

July 26, 2026

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

We pray “that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven. . .” I’ve been praying that prayer fairly regularly on Saturdays for 12 years. It’s from the Book of Common Prayer. The prayer links Sabbath rest on earth to eternal rest in heaven.

That link is significant. As we’ll see in Sunday’s sermon, when we die in the Lord, our spirits, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, are ushered into the place the Bible calls heaven. Heaven is the spiritual realm where all is as God wills it to be.

In heaven, our spirits will join all who have gone before us in worshiping God! We will be at peace with God, with each other, with all God’s people, with ourselves. And our spirits will experience deep, wonderful rest, rest from our earthly toils, pains, suffering, and sorrows, rest ever so slightly anticipated by our earthly Sabbath rest.

Note that the prayer speaks of “eternal rest promised to your people in heaven. . .” Yes, our rest in heaven will be part of our experience of eternity, an experience that actually begins the moment we trust Jesus by faith in this life. But it will not be the fullness of our eternal experience.

The New Testament at various places, especially in Paul’s writings, speaks of those in Christ being raised with him when he returns. Our spirits in heaven will be re-embodied with resurrection bodies just like Jesus’ resurrection body, no longer susceptible to sin, disease, decay, and death. On that day, “the dead will be raised imperishable . . . For this perishable body

must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality” (1 Cor 15:52-53).

But we will not be the only ones changed! Romans 8:18-25, which we will explore this Sunday, speaks of creation itself waiting on tip toe, eagerly longing for us to be raised from the dead because when that happens, creation itself will be made new. Heaven and earth will become one, symbolized by “the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God (Rev 21:2). On that day, God’s kingdom will finally come and God’s will finally and fully will be done on earth as it is in heaven because earth and heaven are joined together, transformed into the new creation.

We approach these things humbly; God didn’t give a video describing exactly what heaven or the new creation will be like. We’re given glimpses, signposts. Those signposts surely point to perfect peace, praise, and rest continuing in the new creation as we inhabit our resurrection bodies. And, as co-heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:17), we will also embrace the glorious stewardship work that God had in mind for us from the beginning. We will finally be free to tend the new creation with faithfulness and love!

I look forward to exploring with you the biblical witness on heaven and the new creation this Sunday. And I look forward to, however imperfectly, continuing our present stewarding work with Jesus in the power of the Spirit.

Grace and peace, Eric Porterfield





OBC Updates



July 26

Romans 8:18-25

Eric Porterfield preaching

August 2

Romans 8:26-27

Eric Porterfield preaching

Thank You, OBC!

Thank you for generously giving your time, energy, and talents to support VBS. Whether you contributed with your time or supported us with your donations for decorations & snacks for the children, VBS would not happen without you! It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child and this year marked our 5th VBS collaborating with TMBC. It truly has been a blessed partnership and we all enjoy working together.

Because of your commitment, we have been able to share God's love and make connections with over 100 children during #KidsConnect VBS. The children's offering brought in over 2,000 items for Backpack Buddies & Backpack Pals! A little healthy competition between the boys and girls is always fun, but the real winners will be the children who receive food help. Thank you again for your generous support!

– Oakmont & TMBC VBS Team





Senior Adult Field Trip to Grifton Planetarium

Senior adults! Join us for a field trip to the Grifton Planetarium on Friday, August 7. Meet at Oakmont at 9:00 a.m. to travel to the planetarium. The visit is scheduled from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$10 per person, and a cash payment will be collected the day of the event.



Senior Adult Fall Trip to Lancaster, PA

REMINDER: FINAL PAYMENTS ARE DUE TO LISA STEVENS THIS SUNDAY, JULY 26! This allows us time to get the payments to PML by the August 3 deadline. If you cannot make the July 26 deadline, you can also mail your own payment to PML. Please contact Lisa if you have any questions or need more information. Thank you!

Dining Divas: A Social Group for Widows



We meet on the first Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. and have lunch at a local restaurant. Come and enjoy the friendships of Christian sisters! If you're interested in attending/joining this group, please contact Sue Curll at (252) 321-0214 or sue.v.curll@gmail.com.



Oakmont SENIORS MINISTRY

Senior Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, July 28 at 11:30 a.m.
Kickback Jack's Restaurant

Join us for this time of fun, food and fellowship for this "Dutch treat" meal!
Everyone is welcome to attend!



CBFNC's All-State Youth Choir Concert

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina's All State Youth Choir will be giving a FREE concert at The Memorial Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. this Friday, July 24. Come join us and support this fantastic group!

Music Ministry Memos



WANTED: TECH Operators for the TECH Team Ministry

We will be hosting an operator training event soon that will offer advanced training for current operators and beginning training for new operators on all four positions for in-house and broadcast audio media. If you would be interested in serving on the TECH TEAM as a new member, contact Laurie Cosby at: laurie@oakmontchurch.com.



Oakmont's Social Media

Our social media presence has increased! Visit our [facebook page](#) to view postings about church happenings, including videos! And now we have an [Instagram](#) page! The purpose of these posts is to share with one another and others in the community how God is working at Oakmont. Therefore, we'd love for you to "share" these postings as a way of informing others about the great things God is doing at Oakmont.

Church Directory Photos October 1-3



The time has finally arrived! A new church directory is on the way! Pictures will be taken Thursday through Saturday, October 1-3, 2026, and the company we're working with thinks directories will be in our hands by Christmas. As picture days approach, we will have sign-ups online and in the church office. We also will need volunteers to help facilitate picture-taking. Please make plans now to be included in our directory!

Let's Welcome Jarvis at Oakmont Preschool!



A colorful flyer for Jarvis Preschool enrollment for 2026-2027. The flyer features a yellow background with a purple banner at the top that reads "Jarvis Preschool ENROLLMENT". Below this, it says "2026-2027" in large green letters. A cartoon boy is jumping over a large yellow pencil. There are three circular photos showing children playing, reading, and learning. A QR code is visible. Text on the flyer includes: "Jesus said, 'let the little children come to me.' Matthew 19:14", "Oakmont Baptist Church 1100 Red Banks Rd. Greenville, NC 27858", "New Location!", "Christian, play-based half-day program for babies (6 weeks) through pre-k.", "Early Drop Off available every day at 8am for additional cost", "Lunch club and Suzuki violin lessons are available for 3 & 4 year olds for additional costs", "PLAY", "GROW", "LEARN", "ENROLL NOW!", "Proudly serving families in Pitt county since 1969!", "Email jarvisumcpreschool@gmail.com", "Call 252-752-3101 or Visit jarvis.church/preschool", and "Made with PosterMyWall.com".

Jarvis Preschool collects “pop tabs” (the tabs on aluminum soft drink cans) for the Ronald McDonald House, a charity that provides accommodations for families of out-of-town pediatric patients at major hospitals (learn more [here](#)). The charity redeems the pop tabs at aluminum centers, and those funds support the day-to-day work of the houses. What a great way for these children and their families to help other children and their families in need!

Let's help welcome the preschool and support this ministry by collecting as many pop tabs as we can by their opening day, September 9. Collection spots will be on the table in the narthex and at the church office.

Click [here](#) or on the image above to access the website to learn more!

Oakmont Prayer Garden

Your Prayer Garden Team needs help! Your team is getting older, and we need some younger bodies with strong backs and a willingness to do some work. I've divided the duties into small manageable tasks:

- One person to just take care of the roses, which would only include deadheading.
- Four people to weed, each person assigned to one section of the garden. (There are four sections).
- Four people to mow on a rotating basis. (The mower is battery-powered, and it takes about 10–15 minutes to mow and blow the grass off the walkway.)

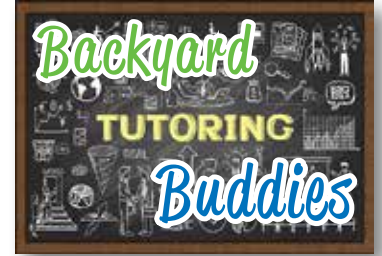
The team has done a wonderful job designing the garden, and it's beautiful. So, we want to maintain it and keep the garden in everlasting beauty. We have all the tools you'll need and it's not necessary to bring anything from home. So, please join us and help us keep the garden in great shape! Call, text, or email David Steele at 252-916-5322 or steeled02@gmail.com.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

We were so sad that more rain and debris in the OSA pool from Sunday night's storm kept us from swimming on Monday morning. But we will swim again on July 27 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. and have a make-up pool date on the calendar, too: August 3! We had our second Pizza, Play, and Practice in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, July 22 and had a BLAST eating, practicing our skills, and playing games! Thanks to everyone who made this work. We will do it again on Wednesday, July 29 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.



Clothes Closet



The clothes closet is now accepting donations again! IT IS LOCATED IN THE OLD YOUTH ROOM! The entrance is at the youth room double doors facing the parking lot on the Oakmont Square side of the church. This vital community ministry is open on first and third Tuesdays (no fifth Tuesdays) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. July went by fast! Our next dates are August 4 and 18.

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

LINKS



During the school year, LINKS meets on second Tuesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Diane Myers leads this ministry of hospitality with help from Sharron Edwards and Nicole Davis. Our LINKS friends will be back with us on Tuesday, August 11 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Please join us in praying for these teens as they take the next right step in their lives. Several of them are nearing the age that will wrap up their time in this program.

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

These meals go out to our homebound Oakmonters as well as those who are dealing with illness, grief, or other difficult circumstances. Our remaining July date is the 28th. Special thanks for the two teams that make this ministry work!

ESL Classes



Two of our precious Tuesday ESL moms and their four children participated in VBS with us at TMBC! We were delighted to see them! They had a great time playing games, learning about Jesus, and making new friends. Our regular Tuesday and Wednesday classes will re-start in September.

Walmart Fridays



For ECU summer classes, our Walmart Fridays drivers will move to an every-other-Friday schedule, with drivers on stand-by for urgent needs. Our next trip is July 24 with David Steele driving. If any of our regular riders need to shop on August 7, Joe Mitchell will take them.

After lots of prayer and conversation, we have decided to make this summer the closing season for this ministry. The good news is that ECU now has an on-demand shuttle that students can call upon to take them anywhere they need to go within a certain radius from campus! This Walmart Fridays ministry began at Immanuel Baptist and has served a great need for many years when students

without transportation had few ways to get to the grocery store. We thank God for the many people who have supported our International friends at ECU in this very practical way. Special thanks to the drivers who stepped up as this ministry came to Oakmont. We are grateful!

Young Lives



This ministry of Young Life supports teen moms and their children and meets in our Fellowship Hall the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Lillie Moore from Young Lives and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry for moms and their children. They are taking a break for July and August and will be back in September!



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, Fred Daniel, Wayne Taylor, and Pat Dunn

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

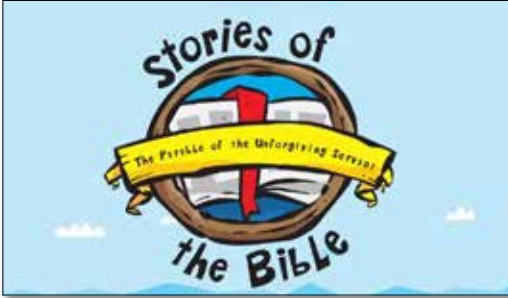
An ongoing class for women who are single, divorced, widowed, or women who do not attend a class with their husbands.

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 JULY, WE WILL BE CONTINUING OUR ADVENTURE AS WE EXPLORE HOW JESUS TAUGHT US TO HELP GOD'S KINGDOM GROW. GOD'S KINGDOM IS FOR EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWS JESUS. THIS MONTH OUR STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO USE THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN THEM TO HELP OTHERS LEARN ABOUT JESUS. THE ADVENTURE OF GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM IS NOT ALWAYS EASY, BUT IT IS AN EXCITING CALLING THAT JESUS HAS GIVEN TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. SO, LET US

LEARN TO LISTEN TO JESUS AND DO WHAT HE SAYS, BECAUSE WE ARE LIVING THE GREATEST ADVENTURE WHEN WE FOLLOW CHRIST.

Our story for this week comes to us from Matthew 18:21-35. Do you ever find it difficult to forgive others? Why do you think that is? What is so hard about forgiveness? In our story for this week, Jesus talks about the importance of forgiveness to grow God's Kingdom. In the passage, Jesus tells a parable about a servant who owed his master over 10,000 bags of gold! The master was going to punish the servant for this debt, but the servant begged his master for forgiveness. After seeing his servant in great distress, the master took pity on him and forgave the debt and let his servant go! But, not long after this, the servant went out to a man who owed him a few coins and demanded that the man pay him back. When the man could not pay back the few coins, the servant had the man thrown into prison. When the servant's master found out about this, he was furious. The master had forgiven the servant's major debt, only for the servant to refuse to forgive someone else of a much less serious debt.

The reason that Jesus told this story is because we need to understand how important forgiveness is. Forgiveness is not simply forgetting something that was done to us. Instead, forgiveness is deeper than that.

"The Servant Who Had No Mercy" | Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

July Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

JULY THEME: KINGDOM QUEST —LIVING THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

No matter what the adventure is, it is really important to have a guide, someone who leads the way and someone you can go to when you need help. We want our children to know God gave us a Guide – His Son, Jesus! Jesus teaches us about God's Kingdom. So, this month, we are exploring stories Jesus told us to learn how we can help God's Kingdom grow. God's Kingdom is for everyone who follows Jesus, so let's remember what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33: "Put God's kingdom first." Let's encourage our children to do what Jesus says: to use what God gives us to grow, to help others, to forgive, and to never give up on prayer. That's not always easy, but we can embrace the adventure in that – and our children can too!

July Memory Verse

"Put God's kingdom first." – Matthew 6:33 NIV

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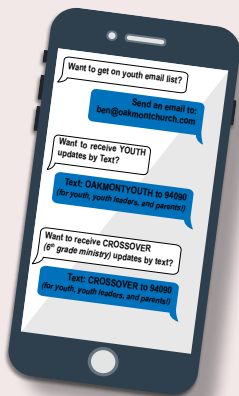
Forgiveness is knowing what someone did to us and choosing to let go of our anger, bitterness, hate, and need for revenge. Forgiveness is choosing to love and show mercy over hate and vengeance.

The reason that forgiveness is so important to God's Kingdom is because we received the biggest gift of forgiveness when Jesus died for us on the cross. When Jesus died and rose again, He forgave us of our sins. Even though we do and say things that God tells us not to do, God forgives us instead of seeking revenge. God loves us and shows us mercy instead of punishing us with hate and bitterness. If God can show us forgiveness, no matter what we have done, then we should be able to learn to show forgiveness towards others when they have wronged us.

By learning to show forgiveness to others, we are modeling the love of Christ for the world to see! And when the world sees Jesus, it can't help but change! This week, I want you to think about forgiveness. Is it hard or easy for you to forgive others? If it is hard, why do you think that is? If it is easy, how can you teach others about forgiveness? How does forgiveness teach us about Jesus and help to grow the Kingdom of God? God's Kingdom grows when we forgive!

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

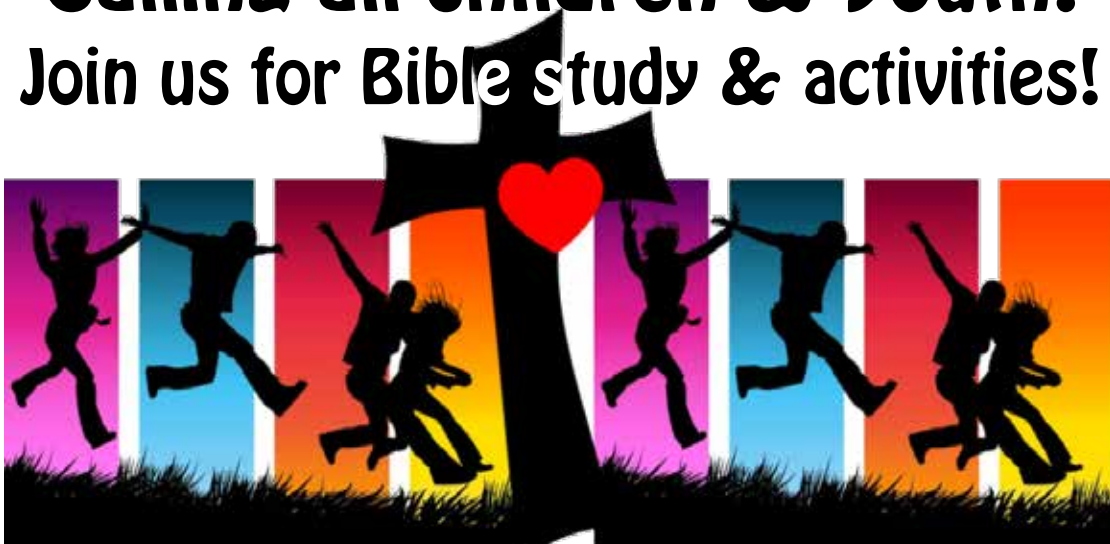
— **Children's Connection continued on next page.** —



Children's Ministry Text Group

For any parents of children who would like to be added to the Children's Ministry text alerts, please text "oakmontkids" (no quotation marks needed) to 833-744-0524. *Stay informed!*

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



First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade July Bible Study Lessons
(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

JULY THEME: KINGDOM QUEST— Living the Greatest Adventure

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

It’s July, and we are diving into another set of parables that Jesus told. Last month, we focused on what God’s Kingdom is. This month, we’re going to explore how Jesus teaches us to live in and help grow God’s kingdom. We start off with The Story of the Farmer, and how God’s kingdom grows when we listen to God and do what He says. In Week 2, we explore The Parable of the Bags of Gold, discovering how God wants us to use the gifts He has given us to grow the kingdom. We follow up with The Servant Who Had No Mercy, where our students will learn that because God has forgiven us, we can help bring His kingdom to others when we forgive them. And we wrap up the summer series with The Story of the Persistent Widow, where kids will see how important it is to keep talking with God and never give up, even when you don’t get the answer you want right away.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for July —

July 3

God’s Kingdom grows when you hear
and do what God says.

July 17

God’s Kingdom grows when you forgive.

July 10

God’s Kingdom grows when
you use what God has given you.

July 24

God’s Kingdom grows when you pray
and don’t give up.

July Memory Verse

*“God’s Kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy.
All this comes through the Holy Spirit.”*
– Romans 14:17

— Youth Calendar —

JULY

JULY 29–AUG. 5 | High School Youth Mission Trip

— This Week's Events —

Sunday, July 26

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

Monday, July 27

9:30 a.m.
Backyard Buddies
Summer Enrichment Program
OSA Pool

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, July 28

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

11:30 a.m.
Senior Adult Lunch Bunch
Kickback Jack's

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

Wednesday, July 29

Youth Leave for Mission Trip

6:00 p.m.
Backyard Buddies
Summer Enrichment Program
Dinner & Tutoring
Fellowship Hall

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



July 19, 2026
FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week)	\$14,626	Communion Offering (This Week)	\$120
(\$2,684 Online, \$11,942 Mail)		Communion Offering (MTD)	\$1,850
Receipts (MTD)	\$55,579.25	Building Fund (This Week)	\$10
Receipts 2026 (YTD)	\$610,504.92	Building Fund (MTD)	\$1,364
Receipts 2025 (YTD)	\$609,096.97	Building Fund (YTD)	\$14,390

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Ben Gurganus

HYMN

"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

ANTHEM

"He Is Able"

Chancel Choir and Orchestra; Soloist, Karen Meetze

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Ben Gurganus

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:18-25

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

"Groaning for the New Creation"

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"This Is My Father's World"

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

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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.

