



OAKWOOD
United Methodist Church



February 2025



Pleasant Hill
Elementary
Winter
Wonderland

On January 27, Oakwood was honored to go to school and serve a meal and hand out coats, boots and pants to families in our community. Over 150 people were at this winter wonderland. Thanks to all who donated food or helped at this event.



Oakwood United Methodist Church
Connect-Disciple-Serve

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30 am

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Supper: 5:30 pm

Worship for Adults: 6:30 pm

Childcare available from 6:20-8:00 pm

Worship Services are on-line at

www.oakwoodlife.org



*Oakwood
Leadership
Retreat*

Ash Wednesday



March 5, 2025

Pancakes and Sausage 5:30 pm

Worship Service 6:30 pm

Classics

The Classics group will be meeting on February 13 with a potluck at noon. Please come for the fellowship, food, and fun. Thank you.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This Bible Study meets every Saturday at 8:00 am. The coffee is brewing at 7:45 am. All men are welcome.

Oakwood Small Groups



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 - Various Studies- Prayer Room

10:30 AM Mixing it Up with Mike and Julie-
Room off Family Life Center

WEDNESDAY

5:00 PM - -A Walk with God-Devotionals and Prayer--Diane Diamond -Fireside Room

THURSDAY

10:00 AM-Study of Matthew-Julie Feldman-Fireside Room

1:30 PM - 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.



Oakwood Kids

Hello Oakwood Family! Here is some information and important dates for upcoming events and happenings for Oakwood Children.

Wednesday February 12th we will be sharing Valentines and playing Bingo with the residents at Parkridge Specialty Care (5800 Northeast 12th Avenue, Pleasant Hill, Iowa 50327). It is our goal to leave the Church by 6:20pm.

June 22nd through 26th will be VBS (Date Change)! More information will follow in the upcoming months. If you are interested in volunteering your time, we'd love to gather your information and add you to our list of volunteers.

Summer Camp Registration for Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center is open! We encourage you to register your kids for camp soon because spots are filling up. There is a \$100.00 registration fee and if you are unable to pay the \$100.00 fee, ***please let Ruby know*** and the Church will help assist you. The cost of Camp, except the registration fee, is covered by Oakwood UMC through the Annual Spaghetti Supper. We hope you'll find time for your kids to participate at camp and learn more about Christ while having fun and making new friends.

If you have any questions or would ever be interested in getting more involved, please let Tania or Ruby know. We'd love to have you!

Blessings,

Tania (taniabentley2827@gmail.com) & Ruby (jessica.ruby@oakwoodlife.org)



Trustee Report

Trustees Report for February 2025

The Church Trustees have been collecting quotes and making necessary repairs for maintaining the Church facility and property. Some of the building improvements and maintenance projects are the following:

Active Projects:

- Two church pews repaired by The Furniture Professionals (\$500).
- Four broken windows at the back of the Church will be repaired by Elite Glass & Metal (\$1,500).
- The two furnaces in the Family Life Center will be connected to one thermostat instead of being controlled individually. A new thermostat will be installed in the kitchen area. This work will be done by West Heating & AC (approximately \$2,000).
- Preventative maintenance plan for the nine furnaces by West Heating & AC (approximately \$1,500/year).
- Preventative maintenance plan for the ground-mounted roof top unit for the sanctuary by The Baker Group (\$2,376/year).

Future Projects:

- Maintenance for front and back entry doors.
- Glass replacement for the broken glass folding panel in the west over-flow wing.
- Installation of controlled door access/security and handicap accessibility for the church's front and rear entry doors (approximately \$15,000-\$20,000). This will improve the safety and security of the church facility.
- Maintenance/repair of attic exhaust fans in Spring 2025.
- Installation of roof gutter protection screens in 2025 (no estimate).
- Installation of LED lighting in the Family Life Center for energy savings (no estimate).
- Landscape and grounds maintenance.

The Church Trustees Committee will be meeting monthly on the first Wednesday of month at 5:00 pm at the Church. Members of the Church Trustees are the following: Co-Chairs - Gary Schwartz and Mike Feldman, Eric Buchacker, Hunter Davis, and Mike Kirkpatrick.

Children's Time at Sunday Worship



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Oakwood Staff

February Birthdays	February Anniversaries
5- Stacie Newton, Bob Egger	14- Jeff and Tammy Johnson,
7- Kathy Bolten	21-Carroll and Glenda Thomason
9-Monica Post	
10-Don Heisler, Kyle Slinger	
14-Sarah Jurgens, Cindy Slinger	
15-Matt Buchacker	
16- Carol Mauk	
17-Dan DeGoey, Cheryl Egger	
18- Lois Groen	
19-Cindy Anderson, Carroll Thomason	
20-Tanya Deppe, Raian Hanson,, Arnold Lewis,	
21-Jamie Edwards, Julie McCrea, Shelley Oren,	
25-Roger Johnson	
27-Chuck Brinning, Eric Buchacker	
28-Ron Allen	

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
515-262-6007 Office
515-262-5680 FAX

WEB SITE:

www.oakwoodlife.org

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO

prayers@oakwoodlife.org

Senior Pastor, Alexis Johnson
515-201-5600
Alexis.johnson@oakwoodlife.org

Small Group Ministry & Connections Associate

Julie Feldman
Julie.feldman@oakwoodlife.org

Connections & Welcome Associate

Angie Acker
Angie.acker@oakwoodlife.org

Music Ministries Associate

Brian Acker
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Youth Director

Nathan Fischer
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Children's Ministry Associate:

Ruby Ruby 515-577-5035
Jessica.ruby@oakwoodlife.org
Tania Bentley, 515-360-9817
Tania.bentley@oakwoodlife.org

Administration

Nancy Berggren
Nancy.berggren@oakwoodlife.org
515-262-6007



Oakwood Youth Report from Nathan Fischer

It's been a good start to 2025 for our Oakwood youth program! We are up to 32 regularly attending 7th through 12th grade students on Wednesdays! We are always excited to see more and more faces coming around and many hearing about Jesus for the first time. We are also in the process of re-forming a youth group worship band!

The youth group is wrapping up a series doing a deep dive into the basics of prayer and learning about how, when, and why we should be praying. We meet up when dinner starts at 5:30 and have game time, lesson, and small groups until 8:00.

It's also time to sign up those students for camp this summer! The camp that most of our middle- and high-schoolers go to is Summer Games University. It is open to students currently in 6th through 12th grade this spring. Camp takes place at Grinnell College from Monday, July 7th to Friday the 11th.

Summer Games is an experience-based week of learning about the sacrifice made by Jesus for our sins through small-group lessons within "huddles", incredible worship music, sermons by pastors from across Iowa, and activities relating to the theme of the message to help students further connect with Jesus and their "huddle". A "huddle" is a group of 8-10 similar-aged students from other churches, with a college-age leader, that they spend most of the week with during their learning times, game times, and meal times. Students also choose a breakout activity called "satellites" that they will do during the afternoon on the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of camp. These range from sports to art, worship music to video games, and lots in between!

The earlier you get signed up, the more likely you will be to get your top choice of satellite and to get air-conditioned dorms! To sign up, go to www.sgu.camp (not .com) and click on "REGISTER A CAMPER". You'll select a size for the included camp t-shirt, pick a satellite for your student, set their roommate preference, and be able to purchase camp merch that will be ready for them at check-in. You'll then pay the \$89 deposit (and for any camp merch) at the end of the registration. IF YOU NOTE OAKWOOD UMC AS YOUR HOME CHURCH, Summer Games will then invoice the rest of the cost to the church, which we pay from funds raised at the Spaghetti Supper!

If the \$89 deposit is a barrier for your family, please reach out to me. That offer also extends to the friends of your students that they may want to invite! There are fliers you can take on the welcome table at the church.

Spaghetti Supper??? YES!! Planning is in the works already (shoutout to Brenda Gustafson!) for the 12th Annual Charley and Ted Dyer Spaghetti Supper. **The event is on Saturday, March 29th from 5:00-7:30.** Our goal is to raise money to help send students to church camp! We will have a free-will donation dinner of spaghetti, bread, salad, and dessert and a silent auction.

Early ticket sales will begin soon and any auction basket donations can be dropped off at the Oakwood office. In addition, we would appreciate any volunteers willing to help.

We are so grateful for all of your generosity over the past decade-plus to make camp affordable for so many kids and give them that incredible experience getting to know Jesus and other followers.

Committee News

December 2024 Finances

- **Monthly Operating Fund Income:** December 2024 had total offerings of \$47,216.69
- **Monthly Operating Fund Expenses:** Total operating expenses were \$29,389.61
- **Monthly Operating Fund Net Income: +\$17,827.08**

DECEMBER CASH BALANCES

- Ø **Operating Cash Balance:** \$118,777.06
- Ø **Mission Fund:** \$6,854.79
- Ø **Memorial Fund:** \$15,894.97
- Ø **Concert Fund:** \$5,390.99
- Ø **Building Operations Fund:** \$15,693.99
- Ø **Building Use Fund:** \$11,483.43
- Ø **Spaghetti Supper Fund:** \$20,253.52

If you have any questions about Oakwood finances, please contact one of our Finance Committee Members: Kathy Bolton, and Don Timmins, Co-Chairs Marlys DeVries, Treasurer; Rev. Alexis Johnson, Mike Anderson, Nancy Berggren. Diane Plym and Brenda Gustafson



Greetings from your Oakwood UMC Mission Committee!

February is a month in which we highlight LOVE, and Jesus instructed us to “Love One-another.” Oakwood has supported ministries at all levels from local to international. Some things we have done include clothing drives, free meals, Midwest Mission school kits, collecting pizza makings, our food “cupboard,” Angel Tree gifts, and mission trips both in the United States and abroad. In the past year, funds were donated to: Ruth Harbor, Hope Ministries, Families Forward, Women at the Well, Caring Hands, Midwest Missions, Meals from the Heartland, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. We also have small groups doing various mission projects. You can see that Oakwood is a giving/serving community.

The mission committee is in the process of redefining itself. We will share more as we get our ideas firmed up. We do know that we want to provide all Oakwood members with opportunities to use their gifts toward the well-being of others. We ask that small groups who are doing projects let us know, so we don't ask too much at the same time. To that end, we are working on a calendar to spread mission projects throughout the year.

May each of you feel GOD's LOVE this month. Laura Anspach, Mission Committee Member

Oakwood Leadership Report

Beloved,

We had a gathering of some of the Leaders of Oakwood UMC. We know not everyone was able to join us and we know that we are not done adding to our various Committees.

Our meeting followed a simple agenda: lunch/fellowship, celebration of 2024, prayer over Oakwood, vision sharing, learning about leadership styles, discussion in the large group about our structure and way forward, time in committee to organize for the year ahead, reporting and organizing in large group, then a blessing. The energy was hopeful. We recognized that we have a lot of logistics work to do but that God has big plans for Oakwood. Everyone seemed ready to do the work. Each person prayed for a vision from God for Oakwood and was invited to write them down. These index cards were given to Kris Benge, who is the Ad Board Chair and chair of the ad hoc committee on re-branding.

Every committee was encouraged to create an agenda for their meetings and plan to share their minutes with the congregation (except in cases of confidentiality). Each committee was encouraged to spend time in prayer for our ministries at every meeting, to attend to their business, and to spend some time dreaming about the future God has for us.

Our Program Committees will focus on creating opportunities for our whole congregation to engage in Worship, Missions, Education, Hospitality, Care, and Outreach. Our Administrative Committees will focus on getting and communicating the picture of where we are. Those serving on Administrative Committees will be assigned to classes so that 1/3 of the Committee either steps off or re-ups each year. A person may serve two consecutive three year terms and then they will need to take one year off of that committee. Program Committees are a little more free-flowing and membership is year to year. You may serve on an Ad Committee and a Program Committee but we strongly encourage that folks not do more than two.

I want to share with you the meeting schedule for 2025, along with a one sentence description of each committee, and there will be a note about volunteers each committee is still seeking. This information is on the following page.

I left our retreat on Sunday excited about 2025. Our congregation is blessed with such dedicated people who are chasing after what God has for us and I know there are more people connected who are ready to lead. If you are feeling a tug towards any particular ministry, let me know, and I will pass along your information to the appropriate people.

Blessings, Rev. Alexis

*We are
so Blessed*

Administrative Committees

The Administrative Board oversees our vision and alignment with that vision. This group is comprised of every committee chair, and staff serves ex officio. They are looking for three at-large members.

2nd Thursday at 6:30pm, alternating in-person and on Zoom, starting in February with an in-person meeting at OUMC.

Finance oversees all of the monetary funds, how funds are spent and invested, and communication to the congregation about the finances.

Last Tuesday at 1pm.

Trustees oversee the building, equipment, and grounds.

1st Wednesday at 5:00pm

Staff Pastor Parish Relations (SPPR) oversees our personnel resources, doing HR work and helping those called to ministry. They need two more members.

3rd Wednesday at 5:30pm

Nominations oversees populating these committees and is the only committee I (Rev. Alexis) get a vote on. We need 3-4 people willing to serve.

No set meeting time yet.

Staff gathers for mutual support and alignment.

2nd Thursday at 6pm just before Ad Board

Program Committees

Worship creates opportunities for us to praise God and oversees the volunteers. They are always recruiting for tech booth and musicians.

3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm

Children & Youth creates opportunities for our younger disciples to grow as followers of Jesus, and oversee the volunteers who work with them. They are looking for more adults on Wednesday evenings to help with supervision and teaching.

2nd Sunday at 11:30am

Hospitality is the committee formerly known as HOT. They create opportunities for us to be welcoming. They are looking for two more people on the committee and several more people to serve on volunteer teams.

3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm

Missions creates opportunities for to serve our neighbors, local and global. They need 4 more people on the committee.

1st Monday at 5:30pm

Adult Small Group Leaders will be gathering for resource sharing and mutual support. Our small group leaders create opportunities for all of us to grow as a disciples. We are open to more small groups.

1st Thursday 12:30 – 1:30pm

Congregational Care creates opportunities for us to care for one another at all the various stages of our lives. Right now they are still getting organized and the number of people involved is limitless. Watch for opportunities to sign up for various teams, like visitors, card ministry, phone calls, prayer team, meal ministry, etc.

Next gathering Feb 2nd at 11:30am

SAVE THE DATE

CHARLEY & TED DYER 12TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER & AUCTION

**MARCH 29, 2025
5:00-7:30 PM**

**OAKWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
400 NE 56TH STREET
PLEASANT HILL
515-262-6007**

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SENDING KIDS TO CAMP!

