

# THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

## HEART-TO-HEART Women's Ministry at Oakwood



### A HUMBLE BEGINNING

The Women's Ministry at Oakwood began back in the 90's with a Monday Night Bible Study for women. This group met continually for twenty years doing a variety of bible studies, sharing testimonies, praying together, and becoming good friends. The friendships that were formed there led them to plan overnight getaways and eventually Women's Retreats – first to Camp Barakel, then the Kayak Adventure, and finally to our current retreat center, Grace Adventures.

We now have a team of devoted women who love God with all their heart, and have a passion to reach out and minister to our Oakwood sisters. We have three main goals:

1. To see all women grow in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus through prayer, Bible Study and encouragement from Christian sisters

2. To see all women make connections with Christians who can offer practical help and encouragement in their daily life challenges
3. To come together to serve our church and the community using the gifts that God has given us

### CHRIST-CENTERED

In order to meet the first goal, we currently offer two weekly small group Bible studies for women on Tuesday mornings. We have offered an evening Bible study when there were women who requested one. We have special prayer times, such as the "Praying for Husbands" event on March 29.

### CONNECTING WOMEN

To meet the second goal, we offer a variety of events – luncheons, overnight getaways, fall retreat, etc. We are always open to new ideas! We want fun and fellowship to be a part of our connection times.

We also have our Mentoring Program, our Women's Newsletter, and our Bulletin Board to help women stay connected with one another.

### REACHING OUT

To meet our third goal, we plan many outreach opportunities including our recent Mittens on a Mission (with Emily Sovis). We have partnered with Operation Christmas Child, Angelfish,

Grace Centers of Hope, Oxford Pregnancy Center and others.

Currently we are partnering with *Women at Risk International* during the Women of Faith "Unwrap the Bible" Simulcast.

### LIKE-MINDED WOMEN

If you have been blessed by any of the events for women mentioned here, then please join us in planning more. We need you! You are invited to join our next Heart-to-Heart Women's Ministry meeting on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the church.

*"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." Philipians 2:1-2*



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# MEN OF CHRIST

## RAW • RELEVANT • REAL

As Christian men, we all need a safe place to freely open up and gain encouragement and support from other Christian men. A place to talk about the struggles, hurts and weaknesses in our daily lives and our relationship with God. At each meeting, we pray for one another; we share scriptures; and we praise God for the blessings we have. We support each other, and we do our best to make each other accountable to our wives, our children and to God. Between each meeting, our goal is to maintain open communication by texting Bible verses, sending a “praying for you” text or doing anything we can to make sure we all know that we aren’t alone.

As Men of Christ, our monthly meetings are RAW • RELEVANT • REAL! RAW because we are candid and vulnerable, but ready to learn to follow God’s plan for our lives. RELEVANT because we openly communicate the daily struggles that weigh on us and challenge our faithfulness. REAL because we are genuine and honest as we share each other’s experiences for prayer and support. You are not alone. Not only is GOD forever with you, but your fellow Christian brothers are as well.

We meet the 3rd Saturday of every month from 6-8PM at a different guy’s home each month. So that hosting requires nothing more than opening his home, each attendee is asked to bring his own folding chair and any food or drink they would like for the evening.

Come and join our next evening, Saturday, February 21 at Joe Penzien’s home and see what we are all about.

# MEN’S RETREAT

## Grace Adventures Spring Training

**What to say about the Men’s retreat?** Hmmm! The men’s retreat is for a man who is seeking a closer relationship with the Lord no matter what stage in their journey of faith. It is for that man who is looking to grow, to learn, to gain godly wisdom, and to mature spiritually.

**What have I seen in the past men’s retreats?** I personally have seen men who are eager for the Lord – find Him. I have watched men accept Christ and take it to the next level and proclaim Him publically through baptism. I have witnessed young men seeking out the counsel of the more spiritually mature (no matter the age). I have seen men changed – swearing less, loving more, becoming more consistent in prayer and studying the Word. I have seen spiritual growth showing inwardly and outwardly as relationships blossom with the Lord and with fellow believers.

**Do you want to see your relationships grow – with the Lord and with the people in your life?** Then I urge you, one man to another, seek the Lord, look for opportunities of growth and take part.

**So to conclude. Who is the Men’s Retreat for (or any men’s gathering for that matter)?** YOU MAN!

# PAINTBALL



Oakwood’s Men’s Ministry Team is excited to offer opportunities for Christ-centered service, fun, and fellowship. The purpose of these activities is for men of the church to be able connect with one another and build relationships in a safe and rewarding environment.

The Paintball activity is set for February 28th from 10am to 2pm at CRU Paintball in Flint. The cost of this event, which is open to anyone ages 10 and above, is \$40 and will include use of the facilities, a paintball gun, safety mask, 500 paintballs, as well as a whole lot of fun! Advance payment is not required (it will be due the day of the event), but we need at least 10-15 guys committed to play. Those participating are encouraged to bring a sack lunch though vending options will be available.

In addition to the annual activities of paintball, Fantasy Football, and the Wild Game Dinner, the team is also working on developing and planning new events such as a family zoo day and a sportsman’s shoot. Ideas and suggestions for new activities are always welcome and can be shared with any member of the Men’s Ministry Team.

Those interested in playing paintball or anyone who is looking for more information about an upcoming event are invited to stop by the Men’s Ministry table in the church foyer before or after Sunday service. We thank you for your continued prayers and support. God Bless!