



415 Pennsylvania Avenue ♦ Oakmont, PA 15139
(412) 828-5770 ♦ (412) 828-0907 Fax

July 16, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God has been mightily at work in our church.

Contributions by members and by our Deacons have provided significant financial help to people in need.

After an extended search process **Session hired an able, young Education Director for Children and Youth.** Thank you to the Search Team! *See the next page for her introduction.*

Session made two adaptations to fine-tune our current worship. Given low attendance numbers on Thursdays, *in-person worship will happen only on Sundays, 10:00 am.* Please continue to reserve a seat by visiting the OPC website at www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org or by calling the church office (412.828.5770). **Secondly,** Session has determined that soloists may sing in worship with certain safeguards. Elders and Michael Frank are considering how additional musical elements may most effectively and safely be added. Worship will continue to be recorded weekly and posted on our website.

At the direction of the Session the Property & Finance Committee applied for and received a loan from **the federal Payment Protection Program (PPP).** Because we are using the funds for payroll, the loan will not need to be repaid. We hope that the PPP grant will offset a significant deficit anticipated because of the coronavirus issues. Your faithful stewardship enables ongoing payments to the staff, utilities and insurance, and mission agencies. Thank you for your continued financial support of the church's ministry and mission.

Session was led in an extended conversation on race by Ralph Lowe, Pittsburgh Presbytery's Director of Justice Ministries. While race is often a difficult issue to discuss, Mr. Lowe enabled elders to talk openly. Mr. Lowe spoke of God's concerns for the "widows and orphans" (Old Testament) and for the marginalized (New Testament). He offered suggestions for our elders to consider. Session is appointing a taskforce to lead us in a faithful response on matters of race.

Session approved a bid which will replace our 20+ year old sound system which is at the end of its useful life and which will add capacity for live-streaming worship. The new system will also provide for a better experience of worship/events when people are required to sit in Friendship Hall. We are grateful for an anonymous gift of \$8,000 for the Friendship Hall work and for a \$5,000 gift from the OPC Memorial Committee to help fund this important project.

Yours in Christ,

Steve

(continued)

OPC's New Education Director for Children and Youth



Hi everyone! My name is Ronnie Bailey.

I graduated in May 2019 from Malone University with a double major in Bible/Theology and Youth Ministry (and looking to move to a place nearby). I am from East Liverpool, Ohio which is about an hour from Oakmont.

I have served Dueber United Methodist Church as Youth Intern; Salvation Army, Canton Citadel as Learning Zone Director teaching Educational/Biblical Lessons; and the Uniontown United Methodist Churches as Youth Ministry Director.

In my free time, I enjoy playing with my cat Lilo and my puppy Eyris. I love to read and expand my knowledge, and I enjoy working out. I am super passionate about the Church and have loved serving it ever since I was a little girl.

My calling is to partner with the Church and teach children and youth about discovering true freedom in Jesus. I love being able to help guide them in these defining years of their lives.

I would love to get to know each and every one of you! I love talking over coffee, and I learn a little bit more about this journey after every conversation. I am thankful for my years spent in church that have molded so much of my spiritual life, and I hope that I continue learning from the congregation here at Oakmont and also help teach by sharing my experiences and what God has put on my heart.

Thank you!!

Ronnie