

October 2021

OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church
415 Pennsylvania Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139
412.828.5770
www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What in the world is happening?

There is enough news of problems like climate change, earthquakes, hurricanes and fires along with polemical issues in our states, our nation and in the world. It is becoming common that a conversation about current affairs leads to "I've decided I need to stop watching the news."

How does our faith help us?

Even with all our problems God still loves this world. God sent individuals to lead as prophets, priests and monarchs. At the right time, God sent Jesus to call us to faithfulness and love. And then God gave the Spirit to empower us in answering that call.

I see God at work in and through this church. In the church the Souper's Group cooks and distributes soup to those in need. The Deacon Light Bearers respond to emerging needs both within the church and in the community. The Holy Ground team ministers to those with chronic and terminal illness and to their families. Quite a few OPC members lead community organizations including the Lion's Club and the Garden Club. OPC members deliver meals on wheels and one of our members delivers

food for the 412 Food Rescue. Through Ronnie Bailey, Angie Thompson, the Christian Education Team and Sunday School teachers (Paulette Rock, Bev Taylor and Debbie Trumble) our church is reaching out to connect with the young people in our church family and the community in Sunday School, the children's choir and youth group.

What in the world is happening? Don't just listen to the evening news. God is at work in and through our church helping, encouraging and supporting the young, the old and in-between, all in the name of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Steve



Godspeed Dale Remai. Welcome Buster Harper.

Our custodian, Dale Remai, retired on September 30th completing 30 years of service to our church. Dale's diligence and reliability in cleaning the church, setting up for meetings, along with responding to emerging needs and clearing snow from the walks has made it possible for us to meet in worship and in groups, and use our building as a place for mission to recovery and other community groups. We wish Dale Godspeed in his well-deserved retirement.

The Personnel Committee posted our custodial opening on Indeed. We received 80 computer-matched resumes and identified 10 for a telephone interview. From those interviews we identified 4 for in-person interviews. The search team was in agreement that 1 of the 4 was at the top of our list. After checking his references which were all positive, we offered the position to Buster Harper. Buster will work 35 hours per week, Tuesday through Saturday most weeks and Monday through Friday one week each month. Welcome Buster and thank you Search Team Members: Janice French, Sam Anderson, Barbara Spier and Mac McLaurin!

RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE DALE REMAI ON HIS RETIREMENT ...OCTOBER 17

The date to recognize, thank, and celebrate Dale as he retires has been changed to October 17. Please plan to attend 11:00 am worship and stay after for a reception given in his honor.

The box to receive your notes and cards for Dale will be in the office until that time and will be at the reception.

Please be sure to take the opportunity to thank Dale for his long and faithful service as Custodian to OPC!

Coffee & Conversation Speaker Series



Dr. Scott Hagley, Associate Professor of Missiology at the Pittsburgh Presbytery will be OPC's CCSS speaker starting October 10. His topic will be the **Church for our New Missional Era**.

Sociologists have tracked the decline of Christianity in the U.S. for decades. Beginning in the 1960s, Mainline denominations began to grow older and smaller, losing their younger members to a growing population of religiously unaffiliated persons. By the end of the Twentieth Century, white evangelical communities followed suit. It is now widely accepted that Christian communities in the U.S. are undergoing new pressures and immense changes. But how should we understand these changes? And, what new possibilities for Christian faith and practice do such challenges suggest? Over the course of four weeks, we will explore reasons for the decline of Christian practice in the U.S. with a view to the question: 'What might God be up to in this new era for the church? And, how might we join in?'

Oct. 10: Shallow Soil and Cracked Fountains

Oct. 17: Out of breath and on the road

Oct. 24: Embracing our New Missional Era

Oct. 31: Welcoming the Stranger

RECOVERY GROUP

MEETINGS

AA's:

Mondays at Noon
Multi-Purpose Room

Saturdays at 8:30 pm
Dining Room

NA's:

Thursdays at 8:00 pm
Dining Room

EYE GLASS COLLECTION

The Lions Clubs collect used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Recycling Centers where they are cleaned, sorted by prescription strength and packaged. Most are distributed to people in need in developing countries where they will have the greatest impact. The Lions Clubs accept prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses and plastic and metal frames. Children's glasses are especially needed. For your convenience, there is a drop box located in the church office.



Dear OPC Family and Friends,

The words THANK YOU cannot begin to express our deep gratitude and feelings toward each of you for the care, concern and sympathy expressed to us, during the journey with our father, M. Paul Frank, Jr. We are overwhelmed (in the best ways) by your outpouring of love, cards, texts, emails, and conversations these past months. You truly have carried us along on the wings of prayer. We are so blessed by your support and love.

To those who made the trip to attend the memorial service, we are touched...that was above and beyond!

A Special Thank You to Steve Wilson for his care during this time and his willingness to preside over the memorial service for Dad.

We will remember and cherish all that you have done for us!

In Christ's Love,
Michael and Susan Frank



Meet the Deacon: Debby Malandra (OPC member since 2019)

Deborah Faye (Kuhn) Malandra ("Debby") was born in Pittsburgh to Annabel and Mike and moved to Oakmont when she was 6. Riverside Presbyterian Church welcomed them. She has fond memories of her active involvement with the youth group. Debby attended Oakmont schools from elementary through high school graduation in 1967. One of her dear school friends, Diane Hackett Harrell, encouraged her to attend Westminster College. Diane followed the next year and continued their friendship as Sigma Kappa sisters. Graduating with a degree in business administration, Debby and her husband first moved to Colorado. They moved five more times – to NY, IN, NJ, PA and finally back to CO where Debby's son Anthony (now 34) was born. In 2018 she left CO and returned to Oakmont enjoying family, friendships, Oakmont Garden Club, volunteering at OPC, and serving on the Membership Committee.

Hobbies and Interests:

Sewing, crafts, reading, playing Mah Jongg, family celebrations, and walking the beautiful tree lined streets in Oakmont

Favorite Vacation:

On Mother's Day 2019 I visited my son in NYC; he showed me the town! Plus, meeting my son in Las Vegas to celebrate Thanksgiving. We walked the entire strip!

Favorite Food:

Lobster tail

Surprised to Know:

This summer I got Charley, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppy.

Favorite Bible Verse:

The 23rd Psalm

Why I Like Being a Deacon:

I like serving my church community and getting to know the congregation.

Financial Update

Thank you for your faithful financial support throughout the pandemic. Your gifts have enabled us to continue the ministry and mission of our church even when we were unable to meet in person. They also enabled us to reach out to children and youth, to support two local foodbanks, to pay for the building's insurance and utilities, and to support our staff who continue to provide communications, lead in worship and offer pastoral care.

We write to you today because normal soft giving over the summer months of June-August reached a new negative low. During these summer months we saw nearly a 25% negative gap between income and expenses 2020 vs 2021. Thankfully, we saw a 4% decline in expenses. Should this giving trend continue into the future significant adjustments to our ministry will be necessary. Session and your Trustees will continue to manage expenses to

live within our means while at the same time exploring other income possibilities that may be available. Please continue your generous support so that these good works in the name of our Lord may continue.

God bless you and keep you,
Your Generosity Team



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 - 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.

MEMBER UPDATES

New Members Joined 8/22/21

Karyn Brooks
850 Hulton Road
Oakmont, PA 15139
karyn@pisausa.com
412.576.4114

Jennell Mator
668 Dogwood Way
Oakmont, PA 15139
schrellomarie@gmail.com
724.826.0516

Jane Miller
333 College AVE; APT 2C
Oakmont, PA 15139
organistjane@yahoo.com
412.526.6618

Deaths

Rob Hazlett
Passed 8/20/21

Evelyn McKenzie
Passed 7/10/21

Jane Smith
Passed 5/22/21

Fred Grove
Passed 8/7/21

Jane Miller



Karyn Brooks

October is
Pastor Appreciation
 Month

In 1992 October was designated as Pastor Appreciation Month by a group of Presbyters to acknowledge the holy work of pastors. If there was ever a year to observe appreciating our pastor, Dr. Steve Wilson, 2021 is certainly it!

The work of a pastor is holy work, and it can also be lonely and emotionally draining, especially during this polarizing time of the pandemic with issues such as can we gather in person in worship, masks or no masks, singing or no singing, coffee hour or no coffee hour.

We have been blessed for many years at OPC with a strong, compassionate, faithful pastor who cares for each of us with tenderness and his wonderful sense of humor. Studies have shown that most pastors burn out within seven years, as they are on call day and night and often don't have enough balance in their personal lives as they deal with the emotional demands of congregants.

Appreciation of pastors affirms the holy call to serve all of God's children and helps to renew their creativity and energy.

Let's embrace this opportunity of Pastor Appreciation Month to truly let Steve know how grateful we are for his care and teaching through all of these years, and especially this one.

Expression of appreciation can happen in many ways and don't need to be lavish gifts.

Some suggestions...

Pray for Steve and pray as well for his wife Diane and for his children and their families

Step up and show up

Commit to showing up in worship either in person or virtually

Step up to become active in church life

Find ways to serve the church that use your talents

Write a note of thanks

Written appreciation speaks thanks every time it is re-read

A gift card for dinner out

Words of affirmation and appreciation after worship or times of listening or visiting

Any positive, genuine appreciation in any form....be creative!

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson	Senior Pastor
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Ronnie Bailey	Education Director for Children and Youth
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Dale Remai	Custodian
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
Tracy Messenger and Carol Huber	Nursery Attendants

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OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) and LIVESTREAM 12:00 PM Homecoming Picnic (church lawn)	12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)	6:15 PM Oakmont Lion's Club (DR & MPR)	10:00 AM Oakmont Garden Club (FH) 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR) 1:30 PM PW Circle Meeting (LMR)	7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)		8:30 PM AA's (DR)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) and LIVESTREAM	12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)	9:30 AM Oakmont Garden Club Board Meeting (LMR) 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR) 7:00 PM Session (DR)	10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	4:00 PM Abby Cratsa Wedding Rehearsal	12:00 PM Holy Ground Ministry Team 4:00 PM Abby Cratsa Wedding 8:30 PM AA's (DR)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) and LIVESTREAM 12:00 PM Retirement Reception for D. Remal (FH)	12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)	6:15 PM Oakmont Lion's Club (DR & MPR)	10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	10:00 AM Soup's On! (KITCH) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)		8:30 PM AA's (DR)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) and LIVESTREAM	12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)	7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR)	10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)		8:30 PM AA's (DR)
31						
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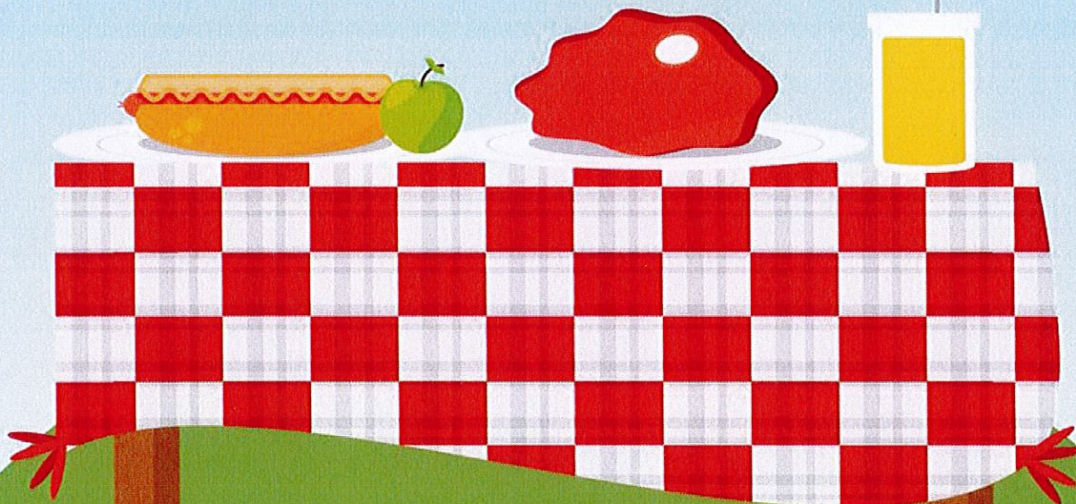
Come Join Us!

Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Homecoming Picnic

Sunday Oct 3

on the church lawn immediately following
the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary*



**Fried Chicken * Cold Drinks
Potluck Sides & Desserts**

Last names beginning from
A to O bring a side dish to share * P to Z bring a dessert to share

RSVP to church office at 412-828-5770
Reservation deadline is **September 30**
Bring extended family and friends!

*Please feel free to wear picnic attire to worship.
In the event of rain, the picnic will be canceled.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—OCTOBER

October 3

9:15 AM Tucker Ferda Adult Education by Zoom
9:30 AM Elementary & Jr/Sr high Sunday school
11 AM Children during worship (Pre K-2nd grade)

October 10

9:15 AM Scott Hagley (Decline of Mainline Protestantism) Adult Education by Zoom
9:30 AM Elementary & Jr/Sr high Sunday school
11 AM Children during worship (Pre K-2nd grade)

October 17

9:15 AM Scott Hagley (Decline of Mainline Protestantism) Adult Education by Zoom
9:30 AM Elementary & Jr/Sr high Sunday school
11 AM Children during worship (Pre K-2nd grade)

October 24

9:15 AM Scott Hagley (Hospitality) Adult Education by Zoom
9:30 AM Elementary & Jr/Sr high Sunday school
11 AM Children during worship (Pre K-2nd grade)

October 31

9:15 AM Scott Hagley (Hospitality) Adult Education by Zoom
9:30 AM Elementary & Jr/Sr high Sunday school
11 AM Children during worship (Pre K-2nd grade)

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