

THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

OUR NEW LEAD PASTOR!

As many already know, pastoral candidate Don Jackson was affirmed by an overwhelming 99% of the congregation and is now officially the newest pastor at Oakwood Community Church. Many thanks to the congregation at Oakwood for demonstrating patience and understanding as well as a firm reliance on God during the search process. Praise God for His direction and answer to our prayers!

Don Jackson's life story testified to God's grace, sovereignty and love. His heart is that of a shepherd and his faith is noticeably marked with a joyous spirit. Hopefully you have been present as he energetically brought God's Word to our ears and hearts. During his 25 years of ministry, Pastor Don developed a dynamic teaching style that is applicable to our lives, encourages strong discipleship and, most importantly, is firmly based on God's Holy Word.

Pastor Don's transition from Vision for Youth as well as his other commitments needs to be done respectfully, professionally and with love for those who he has worked with over the years. Also, Don and Julie need to sell their home in Battle Creek and find a home in our area. Be patient and pray every day for Don, Julie, Caitlin, Emily and Josh as they all adjust to this new season in their lives!



After accepting the position, Pastor Don (aka PD) shared his first impressions of Oakwood in a church-wide email. He said we are a church that is "genuine and open, growing in faith, and willing to be flexible." Let's live up to PD's first impressions as we follow Christ together! Please show the Jackson family the love, warmth, compassion and respect that is so prevalent here.

Ephesians 3:20-21 *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

Feel free to contact Pastor Don Jackson at his new email address: pd@oakwoodcc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Easter Sunday Services**
8:30 and 10:30
- **Soul Fire Adopt-A-Road Clean-Up**
Saturday, April 11 – 10am to Noon
- **Men of Christ Meeting**
Saturday, April 18 – 6 to 8pm
- **Praying for Husbands & Children**
Sunday, April 26 – 6:30 to 9pm



5791 Oakwood Road, Ortonville, MI 48462

Phone: (248) 628-6388 Email: office@oakwoodcc.org

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

MAKE PLANS FOR SUMMER

CARING FOR LITTLE ONES

The Child Care program at Oakwood is designed for maximum efficiency, security and safety. Our fully equipped nursery items are cleaned and sterilized regularly and nursing mothers are able to nurse in a private area seated in a comfortable glider.

Our Toddler Rooms are designed for children who have grown into the mobile stage of development. Since toddlers learn through play and exploration, we give them age appropriate materials and a bible based learning program that encourages their natural inquisitiveness. Our goal is to give toddlers the important elements of faith, family, and fun using the "BOZ" program to reinforce everyday values that parents are already teaching their little ones. To learn more about the curriculum, go to www.bozthebear.com. In addition to the teaching time, we have plenty of toys, art supplies, and books for independent play.

Parents can be assured that their babies and toddlers will be cared for in a loving, nurturing environment by approved, background-checked volunteers.

Kim Rodela (krodela@hotmail.com) and Roselyn Blair (rblair023@hotmail.com) are Oakwood's Child Care directors. If God has given you a special love for children, we can use you! Contact Kim or Roselyn to see where your gifts and talents fit into the Child Care program at Oakwood.

TAKE A ROAD TRIP IN THE PARK

SONshine Park is a place where seeds of faith are planted in kids' hearts. The seeds are watered and cultivated each week so that they will produce a harvest of believers. In SONshine Park, Jesus is the light! Our goal is to provide an environment where children in Kindergarten through 6th grade can grow spiritually, develop quality values, and make lasting friendships.

For the summer months of June, July and August, the kids in SONshine will be going on an exciting journey filled with stories, fun, prayer and adventure as they experience the ***Kids' Travel Guide to the 10 Commandments: Thirteen Lessons on Right and Wrong***.

In our oscillating world of moral relativism, God's commandments stand as firm as the rocks they were etched into. Children want and need absolute standards. Today many feel that what is right for one person may not be right for another person, but God's laws are unchanging. Our SONshine Park travelers will learn that God gives us laws because he loves us. "The law was our guardian until Christ came" (Galatians 3:24a). Best of all, the final lesson shows how all of the commandments lead us to Jesus.

Almost all of our volunteers agree that their time in SONshine Park inspired them to grow in their knowledge of God's word – blessing both the kids and the adults – a win-win situation! If you can join the road trip anytime during June, July or August, contact Laura Red at 248-568-2131 (redlpred@aol.com).

OAKWOOD'S 2015 MISSION TRIP
**MOTOWN
MISSION**
YEARS
JULY 19-25, 2015

Not everyone can pack up all their belongings and become career missionaries, but many of us can go on a short-term mission trip. Oakwood's Outreach Team wants to provide opportunities to serve God around the world as well as close to home. Last year, Guatemala was our destination. For 2015, the Outreach Team is partnering with Soul Fire Youth Ministry to work with Motown Mission (www.motownmission.org) in Detroit from July 19-25. Motown Mission trips engage men and women ages 12 and up in economic disaster recovery work in the City of Detroit. Participants serve God by serving others, explore the Biblical witness regarding the poor, meet the people and experience the culture of the Motor City, and discover their own capacity for living missionally in the name of Jesus Christ.

While we are joining forces with the Soul Fire teens, there will still be some unique parts of the experience for the high schools students. The senior high students will be working with Bobby and his team at a separate work site during the days. Also, senior high students do not need a parent to accompany them, but middle school students must be accompanied by at least one parent. We will work in various neighborhoods to rebuild homes, feed the poor, and/or tend Detroit's urban agriculture. No previous experience is necessary, but the skills of the participants will be considered and utilized.

The total cost for the trip will be \$299/person. You must register by paying a \$99 non-refundable deposit by Sunday, May 3, 2015. Fliers with details about the trip are available in the church lobby and on the missions page of our website.

There will be a brief informational meeting on Sunday, April 26th right after the worship service for anyone interested in serving on the 2015 mission trip. If you have questions or want to sign-up, contact Julie Gleason at 248-568-6328 or mgptile@comcast.net, or Bobby Roop 248-736-8808 or soulfire@oakwoodcc.org.