

NOVEMBER 2022

OAKNOTES



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

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices!



So rings a beautiful hymn that we sing at Thanksgiving. Truly our thanksgivings abound for healing and health; joyous births and peaceful deaths; accidents avoided, and recovery from trauma; understanding and forgiveness; along with growth in faith, hope and love. We are deeply thankful!

In the Christian community, we also share common blessings in Jesus Christ. Through Christ we are forgiven and given a second chance in life: we experience God's love for us; we discover that God has given each a gift to be used in life; and we are promised that, in everything, God works for the good with those who love God. Such faith fills us with gratitude and sustains us through the ups and downs of life.

Sadly, many people do not benefit from God's spiritual gifts. They have never connected with a church, or through some hurt or disappointment they have been estranged from their congregation. Others have simply gotten out of the habit and not only lost touch with the church, but also with God.

At Oakmont Presbyterian Church, we are not only thankful for our blessings, we believe that we have blessings to share with others: our trust in God, our life together, our worship, our growth in understanding, and our care for one another and our service in the world.

As we pause to thank God for our many material blessings, I hope you will give thanks for the great spiritual blessings we share in Christ, and for the blessings that our church can share with others. This is a place where overflowing with God's love we may share it freely with others. Together we may joyfully proclaim,

*O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever!*

Grace to you, and

Peace,

Steve

Mark your calendar!

Thanksgiving Worship will be Sunday, November 20th at 5 pm
Thanksgiving Dinner to follow at 6 pm in the Dining Room
(Reservations will be required. Watch your mail for your invitation.)

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

Something I feel like God is calling us to do in our classes is to soak up the things we are learning and put them into day-to-day practical use. We teach our kids here at Oakmont Presbyterian Church what it means to be the light of the world, and we spend our class time modeling and showing them what that means. We lead them in opportunities to apply it in their own lives. We show them the things that they are learning aren't just for church, but for the "real world" too. Last year our children's advent service project was making center pieces for the dinner tables at Longwood. Both of our JAM classes (previously known last year as Sunday School) had a blast making them and they understood it could brighten someone's day and show them the love of Jesus. When we dropped the pieces off at Longwood, you could tell how thankful they were that our church community had them in their thoughts. This past Sunday the younger kids were again reminded what it means to be the light of the world, and how big of a calling that is. I don't think you can be taught that too many times, I'm still needed the reminder in my life today.

We will begin moving into new advent service projects for all 3 of our age groups-- Prek-2nd grade, 3rd-6th grade, and 7th-12th. The older kids participating in youth ministry and confirmation class will be prepping the homeless ministry to begin sometime this winter. If you would like to be involved in collecting items or going downtown to be a part of it—the kids are excited and could use all of the help. Email me at r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org if you are wanting to be involved. Also, contact me with any ideas for advent service projects for our kids this year. We are ready to continue being the hands and feet of Jesus, even as young people.



DEACONS - ANGEL TREE 2022

A time-honored tradition at Oakmont Presbyterian Church is the Angel Tree sponsored by the Deacons. Congregants have the opportunity to fulfill a child's wish list this Christmas. Approximately 50 wish lists are provided to us by East End Cooperative Ministry and Riverview Community Action Corporation. These are children whose parents have financial hardships and consequently the children would not have a very special Christmas. The tree with Stars containing a child's age, gender and wish list will be in the 5th Street entry way

Sunday, November 20. Select a Star and record your name and Star Number on the list provided. When your shopping is completed, bring your gifts wrapped or unwrapped, packaged together along with the numbered Star and **place them by the Angel Tree on or before December 4.** Please see future bulletins or ask Sherri Dimon or Debby Malandra for more information.

Thank you for your participation in this special OPC Christmas mission.

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

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.

Dear OPC Family Members,

We are grateful for your gifts that fund our ministries and mission. We are working hard to recover from the impact that Covid had on our congregation. Very slowly our worship attendance is increasing. Still, our giving in 2022 is \$25,000 behind 2021. In late October, we mailed to members an **Estimate of Giving Card for 2023**. Please prayerfully consider your gift for 2023. We now need your continuing commitment for 2023 to put our "Faith into Action", to support a conservative budget for our ministries, missions, and rebuilding efforts with many families still in need from the pandemic. ***If you have not already returned your 2023 Estimate of Giving Card, please do. Every gift counts.***

Thank you,

Your Stewardship Committee

Robin Gourley, Nick Kokales, Ralph McIntyre and Steve Wilson



Community and Residential Empowerment Services

Phone: 412-730-2156

Fax: 724-340-5041

Community. And. Residential. Empowerment. Services.

CARES of Western PA is an organization that provides person-centered services to individuals with developmental disabilities. CARES offers a variety of different services including Day Program, Respite services, Life Sharing services, Employment Services, and chaperoned vacations for supported individuals.

Our day program focuses on community-based activities that include volunteering at non-profits and participating in recreational activities, exercise, and educational experiences. This combination allows individuals to explore their interests, promote independence, and a space for them to build vocational skills and become a valuable part of their community.

Being able to connect with local agencies and churches has allowed us the opportunity to not only give back to our community through volunteerism but allows our participants to make connections in their community while also building life skills.

**Maria Mejia
Program Specialist
CARES of Western PA**



These are a few of the C.A.R.E.S. VIPs that come to OPC on Tuesday and Thursdays to assist Buster with light cleaning duties.

Retirement Celebration Planning Committee (“OPCRPC”) **Save the Date - Friday July 14, 2023**, for the celebration dinner for Steve Wilson as he retires from OPC. Invitations and details will come later, for now just make sure you mark your calendar!

The Planning Committee would like to contact former OPC members to inform them of Steve’s retirement. If you are aware of and have contact information for any former members, let Sherry Geis know at geisherry@gmail.com or at 724-443-5447 to share the names and addresses.

In addition, if you were a member of either Riverside or First Presbyterian Churches when they merged to form OPC, please let one of the committee members know. Committee members are Nancy Sloan, Kathy Bowser, Lin Ewing, and Sherry Geis.

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.**



Ringling out the Old (Testament)!

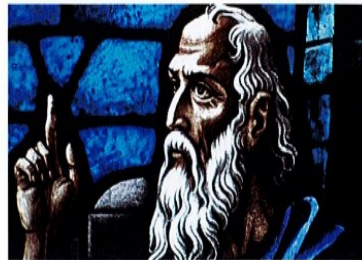
Sundays

November 6, 13 and 20, 2022

9:30 – 10:30 am

with

Dr. Steven S. Tuell



“Coffee and Conversation”
Oakmont Presbyterian
Church

The three books in the Old Testament, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are little read and studied in local congregations, but they had significant messages for the people of Israel...and for us today! This class will focus on how they look both backward, summing up the prophets and the Hebrew Bible generally, and also forward, leading to our New Testament.



November 6	Haggai
November 13	Zechariah
November 20	Malachi

The Rev. Dr. Steven S. Tuell is Professor emeritus of Hebrew and Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He has written numerous books and articles on the Hebrew Bible, focusing on the prophets. He preaches and teaches frequently throughout the area.

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

A Choral Christmas

Join the Chancel Choir for Advent/Christmas season... a season filled with beautiful music. This short-term commitment would involve rehearsals on Thursday evenings - selected portions of certain Thursdays in November and entire Thursday rehearsals in December which begin at 7:00 pm. Sing for all of these or selected events - Advent Worship: Sundays November 27 and December (11am); The Christmas Carol Walk: Sunday December 11 (6-8:30pm); Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (10:00pm).

For the complete rehearsal schedule or to find out more, please contact Michael Frank at mfrank@oakmontpresby.org or at 412-828-5770 x206.

This group of dedicated singers is open to OPC members, friends and members of the community, grade 9 through adult. Join us!

WELCOME!

New Members—Joined October 2

Craig Amos and Catherine Tress

256 Lynn Ann Drive,
New Kensington, PA 15068
Catherine—412-400-6576
Craig—814-516-2715

Charles Colledge

706 4th Street,
Verona, PA 15147
412-828-3042

Deborah Nichols

431 Forest Highlands Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412-400-6268

Nancy and William Hammond

6113 Verona Road
Verona, PA 15147
412-793-0527



Craig Amos & Catherine Tress



William & Nancy Hammond



Charles Colledge



Deb & Lee Nichols

Member Deaths

Bob Coates - 10/06/2022
Gloria Smith - 10/11/2022

**OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

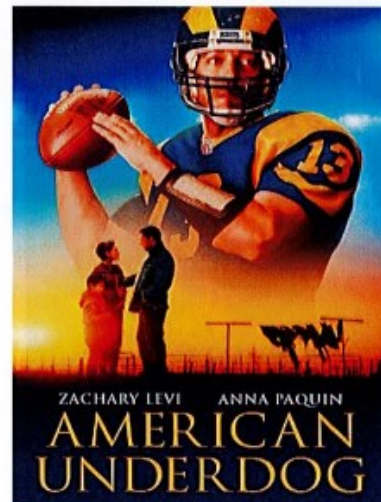


**FALL
FILM SERIES
2022**

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

NOV 4 American Underdog (2021)

The story of NFL MVP and Hall of Fame quarterback Kurt Warner, who went from stocking shelves at a supermarket to becoming an American Football star.



NOV 18 Frank vs. God (2014)

After his house is destroyed by a tornado (what his insurance company deems an "act of God"), former hotshot lawyer David Frank is determined that someone must pay. He decides to serve God...with a lawsuit.



Sue Gibbon is another Deacon at OPC who is a life-long Pittsburgher! For the first five years of her life, Sue Rau lived with her parents and older sister in Mount Lebanon. The family then moved to Penn Hills. Upon high school graduation, Sue chose to major in nutrition at Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon). Sue met and fell in love with a graduate student named Gerst Gibbon who was working on his PhD in chemistry. After graduation, Sue accepted a one-year internship as a dietician at Shadyside Hospital. After completion of her internship, Sue and Gerst married and moved to Squirrel Hill. Sue then accepted a position as a clinical dietician at the old Columbia Hospital in Wilksburg where she worked until their two daughters, Deborah and Cindy, were born. Sue then chose to be a stay-at-home mom until the girls were of school age. At that time, Sue worked as a consulting dietician teaching classes for several companies including Highmark. Later she decided to work as an outpatient dietician at Suburban General Hospital on the northside in Pittsburgh. Sue's final job was with the Lion's Diabetes Center in McKeesport Hospital where she was a nutrition specialist and certified diabetes educator until her retirement at the age of 62. At this time, Sue and Gerst decided to downsize and move to a patio home in Shaler. In 2006, Sue and her husband mourned the death of their daughter Deborah from a brain aneurism. When Gerst began to have health issues, the couple decided to move to Longwood at Oakmont. In 2018, Sue's life was changed forever as Gerst died of pulmonary fibrosis. Sue chose to stay active at Longwood as chairperson of the flower committee, volunteering with the "Friendly Visitor" program, ushering for special events, and taking "Osher" classes offered by Pitt and Carnegie Mellon for retirees. Sue met Tony Fallica, also a Longwood resident, and they married in April 2022. They love to visit Sue's daughter, son-in-law, and two grand dogs who live in Cranberry!

Member of OPC Since: 2018

Hobbies and Interests: Singing in a choral group; planting flowers, reading books

Favorite Vacation: Lake District in Italy

Favorite Foods/Local Restaurants: Veal parmesan, shrimp scampi, stuffed shells; Hoffstott's, Coast and Main

You Would Be Surprised to Know That: I played a kazoo in a talent show!

Favorite Bible Verse: God is my strength and my salvation. Do not be afraid.

Why I Like Being a Deacon: I have always found that helping people is something I feel a calling to do.

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 6th is the last day to order poinsettias.



Quantity	Size	Price (each)	= Total
_____	4-5 inches (Pixie)	\$3.60	_____
_____	7 inches (2 stems)	\$11.25	_____
_____	8 inches (3 stems)	\$15.90	_____
_____	10 inches (5 stems)	\$36.75	_____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes ((prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	31 HALLOWEEN 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:15pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	1 8:30am Men's Breakfast (DR) 12:00pm Staff (SGR) 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level) 7:00pm Session (DR)	2 1:30am PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	3 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 4:00pm Vespers at Longwood 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	4 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	5 10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR) 11:00am Funeral Prep Workshop (SANC) 12:15pm Funeral Prep Luncheon (DR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)
6	ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 8:30am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANC) 9:00am Trustees (LIB) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes ((prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	7 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	8 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	9 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	10 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	11 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	12 8:00pm AA's (DR)
13	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes ((prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:00pm Congregational Meeting	14 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 6:30pm IPSC Meeting (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (SANC)	15 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level) 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	16 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	17 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	18 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	19 8:00pm AA's (DR)
20	CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes ((prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 5:00pm THANKSGIVING WORSHIP 6:00pm Thanksgiving Dinner (DR)	21 10:00am Church Decorating 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	22 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	23 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	24 THANKSGIVING 8:00pm NAs (DR)	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 8:00pm AA's (DR)
27	ADVENT I 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes ((prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:00pm Youth Group Fall Party	28 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	29 5:15pm Children's Choir (Lower Level)	30 10:00am Women's AA (DR)			

Thanksgiving Feast for Body and Soul

Sunday, November 20, 2022
Worship 5:00 pm • Feast 6:00 pm



Come celebrate the season of gratitude with your OPC family and friends as we gather together to ask the Lord's blessing. The feast will immediately follow a special 5:00 pm worship service in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 20. The catered meal will be a traditional Thanksgiving feast of roast turkey with all the trimmings.

Reservations will be accepted from the first 180 to respond using the RSVP card from invitations to be mailed the last week in October. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and under, plus a potluck dessert to share. We hope you'll join us!

Please note that once we receive 180 paid reservations, we will maintain a wait list for RSVPs arriving after the maximum is reached. With this in mind, please let us know if your plans change so we can release your spot for someone on the wait list.

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Return Address Service Requested

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