



July 31, 2023

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Your Session met last Tuesday to develop a leadership plan for the coming weeks.

To provide pastoral coverage until the Interim Pastor arrives (perhaps October 1st) Session hired the Rev. Lee Nichols to serve as Temporary Pastor. Lee will serve 19 hours per week as Head of Staff, Moderator of Session, provide pastoral care and, preach on a rotating basis. (Other preachers include Steve Crocco, Edwin van Driel – our Presbytery representative, and Debbie Blair.)

Lee has considerable pastoral experience which is reflected in his bio on the opposite page. Lee and his wife, Deb, also have significant experience at OPC since Deb joined OPC last year.

Who do you contact if you have a need or a question? In the coming weeks,

- Steve Crocco will be the point person for Deacons, and for the Education, Membership and Mission Committees
- Lee Nichols will be the point person for Property/Finance/Stewardship and Personnel Committees
- Michael will be the point person for the Worship Committee and worship development
- Maureen will be the point person for computers, electronic locking schedule, copier issues and the primary contact with the Trustees for building issues
- Mac McLaurin is the point person for the Trustees
- Robbie Connell is the moderator of the Deacons

General questions may be directed to Maureen Stecik, our Program Staff Assistant, at 412.828.5770 or via email to mstecik@oakmontpresby.org.

We are working to make the coming transition as smooth as possible.

Your Session

Welcome Temporary Pastor the Rev. Lee Nichols



Rev. Lee and Deb Nichols

The Rev. Robert Lee Nichols, Jr. (Lee) will serve as our Temporary Pastor until an Interim Pastor arrives.

Lee and his wife Deb have been part of the Oakmont Presbyterian community since Deb joined the church in 2022. They love the preaching and music, the traditional worship with a flair, the fellowship of this diverse and kind community, and the church's mission outreach.

Lee received a BA from St. Andrews Presbyterian College and an MDiv from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He was the organizing pastor for three new churches and has served eight congregations during his career - in Charlotte, NC; Baton Rouge, LA; St. Louis, MO; Birmingham, AL; and Pittsburgh, PA. Lee and Deb moved to Pittsburgh in October 1999. Lee served as Associate Pastor at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church until his retirement in January 2018. During this period he married approximately 150 couples and officiated at funerals/memorial services for 250 saints as well as preaching, leading worship, teaching adults, calling upon people in hospitals and care facilities and handling countless other ministry tasks. In June 2018

he was called to serve Hoboken Presbyterian Church, Blawnox, PA, in a solo pastor part-time position where he remained until May 2022. During the pandemic, the church thrived with Zoom worship, an increase in donations and an increase in membership.

Lee has a Master in Social Work from Louisiana State University, with a specialty in crisis intervention. He and Deb enjoy two children and three grandchildren. The Nichols live across the river and up the hill in the Forest Highlands townhouse complex. They love the area and its people.

Deb is the Senior Director of Program Services for Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia. She's been making wishes come true for 23+ years.

Lee and Deb enjoy all that makes Pittsburgh a superb place to live and work - museums, theater, sports, the outdoors, beautiful homes and gardens, jazz and other live music, being with family, dining with friends (Lee is a pretty good Cajun cook) and spending time with their mini-goldendoodle, Hershey.

They are excited to be part of this vital congregation.