

# OAKWOOD OAKLEAF AUGUST 2025



It has been a great summer at Oakwood. We had successful Vacation Bible School for the kids and Summer Games for the youth.

In July, we participated in the Altoona 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and the Pleasant Hill Summerfest Parade handing out candy and information about Oakwood. Thanks to Nathan and Kitana Fischer for organizing these and to all who participated in these events, even in the very hot weather.

We also had a team that went to the Caring Hands Outreach Event with the focus to help their clients know what services are available to them.

We are grateful for all the support throughout the church. It's been a great summer.

In this issue:  
Summer Fun  
Fall is Coming  
Welcome Cards



CONNECT

GROW

SERVE

## ***WORSHIP Services***

Sunday 9:30 am

The 9:30 am Sunday Service is in-person  
and live streamed at [www.oakwoodlife.org](http://www.oakwoodlife.org)  
*Childcare Available*

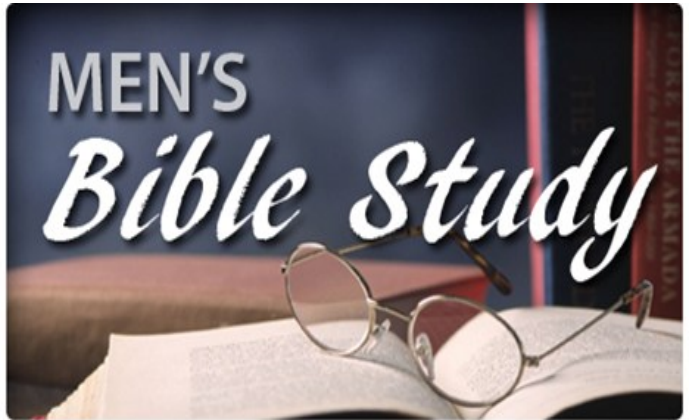


## **Men's Bible Study**

Saturday Mornings @ 8:00 am

All men are welcome

Please see Mike Feldman if you  
have questions.



## ***Wednesday Night Suppers Starting September 10***

We are planning for Wednesday night meals this fall. 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. We will have sign-up sheets out sometime in August.

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





## YOUTH THIS SUMMER

July was an exciting month with our youth group! We have been reading through the book of John for our Wednesday night Youth Group Bible Study and our attendance and engagement in conversation has been getting better each week. Thank you to everyone who has kept the meal ministry and backpack program going through the summer months!

Some of our youth also spent a week at Summer Games in Grinnell! Oakwood had 14 campers, 4 huddle leaders, and 4 adult volunteers make the trip for a week full of fun, dancing, games, food, and - most importantly - growing closer to Jesus. Thank you once again to everyone who helped with Spaghetti Supper and donated to help make money not an issue for sending our students to camp.

We will continue our John study Wednesday nights through August. Our Fall Kickoff is Wednesday, September 3 and Sunday School resumes on the 7th!



Nathan



## Welcome Cards



Rev. Alexis recently asked our congregation for their thoughts on how Oakwood could be more welcoming to all. We received about 70 responses on the cards we handed out during worship service. The comments were all valuable to us and give good insight into how we can always welcome the people who walk through our doors.

The most frequent observation was that we need to increase the number of young people, of all ages, to our church as well as people of different ethnicities. How do we do this, you might ask. There were several ideas, but people said most frequently to **invite**, family, friends, and neighbors to church.

In addition, we should invite more groups to use our facility, similar to the quilters, the AA group, Boy Scouts and 4-H that already meet at Oakwood. Maybe there are other groups we could start, for example it was suggested we start a knitters group or other interest group.

Many thought we are already a friendly, welcoming church, but we need to make sure first-time attendees don't get lost on Sunday morning. Welcome them, sit with them and invite them back: something we all can do.

As our church leaders and leadership committees plan for next year, they will be using these comments to guide them when appropriate. In the meantime, ask yourself what can I do and most importantly, ask God to guide you in how to give of your time and energy to Oakwood.

Thank you for your suggestions. If you would like to see the complete set of comments, contact Nancy Berggren and she will see that you get a copy.





**CONNECT - GROW - 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  
515-262-6007  
[Alexis.johnson@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Alexis.johnson@oakwoodlife.org)

**Small Group Ministry &  
Connections Associate**  
Julie Feldman  
515-262-6007  
[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)

**Children's Ministry Associate:**  
Ruby Ruby  
Tania Bentley, 515-360-9817  
[Tania.bentley@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Tania.bentley@oakwoodlife.org)  
[Jessica.ruby@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:Jessica.ruby@oakwoodlife.org)

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

August Birthdays	August Anniversaries
1– Donald Clem	2-Doyle and Starr Scott
2– Georgia Roorda	9-Jake and Penni Heuer- mann
3– Ellise Feldman	21-Jeff and Lisa Klopfen- stein
4– Martha Miller	31-Angela and Kyle Skin- ner
5– Mary Hicks	
7-Judy Parsons	
9-Amanda Atteberry, Janet Gustafson,	
11– Helen Phillips	
13-Joel McCrea, Ed Miles, Jim Waltrip	
15-Rich Wilson	
16-Eric Newton	
17-Loren Lown	
20-Angie Acker	
25– Cassie Lahmann	
27-Kathy Zimmer	
28-Doug Griggs, Kayla Bentley	
30-Linda Gonzalez,	
31-Randy Childs, Don Miller	

## *Oakwood Kids*

Tania and Ruby are still coming down from the excitement of VBS in June. What a WONDERFUL week filled with the kids and adults; praising and sharing about Christ!

As we look to the school year, we are cleaning out the Children's Ministry closet. We will have a garage sale during the first and second week of August. Free will donations will go to support Oakwood's Children Ministry program.

Additionally, we are in need of more teachers for our pre-k to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We ask for the congregation to pray for such leaders to step forward to teach and learn with God's beloved children at Oakwood. Contact Tania or Ruby if you have questions or are interested in finding out more information.

Tania: [taniabentley2827@gmail.com](mailto:taniabentley2827@gmail.com)

Ruby: [jessica.ruby@oakwoodlife.org](mailto:jessica.ruby@oakwoodlife.org)

---

## **Copper Shores Retirement Community**

Oakwood has been given the opportunity to provide a short once-a-month worship service at the Copper Shores Retirement Community in Pleasant Hill. We would spend 30 minutes one Sunday a month at 2:00 in the afternoon providing prayers, devotions, music and visiting with the residents and staff who attend. The structure of our worship can be varied based upon what we want to do. Our first Sunday will be September 14.

At this point, we are trying to assemble 2 or 3 teams to do this, so your commitment would be only once or twice a quarter. If you sing, play an instrument, like to read devotions or visit with the residents, please let Julie or Nancy know. You may always call the church office at 515-



Mark your calendars !

# OAKWOOD FALL KICK-OFF

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3

5:30 PM

FOOD, MUSIC, GAMES, BALLOONS AND FACEPAINTING

PLEASE JOIN THE FUN!  
BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS



## **Oakwood Apparel**

It is time to order new items to get ready for fall.

Our Oakwood apparel store is open until 8:00 am August 11.

The link for the store is: <https://oakwoodmethodist.itemorder.com/>

## **Classics**

After their summer break, Classics will resume again on September 11, 2025. The group gathers at 11:30 then eats the potluck lunch at noon. If you are 55 or older, come for the fun , fellowship, and food. It is always a great time.

# OAKWOOD



# HOMECOMING

***SEPTEMBER 7, 2025***

***9:30 AM***

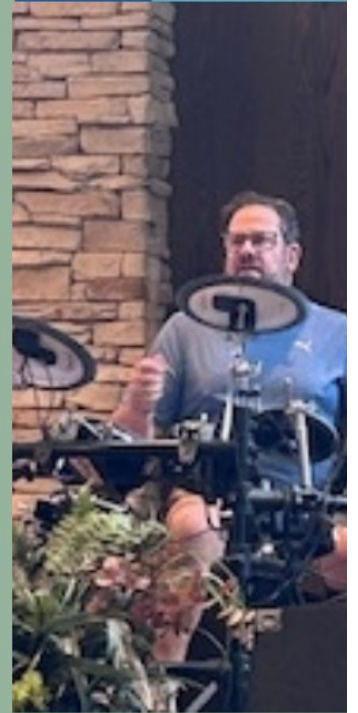
**Come worship with us for Homecoming, enjoy a potluck lunch and see old and new friends.**

**Invite your friends and neighbors! More details soon.**



# MUSIC

## SUNDAY





## Summer Parades

Thank you to everyone for supporting our parade outreach efforts! Between the two parades, over 600 flyers were handed out to people around our community. We have noticed an increase in searches and interaction this month across Google, Facebook, and Instagram after these events! We are looking forward to having a presence in the Southeast Polk Homecoming Parade on September 25<sup>th</sup>! Watch for more information





## *New Fall Small Group*

### **Come On In!**

***A new monthly small group beginning September 8, 2025***

***2nd Monday, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room***

Have you ever just wanted a soft place to land, with fellow Christians as we navigate the on-going balance of “being with Jesus” and “doing for Jesus”? Well, we have an invitation just for you.

Our intention, our theme, our purpose, is a loving response to Jesus’ loving invitation:

“Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock.

If you hear me call and open the door,

I will come right in and sit down to supper with you.”

Revelation 3:20 (The Message)

So, it’s called “Come On In!”. A small group in the Lectio Divina format\*. It will be a place of renewal, not more things to do. A place to “fill our cup” spiritually each month before we get back to the also important “doing” for Christ as God also requires of us.

Beginning Monday, September 8, 2025. We will meet the 2nd Monday of each month, 5:30 pm, in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Bring a bible, any version.

Bring a bible verse or two. A passage no longer than two verses long.

We will have handouts, so please register before Friday September 5, via email or text with either co-leader so we have enough. Judy Wadding; [jwadding@hotmail.com](mailto:jwadding@hotmail.com) cell: 515-473-1655 Todd Buchacker; [tbuchacker@gmail.com](mailto:tbuchacker@gmail.com) cell: 515-250-6210

\*Lectio Divinia (pronounced Lex’io Da-Vee’-na) is a practice of soaking in God’s guidance through Bible reading and personal devotions, allowing it to emphasize guidelines for our own life. Lectio Divinia not a space for debating the generalized meaning of a passage.



