

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

Winter storm predicted for this weekend... as we go to press for this week's E-connections, it's too early to make a final decision about Sunday's service; we're hoping to make a decision by late Friday afternoon, which we will then communicate to the congregation. If in-person worship is canceled, a small team of worship leaders will record a service that can be viewed on our website this weekend.

Winter storms remind us that we are not in as much control of our lives as we think. Unaccustomed to snow/ice and thus inexperienced with driving in it, we rightly hunker down in our homes and stay put (after frantic trips to the grocery store to stock up!). With safety as our top priority, we do not gather for worship when the roads are treacherous on Sundays. Instead, we heed the reminder that we can't always do what we want to do, that there are limits in life that wisdom calls us to honor.

Winter storms remind us to pray for those who are without shelter and for those who lose power, and to help as we can. It also reminds us to pray for utilities personnel, street maintenance workers, emergency responders, the fire and police departments, and all those who have committed their lives to helping keep us safe.

And as I write these words on Thursday morning, it's possible that the storm may miss us or have a small impact, reminding us that no one can perfectly predict the future! Regardless of what the weather does this weekend, here are some of the things happening in the life of our church:

We extend our prayers and support to Becky Taylor and her family in the death of her mother, Joyce McCallum. A celebration of Joyce's life will be held at The Memorial Baptist Church on Wednesday afternoon, January 28, at 2:00, with visitation at 1:00. In order to support Becky and our staff colleague, her husband Wayne, the church office will close at 1:00 on Wednesday.

Either this Sunday or the next, our Korean sisters and brothers will worship in the Oakmont Fellowship Hall for the first time! What a gift it was to see this congregation of about 25-30 people move their belongings to our church this past weekend - I especially enjoyed watching the young children participate in the move-in! It's a privilege for us to be a blessing to this church, and I suspect we will receive many, many blessings because of this partnership.

The teachers from the Jarvis Preschool had a workday on our campus this past Tuesday, and they loved our space! It's evident that this group of gifted teachers love each other and love the children they serve. What a gift to get to host them and the children. The date of the Open House for prospective parents is now Tuesday, January 27, which is a change from the Monday date mentioned in last week's newsletter.

Whether snow, ice, or rain come our way, or it's just cold outside, it's an exciting time to be part of Oakmont Baptist Church!

Grace and peace, Eric Porterfield





OBC Updates



UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 25

I Corinthians 1:10-17

Eric Porterfield preaching

February 1

I Corinthians 1:18-31

Eric Porterfield preaching

February 8

I Corinthians 2:1-16

Eric Porterfield preaching

February 15

Matthew 17:1-13

Alicia Porterfield preaching

February 22

Jack Glasgow preaching



Oakmont SENIORS MINISTRY

Senior Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, January 27 at 11:30 a.m.
in the fellowship hall. Bring your own lunch!
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Winter Wednesday Nights



Join us for our regular Wednesday evening ministries! The Women's Bible Study begins at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, then at 6:00 p.m., we have Missions and Music for our children, Bible Study for our youth, and our Large Group Bible study is in the Multipurpose Room. ESL classes are also at 6:00 p.m., along with instrumental rehearsals, and choir rehearsal begins at 7:00 p.m. We pray God's blessings for all these ministries as a new year begins!



The Sermon on the Mount Large Group Bible Study

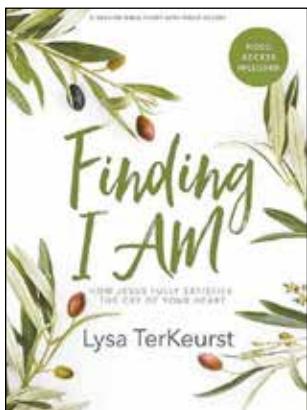
Join us in the Multipurpose Room at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights as Eric Porterfield leads us in a study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, from Matthew 5-7. This will be a six-week study beginning January 7.



Eppes Valentine's Soup Lunch

Friday, Feb. 13 / 1:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Each February, Oakmonters create a special lunch for the hard-working staff at Eppes Middle School. We're planning to offer soup, sliders, and desserts. The soup has been a huge hit—some staff have been looking forward to a personal favorite soup or chili all year! Contact Betty Langston if you'd like to help.



Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

We studied Jesus' statement "I AM the light of the world" this past week, led by Alicia Porterfield. This winter, we're using Lysa TerKeurst's insightful [Finding I AM](#) as our guide to explore Jesus' "I AM" statements in John's Gospel. It's not too late to join us—each book comes with video access so you can catch up or go at your own pace. Please let [Alicia](#) know if you'd like to claim a book (books are \$20), or you may order your own [here](#).

Youth Mission Trip Banquet and Ministry Celebration, March 8!



Join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, March 8, as we give updates on all the exciting things happening in our church. We'll meet in the Multi-Purpose Room. Then at 5:00 p.m., we move to the Fellowship Hall where our youth will provide a wonderful dinner, and we'll have the opportunity to financially support their summer mission trip.

Oakmont Needs You!



What a blessing that we are growing, but that also means that we need new volunteers as Greeters at our entrances prior to our worship services and in our Nursery and Preschool areas during worship. If you are interested and willing to volunteer in one of these areas, please let our staff know by calling the office or emailing Nicole Davis at nicole@oakmontchurch.com. Serving is a blessing, and we pray that you will consider serving God at Oakmont in one of these capacities in 2026. Thank you!

Missions Review



Over the course of the year, Oakmont observes several “Special Ingathering” offerings. Some of these are specifically Oakmont-related and others support various Baptist-related ministries across our state. We also have an update on the medical clinic in Honduras that has been completed after years of work!

OAKMONT

BENEVOLENCE FUND OFFERINGS: (\$6,858) The Benevolence Fund was created to assist Oakmont members and regular attenders requesting help with specific financial needs. The Fund has a team and a chairperson who assess and pray over each confidential request.

DESIGNATED OCCM FUNDS: (\$43,836.89, WHICH INCLUDES THE \$14,365 FROM THE EASTER OFFERING) The Oakmont Community Center Ministries Funds enable many of our neighborhood ministries to operate, from Backyard Buddies to Backpack Pals to the Village to Ramp Builders. Part of this total includes an ECU Health grant for the Ramp Builders.

STATEWIDE MINISTRIES

BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES: (\$1,160) BRH, now known as ThriveMore, runs a number of retirement communities in NC. Some residents who are in need receive financial assistance.

NC DISASTER RELIEF: (\$1,460) Baptists on Mission specialize in crisis response, both immediate food support and clean up, as well as rebuilding.

BAPTIST HOSPITAL: (\$2,200) This offering goes to provide financial support for patients in need as part of the mission and work of NC Baptist Hospital.

BAPTIST CHILDREN’S HOMES: (\$2,840) BCH provides services and support for NC children and families in crisis.

HONDURAS! For a number of years, a team from Oakmont served with a larger group alongside Friends of Honduras to build a medical center in Concepción del Sur, an area with great need and few resources. Oakmont has paid for building supplies and assisted with travel costs. Each year the team would return showing us the progress, step by step, and sharing about ongoing relationships with the community. Thanks be to God, the medical center has been up and running—and BUSY! Here are some 2025 highlights, thanks to Ron Mills: 2,515 medical care visits to children under five years old; 618 prenatal check-ups; and 18,040 general medical visits. What an absolute joy it is to see God at work through the efforts of many people working together, willing to serve in Christ’s name!

Music Ministry Memos



Wednesday, January 28

6:00 p.m. | Instrumental Ministry Rehearsal (sanctuary)

7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (choir room)

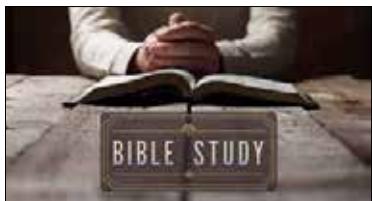
Thursday, January 29

10:00 a.m. | JOY Singers Rehearsal (choir room)

Sunday, February 1

3:30 p.m. | Handbells Rehearsal (room 607)

Contact Laurie Cosby if you are interested in joining any of these groups at laurielee@oakmontchurch.com.



Drop-In Bible Study

We're back from our holiday break and hope that you will join us!

We meet on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in Room 300 as we continue our study of Paul's short letters. Hope to see you soon!

A New Youth Room Is on the Horizon! Opportunity to Support!



Architectural plans are being finalized, site plans are being formulated, and we think construction on our new Youth Room could begin by March if not before, depending on the winter weather. This is exciting!

Add to the excitement an unanticipated and much appreciated gift of \$150,000 to our Building Fund from Immanuel Baptist Church! As Immanuel continues the long process of bringing their formal ministry to a close, and as many of their members have joined us at Oakmont as we together continue Immanuel's wonderful legacy, we're so grateful that part of the Immanuel legacy will be experienced every time a teenager walks through the doors of the new facility.

With Immanuel's gift, the eventual sale of The Branches property, and our healthy reserves, we do not anticipate a capital campaign for this new construction, currently estimated at \$950,000. But the Immanuel gift reminds us that when something wonderful happens, people want to be part of it and support it. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the new construction, we encourage you to do so! We're not asking for sacrifices or for anyone to divert their end of year giving from missions or the Ministry Action Spending Plan. But we do want to give people an opportunity to participate in this project through special giving.

Throughout our construction journey, we invite people to give as they feel led.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

We were off this week in honor of the MLK Jr. holiday (Monday) and a Teacher Workday (Tuesday). Next week we are back to our normal Mon./Tues., 3:20–4:30 schedule and will remain so until the week of March 16, spring break week. Our verse for January is, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” —John 1:5.



Young Lives



Our friends from Young Lives, Young Life's ministry with teen moms, gathered in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 20 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Lillie Moore from Young Lives, and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry. With Bethany out of town, Pastor Eric served as the Oakmont connection! Please pray for these moms and their children as they learn and grow together. We count it a blessing to welcome them!



Clothes Closet

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING WINTER DONATIONS! The best time to drop off clothes is when the Closet is open: the first and third Tuesdays (no fifth Tuesdays) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Our next date is February 3.

If you can help, please contact Robin Congleton at rebecca.congleton55@gmail.com or Alicia at alicia@oakmontchurch.com!

Backpack Pals!



Liz Evans and the team are back at it, packing bags each week from our well-stocked pantry. Please keep us stocked up with PROTEINS: CHICKEN CANS/PACKS, TUNA CANS/PACKS, CHEF-BOY-ARDEE, and SOUP. Special thanks to our faithful Backpack Pals team for helping us love our middle school neighbors.



ESL Classes

English as a Second Language classes are back in full swing, Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. A dedicated team of teachers and conversation partners makes this ministry possible each week. We thank God for the chance to serve our neighbors as they work to learn English!

LINKS



Our friends from LINKS, teenagers in foster care and support staff, will be with us again February 10. They gather in the Fellowship Hall the second Tuesday night of the month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Diane Myers leads this ministry of hospitality with support from Sharron Edwards. We'd love to have an extra set of hands to help on Feb. 10 and March 10. Contact Alicia if you can assist!



Walmart Fridays

Every Friday, Oakmont van drivers take ECU International students, most of whom don't have cars, to Walmart for their weekly shopping. This ministry offers both practical support as well as relational ministry time for the drivers to connect with the students. Thanks to our leader, Joe Mitchell, we now have a text group for the regular riders to help with communication.

This month's schedule: January 23 & 30: Cal Hayslip.

*Tuesday
Meals Ministry*



Tuesday Night Meals

It was good to have our teams be back in the kitchen January 6, cooking, serving, and delivering hot, tasty meals for our homebound and neighbors in need. Our remaining date for the month is January 27.



Spiritual Formation at OBC

Prayer Team at Oakmont



Oakmont, you have a prayer team that wants to pray for the issues in your life that challenge you! We have set up four prayer boxes around the church; two at the back of the sanctuary, one in Grand Central, and one in the back hallway near the choir suite. There is no issue too small; it would be our honor to support each of you this way. Please put us to work!

Care Team Update



The CARE (Connecting, Appreciating, Responding, Engaging) Team provides a ministry of love and support to some of our members who are not able to attend worship and other church activities on a regular basis. The team makes visits, phone calls, and remembers birthdays, just to name a few things. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Lynne James at lynnej@suddenlink.net or Kimberly Williamson at kwilliamson@suddenlink.net.

Join us on Sunday mornings!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP
this Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP
at 10:45 a.m.

WATCH US ON CABLE CHANNEL 7
at 12:15 p.m.



Watch our worship services online!

You're invited to subscribe to Oakmont's YouTube channel to watch our worship services online! Access it via YouTube by typing in the channel's name: "Oakmont BC Greenville NC." You can also access it by clicking [here](#) or on the YouTube logo above.

Join us for live-stream using the QR code above!





Small Group Connections AT OAKMONT



Life Lessons Bible Studies

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Sharron Edwards

Location: Room 607

****Formations Adult Bible Study***

(Smyth and Helwys)

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Cal Hayslip

Location: Room 606

Nurturing Faith Bible Study

Co-ed Small Group for adults in 40s–50s who may have children in middle and/or high school

Teacher: Mac Williamson

Location: Room 501

The Journey Class

Co-ed small group for adults ages 30s–50s who may have school-aged children

Teacher: Lauren McGee

Location: Room 502

****Formations Adult Bible Study***

(Smyth and Helwys)

Potter's Clay

Co-ed ongoing class for middle/older adults

Co-teachers: Tim Britton, Ed Congleton, Bill Gaston

Location: Room 300

College/Young Adult Class

A class for college-age coeds

Teacher: Michele Mazey

Location: Room 506

****Formations Adult Bible Study***

(Smyth and Helwys)

Disciples

Co-ed ongoing class for older adults

Co-teachers: Dot Seay, Doug Strickland,

Fred Daniel & Wayne Taylor

Location: Fellowship Hall

****Connections Adult Bible Study***

(Smyth and Helwys)

Messengers

Co-ed ongoing class for senior adults

Teacher: Carol Foor

Location: Room 307

****Formations Adult Bible Study***

(Smyth and Helwys)

Pathfinders

Co-ed ongoing class for senior adults

Co-teachers: Tom Durham, Gerry Jolly

Location: Room 609

Koinonia

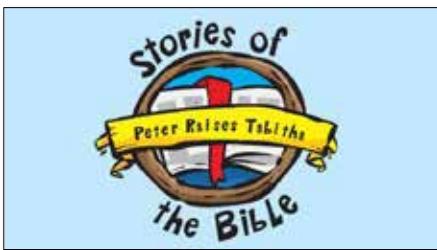
An ongoing class for women who are single, divorced, widowed, or women who do not attend a class with their husbands.

During the summer, this small group chooses a contemporary book on a relevant subject, often written by a female author, to study together.

Teacher: Bridgette Williamson

Location: Room 610 (and off-campus on occasion)

Children's Connection



FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, WE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT HOW SPECIAL THE BIBLE IS. THE BIBLE IS WHERE WE LEARN ABOUT ALL OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS THAT GOD WANTS TO TEACH US. IT CONTAINS GOD'S TRUTH AND WHEN WE READ THE BIBLE, WE LEARN IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE: GOD MADE US, GOD LOVES US, AND JESUS WANTS TO BE OUR FRIEND FOREVER. DURING THIS MONTH WE WILL TALK ABOUT HOW THE BIBLE SHOWS US HOW WE CAN TALK TO GOD, HEAR FROM GOD, PRAY TO GOD, AND LIVE FOR GOD.

Our story for this week comes to us from Acts 9:36–39. In this story we learn about a woman named Tabitha. Tabitha was a follower of Jesus and she lived in the town of Joppa. Tabitha was known for always doing good and helping the poor. Tabitha even made robes and other clothing by hand and gave them to the people in need. However, one day Tabitha got very sick, and she died. The people of Joppa were so sad, but they had heard that Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, was staying in a town nearby. So the people went and found Peter and brought him to Tabitha's body. Peter prayed to God, and God helped Peter perform a miracle that brought Tabitha back to life! The people were so happy, and Tabitha continued to live for God!

This story is a great reminder of the importance of living for God. When we live for God, we can show God's love to other people. Tabitha lived for God by taking care of those in need. She made clothes for people who needed them. This showed the people that even when it felt like no one else loved them, God still did. The story of Tabitha should always encourage us and remind us how living for God can change the lives of others. When we live for God, we never know the positive impact that we might have on someone else's life. God can always work through us to do amazing things. The book of I Timothy says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct,

"Peter Raises Tabitha" | Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

January Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

JANUARY THEME: THE BIBLE TEACHES ME THE BEST THINGS

Books are a gift because of what they can teach us, but there is one book that surpasses them all—the Bible! Jesus said, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17 NIV). That’s what the Bible is. It’s truth! The Bible is filled with God’s words, and all the best things God wants to teach us. Join us this month as we pray for our children to fall in love with the Bible and see God’s Word as truth. Pray that they will see the Bible as the place they can go to learn the best things in life, things like: God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. By the end of this month, they will know they can talk about God, hear from God, pray to God, and live for God, because those truly are the best things!

JANUARY Memory Verse

“Your word is truth.” – John 17:17 NIV

Continued from previous page

in love, in faith and in purity.” This means that you don’t have to be a grown up to live a life that shows other people about God. You can start living for God right now!

So, this week I want you to remember the story of Tabitha. Remember how she lived for God and helped those who were in need. As you live for God, you will be amazed at how God helps you to love and care for the people around you, too!

—Ben Gurganus,
Associate Pastor for Youth & Christian Education
Resources and ideas are from Orange Curriculum.

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade January Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

JANUARY THEME: Game Plan— Growing Stronger in Faith Every Day

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TRUTH AND GOD’S CREATION, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD’S BIG STORY

While choosing to follow Jesus is the most important decision a kid can make, it’s only the first step! Learning to live and love like Jesus is a lifelong journey that can feel big and abstract for kids. That’s why it’s so important to provide handholds for kids (and grownups!) to grow in four specific areas of spiritual formation. We call these Faith Skills: Hear from God, Pray to God, Talk about God, and Live for God. This month, we’ll walk through all four skills as displayed in the life of Jesus. Kids will discover the value of talking with others about God through the story of young Jesus in the Temple. They’ll practice praying to God through The Lord’s Prayer and hearing from God in the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders. We end the month with the story of Jesus choosing Levi, also known as Matthew, to follow Him—and how Matthew left everything he knew to begin living for God. Just like learning a new instrument or skill, it takes commitment and a game plan to follow Jesus. But as kids learn to spend time daily practicing Faith Skills, even for a short time, they will become more and more like Jesus.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for January —

January 4

Practice talking about God.

January 18

Practice hearing from God.

January 11

Practice praying to God.

January 25

Practice living for God..

January Memory Verse

“Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.” – 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

— Youth Calendar —

FEBRUARY

1 | Carolina Hurricanes Game
20-22 | Disciple Now Weekend

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

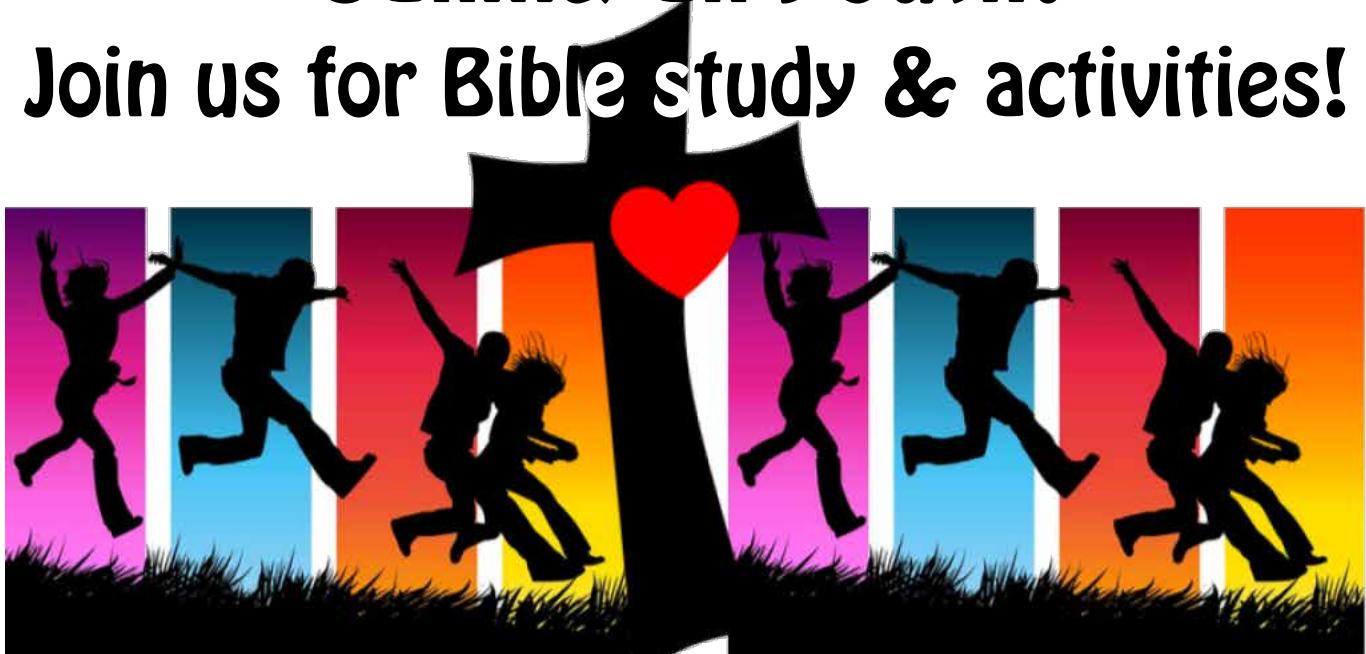
We still have tickets left for the Carolina Hurricanes game on Sunday, February 1! If anyone is interested, please contact Ben Gurganus at ben@oakmontchurch.com. The cost is \$45.

The youth group will meet on a regular weekly basis, every Sunday and Wednesday night, unless otherwise posted.

ON SUNDAY EVENINGS, the youth will arrive at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m., and small group bible study will begin at 6:30. Youth can be picked up by 7:30 p.m. each Sunday.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Bible study is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. each week.

**Calling all youth!
Join us for Bible study & activities!**



— This Week's Events —

Sunday, January 25

9:40 a.m.
Bible Study/Sunday School

10:45 a.m.
In-Person & Live-Stream Worship

12:00 p.m.
Leadership/Nominating Team
Meeting

12:15 p.m.
Worship on Cable Channel 7

1:00 p.m.
Korean Church Service & Lunch
Fellowship Hall

4:00 p.m.
Deacons Meeting
Fellowship Hall

5:30 p.m.
Youth Dinner & Bible Study

Monday, January 26

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

7:00 p.m.
Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, January 27

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

11:30 a.m.
Senior Adult Lunch Bunch
Fellowship Hall

1:00 p.m.
Homebound Meal
Preparation & Delivery

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

Wednesday, January 28

11:00 a.m.
Drop-In Bible Study

6:00 p.m.
ESL
Instrumental Ministry Rehearsal
Large Group Bible Study
Preschool, Children
& Youth Activities

7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 29

10:00 a.m.
JOY Singers Rehearsal

Our Record of Our

FINANCIAL

Sunday



January 18, 2026

FAITHFULNESS

2026 MISSIONS AND MINISTRY SPENDING PLAN: \$1,276,650

Receipts (This Week) \$11,143
(\$2,110 Online, \$9,033 Mail)

Communion Offering (This Week) \$100
Communion Offering (MTD)..... \$1,725

Receipts (Month-to-Date) \$65,897
Receipts 2026 (Year-to-Date) \$65,897

Baptist Retirement Homes (This Week) \$25
Baptist Retirement Homes (Year-to-Date) \$25

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Ben Gurganus

ANTHEM

“We Walk by Faith”
Chancel Choir and Orchestra

DRAMA

“United Together by Christ’s Love”
Revelation Players

NEW TESTAMENT READING

I Corinthians 1:10–18

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

“United in Christ Our Lord”

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

“Make Us One”

SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

LIFE AT OAKMONT

Rev. Ben Gurganus

BENEDICTION

Rev. Eric Porterfield

All People of Oakmont Baptist Church Are Ministers and serve alongside

Rev. Eric Porterfield
Senior Pastor
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Dr. Laurie Cosby
Minister of Music
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Rev. Ben Gurganus
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& Christian Education
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Rev. Alicia Porterfield
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Dr. Greg Rogers
Pastor Emeritus

Ms. Lauri Johnson
Pastoral/Music Ministry Secretary
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Mrs. Nicole Davis
Educational Ministries Secretary
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Mr. Jackson Bunch
Mr. David Horvath
Mr. Jimmy Weaver
Mr. Phillip Williamson
Sextons

Worship & Music Leadership

Mrs. Alisa Gilliam
Pianist

Mr. Jim Gilliam
Music Assistant

Mrs. Karen Meetze
Organist



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Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

