

E-Connections

News from **Oakmont Baptist Church**

A Word from Our Pastor

It's one of my favorite things to do as a Dad. Luke and I traveled to Wilmington earlier this week to see James Taylor in concert. He's an artist we both love and the concert was amazing. But more than this specific concert, my favorite thing is traveling with each of our boys individually and traveling as a family. There's something about a two hour car ride that creates space for good conversation, storytelling, dreaming, and connecting. Time on the road, stops along the way, and enjoying the destination makes for great bonding time.

I'll be in the "Dad" role this week with our senior adults as I "chaperone" their trip to the Amish Country! Yes, I'll be the youngest person there, but somebody has to make sure everyone behaves! The visit to this beautiful part of the country will be wonderful and the performance of "Joshua" at the Sight and Sound theater will be powerful, but what I'm most looking forward to is encountering Jesus as he moves among us while we travel, at our stops, and at our destination. Please pray for our safety while we're away this Tuesday through Thursday (I'm recording a video for the Bible study class I lead, so the group will still gather in the Multipurpose Room on Wednesday night). Pray most of all for our fellowship as we experience the presence of Jesus together.

I plan on savoring some good views on the bus ride next week. I'll focus on the landscapes, but I'll also look at the houses and buildings, especially the rooftops. Ever since we replaced the roof on our first house years ago, I've been fascinated with the color, shape, and design of roof shingles. If you also

pay attention to shingles, you will quickly notice that the shingles on our new Youth Room addition are not an exact match to the existing roof: it's hard to match new shingles with old ones! The shingles on the existing building will need to be replaced in 3–5 years; when that happens, we can get a better shingles match and a more uniform look across the whole roof of the educational wing.

On our trip to Pennsylvania, we'll be taking lots of pictures! I look forward to seeing those pictures and seeing them shared with the congregation. As wonderful as these pictures will be, there are some other pictures of even greater importance, the pictures in our new Church Directory!

We've had a great response so far; all the slots have been filled for the picture dates of October 1–3. We've now added a second visit from the photographers, who will also be with us on Friday and Saturday, October 23–24. See the article below for more details. Please sign up! To borrow words from James Taylor, we want to see "your smiling face" in our directory!

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield

P. S. Our friends from the Korean congregation will be joining us in worship this Sunday! Also, remember that following the worship service we will have a brief Ministry Celebration/Business Meeting in the Sanctuary.





OBC Updates



September 20

Philippians 1:12-30
Eric Porterfield preaching

September 27

Philippians 2:1-13
Eric Porterfield preaching

Brief Ministry Celebration Following Worship, September 20



In the regular rhythm of our life together, we gather "in conference" to discuss church "business" and to celebrate all God is doing through our ministries. There's much to share this month, but it can be done briefly and doesn't require us to return for a late afternoon meeting. Instead, following the benediction, we'll visit for a few minutes then return to our seats for ministry reports and conversation. Stay late, delay lunch, and hear good news!

Senior Adult Fall Trip to Lancaster, PA



The Senior Adult trip to Lancaster, PA is finally here! All participants need to be at the church bright and early between 6:30 and 6:45 a.m. on Tuesday, September 22 so we can depart promptly at 7:00. Please park on the carport side of the church. We will return on Thursday, September 24 with estimated arrival at OBC between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. If there are any last-minute questions regarding the trip, please contact Lisa Stevens via the contact information previously shared.

Oakmont SENIORS MINISTRY



Senior Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, September 22 at 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Join us for this time of fun, food and fellowship! Bring your own lunch, and dessert and beverages are provided.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

New Deacons Elected by the Congregation!



We're grateful to all who participated in our annual Deacon election process and who prayerfully nominated people to serve in the vital role of deacon. We have 21 deacons who serve as spiritual leaders in our church, helping us discern God's will for our church as we embrace opportunities and challenges, and serving as spiritual examples to us all. The new class of deacons, serving a three-year term, are: Tim Britton, Tom Durham, Chris Locklear, Ron Mills, Bobbie Lou Price, Norma Williams, and Mac Williamson. A service of installation will be held during our worship service on September 27.

Wednesday Night Ministries Are Back!



What a gift to gather in the middle of the week, to be together and study God's Word and encourage one another! We're so grateful for all the teachers and workers who make our Wednesday night ministries possible. We started another semester of this wonderful mid-week rhythm on September 9. The semester will end the week before Thanksgiving.

Activities for preschoolers, elementary age children, and youth begin at 6:00 p.m. The Large Group Bible Study taught by Eric Porterfield begins at 6:00 in the Multipurpose Room. The Women's Bible Study, led by Alicia Porterfield, Dot Seay, and Sharron Edwards begins at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Orchestra and choir rehearsals have also resumed.

Large Group Wednesday Night Bible Study



Matthew packs a lot of Jesus' powerful teaching into the 18th chapter of his gospel. It's here where Jesus tells us to become like children and welcome children, where he gives detailed instructions on how to hold each other accountable and tells us "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." And here, Jesus tells us to forgive each other not seven times, but seventy seven times. The first portion of our Large Group study this fall will be an exploration of Matthew 18, led by Eric Porterfield.

Music Ministry Memos

Here's a [link](#) to a new song in our canon that we will be singing again in the coming weeks.



Monday, September 21

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

Wednesday, September 23

6:00 p.m. | Orchestra rehearsal (sanctuary)

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

Sunday, September 27

3:30 p.m. | Handbell rehearsal (room 607)

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

WANTED: TECH Operators for the TECH Team Ministry

We are in the process of offering advanced training for current operators and we will be offering beginning training for new operators on all four positions for in-house and broadcast audio media: Sanctuary Power Point/Light Operator, Sanctuary Sound Mixer, Broadcast Video Camera Operator and Broadcast Sound Mixer. If you would be interested in serving on the TECH TEAM as a new member, contact Laurie Cosby at: laurielee@oakmontchurch.com.

Pictorial Directory Update

Friends, our current photo session dates scheduled for October 1–3 are FULL! What a blessing it is to have such wonderful participation!! However, we still have many of you that we would like to include in the directory. So, we have added 2 new dates for additional photo sessions: Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24. As before, you can sign up online, in-person in the narthex before or after worship on Sundays, September 20 and 27, or call the church office and speak to Nicole Davis to do so. Let's fill the photo sessions and try to include everyone in the new pictorial directory!



Church Directory Photos: Oct. 1–3, 23 & 24

Dear Oakmont Church Family,

Our church directory photographers will be here in just a few weeks, so the time to schedule photo sessions for our new church directory is here! Please find below important information regarding the dates and how to sign up for a session. You will receive a free 8x10 portrait and new church directory just for coming in for a session! There will be other options for products to design and purchase the same day as your scheduled session, so if you are looking for special gifts for family and friends, look no further as Universal Church Directories is confident that items will be here in time for the holiday season. Cash (in small bills), checks, credit, and debit cards are accepted forms of payment for additional items.

Photo Session Dates

Thursday, Oct. 1 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. (FULL)

Friday, Oct. 23 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. (FULL)

Saturday, Oct. 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (FULL)

— See the following page for instructions on how to sign up! —

Time slots are in 10-minute increments. Per the request of Universal Church Directories, please schedule two time slots if you have more than six people being photographed at one time.

Sign-up is available online now on weekdays! Please note: The scheduling page is not available to families on weekends starting Saturdays at approximately 12:01 a.m. until Mondays at 12:01 a.m. in order to prevent double booking. Please follow the instructions on the next page to sign up online.

If you prefer to sign up in person, we will have volunteers available to help you sign up in our narthex prior to and following our worship services each Sunday in September. We can schedule you at that time and provide a flyer that includes your appointment date and time.

No matter how you sign up, you will be asked to provide some basic information: your name, address, phone number, email address, and the number of people in your party. This information is only used by us at Oakmont to contact you regarding your photo session and for entry into the new directory. UCD does not collect or use this information, so please be as accurate as possible when providing it.

We are excited to have this opportunity to update our directory and get to know all of our friends and neighbors, so please make plans now to be included by scheduling a photo session! If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Davis in the church office at (252) 756-1245 or nicole@oakmontchurch.com.

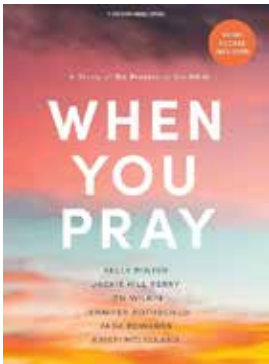
Thank you!

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENTS



- Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled “photography appointment scheduling login.”
- Enter your church code (nc643).
- Enter your church password (photos643).
- Click on the “Enter” button.
- Click on the desired photography date.
- Click on the “Reserve Time” button beside the desired photography appointment time.
- Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk).
- Click on the “Schedule Appointment” button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family’s name.
- If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10 p.m.).
- Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family’s photography appointment.
- Contact Nicole Davis in the church office to change or cancel your photography appointment at (252) 756-1245 or nicole@oakmontchurch.com.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study



WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY gathered September 15 at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with Alicia Porterfield guiding us through the study of the Lord's Prayer by Kelly Minter. Pastor Eric often speaks of praying parts of this prayer regularly as we pray for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world. We learned so much through our readings through the week and via the video of Kelly teaching. Each day, Kelly invited us to pray before our personal study time, "Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wondrous things from your instruction" (Ps. 119:18). Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Lord's Prayer always has something new to teach us. Next week we will explore prayers of petition and thanksgiving using 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11.

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.

Online Giving



When you give through ACS online (via our website), please remember that this can ONLY be used to send the money to the "Operating Fund" (which is our regular budget). Please do not use the other two options in the drop-down menu. We welcome all other gifts for our various ministries (including—but not limited to—communion, building fund, Backpack Pals, and other special events gifts during the year) to be sent to the church either as cash, check, or through your bank. If you write a check, please use the memo line to indicate where your gift should be directed. Also, if you set up a gift through your bank's online platform, most banks have a "memo" line or a "note" line where special instructions may be given digitally. This will be a great help to the church, the tellers who count the money on Mondays, and this also helps our CPA. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Lauri Johnson in the church office at 252.756.1245; or you may send an email to lauri@oakmontchurch.com.



Save the Date for Trunk or Treat!

Make sure to put Sunday, October 25 on your calendar for our annual Trunk or Treat from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.! *Details to come!*



Nursery/Preschool Toys and Books Needed at Hope of Glory

If you have toys or children's books to donate, please share them with Hope of Glory, our community ministry partner. Combining our resources with that of our new Jarvis at Oakmont friends has resulted in an abundance of books and toys—even after both groups did some paring down! Thanks for sharing your extra children's items with Hope of Glory which will support their financial empowerment ministry.

Purpose of the Prayer Garden



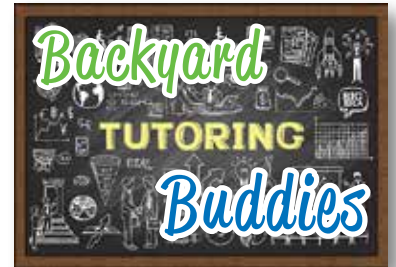
The purpose of the Prayer Garden is to provide a sacred and peaceful outdoor space where individuals, families, and the community can come away from the busyness of daily life to pray, reflect, remember, and experience spiritual renewal. Surrounded by the beauty of God's creation, the garden is intended to be a place of comfort, healing, gratitude, and hope—a quiet sanctuary where hearts may be strengthened, burdens may be lifted, and faith may be deepened. It will serve as a welcoming place for personal devotion, guided prayer, remembrance, fellowship, and moments of stillness, reminding all who enter that God is present, peace is possible, and prayer remains a powerful source of strength.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

Because of construction on the Children's 500 Hall, Backyard Buddies is meeting together in the Fellowship Hall, which makes for lots of fun and a buzz of activity! Please pray for us as we adapt and adjust to our new space. We could also use one more tutor for Tuesdays—if you can help us out, even occasionally, please let Alicia know (alicia@oakmontchurch.com).



The Village Update



We are working on our next date to be with the moms in recovery and their preschoolers at The Village! In the meantime, please continue to lift up these prayer requests from the moms:

C: Please pray that everything works out with my court date and that I can keep my home and be back with my son soon.

Anon: I would like to pray for my child's father, J. Please lift him up and ask God to reveal himself to J in a mighty way. J is struggling with addiction and many other things. And pray for my daughter L as well, that she will come to know God and his amazing love!

R: Please pray for me and my five children and my baby in my belly. Thank you so much.

M: Please pray I can stay in recovery, come up with the money to get my driver's license back, and for my children's health.

Anon: please pray for me to return to my family and remain in my sobriety and my journey of recovery.

Backpack Pals



The Backpack Pals team is working hard to pack and deliver 35 backpacks of food to our friends at Eppes Middle School. Our Wednesday Night Mission Kids (elementary age) and Mission Friends (preschool) enjoyed a hands-on opportunity to learn about this ministry with Liz Evans. These backpacks help students living in food insecure situations have enough kid-friendly and kid-accessible food over the weekend. Donations of proteins are always welcome: cans or packs of tuna and chicken and pastas with meat. Thanks!

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. Our second date for the month was this past Tuesday the 15th, so we will not be open again until October 6.

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

ESL Classes



Our ESL classes have resumed on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. It is so good to be back with our neighbors and support their English-language journey. Please note that the Tuesday class will meet in the Multipurpose Room while construction on the 500 hall continues. Please continue to pray for our neighbors and friends who are learning English!

LINKS



Please pray for these teens in foster care and the leaders at DSS who support them. LINKS meets the second Tuesday evening of each month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a meal and learning opportunity. Diane Myers leads this ministry of hospitality with much appreciated support from Nicole Davis. LINKS will be with us again on Oct. 13.

Young Lives



After a three-month summer break, Young Lives—a ministry of Young Life that supports teen moms and their children—gathered in the Fellowship Hall Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Lillie Moore from Young Lives and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry on the third Tuesday of each month. Their October date is October 20.

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 September date is the 22nd. There are no meals on the fifth Tuesday, September 29, when the team takes a much deserved break. It's such a gift to have a nice, hot meal on the table when we're in a challenging season. Special thanks to the cooks, packers, and delivery folks that make this ministry work!



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 for adults ages 40s–50s

Teacher: Sharron Edwards & Mac Williamson

Location: Room 311

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 young adults in college and/or ages 20s–30s

Co-Teachers: Jane Archer, Sylvia Fuller

& Alicia Porterfield

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)

WE ALSO HAVE THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN:

*Preschool–Kindergarten,
first–fifth grades, middle school,
and high school. We hope that you
and your children will join us!*

Children's Connection



FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT HOW GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US WHEREVER WE GO! ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT PHYSICALLY SEE GOD, GOD IS ALWAYS CLOSE TO US. GOD HEARS US WHEN WE LAUGH, GOD HEARS US WHEN WE CRY, AND GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS. THE BIBLE STORIES THAT WE WILL BE LEARNING FROM THIS MONTH WILL TEACH US THAT, NO MATTER WHAT, GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US. IT IS A WONDERFUL GIFT TO KNOW THAT GOD'S PRESENCE

SURROUNDS US, IT PROTECTS US, IT PROVIDES FOR US, AND IT GUIDES US ON THE JOURNEYS WE TAKE IN LIFE. THIS MONTH, LET US REJOICE AND KNOW THAT GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US!

Our Bible story for this week comes to us from Genesis 37:39-47. In this story we read about a man named Joseph. Joseph was the youngest son of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. Joseph lived a very incredible life. When he was younger, Joseph was his father's favorite son. This made his other siblings very jealous of him! One day, his siblings came up with a plan to attack Joseph and sell him into slavery. Joseph was sold to a group of people who took him to the land of Egypt, far away from his home in Canaan. But God was with Joseph, and God watched over Joseph when he arrived in Egypt. Joseph eventually began working for a high ranking official in the Egyptian government. However, one day Joseph was wrongly accused of something that he did not do, and he was thrown into prison. But, even in prison, God was with Joseph. God had

"Joseph" | Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

September Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

SEPTEMBER THEME: EVERYWHERE I GO – GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME

The grocery store, doctor's office, playground, school, church...our children go to a lot of places! And while some places spark adventure and play, other places can make our children feel a little anxious or afraid. So, this month's memory verse is perfect for our busy children: "God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 ESV). Although our children cannot see God, we want them to know that God is always with them. God is close enough to hear their giggles and tears, and God hears them when they pray. So, we have four Bible stories to share this month that will help our children learn this month's Bottom Line: God is always with me. God's presence is a gift. God protects us. God provides for us. God helps and guides us wherever we go. So join us this month as we show our children that God will always be with them, no matter what they experience. As we share these stories with them, let's pray that the Holy Spirit will help us demonstrate our own trust in God, so our words and actions point children to one undeniable truth: God is always with me.

September Memory Verse

"God is with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9 NLT

Continued from previous page

given Joseph the ability to understand the meaning of people's dreams. And while he was in prison, he was able to help others understand what their bizarre dreams meant. One day the Pharaoh of Egypt also began having strange dreams, and none of his advisors could figure out what they meant. But the Pharaoh was told about Joseph's abilities to interpret dreams, so the Pharaoh got Joseph out of prison.

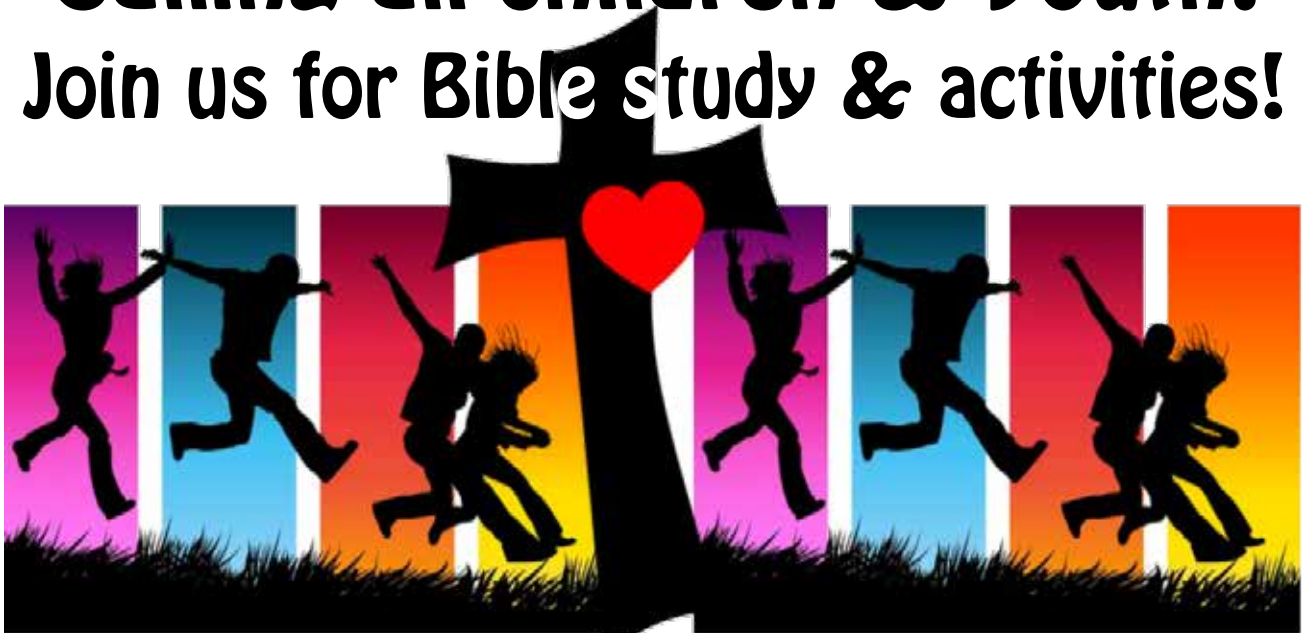
Joseph was able to interpret the Pharaoh's dreams correctly, and he told the Pharaoh that there would be seven years of great crop harvest followed by seven years of droughts and famines. The Pharaoh was incredibly impressed with Joseph's abilities and he put Joseph in charge of preparing for the famines. He even promoted Joseph to second in command of all of Egypt!

When the famines hit, everyone in the surrounding countries had trouble finding food. But thanks to Joseph and his planning, the people of Egypt had food stored up. One day, Joseph's brothers showed up in Egypt looking to buy food. They had not seen Joseph in many years since they had attacked him and sold him. They had no clue what Joseph looked like or what happened to him. But Joseph recognized his brothers, and he remembered what they had done to him. At first, Joseph gave his brothers a hard time. He threatened to throw them in jail. But instead, Joseph listened to God and he forgave his brothers. Ultimately, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and they apologized to him and he forgave them. Joseph sent them back with enough food to provide for themselves and their families. Joseph knew that his brothers had intended to harm him, but Joseph also trusted that God could take their bad plan and turn it into something good.

The story of Joseph reminds us that God is with us wherever we go. Joseph lived an incredible life, with many highs and many lows. However, no matter what happened to him, Joseph trusted that God was with him. Joseph knew that wherever he went, God was there too. This week, I want you to know that God is with you wherever you go in life. You can never go anywhere that God is not. So whether your life isn't going how you want it to go, or if everything is going just how you dreamed it would be...or if you are somewhere in between...God is with you. And whenever you question if God is there, remember the story of Joseph and what God did in his life. Amen.

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

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





Youth Fall Retreat

Fall Retreat sign-up is going on now! The deadline to sign up is Friday, October 9. Plan to join us October 23–25 at Camp Oak Hill for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun. The cost is \$125 for students and \$60 for chaperones. Sign-up is available online (link found in youth newsletter) and outside of Ben's office.



New Youth Sunday School Class

Oakmont has started a new Sunday School class for our middle school students in grades 6–8. They meet on Sunday mornings in Room 501. Thank you to Liza Knight and Emily Wilson for teaching this class! As a result, the high school students now meet with Ben in the Rawl Parlor during the Sunday School hour.

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade September Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

SEPTEMBER THEME: FREQUENCY – Learning to Hear From God

In September, school and schedules take off like a bullet train. That's why it's so vital for all of us to learn how to pause, take a deep breath, and tune our hearts to hear from God. Our faith is living and active. We serve a God who wants to speak to us and who designed us to hear from God every day! For many of us though, hearing from God feels complicated. Where do I start? How do I know if it's God or my own thoughts? God loves when we ask those questions—and we're excited to help kids ask those questions, too, as we explore this month's theme: FREQUENCY—Learning to Hear from God. The story of Samuel shows you don't have to wait until you are older to hear from God! Our world is so full of noise and anxiety that learning to hear God's voice is vital. It's a rescue. When kids learn to stay close to Jesus and hear directly from God that they are loved and valuable, they can walk through a chaotic world with a growing peace and confidence.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for September —

September 6

I can hear from God.

September 20

I can grow when I stay close to God.

September 13

I can learn to know God through the Bible.

September 27

I can ask God to speak to me.

September Memory Verse

"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

– John 10:27 NIV

— This Week's Events —

Sunday, Sept. 20

Pictorial Directory Sign-Ups
Before & After Worship
Narthex

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

10:45 a.m.
In-Person & Live-Stream Worship
Brief Ministry Celebration
Following the Service

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

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

3:30 p.m.
Handbell Rehearsal
Room 607

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

Monday, Sept. 21

10:00 a.m.
JOY Singers Rehearsal

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies Tutoring
& ESL Classes

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, Sept. 22

6:30 a.m.
Meet for Senior Adult Ministry Trip
to Lancaster, PA

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

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

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

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies Tutoring
& ESL Classes

Wednesday, Sept. 23

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

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

6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Activities
for All Ages
Large Group Bible Study
ESL
Orchestra Rehearsal

7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



September 13, 2026
FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week)	\$14,567	Communion Offering (This Week)	\$825
(\$3,910 Online \$10,657 Mail)		Communion Offering (MTD)	\$1,695
Receipts (MTD)	\$43,222.71	Building Fund (This Week)	\$465
Receipts 2026 (YTD)	\$818,735.90	Building Fund (MTD)	\$825
Receipts 2025 (YTD)	\$766,806.73	Building Fund (YTD)	\$18,669

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

HYMN

"Like a River Glorious"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Ben Gurganus

HYMN

"Bless God"

TESTIMONY FROM CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Don and LuAnn Sullivan

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Ben Gurganus

ANTHEM

"Peace Like a River"
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:12-30

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

"Live in a Manner Worthy of the Gospel"

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

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
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Rev. Ben Gurganus
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education
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Rev. Alicia Porterfield
Minister of Missions
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Pastor Emeritus

Ms. Lauri Johnson
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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.

