



ACORN

Seeds For Growth

Keep Moving Forward

Throughout the fall we walked through the book of Philippians, lifting our eyes from the challenges in our lives to fix our joy in the Lord. As we begin 2018 we will be studying Romans 8 on Sunday mornings while we discuss an eight week Bible study called Momentum in our Community Groups (including one on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.). As you can see on the next page, these two studies are meant to supplement and reinforce one another, so please be sure to join a Momentum Bible Study and come to the worship service every Sunday!

Both Romans 8 and Momentum will challenge us as individual believers and as a church to *Keep Moving Forward* – to intentionally and prayerfully work to make progress. If you are stuck in a struggle or sin; if you have a wound that won't heal; if you feel adrift without a clear purpose – the next two months will guide you along a pathway toward growth. Followers of Jesus should not remain stuck. We should always be growing.

To that end let me challenge all of us in two specific areas. First, ***be brave enough to share what you are actually struggling with.*** You'll see in the first lesson that we all start from a position of total humility and dependence. Let's be honest with each other and bring our issues out of the darkness and into the light of God's grace. Talk openly in your Community Group. Follow up with one or two trusted friends to go deeper and challenge one another to take on real issues and make progress in them.

Second, ***memorize and meditate on God's Word.*** Use the key verse from Romans 8 each week as a starting point to let God press the truth of the Gospel deep into your heart and mind and life. Some of you should take up the challenge to memorize Romans 8:1-17 or even the entire chapter (we will finish Romans 8 on Sunday mornings with three more sermons in March). Start with Romans 8:1-2 and go on from there. Meditate on the freedom we have in Christ from both the penalty and power of sin.



Worship is the fuel of missions and the gospel is the fuel of worship. Let the Holy Spirit fill you up with a passion for the supremacy of Christ by meditating deeply on the Gospel over the next eight weeks. May the Gospel move us to worship and may our zeal for the glory of God empower us for the mission Jesus has given us. Brothers and sisters, let's move forward with the Gospel together in 2018!

Darin Anderson
Lead Pastor

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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.



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Keep Moving Forward

SERMON SERIES: <i>Keep Moving Forward</i>	MOMENTUM BIBLE STUDY
Jan. 7 <u>Freedom from the PENALTY of Sin</u> “There is therefore now <i>no condemnation</i> for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1	Jan. 7-13 “Blessed are the Poor in spirit” <i>Humility</i> “I bring nothing”
Jan. 14 <u>Freedom from the POWER of Sin</u> “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you <i>free in Christ Jesus</i> from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:2	Jan. 14-20 “Blessed are those who mourn” <i>Repentance</i> “I take ownership”
Jan. 21 <u>Freedom to FOLLOW the Spirit</u> “In order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who <i>walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.</i> ” Romans 8:4	Jan. 21-27 “Blessed are the meek” <i>Submission</i> “I surrender my strength to Jesus”
Jan. 28 <u>FILLED with the Spirit of God</u> “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to <i>set the mind on the Spirit</i> is life and peace.” Romans 8:5	Jan. 28-Feb. 3 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” <i>Pursuit</i> “I long to be righteous”
Feb. 4 <u>OVERFLOWING with the Love of God</u> “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also <i>give life to your mortal bodies</i> through his Spirit who dwells in you.” Romans 8:11	Feb. 4-10 “Blessed are the merciful” <i>Compassion</i> “I care about others”
Feb. 11 <u>FIGHTING for Holiness</u> “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you <i>put to death the deeds of the body</i> , you will live.” Romans 8:13	Feb. 11-17 “Blessed are the pure in heart” <i>Worship</i> “I go after one thing”
Feb. 18 <u>A Family that FORGIVES</u> “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are <i>sons of God.</i> ” Romans 8:14	Feb. 18-24 “Blessed are the peacemakers” <i>Reconciliation</i> “I give up my rights”
Feb. 25 <u>Keep Moving FORWARD</u> “Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we <i>suffer with him</i> in order that we may also be glorified with him.” Romans 8:17	Feb. 25-Mar. 3 “Blessed are you...” <i>Perseverance</i> “I endure the cost”

Oakwood Mill



The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education ministry of Oakwood Community Church. Two new adult education classes and one resuming class are being offered this winter on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. Our winter schedule begins on January 7. Register for one of these classes by filling out the registration form that will be in your Worship Program this Sunday or contact the Church Office.

Momentum

Leader: Darin Anderson

Are you making progress? Most Christians want to make real, noticeable progress in their spiritual growth.

In this eight-week study author Colin S. Smith leads believers in a biblical exploration of the Beatitudes, some of Jesus' most famous teachings. Because each Beatitude builds on the one that came before, Jesus' teachings provide a road map for making progress in our spiritual lives. When we diligently pursue holiness, we're in a position to receive the blessings Jesus promised.

This video based discussion will follow along with the Sunday Message Series – *Keep Moving Forward*. We are encouraging everyone to be involved in a Community Group during this series. If you aren't involved in a group, you can choose to attend a group during the series or if none of the groups are convenient for you, you can attend this class.

This class will meet in the Education Building Room 106/108.

Discovering Our Roots: The Reformation

Leader: Andrew Hasebroock

Discovering our Roots: The Reformation

The Reformation radically changed the church and the world. In this class we'll discover how and why it happened as we look at the lives of well-known Reformers like Martin Luther and John Calvin and the lives of those not so well-known. An integration of art and literature will supplement the study of this exciting and momentous time and how it led to the multi-faceted face of the church today.

This class will meet in the Education Building Room 102/104.

Bible Art Journaling – continuing from the Fall

Leader: Katie Frost

Would you like to dig deeper into the Word? Have you seen Bible art journaling and loved it but thought to yourself, "I could never do that!" or "I'm not that artistic!" Then this is the class for you! Our Bible art journaling class is about the process of connecting to Scripture, not the page you produce. Focus on God and His Word and the skill will come with time.

Each week we will learn new art techniques and meditate on the Word. The basic supplies you will need are a journal and/or Bible (journaling bibles are useful, but not necessary) and a Sigma Micron 01 pen in black. As we learn new techniques, we will introduce new supplies.

Join us as we draw closer to God and to each other through bible art journaling!

This class will meet in TreeHouse Room 304.

Classes for **Middle School and High School** students will be held during the 9:15 AM Education hour.

Childcare & Children's classes

In consideration of our volunteer staff, we will be happy to provide childcare for nursery age, a class for the 2 Year Olds-4 Year Olds and a class for Kindergarten-5th Grade if we have three or more committed weekly for each age group during the 9:15 AM hour. This commitment will be for at least three out of four Sundays each month. Please be sure to register early so that we can plan accordingly.

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks on January 7 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Women's Bible Study

Just For Joy will resume on Tuesday, January 9, at 10:15 AM in the Education Building. We will be doing the *Momentum* study. Come join us.



Gal's Potluck Luncheon

All ladies are invited to join us Sunday, January 28, following the Worship Service for a time of food and fellowship together.

Bring an entree, salad or veggie to share to the Room 106/108 in the Education Center.

Attention Women

There will be a LIVE Simulcast featuring Priscilla Shirer in person at Idlewild Baptist Church on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Early bird tickets are \$59 for groups of 10+ See Sandy Wyatt by January 15th to register.

Recycle Bin @ Oakwood



Did you know that your newspapers, magazines, junk mail, etc., can earn money for Oakwood?

Collect your recyclable items during the week and bring them when you come to church and drop them in the blue Mixed Paper Recycling Bin. Please break down any boxes to help conserve room in the bin. Thanks for doing your part to help earn extra funds for Oakwood.

A list of recyclable items is available at the Information Center.

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.

Oakwood Directory

It's time to produce a new Oakwood Directory!

Beginning Sunday, January 7, you will find a Directory Registration form in your Worship Program. Please fill one out for your family and drop it in the offering basket or leave it at the Information Center.

We hope to have a new directory ready in February.

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.

Do you order from Amazon?

Your orders can benefit Oakwood by shopping through AmazonSmile. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2436827>, place your order, and 0.5% of your qualifying purchase will be donated to Oakwood through the AmazonSmile Foundation.



The Art of Marriage - presented by FamilyLife Coming again to Oakwood February 9-10, 2018



It's A Jungle Out There!

Marriage and parenthood are two of the most important decisions we make that we don't get "instructions" for before jumping in.

Join us for this excellent seminar that brings together some of the most respected and influential pastors and experts on marriage and family all in one setting. It also brings a fresh approach to a video event by weaving together elements to help couples fully experience God's design for marriage.

Who should come?

- Singles contemplating marriage
- Engaged couples
- Newly married couples
- Not so newly married couples

Why should I come?

Every relationship can use encouragement, a tune-up, or an overhaul

What can I expect at the seminar?

- Engaging stories
- Real-life testimonies
- Man-on-the-street interviews
- Humorous vignettes

In our 45 years of marriage "The Art of Marriage" seminar is one of the very best that we have attended - and we've participated in many! It is very engaging and perfect for couples at any stage of marriage. We highly recommend it.

Dan and Arlene Williams

The cost is \$50 per couple Registration includes two seminar manuals, snacks and continental breakfast on Saturday.

Registration begins January 14. Register at the table in the lobby or contact the Church Office to register @ office@oakwoodfl.org or 813-969-2303.

Seminar Schedule:

Friday

7:00 - 9:30 PM - Session 1 & 2

Saturday

8:30 AM - Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Sessions 3 & 4

12:00 - 1:45 PM - Lunch Break (on your own)

1:45 - 4:00 PM - Sessions 5 & 6

The Art of Marriage consists of six video sessions and an accompanying manual that provides couples with projects to help apply the principles taught during each session. The manual is also designed for couples to use after the event by offering articles, date night ideas, and useful tips for continuing to strengthen their marriage.

Topics Covered

Session 1: Love happens (purpose of marriage)

Session 2: Love fades (drift to isolation)

Session 3: Love dances (roles)

Session 4: Love interrupted (communication)

Session 5: Love sizzles (romance and sex)

Session 6: Love always (legacy)

Childcare can be made available at an additional charge if there are enough requests. Please contact the Church Office by February 2 to request childcare.



Missions Update

Update from Assure Women's Center

Dear Oakwood,

The counting is complete...the baby bottles have been stored for another year!

This year's Baby Bottle Campaign 2017 was a *super charged success!* Oakwood Community Church blessed us in the amount of \$917.12! Thank you to our Holy Spirit Power Team!

All proceeds will directly benefit the women visiting Assure Women's Center.

What does that mean?

It means that women seeking an abortion will have an ultrasound confirming that the little beating heart is truly a baby...undergirded with compassionate sharing of the gospel by a Client Advocate.

Or, the mom's that are maintaining their pregnancies will be continue to be blessed thru the Achieve program as they excitedly pick and choose baby's needs in our Baby Boutique with mommy money well earned.

Thank you for partnering with us yet again...together we Powered Up for Life!

To Eternity and Beyond Together!

Cheryl Mather, Executive Director
14:6 Connection

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.



PowerHouse Schedule

- Jan 7—Regular Evening Meeting
- Jan 12—Shop @ Aldi & Hang Out Night—Night Spiker Volleyball
- Jan 14—Food Bag Ministry & Regular Evening Meeting
- Jan 21—Regular Evening Meeting
- Jan 28—Youth lead worship & Regular Evening Meeting

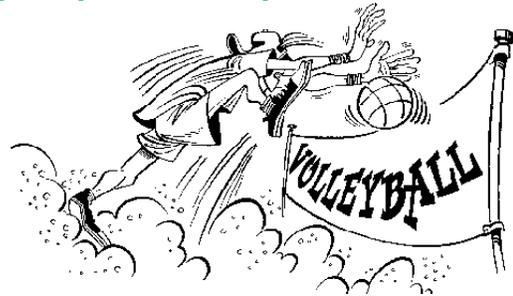
Challenge 2018

- What:** *Challenge* - the biennial Youth Conference of the EFCA
- When:** Conference—July 2-6, 2018
Trip—June 29—July 7
- Where:** Kansas City, MO
- Who:** Middle & High School students

See Cam Whipple for a brochure on the Conference. You can raise funds for the trip by participating in the monthly Food Bag Ministry. Got questions? Contact Cam Whipple.



Night Spiker Volleyball



Friday, January 12
(after Aldi shopping)
Black light Volleyball
Tons of fun
Be there & invite your friends

Food Bag Ministry

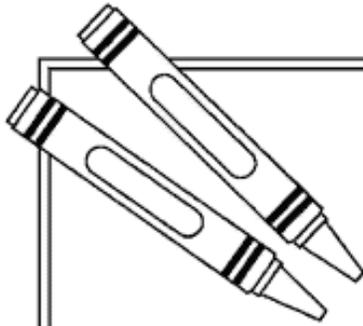
Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven and Jacksonville. These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

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, January 14** 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, January 12. 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.

Kids Corner



Just for KIDS

Work ... Work ... Work!

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Genesis 2:15)

Ever since Adam, people have worked! Here are some occupations of people who lived in Bible times. Find them in the puzzle. Circle them.



APOTHECARY
BAKER
BARBER
BUTLER
CARPENTER
CHAMBERLAIN
CLERK
CONFECTIONER
COPPERSMITH
DYER

FARMER
FISHERMAN
FULLER
GUARD
HUNTER
JUDGE
LAWYER
MASON
MUSICIAN
NURSE

PHYSICIAN
PORTER
POTTER
PREACHER
RECORDER
SAILOR
SALESWOMAN
SCHOOLMASTER
SCRIBE
SERVANT
SHEPHERD



SILVERSMITH
SOLDIER
SPINNER
STEWARD
TANNER
TEACHER
TENTMAKER
TILLER
WEAVER
WRITER

A C O N F E C T I O N E R B A B C F D D
S P H Y S I C I A N U S E E U F G U H Y
C I O A B B A R B E R A C I J T K L L E
O M L T M A S O N C S L O L T I L L E R
P P S V H B K N O L E E R F A R M E R S
P C O P E E E E Q E G S D I N W R R R T
E A L R S R C R R R D W E S N E Y T U E
R R D V T T S A L K U O R H E A P E W W
S P I N N E R M R A J M W E R V O E R A
M E E H X N R M I Y I A Y R Z E T B I R
I N R U A T B U C T D N E M F R T I T D
T T G N H M I S J K H T E A C H E R E L
H E M T W A T I H M A N N N O P R C R I
Q R R E S K S C N G E R G U A R D S Y Z
A B C R D E E I S H E P H E R D F A B C
S A I L O R D A R E T S A M L O O H C S
S E R V A N T N G H I J P R E A C H E R



Oakwood Community Church
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 813.969.2303
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Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Lead Pastor—Darin Anderson
 Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s
 Ministry—Dave Dorsey
 Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple
 Office Manager—Martha Dorsey

Our Elder Team

Darin Anderson
 Mark Beale
 Edson Bustamante
 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



JANUARY

Jan 7—Oakwood Mill classes begin
 Communion during Worship
 Blood Pressure checks following Worship
 Jan 8—Elder Team meeting
 Jan 12—PowerHouse hang out night
 Jan 14—Deacon Team Meeting
 Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
 PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry

Jan 15—Elder Team Meeting
 Jan 21—Compassion Offering
 Missions Team Meeting
 Jan 22—Elder/Deacon Team Meeting
 Jan 28—Women’s Potluck lunch

The Oakwood *ACORN* is a monthly 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	For events during...
Jan 21	February 2018
Feb 20	March 2018

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