

March 8, 2026

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

I shared in Sunday's sermon that as our senior adults gathered at a local restaurant last week, we were "waiting on our server" as she took our orders, served our food once it was ready, filled our water glasses, and brought us our checks when the meal was finished. Waiting involves waiting on others to act on our behalf.

At the same time that we were waiting on her, she was waiting on us. Only she was not waiting on us to do anything, she was waiting as an act of service. She is a member of the restaurant's "wait staff," she is a "waitress," she makes a living "waiting on tables." Waiting involves serving others by "waiting on them."

To wait on Jesus is both to wait on him to act and to wait on him by serving him through service to each other and our neighbors. We pray for ourselves, each other, and our hurting world, and wait on Jesus to act through our prayers - "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." While we're waiting on Jesus to act, we also wait on Jesus by serving him and the world he lived, died, and was raised for.

We had a large crowd and only one server. It's a tough job to "wait" on that many people by yourself. While sympathetic to her challenges, once I finished my meal I was ready for my check. The meal had been just right, the fellowship even better, and now it was time to move to the next tasks of the day. My check did not arrive according to my desired timetable; I struggled to wait patiently to be waited on!

But I don't think patience was my real problem. My impatience was rooted in my lack of control. I think we struggle with waiting on other people to act and

we struggle with waiting on Jesus to act because it reminds us that we are not in as much control of our lives as we think. And it reminds us that we are more dependent on others than we'd prefer to admit.

That lack of control and dependence on others extends to our life as a church. It will come as a surprise to no one that the projected construction costs for our new Youth Room are higher than we first expected! Almost all of the cost increases are due to storm water drainage, sewage pipes, and water line work required to prepare the site for construction. I'll be sharing these details in various settings on Sunday morning, and we'll consider a proposal regarding these details at our Ministry Celebration on Sunday afternoon.

I don't like waiting on someone else to act or being dependent on others. I'd rather wait on others by serving them. Following Jesus requires both kinds of waiting. And so we wait on those building our new Youth Room because we believe we can more faithfully and fruitfully wait on (serve) generations of young people in the name of Jesus through this facility.

May the Father through the Spirit empower us to wait on Jesus . . . and to wait on Jesus.

Grace and peace, Eric Porterfield





Daylight Saving Time It's Time to Spring Forward!

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead this Saturday evening as we prepare to "spring forward" for Daylight Saving Time!

Ministry Celebration, Youth Dinner, and Baby Shower on March 8!

On March 8, we will gather for a late afternoon packed with goodness, joy, and celebration! Here's the schedule:



4:00 p.m. Ministry Celebration

Come hear the latest updates on the construction of a new Youth Room, on the move toward selling our Branches property, and on a host of other exciting ministry opportunities. We will also receive and vote on our 2026 Ministry Team nominations for various positions of service in our church.



5:00 p.m. Youth Fundraiser Dinner

We move to the Fellowship Hall for a great dinner served by our youth. Join us as our youth serve a delicious BBQ dinner. Plates are \$25, and proceeds support the youth group's summer mission trip. In order to be sure we have enough food for everyone, we ask that you *call the church office by noon on Friday to make your reservation*. If you cannot join us that evening for dinner, you can still make a donation toward the fundraiser to help support the trip!

5:00 p.m. Baby Shower!

In addition to the BBQ dinner, we also invite you to bring diapers and other baby necessities for Jessica, Ben, and Wyatt as they prepare to welcome a new baby boy in March! If you would like to purchase gifts on their registry, you can visit [Amazon](#). (The registry displays Jessica's maiden name, "Goldston," but this IS the page for Baby G! Thanks for helping us welcome Baby G in advance!)





OBC Updates



March 8

John 11:17-27

Eric Porterfield preaching

March 15

John 11:28-37

Eric Porterfield preaching

March 22

John 11:38-45

Eric Porterfield preaching

March Wednesday Nights



5:45 p.m.

Women's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m.

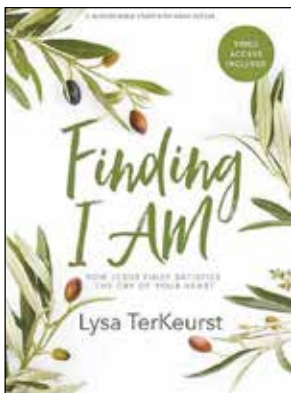
Missions and Music for Children

Bible Study for Youth

Large Group Bible Study (Multipurpose Room)

Eric Porterfield continues teaching on the Sermon on the Mount.

On March 18, there will be no Children's, Youth, or Adult Bible Studies due to Pitt County Schools Spring Break.



Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

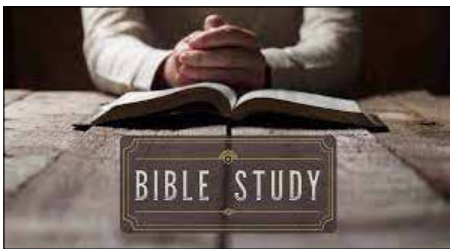
We gathered to celebrate all that God has done through our study of Jesus' I AM statements in John's Gospel. Lysa TerKeurst's *Finding I AM* study and videos helped us explore each statement in its original context and also listen for how God is speaking into our hearts and lives today. Special thanks to Sharron Edwards for sharing her teaching gifts with us so much during this study!

- **March 11:** We will join Pastor Eric's large group Bible study on John 1.
- **March 18:** There are no Wednesday night ministries due to the PCS Spring Break.
- **March 25:** At 6:00 p.m., the Wednesday before Holy Week, we will share a special **Lenten Reflections Prayer Gathering** in the MPR incorporating prayer stations, walking the labyrinth, and time for silent prayer and scripture meditation. Join us and give yourself the gift of time to slow down, listen, and pray during this holy season.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 4



On the Saturday morning before Easter, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., we gather again to host an Easter egg hunt for our community. Last year, it was a joy to welcome our neighbors, not only to search for Easter eggs, but also to take family pictures in our Prayer Garden, do crafts and games, and hear the Easter story. Join us again this year as we bless our community.



Drop-In Bible Study

Come join us 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!



Reminder for Life Lessons Bible Studies Class

Members of Life Lessons Bible Studies Class:
Don't forget that your meeting location has moved from Room 607 to Room 311. See you on Sunday!

Flowers in Honor/Memory for Worship



Friends: When you would like flowers in the sanctuary in honor or memory of someone, please contact Chris Rodgers, as she is the head of the Flower Team. (If you need her contact information, please contact Lauri Johnson at Oakmont Baptist Church.) This will alleviate any confusion. Also, if you would like a note in the worship outline on Sunday morning, please contact Lauri Johnson at lauri@oakmontchurch.com. Thank you!

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 as childcare providers 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!

Music Ministry Memos



Sunday, March 8

NO Handbells Rehearsal

(business meeting at 4:00 p.m./youth fundraiser at 5:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 11

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

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

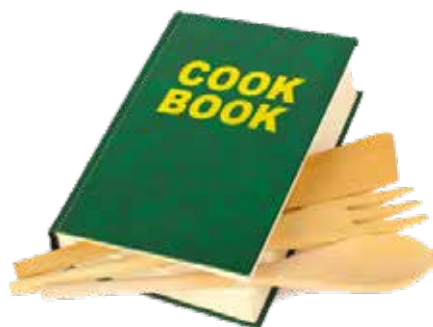
Thursday, March 12

10:00 a.m. | JOY Singers Rehearsal

Sunday, March 15

3:30 p.m. | Handbells Rehearsal

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



OBC Cookbook

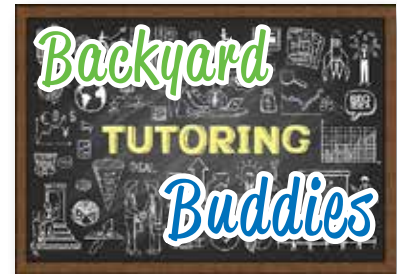
Would you like to be able to access our church's cookbook but don't have one? Then you're in luck! Click [here](#) to access a downloadable PDF so you can enjoy all of the great recipes it has to share!

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

Thanks to Susan A. and Glenda A. for leading BYB while Alicia was traveling! We'll be on our normal Mon./Tues. 3:20–4:30 schedule until the week of March 16, which is spring break: NO BYB March 16 or 17. Our verse for March is "As far as the east is from the west, that's how far God has removed our sin from us" (Psalm 103:12).



The Village Update



Twice a month, a small team of volunteers gathers with moms in recovery from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for Bible Study and Childcare Ministry. Contact Alicia if you're interested in helping with the toddlers and preschoolers while the moms study! It's an honor to help these moms and children as they heal and grow. Our next visit to the Village will be in early March.

Clothes Closet



This vital community ministry is open the first and third Tuesdays (no fifth Tuesdays) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please note that the BEST time to drop off clothes is when the Closet is open. We were open March 3, so our next date is March 17.

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.

This month's schedule

March 6 and 13: Kim Hodges | March 20 and 27: Cal Hayslip.

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. Currently, we are one of the few groups offering ESL beyond Pitt Community College. We thank God for the chance to serve our neighbors as they work to learn English!

LINKS



The students and staff of LINKS (support for teens in foster care and preparation for their coming independence) will use their second Tuesday, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. time this month to go bowling! We will miss them and look forward to seeing them April 14! Diane Myers leads this ministry of hospitality, with help from Sharron Edwards and Nicole Davis.

Young Lives



On the third Tuesday of the month, our friends from Young Lives, Young Life's ministry with teen moms, meet from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lillie Moore, from Young Lives, and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry for moms and their children. It's our gift to host these moms! We will meet again on Tuesday, March 17.

Backpack Pals!



The team is back to packing this past week. Many of us may not know that a key part of this ministry has been Clara Evans, Liz's daughter, who is a senior this year! Having been a student at Eppes herself, Clara has served faithfully with her mom over the years. Thanks, Clara! NOTE: The team is preparing for a move from the trailers to room 410, right next to the office entrance doors and across from Alicia's office. This new space will make unloading food and transferring filled bags much more efficient!

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

We give thanks for the teams that cook, pack, and deliver hot meals to our home-bound and neighbors in need! They do such a good job! After taking a break March 3 for voting in the Fellowship Hall, we are back in the kitchen for March 10!



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 311

***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 MARCH, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT HOW JESUS CAN DO THINGS THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN DO. BECAUSE JESUS IS GOD'S SON, EVERYTHING THAT JESUS DOES SHOWS US HOW AMAZING HE IS. THIS MONTH, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT THE MIRACLES THAT JESUS PERFORMED ON EARTH, SHOWING US ALL JUST HOW TRULY AMAZING HE IS! THE PEOPLE WHO SAW JESUS PERFORM THESE THINGS EVEN SAID, "WE HAVE SEEN AMAZING THINGS TODAY!" SO GET READY TO LEARN ABOUT

ALL OF THE THINGS THAT REMIND US HOW INCREDIBLE AND AMAZING JESUS IS!

Our story for this week comes to us from Matthew 17:24-27. In this story, some men ask Peter if Jesus pays the temple tax. Peter says "Yes!" and then he quickly goes to ask Jesus about paying the tax. But before Peter can even ask Jesus about it, Jesus tells him what to do. Jesus tells Peter to go fishing and he will find a silver coin inside the first fish he catches. So, Peter goes fishing. And when he catches a fish and looks inside its mouth, he sees a silver coin—just like Jesus said! Jesus did something no one else can do. Jesus is amazing!

This story reminds us that when we are faced with difficult decisions in life, and we're not sure where to turn, we can trust what Jesus tells us. Jesus showed Peter something amazing! All throughout Jesus' life, He showed people that He was truly the Son of God. Jesus could do things that no one else could do because

Continued on next page...

"Coin in the Fish's Mouth" | Click [HERE](#).

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

March Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

MARCH THEME:

ALL STAR – JESUS IS AMAZING

An all-star is someone who stands out because they can do things no one else can do, and this month, we are celebrating the greatest "All-Star" of all—Jesus! Jesus is God's Son, and everything He does shows us how amazing He is. From turning water into wine to calming storms and walking on water, Jesus does what no one else can do. So all month long, we are telling our children true stories from the Bible that teach this big truth: Jesus is amazing!

As we finish our "All-Star" month, let's remember what the Bible says: "We have seen amazing things today!" (Luke 5:26 NLT). The people who saw firsthand the miracles Jesus performed were amazed! And that is what we want for our children this month. Every story we are telling will show them that Jesus really is amazing—He has power like no one else, and he loves us more than we can imagine. So, let's celebrate Jesus, our All Star, and pray that children and parents will see how amazing He is in their own lives each day.

March Memory Verse

"We have seen amazing things today!" – Luke 5:26 NLT

Continued from previous page

Jesus was God's Son. So, the next time we are unsure about something going on in our lives, we can remember this story about Jesus answering Peter's question in a way that no one else could. Always remember that Jesus can do things no one else can do!

—Ben Gurganus,
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education

Resources and ideas are from Orange Curriculum.

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade March Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

MARCH THEME: UPSIDE DOWN – Treat Others The Way Jesus Treats You

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

You may have heard what Jesus lived and taught described as “The Upside-Down Kingdom.” Though Jesus is King of the universe, He entered our world as a humble carpenter. Instead of demanding that others serve Him, Jesus healed, listened to, and cared for the people deemed most unimportant. Rather than living in a palace and depending on horses and chariots, Jesus walked long, dirty miles on His own tired feet. By our world's standards, that's completely upside down!

This month, we want our kids to discover how the Bible defined success—through humility and service. We explore how John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus, rather than to himself, and we meet the Roman Commander who, despite power and position, bowed to the authority of God. We take a look at how Jesus taught us to love our enemies and—through the story of Martha and Mary—how it's important to give our time to Jesus first, before doing things for Him. Finally, we wrap up the month with Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem, and how He washed the feet of His disciples, instructing them to serve one another in the same way. Through it all, kids will discover that being first is less important than putting others first.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for March —

March 1

Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

March 15

Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

March 8

Remember God is most important.

March 22

Make time for Jesus first.

March 29

Jesus showed us how to be humble.

March Memory Verse

*“Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble.
Value others more than yourselves.”— Philippians 2:3, NIV*

— Youth Calendar —



Carolina Hurricanes Game Update

Because of the snow, our tickets for the Carolina Hurricanes game have been honored for another date. That date is Sunday, March 29, for a 5:00 p.m. game. The schedule for the day will be slightly different as our previous tickets were for a 3:00 p.m. game. Please let Ben know as soon as possible if you want to go on the new date or if you wish to be refunded for your ticket(s). Any ticket(s) not claimed will be offered to other people who wish to attend. Thank you!

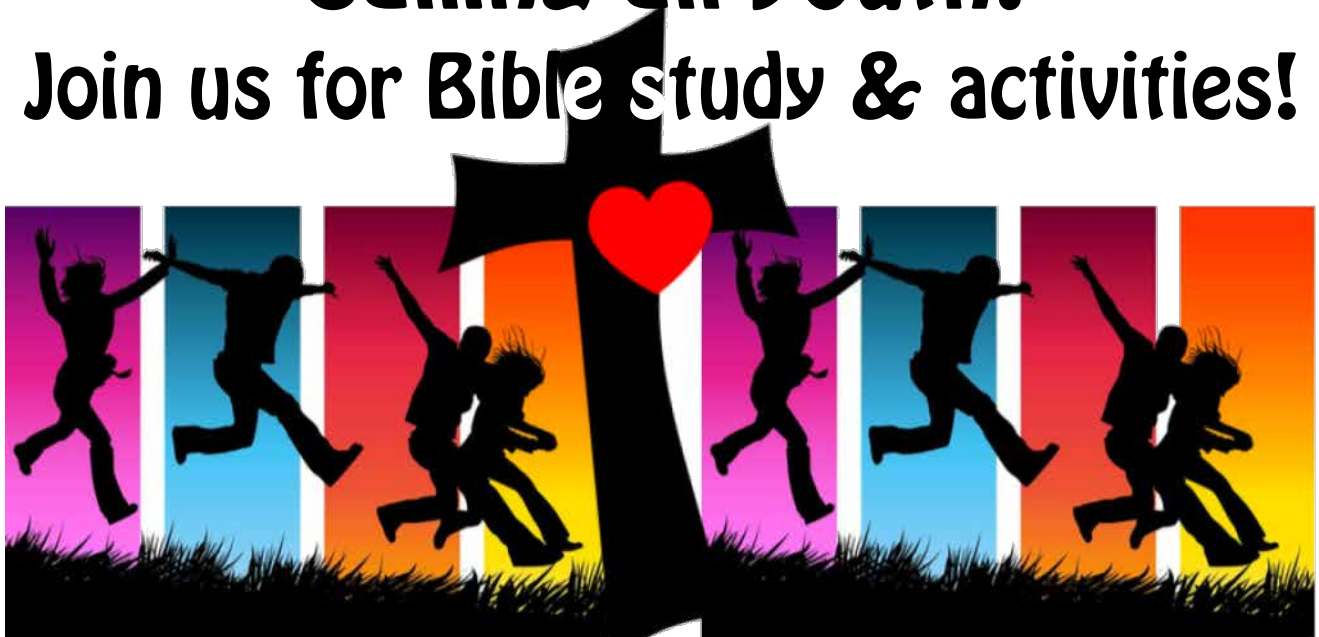
The youth group will meet on a regular weekly basis,
every Sunday and Wednesday night, unless otherwise posted.

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, March 8

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

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

4:00 p.m.
Ministry Celebration
& Business Meeting

5:00 p.m.
Youth Dinner Fundraiser
& Gurganus Baby Shower
NO Regular Youth Activities

Monday, March 9

2:00 p.m.
Ladies' Bible Study

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, March 10

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

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

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

5:00 p.m.
LINKS Bowling Outing

Wednesday, March 11

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

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

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

7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 12

10:00 a.m.
JOY Singers Rehearsal

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



March 1, 2026

FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week)	\$23,638	Building Fund (This Week)	\$150
(\$2,895 Online Feb 23-28; \$1,130 Online March, \$19,613 Mail)		Building Fund (Feb. MTD)	\$1,010
Receipts (Feb. MTD)	\$85,009.97	Building Fund (Mar. MTD)	\$50
Receipts (Mar. MTD)	\$20,743	Building Fund (This Week)	\$1,310
Receipts 2026 (YTD)	\$208,666.97	Baptist Retirement Homes (This Week)	\$20
Receipts 2025 (YTD)	\$234,504.11	Baptist Retirement Homes (YTD)	\$1,025
Communion Offering (This Week)	\$1,225	Ingathering (This Week)	\$700
Communion Offering (Feb. MTD)	\$2,280	Ingathering (This Week)	\$700
Communion Offering (Mar. MTD)	\$1,200		

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN

"And Can it Be?"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"This I Believe"

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Handbell Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Ben Gurganus

OLD TESTAMENT
SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 13

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

ANTHEM

"God So Loved the World"
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:17-27

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

"Life-Giving, Resurrection Power in Person"

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Blessed Assurance"

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
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
wayne@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Amy Cook
Communications Specialist
amycook@oakmontchurch.com

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.

