

THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

A WORD FROM OUR LEADERS...

April was a great month at Oakwood, with over 430 people celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection on Easter Sunday! While we celebrate these truths all year long, the Easter season is an especially powerful reminder of the radical, generous, self-sacrificing love of our Lord and Savior. As followers of Jesus, we want to imitate our Master. In a world where virtually everyone is concerned about their own success and survival, we have the opportunity to shine like stars as we model God's heart. Developing a culture of generosity at Oakwood will change our lives and our community.

When we talk about giving, we often focus on money or specific needs. While these are important details, the truth is that generosity is a heart issue, not a money issue. What we do with our money is a gauge of our spiritual health and maturity, and that's why Jesus spends so much time addressing it throughout the Gospels. When Paul spoke about the legendary giving of the Macedonian church, he urged the Corinthian church to prove their love like the Macedonians proved theirs: *"But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others."* (2 Corinthians 8:7-8) Then he took it a step further and talked about the highest standard in love and giving: *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through*



his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9) God is an extravagant giver, and he calls us to be the same.

During this transition time at Oakwood, we have a number of important opportunities facing us. The search for a new lead pastor is gearing up, which will impact our ministry for years to come. The brutal winter did a number on our deteriorating parking lot. Later this year we will also have some unbudgeted expenses as we switch from propane to more energy efficient natural gas.

In uncertain times it's easy to operate out of fear and self-preservation. God wants us to move forward in faith, with the resolve to be His people and accomplish His mission. Can we all do two things together as a church? First, let's commit to pray for God's wisdom and providence. Second, let's all do a heart-check and commit to be generous people with our time, talents and treasures. When all of us give and serve with hearts full of gratitude, faith and joy, the needs will be more than taken care of. Then we will also have greater opportunities to impact lives as we model God's generosity and grace in our community and around the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Mother's Day & Compassion Sunday**
Sunday, May 11
- **Free Auto Clinic**
Saturday, May 17th
- **Membership & Discover Oakwood**
Sunday, May 18th
- **Service Project at Crossroads**
Saturday, May 24th
- **Mom's & Dad's Day Out**
Friday, May 30th
- **Men's Rope Challenge & Team Bldg**
Saturday, May 31st



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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm

GUATEMALA MISSIONS TEAM

On June 19th, twenty people from Oakwood will leave for Guatemala. They will be going into the mountains of Teculután and the surrounding area to deliver food and other necessities to people in remote, poverty-stricken villages. The team will be visiting schools, sharing God's love and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ. They will also help build a medical clinic. We are partnering with Tim Fix and Hope for Tomorrow, a local organization that has been leading mission work in Guatemala for over ten years.

THANK YOU to those who gave to the mission trip offering this past week. We received about \$3,500! The team needs \$1,500 more to be fully funded. If you would like to financially support the team, please make a check out to "Hope for Tomorrow" and mail or drop it by the church.

Mission Team Members: Scott Brinks, Ronda Brinks, Libby Fitz-Gerald, Julie Gleason, Dana House, David House, Toni Krug, Fran Maddock, Joslyn Meixell, Patty Meixell, Joe Penzien, Emily Penzien, Lance Red, Nichole Rodabaugh, Mark Rodela, Hannah Sample, Carrie Stec, Shane Stec, Stephanie Stothers, and Stan Walls.

PLEASE PRAY:

- That students and teachers in Guatemala will come to know Jesus
- For the team building and work that needs to be done as we prepare
- For faith, strength, health and spiritual growth as we serve



OAKWOOD'S LEADERS

Brian Reynolds, Elder

I committed myself to Jesus Christ in 1994 as a "believer". It took me several more years to become an "understander" of our faith. The Discovery Series was instrumental in helping me understand and apply God's love in my life. Over a two year journey, I learned about our faith, God's grace and much more. My wife and I continually study God's word and apply it to our lives.

I have served at Oakwood as a Deacon, Small Group Facilitator and an Awana helper. I am a father of three girls: Samantha (14), Autumn (12) and Abby (10). My children are homeschooled by my patient and loving wife, Pam. We live in Oxford, have three dogs and enjoy outdoor activities like hiking and fishing. I also enjoy hunting and survival skills training. I am employed as a Program Manager in the automotive industry and have also worked in the defense industry, specializing in vehicle survivability.

As an Elder at Oakwood I am committed to the mission we all have before us. I want to help everyone find their way. One of my favorite activities is simply having coffee with people. I enjoy hearing about their journey of faith and their struggles. I have seen prayer work in my life and in the lives of others. When the coffee is over the prayers begin.

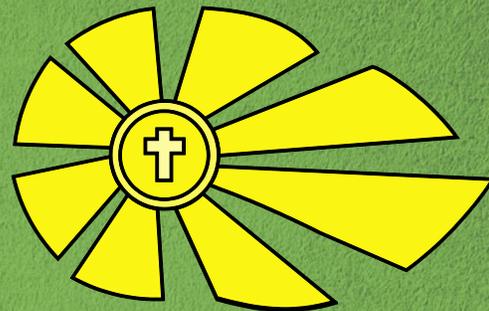


We want to remind everyone of the option to give online using your DEBIT card. You can make one-time donations or setup recurring gifts on a schedule of your choice. We currently receive over 25 percent of Oakwood's offerings via online giving. Summer is a great time to begin giving online, as travel and vacations often have people away from their home church.

If you have questions or would like help getting started with online giving, please contact the church office.

VISIT WWW.OAKWOODCC.ORG FOR THE LATEST NEWS & INFO FROM OAKWOOD

MINISTRY FOCUS SONSHINE PARK



Paraphrased from Ephesians 6:13-17
Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground. You will need the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

A new, exciting summer program will begin in SONshine Park on Sunday, June 1st and run thru August 31st. The program is called, **A Travel Guide to the Armor of God**. Children will be learning about a different piece of spiritual armor each week. They won't want to miss any of these great lessons or the activities and games that are planned to go along with the theme.

The summer program will include Praise and Worship and a creative Bible teaching on the armor of God each week. In addition, there will be some special surprises for the children. Laura Red, the director of SONshine Park, is looking for summertime volunteers. She will work with anyone who is willing to help – training is not necessary! She needs adult teachers, adult assistants, and teen helpers as well as anyone interested in helping with crafts or decorations.



Sign-up sheets for summer help will be in the lobby for the next few weeks. Please prayerfully consider helping. We are asking for a minimum 2-week commitment.

Contact Laura Red at 248-568-2131 for more information.