



Oakmont Presbyterian Church



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April 16, 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is much to report to you.

One Body with Many Members – St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.¹

In our baptisms we are bound to each other by the Spirit. Just like the different members of our physical body, we too are varied in many ways, but still part of the one body of Christ.

Reconnecting with one another after a long hiatus due to the pandemic has had the air of joyous family reunions. We have rediscovered how significantly that we are part of a family of faith (or in St. Paul's metaphor – the Body of Christ). *We care about each other and take joy in being together.*

Covid vaccinations advance, however, infection rates remain high. Pennsylvania has recently been included in a CDC designated hot zone of new cases. The Covid-19 pandemic is a long way from over; we still need to practice mitigation diligently: masking, use of hand sanitizers and physical distancing.

In-person worship resumed on Maundy Thursday and Easter. It continues Sundays at 11 am. *The summer worship hour changes to 10 am on Memorial Day Weekend (Sunday, May 30th).* Worship will continue to be livestreamed.

All groups that had previously been meeting at OPC are now able to resume meeting. Please call the church office to be added to the church calendar.

Our nursery is in the process of being reorganized. In the interim, families may use the Marie Berg Chapel (accessible through the 5th St vestibule) as a cry room.

(continued)

¹ *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version.* (1989). (1 Co 12:12–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Children and Youth (K-grade 12) in Worship – beginning Sunday, April 18 and continuing bi-weekly, Ronnie Bailey, our Director for Children, Youth and Families, will lead a class time filled with games, crafts, contemporary music, and Biblical truths. Ronnie will lead the children and youth from worship (prior to the Sermon) to class. They will return to Friendship Hall at the end of worship. *The Christian Education Committee will be collecting *individually wrapped* snacks for the Children and Youth worship time. This can include juice boxes, little bags of chips/cookies, etc. Starting on April 25th we will have a drop off box in the sanctuary vestibules to place your donations.*

Hearing Assistance - Our sanctuary has two options for those needing hearing assistance: **receivers with headphones** which are available from the AV Team at the soundboard and **Bluetooth/WiFi Assisted Listening System** for use with smartphones (headphones or earbuds required) or Bluetooth hearing aids. *To utilize the Bluetooth/WiFi system:* 1) join the sanctuary WiFi network – OPCAV; 2) enter the password Oak\$\$1522; 3) on your smart phone download WaveCAST APP from the Google Play or Apple Store; 4) Open WaveCAST app and click on “Service Broadcast.” (If “Service Broadcast” is not listed, fully close the app and try again. Audio will start playing automatically upon selection. This information is printed weekly in the bulletin. *We encourage those who will use the WaveCAST app (with earbuds or headphones) or their Bluetooth hearing aids to download the WaveCAST app at home.*

Livestream Worship is Being Watched – Ron Burkert, our Audio-Visual Team leader, reports that, during the first quarter of 2021, there was a weekly average of 229 views of our livestream worship. This includes those who watched worship as it was happening and those who watched the service as a recording. There is no way to know the total number of persons who watched the livestreamed worship because one view may represent one or more persons watching. Thank you to our livestream teams!!!

Consistent with our Children and Youth Protection Policy OPC staff have renewed their state and federal clearances for working with children. These clearances are renewed every five years.

OPC Supports Two Additional Foodbanks – Given the regional concern for ongoing food insecurity your Mission Team recommended, and Session approved supporting the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and the Rosedale Food Pantry.

Annual Congregational Meeting called for Sunday, June 13th - At its April meeting the Session has called for a congregational meeting Sunday, June 13th following the 10 am worship service. This will be the annual meeting (rescheduled from February 7th) when we will receive the annual committee/team/group reports, audit reports and act on the recommended pastor’s compensation.

The Trustees met on Sunday, April 11th and are exploring replacing flat roofs where leaks have been occurring and reglazing windows in the education wing.

Congregation members continue to be faithful in their financial support of the church.
Thank you all!

Yours in Christ,

Steve