



Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2022 at 11:00 am

Welcome to Oakmont Presbyterian Church!

*We are pleased to have you join us for worship today.
So that you may feel at home with us, please note the following:*

Visitor Parking spaces may be found in the Dogwood Way parking lot and across the street in the Oak Ridge Condo upper and lower parking lots.

The Nursery is available for use as a cry room. Ask Ushers for directions.

Large Print Bulletins and **Children’s Worship bags** are available from the ushers.

To preserve the atmosphere of worship, **please turn off** all electronic devices.

An **asterisk (*)** in the worship liturgy indicates that all may stand in body or spirit.

Service Dogs are used by several of our members. Please do not pet them when harnessed.

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.

GATHERING IN FAITH

A Reflection on Hope for the Holidays

“At Advent, God’s people summon the courage and the spiritual strength to remember that the holy breaks into the daily. In tiny ways, we can open our broken hearts to the healing grace of God, who opens the way to peace.”
Patricia E. DeJong

Welcome
Please sign, pass and return Friendship Record pads during this time of announcements.

Second Sunday of Advent

Steve Crocco

Trinity Chimes

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Prelude

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Organ
Lee Geonyong/arr. Kenneth L. DeJong

Lighting the Advent Candle

Ronnie Bailey/Dominick Burchett

*Leader: The world says, “All is lost.” God says, “All are loved.”
The darkness says, “The light is dying.” The Light says, “The fire is catching.”
Fear says, “Cover your eyes and your ears.” Hope says, “Wait, watch, and listen.”
As we light this second Advent candle,*

People: we pray for the holy hope of God.

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

People: Come now, O Prince of Hope.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Advent Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hymnal, No. 2

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

*Prayer of the Day (please remain standing)

Steve Crocco

Prayer of Confession

Ronnie Bailey

God of the ages, we know well the losses we have experienced and the pain that we have endured. Some of us resist considering our part in our disappointments while others of us think that we alone are responsible. Whether deep within our memory or in the front of our minds, our past can obscure the blessings of our current life.

... time for silent confession

God of mercy, forgive us and send Your Spirit to work Your healing within us. Set us free from a past that we cannot change, so that we may more fully embrace the new life You offer us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are too deep for words, are not beyond God's forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace through Jesus Christ. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God!

Advent Response (please remain seated)

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Congregation Singing
Hymnal, No. 15, Stanza 3

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Thou sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, and ever be with Thee!**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 1:18-25

Debbie Blair
Pew Bible, NT, page 1

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Choral Response
Yes, Lord, Yes

Chancel Choir
Lynn Keesecker

*Yes, Lord, yes, to Your will and to Your way,
oh yes, Lord, yes, I will trust You and obey.
When Your spirit speaks to me
with my whole heart I’ll agree,
and my answer will be yes, Lord, yes. Yes, Lord, Yes.*

Church and Community Concerns, The Pastoral Prayer

Steve Crocco

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts
Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Hymn at the Offering (please remain seated)
Joseph Heard the Troubling News

Congregation Singing

using tune: *TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM*

**Joseph heard the troubling news: Mary was expecting!
What should he, a just man, do? He sought God’s directing.
Joseph thought to send her home — leave her, without blaming;
Then an angel in a dream spoke of joy, proclaiming:**

**“Go, take Mary as your wife; Joseph, don’t you fear it —
God has formed a precious life by the Holy Spirit!
Mary soon will bear a son; you shall name Him Jesus.
When the prophet spoke of Him, he said, “God is with us!”**

**God of love, we too may face times of doubt and trouble.
May we know Your daily grace, even when we struggle.
Just as Joseph answered, “Yes!” with new dedication,
We rejoice, for we’ve been blessed by Your incarnation.**

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Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

Responsive Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks and praise...Therefore we praise
You, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time
and place who forever sing to the glory of Your name:*

Sanctus (people singing)

PICARDY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign - ing God of
 pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,
 all cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bles-sed is the one who
 comes in your name. Bles-sed be the Lord most high!

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty...Great is the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation (people singing)

PICARDY

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen,
 Christ the Lord will come a - - gain.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Your gifts of bread and wine...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Great Amen (people singing)

PICARDY

A - - - men, a - - - men.
 A - - - - - men, a - - - - - men.

And now, with confidence as God's children, we pray together: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion of the People

Please hold elements until all have been served.

Music at Communion

Chancel Choir

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,

Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,

For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;

They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

- Revelation 22 (Revelation 1)

Prayer after Communion

Steve Crocco

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn of Dedication

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Hymnal, No. 8

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,

Behold, the King of glory waits;

The King of kings is drawing near;

The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;

Make it a temple, set apart

From earthly use for heaven's employ,

Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide

My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.

Let me Thy inner presence feel;

Thy grace and love in me reveal.

*Charge and Blessing

Steve Wilson

Postlude

Organ

Hark the Glad Sound

tune: *CHESTERFIELD*/arr. John Leavitt

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;

let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Season of Advent marks the beginning of the church year. The word “advent” means “coming”. In Advent we look back to remember the events that led to Jesus’ first coming into the world. We look forward to the time when Jesus will come again to complete God’s work in the world. We participate in this season by opening our minds and hearts so that Christ may come to us, whether for the first time or more deeply. The color of this season is royal blue which signifies the coming of the Christ Child. The joyous celebration of Jesus’ birth follows Advent.

The lighting of the Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The traditional Advent wreath has four royal blue candles (lit on the four Sundays of Advent) grouped around a white Christ Candle (lit on Christmas Eve/Day). The main symbolism portrayed, as an additional candle is lit each worship day, is the growing intensity of Christ’s Light entering the dark world and the anticipation for the celebration of Christ’s second coming.

JAM stands for “**J**esus **A**nd **M**e” and will be our 2 classes for children. PreK through Grade 2 and Grades 3-6. We welcome any middle schoolers who desire to mentor and build relationships with our younger kids. **JAM** will be held after Children’s Time that takes place during worship. We will have an engaging, fun, children’s sermon and following that, children will join their classes in the education wing upstairs.

Children will play a major part in leading the **Family Christmas Eve Service (12/24 at 4:30pm)**. Choir practices for the kids interested in participating are:

DEC 4-18, kids will be dismissed from worship at the beginning of the service. They will spend 11:10-11:45 in JAM; choir practice will run 11:45-12:15.

Next Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

Steve Crocco will preach the sermon *A Leap of Faith or Kick in the Ribs?* based on Luke 1:8-15a; 39-45.

Early Worship at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary – a more intimate service, approximately 45 minutes, with a simple worship order including the sermon and two congregational hymns with piano accompaniment.

Service for The Lord’s Day - at 11:00 am – in the sanctuary. This traditional worship service includes a fuller liturgy, with sermon and congregational hymns. A variety of musical styles are offered by our various choirs accompanied by the pipe organ, piano and other musical instruments. **Next Sunday** sharing in the Ministry of Music will be the Chancel Choir.

Hymns taken from:

- *The Presbyterian Hymnal – Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers – would you like to place flowers in the sanctuary some Sunday to provide visual beauty to worship? One or two arrangements are welcome each week and can be placed *in memory of loved ones, in celebration of an event or to honor someone*, and all to the Glory of God. **Contact Carla Lowman (412-826-5914) to RSVP your date** with info and wording for the bulletin. **Available dates: Jan 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.**

Your OPC Family Cares About You! Because there are times when you are ill, in the hospital or in emotional need and we don’t know about it, please remember to contact the church office (412.828.5770) or a staff member (mstecik@oakmontpresby.org) so we may support you in your time of need. You are loved!

Prayer Requests - Members of our church will pray for you and anyone in need. Please send prayer requests to: prayers@oakmontpresby.org or contact Carol Heimerich at 412.242.1028.

OPC Film Series - Join us at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Brochures are available in the vestibules. Elevator door entrance opens at 6:15 pm. **DEC 16 – Redeeming Love (2022)**

Soups On! –Creamy Tomato Basil Soup and Beef and Barley Stew are available in the downstairs freezer for yourself, a loved one, a neighbor or anyone who needs a cup of cheer! You can reach Barbara Price at 4bpprice.808@gmail.com or at 412-727-7695 if you have questions or would like to join us.

Retirement Celebration Planning Committee (“OPCRCPC”) Save the Date - Friday July 14, 2023, for the celebration dinner for Dr. Steve Wilson as he retires from OPC. Invitations and details will come later, for now just make sure you mark your calendar!

The Planning Committee would like to contact former OPC members to inform them of Steve’s retirement. If you are aware of and have contact information for any former members, let Sherry Geis know at geisherry@gmail.com or at 724-443-5447 to share the names and addresses.

In addition, if you were a member of either Riverside or First Presbyterian Churches when they merged to form OPC, please let one of the committee members know. Committee members are Chris Little, Nancy Sloan, Kathy Bowser, Lin Ewing, and Sherry Geis.

OPC Social Dining Out Groups - We will be putting together new OPC Social Dining Out Groups beginning in January. The dining out groups consist of dinner groups and lunch groups. This is a great way to get to know our OPC family. Please contact Pat Zanella if interested: home: 724-733-1338; cell: 412-877-7523; or email pazanella@hotmail.com

Save the Date – 40th Annual Christmas Carol Walk, Sunday, December 11 – begins at 6:00 pm at Oakmont United Methodist Church. Finale begins at 7:30 pm at OPC featuring the combined choir and many favorite Christmas carols sung by all, concluding with the Hallelujah Chorus. Cookie reception will follow the finale hosted by OPC! Invite a friend!

Cookie Donations Needed for Carol Walk Reception – OPC is the host for this year’s Christmas Carol Walk finale and cookie reception on **Sunday December 11th**. We are in need of cookie donations for the reception. Please indicate your willingness to provide cookies on the Friendship Pad. Please plan to bring your cookies to the church kitchen the morning of December 11th so that they may be plated for the evening reception. *Thank you for your help!*

Angel Tree - A gentle reminder that your **gifts for the Angel Tree are due TODAY**, placed under the tree, at the close of the 11:00 am service. If you need help carrying packages from your car, please see Debby Malandra or Sherri Dimon. *A huge thank you to all who contributed to this effort to bring joy to children of families in need this Christmas season!*

Confirmation Class available for youth in grades 7-12 who would like to join the church. The next class is Jan 8th and 15th at Noon. Youth will be joining the church on June 4, 2023. Contact Ronnie Bailey (r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org) with questions.

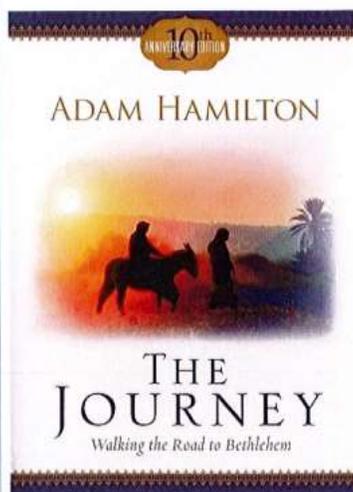
The **Women's Bible Circle** will be celebrating with a light holiday lunch and dessert on **Wednesday, December 7 at 1:00 in the Lona McCrea Room**. We hope to share time with some members of the staff as well. After lunch we will be continuing our study Celebrating Sabbath. Our next lesson is "Sabbath and Surrender." Through the "manna" story we recognize it is a call to trust God to provide for our needs. It is a call to surrender our unhealthy striving for more wealth, more stuff and more success. It is a call to recognize when it is time to say, "Enough". We hope women of OPC and friends of OPC will join us for this time of reflection and fellowship. There will be **no Circle meeting in January. We will resume meeting in February** when our lesson will be *Sabbath and Servitude*.

Men's Breakfast, Tuesday, December 6 at 8:30 am in the Dining Room. Join us for a hearty breakfast. Chuck Erdeljac will present a program on Founding Father, James Madison and his work to help shape a new form of government that would work and last through future challenges. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

The **Deacons are collecting hats, gloves, and scarves for the Light of Life Ministries through December.** Please use the bin at the top of the stairs in the 5th street entrance. Your donations are appreciated.

If you have not picked up your updated directory, you can do so in the Fifth Street vestibule. Directories are labeled.

THE JOURNEY ***Walking the Road to Bethlehem***



“Coffee and Conversation”
Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sundays

November 27 - December 18, 2022

9:30 – 10:30 am

A video series with

Adam Hamilton

Adam Hamilton, nationally known pastor and author, presents this video retelling of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. Now in a 10th anniversary edition, the book and video series has become a classic that is viewed by hundreds of churches each year.

Dr. Katherine Williams and **Samuel Anderson** will host these special Advent sessions.

November 27

Mary of Nazareth

December 4

Joseph of Bethlehem

December 11

Mary's Visit to Elizabeth

December 18

From Nazareth to Bethlehem

Come early for coffee and a Christmas donut !!!

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Time to order red poinsettias to enhance the sanctuary for Christmas.

Drop off your form at the church office or mail to OPC (415 Pennsylvania Avenue Oakmont PA 15139) and note "*Poinsettia Order*" on the envelope.

For questions, contact Dixie Anderson (412-418-0280) or (dixwa@comcas.net) or Ann Buechli (412-657-1746) or (hjea44@gmail.com).

December 6th is the last day to order poinsettias.



Quantity	Size	Price (each)	= Total
_____	4-5 inches (Pixie)	\$3.60	_____
_____	7 inches (2 stems)	\$11.25	_____
_____	8 inches (3 stems)	\$15.90	_____
_____	10 inches (5 stems)	\$36.75	_____

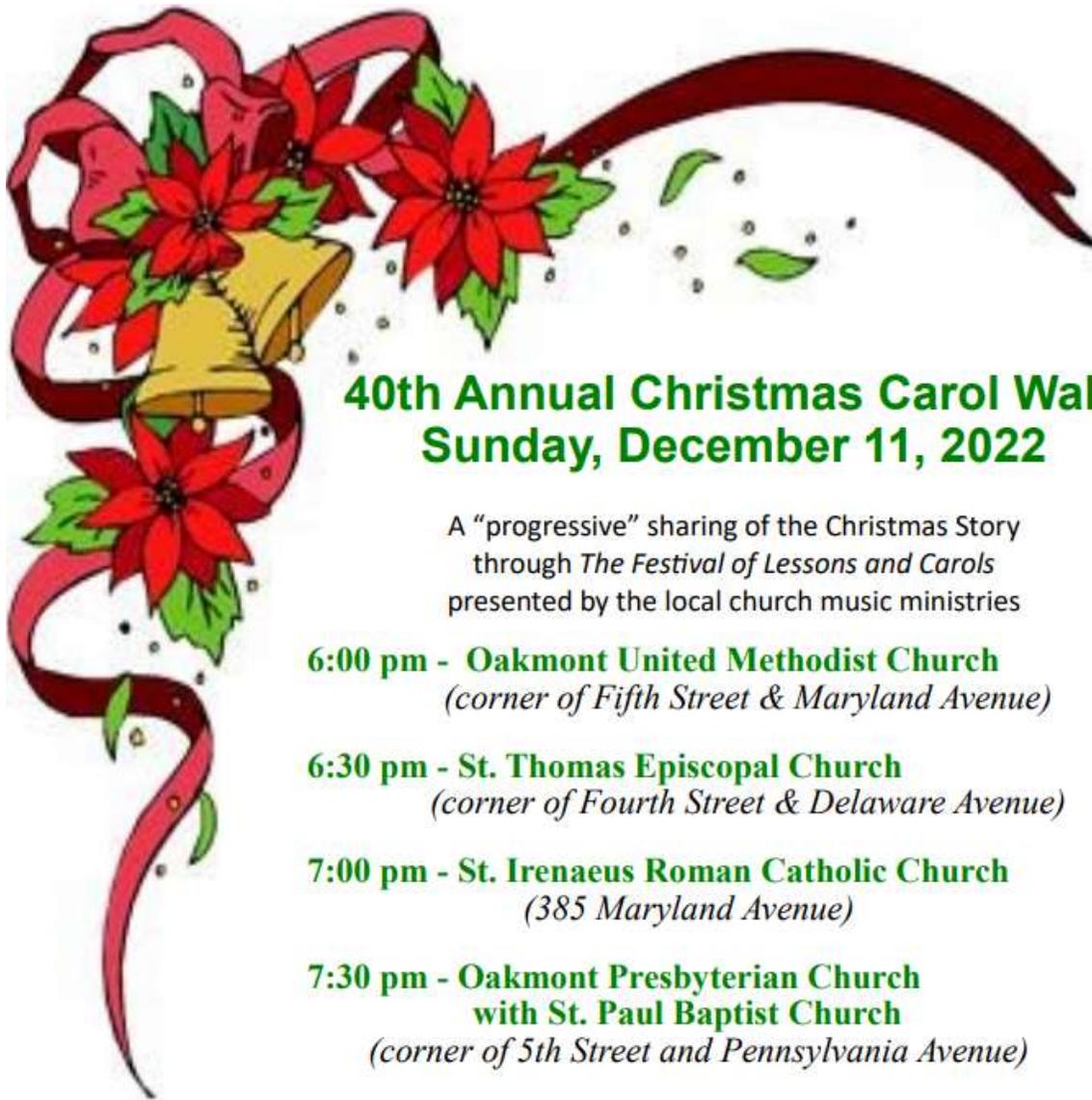
Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY	December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:30am	Early Worship and Communion (Sanctuary)
9:00 am	Trustees (Library)
9:30 am	Adult Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
11:00 am	Worship and Communion (Sanctuary) and Via Livestream and Children’s JAM Classes
12:00 pm	Confirmation Class
MONDAY	December 5
12:00 pm	AA’s (Multi-Purpose Room)
6:45 pm	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop #854 (Multi-Purpose Room)
7:45 pm	Combined Carol Walk Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
TUESDAY	December 6
8:30 am	Men’s Breakfast (Dining Room)
7:00 pm	Session (Dining Room)
WEDNESDAY	December 7
10:00 am	Women’s AA (Dining Room)
1:00 pm	PW Circle Meeting Luncheon (Lona McCrea Room)
THURSDAY	December 8
7:00 pm	Combined Carol Walk Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
8:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
11:00 am	Bible Study (Small Group Room)
8:00 pm	NA’s (Dining Room)
FRIDAY	December 9
SATURDAY	December 10
8:00 pm	AA’s (Multi-Purpose Room)
SUNDAY	December 11 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
8:30am	Early Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Adult Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
11:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary) and Via Livestream and Children’s JAM Classes
6:00 pm	Community Christmas Carol Walk (begins at Oakmont United Methodist Church)



40th Annual Christmas Carol Walk Sunday, December 11, 2022

A "progressive" sharing of the Christmas Story
through *The Festival of Lessons and Carols*
presented by the local church music ministries

6:00 pm - Oakmont United Methodist Church
(corner of Fifth Street & Maryland Avenue)

6:30 pm - St. Thomas Episcopal Church
(corner of Fourth Street & Delaware Avenue)

7:00 pm - St. Irenaeus Roman Catholic Church
(385 Maryland Avenue)

**7:30 pm - Oakmont Presbyterian Church
with St. Paul Baptist Church**
(corner of 5th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue)

The Carol Walk Finale will feature the combined choir
and many favorite Christmas carols sung by all,
concluding with the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

The cookie reception will follow the finale hosted by
Oakmont Presbyterian Church

All are welcome and bring a friend!



OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson	Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco	Associate Pastor
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Ronnie Bailey	Education Director for Children and Youth
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Buster Harper	Custodian
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator

415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139

412-828-5770 (Office)

www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org