

# Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Following 1<sup>st</sup> Service  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: [oakswestchurchofchrist.com](http://oakswestchurchofchrist.com)

May 4, 2025

## Fueling Your Zeal With Fellowship

by Ken Weliever

Religious surveys conducted by organizations like the Barna group and others have shown that the “more friendships a person has in a congregation, the less likely they are to become inactive or leave.”

I recently read one survey of over 400 people who were asked why they left the church. More than 75% responded, “I didn’t feel anyone cared whether I was there or not.”

Fellowship is one of the five important components found in the first century church (Acts 2:42-47). The Jerusalem Christians “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Fellowship is community. Communion. And comradeship. The word, as used in the Bible, speaks to our divine association with God. And with each other. It is joint-participation. Partnership. And commonality in Christ.

Fellowship fuels our zeal by mutual encouragement, spiritual edification, and sharing together the joy of our faith, the assurance

of our hope, and the depth of our love for God and one another.

The author of Hebrews exhorted, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”

The admonition to “stir up” is rendered, “stimulate,” “encourage,” or “spur one another on,” is in other translations. It speaks to providing the necessary motivation, impetus, or fuel to accomplish God’s work. The mutual stimulus is fellowship in action.

### Fellowship is...

...contributing to the needs of the saints. (Rom 12:13).

...practicing hospitality (Ac 2:46).

....sharing your faith (Phile 6).

....mutual participation during the Communion service as minds collectively focus on Christ’s death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor 10:16-17).

### Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

### Important Dates

**Ladies’ Class** – May 13

**Our Gospel Meeting** with David Watson, May 4-7

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

...enjoying divine association with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 13:14).

...walking together in the light of the Lord and receiving cleansing from our sins (1 John 1:7).

...weeping with those that weep; and rejoicing with those that rejoice (Rom 12:15).

...sharing in the suffering of Christ together, while knowing we will be partakers together of His glory (1 Pet 5:1).

...bearing one another's burdens (Gal. 6:1-2).

...using our talents, gifts, and abilities to build up the collective Body of Christ (Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:12-16).

...caring about our brothers sisters needs, hurts, and challenges (1 Cor. 12:25-26).

...practicing the 59 "one another" commands in the Bible which builds relationships, emphasizes mutual actions, and creates a unique tie that binds us together.

When we fully engage in fellowship we fuel our zeal for the Lord and matters pertaining to the Kingdom. Fellowship facilitates our spiritual growth and development. Provides accountability. Offers a supportive environment. Strengthens spiritual bonds. Fosters good will and unity. Deepens our faith. Fortifies our hope. And enlarges our love.

God has called us not just to believe, but to belong. To belong to Him. To belong to the Body. To belong to the Family. To belong to one another.

Isolation and estrangement will eventually dampen, if not totally extinguish our flame. But fellowship keeps the flame burning. Burning bright. Burning hot. Burning strong. *{used with permission from thepreacherswords.com}*

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jimmy Stinnett** is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

**Henry Barth** had some blood clots in his lungs.

**Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Dinah Williams, Marcia Neuhaus, Shirley Perkins, Dorthy Steadman, Dinah Williams**

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

### Evangelist

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### Elders

George Gresham  
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### Deacons

Jim Turner  
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### Contact Us

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