



Welcome Fall

Kick-off the season with Oakwood!

Oakwood Fun Night *September 4 @ 5:30 pm*

Food, Facepainting, Balloons, Music, Games
Fun for all ages--bring your lawn chairs!

Kick-off Sunday *September 8 @ 9:30 am*

Worship with us then stay for football food
Wear your favorite team jersey

Homecoming Sunday *September 15 @ 9:30 am*

Join us for worship and fellowship!

Get to know us at:

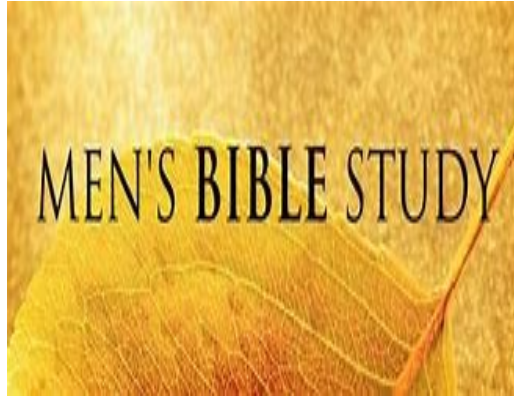
Facebook:

Oakwood United
Methodist Church

Instagram:

oakwood_umc
or scan for our website at
www.oakwoodlife.org





Our Men's Bible Study meets on Saturdays at 8:00 am in person. If you are interested, contact Mike Feldman
All men are welcome.

CONNECT - DISCIPLE - SERVE

I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2

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WEB SITE:

www.oakwoodlife.org

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO

prayers@oakwoodlife.org

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Nancy Berggren
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Classics

Oakwood's Classics group begins again on September 12 after their summer break. They start to gather at 11:30, then begin the potluck at noon with a short program to follow. So if you are 55 or older bring your favorite dish and come join for great food and fellowship

Wednesday, September 4

Oakwood Fun Night!

Starts at 5:30 pm in the Oakwood front parking lot.

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, courtesy of Ted Ross, snow cones, cotton

candy, facepainting and games for the kids.

There will be music with Brian Acker and friends!

Bring your lawn chairs!

Come join the fun!

Worship SCHEDULE



Sunday Worship Service

9:30 am

Wednesday Service

6:30 pm

Our 9:30 service and our Wednesday night service are both in-person and on-line at www.oakwoodlife.org



It has been a great summer for our youth group! We went through a 10-week study in Matthew learning about the teachings of Jesus and how we can apply what He said in our lives. Also this summer, we had 14 students and 3 huddle leaders go to Summer Games church camp!

As we transition into the school year, we hope to see everyone at Fall Kickoff on Wednesday the 4th! We will begin our school-year schedule on September 11th. Our nights will start at 5:30 with dinner and game time in the gym. Then we will have a large-group lesson time around 6:45, followed by small groups until we end at 8:00. Then we go out to a rotating fast-food restaurant each week afterward. I can provide rides to and from, but students need to bring their own funds to pay for food.

Sunday School will also begin on September 8th as we will do a Bible study at 10:45 in the coffee shop following church service. I hope everyone has a fantastic last few months of 2024 and that the school year treats everyone, students AND parents, well!

Nathan Fischer



United Methodist Ingathering

IOWA CONFERENCE *of the* UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ingathering



It is time for our annual Ingathering Drive. The mission committee will have a table in our gathering area where you can see what is needed this year. Please stop by, take a look, and return your completed kits to the church. The list of items is shown below. All contributions are needed at the church by November 1, 2024.

The purpose of the Mission Ingathering is to show the love of Christ to the world's people by ministering to their needs.

Student Kits

- 3 notebooks-1 subject spiral 8"x10 1/2"
- 1 ruler– 12" long with metrics
- 6 pencils-unsharpened
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pencil eraser-2" or larger
- 1 box 12 colored pencils
- 1 box 24 crayons
- 1 pair student scissors

Personal Dignity Kit

- 1 hand towel-no kitchen towels
- 1 washcloth-no dishcloths
- 1 Adult toothbrush (no multi-packs)
- 1 bar soap– 3-4 oz.
- 1 shampoo-12-19 Oz.
- 1 deodorant-2-3 Oz. (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 Lotion 8-10 oz. no pumps
- 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag



MONDAY-FRIDAY

7:30-7:45 AM JAVA WITH JESUS AND JULIE
ZOOM DEVO AND PRAYER

SUNDAY

10:30 AM-SERMON DISCUSSION-NANCY BERGGREN-FIRESIDE
ROOM

10:30 AM-THE WORLD OF THE END-ROGER RUBY
PRAYER ROOM

10:30 AM-MIXING IT UP-JULIE AND MIKE FELDMAN-
ROOM OFF FAMILY LIFE CENTER

THURSDAY

10:30 AM –VARIOUS TOPICS-JULIE FELDMAN
FIRESIDE ROOM

1:30PM-BIBLE STUDY - OPAL CURRENT -FIRESIDE ROOM

SATURDAY

8:00 AM– MEN’S BIBLE STUDY - MIKE FELDMAN-FIRESIDE ROOM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN A GROUP. IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JULIE FELDMAN AT 515-778-6621.

We Had a Face-lift!

Oakwood is a beautiful church! A year ago, we said we were sagging a little and needed a face-lift. You will recall that we are 32 years old and just like your own home some things need repaired or replaced; things that we delayed because of our focus on paying off the debt. In addition our technology costs are always increasing.

So, we took a special offering last September and raised \$20,000. With this money and other kind donations, here is what we accomplished:

- Replace two projectors in the sanctuary
- Added fabric and rock to the south bank to eliminate annual mulching and reduce erosion
- Replaced carpet and painted in office area and hallways
- Replaced cracked toilet in women's restroom
- Painted interior walls; narthex area, office, hallways and other areas
- Restriped the parking lots

The Lord has blessed us with many congregants who built this church and then gave generously of their time and money to pay off our debt. We thank the Lord for that generosity.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

- Our church was built in 1992
- A remodel was completed in 2004
- Part of our church is 32 years old, the newer part is 21 years old
- Our church is 28, 000 square feet sitting on 4.2 acres of ground



HOSPITALITY AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Hospitality and Outreach Committee is ready to kick-off fall on Sunday, September 8th. Following the church service, yummy concession type goodies will be available. We encourage all to wear their favorite football team shirt.

Oakwood Homecoming is Sunday, September 15th. Wear your favorite college or high school team shirt. Invite a friend or someone who has been MIA from Oakwood and spread the love of Jesus.

NEEDED! A volunteer is needed to oversee and maintain the children's activity bags. These are the bags outside the sanctuary that have quiet activities children can do during church. Any questions, please talk with Pam Schwartz.

Fellowship host(s). The Hospitality and Outreach Team will host fellowship on the first Sunday of each month. For the remaining Sundays, you can sign up on the calendar located on the café court counter to host fellowship. You can also sign up via the CCB email that is sent out each week. There will be nothing else other than coffee for those Sundays that are without a fellowship host.

Fellowship is a great way to Connect – Disciple – Serve and get to know others . Ask a friend or friends, or your Bible study group to host. Its easy to host. The coffee is already made, with cups, plates and napkins, etc. available. All you need to do is provide enough goodies to serve approximately 70 people and any other type of beverages you would like to serve. There is no need to bake, packaged goodies work just fine.

Greeters. Each week a request for greeters is sent out via CCB. You will notice that we have greeters to be stationed at the front door and the main sanctuary door. Be sure to sign up even if it is just you. One is better than none.

Please consider signing up for either or both of the above and keeping our connection with each other strong especially in welcoming those new to Oakwood. If you have any questions about anything in this report, please contact Pam Schwartz or Angie Acker.

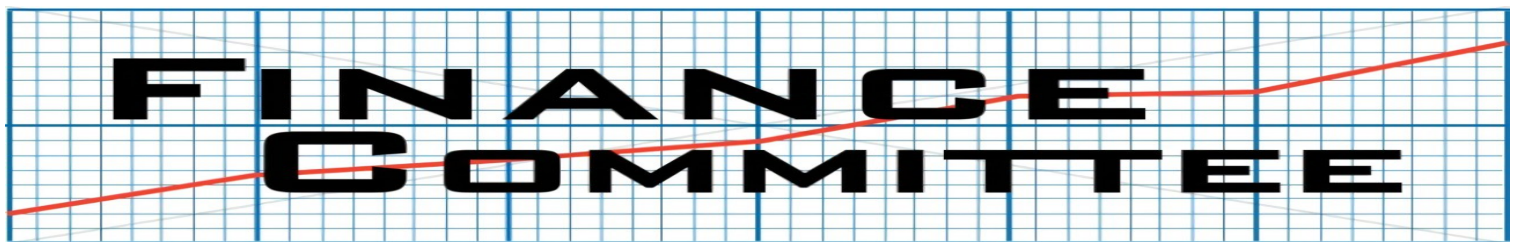
Wednesday Night Suppers Starting September 11



We continue to plan for Wednesday night meals. These meals have proven to be an important part of the energy on Wednesday nights at Oakwood with great fellowship. We are so grateful to the individuals, groups and families who have done this in the past and are continuing this year. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to prepare a meal.

Right now, we have 3 groups who will be doing the meal once a month. We need one more family or small group. Please remember that the meals should be simple and any expenses you incur

will be reimbursed by the church. Serving the meals is from 5:30-6:15 pm. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Julie Feldman.



- **Operating Fund Income:** July 2024 had regular offerings of \$22,554.97 (*-\$2,233.43 from last month*) and capital fund offerings of \$805.69 (*+\$112.24 from last month*) for total offerings of \$23,360.66 (*-\$2,121.19 from last month*).
- **Operating Fund Expenses:** Total operating expenses were \$41,157.30 (*+\$2,002.40 from last month*).
- **Operating Fund Net Income:** **-\$17,796.64** (*regular offerings and regular capital fund offerings minus operating expenses*). **Our expenses exceeded our income in July.**

JULY CASH BALANCES

- Ø **Operating Cash Balance:** \$65,482.66 (*-\$20,737.73 from last month*).
- Ø **Technology Funds:** \$0.00
- Ø **Mission Fund:** \$4,387.07 (*-\$2,049.85 from last month*)
- Ø **Memorial Fund:** \$12,578.14
- Ø **Concert Fund:** \$5,390.99
- Ø **Building Operations Fund:** \$0.00 (*Operation Face-Lift Fund*)
- Ø **Building Use Fund:** \$11,863.19 (*-\$12,251.00 from last month – building remodeling & maintenance*)
- Ø **Spaghetti Supper Fund:** \$20,253.52 (*-\$842.14 from last month*)

If you have any questions about Oakwood finances, please contact one of our Finance Committee Members: Gary Schwartz, Chair; Steve Jurgens, Treasurer; Rev. Alexis Johnson, Mike Anderson, Nancy Berggren, Judy Carico, and Steve Rendall.

A Word from Our Lay Leader

Do you think God makes mistakes? Most of us would say no.

But do we truly believe that? I mean, how often do we pray for something, it does not happen **exactly** as we wanted, and we wonder what is wrong with God that it didn't work out the "right way?"

Over the years, I have often prayed for things that did happen. Starr was cured of cancer - though I was not too happy she had to go through all she did. Our kids grew up and have been successful - though there were many struggles along the way.

What I have had to learn was when God's answers did come, it often wasn't exactly the answer I was looking for. In effect, I wanted things to work out a certain way and God seemed to ignore my "perfect" plans and often sent me a different direction.

I have had to learn to accept those better plans. For example, years ago I was offered a job in a school district that had major problems – problems I did not want to have to deal with. I was going to withdraw my application but Starr, who never wanted to move, told me to leave my name in the mix. They offered me the position. Didn't God know that was not a good fit? Ultimately, I decided to trust that was where we were supposed to go and it turned out to be a great place where we were able to accomplish some good things.

But what was God thinking when I got prostate cancer? I mean, my Dad had it so I expected to get it. I was cured and didn't have to keep up treatments like he did. Still – surgery and radiation treatments were no fun...

Then I got the Alzheimer's diagnosis. My Dad had it so I again expected it, but it still made no sense and must be a mistake... But God had other plans.

After a couple infusions, Starr and I were asked by my neurologist, Dr. Shah, to lead a support group for those with the disease and their families. It continues to grow. We have been with Dr. Shah on the radio and TV talking about the need for early detection and treatment. We have had the privilege of talking to groups and individuals about the drug I am receiving and the effect of the disease on families. Always, we try to emphasize hope, early detection, and treatment.

Each of these reminds me I don't see nor understand the big picture. That is, I see what I want. God sees the way to help others.

I keep trying to remind myself when things don't seem to go the way I WANT, then maybe God has a different plan. If I am honest, God's plan always ends up being better than anything I could have planned.

Still, if God would only listen to me about some current issues.... Guess I am still a slow learner.
Doyle Scott





September Birthdays	September Anniversaries
1- Julie Vitek	5- Cass and Josie Bollman
4- Wanda Childs	8-Judy and Dennis Bailey
6- Ruby Ruby	23- Raian and Kyle Hanson
7- Sue Paterson-Nielsen	
8-Ashley Van Zee	
9-Aurora Post	
12-Carolyn Graves, Kim Smith	
13-Troy Paterson	
15-Megan Scott	
16-Lori Beyer, Sheryal Westbrook, Joshua Deppe	
17- Leah Anderson, Bill Peterson	
18- Justin Paterson	
19- Angela Skinner	
21- David Brightwell, Sue Forest	
22- Marissa Reed	
24- Starr Scott	
26- Jerry Sellers	
27- Penni Heuermann, Rick Slinger	
28-Carol Arpy, Josh Oren	
29-Sean Logan	
30- Jennifer Elrod	

Missions

During the month of October, the Missions Committee will be gathering canned meat for our food pantry, and pizza mix and pizza sauce for Caring Hands. Please watch the Sunday bulletins and our CCB emails for more information. There will be tables in the Gathering area for you to leave your donations.


We will also be putting out through CCB information about our winter clothes drive for Hope Ministries. For this, we will gather winter coat, gloves and hats for nine families.

Thanks you for all the donations you make to help those in need.



Conversations with the Pastor

Rev. Alexis wants to hear from you. So, every Tuesday starting September 10th through October 15th, she will be having meetings to visit with you about Oakwood, our strengths, things that may need some adjustment and any other ideas about the church you have. In order to accommodate as many people as possible, each Tuesday one session will be at 11:00-12:30 pm and again at 5:30-7:00 pm. Stay tuned for more information about location and sign-up opportunities through CCB. We look forward to hearing from you.



Come, Lend a Hand



The start of our fall children's ministry is right around the corner. The first Sunday Christian Learning Time is September 8, and the first Wednesday evening 24/7 is September 11.

We are in need of additional children's leaders. In particular, we need volunteers for Wednesday night for the younger elementary students. If you are interested, contact Tania at Tania.Bentley@oakwoodlife.org or Ruby at [ca.Ruby@oakwoodlife.org.***](mailto:Jessi-</i></p></div><div data-bbox=)***

It is always a joy to work with the children and watch them grow closer to Jesus.

Get to know..... Oakwood's Leadership Committees

In this newsletter, and future editions, we will provide a recap of the purpose and responsibilities of some of our committees. Be thinking if one of these is right for you.



Administrative Board

Purpose: Monitor the vision and overall direction of the church

Responsibilities:
Promote leadership development

Monitor and approve church finances

Make decision regarding the administration of the church

Endowments

Purpose and Responsibilities:

Monitor Endowment Funds and assist in dispensing college scholarships. Provide members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to this ministry.

Finance Committee

Purpose: Administer the church finances.

Responsibilities:
Maintain accounting records

Count, record and process contributions.

Prepare church budgets

Audit church accounting records

Invest church money

Report monthly to the Administrative Board

Recommend church financial policies and practices

