



March 2025

Beloved in Christ:

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. (From The United Methodist Book of Worship). We are providing a few special opportunities for you this season which you will find on the next page of this newsletter.

In Christ's name,  
Rev. Alexis

## Lenten Season



### Lenten Sermon Series

The sermon series *Prayers of the People* will focus on the book of Psalms, specifically on the words we offer to God in prayer. You will find a reading plan to read the entire book of Psalms in 40 days on the next page of this newsletter

### Sunday Morning Small Groups

In addition to our regular small groups, we will have an offering by Pastor Judy Wadding, focusing on Lectio Divina, sacred reading.

### Wednesday Evening Class with Rev. Alexis

Wednesday evening will focus on prayer styles that teach us to listen to God and to just be with God. Each meeting will have teaching, practicing, and reflecting. These are as follows:

- March 5<sup>th</sup>:** 11am – 1pm Imposition of Ashes and Blessing, front door of the church.  
5:30pm Pancake Supper 6:30pm – Worship with Communion and Imposition of Ashes
- March 12<sup>th</sup>** Prayer of Examination
- March 19<sup>th</sup>** No Class for Spring Break
- March 26<sup>th</sup>** Visio Divina and Iconography
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Meditation on the Word
- April 9<sup>th</sup>** Labyrinth and Centering Prayer
- April 16<sup>th</sup>** Meditative Singing

### Holy Week

**Palm Sunday:** We will wave palm branches and hear from Julie Feldman

**Wednesday** –Meditative Singing Service

**Maundy Thursday** 6:30pm service with communion and a hand washing

**Good Friday Prayer Stations** 12 – 6pm

**Easter Sunday** 7:30am and 9:30am Worship. Our kids will be singing at 9:30.

For Easter Season our sermon series will be Jesus Changes Everything based on the book of Acts. You may join us on this journey by reading Acts April 20<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## *Lenten Season Readings*

This reading plan is intended for use during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> and ending on Holy Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>. Each Sunday is skipped in the reading plan, a reminder that Sundays do not count in Lent.

Day 1	Psalms 1-3
Day 2	Psalms 4-6
Day 3	Psalms 7-9
Day 4	Psalms 10-12
Day 5	Psalms 13-14
Day 6	Psalms 16-18
Day 7	Psalms 19-21
Day 8	Psalms 22-23
Day 9	Psalms 24-26
Day 10	Psalms 27-29
Day 11	Psalms 30-32
Day 12	Psalms 33-34
Day 13	Psalms 35-37
Day 14	Psalms 38-39
Day 15	Psalms 40-41
Day 16	Psalms 42-44
Day 17	Psalms 45-47
Day 18	Psalms 48-49
Day 19	Psalms 50-52
Day 20	Psalms 53-55

Day 21	Psalms 56-58
Day 22	Psalms 59-60
Day 23	Psalms 61-63
Day 24	Psalms 64-66
Day 25	Psalms 67-68
Day 26	Psalms 69-70
Day 27	Psalms 71-72
Day 28	Psalms 73-74
Day 29	Psalms 75-76
Day 30	Psalms 77-78
Day 31	Psalms 79-80
Day 32	Psalms 81-82
Day 33	Psalms 83-85
Day 34	Psalms 86-87
Day 35	Psalms 88-89
Day 36	Psalms 90-93
Day 37	Psalms 94-96
Day 38	Psalms 97-99
Day 39	Psalms 100-102
Day 40	Psalms 103-150



*Ash Wednesday*

**OAKWOOD UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

**Ash Wednesday  
Schedule**

**March 5, 2025**

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Imposition of Ashes and Blessing  
at the front door of the church

5:30 pm

Pancake and Sausage  
Supper

6:30 pm

Worship with Communion  
and Imposition of Ashes



*Lent*

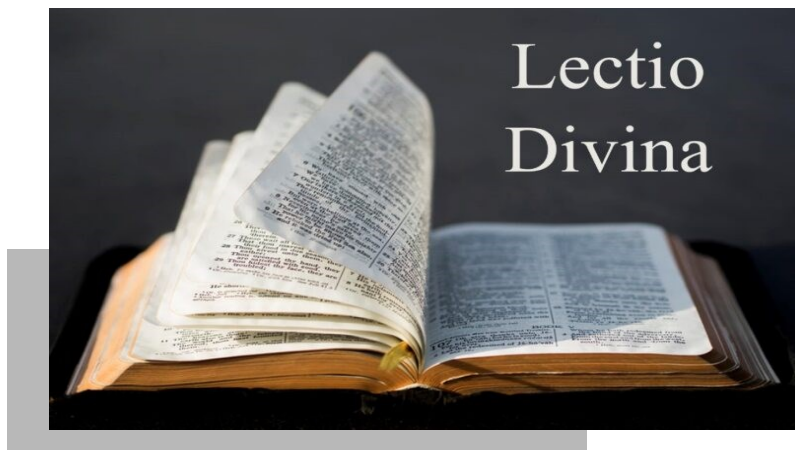
Let Light shine  
out of darkness....

## *Dennis Cameron Memorial Scholarship*

Applications for the Dennis Cameron Scholarship are due on April 15th. If you plan on attending college next year, even if you are going back to school after a break or if you are starting a second career, you are welcome to apply for this \$1000.00 award. Applications will soon be on the welcome table in the Gathering Area of the church. Or, call Nancy at 515-262-6007 and she will email you the forms.



This scholarship is in honor of long-time Oakwood member Dennis Cameron. We thank the Cameron family and the Carico family for their on-going support of this opportunity.



### **Adult Lent Small Group Opportunity**

**Lectio Divina (Latin for Divine Reading)**

*Join Judy Wadding as she leads a small group through personal devotion and Bible reading during Lent. We will start on Sunday, March 9 and end on Sunday, April 13 at 10:35 am. Please bring a Bible with you.*

*The group will set its intention, with grace given, to spend time in personal devotion and Bible reading daily during Lent.*

*Please contact Judy for questions or additional information.  
jwadding@hotmail.com or 515-473-1655*

# Oakwood Leadership Committees

## **ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD CHAIR**

Kris Bengé

## **LAY REPRESENTATIVE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Todd Buchacher

## **LAY LEADER**

Roger Johnson

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Sharon Kirkpatrick

Cheryl Egger

Sherri Anderson

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Roger Johnson

Kris Bengé

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Cindy Brody

Sarah Davis

Sharon Kirkpatrick

Sandi Stone

Kris Bengé

Cindy Slinger

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Judy Carico

Karen Anderson

Joyce Delk

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Nathan Fischer, Staff

## **Children's Ministry**

Nancy Pinkerton, Chair

Betty Kennel

Kim Smith

Tania Bentley, Staff

Ruby Ruby, Staff

## **Congregation Care**

Sherri Anderson

Sharon Bergeson

Todd Buckacher

Sue Forest

Sandi Olson

Nancy Pinkerton

Roger Johnson

Sandi Stone

Kitana Fischer

Julie Feldman, Staff

## **Small Groups**

Diane Diamond, Chair

Julie Feldman, Staff

Judy Parsons

Lory Rieger

Opal Current

Nancy Berggren

## **FINANCE**

*Treasurer-* Marlys DeVries

## **Finance and Endowments**

Don Timmins and Kathy Bolten, Co- Chairs

Mike Anderson

Brenda Gustafson

Diane Plym

*Endowments*

Cindy Brody Dawn Carico

*Ex Officio*

Pastor, Rev. Alexis

Administration, Nancy Berggren

## **TRUSTEES**

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Eric Buchacker

Hunter Davis

John Bergeson

Mike Kirkpatrick

Larry Keller

## **Missions**

Marcus Lucus, Chair

Laura Anspach

Kim Smith

Susan Moritz

Sandy Baumgart

## **Worship Team**

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Charlene Shellabarger

Todd Lahman

Kris Baumgart

Kris Bengé

Laura Anspach

Connie Doud

Cindy Brody

Caleb Boatman

Brian Acker, Staff

## *Oakwood Administrative Board*

### Chair

Kris Bengé

### Lay Leader

Roger Johnson

### Lay Representative to Annual Conference

Todd Buchacher

### Staff Pastor Parish Relations

Kris Baumgart

### Hospitality

Pam Schwartz

### Memorials

Joyce Delk

### Youth

Kitana Fischer

### Children

Nancy Pinkerton

### Congregational Care

To be determined

### Small Groups

Diane Diamond

### Finance

Kathy Bolten

Don Timmins

### Trustees

Gary Schwartz

Mike Feldman

### Missions

Marcus Lucus

### Worship

Sarah Hager

# THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

## *Classics in March*

Due to a scheduling conflict, the next Classics meeting will be on March 20. The group will start to gather at 11:30 and eat at noon. This is a wonderful potluck meal, with great food and fellowship. If you are 55 or older, come join the fun!



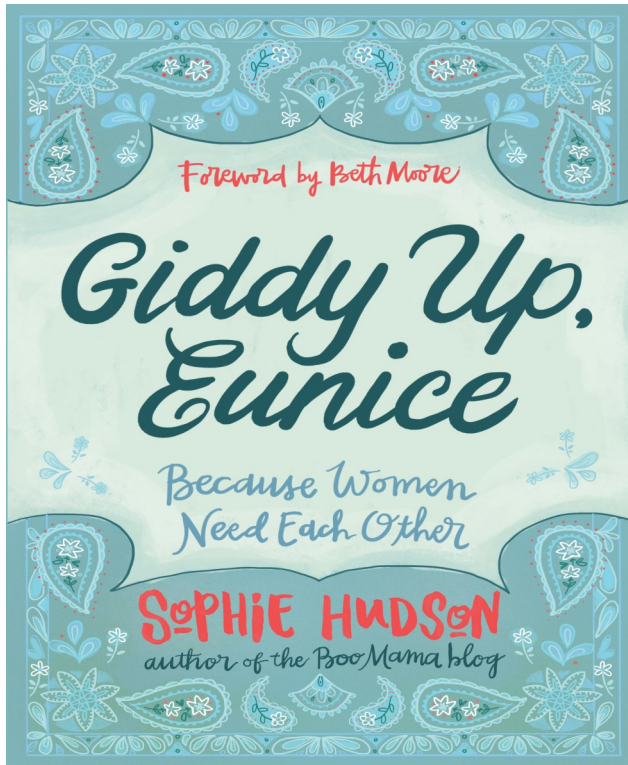
## *Oakwood's Great Give Away*

Thanks to Nancy and Steve Rendall, Gary and Pam Schwartz and Sherri and Mike Anderson for all the many hours they worked to prepare for and clean-up after Oakwood's Great Give Away! Here are pics of some satisfied shoppers!





## Book Club



You are invited to attend the next meeting of the Oakwood Book Club!

The club will be reading Christian fiction books, and their first book is *Giddy Up, Eunice* by Sophie Hudson. This group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00pm at Oakwood. Come join the lively discussion of this book.

## Book Club



## Oakwood Small Group in Mission

On February 18, the Monday afternoon small group prepared and served a meal at Fresh Start, a facility for women who are adjusting to life after incarceration. Thanks to this small group and many others who are on a mission to help those who need a helping hand!



***12h Annual Charley & Ted Dyer***

**Spaghetti Supper  
& Silent Auction**

**GREAT FOOD!**

**Salad, spaghetti, bread, desserts and  
drinks!**

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

**\*FREE WILL DONATION\***

If you have items to donate for the silent auction, please  
contact:

Brenda Dyer Gustafson at 515-720-4787

Oakwood United Methodist  
400 NE 56th Street



***Please come and join the fun. It promises to be a  
great evening.***



## *Hospitality Team*

Our committee's name has changed! The Hospitality and Outreach Team is now known as the Hospitality Team and will continue to oversee Sunday Fellowship, Sunday greeters and special events. We will also be assisting the Worship Committee with communion. And outreach, well outreach is everyone of us at Oakwood.

Do you enjoy greeting on Sunday morning? If so, we have a great opportunity for you. The Hospitality Team is currently forming a greeters committee. Greeters will rotate with other greeters each month. The more greeters, the better. If you would like to be a part of the greeters committee, please let Pam Schwartz or Angie Acker know you are interested. In the meantime, a Request for Greeters will be sent out on CCB which enables you to sign up.

To greet, all you do is locate yourself/yourselves by the front or sanctuary doors and greet those coming in. Feel free to bring a friend to help welcome everyone joining us. That's all you need to do. Thank you to all who have volunteered to greet. You make a difference!

Do you have 40 minutes once a month that you could volunteer as a Fellowship Host? Sign up when the Request for the coming Sunday is emailed out weekly. CHECK CCB AND SIGN UP! There is also a sign up located on the Café Court counter and you can sign up there if you do not have access to the CCB emails.

As a Fellowship Host, you are responsible to bring approximately 6-7 dozen of a baked good (homemade or bought) OR you can include fruit and/or meat & cheese. It's your decision on what to bring. Please arrive in the kitchen to prepare at least 20 minutes before the church service. There are platters, napkins, cups, etc. to use. The coffee will be plugged in and perking so you don't need to worry about coffee preparation. It is best to leave the church service right before the Stewardship moment so you can get the goodies on the counter. You may also bring other beverages to serve. There is water, lemonade and chocolate milk in the refrigerator. Have a friend sign up with you. It's always more fun and also easier. You would be responsible for clean up as well.

Any questions about any of these volunteer opportunities, be sure to ask Angie Acker (515-720-6918)/acker1234@msn.com or Pam Schwartz (641-425-9919)/pamschwartz72@yahoo.com

REMINDER! The Hospitality Team will host fellowship time only the first and third Sunday of each month (if it is a holiday, there will be no fellowship time).

If you are in a small group, take a Sunday to host Fellowship time! Be proactive if you want to have fellowship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. If the 1st or 3rd Sundays work better, contact Pam Schwartz so that the schedule can be adjusted.

The Hospitality Team is hosting the annual Ash Wednesday Pancake and Sausage supper set for Wednesday, March 5th, 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to be a part of the Hospitality Team, contact Angie Acker or Pam Schwartz. Our Team meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30.



## *Oakwood Kids at Parkridge*







## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30 am

In person and on-line at:

[www.oakwoodlife.org](http://www.oakwoodlife.org)

**WEDNESDAY**

Supper 5:30 pm

Worship at 6:30 pm

Childcare available

### CONNECT - DISCIPLE - SERVE

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

400 NE 56<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pleasant Hill, Iowa 50327  
515-262-6007 Office  
515-262-5680 FAX

#### WEB SITE:

[www.oakwoodlife.org](http://www.oakwoodlife.org)

#### SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO

[prayers@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:prayers@oakwoodlife.org)

**Senior Pastor**, Alexis Johnson  
515-201-5600  
[Alexis.johnson@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Alexis.johnson@oakwoodlife.org)

#### Small Group Ministry & Connections Associate

Julie Feldman  
[Julie.feldman@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Julie.feldman@oakwoodlife.org)

#### Connections & Welcome Associate

Angie Acker  
[Angie.acker@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Angie.acker@oakwoodlife.org)

#### Music Ministries Associate

Brian Acker  
[Brian.acker@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Brian.acker@oakwoodlife.org)

#### Youth Director

Nathan Fischer  
[Nathan.fischer@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Nathan.fischer@oakwoodlife.org)  
515-446-0342

#### Children's Ministry Associate:

Ruby Ruby 515-577-5036  
Tania Bentley, 515-360-9817  
[Tania.bentley@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Tania.bentley@oakwoodlife.org)  
[Jessica.Ruby@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Jessica.Ruby@oakwoodlife.org)

#### Administration

Nancy Berggren  
[Nancy.berggren@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Nancy.berggren@oakwoodlife.org)  
515-262-6007

### March Birthdays

1-Taylor Gonzalez

2- Pat Harvey

3-Jeannie Klopfenstein

5-Dan Rendall

6-Grace Smith, Mike Feldman

10-Jeannette Brinning, Michele Johnson

11-Teresa Feldman

13- Opal Miles, Pam Schwartz

15- Glenn Anspach, Brenda Dennis,

16- Judy Petersen

17- Carl Stocker

20- Laura Anspach, Mark Graeve,  
Gary Schwartz

22- Kelly Buchacker Ted Ross,

23- Karen Anderson

29-Annie Feldman

31- Kaye Winter

### March Anniversaries

11- Mike and Julie Feldman

11- Nathan and Kitana Fischer

25- Steve and Nancy Rendall

## Oakwood Children's Ministry

Hello!

We're having fun practicing music for Easter Sunday and looking forward to singing during the 9:30am service April 20th. But before Easter, here are some things to look for in March.

**Wednesday March 5th Ash Wednesday** – Kids will attend Ash Wednesday service, **no class**. We want to encourage kids and families to come to our Pancake Supper which begins at 5:30pm and join us for our Ash Wednesday service starting at 6:30pm.

**Wednesday March 12th-** We will take the kids to Copper Shores Village (1500 Edgewater Drive, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327) where they'll decorate cookies and hear about Saint Patrick with the residents. It is our goal to leave the Church by 6:20pm.

**Spring Break – No classes March 16, 19 & 23**

**Saturday March 29th** – Spaghetti Supper which raises monies to send kids to camp. We'd love to have you and kids volunteer to help make this dinner a success!

Oakwood Children's Ministry includes Pre-K to 6th grade. Sunday mornings we have Christian Learning Time which starts at 10:30 and finishes around 11:30am. Wednesday evening class begins at 6:30pm and wraps up around 7:30pm. We'd love to have your children, grandchildren or anyone you know to participate in our Children's programming.

If you have questions or want to get involved with our Blessed Children of Oakwood, please contact Tania or Ruby.



# Missions

Greetings in Christ!!

It is almost spring and soon we will see whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb. Either way - it's Iowa - so it will always change again.

We wish to thank everyone for responding to the food pantry needs. Food insecurity is an ongoing concern and we will continue the ongoing ministry of providing food to our community. We are developing a mission calendar to spread requests across the year. For example, school supplies go on sale toward the end of the summer so we will work on collecting for school kits for - "Ingathering" at that time. (More on that later.)



With the big spaghetti fundraiser occurring the end of March, the Mission Committee decided to "piggyback" in supporting our youth ministries. Starting Ash Wednesday, we will be making available cardboard "banks" to collect change and small bills (or checks and large bills). The money will be collected through Easter. The next week the children will vote for which animals to purchase with the collection.

Heifer International is an organization based in Arkansas. "It supports smallholder farmers to sustainably address hunger and poverty in their communities while caring for the Earth. They apply a food systems approach to helping farmers earn more income and to generate economic opportunity for rural women, youth, and indigenous populations." Some examples are goats which give milk to drink and to make cheese -then surplus food can be sold to generate income. Likewise hens lay eggs which can be eaten or sold to supplement a family income.

In addition to individual churches, the United Methodist Church supports a number of service organizations. Each month we will try to highlight one of these other programs. Since many people start "spring-cleaning" or "spring-downsizing" in March, GOODWILL is a great drop off spot. Goodwill was founded in 1902 by Rev. Edgar J. Helms, a Methodist minister and early social innovator. One hundred twenty-three years later, Goodwill spends approximately \$.82 to \$.92 of each dollar generated to provide jobs, job training, and placing persons in sustainable employment. Samples of items include, clothing, shoes, jewelry, records, laptops, games, toys, dishes, lamps, artwork, used cars - you get the idea. To see what Goodwill cannot accept - go to [www.goodwillheartland.org](http://www.goodwillheartland.org).

We wish you a wonderful month "feeding" your "Heifer piggy-bank" and finding items to give to Goodwill so they can become someone else's treasures.

Your Oakwood United Methodist Mission Committee