



ACORN

Oakwood Community Church
11209 Casey Rd
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www.oakwoodfl.org

The mission of
Oakwood is to...

Transform ordinary people
into fully devoted followers
of Jesus Christ.

Oakwood is a member of
the Evangelical Free
Church of America.



Seeds For Growth

16 Lies Satan Feeds Us About Worship

By Joe McKeever

*“Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before Him all the earth” (Psalm 96:9).*

If worship is powerful—that is, if kneeling before Almighty God in humility and rising to praise Him in gratitude and going forth to obey Him in faithfulness—if this has power in the world to change lives and redirect society, then the enemy will be working to put a stop to it.

If God uses our worship to transform sinners, starting with us, then the enemy will do all in his power to neutralize it.

So—how is your worship these days?

Are you working at worship, at learning to humble yourself and praise Him more effectively? Are you giving yourself anew to the Savior throughout the day, every day?

Notice the one question we did not ask: *Are you getting anything out of your worship?* Scripture does not allow us to ask that. We are promised nothing from worship. In worship, we do the giving. We give Him praise and prayers, offerings and love, our time and our attention, and ultimately ourselves.

What has the evil advisor told you in the secret recesses of your mind and heart to dissuade you from worship?

There are so many lies abroad about worship. Here are some of the most popular, in no particular order...

1. Worship is all about you.

You’ll need a worshipful setting, worshipful music, in a building with worshipful architecture. The leaders of the worship service must do things just right, otherwise, if you do not worship, the fault is all theirs.

2. You should be “getting something” out of worship.

If you leave the church campus unable to identify what you “got out” of the service, someone has failed you mightily.

3. Worship is irrelevant; it doesn’t matter.

Millions of Americans are buying into that lie. All you have to do is see how most people skip church altogether on Sundays.

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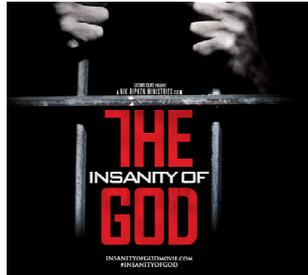
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Movie Night— *The Insanity of God*

The Insanity of God is the personal and lifelong journey of an ordinary couple from rural Kentucky who thought they were going on just your ordinary missionary pilgrimage, but discovered it would be anything but. After spending over six hard years doing relief work in Somalia, and experiencing life where it looked like God had turned away completely and He was clueless about the tragedies of life, the couple had a crisis of faith and left Africa asking God, "Does the gospel work anywhere when it is really a hard place? It sure didn't work in Somalia."

Nik recalls that, "God had always been so real to me, to Ruth, and to our boys. But was He enough, for the utter weariness of soul I experienced at that time, in that place, under those circumstances?" It is a question that many have asked and one that, if answered, can lead us to a whole new world of faith.



Join us Sunday, November 13 in the Worship Center at 7:00 PM for this inspiring movie.

Elder/Deacon Recommendations

The Elders and Deacons are considering individuals to serve in these ministry positions. If you have someone you would like to recommend, please fill out the appropriate recommendation form available at the Information Center. Completed forms may be placed in the "Church Office" mail slot in the kitchen, scanned and emailed to office@oakwoodfl.org, or mailed to the Church Office.

Those being recommended to serve on the Elder Team must have been a member of Oakwood for at least two years.

Those being recommended to serve on the Deacon Team must have been a member of Oakwood for at least one year.

Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs

In cooperation with our sister church, Candlewood Community Church, the Oakwood family is invited to a special evening of singing, worship and prayer on Saturday, November 12, 7:00—8:30 PM here at Oakwood. Luke & Sarah Schrieber will lead the evening. Luke was previously on staff at Candlewood Community Church.

The night will consist of psalms set to music, hymn arrangements, other familiar songs of worship, Scripture reading, and prayer. Luke and Sarah are also excited to share with you some original songs that they have written over the past 7 years that are special to them.

Many musician-friends of theirs, that they have had the privilege of doing music with in the past, will be able to join them for the night. Also, the event will serve as a way for Luke and Sarah to briefly share more about the ministry God has called them to in Mexico City and invite you to partner with them in that ministry.



We hope that you are able to attend because we believe that God will use the night to greatly encourage and strengthen all of us in our faith.

Thanksgiving Holiday

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24 & 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Potluck, Prayer & Congregational Mtg

The Oakwood family is encouraged to join us for an International Potluck Dinner (not American food) on Sunday, November 20 at 6:00 PM. Those families with the last name beginning in A-L, please bring a large International main dish and a dessert. Those families with the last name beginning in M-Z, please bring a large International main dish and a vegetable or salad. Singles may bring one main item.



From 6:45 – 7:15 PM, join the elders in the Worship Center for a time of prayer.

At 7:15 PM, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. Business to be covered includes the Proposed 2017 Budget.

Childcare for nursery and pre-school children will be available for those who register. Registration sheets will be available at the TreeHouse desk and the Information Center. Children in Kindergarten – 5th Grade will be in the meeting with their parents. Children's activity pages will be available.

Elder Led Prayer

Everyone is invited to join in a time of prayer with the elders the first and third Sunday of the month. We meet from 5:30—6:30 PM in the Library. Childcare will be provided.

Prayer Focus

Our Prayer Team works each month to provide a guide for specific prayer requests. You will have a weekly Prayer Focus printed on the Announcement Sheet in your Worship Program.

Prayer Chain

The purpose of Oakwood's **E-Prayer Connection** is to communicate prayer requests for our fellow Oakwood members, our families, friends, others personally known to us, and the ministries of our church.

If you would like to partner in prayer for the needs of our church family, send your full name and email address to ekrex@verizon.net with Prayer Chain Ministry in the subject line. You can also send items to be published for prayer at this same email address.

Women's Ministry Opportunities

Bible Journaling

Back by popular demand, Katie Frost will hold a Bible journaling workshop on Saturday, November 12 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon in the Education Building. To spruce up your Bible please bring colored pencils, alphabet stickers or stamps and a dark pen or marker.

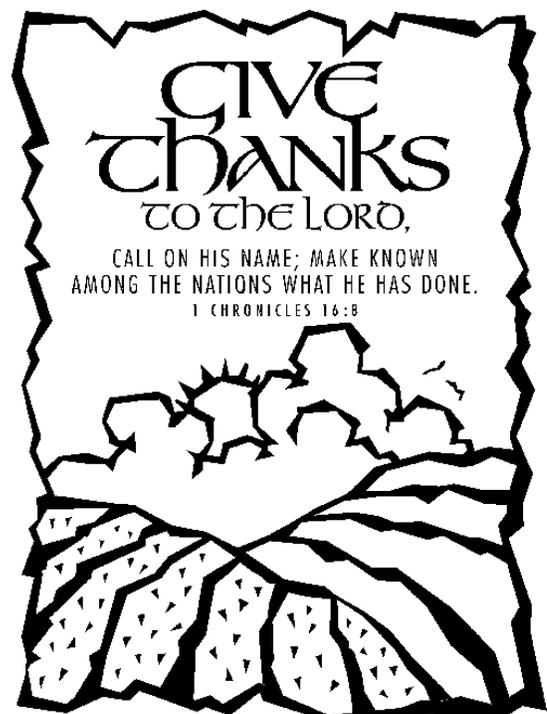


Just for Joy Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 PM

in the Oakwood Library. During this

12 week study we will unwrap the book of Ephesians. Study guides are

\$9. For more information, call or email Sandy Wyatt (960-8168 or slwyatt7@gmail.com).



Opportunities to *Serve the World*

14:6 Connection invites you to join them for their Annual Charity Clay Shoot on Saturday, November 19, at Tampa Bay Sporting Clays, 10514 Ehren Cutoff, Land O Lakes, FL.



All proceeds benefit women and children in Hillsborough County through the programs of 14:6 Connection: Assure Women's Center, Abundant Life, and Achieve.

Schedule:

- 8:00 a.m. Registration & Warm Up
- 8:30 a.m. Welcome & Rules
- 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch & Awards

For more information or to register, please contact Melissa Smith at Melissa@14-6.com or 813.978.9737. You can also visit their website at <http://www.14-6.com/events> for more details on the event.

14:6 Connection is supported through the Missions giving at Oakwood.

Naomi's Daughters is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing and food to the moms and their children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.



Daughters



Current needs –Clothing and shoes for infants to adults; school supplies

Pantry needs: cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items, etc.

Donations can be left on the back porch of the gray house at the front of our property. Tax Deductible receipts are available.

Please pray that we can continue to reach people in this ministry and show the hands and feet of the Lord to those who come through our doors.

PTSD Support Group

Supportive Arms Support Group meets every Friday from 7-9 PM in the Church Library.



This support group is for Veterans and current service members that suffer from PTSD/Trauma. Open to men and women. The goal is to give support and comfort in a group environment to those that struggle with PTSD/Trauma; to help in their daily lives with insight, support, and spiritual guidance; to show that they are loved and cared for through the Grace of God. While everyone may not have served, chances are we have a family member or friend who has and that is struggling in their everyday life. This is an opportunity for them to receive much needed care and support.

Group facilitators are Terrence Morman and Chris Schmidt.

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks on December 4 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Financial Update

2016 Financial Update through October:		
	Actual	Budget
YTD Offerings Received	336,873	
YTD Expenses	415,845	441,643
Offerings Over/(Under) Exp	(78,972)	(104,770)

Online Giving. Did you know that you can make financial contributions to Oakwood through our website? You can give one time or set up for recurring donations. Visit www.oakwoodfl.org and click "Give Online" on the right side of the menu on the home page.

Seeds For Growth—continued

4. Only exciting, emotional worship matters.

If it's not loud, fast, and intense, it doesn't count.

Listen to people put down the more traditional, more restrained, more formal type of worship and you will know that lie is being bought into. We speak of worship services being dull, dead, sleep-inducing, and cold. One wonders if it ever occurs to us that the Father in Heaven alone judges worship.

5. Boring worship does not count.

6. Worship matters only inside the church building.

7. You can worship on the creek bank as well as you can in church.

8. The quality of your offering (your song, your testimony, sermon, etc.) does not matter; all that matters is you're giving it to God.

Read the Old Testament book of Malachi to see the folly of this. People were bringing diseased animals to the temple as their offerings. The Heavenly Father was/is no fool; He understands an insult when one is given.

The amount of your offering and the sincerity of your worship matter. But not in the way we might think. The widow ([Mark 12](#)) put in two small coins, but our Lord said hers was the largest offering given that day. The point is obvious: *What gives the offering its weight is its value to us.*

9. Meditation on anything counts as worship.

10. The architecture must be conducive to worship if it's to be done right.

My friend Mike Canady tells of an American preacher who traveled to the African country where he (Mike) served as a missionary, and addressed the believers there on how to construct buildings and Sunday School space and such. Mike laughs, "The people there knew how to have church: Under the nearest mango tree."

11. "What" you worship does not matter so long as you do.

12. "How" you worship does not matter.

13. Everyone else worships better than you.

You're the only one who gets bored, has trouble concentrating, and whose mind wanders during prayer.

14. The small offerings you bring, the pitiful singing you give, your feeble attempts at praying, etc., are an insult to the Lord.

Better you stayed away than to offend the Lord with such.

15. We pay the preachers to do our worshipping for us.

Our job is to come to church and watch them perform and then critique them. If I give them a passing grade, I have done my job.

16. Worship is a passive activity.

When our worship leaders do their jobs well, we worship. Worship is something that happens to us, not something we do. Whether I feel anything or not is unimportant; what counts is I can check off worship for one more week.

These are only a few of the thousands of lies about worship.

The Psalms are all about worship. They are the original songbook of Israel, of course. So, anyone wishing to worship the living God could do no better than to read selections such as Psalm 23, 103, and 139 and meditate upon their riches.

There are two excellent illustrations of people worshipping in the Bible.

In Isaiah 6, we see the prophet worshipping. Because he "sees the Lord," high and lifted up, he sees his unworthiness and sin. After being purified from that sin, he hears the Lord's call to "go." He answers, "Here am I Lord, send me."

In Luke 10, we see Mary worshipping at the feet of the Lord in her home in Bethany. Jesus tells her sister Martha that Mary has chosen "the one good thing which shall not be taken away from her."

In worship, we "see" the Lord and answer His call. We are choosing the "one good thing"—worship—which is eternal.

Beloved, let us worship every day of our lives, wherever we are. And do so in Spirit and in Truth.



PowerHouse Schedule

November 13—Food Bag Ministry & Regular Evening Meeting

November 20—Thanksgiving Festival Outreach Party

November 27—Regular Evening Meeting

Fall Retreat—December 2-4

Our Fall Retreat for Middle & High School students will be in Orlando, including a day at Disney's Hollywood Studios.

Pick up a brochure in PowerHouse for all the details.

PLEASE NOTE: Only 3 spots are still available

Deposit: \$25.00

Registration: \$125 (Sept 16 - Nov 20)

Registration Deadline & Balance Due: November 20

Registration includes Lodging at the Red Lion Hotel (near Disney) for Friday and Saturday, Disney Park ticket, 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

Each participant is responsible for their meal on Friday night and lunch on the way home on Sunday.

Food Bag Ministry

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, November 13** right after the Worship Service.

There is no Friday shopping opportunity this month.

For more details on helping deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.



Kids Corner



Just for KIDS

Here's a Story of a "Thankful Bunch."

We can rejoice and give thanks to God, just as many thankful people did in Bible times. Use the list of names to fill in the blank lines, and then use the leaf code to complete the verse.

Names: Elijah, Naaman, Hannah, paralyzed man, Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Mary & Martha



Led his people through the Red Sea.



Jericho fell, but she and her family were saved.



Her prayer was heard and she gave her son to God.



Ravens brought him food.



Cured of his leprosy, he worshiped God.



Their brother was raised from the dead.



Lowered through a roof, Jesus healed him.



Jesus brought his daughter back to life.

----- & -----

“SO WE ... W _ LL G _ VE Y _ _ _ _ NKS F _ _ EVE _ _ ;

WE W _ LL S _ _ W F _ _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _ ISE

LL GENE _ _ _ _ NS.” *Psalm 79:13, NKJV*

Answers:
 Moses, Rahab, Hannah, Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus.
 “SO WE ... WILL GIVE YOU THANKS FOREVER; WE WILL SHOW
 FORTH YOUR PRAISE TO ALL GENERATIONS.” Psalm 79:13, NKJV



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Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Interim Pastor—Larry Chute
 Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s Ministry—Dave Dorsey
 Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Doug Cress
 Associate Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple
 Office Manager—Martha Dorsey
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

Our Elder Team

Mark Beale
 Edson Bustamante
 Larry Chute
 John Schneider
 Rob Weyand

Our Deacon Team

David Conner
 Dave DePagter
 David Fowle
 Larry Giannone
 Brian Johnson
 Mike Wyatt

Office hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Education Classes:

Sundays—9:15 AM

Worship:

Sundays—10:30 AM

Calendar at a Glance



Nov 12—Bible Journaling Class
 Evening of Prayer & Praise—concert by Luke & Sarah Schrieber
 Nov 13—Deacon Team Meeting
 Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
 Movie Night—*The Insanity of God*
 Nov 16—Transition Team Meeting

Nov 20—Compassion Offering
 Potluck, Prayer & Congregational Meeting
 Nov 21—Elder/Deacon Team Meeting
 Nov 24—Thanksgiving Day
 Nov 25—Office Closed
 Nov 27—Oakwood Cares Team Meeting

The Oakwood ACORN is a bi-weekly E-newsletter from Oakwood Community Church, published to keep our church family and friends informed about events and people at Oakwood. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to Office@oakwoodfl.org. Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

Deadline	Publication date	News for dates including...
Nov 25	Nov 30	Dec 3—Dec 16
Dec 9	Dec 14	Dec 17—Jan 6

Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/