

E-Connections

News from **Oakmont Baptist Church**

Due to the expected winter storm, there will be no Sunday School or In-Person Worship service on Sunday, February 1. Also, due to the timing of the storm and the challenges of getting our team together, we will be unable to record a new worship service as we did last week. Instead, we will rebroadcast our service from November 23, 2025. The prayer concerns will be dated and there will be references to Thanksgiving and Advent giving, but we believe God can speak to us again through music and words we've already sung and spoken in praise.

A Word from Our Pastor

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your prayers, your love, your support, and your encouragement in the death of my father, Coolidge Porterfield. My Dad died Sunday morning, January 25, after a six year battle with cancer. He showed incredible strength, deep faith, and had an amazingly positive attitude throughout this journey. I'm grateful for the conversations he and I have shared in the past six years, and for the time spent with my Dad, my Mom, and my brother, Stephen. A memorial service will be held Friday, January 30, at 1:00 PM, at the First Baptist Church of Greensboro, with visitation to follow.

A few stories about my Dad . . .

He was in the shopping center industry and early in his career an older executive pulled him aside and said, "Coolidge, if you don't stop being so honest you're going to ruin your career." My Dad never stopped being honest, and far from having a ruined career, he became president of a Greensboro commercial real estate firm and a leader in the community.

My Dad was a minister when I was born, serving as Associate Pastor at Yates Baptist Church in Durham. Before my first birthday he was no longer serving on a church staff. I joke that I was such a challenging baby that I drove him from the ministry! But

it was God at work, leading my Dad to his true calling in business from which he served the community and his local church. Everyone has a calling. Every field of life is a place where one can do God's work. And every one of us, regardless of our occupation, gifts, and abilities, are ministers of the gospel.

My Dad said "yes" to just about every volunteer leadership position there is at First Baptist Greensboro. Multiple generations at FBC have stories to tell of the blessing of serving with him. I've particularly enjoyed hearing from old youth group friends who speak of how much they loved my Dad, and from the young couples class Dad and Mom taught when they were in their 50s. Those young couples are now at retirement age! And they are the ones my brother and I have relied on to help our parents when we couldn't be there. Friends, what a blessing when we love each other in the church at any age. And I'm grateful for my Dad's testimony, that God does truly amazing things when older people give of themselves to children, youth, and young adults in the church.

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you for your love, prayers, and support.

Grace and peace, Eric Porterfield





**WE ARE
CLOSING
EARLY**

Church Office Will Close Early on Friday, January 30

The church office will close at noon on Friday, January 30 in light of the memorial service for Pastor Eric's father. Thanks for your understanding.



February 1

No in-person activities
due to the winter storm.

February 15

Matthew 17:1-13
Alicia Porterfield preaching

February 8

1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Eric Porterfield preaching

February 22

Jack Glasgow preaching

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

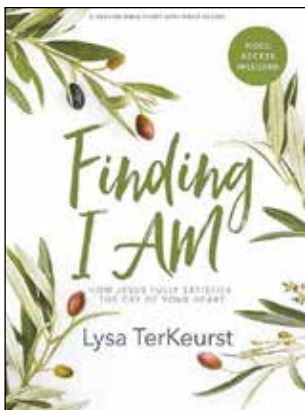
Join us in the Multipurpose Room at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights as Eric Porterfield leads us in a study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, from Matthew 5-7. This will be a six-week study beginning January 7.



Eppes Valentine's Soup Lunch

Friday, Feb. 13 | 11:00 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

Sharron Edwards led us this week and will also do so next week, giving Alicia more time to be with family as they grieve Eric's father's death (thank you, Sharron!). 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](#). We have two books left if you'd like one.

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.



Missions Opportunity!

Hope of Glory Seasonal Change-Out

WEDNESDAY, February 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., anytime!

Our friends at Hope of Glory need help to CHANGE OUT their cold weather clothes for warm weather clothes. The thrift store will be closed to the public so they can complete the work and re-open the next day! CHOOSE YOUR HOURS—you do not have to stay all day!

Please sign up with Alicia since Cat Knell, executive director, needs a headcount for organizing the work and for lunch (1:00 p.m.).

Details: We will enter through the back door, near the purple dumpsters. Just walk up the back sidewalk into the warehouse and ask for Cat or Emilio. Let them know you are from Oakmont and they'll assign you an area.

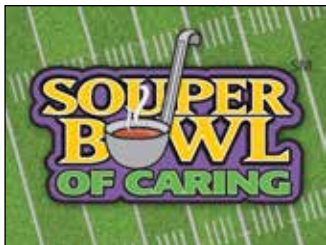
What a fun way to support this vital ministry partner who helps our neighbors toward financial stability!

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!

Souper Bowl of Caring Activity



Our youth will be partnering with the youth group of Memorial Baptist Church on Sunday, February 8, for another “Souper Bowl of Caring” canned food drive.

Last year the two youth groups visited local neighborhoods collecting canned foods for the Souper Bowl of Caring initiative. These canned goods were then distributed to the Memorial Baptist Church Food Pantry and the Pitt Community College Food Pantry.

Memorial has offered to host the event this year, so following worship on that Sunday morning, we will go to The Memorial Baptist Church for a quick lunch before heading out into the community to collect canned foods.

In the spirit of fun competition, we will be going head-to-head with The Memorial youth group to see which group can collect the most canned goods! Last year, The Memorial group collected more cans than we did, so we need you to show up in force this year so we can collect even more cans than them!

If you would like to be a part of this fun afternoon please let me know by clicking [HERE](#).

Music Ministry Memos



Wednesday, February 4

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

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

Thursday, February 5

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

Sunday, February 8

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.

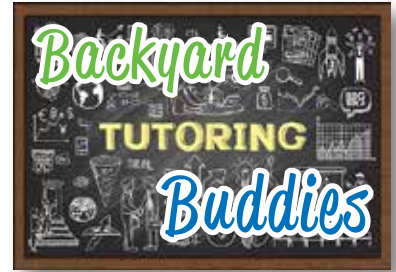
Throughout our construction journey, we invite people to give as they feel led.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

We 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. Please pray for our students and tutors to stay healthy!



Young Lives



Our friends from Young Lives, Young Life's ministry with teen moms, will gather in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Lillie Moore from Young Lives, and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry.



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!



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 30: Cal Hayslip

Feb 6 & 13: Kim Hodges. Feb. 20 & 27: David Archer.



ESL Classes

English as a Second Language classes meet 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! It is amazing to see them improving and learning each week.

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!

The Village Update



We met on Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for Bible Study and Childcare Ministry with our friends at the Village. We explored the Psalms as "letters" to God. We then practiced writing our own letter to God as a form of prayer and worship. Please pray for our volunteer, Chris's, recovery from foot surgery and also for an additional person to help for one hour with these precious children in February. Contact Alicia if you're interested in helping!

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.

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

It was good to have our teams be back in the kitchen, cooking, serving, and delivering hot, tasty meals for our homebound and neighbors in need. We will be back in the kitchen on February 3!



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

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

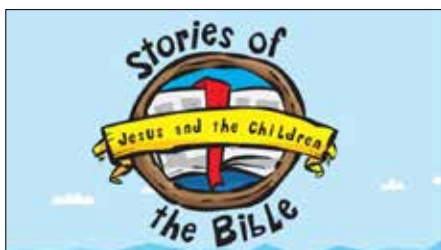
An ongoing class for women who are single, divorced, widowed, or women who do not attend a class with their husbands.

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 FEBRUARY, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT THE AMAZING TREAT OF JESUS' LOVE FOR US. THE LOVE OF JESUS BRINGS JOY TO OUR HEARTS, PEACE TO OUR MINDS, AND REMINDS US THAT WE ARE NEVER ALONE. THROUGH THE BIBLE STORIES WE WILL READ, OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN THAT JESUS WELCOMED THE LITTLE CHILDREN, JUST LIKE THEM, INTO HIS ARMS! JESUS' LOVE FOR US DOES NOT WAIT UNTIL WE ARE OLDER. IT BEGINS BEFORE WE ARE EVEN BORN. THIS MONTH, WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO KNOW THAT JESUS' LOVE WILL BE WITH THEM FOREVER.

Our story for this week comes to us from Mark 10:13-16. In this story, as Jesus was speaking to a crowd, parents were trying to bring their children to Jesus so that He could hold them and bless them. However, when the disciples saw this, they tried stopping the parents because they thought that the children would distract Jesus from the important work that He was doing. However, when Jesus saw what the disciples had done, He got very upset with them! Jesus told the disciples that the Kingdom of God was for everyone, even these young children! Jesus reminded everyone that it is important for us to come to God, just like we are young children: full of excitement, curiosity, and an openness to learn and be changed by what God teaches us. After the children came to Jesus, He held them, blessed them, and let everyone know just how much He loved the little children.

When we are younger, it is easy to think that grown-ups have everything figured out. But that is just not the case. Grown-ups can make mistakes too, and they don't always know everything like we might think. In this story, the disciples thought that Jesus would be bothered by the children, but they could not have been more wrong. Jesus loves the children, just like you! Part of the reason that Jesus loves the children, and why

"Jesus and the Children" | Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

February Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

FEBRUARY THEME: SWEET TREATS- JESUS LOVES ME

There's nothing sweeter than knowing that Jesus loves you. It's the sweetest treat we could ever receive, and it's for every single one of us! His love brings joy to our hearts, peace to our minds, and reminds us that we are never alone. So all month long, we are telling our children Bible stories that show them how much Jesus loves them. In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said: "Let the children come to me" (NLT). These words remind us that Jesus wants to be close to every child, no matter who they are or where they live. Our prayer is that every child will know deep in their heart that Jesus loves them. From welcoming children into His arms, to searching for the lost, to spending time with friends, and forgiving those who have done wrong—Jesus shows us again and again that He loves us. And children need to know that Jesus loves them right now, just as they are, and that His love will never go away. So, let's pray for our children, that they will know Jesus' love is the sweetest thing in the world and that it will be with them forever. Let's help them grow up always remembering: Jesus loves me.

FEBRUARY Memory Verse

"Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'" – Matthew 19:14 NLT

Continued from previous page

He loves you, is because of your curiosity, your genuineness, and your pure heart. Children have a natural curiosity to learn and to want to know things; this includes wanting to know more about God's love and what living with God's love truly means.

As we grow up and continue following Jesus, we should always have an open and curious heart about the things Jesus wants to teach us. That's what Jesus meant when He said to receive the Kingdom of God like a child. We should follow God with a heart that is eager to learn, and an attitude that is ready and excited to try the things that Jesus teaches us.

So this week I want you to remember that you are never too young to receive Jesus' love, and that you are never too young to learn about Jesus and do the things that Jesus has taught us to do.

—Ben Gurganus,

Associate Pastor for Youth & Christian Education
Resources and ideas are from Orange Curriculum.

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade February Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

FEBRUARY THEME: Like and Subscribe— Share the Love of Jesus

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

On the night before he gave up his life, Jesus told his friends, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Sounds simple, right? But instead of acknowledging that God is love, culture has decided that love is god. Our world applies "love" to everything from romance to a favorite ice cream flavor to encouraging people to do whatever feels best in the moment. That's why kids need a radical redefinition of what true love looks like: choosing to treat others the way Jesus treats us. This month, we'll explore four stories from the life of Jesus, starting with Nicodemus. Kids will discover that God loves not just them, but the entire world—everyone who as ever lived or will live—and that this love led Jesus to take on human form to rescue us. We'll cover the most important commandment, to love God and love others, and we'll see how the love of Jesus changed Zacchaeus in a pretty dramatic way. Finally, we'll look at the time that Jesus healed both the daughter of an important man and a suffering, outcast woman—both serving as reminders that we can show love to people in need.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for February —

February 1

God loves the whole world.

February 15

The love of Jesus can change things for the better.

February 8

Love God. Love others.

February 22

Show the love of Jesus to people in need.

February Memory Verse

"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."— John 13:34, NIV

— Youth Calendar —

FEBRUARY

I | Carolina Hurricanes Game

20-22 | Disciple Now Weekend

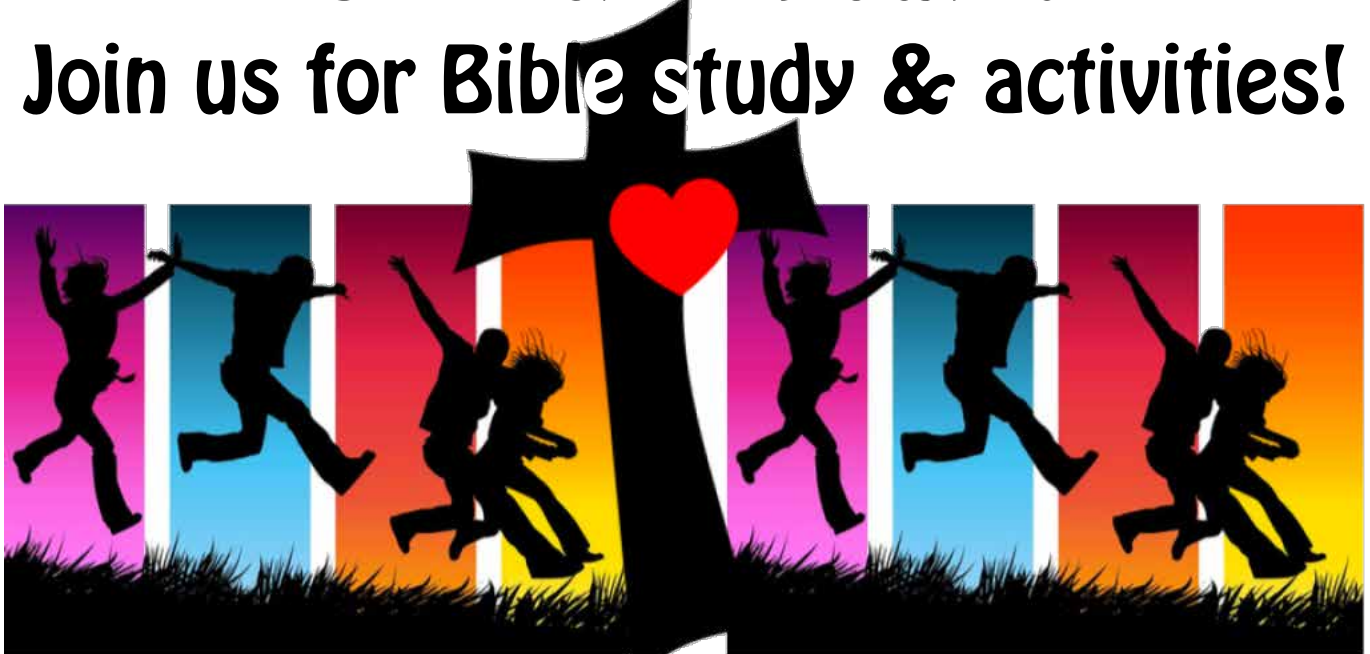
The youth group will meet on a regular weekly basis,
every Sunday and Wednesday night, unless otherwise posted.

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, February 1

No in-person activities
due to the winter storm.

Monday, February 2

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, February 3

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

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

2:00 p.m.
Clothes Closet

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

Wednesday, February 4

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, February 5

10:00 a.m.
JOY Singers Rehearsal

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



January 25, 2026

FAITHFULNESS

2026 MISSIONS AND MINISTRY SPENDING PLAN: \$1,304,524

Receipts (This Week)	\$33,451	Communion Offering (This Week)	\$25
	(\$690 Online, \$32,761 Mail)	Communion Offering (MTD).....	\$1,750
Receipts (Month-to-Date)	\$99,348		
Receipts 2026 (Year-to-Date)	\$99,348		

The Worship of God at Oakmont

Due to the winter storm, the service from November 23, 2025 will be rebroadcast this Sunday at 10:40 a.m. The order of service is listed below.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME		Rev. Eric Porterfield
CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>"Thank You, Jesus"</i>	Dr. Laurie Cosby
HYMN	<i>"Come Ye Thankful People, Come"</i>	

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER		Rev. Eric Porterfield
HYMN	<i>"King of My Heart"</i>	
OFFERTORY SENTENCES		Rev. Alicia Porterfield
DOXOLOGY		

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME		Rev. Ben Gurganus
READER'S THEATRE	<i>"A Prayer for Thanksgiving"</i> <i>Revelation Players</i>	
ANTHEM	<i>"A Shepherd's Psalm"</i> <i>Chancel Choir and Orchestra</i>	
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:17</i>	Rev. Eric Porterfield
SERMON	<i>"Reigning In Wisdom"</i>	Rev. Eric Porterfield
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>"Now Thank We All Our God "</i>	

SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

LIFE AT OAKMONT		Rev. Gurganus
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
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Rev. Alicia Porterfield
Minister of Missions
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Dr. Greg Rogers
Pastor Emeritus

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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.

