

FEBRUARY 2022

# OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
412.828.5770  
[www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org)



Beloved in Christ,

Winter can be a time for reconnecting with family and friends. Such checking in with one another can work against the isolation that we sometimes feel in our winter habitation. Winter can also be a time for thinking deeply about life, family, and work. If we feel powerless against the larger issues around us these thoughts can be troubling and we can avoid them. However, our thinking can lead to powerful liberation.

One example comes from the writings of Howard Thurman. I offer his meditation as a guide for your reflection and empowerment.

Steve

I seek the strength to overcome evil.

I seek the strength to overcome the tendency to evil in my own heart  
I recognize the tendency to do the unkind thing when the mood of retaliation or revenge rides high in my spirit;  
I recognize the tendency to make of others a means to my own ends;  
I recognize the tendency to yield to fear and cowardice when fearlessness and courage seem to fit easily into the pattern of my security.

I seek the strength to overcome the tendency to evil in my own heart.

I seek the strength to overcome the evil that is present all about me.  
I recognize the evil in much of the organized life about me;  
I recognize the evil in the will to power as found in groups, institutions and individuals;  
I recognize the terrible havoc of hate and bitterness which makes for fear and panic in the common life.  
I seek the strength to overcome evil that is present all about me.

I seek the strength to overcome evil; I must not be overcome by evil.  
I seek the purification of my own heart, the purging of my own motives;  
I seek the strength to withstand the logic of bitterness, the terrible divisiveness of hate, the demonic triumph of the conquest of others.

What I seek for myself I desire with all my heart for friend and foe alike

I seek the strength to overcome evil.



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

**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. They can be placed *in memory of loved ones, in celebration of an event* or *to honor someone*, and all to the Glory of God. Please call Carla Lowman at 412-826-5914 to reserve your date; give her the info and wording for the bulletin that week. We appreciate your assistance in enhancing the beauty of our sanctuary! **Available Dates – Feb 6, 13, 20, 27.**

As we begin the New Year, **please continue to support our local food banks** through the Deacon's outreach. Donations can be placed in the shopping carts located in both entry ways to the sanctuary. Some of the **items that are especially needed: healthy cereals, flour, sugar, cooking oil, spaghetti sauce and toilet paper.**

**Organ and Strings Concert - *Music of Haydn* - 4:00 pm, February 6** - Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh. Featuring the delightful chamber music of Franz Josef Haydn, including two of his Organ Concertos. Dr. David Billings, Organ and a String Quintet. Freewill offering received. Masks are required.

The **Afghan Family Resettlement Team** is organizing and being oriented by the Jewish Family and Community Services. We expect that we will be certified ready to receive a family early in FEB. One need we know will arise is for toiletries: **soap, bodywash, shampoo, toothbrushes, tooth paste and toilet paper.** If you would be willing to purchase some toiletries and bring them to the church, we will have those supplies in hand when our family arrives. You may drop them off to the church offices or leave them in the vestibules before or after worship. Thank you.

**Becoming a Part of the OPC Family of Faith New Member Gathering** – We at OPC are a diverse group of people who find meaning in gathering together for worship, study and service. Gatherings for those interested in becoming a part of the OPC family of faith will be ***Sundays, February 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 9:30 am – 10:30 am.*** **New members will be received on Sunday, February 27 at the 11:00 am worship service.** If you have questions, please contact Steve at [swilson@oakmontpresby.org](mailto:swilson@oakmontpresby.org) or through the church office at 412.828.5770.

**Soups On** containers of Broccoli Cheddar and Sauerkraut, Potato & Kielbasa are available in the freezer in the downstairs kitchen. Take *A Cup of Cheer from Friends of OPC* to friends and neighbors in need!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / WORSHIP

### February 6 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:30 AM Adult Education Coffee & Conversation w/Ron Tappy (Multi-Purpose Room)
- 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)
- 9:30 AM New Member Gathering (Marie Berg Chapel)
- 11:00 AM **WORSHIP** (Sanctuary)/Livestream  
Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)
- 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (Multi-Purpose Room)

### February 13 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:30 AM Adult Education Coffee & Conversation w/Ron Tappy (Multi-Purpose Room)
- 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)
- 9:30 AM New Member Gathering (Marie Berg Chapel)
- 11:00 AM **WORSHIP/CONGREG MEETING**(Sanctuary)/Livestream  
Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)

### February 20 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:30 AM Adult Education Coffee & Conversation w/Ron Tappy (Multi-Purpose Room)
- 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)
- 9:30 AM New Member Gathering (Marie Berg Chapel)
- 11:00 AM **WORSHIP**(Sanctuary)/Livestream  
Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)
- 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (Multi-Purpose Room)

### February 27 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:30 AM Adult Education Coffee & Conversation w/Ron Tappy (Multi-Purpose Room)
- 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)
- 9:30 AM New Member Gathering (Marie Berg Chapel)
- 11:00 AM **WORSHIP/NEW MEMBERS JOINING**(Sanctuary)/Livestream  
Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)

## 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.



## 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)



In youth group we have been going through a sermon series called, “Jesus is \_\_\_\_.” I write this prompt on our chalkboard downstairs (If you haven’t seen the changes we’ve been making in the room, feel free to check it out!) and I fill in the blanks each meeting with a different attribute of Jesus. This past week we discussed, “Jesus is the answer to our questions.”

Each of the students were asked to write any questions they have on note cards. This could be anything that needs clarity in concern to their faith. I wanted them to be very vulnerable and no question was off limits. The questions I got were incredible, they put a lot of thought into them and I could tell they were really reaching for truth.

I think putting the pieces together as a teenager, even in my experience, comes from being real with where you are and determining how much you are really willing to commit to this faith journey. You are more likely to prioritize your faith if things are making sense, you are sensing God’s presence and faithfulness in your life, etc. This is why asking questions is important. Our questions get answered over time but they likely develop. After growing up in different youth ministries, studying the Bible at two VERY different universities, I still have questions. But I know Jesus is the answer. I guide our students into believing that. I have studied and went over their questions to have some answers for when we meet again, and even the ones I am not as confident in, I am always trusting God to be close to them and remind His promises. This is Holy work. I am so blessed to be a part of it and I am glad to be able to partner with you all in ministering to our young people.

**NANCY KLINE** For me the “good old days” were growing up in Ferguson, MO helping my dad build our house on a wooded lot. We finished the project just as dad was transferred to Pittsburgh. We bought an “already built “ house in Churchill where the neighborhood kids attended Wilksburg High School. WHS was a AAAA school. Football ruled. Go Tigers!

After graduation I transferred my allegiance to Penn State Nittany Lions in the Happy Valley. On graduation day I stood with the college of education with a major in human development (alias home economics). The year I graduated school districts came to Penn State looking for teachers. My roommate and I headed for Newark, DE to try out a new independent lifestyle.

My husband, Jeff, was my older brother’s good friend. He was the one I called to “stand in” as a date for my senior prom. He graciously accepted. We stayed in touch through college and his tour of duty in the army. We finally decided we were more than good friends. We chose Oakmont as our hometown. Our daughter, Dana, lives in Cincinnati and Hillary is at home in the north hills area. We have 4 active grandchildren.

My family would agree that repurposing /recycling is one of my personality quirks. Managing the clothing collection drive as a Deacon, satisfies my desire to find another home for useful items. Contributions from the congregation this fall include \$320 in gift cards, 32 packs of under wear and tons of towels for the Light of Life Ministries.



**JUDY RIDE MURRAY** was born and raised in Oakmont. She and her three sisters lived with her parents, Barbara and Glenn Ride, in their home on 412 11<sup>th</sup> Street. This was the same house that her father and his parents moved to in 1936! Judy's family was active in the Baptist Church in Oakmont. During her teen years, the family joined the Oakmont Presbyterian Church and became very active members. Also in her teen years, Judy met her future husband, John Murray, whose family lived nearby on Crystal Drive. Judy graduated from Penn State University with a degree in child development. In 1974 Judy and John were married in the OP church. Before her two daughters were born, Judy accepted a position as a caseworker in Family and Children Services dealing with children in foster care. She was employed there for 3½ years and admitted that it was a very difficult and emotionally draining position. With their two young daughters, Judy and John moved to Gibsonsia where they lived for 18 years. There they joined the Hampton Presbyterian Church where Judy served as a deacon. She also enjoyed her role as stay-at-home Mom while volunteering in the community. When the girls were enrolled in Pine-Richland School District, Judy accepted a position as a paraeducator, working closely with children having special needs. For 17 years, she continued her satisfying employment with the school district. After the girls had graduated, Judy and John decided to move back to the family "homestead" in Oakmont. Barbara and Glenn Ride had chosen to move to an independent living apartment at Longwood in Oakmont, and the Murrays were pleased to continue the family tradition at 412 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Judy is now the busy and proud grandmother of five, including four grandsons and one granddaughter.

Member of OPC Since: 2013-2014

Hobbies and Interests: Spending time with grandchildren, travel, reading, and gardening

Favorite Vacation: Caribbean Islands and beaches; great family trip to Alaska

Favorite Foods/Local Restaurants: Mighty Oak Barrel, Burgh Thai in Verona

You Would Be Surprised to Know: I am certified in scuba diving!

Favorite Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.*

Why I Like Being a Deacon: I enjoy being active in my church and community.

### OPC FILM SERIES SCREENINGS

You are invited to join us for the Oakmont Film Discussion Series every other Friday evening at **7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room, lower level.** Everyone is welcome: family, friends, and any one who needs a hug, or come for Christian fellowship! Admission is FREE ! Don't forget to stay after the film for a wonderful and inspiring discussion.

**FEB 4** - *Sweet Inspirations*

**FEB 18** - *I Still Believe*

**MAR 4** - *Dark Waters*

**MAR 18** - *Downton Abbey*

## FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 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 LIVESTREAM</p>	<p>31 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)</p>	<p>1 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Oakmont Lions Club (MPR)</p>	<p>2 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR) 1:30 PM PW Circle Meeting (LMFR)</p>	<p>3 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 7:00 PM OPC Film Series (MPR)</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR) 8:30 PM AA's (DR)</p>
<p>6 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 9:30 AM New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00 AM WORSHIP &amp; COMMUNION (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)</p>	<p>7 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)</p>	<p>8 9:30 AM Oakmont Garden Club Board Meeting (LMFR) 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR) 7:00 PM Session (DR)</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>10 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>11 SESSION RETREAT at OPC</p>	<p>12 Session Retreat at OPC 8:30 PM AA's (DR)</p>
<p>13 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 9:30 AM New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM</p>	<p>14 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (SANC)</p>	<p>15 10:00 AM Oakmont Garden Club (MPR) 12:00 PM Staff (DR) 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Deacons (DR) 7:00 PM Oakmont Lions Club (MPR)</p>	<p>16 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>17 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>18 7:00 PM OPC Film Series (MPR)</p>	<p>19 8:30 PM AA's (DR)</p>
<p>20 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 9:30 AM New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)</p>	<p>21 PRESIDENT'S DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)</p>	<p>22 4:00 PM Membership Com (SGR) 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR)</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>24 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>25</p>	<p>26 8:30 PM AA's (DR)</p>
<p>27 TRANFIGURATION OF THE LORD 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 9:30 AM New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00 AM WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM</p>	<p>28 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JUBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)</p>					

## MEMORIAL AND GIFT FUND – 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2021 the Memorial and Gift Fund received donations in memory of Burlee Henkel, Randy Johnston, Karen Roach, Jerry Little, Carolyn Lydic, Martha Corson, Paul Gigler, Fran McCormick, Joan Remai, Tom Steffy, Ed Burton, Jane Smith, Jane Kinter, Evelyn McKenzie, Paul Frank, Rob Hazlett, Dorothy Wygant, and Bob Repp. The Fund receives only non-designated gifts.

A leaf was added to the Memorial and Gift Tree in honor of Carol Swift. Donations totaling \$1,000 entitles a person to a leaf.

The Memorial Committee provided \$229.94 to purchase an Avignon Funeral Pall, gave \$2,400 to complete the purchase of the new sound system, and \$274.15 to buy thank you cards and envelopes.

### Memorial and Gift Financial Report – 2021

Balance 1/1/21	\$5,247.35
Donations	5,185.00
Interest	1.10
Expenses	2,904.09
Balance 12/31/21	\$7,529.36

## We're Here to Help

Are you or someone you know struggling with emotional, relational, or spiritual pain? **Samaritan Counseling, Guidance, Consulting** offers compassionate, spiritually integrated care that helps you heal, gives you hope, and allows you to change. Licensed and highly skilled, Samaritan therapists are people of faith who are driven by their passion to help others.

Samaritan offers telehealth and in-person counseling, complying with COVID mitigation guidelines. We accept most major insurances and offer aid to those who qualify. Samaritan welcomes all people without discriminating on any basis. You can make appointments on a weekday, evening, or Saturday.



**SAMARITAN**

Counseling • Guidance • Consulting 412.741.7430 • [samaritancounseling.net](http://samaritancounseling.net)





**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / WORSHIP**

**February 6 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

9:30 AM Adult Education Coffee & Conversation w/Ron Tappy  
(Multi-Purpose Room)

9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)

9:30 AM New Member Gathering (Marie Berg Chapel)

11:00 AM **WORSHIP** (Sanctuary)/Livestream

Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)

12:00 PM Youth Gathering (Multi-Purpose Room)

**February 13 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

9:30 AM Adult Education Coffee & Conversation w/Ron Tappy  
(Multi-Purpose Room)

9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)

9:30 AM New Member Gathering (Marie Berg Chapel)

11:00 AM **WORSHIP/CONGREG MEETING**

(Sanctuary)/Livestream

---

Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139

Return Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
Permit No. 36