

October 5, 2025

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

“Have you heard we might get a new Youth Room?” There was excitement and a huge smile on this middle school boy’s face; he’s normally quiet and reserved so he had our full attention. He’s a member of our youth group and also part of our Backyard Buddies program, and Ron Mills and I were with him for tutoring. We of course knew all about the proposed Youth Room but didn’t let on; “Tell us about it!”

The student proceeded to tell us all about the plans and dreams for the new space, as relayed to him by Ben Gurganus at the previous week’s youth meeting. He even drew a sketch of the plans on the board. And I thought to myself, “This is why we do such things!”

There was excitement in the Multipurpose Room this past Sunday afternoon as this middle school boy’s dream took a big step closer to reality. Our congregation approved a recommendation to extend one of our existing education wings and construct a new Youth Room. Applause followed the vote, and it was a joy for me to give a tour of the area of proposed construction following the meeting. I’ve sensed the Holy Spirit’s leadership throughout this journey, and I believe we’ve made a commitment that will bless the young people of our church and community for generations to come.

The majority of the new space will be devoted to a worship area; it will have a chapel-like feel but geared toward a younger congregation. A short stage for a youth band and for the preacher/Bible study leader will most likely be constructed.

Before worship each Sunday night, the youth share dinner together. The new space will have tables for indoor meals, and we’ll provide a patio and picnic tables in the courtyard for outside dining when the weather is nice. One of the classrooms in the existing wing will become a kitchen area for meal preparation.

A second existing classroom will become a game room (pool table, ping pong table) and will connect to a lounge space in the new room (couches, video screen), providing a great space for the youth to hang out and be together.

We’ll keep you informed on construction details and timing as they emerge.

The church also voted to sell our Branches property to help pay for the new construction. The deacons are in the process of appointing a small team to oversee the sale, and we’ll keep you posted on this journey as well.

These are exciting times! Please continue to pray for the process, and for the generations of young people who will meet Jesus and grow in Christ from within this new space.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield



P.S. Remember to pray for our youth this weekend as they are away in Oxford, NC, on their annual fall retreat. Pray for their safety, fellowship, and growth in Christ.



Alicia in Uganda Oct. 7–19!



Our team of five CBF-connected women will leave October 7 for Kampala to lead a staff retreat for the women who help lead Refuge and Hope, a CBF refugee ministry.

We will also spend time at Amani Sasa, a former CBF refugee ministry that is now its own free-standing nonprofit. It will be a joy to learn among these sisters and brothers in Christ! Will you please pray with me for these women—many of whom were refugees themselves—for our team, and for our safety and travel? I am so very grateful to be part of a congregation who has a heart for loving and serving this hurting world God so loves.

With a thankful heart,

Alicia

An Invitation to Read Through the Psalms Again!

We've heard from many people who've found the reading of one Psalm each day to be a blessing.

We've started a second journey through the Psalms and we invite everyone to join in.

This daily reading will take us all the way to December 30 when we read Psalm 150!

We also invite you to pray the Lord's Prayer each morning.



Friday, October 3: Psalm 62

Saturday, October 4: Psalm 63

Sunday, October 5: Psalm 64

Monday, October 6: Psalm 65

Tuesday, October 7: Psalm 66

Wednesday, October 8: Psalm 67

Thursday, October 9: Psalm 68

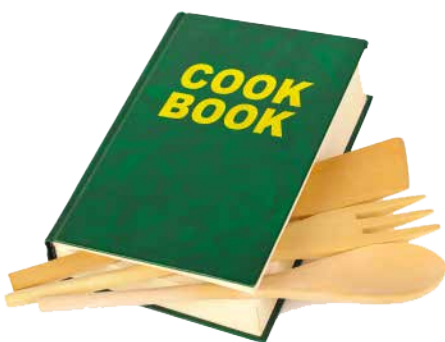


October 5

World Communion Day
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Eric Porterfield preaching

October 12

2 Timothy 2:8-15
Eric Porterfield preaching



OBC Cookbook

Would you like to be able to access our church's cookbook but don't have one? Then you're in luck! Click [here](#) to access a downloadable PDF so you can enjoy all of the great recipes it has to share!

Urgent Needs



One of our tutoring families suffered an apartment fire recently. Thankfully, everyone is OK! But there is an urgent need for replacement clothes and beds: bunk beds (with mattresses). Boys clothes: shoes (size youth 3); pants (size youth 14); shirts (size youth 12). Girls clothes: shoes (size youth 3); pants (size youth 12); shirts (size youth 12). Men's clothes: (for two teenager/young adults): pants (men's size 38/14); shirts (men's size XL). Women's clothes: pants (size 10); shirts (size large). Contact Alicia with questions. Drop-off is at her office. Thanks for helping us love these precious neighbors.

Music Ministry Memos

Wednesday, October 8

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

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

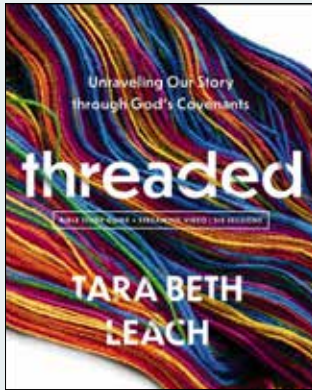
Thursday, October 9

10:15 a.m. | JOY Singers leaves for Cypress Glen



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

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

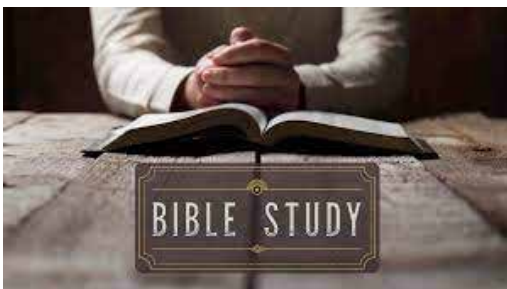


Alicia led us through reflecting on God's covenant with Moses and the children of Israel and laid the groundwork for this week's study on the covenant with David. *Threaded: Unraveling Our Story Through God's Covenants* by Tara Beth Leach is helping us see a bigger picture of God at work through deep covenant-connection with humanity over time. On October 8 and 15, Dot Seay will be leading us. Our wrap-up session and potluck feast will be October 22 with Sharron Edwards leading. Looking forward to seeing everyone at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!



Large Group Bible Study

We had a great start on John 17 this past Wednesday! Daniel Overby continues our exploration of this passage on October 8, with special emphasis on several word studies. Join us in the Multi-purpose Room at 6:00 p.m.



Drop-In Bible Study

A new Bible study and discussion led by Carole Swan meets every Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m. in Room 300. We are studying Paul's short letters, starting with Galatians. All are welcome to attend and drop in when you can!

MULTI-MEDIA

Our 10:45 a.m. worship service is recorded each week and shown on Cable 7 at 12:15 p.m.

Live streaming of our service and service archives are available in the Media section of our website.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 26 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.!



Thanks for working together to make this community ministry happen! We need volunteers to serve as greeters, parking attendants, game hosts, food prep and servers, and bathroom guides. We need donations of large bags of chips (BBQ and plain) to serve with the hot dogs. For the Cake Walk, we will also need individually-wrapped treats (cookies, brownies, Rice Krispies Treats and cake slices (no icing, please). These can be homemade or store-bought! Sign up [here](#) in the E-Connections or on the sign-up sheets in the narthex and outside the church office! Now

collecting individually-wrapped candy (peanut-free, if possible due to allergies). Drop the candy off in the tubs at office and in the narthex.

Backpack Pals is back!



We're packing **36 backpacks** a week this school year. We welcome financial gifts to support this ministry (just put Backpack Pals in the memo line) and donations of **PROTEINS: CHICKEN CANS/PACKS, TUNA CANS/PACKS, CHEF-BOY-ARDEE, and SOUP**. Special thanks to our team Liz Evans (lead), Kay Redd, Donna Sugg, Randy Fussell, Sabrina Lentz, Sue Thompson, and Sylvia Fuller who support this ministry.

Do you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter?



Please let us know if you would like to receive *E-Connections* online. All we need is an email address. If you have received it in the past and seem to have missed some issues, please check your trash or spam folder, as sometimes it goes into those folders. If you think you should be getting it and you are not, please call us in the office at 252-756-1245. Or if you have any questions, please call us. Thank you.

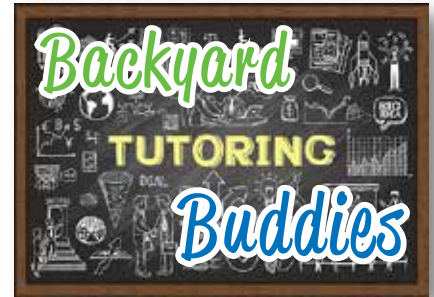
Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

Our Bible verse for October is “A gentle answer turns anger away, but mean words stir up anger” (Prov. 15:1, CEB). While Alicia is away, several folks are stepping up to serve our students: Sharron Edwards, Bobby Fussell, Lauri Johnson, and Dot Seay. Others are adding to their normal roles to be minister of snacks and taking on an additional student.

Jimmie Hughes and Bethany Bradsher have been such a gift to our four new ESL kids! We are so grateful!



NC LINKS



Pitt County's teen foster support group meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This program, led by Pitt County social services staff, teaches life skills and provides encouragement as these students move toward transitioning out of foster care. We have the honor of hosting, assisting with set-up, serving food, and connecting with staff and students. Diane Myers is our lead supporting LINKS.

Young Lives



We look forward to welcoming our new Young Lives moms and kiddos again on Tuesday, October 21! Young Lives is Young Life's ministry supporting teen moms. Going forward, they'll gather in the Fellowship Hall the third Tuesday night of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Bethany Bradsher facilitates this Oakmont partnership in tandem with the group's leader, Lillie Moore. Contact Bethany or Alicia for more info!



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. We give thanks for everyone who makes this ministry happen!



Clothes Closet

Normally open the first and third Tuesdays
of each month *from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (no fifth Tuesdays)*,
this ministry serves our neighbors in need.

We will be open again October 7 and 21. In the past several weeks, this ministry has been a huge help to our tutoring family recovering from an apartment fire. All their clothing was smoke damaged, but with the Clothes Closet and your generous clothing donations, they are getting what they need.

Thank you to our Clothes Closet team for welcoming and helping our neighbors!

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

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

Our October dates are the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. We are grateful for the dedicated teams that provide these meals to our friends who are homebound and in need!

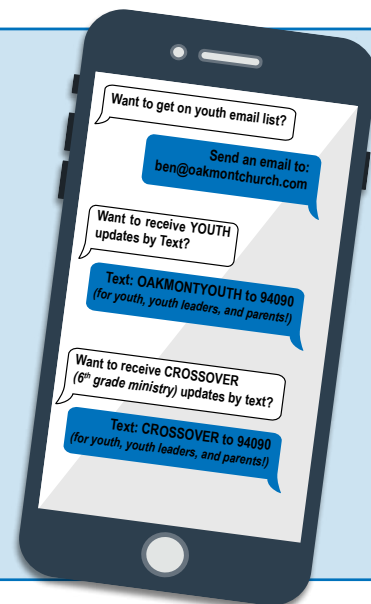


The Village Update

Monday at the Village, we looked at Philippians 4: 6-7 and how our anxiety is like an alarm telling us to pray for God's help with whatever it is we are facing. The more we pray, the more God's peace comes over us and helps our hearts and bodies feel calmer. Then we took some reflection time to write out our current anxieties and pray over them. Please pray for healing for these moms and their families.

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

STAYING IN THE KNOW with all that's going on with our youth is easy!
Just sign up for our email and texting lists,
AND GET INVOLVED NOW!





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 kfwilliamson@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

Young Adults

Co-ed small group for young adults, 30s–40s, who may have 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 OCTOBER, WE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT BRAVERY. IN THIS MONTH'S BIBLE STORIES, WE WILL LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO WERE FACED WITH SCARY SITUATIONS, BUT GOD HELPED THEM TO BE BRAVE. BY LEARNING FROM THESE STORIES, OUR CHILDREN WILL KNOW THAT WHEN THEY ARE AFRAID, GOD CAN HELP THEM BE BRAVE!

Our story for this week comes to us from Esther 2:2-8:17. The book of Esther tells us about the incredible life of a Jewish girl named Esther. Esther was an Israelite who was living in Persia. One day, the Queen of Persia got banished, and the King decided that he needed a new Queen. So, the King held a contest and Esther actually won! After this, Esther became the new Queen. However, the King also had a helper named Haman. Haman did not like the Jewish people. He hated them so much that he came up with a plan to kill all of the Jewish people who were living in Persia. Haman tricked the King to agree to his plan. This now meant that Esther and her family were at risk of being killed. Esther wanted to tell the King, but there was a rule that if anyone went to the King without permission, they could be killed, even someone as important as the Queen. So, Esther now had a difficult decision to make. She needed to tell the King about Haman's evil plan, but she was scared to do so. She didn't want the King to get upset with her and kill her before she could save her family. Not knowing what else to do, Esther prayed to God for help.

Esther needed to be brave, but she was afraid of what was going to happen to her and her people. But after praying to God, God gave Esther the courage to stand up to Haman and tell the King everything that

“Esther” Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

October Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

OCTOBER THEME:

SUPER KIDS- GOD CAN HELP ME BE BRAVE

Deep down, everybody wants to be a super kid, and nothing defines super kid better than the word “brave.” Being brave is a lot easier to say than do—for children and grownups. What we do to be brave—and Who can help us be brave—is what this month is all about. We can pray, like Esther, and be brave. We can remember that God is with us, like David, and be brave. We can trust what God says, like Gideon, and be brave. And when we pray, remember, and trust, God can help us be brave so we can help others, like Abigail. We want our children to grow up knowing that when they are afraid, God can help them be brave, and that is what makes them a super kid. Join us as we pray for our preschoolers and their families, as well as those of us who lead them. Pray that we will look to God and God alone when we are afraid and have to do hard things, because God can help us be brave.

October Memory Verse

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid...For the Lord your God goes with you.” – Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV

Continued from previous page

was going on. When the King heard what Esther told him, he became furious at Haman. He could not believe that Haman tricked him to do such an evil thing. So, the King punished Haman and Esther and her people were saved.

The book of Esther reminds us that when we are afraid, we can pray to be brave. God helps us to find courage in the times when we are scared and don't know what to do. So, the next that you are feeling afraid, remember that you can tell God about it. You can ask God to help you be brave. God can help you be like Esther and face whatever scary situation you are going through.

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

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade September Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

OCTOBER THEME: Wisdomland— God Can Help You Make the Wise Choice

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TRUTH AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

How many times recently have you heard a celebrity or influencer promote “you do you” or “live your truth”? Though it's true God has created each of us with unique gifts and desires, it all falls apart if we don't seek wisdom from God in everything we say and do. Our world is all about popularity, appearance, and intelligence, but in God's kingdom, wisdom is of far greater value. Jesus showed us perfectly what a wise life looks like: stay connected to God and seek God's best in every circumstance. Then follow through and do it! As we continue to journey with God's people through the story of Scripture, we meet the kings of Israel and Judah—those who made wise choices and those whose foolish choices brought down a nation. Through the lives of David and Solomon, we also take a look at the Bible's wisdom literature in the Psalms and Proverbs. Kids will discover that true wisdom comes through constant connection with God, just as a well-rooted tree on river banks draws life from the water. And the best news of all? God wants us to ask for wisdom and delights to give it.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for October —

October 5

God helps you make the wise choice.

October 19

You can ask God for wisdom.

October 12

If you want to be wise, focus on God.

October 26

Be wise because your choices matter..

October Memory Verse

“It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver.”
— Proverbs 16:16, NIV

— Youth Calendar —

OCTOBER

3–5 | Fall Retreat

19 | Combined Youth and Children's Ministry Event

26 | Trunk or Treat

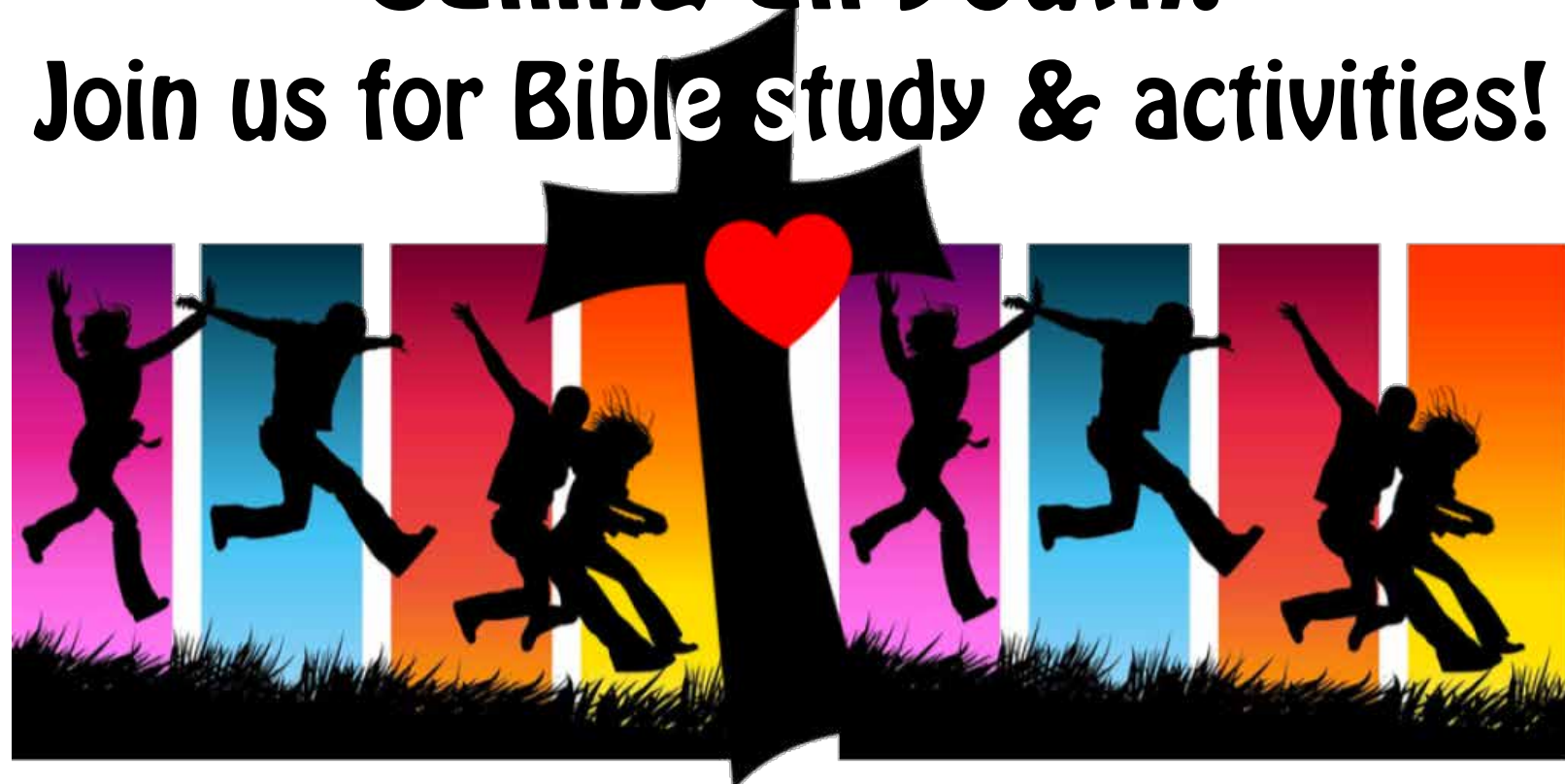
The youth group will meet on a regular weekly basis,
every Sunday and Wednesday night, unless otherwise posted.

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, October 5

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

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

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

Monday, October 6

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, October 7

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

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

2:00 p.m.
Clothes Closet

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

Wednesday, October 8

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

5:45 p.m.
Women's Bible Study

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

7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 9

10:15 a.m.
JOY Singers
Leaves for Cypress Glen

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



September 28, 2025

FAITHFULNESS

2025 MISSIONS AND MINISTRY SPENDING PLAN: \$1,276,650

Receipts (This Week) \$34,222
(\$4,887 Online, \$29,335 Mail)

Receipts (Month-to-Date) \$95,107.26

Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date) \$815,227.73

Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date) \$711,783.24

Communion Offering (This Week) \$95

Communion Offering (MTD)..... \$2,971

Building Fund (This Week) \$348

Building Fund (Month-to-Date) \$508

Building Fund (Year-to-Date) \$3,962.50

CBF-NC Disaster Relief (This Week) \$270

CBF-NC Disaster Relief (YTD)..... \$1,360

The Worship of God at Oakmont

———— GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE ————

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP FOR
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN

“Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”

———— PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD’S PEOPLE ————

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

“Our Great Savior”

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

David Archer

DOXOLOGY

—— PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD’S PEOPLE ——

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

“The Gift of Power, Love, and Self-Discipline”

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Rev. Eric Porterfield

COMMUNION MEDITATION

*“Lord, from Your Hand”
Joyful Sounds*

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Beginning to End)”

———— SENDING FORTH GOD’S PEOPLE ————

LIFE AT OAKMONT

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

BENEDICTION

Rev. Eric Porterfield

All People of Oakmont Baptist Church Are Ministers *and serve alongside*

Rev. Eric Porterfield
Senior Pastor
eric@oakmontchurch.com

Dr. Laurie Cosby
Minister of Music
laurielee@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Ben Gurganus
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education
ben@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Alicia Porterfield
Minister of Missions
alicia@oakmontchurch.com

Dr. Greg Rogers
Pastor Emeritus

Ms. Lauri Johnson
Pastoral/Music Ministry Secretary
lauri@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Nicole Davis
Educational Ministries Secretary
nicole@oakmontchurch.com

Mr. Wayne Taylor
Facility Manager
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Mrs. Amy Cook
Communications Specialist
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Mrs. Caroline Bissette
Technical Assistant
techteam@oakmontchurch.com

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



1100 Red Banks Road | Greenville, NC 27858 | 252.756.1245 | oakmontchurch.com
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

