

OCTOBER 2022

# OAKNOTES



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

October 2022



*Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103:1-5)*

Beloved in Christ,

Great Britain, and its Commonwealth of Nations, became lands full of heart-felt tributes following the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II. People from all walks of life expressed their love and appreciation of this monarch's seven decades of faithful service. As the events of the ensuing weeks established, Elizabeth II held a very, very special place in many hearts the world around.

Hearing the impromptu tributes detailing the love, loyalty and service of the queen led me to think about our God whose love is steadfast and who sent the Son into the world not to be served, but to serve. While there is an otherness to our transcendent God, there is a closeness as well.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46)

"...you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. (Psalm 86:15)

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations." (Psalm 90)

Our praise brings to mind the characteristics of God who loves us, who helps us, and who renews our spirits. It is no mistake that our worship together always begins with a hymn of praise in which we proclaim the character of our God. We sing our tributes to God.

When we recall some of the difficulties, we have personally endured we remember God's goodness toward us in guiding, comforting and lovingly challenging us. God has seen us through to the present and, we trust, will bring us safely to our eternal home. By faith we affirm and depend upon and rejoice in the Lord who is our loving shepherd.

*Steve*

# Save the Date!



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

The Carol Walk will begin at 6:00 pm and continues to 8:30 pm.

**Oakmont United Methodist Church**  
**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
**St. Irenaeus Catholic Church**  
**Oakmont Presbyterian Church**

*The Carol Walk Finale this year will feature many favorite Christmas carols sung by all, concluding with the Hallelujah*

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

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH...

Something I'm learning during my time in ministry at OPC and others, is the importance of taking care of your own spiritual life. It's important to stay encouraged as pastors, leaders, and mentors and seek to know Jesus with all of our heart. Something that I've been encouraged by in my own spiritual journey, I want to offer as a guide for all of you. We have to consider everything lost for the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus. I've been reminding myself that even in the busy seasons, long days, and restless nights my responsibility before ministry is to know and have my being in Jesus.

He who promised is faithful. God who started a good work in us will see it to completion. God who started good work in this church will finish it. Even when we are faithless, stray from the path, and doubt His goodness—He is there. Let us not fear what's ahead. Face forward. Chin up. One foot in front of the other. His grace will be there—abounding, outlasting—when you need it. God will be there. I'm offering this as something God has been speaking to me and thinking of it as a sponge. The things God speaks to me in my heart, I am called to soak up and share my heart with others.

If anyone ever wants to get coffee, hang out in my office, or enjoy each other's company. Send me a text (330-708-4713) or email (r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org). I'm available to you all and I truly love this church.



### OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson	Senior 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](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.





**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.**

Your Worship Committee and Session have been diligently working to bring back the early Sunday morning worship service. **Beginning in October, (Sunday October 2nd) we will start a 3-month trial of a worship service beginning at 8:30 am.** and ending at approximately 9:15 am. This service will not be livestreamed. This service will retain all important liturgies to our Faith but will change some of the format to a streamlined liturgy with communion by intinction, piano music only with one opening and one closing hymn and cares, concerns and announcements moved to the end of the service.

During this 3-month trial, your comments and reactions will be much appreciated as we seek to determine what we may like to change about the service and whether the service itself is serving our congregation well. Thank you for your support and your prayers for the early morning service as we seek to determine future necessary plans.

**OPC Adult Bible Study will meet in the Small Group Room on Thursdays at 11:00, starting October 6.** The topic this year is the book of Revelation. Since Revelation makes frequent allusions to the Old Testament, the class will devote several sessions to an overview of Biblical history. This will allow us to better understand Revelation in terms of its style and its message as a capstone to the Christian Bible. See Steve Crocco for any questions (412.828.5770).

**OPCRCPC ...What is that???**

It is the Oakmont Presbyterian Church Retirement Celebration Planning Committee which has begun its work as we enter this last year of Steve's leadership of OPC. Members of this committee are Kathy Bowser, Lin Ewing, Sherry Geis, Chris Little, and Nancy Sloan. We have had one meeting to begin our planning and have generated lots of ideas which we are exploring. You will be hearing more from this group! Look for updates as the plans take shape!



The **PW Circle Bible Study** is celebrating! Our new Bible study is the reason for the celebration. We are continuing our study entitled Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight. Lesson 2 is *Sabbath and Creation*. The scripture will be from Genesis. Sabbath celebration is something God has built into the structure of creation. We have a chance to develop a deeper friendship with God. We will be meeting on **Wednesday, October 5 at 1:30 pm in the Lona McCrea Room**. Please come and join us for fellowship, study, and dessert.

## 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



**Food Bank Update** - Thank you to all who have faithfully donated to our local food banks through the Deacons outreach. We support RCAC in Oakmont and the Methodist Church in Verona. All donations are appreciated, and with the new school year **requests have been made for individually wrapped treats and fruit cups for lunches, jelly, and healthy cereals.** Donations can be placed in the shopping carts located in both entryways to the sanctuary.

**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: OCT 2,9,23 and 30.**



**Have you thought about your funeral?** Join us for a workshop on preparing for a funeral. Hymns, scripture readings, as well as discussions of family tributes and other topics will be included. **Saturday, November 5th at 11:00 am in the OPC Sanctuary.**

# War:

*Coffee and Conversation*  
**Oakmont Presbyterian Church**  
*September- October, 2022*  
**9:30 – 10:30 am**  
*with*  
**Dr. John P. Burgess**

## WHERE IS GOD?

The reality of war has become vivid again with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This series will examine how Christians have thought about war. We will ask where God is in war and what God may be asking us to do to respond to war in Ukraine or elsewhere.

September 18    *The Religious Dimensions to the War in Ukraine*

September 25    *Is God at Work in War? How?*

October 2        *Should a Nation Defend Itself from External Aggression?*

October 9        *How Can We Live out Our Prayers for Peace?*

*The Rev. Dr. John Burgess is Professor of Systematic Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He has twice been a Fulbright scholar to Russia, and he has lectured in Ukraine.*

**!!! Come early for coffee and a donut !!!**

## Is “Christian Nationalism”... Christian?

*Sundays*  
**October 16, 23 and 30, 2022**  
**9:30 – 10:30 am**  
*with*  
**Dr. Steve Crocco**

*“Coffee and Conversation”*

As the 2022 mid-term elections draw closer, we’re hearing more and more about “Christian Nationalism.” An Internet search will produce a wide range of descriptions, most of which sound negative and extreme. What is Christian Nationalism? How pervasive is it? Answers to these questions depend mainly on who is asking and answering. The phrase “Christian Nationalism” suggests a theological/political opposite — “Christian Globalism.” Is there such a thing? What are we to make of it? Class sessions will provide ample opportunities for discussion.

**October 16**    *The Rise, Fall, and Rise Again of Nationalism*

**October 23**    *What is Christian Nationalism?*

**October 30**    *Christian Nationalism and Christian Globalism*

*The Rev. Dr. Steve Crocco is the Associate Pastor at Oakmont Presbyterian Church. Prior to coming to OPC, he served as the library director at Yale Divinity School, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Steve has a Ph.D. in religious ethics from Princeton University.*

**!!! Come early for coffee and a donut !!!**



**SEPT 3**  
**75TH Anniversary**  
**Dinner & Celebration**  
**Boy Scout Troop 854**  
 held in  
**OPC Dining Room**

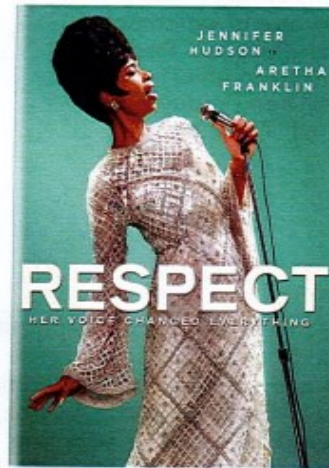


**OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN  
 CHURCH**



**FALL  
 FILM SERIES  
 2022**

**You Are Invited**  
**Admission is free!**  
**Everyone is welcome!**  
**Multi-Purpose Room**  
**(lower level)**  
**Every other Friday Night**  
**at 7:00 pm**



**OCT 7** *Respect (2021)*  
 Following the rise of Aretha Franklin's career from a child singing in her father's church's choir to her international superstardom, RESPECT is the remarkable true story of the music icon's journey to find her voice.

**OCT 21** *Father Stu (2022)*  
 Follows the real-life story of Father Stuart Long, a boxer-turned-priest who inspired countless people during his journey from self-destruction to redemption.





September 11  
Homecoming Picnic

### LOUISE JONES' CORN SALAD

- 2—15 oz. cans corn, drained
- 1/2 green pepper diced
- 1/2 purple onion, diced
- 1 cup real mayo, NOT lite
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 10.5 oz. Fritos Chili Cheese Corn Chips, crushed

Combine above ingredients except for corn chips. When ready to serve, stir in crushed corn chips and save a bit to sprinkle on top; serve immediately. Enjoy!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)
2 WORLD COMMUNION 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:00am Trustees (LIB) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30am New Members Class (MBC)	3 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	4 8:30am Men's Breakfast (DR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level)	5 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	6 4:00pm Vespers at Longwood 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	7 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	8 8:00pm AA's (DR)
9 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & SCOUT SUNDAY & Livestream and children during worship (prek-2nd grade) 12:00pm Youth Group	10 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (SANC)	11 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)	12 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	13 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	14	15 8:00pm AA's (DR)
16 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children during worship (prek-2nd grade)	17 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (SANC)	18 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level) 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	19 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	20 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	21 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	22 10:00am New Officer Orientation (SGR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)
23 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children during worship (prek-2nd grade) 12:00pm Youth Halloween Party	24 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	25 4:00pm Membership Committee (DR) 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	26 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	27 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	28 7:30pm Youth Lock-In	29 8:00pm AA's (DR)
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children during worship (prek-2nd grade)	31 HALLOWEEN 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)					5

## Coffee and Donuts!

Come and enjoy coffee and donuts in the dining room every Sunday starting at 9:00. Arrive early for a sip and a sweet bite before Christian Education at 9:30. Or join friends in fellowship before worship.



*Pre-Thanksgiving Feast and Fellowship on November 20*  
*5:00 pm Worship • 6:00 pm Feast*



**Changed your phone number?  
Have a new email address?**

Updated OPC Directories are coming soon!  
If you have any last-minute changes in your information, please contact the church office ASAP.

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