

# THE MESSENGER

WE ARE GROWING A GREAT FAMILY... GROUNDED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY GRACE, AND GOING IN LOVE



I am so excited that it is the Christmas season! MORE Christmas music (confession. . . I started November 1st)! MORE lights! MORE cookies! MORE than these things, I'm excited to launch our Christmas series, "MORE", this Sunday. We have so much MORE to be excited about than the retail stores and online merchants! MORE anticipation than a nine-year-old on Christmas Eve! We have JESUS and that means we have MORE!

As Jesus' weary mother gazed into her newborn's eyes, the Savior of the world who would one day banish sin and death was staring back at her wide-eyed. With his little feet and tiny ears, He was Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

As Joseph proudly held his son for the first time, he was holding the true Son of God, the only Son who is One with His Heavenly Father. Joseph cradled the Sovereign Almighty in his calloused hands.

Before Jesus could even eat whole food, He was the Bread of Life, the food that fills our soul and satisfies to the deepest part. Before He took his first step, wobbly and clumsy as

any toddler could be, He was the Good Shepherd, giver of guidance and protection. Before He uttered his first word, He was The Word. Jesus was always MORE than mortal eyes could see and finite minds could comprehend.

He was MORE than a baby in a manger. MORE than the son of a carpenter. MORE than a prophet. MORE than a great teacher. MORE than a miracle-worker. He was and is Immanuel... God with us.

During our Christmas series, "MORE", we will be looking at the four descriptions given prophetically about the child Messiah in Isaiah 9:6. Jesus was to be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Jesus was much MORE than a mere baby born to a young couple in a rural town. We are going to look to Scripture to see how much MORE was happening that first Christmas day and how much MORE we have in Christ today.

*Merry  
Christmas*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Bacon & Bible Saturday, December 9, 9am to 11am.*
- *House of Providence gifts due back Sunday, December 17th. Volunteers are needed to help wrap gifts after each service that day.*
- *Accepting donations for Oakwood Cares all through December. Online giving available.*



**OAKWOOD  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm

# HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE:

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24, 2017

- 9am Candlelight Service
- 11am Candlelight Service
- No SoulFire



*Christmas Eve  
Candle Light Service*

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, December 31, 2017

- 9am State of the Church address
- 11am State of the Church address
- No SoulFire

# A Getaway for Married Couples!

## Marriage Retreat February 9-10 at *The Shack*

With Christmas upon us you may not have given a thought yet to Valentine's Day, but Oakwood has you covered! After the Christmas chaos and the boredom of January, you and your spouse can relax in a beautiful log lodge. Delicious meals and a banana split bar are included along with a gorgeous lakeside view. We will have a guest speaker to encourage us in our marriages, and you can enjoy the fellowship of other married couples. This retreat is both for those who would enjoy some time with their spouse, and for those who need to work on enjoying it more. ☺

Cost will be **\$160 per couple** and worth every penny! To reserve your spot, sign up during the month of December in the lobby with a \$20 deposit or use your debit card to pay in full online at [www.oakwoodcc.org](http://www.oakwoodcc.org).

# THE GOSPEL PROJECT—2018

## A 3-year chronological journey through Scripture!

We will continue The Gospel Project in the new year learning about the prophets and kings. Our awesome Pastors will somehow manage to cover the books of Kings, Isaiah, Hosea and Jonah through just January and February! We will learn about how God answers and reveals Himself, and look forward to God answering His people and revealing Himself to us.

If you are interested in joining a small group as we follow along The Gospel Project, please contact Pastor Shane.

VISIT [WWW.OAKWOODCC.ORG](http://WWW.OAKWOODCC.ORG) FOR THE LATEST NEWS & INFO FROM OAKWOOD

# House of Providence



For the second year we are helping the House of Providence (HOP) by purchasing Christmas Gifts for the 11 girls currently in residence. For those of you new to OCC, HOP houses girls in foster care that come from what they call 'hard places'. They all have a different story, but they all respond to the love, caring and the Christian teaching they receive at HOP.

The process will be similar to last year. The girls have submitted their list of wants and on Sunday, Dec. 3rd, and possibly the 10th, tags will be available in the Lobby. The front of the tag has the item to be purchased along with a suggested store and a control number. Sign up on the control sheets for the item number you have taken. The store suggestion is where the girls saw the item, feel free to purchase them wherever you wish. Bring the unwrapped item back no later than Dec. 17th, when we will be wrapping the gifts after each service. There will be one color wrapping paper for each girl, so it is easier on HOP to know what goes to whom.

Also, on the back of each tag there will be a short summary about the girl you are purchasing the gift for. It is nice to know about the girl who will receive your gift and easier to pray for her.

Thank you, Oakwood Family. Your love, caring and generosity are abundant as you share the love God has given us!