

DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022

# OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139

Beloved in Christ,

Much has been happening in the life of the church and much is planned. Here is a sampling.

This year Advent, the season of preparing for Christmas, begins on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Our Advent theme will be *Jesus, the Light of the World*. In Advent we wait, watch for, prepare for and celebrate the light of Christ. **A family Christmas Eve worship service will begin at 4:30 pm. The traditional candlelight worship service will begin at 10 pm.**

What a joy it has been to see OPC member and elder, Frank Hancock, grow and develop through his training these past several years. Now that he has completed his training Frank is being called to serve as the Commissioned Pastor of the Plum Creek Presbyterian Church. That call is being processed by Pittsburgh Presbytery and will be approved at their December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. **The commissioning worship service for Frank will be Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm at OPC.** I hope you will be able to attend that worship service as we bless Frank on his way to serving the Plum Creek Church which will begin January 1, 2022.

At its November meeting your **Session approved a plan to sponsor an Afghan refugee family through the Jewish Family and Children Services (JFCS)**. Efforts are underway to develop a team of OPC members to support and help the family. The mission is for approximately 18 months and the involvement with the family will last about 1 year. An informational meeting will be conducted by JFCS on December 5<sup>th</sup> after worship. *Please contact the church office (412.828.5770) if you would like to attend the information meeting.* Elder Sharon Myers will lead the team.

Beginning November 28<sup>th</sup> **the Adult Coffee and Conversation Speaker Series** will be exploring Adam Hamilton's *"Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas"*. Led by our own Kathy Williams and Sam Anderson these Sundays in Advent will look more deeply into the life and meaning of Jesus. November 28, December 5, 12, & 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-purpose Room (lower level).

With all that typically happens in December I encourage you to **set aside time daily, if possible, or weekly, to nurture your spirit.** *Here are a few resources for your consideration:*

## Online

Pray as You Go - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Sacred Space - <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Our Daily Bread - <https://odb.org/>

## In Print or Kindle

Plough Publishing House - [Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas](#)

Richard Rohr – [Preparing for Christmas](#)

Beth A. Richardson – [The Uncluttered Heart: Making Room for God During Advent](#)

Richard Harries – [The Nativity of Christ: A Gallery of Reflections](#)



A Blessed Advent to you all,

*Steve*



**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](mailto: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](mailto:prayers@oakmontpresby.org) or contact Carol Heimerich at 412-242-1028.**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### December 5—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM Adult Education with Kathy Williams (Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation*)  
Multi-Purpose Room  
9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)  
11:00 AM Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)  
12:00 pm Youth Gathering (grades 6-12)

### December 12—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM Adult Education with Kathy Williams (Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation*)  
Multi-Purpose Room  
9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)  
11:00 AM Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)  
No Youth Gathering

### December 19—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM Adult Education with Sam Anderson (Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation*)  
Multi-Purpose Room  
9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)  
11:00 AM Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)  
12:00 pm Youth Gathering (grades 6-12)

### December 26—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas AND January 2—Epiphany

No Adult Education  
No Elementary Sunday School  
No Youth Gathering

### January 9—Baptism of the Lord

9:30 AM Adult Education with Graham Standish, Samaritan Counseling Center - Multi-Purpose Room  
9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)  
11:00 AM Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)  
12:00 pm Youth Gathering (grades 6-12)

### January 16—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

9:30 AM Adult Education with Lilly Barlow, Christian Associates of Southwest PA - Multi-Purpose Room  
9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)  
11:00 AM Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)  
No Youth Gathering

**Volunteers needed prior to the Family Christmas Eve Worship Service (4:30 pm).** This will be an interactive service where children will be invited to have a role in the Christmas Story. The children will get into “character” as we welcome them in. Volunteers are needed to assist children to get into simple costumes. *Please let Ronnie Bailey know if you are interested at r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org*

**Children – Advent Participation** - Parents, to celebrate the advent season in your home we will make available 2 options to participate in the coming birth of Jesus. These packets, with the required materials, can be **picked up in Friendship Hall on NOV 28<sup>th</sup>**. The first activity is the Jesse Tree where you will be going through the creation story to the birth of Jesus. Each story has an ornament that you can put together with your children to remember the stories. The second option is “preparing a place for Jesus” and children will work to build up Jesus’ manger with yarn by doing good deeds for one another. With each good deed the children place another piece of yarn into the manger.

**THANK YOU** from Dixie Anderson and Ann Buechli for your support of the poinsettias in making the sanctuary glorious for Christmas!



**YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS** - Contributions received in the church office by or postmarked on December 31<sup>st</sup> will be shown on your 2021 statement. Due to Internal Revenue Service regulations, contributions received after December 31 must be credited to 2022 contributions.

**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
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

415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139  
412-828-5770 (Office)  
[www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org)

**RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS**

**AAs**  
Mondays at Noon  
Multi-Purpose Room

Saturdays at 8:30 pm  
Dining Room

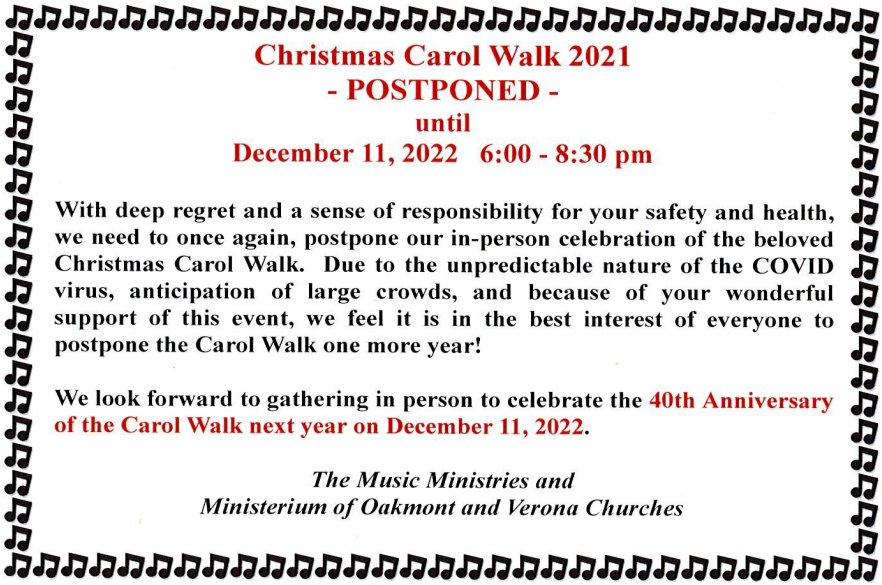
**Women’s AAs**  
Wednesday at 10:00 am  
Dining Room

**NAs**  
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.





**Christmas Carol Walk 2021  
- POSTPONED -  
until  
December 11, 2022 6:00 - 8:30 pm**

With deep regret and a sense of responsibility for your safety and health, we need to once again, postpone our in-person celebration of the beloved Christmas Carol Walk. Due to the unpredictable nature of the COVID virus, anticipation of large crowds, and because of your wonderful support of this event, we feel it is in the best interest of everyone to postpone the Carol Walk one more year!

We look forward to gathering in person to celebrate the **40th Anniversary of the Carol Walk next year on December 11, 2022.**

*The Music Ministries and  
Ministerium of Oakmont and Verona Churches*

***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 7th is the last day to order poinsettias.**



<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Price (each)</b>	<b>= Total</b>
_____	4-5 inches (Pixie)	\$3.15	_____
_____	7 inches (2 stems)	\$11.10	_____
_____	8 inches (3 stems)	\$15.80	_____
_____	10 inches (5 stems)	\$36.75	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



As I'm sure all of you have experienced in one way or another, this year has been hard. Covid-19 has truly changed things as we know it in the church world. It forced us into a season of isolation, which could have been the rise or fall of our spiritual health. It took ourselves out of our communities and had us deal with things alone. The grief, the pain, the confusion of where to go next. Our ministries at OPC we're hit hard. Our members we're hit hard. Our children and youth were hit hard. I'm sharing this because in light of everything that was so broken, God was faithful. We are now seeing children and youth more involved in our church. We are seeing them build community with one another. Every stressful day and restless night were worth it because God has seen us through all of it. He never left. He kept his promises. He didn't abandon us. I don't mean to say we are "post-covid" now... because I don't think that's the case. However, I have seen the work that God has done in our church during this time. I know that He will always show up. Let this encourage you, even when things seem hopeless... God is never too far away.

Another "toolbox" lesson if you will... These have really helped define my faith and reminded me to come back to concrete things of God when everything else seems rocky. Every Advent season into the new year I always think about new ways to be a peacemaker, new ways to actively pursue the things of God. Scanning over the last year... mistakes, wins, loses... I write down and reminisce on the ways I've seen God show up. I read my prayer journal again and see the ways God has answered the things I would stress over. The things I thought I would see no victory over. And even embrace the heavy reminder that not all of those were answered prayers, not all of them worked out the way I wanted them to and every new year I remind myself all things work out for the good of those who love Him. Even those prayers we are still waiting on... even those situations that haven't completely been worked out yet... into the new year we can trust that God is still working just like He was before. Let's find new ways to worship Him. New ways to serve our church and our community. We were blessed with a new year, let us be glad in it.

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**Sponsoring an Afghan Refugee Family** – Session has approved working with the “Jewish Family and Children Services” (JFCS) to sponsor an Afghan refugee family. We are looking for up to 12 persons to serve on a team that will help this family find and move into an apartment, find necessary household supplies, help with settling into a new place and culture and taking them to appointments and such. Someone from the JFCS will be present **Sunday, DEC 5th at 12:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room** to provide additional information. Please call the church office at 412.828.5770 or email Sharon Myers at [myers.sharon@yahoo.com](mailto:myers.sharon@yahoo.com) if you are interested to learn more. Thank you!

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Beginning in the new year (and depending on COVID-19), OPC would like to restart its Dining Out Group. Over two dozen people (singles, couples and couples with young children) have stated they were interested in dining out. If you and/or you and your spouse are interested in joining OPC's Dining Out Group, please call or email Pat Zanella at 724-733-1338 or at [pazanella@hotmail.com](mailto:pazanella@hotmail.com)



# DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 <b>ADVENT 1</b> 9:30 AM Adult Education (MPR) 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 10:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIFESTREAM 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)</p>	<p>29 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLATION Ringers (Choir Room)</p>	<p>30 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir - Lower Level 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level)</p>	<p>1 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR) 1:30 PM PW Circle Meeting (LMR)</p>	<p>2 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NAs (DR)</p>		<p>4 10:00 AM Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR) 8:30 PM AA's (DR)</p>
<p>5 <b>ADVENT 2</b> 9:30 AM Adult Coffee &amp; Conversation (MPR) 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP &amp; COMMUNION (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIFESTREAM 12:00 PM Afghan Refugee Team Orientation (MPR) 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)</p>	<p>6 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLATION Ringers (Choir Room)</p>	<p>7 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 6:15 PM Oakmont Lions Club (MPR) 7:00 PM Session (DR)</p>	<p>8 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Soups On (KITCH) 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NAs (DR)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 8:30 PM AA's (DR)</p>
<p>12 <b>ADVENT 3</b> 9:30 AM Adult Coffee &amp; Conversation (MPR) 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIFESTREAM 1:30 PM F. Hancock Commissioning</p>	<p>13 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLATION Ringers (SANC)</p>	<p>14 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR)</p>	<p>15 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>16 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NAs (DR)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 8:30 PM AA's (DR)</p>
<p>19 <b>ADVENT 4</b> 9:30 AM Adult Coffee &amp; Conversation (MPR) 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIFESTREAM 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)</p>	<p>20 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLATION Ringers (Choir Room)</p>	<p>21 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level)</p>	<p>22 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>23 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NAs (DR)</p>	<p>24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 4:30 PM <b>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP</b> 10:00 PM <b>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP</b></p>	<p>25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 8:30 PM AA's (DR)</p>
<p>26 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIFESTREAM</p>	<p>27 <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 12:00 PM AA's (MPR)</p>	<p>28 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR)</p>	<p>29 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>30 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 8:00 PM NAs (DR)</p>	<p>31 <b>NEW YEARS EVE - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</b></p>	

# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA's (MPR)	28 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR)	29 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	30 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	31 NEW YEARS EVE - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON	1 8:30 PM AA's (DR)
2 EPIPHANY 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM	3 9:30 AM Christmas Decor Take Down 12:00 PM AA's (MPR)	4 6:15 PM Oakmont Lion's Club (MPR)	5 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR) 1:30 PM PW Circle Meeting (LMR)	6 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	7	8 8:30 PM AA's (DR)
9 BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9:30 AM Adult Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 10:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 11:00 AM WORSHIP & OFFICER ORIENTATION (SANC) and LIVESTREAM 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)	10 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLATION Ringers (Choir Room)	11 9:30 AM Oakmont Garden Club Board Meeting (LMR) 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR) 7:00 PM Session (DR)	12 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	13 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	14 Session Retreat (Pruitt Conference RM at Longwood)	15 Session Retreat (Pruitt Conference RM at Longwood) 8:30 PM AA's (DR)
16 9:30 AM Adult Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM	17 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLATION Ringers (SANC)	18 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 6:15 PM Oakmont Lion's Club (MPR)	19 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	20 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	21	22 8:30 PM AA's (DR)
23 9:30 AM Adult Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)	24 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLATION Ringers (SANC)	25 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR)	26 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	27 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	28	29 8:30 PM AA's (DR)
30 9:30 AM Adult Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM	31 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLATION Ringers (Choir Room)					



**4:30 pm – Family Friendly Worship Service**

The Children's Choirs will be singing.  
Favorite Christmas Carols will be sung by the congregation.  
Children will be invited to share in the Christmas Story.  
Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson will offer a word for the adults

**10:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship Service**

Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson preaching  
The Chancel Choir will share in the Ministry of Music  
*The 10:00 pm service will be livestreamed,  
please visit our website at*

Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139

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