

DECEMBER 2022 / JANUARY 2023

OAKNOTES



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



Beloved in Christ,

We come to one of the most beloved seasons in the year, Advent. The word “advent” means coming, and, in the church, the season of Advent celebrates the coming of Christ Jesus in three time periods.

Related to **Jesus initial advent**, we will focus in worship on the roles of four persons central to Jesus’ birth: Zechariah, John the Baptist, Elizabeth and Mary. Our theme this Advent will be *A Season of Wonder*.

Secondly, **Jesus enters into the present**. In 1868 Phillips Brooks captured in a carol what remains true for us.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!

So, God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin

Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in. (*O Little Town of Bethlehem*, verse 3)

Because Jesus’ entry is silent, our disposition in Advent is watchfulness. Given the season’s many activities, we must be intentional about our attention, lest the season pass by while we have been busy with many things. Many people find that Advent is a good time to read and reflect on a daily devotional such as “Pray As You Go” (<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>), “Sacred Space” (<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>) or Pittsburgh Seminary’s devotional (sign up at <https://www.pts.edu/email>).

Lastly, we pray “**Come, Lord Jesus**” for **Jesus final advent**, to complete the work of new creation that God has begun in Him.

Worship is central to our experience of Jesus’ advent. In our worship together we come away from noise, hurry and distractions and we hear again the good news of Jesus. In worship our hearts are opened to receive Him and hope in Him.

Our advent worship culminates on **Christmas Eve** when we will celebrate *The Wonder of Jesus’ Birth*. A family service will begin at 4:30 p.m. The traditional candlelight worship with the chancel choir will begin at 10:00 p.m.

This year, because **Christmas Day falls on a Sunday**, we will gather for a **reception in Friendship Hall 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.** and our **one worship service at 11:00 a.m.** will be a joyous celebration of Jesus’ birth through carols and readings.

I look forward to this *Season of Wonder* and the opportunity for a renewal of our faith and hope.

Yours in Christ,

Steve



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

A "progressive" sharing of the Christmas Story through *The Festival of Lessons and Carols* presented by the local church music ministries

6:00 pm - Oakmont United Methodist Church
(corner of Fifth Street & Maryland Avenue)

6:30 pm - St. Thomas Episcopal Church
(corner of Fourth Street & Delaware Avenue)

7:00 pm - St. Irenaeus Roman Catholic Church
(385 Maryland Avenue)

**7:30 pm - Oakmont Presbyterian Church
with St. Paul Baptist Church**
(corner of 5th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue)

The Carol Walk Finale will feature the combined choir and many favorite Christmas carols sung by all, concluding with the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

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

All are welcome and bring a friend!

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



Friday, July 14, 2023, will be the celebration dinner for Dr. Steve Wilson as he retires from OPC. Invitations and details will come later, for now just make sure you mark your calendar!

The OPC Retirement Celebration Planning Committee (OPCRCPC) 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 by contacting her at geisherry@gmail.com or 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.

Thank you for your help!

Dear Friends at OPC,
Many thanks for the love and support that you showed me during the years I lived in Oakmont. I will be forever grateful for the time I spent there, and for the children that I worked with in the music program. It brought me great joy to be able to share my love of music and my faith with them.

May God bless all of you this holiday season and always.

Angie Thompson



Member Deaths

Richard Jones - 10/25/2022
Jan Shoop - 10/12/2022



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: JAN 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Children will play a major part in leading the Family Christmas Eve Service (12/24 at 4:30pm). Choir practices for the kids interested in participating are:

DEC 4-18, kids will be dismissed from worship at the beginning of the service. They will spend

Confirmation Class available for youth in grades 7-12 who would like to join the church. The next classes are Jan 8th and 15th at Noon. Youth will be joining the church on June 4, 2023. Contact Ronnie Bailey (r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org) with questions.



OPC Social Dining Out Groups - We will be putting together new OPC Social Dining Out Groups beginning in January. The dining out groups consist of dinner groups and lunch groups. This is a great way to get to know our OPC family. Please call or email me and let me know if you are interested in the dinner or lunch groups; Pat Zanella Home phone: 724-733-1338; cell: 412-877-7523; or email at pazanella@hotmail.com

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 31st will be shown on your 2022 statement. Due to Internal Revenue Service regulations, contributions received after December 31 must be credited to 2023 contributions.

Men's Breakfast, Tuesday, December 6 at 8:30 am in the Dining Room. Join us for a hearty breakfast. Chuck Erdeljac will present a program on Founding Father, James Madison and his work to help shape a new form of government that would work and last through future challenges. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

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.



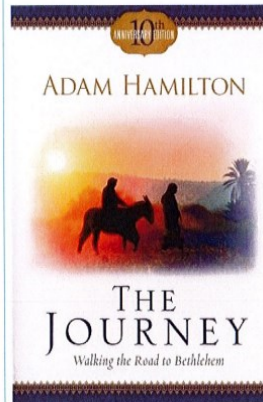
Quantity	Size	Price (each)	= Total
_____	4-5 inches (Pixie)	\$3.60	_____
_____	7 inches (2 stems)	\$11.25	_____
_____	8 inches (3 stems)	\$15.90	_____
_____	10 inches (5 stems)	\$36.75	_____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

THE JOURNEY
Walking the Road to Bethlehem



"Coffee and Conversation"
Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sundays

November 27 - December 18, 2022

9:30 - 10:30 am

A video series with
Adam Hamilton

Adam Hamilton, nationally known pastor and author, presents this video retelling of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. Now in a 10th anniversary edition, the book and video series has become a classic that is viewed by hundreds of churches each year.

Dr. Katherine Williams and Samuel Anderson will host these special Advent sessions.

November 27	Mary of Nazareth
December 4	Joseph of Bethlehem
December 11	Mary's Visit to Elizabeth
December 18	From Nazareth to Bethlehem

Come early for coffee and a Christmas donut !!!

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

DEC 2 *The Age of Adaline (2015)*

A young woman, born at the turn of the 20th century, is rendered ageless after an accident. After many solitary years, she meets a man who complicates the eternal life into which she has settled.



DEC 16 *Redeeming Love (2022)*

Sold into prostitution as a child, Angel knows nothing but betrayal. Can her heart ever be mended? Based upon the novel by Francine Rivers, it is set in 1850 during the California Gold Rush.

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, January 15 and 22 from 9:30 am – 10:30 am in the Marie Berg Chapel**. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, **January 29 during the 11:00 am worship service**. A reception will follow the service in Friendship Hall If you are interested or have questions, please contact Steve Wilson at swilson@oakmontpresby.org or through the church office at 412.828.5770.



Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	ADVENT 2 8:30am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANC) 9:00am Trustees (LIB) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) AND COMMUNION & Livestream and children during worship (prek-2nd grade) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12)	5 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 6:45pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (SANC) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:45pm Combined Carol Walk Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	6 8:30am Men's Breakfast (DR) 12:00pm Staff Lunch (DR) 7:00pm Session (DR)	7 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 1:00pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR)	8 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	9 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	10 8:00pm AA's (DR)
11	ADVENT 3 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) 12:15pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12) 6:00pm COMMUNITY CAROL WALK (begins at Oakmont United Methodist Church)	12 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 6:30pm Interim Pastor Search Comm (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	13 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	14 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	15 10:00am Soups On (KITCHEN) 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	16 6:00pm Choir Party 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	17 8:00pm AA's (DR)
18	ADVENT 4 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) 12:15pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12) 4:00pm Amos Recital (SANC & FH)	19 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JEBELLATION Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	20 7:00pm Desserts (DR)	21 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	22 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30pm Family Christmas Eve Worship 8:00pm AA's (DR) 10:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
25	CHRISTMAS DAY 9:45am Christmas Reception (FIT) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:30pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR)	27 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	28 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	29 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	30	31 8:00pm AA's (DR)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	NEW YEARS DAY 11:00am WORSHIP/COMMUNION (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JeBBellation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	3	4 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR)	5 4:00pm Vespers at Longwood 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	6	7 10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)
3	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am WORSHIP & OFFICER ORDINATION/INSTALLATION (SANC) & Livestream and children during worship (preK-2nd grade) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12)	9 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JeBBellation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	10 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	11 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	12 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	13 6:00pm Session Retreat (MPR & DR)	14 8:30am Session Retreat (MPR & DR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)
15	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12)	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JeBBellation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	17 9:00am Dakmont Garden Club Luncheon & Meeting (DR & MPR)	18 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	19 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	20	21 8:00pm AA's (DR)
22	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12)	23 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JeBBellation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	24 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	25 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	26 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	27	28 8:00pm AA's (DR)
29	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am WORSHIP & RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:00pm New Member Reception (FH) 12:15pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12)	30 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00pm JeBBellation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	31	1 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR)	2 4:00pm Vespers at Longwood 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	3	4 10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)

The Thanksgiving Feast for Soul and Body last Sunday treated 115 members and friends of OPC to a delicious traditional meal and time for fellowship. The Verona Methodist Church distributed nearly 30 complete meals from the unused food, and RCAC accepted the remainder of the food to provide nutritious meals for the hungry in our area.

We gratefully thank all who organized, set up, attended, served, cleaned up, and distributed food to those who need it. And we thank Addison Avenue Catering in Verona for preparing the food and serving us with a smile.



Thinking about the upcoming Advent season I always ask God for new ways to prepare my heart. To prepare my heart for service, to prepare my heart to listen, and to prepare my heart to find new rest in Him.

This year, I felt the calling to start back up the homeless ministry. Very similarly to what was done here at the church before, we would gather a group of people (including our youth) and take supplies and food down to the city to share with those in need. If you are also feeling called to participate in this ministry, we will be collecting things like bottled water, and individually wrapped snacks as we will be packing lunches to take. We will also be taking things like socks, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. if you have any you would like to donate. We will be collecting items through the winter months. We will be going down to the city the first Saturday of every month starting in January. Please contact me if you are interested or have donations you would like to give.

I love serving the Lord together.
Ronnie





4:30 pm – Family Friendly Worship Service

The Children's Choir will be leading this service.
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 www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org*



9:45-10:45 am Christmas Reception (Friendship Hall)

11:00 am ONLY- Christmas Day, December 25, Worship Service

Service of Carols and Readings
Roberta and Robert Erickson will offer hanbell solos and duets



11:00 am ONLY - New Year's Day, January 1, Worship Service

Celebrate Epiphany Sunday and share
in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Oakmont Presbyterian Church
415 Pennsylvania Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

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