

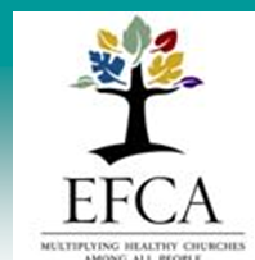


Oakwood Community Church
11209 Casey Rd
Tampa FL 33618-5306
813.969.2303
www.oakwoodfl.org

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.



From Pastor Darin

The Most Generous Giver

"And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."

2 Corinthians 9:8, NLT

When Paul was writing to the churches, a prominent concern on his heart was a famine in Israel that had left many believers destitute and starving. So as he planted churches and wrote to encourage these gatherings of believers, he shared this need and exhorted the mostly Gentile congregations in Greece to share what they had with their Jewish brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. This was both a practical way to demonstrate love in the church and a theological illustration of the Gentiles' debt to the Jews for the spiritual blessings that came to them through the Jews (Rom. 15:27). Having been enriched spiritually by the Jewish Messiah it seemed only right to share their material blessings with the Jewish believers.

Why are we called to give in support of our local church? There are numerous reasons but the two most prominent are:

- Love for our brothers and sisters – to invest in one another and;
- Love for the Lord – in whom we have every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3-7).

"You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9, NLT

December 31 is no longer the end of our fiscal year, instead it is the midpoint. But December is still a strategic month for us as we work our annual budget



and steward the resources entrusted to us. Historically it has been a higher giving month so our fiscal plans rely on your generous giving as we close out 2018 and enter 2019. Thanks to your generosity this year we are breaking even in terms of income and expenses. But it would provide a helpful boost to our whole leadership team to come into January on a strong financial footing. So as the Lord leads you, please remember Oakwood in your giving this month!

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Holiday Schedule



Advent begins December 2. There will be some special elements each Sunday with help from our TreeHouse Ministry children.

December 23—One **Worship Service** at 10:30 AM with Bahia Vida. Weather permitting, this service will be held outside with combined Worship Teams and messages from both Pastor Darin and Pastor Josue. Our TreeHouse 1st-5th Graders, along with children from Bahia Vida, will be singing a special song. Following their song, all children 1st-5th Grade will be dismissed to TreeHouse.

Nursery care will be available and our preschool children will have their normal TreeHouse Program. There will be no Education Classes this Sunday.

December 24—As has been our tradition, we will have a **Family Christmas Eve Service** at 6:00 PM. The service will begin in PowerHouse and will end by going outside to a bonfire (weather permitting) to sing carols. Refreshments will be served in PowerHouse following the service. We are asking each family to bring some cookies to share.

If you would like to spend time out by the bonfire, feel free to bring your lawn chairs to set up and stay a while.



December 30—One **Family Worship Service** at 10:30 AM. There will be a devotional and an opportunity for testimonies during this service.

Nursery care will be available and our preschool children will have their normal TreeHouse Program. Children in 1st-5th Grades will join their family in the Worship Center.

There are no Education Classes this Sunday.

January 6—Regular schedule resumes with Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 AM. Watch for details on Education Classes.

Christmas Office Schedule



Due to the holidays and staff vacations, the Church Office hours between Christmas and New Year's are limited. If you need to come to the office, please call before you come to make sure someone will be there.

Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks will take place on Sunday, December 9 in the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Oasis Pregnancy Center

We are collecting items for Oasis Pregnancy Center as they help moms/families with needed items. We will collect new and gently used baby clothing up to size 2, maternity clothing, diapers and baby wipes. These items can be brought to the Church Office and we will get them to the center.

Year End Giving

Just a reminder...

To be credited by the IRS for a 2018 tax deduction, all year end gifts must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. Praise God for our partnership in the ministry of Oakwood! Praise God for gifts given in faith, joy and Love!



From Pastor Darin—*continued*

As we journey through Advent we remember the Lord Jesus Christ – the Creator and Ruler over all things (Ps. 2) who made himself poor for our sake, not only to shepherd us (Ps. 23) but to lay down His life for the sheep (John 10:11), having become the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We give not to earn God's favor or impress anyone else. We give because God has given us so much in Christ! **He** is the most generous giver! May you experience His generous grace this Christmas season!

Pastor Darin

2019 Message Series—*Open*

OPEN

a one-year *journey* through the Bible

In 2019 we will walk through Scripture from Genesis to Revelation – from the Garden to the City – and see how “the Bible is one story and it all points to Jesus” (Colin Smith). See below for an overview of the schedule and **the fifty key words** we will focus on to understand **the most prominent themes in God’s Word**. Visit www.oakwoodfl.org/open to see the specific passages for each week (both for sermons and personal reading). We will be taking this journey in partnership with Pastor Colin and his church, The Orchard, in Chicago. Colin and his team will provide supplemental reading drawn from his excellent *Unlocking the Bible Story* materials and sermon-based questions for our small groups.

To maximize the impact of this study we encourage everyone to prayerfully consider four commitments in 2019:

Personally – Read through the whole Bible by reading just 4-5 chapters each day

Corporately – Attend our worship service as consistently as possible

Relationally – Engage in a small group for further discussion and application of these key Bible passages

Evangelistically – Connect with one friend who is far from Jesus and find ways to bring him or her along on your journey

OPEN - 2019 SCHEDULE

JANUARY – Genesis

Life, Curse, Salvation, Judgment, Promise

FEBRUARY – Exodus

Blood, Law, Atonement

MARCH – Leviticus, Numbers, Judges

Priest, Courage, Deliverer

APRIL – 1 Samuel, 1 Kings

King, Throne, Prophet, Temple, Worship

MAY – 2 Kings, Nehemiah

Righteousness, Joy

JUNE – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations

Holiness, Servant, Calling, Heart, Tears

JULY – Ezekiel, Daniel, Malachi

Glory, Shepherd, Alien, Hope

AUGUST – Luke

Born, Tempted, Transfigured, Crucified, Risen

SEPTEMBER – John

Ascended, Coming, Father, Son, Spirit

OCTOBER – Acts

Power, Gentiles

NOVEMBER – Romans

Wrath, Justification, Grace, Union, nature

DECEMBER – Ephesians, Hebrews, Revelation

Church, Intercession, Lamb, City



Open—2019 Preaching & Reading Plan

DATE	CHAPTER	CONTENT	PASSAGE	READING PLAN
Jan 6	1 Life	Creation	Genesis 1-2	Genesis 1-20; Psalms 1-5
Jan 13	2 Curse	Fall	Genesis 3	Genesis 21-40; Psalms 6-10
Jan 20	3 Salvation	Noah	Genesis 6	Genesis 41-50; Psalms 11-15
Jan 27	4 Judgment	Babel	Genesis 11	Exodus 1-20; Psalm 16-20
Feb 3 - 5	5 Promise	Abraham	Genesis 12	Exodus 21-40; Psalms 21-25
Feb 10	6 Blood	10 Plagues	Exodus 3,12	Leviticus 1-15; Psalms 26-30
Feb 17	7 Law	10 Commandments	Exodus 20	Leviticus 16-27; Psalms 31-35
Feb 24	8 Atonement	Golden Calf	Exodus 32	Numbers 1-18; Psalms 36-40
Mar 3	9 Priest	Day of Atonement	Lev 16	Numbers 19-36; Psalms 41-45
Mar 10 - 10	10 Courage	12 Spies	Numbers 13-14	Deut. 1-17; Psalms 46-50
Mar 17	11 Deliverer	The Judges	Judges 2	Deut. 18-36; Psalms 51-55
Mar 24	12 King	Saul	1 Samuel 8	Joshua 1-12; Psalms 56-60
Mar 31	13 Throne	David	2 Samuel 7	Joshua 13-24; Psalms 61-65
Apr 7	14 Prophet	Nathan	2 Samuel 12	Judges 1-21; Psalms 66-70
Apr 14 -15	15 Temple	Solomon	1 Kings 8	Ruth, 1 Sam. 1-15; Ps. 71-75
Apr 21	EASTER			1 Sam. 16-31; Ps. 76-80
Apr 28	16 Worship	Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 18	2 Sam. 1-24; Ps. 81-85
May 5	17 Sin	Northern Tribes	2 Kings 17	1 Kings 1-22; Ps. 86-90
May 12	18 Righteousness	Josiah	2 Kings 22-23	2 Kings 1-25; Ps. 91-95
May 19 -20	19 Joy	Exiles Return	Nehemiah 8	1 Chr. 1-29; Ps. 96-100
May 26	20 Holiness	Isaiah's Vision	Isaiah 6	2 Chr. 1-18; Ps. 101-105
Jun 2	21 Servant	The Suffering Servant	Isaiah 42, 49, 53	2 Chr. 19-36; Ps. 106-110
Jun 9	22 Calling	Auction in Reverse	Isaiah 55	Ezra 1-10; Neh. 1-13; Ps. 111-15
Jun 16	23 Heart	New Covenant	Jeremiah 31	Esther 1-10; Job 1-10; Ps. 116-20
Jun 23 - 25	24 Tears	Fall of Jerusalem	Lamentations	Job 11-25; Ps. 121-125
Jun 30	25 Glory	Exile	Ezekiel 1, 10	Job 26-42; Ps. 126-130
Jul 7	26 Shepherd	Prophet, Priest & King	Ezekiel 34	Song of Sol 1-8; Is. 1-10; Ps 131-35
Jul 14	27 Alien	Daniel	Daniel 1	Isaiah 11-35; Ps. 136-140
Jul 21	40 Hope	End of OT	Malachi 4	Is. 36-66; Ps. 141-145
Jul 28 - 30	8 Born	Birth of Jesus	Luke 1	Jer. 1-26; Ps. 146-150
Aug 4	9 Tempted	Temptation of Jesus	Luke 4	Jer. 27-52; Prov. 1-2
Aug 11	10 Transfigured	The Transfiguration	Luke 9	Lam. 1-5; Ezek. 1-20; Prov. 3-4
Aug 18	11 Crucified	Death of Jesus	Luke 23	Ezek. 21-48; Prov. 5-6
Aug 25	33 Risen	Resurrection of Jesus	Luke 24	Dan. 1-12; Prov. 7-8
Sept 1 - 35	34 Ascended	Ascension of Jesus	Acts 1	Hos. 1-14; Prov. 9-10
Sept 8	35 Coming	The Last Supper	John 14	Joel 1-3; Amos 1-9; Prov. 11-12
Sept 15	36 Father	The Trinity	Matthew 11	Obadiah, Jonah, Micah; Pr. 13-14
Sept 22	37 Son	Divinity of Jesus	John 5	Nah., Hab. Zeph., Hag; Pr. 15-16
Sept 29	38 Spirit	Person & Work	John 16	Zech., Mal.; Pr. 17-18
Oct 6 - 40	39 Christ	Evidence	John 20	Matthew 1-28; Pr. 19-20
Oct 13	40 Power	The Day of Pentecost	Acts 2	Mark 1-16; Pr. 21-22
Oct 20	41 Gentiles	Gospel to All Nations	Acts 9	Luke 1-24; Pr. 23-24
Oct 27	42 Wrath	Doctrine of	Romans 1	John 1-21; Pr. 25-26
Nov 3	43 Justification	Doctrine of	Romans 3	Acts 1-28; Pr. 27-28
Nov 10 - 45	44 Grace	Doctrine of	Romans 5	Romans 1-16; Pr. 29-30
Nov 17	45 Union	Doctrine of	Romans 6	1 - 2 Cor.; Pr. 31
Nov 24	46 Nature	Hostile, Helpless, Hopeful	Romans 7-8	Gal., Eph., Phil., Col.; Eccl. 1-2
Dec 1	47 Church	Purpose of	Ephesians 3	1-2 Thes., 1-2 Tim.; Ecc. 3-4
Dec 8	48 Intercession	Jesus' Prayer	Hebrews 7	Titus, Phil., Heb.; Ecc. 5-6
Dec 15 - 50	49 Lamb	Seals & Scrolls	Revelation 4-5	James, 1-2 Pet.; Ecc. 7-8
Dec 22	CHRISTMAS			1-3 John, Jude; Ecc. 9-10
Dec 29	50 City	Heaven	Revelation 21-22	Rev. 1-22; Ecc. 11-12

Missionary of the Month



Dave, Jennifer Cox serve with ReachGlobal in Bucharest, Romania

God is doing something very special in Romania. Our vision is that the city of Bucharest and all of Romania would be transformed into a “Gateway of Joy,” a gateway through which believers are sent to the least-reached and least-loved people in the city and around the world

Growing Team – A Gateway to the World. Over the last year God has added 7 adults and 6 children to our ReachGlobal team here in Romania. Dave is the team leader for this group and spends time investing in their development. Some team members are involved in outreach to Arabs and Turks who have moved to Bucharest (“least-reached” peoples). We engage with these Muslim background at the local refugee center and the Red Dragon commercial market. Other team members reach out to abandoned children and those with disabilities (“least-loved” peoples). We come alongside Romanian believers with a heart for marginalized peoples and encourage them to grow in abiding in Christ as well as leadership skill. Our team also includes one couple on the team who teach at Bucharest Christian Academy, which not only provides key support to missionary families but also is a place of evangelism and discipleship. Our hope is that all these ministries are leading toward the vision of a Gateway of Joy!



Coaching our teams throughout Europe. Jennifer plays a key role in our ReachGlobal Europe leadership. We have 25 teams in cities around the continent. We place a high value on the care and leadership development all these teams. Jennifer connects with leaders through skype calls and invests in their development. She’s also plans training seminars and workshops for our staff in Europe. Currently she’s serving as interim team leader for teams in Prague, Czech Rep. and Birmingham, England. We travel to these cities and other ministry team sites to come alongside our fellow missionaries in their ever-changing situations. Jen also serves on the Europe Directional Leadership Team, which seeks God’s guidance for strategic advances as the Gospel penetrates and transforms lives in this continent.



Multiplying Churches Among All Peoples

While we are involved in a variety of activities, we have one clear vision, that disciples and churches will be multiplied throughout Bucharest, Romania and Europe. God opens doorways to disciple-making in a multitude of settings, whether among Iraqi refugees, families with a child with Downs Syndrome, or students at a school like BCA. The common factor is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the Good News that changes the story of person after person who are then gathered into communities with Jesus at the center. This is the vision to which we devote our lives with passion and joy!

Prayer Requests:

- The Red Dragon commercial center in Bucharest claims to be the largest wholesale sight in all of Europe with over 5000 stores. This place is a crossroad of many nations and we make regular visits to pray for the people there and make the Gospel known to merchants and clients from the many countries represented there. Pray for a Bible Study Dave co-leads with a Turkish believer. Last year God transformed several lives through this group!
- We recently became members of MissioDei, a church that is full of young families and singles eager to see Bucharest transformed by the Gospel. Pray for us as we learn from them and invest in them. We’re some of the older people in the church and want to be wise mentors.
- Pray for unity and great teamwork on the teams we are currently leading in Bucharest, Prague and Birmingham.



PowerHouse Schedule

Nov 30-Dec 2—Winter Retreat (Animal Kingdom)
Dec 2—No PowerHouse Meeting
Dec 7—Food Bag Shopping & Fun Night
Dec 9—Food Bag Ministry—No Leadership meeting—Regular Evening Meeting
Dec 16—Christmas Party
Dec 23—No PowerHouse Meeting
Dec 28—Lock-In
Dec 30—Fifth Sunday. No PowerHouse Meeting

Christmas Party



DECEMBER 16

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

Food Bag Ministry

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, New Port Richey 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, December 9** 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, December 7. **Meet at Save-A-Lot at Waters Ave & Hanley Rd (note location change)** 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.



PowerHouse Lock-In

DECEMBER 28
FEATURING: ICE SKATING WITH BROOMBALL
COST: \$15.00





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Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff

Lead Pastor—[Darin Anderson](#)
Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children's Ministry—[Dave Dorsey](#)
Worship Ministry Intern—[Marcos Lopez](#)
Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple
Office Manager—[Martha Dorsey](#)
Secretary—[Kailey Treadway](#)
Facility Manager—[Sam Tison](#)

Our Elder Team

Darin Anderson
Mark Beale
Edson Bustamante
John Schneider
Rob Weyand

Our Deacon Team

David Conner
Dave DePachter
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

Worship

Sundays—9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Education Classes both hours

Calendar at a Glance



Dec 1—Women's Ornament Exchange
Dec 2—Communion
Lunch & Business Meeting
Dec 3—Elder Team Meeting
Dec 7—Food Bag Shopping
Dec 9—Food Bag Ministry
Blood Pressure checks
Dec 10—Deacon Team Meeting

Dec 16—Compassion Offering
Missions Team Meeting
PowerHouse Christmas Party
Dec 17—Elder/Deacon Teams meet
Dec 23—One Service w/Bahia Vida
Dec 24—Christmas Eve Bonfire Service
Dec 25—Christmas Day
Dec 28—PowerHouse Lock-In
Dec 30—No PowerHouse Meeting

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

December 17
January 20

For events during...

January 2019
February 2019

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