



ACORN

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

From Pastor Darin

Don't Walk Alone

Most of you know that I grew up in Chicago. Truthfully I grew up in the very safe Chicago suburbs, but one summer I lived on the south side, in one of the most gang-infested, dangerous areas, as an urban ministry immersion. As part of the training for that experience, we were taught to never walk alone (and to avoid certain areas altogether). As you can imagine, our little group of suburban college students stuck very closely to our missionary hosts – since they knew the area and the people who live there.

The same principle applies to our spiritual lives. This world is dangerous and filled with many deadly traps. It is foolish to walk alone. ***We need brothers and sisters beside us.*** We need guides in front of us who know the area and are familiar with the pitfalls that are coming. This is one of the main reasons we encourage everyone to participate in a Community Group. We not only grow better in close relationship with other believers, but we are in a much better position to protect and help each other.

One of my main exhortations for the men this Saturday (please come to the **Men's Breakfast** 2/2 from 8-10 a.m. in PowerHouse!) is to ***connect with one or two other men for mutual encouragement and accountability***. Men tend to be a little proud and independent, inclining us to resist regular, incisive input from one another. But we need to be aware of these sinful tendencies and work directly against them. "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

The same principle applies to women. Don't walk alone. Invite one or two other women to come alongside you so you can openly and honestly share your joys and struggles. Our Community Groups provide a great venue to make these connections. But even if you're in a small group you need to push your involvement beyond those group meetings to engage with one or two others in the work of "putting off the old self" and "putting on the new self" (Eph. 4:21-24).



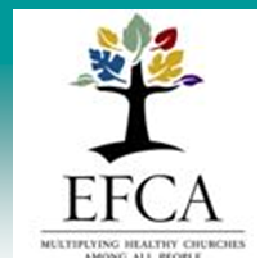
We pray and trust that the Lord is speaking to you through our one year journey through the Bible. As you walk through Scripture this year, you'll get more out of the experience and will bless others if you share the path with a couple of other people!

Pastor Darin

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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Men's Breakfast

Please set aside Saturday, February 2, from 8-10 a.m. for a breakfast event we're calling *Cut the Anchors*. The food and fellowship will be great – but the purpose of this event is to ***come together as men of God to support and exhort one another*** in our battle for holiness and obedience to our Lord. We all have things that slow us down or trip us up – anchors from our past, struggles in our present – but if we bring those things into the light of God's grace and share them with one or two other guys, ***we will experience greater freedom and fruitfulness***.

Dads are encouraged to bring their High School age and older sons.

We will meet in PowerHouse.



Women's News

Just for Joy Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, 10:15—11:45 AM in the Oakwood Library. Our study is *OPEN—a one-year journey through the Bible*—which coincides with Pastor Darin's message series.

The Wednesday evening women's Bible Study group meets from 5:30—7:00 PM in the Oakwood Library. Our study is *OPEN—a one-year journey through the Bible*—which coincides with Pastor Darin's message series.

Women's March Fellowship event:



Sticky Heart Stories – Friday, March 1, 7:00 pm
Come tell your colorful, sticky, life story...
...in Washi "Craft" Tape!

Food & washi provided. RSVP \$2 Info Desk.

Women's Ministry

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks on February 3 in the kitchen following the 10:30 Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



Text for Cookies

Who doesn't like homemade cookies?!? The Oakwood church family has the opportunity to help John and Kerri Schneider and their CRU team at the University of South Florida by providing homemade cookies for the Text-4-Cookies outreach.



This outreach strategy gives Residence Hall students an opportunity to get free cookies and ask their questions about God while training our CRU students in apologetics and evangelism. The students will text to a number and request some cookies. The CRU team will deliver at a set time and engage with the students about God, life or spirituality.

Text-4-Cookies will take place at USF on February 20. We are asking the Oakwood family to prepare a dozen (or two if you really want to!) chocolate chip cookies (without nuts) and bring them to church on Sunday, February 17 for the outreach event that week. Thank you for your help with this ministry to college students. Pray and bake!!

Missions Conference 2019

Local to Global
April 27-28, 2019



Mark your calendar now to join us for our Missions Conference. We will be enjoying dinner together and interacting with many of the missionaries supported by Oakwood.

Our speaker for the weekend will be Ajay Pillai of India National Inland Mission.

More details in the upcoming weeks.

2019 Message Series—*Open*

OPEN

a one-year *journey* through the Bible

As Pastor Darin continues his message series and our journey through the Bible in 2019, remember that there are a number of resources available to enhance your journey. To take advantage of the resources that The Orchard has provided, go to www.openthebible.org. You can also hear a short audio lesson from Pastor Colin Smith and some additional insights under the “Teaching” tab each week on this site.

Below is a glimpse of our journey through the month of February.

Week 5—Promise

God’s promise to bless the world through Abraham’s descendant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. God the Father was pleased to send His Son into the world, where He carried our sins on the cross and laid down His life as a sacrifice, so that His righteousness might be credited to all who come to Him in faith.

Week 6—Blood

The repeated slaughter of animals is one of the harder themes for us to understand in the Old Testament story, but it is also one of the most important. Through these animal sacrifices, God was preparing His people to understand the need for, and the significance of, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

“Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” (1 Cor 5:7). He bore the judgment of God so that it will not fall on you. But as in the Passover, the blood must not only be shed, it must also be applied. Just as there had to be an act of faith and obedience in which God’s people applied the blood to the doorframes of their houses, so there must be an act of faith in which Christ’s blood is applied to your life. Then you can rest on God’s promise, and God will bring you safely through the Day of Judgment.

Week 7—Law

The law is a mirror that exposes the hidden sins of our lives. Properly understood, it will convict us of our need for a savior and bring us to Christ. And when the Holy Spirit lives in us, the law is no longer a list of impossible demands, but a description of new possibilities.

Week 8—Atonement

Maybe you feel that if you are sufficiently sorry for your sins, you will be right with God, or that if you are obedient to God by attending church and saying your prayers, this will atone for your sins. These things are good, but they are not good enough. It’s the sacrifice of Christ and the shedding of His blood that makes atonement with God. This is what puts things right with God and brings back His presence and His blessing to our lives.



PowerHouse Schedule

Feb 3— Super Bowl Party @ Bustamante home
Feb 8—Save-A-Lot and PowerHouse set-up for Winter Formal
Feb 9—Winter Formal (High School)
Feb 10—Food bags & Regular Evening Meeting
Feb 17—Regular Evening Meeting
Feb 24—**Haiti deposit #2 due** & Regular Evening Meeting

Spring Retreat

Who: Middle & High School students
When: April 5-7
Where: Camp Gilead, Polk City FL
Why: Fun, fellowship and spiritual enrichment
Speaker: Pastor Darin Anderson

Pick up a brochure in PowerHouse



Recreation includes fun on Lake Helene, boat tubing, Wet & Wild Zoom Floom, indoor gym, sand volleyball, archery range, paintball and more.

Early Registration Deadline: March 3
Registration Deadline: March 24
Questions? See Cam Whipple

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, February 10** 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, February 8. **Meet at Save-A-Lot at Waters Ave & Hanley Rd** 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.



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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 Wyatt](#)
Facility Manager—[Sam Tison](#)

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

Worship

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

Calendar at a Glance



Feb 2—Men's Breakfast
Feb 3—Blood Pressure checks following Worship
Feb 4—Elder Team Meeting
Feb 8—PowerHouse Shopping & Decorating
Feb 9—PowerHouse Winter Formal

Feb 10—PH Food Bag Ministry & Haiti Training
Feb 11—Deacon Team Meeting
Feb 17—Compassion Offering
Bring cookies for Text-4-Cookies (CRU)
Missions Team Meeting
Feb 18—Elder/Deacon Teams meet

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

February 20
March 20

For events during...

March 2019
April 2019

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