



2020-21

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



OAKWOOD  
CHURCH

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**“I WANT TO SEE A MIGHTY FLOOD OF JUSTICE, A RIVER  
OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING THAT WILL NEVER RUN DRY.”**

AMOS 5:24, NLT

We graciously and creatively adapted in every area of ministry to navigate a very difficult year. The roar of community has returned to our Worship Center and lobby. May each of us be up to the challenge to faithfully serve Jesus as He has so designed and equipped us to do.



## CONNECTED

WE REMAINED TOGETHER AS A BODY OF BELIEVERS DESPITE BEING ONLINE, SEPARATED IN VENUES AND, EVENTUALLY, TOGETHER INDOORS.

We saw how diverse we are **SOcially** and **POLITICALLY**, how easy it is for those two to be our default lens, and how they drove us to a biblical lens.

300+

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE **WE BELIEVE EXPERIENCE**

the journey through our Statement of Faith.

It's a resource we hope to share with other churches!



## LOOKING AHEAD

After nine years, we will complete the *Route 66* journey through all of the Books of the Bible during our fall series in 1 Timothy.



**Roger Ellis**

*Lead Pastor*

[roger@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:roger@oakwoodnow.org)

We are very grateful for the patience, grace, encouragement and support you have shown during the past 15 months. We also are grateful to see the gospel preached and lives touched through our staff and ministry volunteers. We were reminded this year that God is always at work on our behalf. He is trustworthy and will bring His plans to pass (1 Thess. 5:24).



  
**WE SEE YOUR  
DEDICATION  
TO SCRIPTURE**  
 AND WE ARE GRATEFUL  
 YOU ARE GROUNDED.



**THANK  
YOU**  
 for coming together  
 during difficult times  
 throughout the past year!



**LIVES  
CHANGED**

We've enjoyed hearing your stories of the Lord working in you and through you.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

This year marks the end of Chairman Terry Breunig's and Gery Sawall's terms on the board. The prayer in the year ahead is for a healthy handoff to the next elder team and that the Holy Spirit has His way within the men in this leadership position.




**Terry Breunig**  
*Elder Chairman*

[tdbreunig@valuecreators.com](mailto:tdbreunig@valuecreators.com)

2020 brought many challenges to all of us. Despite that, we are able to praise Jesus and lift His name high! From staff oversight and development to ministry design and pastoral service, this “behind the scenes” area of Oakwood has overcome a lot to follow where God is leading our church.



  
 CONTINUED  
 LEARNING IS IMPORTANT  
 FOR STAFF. WE ARE  
**ADVANCING  
 MINISTRY SKILLS**  
 DURING MONTHLY  
 BRING-YOUR-OWN-LUNCH  
 MEETINGS.



TEAMS—LIKE  
**MEDICAL,  
 SECURITY  
 & CAFE**  
 —adapted well to COVID  
 restrictions that changed the  
 way we serve... for the better.



**3**  
**NEW MEMBERS**  
 JOINED OAKWOOD!

#### LOOKING AHEAD

We want to continue to bring in the very best staff to serve you and join the amazing team we have. Aligning our heartbeat around our discipling mission will advance with more strategic direction in the year ahead.



**Nate Stenholtz**  
*Staff Development Pastor*  
[nate@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:nate@oakwoodnow.org)

Despite the challenges that a global pandemic can create, Oakwood Student Ministry continued to meet safely each week. Our students remained healthy physically and spiritually, praise Jesus!


**17**  
**MIDDLE + HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**  
 PARTICIPATED IN  
**MISSIONS TRIPS**  
 IN THE MIDWEST—  
 PRAYING, LEADING VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, CLEANING UP NEIGHBORHOODS AND MORE.

**20+**  
**EVENTS**  
 were held during the year.  
 By the spring, multiple programs were held each week.



## THE FALL RETREAT

set up the year ahead for students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school seniors.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Students have shared stories of growth through this year. We can't wait to see what fruit it bears in their lives. In the year ahead, we embark on another Fall Retreat, Districts and mission trips.



**Myles Hanson**

*Student Ministry Director*  
[myles@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:myles@oakwoodnow.org)

This year, the beautiful picture of the church partnering with families came to life in real and tangible ways. From the Family Venue to the *We Believe Experience* to special community outreach projects, the kids and adults within Oakwood connected with each other and grew their relationship with God.

ON AVERAGE, **31**  
 KIDS AND ADULTS JOINED  
**THE FAMILY VENUE—**  
 A PLACE WHERE FAMILIES COULD  
 GROW THEIR FAITH IN FUN,  
 KID-FOCUSED WAYS.

WEEKLY  
**BLOG POSTS,  
 ORIGINAL VIDEOS,  
 DOWNLOADABLE  
 ACTIVITIES,  
 TAKE-HOME  
 LEARNING PACKETS**  
 and more were offered  
 digitally when we were  
 worshipping at home...  
 and many continue today.



**70**  
**KIDS**

signed up to read Scripture to their "rescue pets" as part of the church-wide *We Believe Experience* in early 2021.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

The search continues for a new Kids Ministry Director at Oakwood after Becci Terrill, who faithfully served for seven years, resigned to pursue where God was calling her next.



**Ashley Schmidt**

*Interim Kids Ministry Coordinator*



**Becci Terrill**

*Former Kids Ministry Director*



Guest Care has transformed throughout the past year in many ways, most notably with the addition of “digital welcoming” during the *YouTube* live-streamed messages. The welcoming team was nimble in finding new and different ways to serve and welcome guests who keep finding Oakwood and are in the process of making it their home church.

MANY GUESTS  
JOINED US  
**ONLINE**  
BEFORE COMING TO  
OAKWOOD IN PERSON.  
This has become the new  
way to visit churches.



**WELCOME!**  
This word has a big  
impact on those who visit  
Oakwood. We're grateful  
to the welcoming team for  
faithfully serving in-person  
and online.



**42**  
**GUESTS**

have attended a Newcomers Reception  
and **MORE THAN 50%**  
of those guests are plugged  
into a mid-week group.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

We will continue treating guests like family and help them stay connected using the new database system implemented in 2021.



**Sarah Hayden**  
Guest Care Director  
[sarah@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:sarah@oakwoodnow.org)



This year challenged us to consider and pursue what is most important about being the Church. We flexed our ministries to include more digital elements so all women could be included. Thanks to the women of Oakwood who tirelessly loved and cared for one another this year, including our Care Connection team that provided 154 meals to 19 families. May we keep growing in how we love and serve!

BRING CHRISTMAS  
HOME

10 WOMEN HOSTED  
**BRING CHRISTMAS HOME**  
EVENTS IN THEIR HOMES AND ONLINE,  
PLUS THERE WERE 8 **ALWAYS**  
**SUMMER GROUPS**  
WITH CREATIVE AND ACTIVE  
OFFERINGS FOCUSED  
ON PSALM 139.

To meet childcare needs, *Just Among Moms* (JAM) shifted from meeting in the mornings to evenings,  
**REACHING  
NEW MOMS.**



**50**  
**WOMEN+GUESTS**

joined us in-person and online for *IF:Gathering*, the annual women's event.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

Women are still talking about what they learned during the global *IF:Gathering* streamed at Oakwood this year. In the year ahead, we're exploring hosting it again with more live elements and intentional follow-up groups.



**Sarah Hayden**

Women's Ministry Director  
[sarah@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:sarah@oakwoodnow.org)

Throughout the ministry year, groups for all ages and life stages gathered in homes, on site, and in the community, studying God's Word and praying. We've continued offering online groups and have developed two disciplemaking group training experiences: *Spark* and *Ignite*. Two new prayer groups started, which seek to multiply in the year ahead.



**87**  
**PEOPLE**

RECEIVE OUR PRAYER CHAIN EMAILS, PRAYING THE REQUESTS WE GET IN OUR APP, ONLINE OR BY WORD-OF-MOUTH.

THE NEW  
**MARRIAGE  
MINISTRY**

began in the fall with nine trained couples available to mentor others.



**95**  
**ADULTS**

served as group leaders, guiding Oakwood attenders near and far through Bible studies, prayer, discussion and relationship building.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Stay tuned as we plan to offer *Spark* and *Ignite* again in the fall to grow in disciplemaking habits like prayer, investing in our community, gathering around God's Word, mentoring and multiplication. We're also seeking new group leaders to serve small group connections through Oakwood.



**Marcus Constantine**  
Groups + Prayer Pastor  
[marcus@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:marcus@oakwoodnow.org)

The Lord provided exactly what we needed every time to glorify Him and not ourselves. From worshiping outdoors for several Sundays in the fall to a new online Christmas Eve special, He provided everything we needed each week to worship Him as the Body of Christ.



WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR **NEW CAMERA EQUIPMENT** TO IMPROVE OUR ONLINE VIEWING CAPABILITIES—THE NEW "FRONT DOOR" TO OAKWOOD CHURCH.

DIGITAL IS A GREAT DISCIPLEMAKING TOOL FOR US WITH

**39,421 VIEWS** on YouTube videos and a **+20% SOCIAL MEDIA REACH.**



## OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Allowed us the blessing of all being together safely. The Worship Team adapted quickly to make this possible.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As we seek the Lord's heart even more, we look forward to what He does for expanding our reach in the year ahead.



**Tom Hooper**

Worship + Creative Arts Director  
[tom@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:tom@oakwoodnow.org)

Despite the year's challenges, we kept all of our financial commitments to each one of our missionaries! Time was well-spent caring for a few global missionaries, locally—Phil and Elin Henderson while they battled a health crisis and Susie Locklin while her country was unsafe. We also continued to support our Community Partners and the *Mission: Hope* ministry.



WE SUPPORTED SEVEN  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS  
THROUGH **DONATION  
DRIVES, FINANCIAL  
GIFTS, AWARENESS  
AND MORE.**

SEVEN OAKWOOD  
**FOSTER  
AND/OR  
ADOPTIVE  
FAMILIES**  
were blessed with 4 meals  
each month as part of our  
Mission: Hope ministry.



**\$9,200**

Was provided to fund **FIVE SPECIAL PROJECTS** and crisis needs for our missionaries **BEYOND** our monthly missions budget.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

We're looking forward to firmly establishing our new missionary partner, Shepherd's College in Union Grove. May we continue to take steps forward with Oakwood missions and be personally involved in the efforts.



**Gerrylynn Ferguson**

Community Partnerships Coordinator  
[gerrylynn@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:gerrylynn@oakwoodnow.org)



**Suzan Braun**

Missions Administrative Support  
[suzan@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:suzan@oakwoodnow.org)



It's not ideal to maintain a building the size of Oakwood and have it sit empty. It's a blessing from God that people are again using the building to its full capacity and that they're staying healthy. That's been our staff goal and we're proud to say we accomplished that together.



CREATING SPACES AT OAKWOOD THAT ALIGNED WITH CDC GUIDELINES KEPT OUR **BUILDING AND ATTENDEES SAFE** FROM COVID-19.

WE'RE FINDING WAYS TO **MANAGE COSTS** and limit ongoing maintenance (for example, LED lighting).



## 2 NEW PROJECTS

wrapped up at Oakwood: a **NEW SIDEWALK** for the west entry of the building and a new **GAGA BALL COURT** outside near the High School Room.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Staff and volunteers will continue evaluating how the Oakwood building is used, identifying creative ways to use spaces to glorify God and complete our mission.

Creating a green, visual barrier in front of the garage area will spruce up the outside and regular maintenance will continue inside.



**Don Douglas**  
Facilities Manager  
[don@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:don@oakwoodnow.org)

We appreciate how the Oakwood family has remained faithful in giving. We maintained the needs of our staff, who did a fantastic job of only spending 35-40% of their ministry budgets. Your gifts not only funded our own ministries and outreach partners, but we also gifted members of the surrounding community through the Benevolence Fund.



PEOPLE CAN NOW  
**GIVE THROUGH OUR APP,**  
 ACCOMMODATING NEW  
 WAYS OF GIVING IN THE  
 MIDST OF CHANGE.

THE  
**BENEVOLENCE  
 FUND PROVIDED**  
**\$3,130** IN SUPPORT  
 AS WELL AS  
**\$1,500**  
 in food and gas gift cards,  
 to people in need.



APPROX.  
**\$1,300,000**  
 IN GIVING FROM OAKWOOD  
 ATTENDERS MET 92%  
 OF OUR BUDGET.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The fiscal 2022 budget reflects a desire to be prudent with spending levels as we seek to completely fulfill our ministry goals.



**Roger Ellis**  
*Lead Pastor*  
[roger@oakwoodnow.org](mailto:roger@oakwoodnow.org)



**Terry Breunig**  
*Elder Chairman*  
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OAKWOOD

CHURCH

LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS MAKE DISCIPLES