



O•A•K•W•O•O•D
United Methodist Church



August 2024

CONNECT - DISCIPLE - SERVE

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

400 NE 56th Street
Pleasant Hill, Iowa 50327
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515-262-5680 FAX

WEB SITE:

www.oakwoodlife.org

**SEND PRAYER
REQUESTS TO**

prayers@oakwoodlife.org

Senior Pastor

Rev. Alexis Johnson
Alexis.Johnson@oakwoodlife.org
515-262-6007

Small Group Ministry

Julie Feldman
Julie.feldman@oakwoodlife.org

**Connections &
Welcome Associate**

Angie Acker
Angie.acker@oakwoodlife.org

Music Ministries

Brian Acker
Brian.acker@oakwoodlife.org

Youth Director

Nathan Fischer
Nathan.fischer@oakwoodlife.org
515-446-0342

Children's Ministry Directors:

Ruby, Ruby
515-577-5035
Tania Bentley, 515-360-9817

Administration

Nancy Berggren
nlberggren@mchsi.com

Beloved,

First of all, thank you for an amazing first month! I am so excited and grateful to be in ministry with you. I can feel the Spirit moving through Oakwood and I know we're going to see God do incredible things.

We are slowly settling into the house in Newton, unpacking should be done by the time school starts. The dogs, Rufus & Destiny, are really enjoying the backyard...we've never had one with a fence before! Our kids will attend school in Newton, but we will be finding activities for them in Pleasant Hill. Maggie is already dancing at a studio in Pleasant Hill, so that has been a great community connection. My intention is to be on-site at the church for a few hours every day Sunday – Thursday. As soon as activity and meeting schedules are determined, I will share my on-site hours with you. When I'm not on-site, I will be working remotely. I will consistently check email Monday – Thursday 9-3... and sometimes later. I try to disconnect Friday and Saturday, in order to rest and enjoy family time.

I have had an opportunity to meet with every committee at least once. There is work for us to do together and we will need more people on each committee. Keep an eye out for meeting times and descriptions of each committee in future newsletters. The Nominations Committee will work this fall to recruit leaders for each committee. Let me know if you feel called to serve in any role. I encourage you to pray for our leaders.

I have led three Wednesday teaching times. We are going to take August off and resume on September 11th. We will be working through the Sermon on the Mount, and I hope you will consider joining us in person or online. The discussion has been profound and fun, as we grow together in our understanding and application of the Bible.

Our When God Calls sermon series will wrap up on the first Sunday of August. Then the series will be as follows:

August 11 – Sept 1 – I AM & I Will: The Covenants of God

Sept 8 – Oct 27 – The Easy Yoke: Living the Beatitudes

Nov 3 – Nov 24 – Our Mission: Connect, Disciple, Serve

That's a lot of ground covered in one article! I'm looking forward to getting to know you more as we engage in ministry together.

Blessings, Rev. Alexis

WORSHIP Services

Sunday 9:30 am

Wednesday 6:30 pm

Both the 9:30 am Sunday Service and the 6:30 pm Wednesday Service are in-person and live streamed at www.oakwoodlife.org

Childcare Available

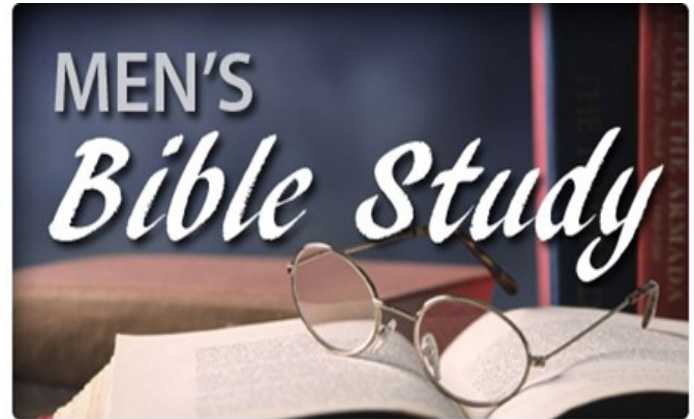


Men's Bible Study

Saturday Mornings @ 8:00 am

All men are welcome

Please see Mike Feldman if you have questions.



Mark Your Calendar!

Fall is right around the corner, so Oakwood is planning our kick-off events. Mark your calendars for September 4 when we will have our outdoor family night, September 8 for kick-off Sunday and September 15 for Homecoming Sunday. Be watching for more information.

Wednesday Night Suppers Starting September 11

We are planning for Wednesday night meals. These meals have proven to be an important part of the energy on Wednesday nights and come 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.

We thought it would be a good time to get a few more groups in the Wednesday night rotation. So, if you are a family, a small group or an individual who would like to help, please let Julie Feldman or Nancy Berggren know. If you would like to help, but don't have anyone to partner with, let us know that also and we will try and team you up with someone.

Please remember that the meals should be simple, affordable and any expenses you incur will be reimbursed by the church. Thanks so much.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

June 2024 Finances

Operating Fund Income: June 2024 had regular offerings of \$24,788.40 (*-\$2,877.86 from last month*) and capital fund offerings of \$693.45 (*-\$44.31 from last month*) for total offerings of \$25,481.85 (*+\$2,922.17 from last month*).

Operating Fund Expenses: Total operating expenses were \$56,192.72 (*-\$59.00 from last month*). Paying for our campers and the recent painting and carpeting are not part of the Church Monthly Operating Expenses.

Operating Fund Net Income: **-\$30,710.87** (*regular offerings and regular capital fund offerings minus operating expenses*). **Actual Operating Fund Net Income is -\$13,673.25** (*-\$429.45 from last month's expenses*). **Our expenses exceeded our income in June.**

JUNE CASH BALANCES

Ø **Operating Cash Balance:** \$80,207.39 (*-\$20,737.73 from last month*).

Ø **Technology Funds:** \$0.00

Ø **Mission Fund:** \$6,436.92

Ø **Memorial Fund:** \$12,578.14

Ø **Concert Fund:** \$5,390.99

Ø **Building Operations Fund:** \$0.00 (*Operation Face-Lift fund was used for new carpet and LED lighting in the office areas, and painting areas of the church.*)

Ø **Building Use Fund:** \$24,114.19

Ø **Spaghetti Supper Fund:** \$21,095.66

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.

Thank You!



A Word from our Lay Leader

I recently read that three generations from now there will be a record of our lives, but no one will know who we really had been.



I have done work on the family history of both of my parents. That has led to a family tree with over 3400 people and lots of interesting facts and finds. Starr also has lots of her family information and can trace many of her relatives to the Netherlands.

Because of our interest, each year Starr and I make trips to put flowers on the graves of some of our ancestors including many we knew -- and some who died long before we were born.

Some might wonder why we do that. We both say because it was important to our parents. I remember my mother commenting that "leaving flowers on a grave lets people know someone remembers them."

Growing up, I always enjoyed the stories my elders told. For example, my maternal great grandmother thought her 19-year-old daughter (my grandmother) was too young to raise her daughter (my mother). So, my mother spent lots of time, including summers, with her grandmother.

In later years, my mother told us stories of her grandmother leaving in the middle of the night and then the next morning reporting on a baby that she either delivered or helped the doctor deliver.

Sadly, we know in a few years all those stories will be forgotten. But I know there is a way our legacy can live on forever. We can do that by helping others. For example, in my career I have seen staff members (whether teachers, support staff, or others) who gave a young person some attention and support. That little push was key to a change in

their path. That student decided to go the right way and had a successful life as a result.

Think of how often you have heard a person mention someone who helped them change. Often that person literally turned away from what they were doing and ultimately became a successful member of society. We know doctors, pastors, and others change people's lives. Probably all of us have done something that saved another person.

Three generations from now, few if any will remember anything about each of us. But, if we help others, our impact can be felt by them, their children, their children's children...

So, while our name may be long lost, our impact can be felt for generations to come.

Can we have a better legacy?

Doyle Scott

Helping Hands



Caring Heart

be
KIND
TO OTHERS.



August Birthdays	August Anniversaries
1- Donald Clem, Denise Martin	2-Doyle and Starr Scott
2- Georgia Roorda	7-Mark and Shawna Graeve, Justin and Melanie Carlson
	9-Jake and Penni Heuermann
4- Martha Miller	
5- Mary Hicks	21-Jeff and Lisa Klopfenstein
7-Judy Parsons	
9-Amanda Atteberry, Janet Gustafson, Kendra Kane, Jeff Klopfenstein, Denny Rieger	
10- Sharia Mc Cloud	31-Joyce and Dick Delk, Angela and Kyle Skinner
13-Joel McCrea, Ed Miles, Jim Waltrip	
15-Rich Wilson	
16-Eric Newton	
17-Loren Lown	
18-Jim Reed	
19-Tina Bowlin	
20-Angie Acker	
27-Riley Beyer, Steve Taylor, Kathy Zimmer	
28-Doan Bittner, Doug Griggs, Kyle Kane	
29- Laura Steward	
30-Linda Gonzalez,	
31-Randy Childs, Don Miller	

Hospitality Outreach Team

fellowship

C H U R C H

Fellowship hosts are needed. 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. We will serve coffee for those Sundays that are without a fellowship host. Fellowship hosting is a great way to Connect – Disciple – Serve and a way to get to know others .

Ask a friend or friends, your small group, or a youth group to host. Its easy. The coffee is already made, with cups, plates and napkins, etc. all available. You only need to provide enough goodies to serve approximately 70 people and any other type of beverages you would like.

Greeters are always needed. Each week a request for greeters is sent out via CCB. You will notice that we have increased our 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 prayerfully consider helping and keeping our connection with each other strong especially in welcoming those new to Oakwood. If you have any questions, please talk with Angie Acker (515-720-6918) or Pam Schwartz (641-425-9919).

Also, if you would like to be a part of the Hospitality and Outreach Team contact Angie or Pam. Thank you to all who have donated goodies to be used for fellowship.

WE NEED YOU

Oakwood is looking for people who would be interested in helping in the sound booth either by operating the sound equipment or assisting with that effort. We need occasional help on Sunday and during the week for other activities. If you want to know more about this, please see Brian Acker.

Reception for our new Pastor!



Welcome
✧
Rev. Alexis
✧



Outreach



The missions committee is giving \$2000 from the missions fund to some Christ-centered organizations that we have supported in the past. These are:

- \$750 —UMCOR Global Ministries
- \$250 —Ruth Harbor Ministries
- \$250—Families Forward, 3001 Grand Avenue
- \$250 —Women at the Well Prison Ministries
- \$250 —Midwest Mission Distribution Center
- \$250 —Caring Hands

Small Group in Service

Members of the Monday afternoon small group went to Caring Hands in Altoona to help in their clothing shop. Looks like they had great fun!



OAKWOOD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FRUIT DRIVE

AUGUST 2024

WE ARE LOW ON CANNED FRUIT IN OUR PANTRY AND THE FOOD BOX AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE BRING ANY TYPE OF CANNED FRUIT DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THERE WILL BE A TABLE IN THE GATHERING AREA FOR YOUR DONATIONS.



THANK YOU