

Oakwood Community Church
 11209 Casey Rd
 Tampa FL 33618-5306
 813.969.2303
www.oakwoodfl.org



ACORN

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.



Moving Forward with Prayer

Approximately one year ago, our elders wisely chose to partner with Interim Pastor Ministries to guide us through the process of seeking a new pastor. Larry’s leadership has been invaluable as he has helped us to evaluate, equip, and strengthen the body of Oakwood. On March 15th we officially launch our pastoral search. While many have been eagerly awaiting this step in the process, it is the culmination of all the necessary steps that have preceded it. We want to take the things Larry has taught us and the changes we feel God wants us to make and begin putting those into practice before our new pastor arrives. Each one of us can make a meaningful contribution at this point by expressing our dependence upon God through earnest prayer. Below are some prayer suggestions, one for every day of the week, that will help us agree together in prayer during this critical stage in the process.

Sunday: Pray that God’s mission for Oakwood of transforming ordinary people into fully devoted followers of Christ would be accomplished through our vision of Love, Grow, Serve. *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20*

Monday: Pray that we, as a congregation and as individuals, would be continually growing in Christlikeness – putting off the old self, putting on the new self, as we reach for God’s word. *“You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:22-24*

Tuesday: Pray that each of us would be actively engaged in conversations with the far-from-God, pointing them to Christ and inviting them to church, and that God would use Oakwood’s ministries to effectively reach out to those in our community with the Good News. Pray that God would add to our numbers those who are being saved. *“Come, follow me”, Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’ Matthew 4:19*

Wednesday: Pray that we would be suitably arrayed for spiritual battle in the armor God provides. Pray that we would stand firm and not be discouraged or defeated by attacks from the enemy. *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” Ephesians 6:10-11*

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Oakwood Cares Upcoming Events



Wash Cars & Serve Lunch for our District 3 Sheriff's Deputies Saturday, March 25, 10 AM—2 PM

Meet at Hillsborough County Sheriff's District 3 Office, 7202 Gunn Hwy, Citrus Park, Florida 33625 (near Citrus Park Mall East Entrance)

JOIN US as we bless those who serve and protect us. Come for a short shift or for all 4 hours. Bring cleaning rags, sponges or other supplies or just come with a heart willing to help.

And for those who love a cooking competition, bring a crock pot full of chili to serve.

Sign up at church or [RSVP on Facebook to the Oakwood Cares event](#) so we know how many to expect. Direct questions to oakwood-cares@gmail.com.



Free Self-Defense Classes Wednesday Nights - April 5, 12, 19, 26 7:00-8:30 pm PowerHouse Building

Don't be scared. Be aware and get prepared.

Come listen and learn or participate if you'd like to learn some defensive moves in these 4 sessions. No physical requirements or concerns. Feel free to invite neighbors and friends. Those who joined us previously are encouraged to return as Mike will bring a partner to help demonstrate some new moves.



There is no charge for these classes. You will have an opportunity to purchase items or private classes if desired but there is no pressure to do so. [RSVP on our Oakwood Cares Facebook page](#). Note: You do not need to attend all 4 sessions.

Our instructor, Mike Kennedy, has more than 35 years of experience, as a former homeland security officer and US Army Col. (Retired). Mike is a Christian and husband to wife Tammy and father of grown daughters. Learn more about his company and services on Facebook: [Triple T Defense](#).

Questions can be directed to OakwoodCares@gmail.com.

Attention Women

Ladies ~ Painting with a Twist

If you can paint by number, you can paint with a twist. Create your own masterpiece on Friday night, March 31 at 7:00 PM in the Children's Ministry Building. Women ages 18+ RSVP with \$12 at the information desk in the lobby. Space is limited



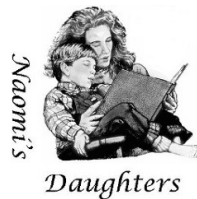
Just for Joy women's Bible study meets on **Tuesday mornings from 10:00—11:30 AM** in Room 106 of the Education Building.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah focus on God restoring His holy city and His chosen people. Study guides are \$7.

Contact Sandy Wyatt at slwyatt7@gmail.com or call 813-960-8168 for more details.

Opportunity to Serve the World

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.



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.

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks on April 2 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Blood Mobile @ Oakwood

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, April 9 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. If you are at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, are in good health and haven't donated in the last eight weeks, you are eligible to donate.



Will you roll up your sleeves and help us with this worthy cause?

Financial Update

2017 Financial Update for February:		
	Actual	Budget
YTD Offerings Received	64,397	
YTD Expenses	70,208	76,256
Offerings Over/(Under) Exp	(5,811)	(11,859)

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.

Our Daily Bread

The excellent daily devotional guide, *Our Daily Bread*, can help you experience the presence of God throughout your busy day by helping you focus your thoughts on Him.



Pick up your free copy from the Information Center in the lobby or you can download the App on your smart phone or tablet and get the devotional sent directly to you every day.



PowerHouse Schedule

Mar 19—Food Bag Ministry & Regular Evening Meeting
 Mar 24-26—PowerHouse Retreat at Camp Gilead
 Mar 26—No PowerHouse Meeting
 Apr 2—Regular Evening Meeting
 Apr 9—Regular Evening Meeting
 Apr 16—No Meeting—Easter

Food Bag Ministry

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, March 19** right after the Worship Service.

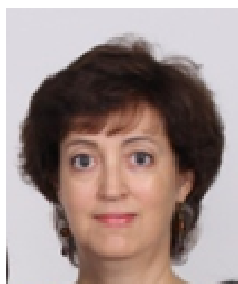
Teens can raise extra funds by helping shop for the food and/or helping with delivery of the food bags to the medical clinics. Shopping for the next fundraiser will be Friday, March 17. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.

Moving Forward with Prayer—*continued*

Thursday: **Pray that our leadership, in cooperation with the congregation, can successfully implement the proposed strategies to strengthen identified areas of weakness (effective structures, empowering leadership, and inspiring worship).** *“It was he who gave . . . some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature.” Ephesians 4:11-13*

Friday: **Pray for unity and discernment for members of the Pastoral Search Team as they work together to identify God’s choice for Oakwood’s next servant leader.** *“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best.” Philippians 1:9-10*

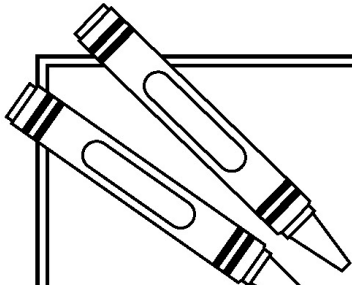
Saturday: **Pray that God would work through the placement tools used by the search team to select the best candidates. Pray that God would confirm His choice through various means (Scripture, answered prayer, timing, gifts and abilities, wise counsel, circumstances, etc.).** *“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.” Proverbs 19:21*



Would you be willing to commit to pray these requests? We place our hope, not in our own abilities and resources, but in the trustworthiness of our Guide. Our Lord knows the way. As we walk by faith, God will lead us to our next pastor. *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21.*

Andrea Cress
 Pastoral Search Team Prayer Coordinator

Kids Corner







Just for **KIDS**





God's teaching is like....




In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.










Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.









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“Let my teaching fall like    

and my words descend like    ,







like         

        ,

like abundant      

”

Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants



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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—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



Mar 15—Day of Prayer & Fasting
 Pastoral Search Team Meeting
 Mar 19—Compassion Offering
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
 Mar 20—Elder/Deacon Teams meet
 Mar 24-26—PowerHouse Retreat
 Mar 25—Oakwood Cares Sheriff’s Car Wash
 Mar 26—Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
 No PowerHouse Meeting
 Mar 31—Painting With A Twist

Apr 2—Communion During Worship
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Apr 5—Pastoral Search Team meeting
 Self-Defense Class begins
 Apr 9—Deacon Team Meeting
 Oakwood Cares Team meeting
 Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry

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...
Mar 24	Mar 29	Apr 1—Apr 14
Apr 7	Apr 12	Apr 15—Apr 28

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