

2024

January

February

OAKWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

The Messenger



Dear Families of God,

I hope you had a Merry Christmas. I hope you enjoyed celebrating Christmas with your family, friends, and church family. Together we have received the greatest gift of Christ into our hearts and lives once again as we have encountered the Christ child at the manger.

We now turn our attention to a new year. A new year brings about new energy, a renewed focus, and change. One change as we move into 2024 is the closure of Hebron United Methodist Church. This decision has come with many hours of prayer, discernment, and conversation.

Thank you, Hebron United Methodist Church family, for all of the ways we have been in ministry and mission together over the last two and a half years. Thank you for learning to love me as I have learned to love you. Thank you for the ways we have participated in Christ's ministry and mission as we have proclaimed Christ and the story of his love together. I am praying for you and your decision in seeking a new church home. I would love to see you at Oakwood and Catlin, but I understand if you decide that God is calling you to attend elsewhere.

We will continue in ministry and mission as a two point charge of Oakwood and Catlin. I am excited that Hebron members will have the opportunity to find a church home at Oakwood and Catlin. Thank you, Oakwood United Methodist Church family and Catlin United Methodist Church family, for welcoming the Hebron United Methodist Church family in this time of change and transition.

Change is hard, and the closing of Hebron United Methodist Church is no exception. Yet, there can be good that comes out of change. I believe Oakwood and Catlin will be strengthened in ministry and mission through this change with God's help.

In this time of change, transferring memberships, and serving as receiving churches, may we continue to be gracious and welcoming of one another. May we learn to love each other just as Christ loves us. May we come together to proclaim Christ and the story of his love to all of our neighbors. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Trevor



Did You Know?

all that has been done to the church building and grounds over the past few years?

- Stained glass windows have been resealed and protective glass installed over them.
- Fellowship hall lights have been replaced twice over the past few years with incentives from Ameren.
- Fire extinguishers replaced and several carbon dioxide detectors installed.
- Youth paster office has been remodeled due to leaks around the window, drywall and insulation of outside walls was added. The old shelves were replaced with new rolling steel racks.
- Six new windows added to the basement.
- All windows in the fellowship have been repairs and serviced.
- A new color copier and new PC were purchased for the office.
- The old crabapple tree was removed, stump ground out, and replaced with an autumn blaze maple with a memorial stone for Brian Plawer.
- Cap stones at the front door of the church were replaced and the steps sealed to keep the water out of the basement.
- A new snow blower was purchased for the church.
- Water usage at the parsonage was converted to residential.
- The church roof was replaced and then again along with the parsonage roof because of the hail damage. The bell tower roof was sealed that was causing water damage to the plaster in the sanctuary.
- The piano has been turned and attempts made to sell the organ without success.
- The power outlets were rearranged via the circuit breaker to avoid tripping the breaker.
- Fascia repaired on the south side of the building which came lose during the last wind storm.
- A new outside sign was installed that allows messages to be changed with ease and allow for the audio-visual in the sanctuary.
- A new blower motor was installed on the old furnace when it broke down during VBS last year. The furnace is over 25 years old and a new more energy efficient one will be needed at some time.
- The parking lot will be replacement in 2024 with new parking strips and curb stops.
- New borders have been installed around the flower beds outside and mulch replaced by stones to reduce upkeep.
- Gutter guards were just added to the parsonage to keep the gutters clear.

A big THANK YOU to the trustees!!!!

Special news

HEBRON UMC HAS COMPLETED ITS MISSION

We appreciate how hard this decision has been and welcome all to join us for worship at Oakwood.

9:15 am each Sunday
coffee time to follow.



**Saturday, Jan. 6th
12:30 pm**

All church leaders are invited to this meeting, at which time we will work on setting the calendar and events for the coming year.

Soup and sandwiches will be provided.



I just want to thank Oakwood and Hebron for their generous Christmas gifts. I am so grateful to be serving here and to be your pastor. I love all of you.

Pastor Trevor



WORSHIP TIMES:
Oakwood —9:15 am

Pastor Trevor Oetting's Office Hours

Tuesday —2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Thursday— 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Oakwood Phone: 217-354-4950
P.O. 218, Oakwood, IL 61858

Cell Phone: 309-371-7661
Email: toetting95@gmail.com

Facebook: [Oakwood United Methodist Church](#)
Website: ohumc.weebly.com



OAKWOOD AREA FOOD PANTRY

Your Food Pantry continues to serve the people in our community each week with food and other necessities. It serves around 45 families and over 75 individuals.

It also provides weekend meals for 22 children through the backpack (Packages of Hope) program.

The Food Pantry also provided Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for 48 of our families, They will also be providing Easter baskets this March.

Your continued support for these programs is appreciated. They could not be continued without your help. If you would like to contribute: make your check payable to the Oakwood United Methodist Church and put Food Pantry on the memo line.

We will be sure to see they get the donations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THIS OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY.

(A monthly list of needed items is on the last page, please consider clipping it out and bringing these items to the church.)

Upcoming events



There will be a Lenten Bible Study starting in February on the Gospel of John

Please watch the bulletin for additional details.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 14th

Details will follow, as it will be worked around Valentine's Day.



COACH MAC'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watch the bulletin and Facebook for date and time.

All proceeds will go to support our youth on their ASP mission trip this summer.

Youth News

COMETLAND YOUTH NEWS

Grades 7-12

Sunday 6:00 –7:15 pm

Activities to be announced

Stay in touch with Josh Hunsberger to learn about upcoming activities.

Cell: 814-969-1766



2024 Theme



“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

The verse tells us that we are called to live by building kindness with each other. This is an intentional way of life where we give of ourselves in love and compassion to others.

If you have any questions or are interested in going on the summer ASP trip, please contact Connie Young at 217-474-4065 or your local ASP contact person.

Calendar

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY

1st	Monday	New Years Day
6th	Saturday	Planning Meeting 12.30 am
7th	Sunday	Epiphany Sunday Communion
14th	Sunday	Baptism of the Lord Administrative Council 1:00 pm (OUMC)
15th	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr Day

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

FEBRUARY

2nd	Friday	Ground Hog Day
4th	Sunday	Communion
11th	Sunday	Administrative Council 1:00 pm (OUMC)
14th	Wednesday	Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday
19th	Monday	Presidents' Day
28th	Wednesday	Pastor Trevor's Birthday
29th	Thursday	Leap Year



Let Nancy Tyler know if you need an annual giving statement for tax purposes. (354-4787)

Birthdays & Anniversaries



OAKWOOD January

Birthdays:

- 1 Adam Grove
- 3 Mike Wise
- 4 Audra Tyler
- 5 Carsen Dudley
- 12 Daryl Grove
- 23 Carol Leverenz
- 25 Erin Pouillard

February

Birthdays:

- 8 Beth Sudlow
- 15 Lori Parker
- 16 Amy Ludwig Rouse
- 19 Trent Parker
- 20 Judy Steffen
- 24 Miriah Plawer Volmerding
Nancy Bott
- 25 Dede Doney
- 26 Marilyn Elrod
- 27 John Dudley
- 28 Trevor Oetting
- 29 Crystal Davis

Anniversaries:

- 11 Darin & Shelia Fletcher
- 19 Larry & Nancy Bott

Remember our Church

Family Living Away from their Homes

Laura Lomax

Pleasant Meadows Christian
Village
400 W. Washington Ave.
Chrisman, IL 61924
(217)269-2369

Pat Razatis

Liberty Village
3222 Independence Avenue
#609
Danville, IL 61832

Remember those in the Military

Major Toby Neil
Fr. Hood, Texas

If you have any additions or corrections to the Birthday/Anniversary list, please let me know.

melrodmae@gmail.com
Cell: (217) 474-3260

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

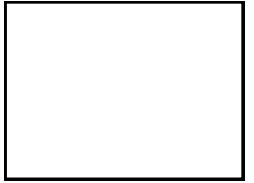
If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, thereby getting it immediately and in color. Please let me know.

Contact — Marilyn at (217) 474-3260 or
email at melrodmae@gmail.com

OAKWOOD U.M.C.

P.O. Box 218

Oakwood, IL 61858



Clip and Save

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR 2024

- January Vegetable Cups (corn, beans, carrots)*
(no PEAS, please)
- February Soup Cups *
- March Fruit Cups (single serving) *
- April Bennie Weenies/Chef Boyardee cups
(single serving) *
- May Toilet Paper (4 or more rolls wrapped)
- June Canned Fruit
- July Canned Meat
- August Vegetable Cups (corn, beans, carrots) *
(no PEAs, please)
- September Jiffy Peanut Butter “to go” *
- October Soup Cups (single serving) *
- November Cereal Bowls (single serving) *
- December Tuna or Chicken Salad Kits
(single serving) *

**** Those marked with the * are for the Backpack Program and need to be single serving. *(Please bring these items to the church for use in this program).*