



ACORN

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



Two Worship Services Test Run

We will soon be advertising four Sundays with two services (March 25 – April 15). March 18 will be our internal trial run. Please sign up for the service you plan to attend using the Connection Card on Sunday or by following the signupgeni.us link in the Oakwood Update email. And please plan to attend all five of these services if at all possible!

The main reason we want to attempt two services is *to make us more effective in gathering worshipers who will love God* with all of their hearts and lives. Read the next article on the baseball diamond for the big picture. This is our first base: to love God. As we interact with our friends, neighbors and family members here in Tampa, what we pray for and desire for them is that they would exchange their love of the world for a love for God. We want to help them get off the bench and into the game of following Jesus. We want to help them reach the life-changing first base of beginning a relationship with God.

God is seeking worshipers who will freely choose to know, love and serve Him. The world pulls people in every direction but to the God who made them and the Savior who died for them. The devil will do everything he can to keep people playing any game but this. He will distract them with the food and drink in the stands. He will deceive them into thinking they are followers when they are really just fans. He will try to discourage those who are running by tripping them up and keeping them from advancing around the bases.

So it is our joy and calling to gather in the people God is calling to Himself. We invite them to leave their distractions behind and step onto the playing field of a relationship with God. We invite them to trade their other loves for the only one that can truly satisfy the longings of their heart. We invite them to join us Sunday after Sunday to lift up the name of Jesus in worship and listen to the Word of God proclaimed. This is why we want to attempt two worship services!

Keep Moving Forward!

This baseball diamond represents the pathway we encourage people to follow so they can become fully devoted followers of Jesus. At the center of the logo is our ultimate purpose to glorify God. He is in the business of changing lives and it is our great privilege to join Him in that work.

Therefore our mission remains: *to transform ordinary people into fully devoted followers of Christ.*

What does it look like to be fully devoted to Christ? How can we move toward this goal and how can we help others to get on base and to advance in their faith journey?



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Blood Mobile @ Oakwood

The Blood Mobile will be at Oakwood on Sunday, March 4 from 9:30—11:30 AM. 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?

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks on March 11 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Neighborhood Invitation

On March 17 at 10:00 AM the Oakwood family will be joining with the people of Bahia Vida (the Spanish ministry meeting on the Oakwood campus) to connect with our neighbors. We will be going in teams door to door, handing out batteries for smoke detectors and inviting to our churches for Good Friday and Easter. Please plan to be part of the Oakwood team.

Come at 8:30 and support our PowerHouse pancake breakfast. See details below.

PowerHouse Fundraisers

You can help our PowerHouse teens raise funds for their upcoming trip to Kansas City for the bi-annual EFCA Youth Conference by participating in the following events:

March 4—Silent Auction during the Talent Show. Get a sneak peek at the baskets Sunday AM in the Worship Center.

March 17—All you can eat Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 AM. Adults \$8, children \$5

March 25—Bake Sale

April 9—Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza fundraiser. Eat at Anthony's anytime during that day and 20% of the proceeds will come back to our youth.

Women's Bible Study

Just For Joy meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 AM in the Education Building. We are doing a study on *The Sermon on the Mount*. Come join us.



Gal's Social

Speed Friendshipping

An opportunity for the ladies of Oakwood to have fun getting to know their fellow sisters in Christ.

Bring a snack to share and be ready to do some chatting on Saturday, April 7th at 7:00 PM in the Adult Education Building

FX (Family Experience)

On Tuesday, March 20, from 6:30-7:30 PM we will gather in the TreeHouse large group room. This is a fun, high energy program designed to bring parents and kids together for a shared experience so that parents can more effectively reinforce the virtue-based Bible teaching the kids are receiving on Sunday mornings. There will be music, activities, games, Bible verses, snacks and more!

Graduate Recognition

We would like to honor our graduates – whether from High School or College. Please loan us five or so pictures of your graduating student from infancy to graduation, what school they are graduating from, and information on their future plans. These will be part of a Graduation Recognition video presentation on May 20. Pictures are due in to Doug Cress no later than May 13. You may email digital photos to Doug-cress@outlook.com or put printed photos in the “Church Office” mail slot in the Worship Center kitchen.



Missionaries of the Month



Gene and Linda Wilson
serving with ReachGlobal under the EFCA

Praise:

1. For a respite of international travel to visit supporters and churches in the USA and share our ministry. We are encouraged ourselves as we share with others.
2. For God's financial provision at the end of the year. Also 1/3 of the \$750/month increase needed for 2018 has been supplied.*
3. For potential workers: Andy and Lloyd, two experienced church planters, are considering joining us for an orientation year, like an internship, called "Year of Discovery."

Prayer:

- 1- Pray for Miki Kamba who will talk to Roma (Gypsy) church planters about their need for Level 2 church planning training in the fall.
- 2- Pray for us as we travel to churches to be used of God to encourage Missions and witnesses. Also pray for our \$600/month support need to be met by July 1.
- 3- Pray for our team mate, Jay Pinney, training church planters in Thailand and Myanmar the end of April and for Linda and I equipping church planters in Northern India in June.

* The need is not because our living or ministry need has increased but because some churches and individuals have had to stop supporting us (death, decline, retirement) or have decreased the amount, and we need others to stand in the gap.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and generous financial partnership.

VBS 2018

AMPED
LIVE FULLY ALIVE!

June 4-8

Mark your calendar and watch for details.

Discovering Oakwood

Interested in investigating membership at Oakwood? We will hold a *Discovering Oakwood* class at 9:15 AM on April 22, 29, May 6 & 13.

More details to come.

Baptism

We will have a Baptismal Service during the Worship Service on Sunday, April 22. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Church Office (813.969.2303).



Oakwood's 35th Anniversary

We will be celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Oakwood Community Church on Sunday, April 22 at 5:00 PM.



There will be a dinner, reminiscing about our past, looking to our future, and lots of celebrating.

Mark your calendar now, watch for more details and plan to join the celebration.



Keep Moving Forward—continued

As we said above, the first step is inviting people into the game of following Jesus – inviting them to experience the love of God in a worship service so they can begin to love Him. But we don't want to leave anyone there on first base, we want to encourage them to get connected with some other believers so they can reach second base and start growing in Christ.

Beyond that we want to train followers of Jesus in the importance of serving the church – helping them discover their spiritual gifts and their unique calling to build up the body of Christ. Finally, we want to urge believers to maturity by sending them out as workers for Jesus on a mission to reach the world with the Gospel.

Are we actively and intentionally making disciples of Jesus Christ? Are we praying that lives will be changed? Are we reaching out to the people around us with the love of Christ and the message of the gospel? Are we inviting them to come to a Sunday service so they can experience God's love and what it looks like to worship Him? Are we encouraging one another in the importance of fellowship and spurring one another on to get connected and serving in the church? Are we supporting our missionaries well with prayer and finances so they can be as fruitful as possible for the glory of Jesus?



We want people to get people on base and bring them home – loving God, growing in Christ, serving the church and reaching the world. Then we want to turn them into base coaches who will keep running the bases and bring others along with them, supporting our church strategy to gather worshipers, connect believers, train followers and send out workers. This is how we transform ordinary people into fully devoted followers of Christ!

Pastor Darin

The Search for our next Staff Member

We have received over 30 resumes and our search team (Pastor Darin, Mark Beale, Donna Bustamante, Bill Campbell, Megan Hasebroock and Cam Whipple) is interacting with several candidates, reviewing resumes, cover letters and audition videos. We are looking for a godly and gifted Director of Worship and Student Ministry, not because either of these areas of ministry is weak but because both are so important!

The Sunday worship service is our top priority each week as we seek to gather people to worship and love the Lord with all they are. Our culture has made church like a social club or entertainment venue, but it is the centerpiece of God's work in the world today as believers gather to sing the praises of Jesus, listen to God's Word proclaimed and prayerfully apply it to their lives. Hiring a passionate lead worshiper with a servant's heart and strong gifts in music will help us take our services to the next level. And hiring a young leader will help us stay fresh and relevant in reaching the next generation.

Our Powerhouse Student Ministry is one of our strongest areas right now and we praise God for His work in our students and volunteer team. To build on this area of strength and help this ministry continue to develop it seems strategic to hire someone who is not only musical but who is also passionate about students and is a student of the Bible himself. The idea is not to mess with the good work God is doing in Powerhouse but to give additional leadership and energy so it can keep growing.

This hire represents a faith stretch for us as a church. As we begin the budgeting process for our next fiscal year starting on July 1, we will be challenging the church family to add 12-14% to our annual giving. We have around 100 giving units, so that increase of \$65,000 (or so) represents an average giving increase of \$650 over the next year, or an extra \$55/month. Will you join us in praying for wisdom in this search process? Will you pray for the Lord's clear leading for us and for the right candidate? Will you pray for unity and excitement in our church for the vision and strategy He has given our leaders? And will you pray for the Lord's generous provision so that we can bring more glory and honor to Him?

If you have questions about the search process, everyone is welcome to attend the PowerHouse Parents Meeting on Sunday, March 11, at 5:00 PM in the Worship Center. Feel free to contact Pastor Darin (Darin@oakwoodfl.org) or another member of the search team.

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 spring beginning April 8. Please note that during our 2 Service Sundays two of these classes will be held at 9:00 AM and one at 10:30 AM. Beginning April 22, all education classes will be held at 9:15 AM. Registration forms will be available in your Worship Program soon.

The Gospel of Mark—9:00 AM

Leader: Dave Hill

What's the best news you've ever heard? Was it surprising? Did it change the way you think? Or was it something you wanted to be true but didn't dare hope? In this study of Mark's Gospel, you will find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ. Workbooks will be available for \$4.00.

Bible Art Journaling—9:00 AM

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!

Prodigal God—10:30 AM

Leader: Andrew Hasebroock

In his book, *The Prodigal God*, Timothy Keller takes his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity and uses the parable of the Prodigal Son to reveal an unexpected message of hope and salvation. Within that parable, Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This study will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way. We will view *The Prodigal God* videos and use Henri Nouwen's *Return of the Prodigal Son* as our text. Copies of the book will be available for \$13.00

Classes for **Middle School and High School** students will be held during the 10:30 AM service on April 8 & 15, then back to 9:15 AM on April 22.

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. 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.



PowerHouse Schedule

March 4—PowerHouse Talent Show
March 9—Aldi and PowerHouse Fun Night
March 11—Regular Evening Meeting
March 17—Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
March 18—Regular Evening Meeting
March 25—Bake Sale & Regular Evening Meeting

PowerHouse Talent Show

SUNDAY, MARCH 4—5:00 PM

Mark your calendar and bring the family to the 10th Annual Powerhouse Talent Show.

Please bring your favorite dessert and drop it off in the kitchen at 5:00. The show begins at 5:30. Dessert will be served at the 6:15 intermission.

Highlighted talents will include visual art work, video entries and a variety of live acts, including: comedy, music and the spoken word.

There will be a silent auction to help raise funds for the PowerHouse trip to Kansas City for the biannual EFCA Conference.

The youth worship team will close the night around 7:00.

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, March 11** 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 9. 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.

Spring Retreat



**APRIL 13-15
CAMP GILEAD
POLK CITY, FL**

**PICK UP AN INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE
AND REGISTRATION FORM IN POWER-
HOUSE FOR OUR SPRING RETREAT.**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1.





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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
Secretary—Kailey Treadway

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



March 4—Blood Mobile @ Oakwood
Communion during Worship
March 9—PowerHouse Food Shopping/Hang Out
Night
March 11—Daylight Savings Time begins
Deacon Team Meeting
Oakwood Cares Team Meeting
Blood Pressure checks
PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry
March 12—Elder Team Meeting

March 17—Pancake Breakfast fundraiser
Neighborhood Invitation Walk
March 18—Compassion Offering
Missions Team Meeting
March 19—Elder/Deacon Teams meet
March 20—FX—Family fun night
March 25—PowerHouse Bake Sale Fundraiser
March 26—Elder Team Meeting
March 30—Food Friday Service w/Bahia Vida
Communion during service

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

Mar 20
April 20

For events during...

April 2018
May 2018

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