

FEBRUARY 2023

OAKNOTES



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



Beloved in Christ,

To be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) one must successfully pass five ordination exams: Bible content, Biblical exegesis (interpretation), theological competence, worship and sacraments, and polity (governance). In a course preparing for the polity exam, I was taught “If you’re asked a question about ‘whose responsibility is it?’ and you don’t know the answer, guess the Session.”

Trustees care for the church facility and property. **Deacons** express the compassion of Jesus to members and beyond the church. **Elders on Session** are responsible for the spiritual health and vitality of the congregation. Worship, education, mission, stewardship, property policies, finances and member care are all ministry responsibilities of the Session.

Given the changes that we will be facing this coming summer, your Session has been preparing for a healthy transition. On January 13-14, your Session and program staff met for the purpose of: 1. understanding the work of an interim pastor and the process of hiring an interim pastor, 2. identifying leadership skills and resources for elders and 3. planning for three key transitional roles.

The Rev. Dr. Don Ewing explained that an interim pastor:

- shepherds the congregation through the ending of a pastoral relationship to the next installed pastor
- guides the congregation through grief and uncertainty to resolved grief and greater clarity
- allows for honest reflections about the past, concerns/interests in the present, and hope for the future

Don also addressed key tasks of an interim pastor and a draft interim pastor contract.

The Interim Pastor is hired by the IPNC with the understanding and direction from Session. **Your Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPNC) members include:** Sally Huber Lewis and Nick Kokales (Co-chairpersons), Dave Geis, Chris Hudack, Jim Kinter, and Christine Little.

Elders Sally Huber Lewis and Nick Kokales along with our Presbytery representative, Dr. Edwin Christian van Driel, spoke about the search process for an interim pastor. The IPNC plans for periodic updates to the congregation. Their goal is for an interim pastor to begin sometime in September.

I spoke about the three phases of transition: 1) ending, losing and letting go; 2) a middle or neutral phase when the old is gone, but the new has not yet emerged; and 3) a new beginning phase when people experience new energy and a new sense of purpose.

Our confidence for the coming months comes from the realization that Session has been preparing for this change and that God will guide us through it. Please remember in your prayers the Interim Pastor Search Committee and your Session.

Yours in Christ,

Steve

TWO WORSHIP SERIES IN LENT

Focus for the **Sundays in Lent** will be *Fruits of the Spirit*:

February

26 – Love

March

5 – Joy

12 – Peace

19 – Patience

26 – Self-Control

Focus for **Wednesday Lenten Worship** (7:15 pm) will be *Exploring Prayer Again*

February

22 – Ash Wednesday

Our Hope in Ashes

March (Lenten Dinners at 6 pm)

1 – *Why Pray*

8 – *Listening to God*

15 – *When Life Hurts*

22 – To Be Announced

29 – *When God Does Not Answer Your Prayers*

MEMORIAL AND GIFT FUND – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2022 the Memorial and Gift Fund received donations in memory of Joan Sanford, Millie Stratigos, Mary Lou Alexander (mother of Angie Thompson), Carolyn Lydic, Bugs Bagamery, Jodie Dickinson, Ruth and George Hawker, Craig McLauren, Elva Scheestel Taylor, Bob and Joan Coates, Richard Jones, Barbara Depew, Gloria Smith, Janet Shoop, Carol Broz's daughter, Jean Hazlett and Jerry Rupert.

Two leaves were added to the Memorial and Gift Tree in memory of Joan Sanford and Elva Scheestel Taylor. Donations totaling \$1,000 entitles a person to a leaf.

The Memorial Committee provided \$1,500 toward the purchase of a new webpage design and promised to pay the remainder of the cost upon completion of the page. The Committee also paid \$74 for thank you notes.

Memorial and Gift Financial Report -2022.

Balance	1/1/22	\$7,529.36
Donations		2,686.00
Expenses		1,574.00
Interest		0.80
Balance	12/30/22	\$8,642.16

Committee members: Todd Massack, Steve Hoops, Linda Pavlik, Mary McIntyre, Dale Remai, Jr., and Jack Kells, chairperson.

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)

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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!

Member Deaths

Jerry Rupert 12/3/2022 Bill Coates 12/11/2022
Sue Podgers 12/7/2022 Jean Hazlett 12/16/2022

THANK YOU!

The Deacon's thank you for your continued support and donations to the food banks at RCAC and the Verona Methodist Church. This outreach helps to support so many families in our community. Please continue to put your donations in the shopping carts or drop off any financial donations in the office or collection plate. Any questions please contact Judy Murray 724-816-7561.



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 12,19; MAR 5,12,19,26.

Soups On - Black Bean, Minestrone, and Potato, Sauerkraut, Kielbasa are available in the downstairs freezer for a loved one or neighbor who needs a cup of cheer! **Feb 16 at 10am – next soup making event.**

Confirmation Class (grades 7-12) Next classes are **Feb 5 and 19, Mar 12 and 26 at Noon.** Youth will be joining the church on June 4, 2023. Contact Ronnie Bailey (r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org) with questions.

Youth Group (grades 6-12) – TODAY, Feb 26, March 19, Apr 2 and May 21 at Noon. Contact Ronnie Bailey (r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org) with questions.

CAT SURVEY UPDATE: The CAT link has been emailed to everyone who has provided us with an email address. *If you have not provided us with your email address and would like to take the survey online, you can access it at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OAKMONTPCPA>* or you can send your email address to Debbie Hays at ralphanddeb27@msn.com and she will forward the link to you.

Paper copies will be available after worship services TODAY and next Sunday, Feb 5. Or you can request a copy by calling the church office. **PAPER COPIES MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, FEB 12.**

Your honest opinion will be instrumental in not only helping us to choose our interim pastor, but in moving OPC into a vibrant future. We are hoping for 100% participation.

Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, Feb 1 at 1:30 pm in the Lona McCrea Room. We will be studying Lesson 4, *Celebrating Sabbath* based on Exodus 16 which tells the “manna” story with emphasis on only gathering as much as we need and not gathering on the Sabbath. It is a call to trust God to provide for our needs and a call toward recognizing “enough” instead of acquiring more stuff. Please come and join us for fellowship, study, and dessert!

**Deacon Gift Wrapping for the Angel Tree gifts
December 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

FEB 3 All Saints

When a group of Burmese refugees join the congregation, the pastor of a failing Anglican church attempts to aid them by planting crops and enlisting the help of the community.

FEB 17 Where the Crawdads Sing

A woman who raised herself in the marshes of the Deep South becomes a suspect in the murder of a man with whom she was once involved.



Celebration Updates

The OPC Retirement Celebration Planning Committee would like you to be aware of and mark your calendars for these upcoming dates and events which are designed to honor, celebrate, and farewell Rev. Steve Wilson as he moves toward his retirement.

Feb 13 Gathering at 10 am in Friendship Hall

For those who are original members of OPC and those who have known Steve from his beginning in Oakmont. We will share memories and stories. Please bring photos or mementos you may have from those early years.

May-June Notes, pictures and cards will be collected from members to include in an album which we will give to Steve. This will likely be his favorite “gift” from us. Look for details on this in mid-April.

June 11 Potluck lunch in OPC’s Dining Room

A chance to gather to take an enjoyable stroll down memory lane and remember some highlights of Steve’s time with us. Details in May newsletter and bulletins.

July 14 Celebratory Dinner at Veltre’s

Invitations will be mailed mid-May. RSVPs are required.

Aug 13 Final Worship with Steve

A reception will follow the worship service,

Details regarding an opportunity to share in a gift for Steve will be coming later.

Please share this info with former members and friends of Steve.

Please also consider volunteering to help with one or two events. Each event requires many hands and minds. Please contact Nancy Sloan to offer your assistance or share ideas.

If you have photos, mementos, or bulletins from days past that we might use in our recollecting and stroll down memory lane or that might be included in an album for Steve, please let Sherry Geis know at 412-719-1582 or geisherry@gmail.com.

Questions regarding any of this see Kathy Bowser, Lin Ewing, Chris Little, Nancy Sloan, or Sherry Geis.



LOWMAN, Carla

Our Carla Lowman was born Carla Miller in Tacoma, Washington. With a sister Beth and a brother John, Carla was the middle child. In 1949 Carla’s dad accepted a position as an accountant with Alcoa, and the family moved to Pittsburgh. She attended Waynesburg College where she met Robert Lowman. Following graduation, they were married. To serve her country and continue to pursue her graduate studies in physical therapy, Carla joined the Air Force. They moved to Patterson Air Force in Ohio. Following her military commitments.

Carla and Bob had 3 children and enjoyed camping adventures. In 1995 Carla and Robert joined Oakmont Presbyterian and both sang in the choir. When Robert retired in 1999, Carla decided to become a home care physical therapist. The couple enjoyed travel – especially camping and many cruises including Alaska and the Caribbean.

Robert died in 2012. Slowly Carla began to travel again with trips to Australia, New Zealand, Europe and a mission trip to Kenya. Carla also became more involved with OPC serving as both an elder and choir member. In 2019 Carla moved to Longwood which she enjoys very much. At OPC, Carla serves as a Deacon and chairperson of sanctuary flowers. Carla is also blessed to have her three children living nearby. She is the proud grandmother of four and great grandmother of two.

Carla’s favorite Bible verse is Micah 6: 6-8: *The Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God.*

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	8:30am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANCO) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30am Trustees (LJB) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP/COMMUNION (SANCO) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (IpreK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12)	6 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:15pm Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	7 8:30am Men's Breakfast & Speaker (DR) 12:00pm Staff Meeting (SGR)	8 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	9 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	10 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	11 8:00pm AA's (DR)
12	8:30am WORSHIP (SANCO) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANCO) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (IpreK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	13 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:15pm Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal (SANCO)	14 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)	15 MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	16 10:00am Soups On (KITCHEN) 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	17 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	18 8:00pm AA's (DR)
19	TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 8:30am WORSHIP (SANCO) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANCO) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (IpreK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12)	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:15pm Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal (SANCO)	21 9:00am Oakmont Garden Club Luncheon & Meeting (DR & MPR) 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 7:15pm WORSHIP & IMPOSITION OF ASHES (SANCO) 8:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR)	23 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	24	25 8:00pm AA's (DR)
26	LENT 1 8:30am WORSHIP (SANCO) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANCO) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (IpreK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12)	27 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:15pm Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	28 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)			3	

C.S. LEWIS ON ...
EARTH, HEAVEN, AND HELL



"Coffee and Conversation"
Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sundays, February 12-26, 2022

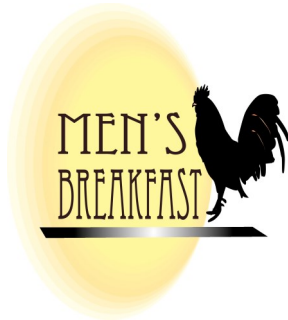
9:30 – 10:30 am

C.S. Lewis, according to N.T. Wright, "did a great job in the Narnia stories and elsewhere of imagining how two worlds could relate and interlock." This three-week course will draw on insights from Lewis to illustrate and illuminate biblical teachings on earth, heaven, and hell.

- February 12** **The Door between Two Worlds:**
"The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe"
- February 19** **Heaven and Hell:**
"The Great Divorce"
- February 26** **New Heavens and a New Earth:**
"The Last Battle"

Come early for coffee and a donut hole (or two)!!

**MEN'S Breakfast and Speaker
Tuesday, Feb7 at 8:30 am
Dining Room**



Join us for a hearty breakfast! Don Ziegler has spent most of his career at 2 Fortune 50 corporations: PepsiCo & Sara Lee and recently for 18 years at Genco, 2nd largest third-party logistics company in the US, which was acquired 2 years ago by FedEx.

Don will speak on the people, infrastructure, security, construction/development and more based on a 2-week trip to China in Oct 2019.

Everyone is welcome!

Bring a friend!

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