Easter service at LOCC’s Southern Oaks Campus. “We immediately felt the warmth and acceptance at LOCC,” she remembers. “Since then, my involvement at LOCC has kept my quest for knowing Jesus on fire.” Carol received Christ in 2022 and was baptized by Pastor Chris Holck in 2023. Today, she enjoys serving in Women’s Ministry and on the Communion Team at Southern Oaks. “But I am certainly a work in progress,” she says, “clay in my Master’s hands.” After her mother died several years ago, Carol found an old index card in her mother’s bedside table. On it, in her mother’s hand, were verses from Psalm 25 – a fitting and prophetic prayer for Carol today:

“Today I lift my soul to You, O God; I trust in You and I shall not be ashamed. Direct me in Your truth and teach me, for You are my God and my Savior, and I look to You all the day long.”

# PRAYER MINISTRIES

LOCC prayer warriors gather to pray for requests submitted via weekend worship service registration cards, the LOCC website, the LOCC phone app, or requests communicated directly to the pastors or staff; our in-service prayer teams stand ready for prayer at the conclusion of worship services; and LOCC's **Power of Prayer** ministry gathers weekly to pray for our families, church, community, nation, and world. We also participate in such special prayer gatherings as **National Day of Prayer, Sanctity of Life**, and other opportunities as determined by the church community.



# CARE/SUPPORT MINISTRIES

## CAREGIVERS SUPPORT:

LOCC's Caregiver Support Group offers support to those who tend to the needs of someone at home who requires constant care.

Caregiving for a loved one with cognitive and/or physical decline is among the most selfless acts of love that one person can give another, but the challenges can be difficult, evoking feelings of fear, frustration, loneliness, guilt, and even physical illness and extreme fatigue.

## GRIEFSHARE:

GriefShare's 13-week seminar and support group – offered several times a year – provides help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. The environment is safe and welcoming, where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Participants receive valuable guidance and tips that lead to relief, comfort, and peace of mind. GriefShare also offers 2-hour seminars on "Loss of a Spouse" and "Surviving the Holidays."

# CARE/ SUPPORT MINISTRIES

## SINGLES

Among the LOCC family are more than 300 single men and women. Some have never married, while others have gone through the grief of death or divorce. But all need the fellowship that this ministry offers, doing missions projects together, enjoying monthly activity nights, and seeking other ways to connect and mutually encourage one another.

## WIDOWS CONNECT:

Widows Connect offers God-centered encouragement, guidance, and friendships at all stages of widowhood as mandated in James 1:27 and other scriptures – a place to belong, prosper, and develop as a woman, not just a widow.

Participants find practical information, creative outlets, times to have fun, opportunities to serve, and biblically based opportunities to learn.

# CARE/ SUPPORT MINISTRIES

## WIDOWERS:

LOCC's Widowers Support Group is a gathering of men who are going through the grief that follows the death of their beloved wives. Each monthly gathering focuses on a practical and relevant widower-specific topic led by Pastor Bob Page, who is personally acquainted with this aspect of grief.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY:

Our Stephen Ministers at Live Oaks Community Church are providing compassionate, one-on-one, Christ-centered care to those in our congregation and community facing life's challenges, coming alongside them to listen, care, encourage, support, and remind them of Christ's presence in their lives.

# GIVE

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- TIME
- TALENT
- RESOURCES

“All the believers were together and had everything in common.

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

Acts 2:44-45



# Filler Factory



“Filler Factory” is LOCC’s labor of love for Operation Christmas Child, a major ministry of Samaritan’s Purse. Every Tuesday morning throughout most of the year, our Southern Oaks Campus becomes a “Santa’s Workshop” of sorts, with hundreds of volunteers making and preparing gifts to fill shoebox gifts of love destined for needy children around the world.

- Filler Factory total in 2024: 22,218 shoeboxes; the total in '25 was 22,480.
- Shoeboxes from LOCC individuals and those built online: 4,311 in '24; 4,002 in '25
- Grand totals: 26,529 in '24 and 26,482 in '25

# Feed my Starving Children



Feed My Starving Children is a Christian nonprofit organization called to feed God's starving children who are hungry in body and spirit. Determined to reach everyone until ALL are fed, Feed My Starving Children endeavors to reach the hard-to-reach people and places. "They will be found, and they will be fed!"



Holding MobilePacks once a year since 2018, and twice in '25, LOCC packed its 2 millionth meal on January 15, 2025.

# LOCC Serve Teams

## Care

- Care Center Worship Services
- Care Giver Support
- Meals
- Grill Team
- Worship Center Prayer
- Funeral Hospitality
- Widows
- Honey Do
- Grove Shepherd Team

## Facilities and Weekend Readiness

- Bulletin Stuffing
- Worship Center Restock
- Set Up and Tear Down
- Counting (Offering)
- Landscape and Weeding
- Communion Prep/Cleanup
- Baptism Prep
- Connections Cards

## Media

- SNAP Team (Photographers)
- Videographers
- Social Media

## Host Teams

- Awareness
- First Responders
- Greeters
- Information Center
- Parking
- Percolators
- Smile Team
- Ushers
- Welcome Team
- Ambassadors
- App/Website Help

## Tech

- LED Wall Operator
- Camera Switcher
- Graphics Operator
- Lighting Operator
- Camera Operator

## Worship

- Worship Teams
- Choir
- Music Support
- Ensembles

# SERVE



“Once I learned that my salvation was by God’s grace, not works, my gift of service has brought me so much greater joy. Through serving, I have met so many wonderful friends. These friendships have deepened my faith daily as I walk beside these special people.” – Gayle Maynard, Southern Oaks Campus



# TEAMS

# Community Serve Day

Each May nearly 200 servant-hearted members of the LOCC family don orange “The church has left the building” t-shirts to participate in LOCC’s “Community Serve Day.” Armed with work gloves, paint brushes, rakes, power washers, and other assorted tools and supplies, volunteers descend on various locations in and around The Villages to clean up, spruce up, fix up, and otherwise lend a hand as they tackle a to-do list organized by LOCC’s Community Serve Team.

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Among those who’ve benefitted the last couple of years are Centsible Furnishings; Etalia Village; Hands of Mercy Everywhere; Lazarus Free Medical Clinic; LOVE INC; Trinity Springs Senior Living Community; Twice Blessed Clothing Ministry; Wildwood Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; and Wildwood Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

# SPECIAL PROFILE: NANCY PRENTISS



“ God was with me the whole time, and I will never turn away again, because He pursued me. ”



“Fully Rely On God”

Most of her friends know Nancy Prentiss as “The Frog Lady.” She gives nearly everyone she meets a silver frog charm from the ready supply in her pocket, opening the door to talk about Jesus. She spells it out:

### **“Fully Rely On God”**

And life’s challenges have taught Nancy to do just that. At age 14, she lost her beloved older sister in a plane crash, initiating a series of family tragedies and setbacks that seemed relentless. “If I hadn’t had God through all of that, I don’t know how I could have done it,” she remembers. Undaunted, Nancy taught third grade for 30 years, then embarked on a second career for 25 years as an HOA manager. Moving to The Villages from Tucson, Arizona, in 2021, Nancy visited LOCC on the recommendation of a woman she met at her chiropractor’s office. “When I first walked into Live Oaks, I felt like I’d come home,” she recalls. Today, Nancy reaches out to other widows in LOCC’s Widows Connect group, and serves every Thursday assembling the weekend worship bulletins. She also enjoys visiting her sister, two sons and daughters-in-law, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild every chance she gets. Her boundless energy, merry eyes, and keen wit belie the trials God has helped her endure. “It’s all about spreading God’s love,” she says. “I do it only for Him.”

# Special Benefit Concerts



Proceeds from our “Seeds of Hope Benefit Concerts” netted free-will offerings of \$3,768 in March 2024 and \$3,700 in March 2025 for the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry.



The “Best Summer Ever” golf fundraisers and “Sounds of Soul” concerts in 2024 and 2025 sent Urban Impact Ministries back to New Orleans with a 2-year total of nearly \$50,000 to help meet Urban Impact’s summer ministry needs.



Attendees of the “Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Concert” donated a total of \$47,281 to be divided equally between Samaritan's Purse and EFCA Disaster Relief to help with ongoing hurricane relief efforts.

# LOCAL OUTREACHES

## CARE CENTER MINISTRY

Serves care center residents who may be lonely, forgotten, unvisited, spiritually hungry, uncertain of their eternity, unable to attend church, ill, and dealing with myriad other issues.

Care Center Ministry volunteers bring relationship, connection, emotional and spiritual support, God's love, and their own love to these aging friends.

## COMMUNITY BLESSING TEAM

Seeks ways to serve the overlooked, underserved, and underappreciated people who live and work in and around The Villages.

The team also partners with Prison Ministry, and serves area first responders. It's about being the hands and feet of Jesus for the communities we serve.

## LIFT DISABILITY NETWORK

A non-profit, faith-based organization that offers camping, monthly events, and family services to disability families. Every year LOCC volunteers help facilitate the ministry's summertime Breakaway Camp, a family retreat providing relaxation, recreation, and spiritual renewal for people with disabilities and their families.

# LOCAL OUTREACHES

## LOVE INC (IN THE NAME OF CHRIST)

A volunteer-based ministry that mobilizes local churches, volunteers, and community organizations to respond to needs in the community. Every year LOCC volunteers participate in Love INC's Clothe-A-Kid project, helping to purchase school clothes for kids in need.

## SEEDS OF HOPE

LOCC is a major contributor to Seeds of Hope, conducting monthly food and donation collections to benefit the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and Wildwood Food Pantry. LOCC food donations in 2024 totaled 44,461 pounds and 45,348 pounds in 2025.

## TUTORS FOR KIDS

A nonprofit organization of volunteers in The Villages who respond to school requests for direct classroom tutoring in reading, math, writing, and science, as well as family support and activities that enhance the educational environment leading to scholastic achievement.

## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

Serves more than 25 million people across America - including many here in our community. That means 55+ million meals for the hungry, 10+ million nights of shelter for the homeless, and countless Christmas gifts for children who may otherwise go without.

# REGIONAL & NATIONAL PARTNERS



A long-time ministry partner of LOCC, Urban Impact is committed to meeting the spiritual, physical, and educational needs of Central City in New Orleans and its youth – making disciples of Christ who bring transformation to their families, friends, neighborhood, and city. Executive Director John Gerhardt has preached often at LOCC and the LOCC family has been sending short-term teams to support the ministry of Urban Impact since 2012.



# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

## CAST MEMBER CHURCH

Cast Member Church is a Jesus-centered community focusing exclusively on the Disney cast member culture. This global network of cast members, most of whom have never been part of a church, explores what it means to live a life of faith and trust while working in the world of Mickey Mouse and make-believe. Cast Member Church is connected on six continents with local expressions in Orlando, Anaheim, Paris, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, representing diverse nations, ethnicities, languages, and perspectives – including those skeptical and suspicious of anything religious. The church is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America.

## OM SHIPS

Since its inception in 1970, OM (Operation Mobilization) Ships International has visited more than 480 different ports in 151 countries and territories, and welcomed more than 47 million visitors on board. The ministry's ships visit each port for several weeks and open their gangways to hundreds and sometimes thousands of visitors daily. These floating book fairs offer more than 5,000 titles each, giving many visitors their first opportunity to purchase quality educational and Christian literature. In each port, the ship's crew joins local churches to supply aid, bring hope, and show love to people, whatever their circumstances, culture, or background.



# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

## LOS PINOS NUEVOS (NEW PINES)

Los Pinos Nuevos is LOCC's sister church in Cuba and our partner in Caribbean outreach.

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE DISASTER RELIEF TEAM

This team of LOCC volunteers helps when natural disasters strike, coming alongside storm/disaster victims to bring relief and compassion in Jesus' name.

## SHEPHERDS' SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL

Shepherds' Support International works with skilled teams to help disciple pastors worldwide, multiplying the ministries of international colleagues through spiritual encouragement, practical training, and relational engagement.

## VISION NICARAGUA

Vision Nicaragua exists to enhance love, life, relationships, growth, and potential in local Nicaraguan communities. A small non-profit organization based in Asheville, N.C., Vision Nicaragua has established sponsorship programs to send children to school and provide spiritual support, medical treatment, and financial assistance to families in the 2nd poorest nation of the western hemisphere.

# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

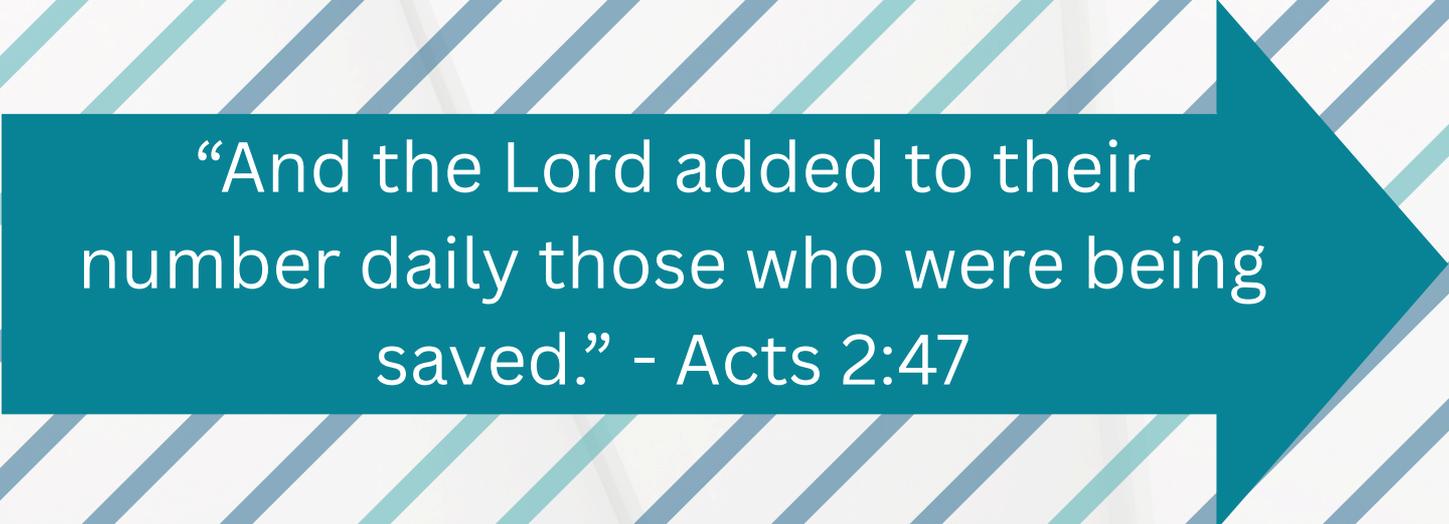
Feed My Starving Children is a Christian nonprofit organization called to feed God's starving children who are hungry in body and spirit. Determined to reach everyone until ALL are fed, Feed My Starving Children endeavors to reach the hard-to-reach people and places. "They will be found, and they will be fed!"

1,750 volunteers descended on the Woodridge campus to pack a total of 404,352 meals during the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack, February 26-29, 2024. 264,384 of those meals were shipped to starving children in Liberia, and 139,968 to hungry kids in Honduras.

**"You all are so impactful. This is why we do what we do - we are engaging a need around the world, energizing hope, and helping people to know that they are seen. Thank you for all you do to support this incredibly important work." - Ed Johnson, Regional Development Advisor, Feed My Starving Children**



# GO



“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” - Acts 2:47

# MISSIONARY

## SUPPORT

**BOB & BARB**

**BARTZ:**

Trans World Radio

**BRUCE REDMOND:**

EFCA's ReachGlobal,  
Southeast District  
Church Planting

**GORDY & BEAR**

**GROVER:**

ReachGlobal/  
Dominican Republic

**DAN DEVRIES:**

Sports  
Ambassadors

**MICHAEL HUEY:**

Fellowship of  
Christian Athletes

**OMAR RODRIGUEZ:**

Director of  
Caribbean/Latin  
America with EFCA's  
Reach Global

**RANDY & KIM**

**GREBE:**

OM Ships

**RICK & DIANA**

**LOWE:**

Shepherds' Support

**WILL & MARIE**

**SCHRAVEN:**

Shepherds' Support

# Global Outreach Ministry Partners

- ▼ Dominican Republic
- ▼ Cuba
- ▼ Nicaragua
- ▼ Uganda
- ▼ Bahamas

# *Global Ministry Locations*



# Special Profile: John and Barbara Wenig



John and Barb Wenig's passion to help and encourage people in difficult circumstances sprang both from their faith in God and an empathy born of personal experience.

Growing up in the same small Wisconsin town, the Wenigs married in 1979 and welcomed their first child, Andy, the following year. Just 18 months later, Andy was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and passed away in 1982. “We could have used our heartbreak to become bitter – or better,” Barb says. “Thank God He gave us the strength for the journey.”

The Lord then led John to become a funeral director, and the couple purchased their own firm in 1991.

“We wanted to come alongside and pour into the lives of grieving families like us,” John says.

Barb helped in the family business, while also continuing her profession as an interpreter for the hearing impaired. Along the way, they had three more sons and a daughter.

By 2020, both had retired.

The Wenigs moved to The Villages as seasonal residents in 2019 and soon landed at Live Oaks. Right away they began serving on missions trips, and in January 2024 joined the Cuba GO Team headed to Havana.

“Our eyes were opened and our hearts were stirred,” John recalls. “We encountered loving and beautiful people amidst very difficult living conditions.”

Soon they realized they were being “poured into” by the very people they’d come to help.

Returning home, the Wenigs made the dramatic decision to sell their Florida residence and designate all the proceeds to the Lord. “Each time we make a disbursement,” John explains, “we ask God to multiply the loaves and fishes. And He has accomplished that!”

“We aren’t done with the mission God has planned for our lives together,” John concludes. “To know Him and make Him known is our greatest desire.”

When not on missions trips, the Wenigs divide their time between Wisconsin and Florida and enjoy their family – which now includes 12 grandchildren. They also treasure their LOCC Encore Group, calling it their “lifeline and mainstay.”

“You cannot walk away without some sense of responsibility for those dear people,” John says.



# MAKING ROOM FOR MORE

## FREEDOM CHALLENGE

Launched March 9, 2024, to erase SO Mortgage debt and better position the church for future kingdom growth.

## SATURDAY SERVICE AT WOODRIDGE

An additional weekly worship service was launched at Woodridge at 4:30 Saturdays beginning October 12, 2024.

“I do all this for the sake of the gospel.”

I Corinthians 9:23

## *Then God added a 3rd campus...*

For more than 40 years, Faith Community Church faithfully served the people of North Leesburg, Florida. But in 2024, the church entered a season of transition when its pastor was called to another congregation, leaving the church family seeking the Lord's direction for the future.

With encouragement from the Evangelical Free Church of America Southeast District, the elders of Faith Community reached out to Live Oaks Community Church for temporary preaching support and encouragement. Live Oaks gladly stepped in, and what began as a short-term partnership soon deepened through months of prayer, conversation, and shared discernment.

As leaders from both churches met together, they recognized a clear unity in doctrine, mission, and vision. On July 27, 2025, the congregation of Faith Community voted unanimously to become a campus of LOCC.

Today, the Faith Campus continues its ministry in North Leesburg, now strengthened as part of the Live Oaks family and united in the mission of sharing the good news of Jesus.

*...and it was good.*





# 1 More



LIVE OAKS  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

## OUR PRAYER FOR 2026

LORD, REMIND US EVERY DAY  
WHY IT MATTERS TO REACH  
1 MORE PERSON  
1 MORE FAMILY  
1 MORE LIFE  
WITH THE GOSPEL.

# THANKING GOD FOR ALL HE'S DONE

**"Be strong and courageous, for I am  
with you wherever you go."**

**Joshua 1:9**



**352.446.3975**



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**Woodridge Campus**

**12070 CR 103, Oxford, 34484**

**Southern Oaks Campus**

**5600 Heritage Blvd, Wildwood, 34785**

**Faith Campus**

**1107 Griffin Rd, Leesburg, 34748**

