

THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, LIVING GOD'S WORD

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We are blessed to have you at Oakwood Community Church whether you are a founding member, regular attendee or a recent visitor. We want you here and hope to be an encouraging place contributing positively to your Spiritual journey. We desire to have committed members here in our family of Christ followers. Membership helps us to be everything we need to be for you and also utilizes you to be everything that we need to be in our community. I recently read an article written by John MacArthur that outlined the importance of church membership. The following thoughts are derived from that article.

When an individual is saved, they become a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). Throughout the Bible, believers were identified with a local church whether in Corinth, Ephesus, Colossae or other cities. One of the major themes of the Bible is commitment and there is no better way to commit than becoming a member of a church.

To become a member of a church is to formally commit oneself to a local body of believers who have joined together for specific, divinely ordained purposes. These purposes include receiving instruction from God's Word (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2), serving and edifying one another through the proper use of spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11), participating in the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42), and proclaiming the gospel to those who are lost (Matt. 28:18-20). In addition, when one becomes a member of a church, he submits

himself to the care and the authority of the biblically qualified elders who God has placed in that assembly.

Although Scripture does not contain an explicit command to formally join a local church, the biblical foundation for church membership is seen throughout the New Testament. In the early church, when individuals repented and believed in Christ, they were baptized and added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 16:5). The New Testament teaches that the church is the body of Christ, and that God has called every member to a life devoted to the growth of the body. In other words, Scripture exhorts all believers to edify the other members by practicing the "one-anothers" of the New Testament (e.g., Heb. 10:24-25) and exercising their spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11).

At Oakwood Community Church, we want individuals to know membership is a commitment involving many responsibilities: exemplifying a godly lifestyle in the community, exercising one's spiritual gifts in diligent service, contributing financially to the work of the ministry, giving and receiving admonishment with meekness and in love, and faithfully participating in corporate worship. Much is expected, but much is at stake. Stability through strong membership allows us to be most effective making an impact in our community. To put it simply, membership matters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ***It's All About Kids***
Sunday, September 13th
- ***Baptisms at the Lake***
Sunday, September 13th
- ***Men of Christ – Raw, Relevant, Real***
Saturday, September 19th
- ***Discover Oakwood***
Sunday, September 27th

 **Oakwood**
Community Church

5791 Oakwood Road, Ortonville, MI 48462

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

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

OAKWOOD IS READY FOR FALL!

Summer is winding down and we are preparing for new fall programs and ministries with many opportunities to serve.



Our dedicated Child Care volunteers care for the babies and toddlers, as well as teach the three and four-year-olds about God and Jesus. The Child Care Ministry allows the parents of these children to worship God without distraction, knowing their children are being cared for and taught in a loving and safe environment. Contact Roselyn Blair 248-249-4454 or Kim Rodela 810-540-5957.



Oakwood's Sunday morning program for children is called Sonshine Park. It is a nurturing environment where kids in

Kindergarten through 6th grade can grow spiritually and develop godly values in an age-appropriate environment. SSP leadership is currently looking for volunteers. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry. Sign-up on Sunday, September 13th or call Laura Red for more information. 248-568-2131



Awana is our mid-week program for children 3-years old thru high school. Awana teaches that God's way of living is found in the Bible and

delivers that message thru fun and wholesome activities. Oakwood's Awana program meets on Wednesday evenings from September through May. The 2015-2016 calendar as well as Registration forms can be downloaded from Oakwood's website. Awana starts September 9th 6:30 to 8:20pm. Leader contacts are Heather or Gary Kronenberg 248-793-5548.



Soul Fire Youth Ministry is for all teens from 7th to 12th grade and meets at Oakwood on Sundays from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Sunday, September 13th at 6:00pm is the kick-off meeting for both parents and teens. Come and learn more about what's planned for the coming

year starting with a Campout on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Soul Fire Leader contact is Bobby Roop 248-736-8808.

Small Groups



Small groups are the best way to get connected and grow at Oakwood. In a small group, people study and apply God's Word together, support and pray for one another. Many of our groups have been on a break this summer but will be starting up over the next few weeks. We have a variety of small groups meeting in locations throughout our community as well as on campus at Oakwood. **Look for a program insert with details and opportunities to sign up at Oakwood on September 13th and 20th.** Contact Pastor Shane at shane@oakwoodcc.org or 248-464-3248 if you have questions or would like to join a group.



BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

During the summer months, the Deacons have been busy facilitating some building improvements in our offices, library and child care rooms.

To minimize heat loss in the winter and lower air conditioning cost in the summer, the cement block walls are now insulated, dry walled and repainted. This improvement will make our offices, library, toddler and nursery rooms more energy efficient. The staff has already noticed a difference in maintaining stable temperature levels and with winter just around the corner, cold drafts should be a thing of the past!

In addition to the insulation project, new carpet was installed in the offices and library. The Child Care rooms should be done before the middle of September. The new look is warm and inviting for all who visit the church!

For more energy efficiency and cost savings in the Lobby, the old incandescent light fixtures with 75w bulbs were replaced with new LED fixtures with 13W bulbs. The Lobby will be brighter with less electricity. The hallway fixtures are in the process of getting LED's also.

Finally, the Deacons have scheduled annual fall & spring HVAC maintenance to improve the longevity of our heating and cooling units.

STEWARDSHIP: Responsible planning and management of resources!

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