

MARCH 2023

# OAKNOTES



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

Beloved in Christ,

Lent is one of the blessings of the Christian Year. Patterned after the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness, Lent is a season of 40 days of reflection and repentance by which we hope to be transformed and prepared to enter the joy of Easter. Our aim is to present ourselves to Christ with a penitent heart and mind so that Christ's transforming work may take place in us.

As writers of Christian spirituality have witnessed, we don't make these changes happen. Rather, we give God permission to be at work in us and our practice opens the door for the work of God's transforming Spirit.

Not only is the Lenten focus healthy for us individually, but Lent is also a season of communal spiritual growth. We share the journey of Lent with our sisters and brothers in Christ and we work together on spiritual goals which will make a difference in our lives and our relationships.

Lent began this year on February 22<sup>nd</sup> (Ash Wednesday), but most of our Lenten worship happens in March.

### **Our Sunday Worship Focus in March: *Fruits of the Spirit***

5 - *Joy*                      19 - *Patience*  
12 - *Peace*                  26 - *Self-Control*

### **Lenten Dinners in March: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. in the Dining Room**

On the Wednesdays in March, we will gather at 6:30 p.m. for a simple dinner of salad and soup. The soup will again be provided by Dan and Linda McCurdy from the Oakmont Deli. The meal gathering is a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know others in the church.

### **Wednesday Lenten Worship Focus for March, 7:15 p.m. in Friendship Hall**

In our mid-week Lenten worship, our focus will be *Exploring Prayer Again*

1 - *Why Pray*                      22 - *To Be Announced*  
8 - *Listening to God*            29 - *When God Does Not Answer Your Prayer*  
15 - *When Life Hurts*

One hundred fifty years ago Claudia F.I. Hernaman wrote a hymn that captures our Lenten focus:

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, and close by Thee to stay.*

*As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin*

*Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering overpast,  
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

I look forward to worshipping with you this Lent.

Yours in Christ,

*Steve*



**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!

**NO FLOWERS DURING LENT. Available Dates starting April 16**

**Member Deaths**

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



**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](mailto:prayers@oakmontpresby.org)**

**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.



## EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to think of flowers for decorating the sanctuary to make the church glorious for Easter. Please use the form below. Place form and payment in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and place in the offering plate or drop at the church office **NO LATER THAN MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>
_____ Lilies @ \$10.25	_____
_____ Tulips @ \$6.90	_____
_____ Daffodils @ \$9.40	_____
_____ Azaleas @ \$14.10 pink or white (circle preference)	_____

If this is to be in memory/honor of someone, please indicate your name and their name the way you want it printed in the bulletin.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

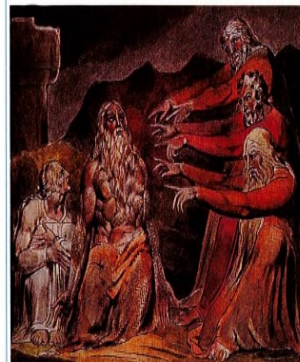
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

in honor of

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers may be taken following the 11:00 a.m. Easter worship service. If this is a problem, contact Dixie Anderson (412-418-0280) or Ann Buechli (412-657-1746).

# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF JOB



*"Job and His Friends"*

William Blake, ca. 1825

*"Coffee and Conversation"*  
**Oakmont Presbyterian Church**

**Sundays, March 5-26, 2022**

**9:30 – 10:30 am**

**Dr. Louis Mitchell**, our speaker, is recently retired as a PCUSA minister, after nearly forty years of service. Most recently, he was the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, New Jersey. Lou has a Th.D. in Church History from Harvard Divinity School.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>March 5</b>  | Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? |
| <b>March 12</b> | Friends, Helpful or Not So Much?         |
| <b>March 19</b> | Can We Still Hope?                       |
| <b>March 26</b> | God Shows Up!                            |

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

## Celebration Updates: March 2023

The OPC Retirement Celebration Planning Committee would like you to be aware of and mark your calendars for the following dates and events where the congregation will have the opportunity to honor, celebrate and bid farewell to Reverend Dr. Steve Wilson as he moves toward retirement.

**May -June 2023:** Notes photos, cards and other memorabilia from members will be included in an album that will be given to Steve. This will likely be his favorite 'gift' from us. Please be thinking about this now and look for more details in mid-April on how to submit those.

**June 11, 2023: Potluck lunch in OPC's Dining Room**

All are invited to gather at this festive potluck luncheon immediately following the 10 am worship service on Sunday, June 11. Take a walk down memory lane remembering some highlights of Steve's time with us. Look for details in Sunday bulletins and the May newsletter. (If you have photos, memorabilia, or bulletins from days past that we might use in our stroll down memory lane, or that might be included in the album for Steve, please let Sherry Geis know at 412-719-1582 or geisherry@gmail.com.

**July 14, 2023: Celebratory Dinner at Veltre's**

Invitations will be mailed to congregation members in mid-May. RSVPs are required.

**August 13, 2023: Final Worship with Steve**

A reception for the congregation will follow the 10 am worship service.

Look for continuing updates in the Sunday bulletins and in the monthly newsletter.

Please also consider volunteering to help with one or more of the events. Each event requires many hands and minds. Please contact Nancy Sloan at 941-7804342 or nancy.oakmont@gmail.com to offer your assistance or to share ideas.

Questions regarding any of the events or for more information contact Kathy Bowser, Lin Ewing, Chris Little, Nancy Sloan or Sherry Geis.

---

### 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**

#### **MAR 3 Playing the Crease (2021)**

A resilient high school kid fights to claim his spot on the varsity hockey team after moving from Minnesota following his father's death. He learns real success comes from hard work, not performance enhancing drugs.



**DOWNTON ABBEY**  
— A NEW ERA —



#### **MAR 17**

#### **Downton Abbey: A New Era**

The Crawley family goes on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.

#### **MAR 31 Faith Under Fire (2020)**

Fireman Tom Hatcher is at the end of his rope. He saves lives but couldn't save his wife from cancer. Now his daughter faces the same battle. From an unlikely friend, Tom is challenged to face grief and embrace faith in his darkest hours.



### **Wednesday Lenten Worship—7:15 pm**

- March 1** using *ACTS* worship order (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication)  
Ministry of Music: Diane McNally and Ken Crawford, vocals with fretted instruments
- March 8** Using Evening Prayer Worship order
- March 15** Worship in the Taizé Style  
Ministry of Music: Chancel Choir, Cantors and Instrumentalists
- March 22** Worship with Jazz influenced music.  
Ministry of Music: Paul Banahasky, Electric Bass  
Keith Parton, Drums  
Michael Frank, Piano
- March 29** Worship from the Celtic Tradition



## **LENT / HOLY WEEK / EASTER 2023**

**Lent is a season of 40 days** in which we give God our permission to work in us. That can happen at any time of the year, but, in Lent, the church makes a concentrated effort. Group energy is generated when spiritual kin are making the same journey in an environment of openness to God. What the benefit will be is really an unknown part of the Lenten journey...except for what we see in Scripture - people in Jesus' presence were often changed for the good: accepted, healed, reconciled, course-corrected - in a word, transformed.

### **PALM SUNDAY – April 2 at 8:30 and 11:00 am**

Steve Crocco, preaching.  
Palm Sunday Processional led by Children of OPC  
Distribution of Palm Crosses

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 6 at 7:00 pm**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated.  
Steve Wilson, preaching, *In Remembrance*  
Ministry of Music: Chancel Choir

### **GOOD FRIDAY – April 7 at 8:00 pm**

Noon - Community Good Friday Service at Riverside Community Church, Steve Wilson, Guest Preacher  
7:40 pm - *Prelude for Good Friday* (organ)  
8:00 pm - *Service of Tenebrae*  
A dramatic service of shadows, darkness, scripture, and music  
that enables participants to reflect deeply on the events of Christ's  
last week leading to the crucifixion.  
Led by the Chancel Choir and Lay Readers, with instrumental ensemble.

### **EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9 at 8:30 and 11:00 am**

Festival of the Resurrection of The Lord  
Steve Wilson, preaching, *A New Day*  
Ministry of Music: Chancel Choir, Brass, percussion and organ

*Invite a friend or neighbor to join you at our services!*

SUNDAY  
MARCH 26  
4:00 PM

38th ANNUAL  
SPONSORSHIP  
CONCERT:



Felix  
Mendelssohn's  
*Hymn of Praise*

John Rutter's  
*Requiem*



*The Fox Chapel  
Festival Chorus  
and  
The Academy  
Chamber Orchestra*

*Guy Russo, director  
David Billings, organist*

Free admission/Reception

**38th Annual Sponsorship Concert  
Sunday, March 26th at 4:00 pm**

**Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church  
384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh PA 15238**

The Fox Chapel Festival Chorus, including  
**19 Chancel Choir members from OPC**, and  
21 members of The Academy Chamber Orchestra.

This choral concert will feature  
Felix Mendelssohn's great cantata "*Hymn of Praise*"  
and John Rutter's popular "*Requiem*".

Come and experience wonderful choral music  
accompanied by organ & orchestra, in the great  
acoustics and beauty of the FCPC sanctuary.

The concert is free of charge, but a free-will  
offering will be received.

A lovely reception in the Atrium  
will follow the concert.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 LENT 2 Youth Confirmation Retreat (Crestfield) 8:30am WORSHIP &amp; COMMUNION (SANQ) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MFR) 9:30am Trustees (LIB) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP/COMMUNION (SANQ) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (PreK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>6 12:00pm AA's (MFR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MFR) 7:15pm JUBILEE LIAISON Rangers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>7 8:30am Men's Breakfast &amp; Speaker (DR) 12:00pm Staff (SGR)</p>	<p>8 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 6:30pm Lenten Supper (DR) 7:15pm LENTEN WORSHIP</p>	<p>9 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAV's (DR)</p>	<p>10 Youth Confirmation Retreat (Crestfield) 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MFR)</p>	<p>11 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>12 LENT 3 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS STARTS 8:30am WORSHIP (SANQ) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MFR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANQ) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (PreK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12)</p>	<p>13 12:00pm AA's (MFR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MFR) 7:15pm JUBILEE LIAISON Rangers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>14 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)</p>	<p>15 APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 6:30pm Lenten Supper (DR) 7:15pm LENTEN WORSHIP 8:05pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 10:00am Songs On (KITCHEN) 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 3:30pm Sponsoring Concert Singer Rehearsal (FCPC) 8:00pm NAV's (DR)</p>	<p>17 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MFR)</p>	<p>18 3:00pm Scouts (DR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>19 LENT 4 8:30am WORSHIP (SANQ) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MFR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANQ) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (PreK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12)</p>	<p>20 12:00pm AA's (MFR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MFR) 7:15pm JUBILEE LIAISON Rangers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>21 9:00am Oakmont Garden Club Luncheon &amp; Meeting (DR &amp; MFR) 7:00pm Deacons (DR)</p>	<p>22 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 6:30pm Lenten Supper (DR) 7:15pm LENTEN WORSHIP</p>	<p>23 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAV's (DR)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>26 LENT 5 8:30am WORSHIP (SANQ) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MFR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANQ) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (PreK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12) 4:00pm 38th Annual Sponsorship Concert (FCPC)</p>	<p>27 12:00pm AA's (MFR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MFR) 7:15pm JUBILEE LIAISON Rangers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>28 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)</p>	<p>29 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 6:30pm Lenten Supper (DR) 7:15pm LENTEN WORSHIP</p>	<p>30 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAV's (DR)</p>	<p>31 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MFR)</p>	

**Wednesday Lenten Worship—7:15 pm**

- March 1** using *ACTS* worship order (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication)  
Ministry of Music: Diane McNally and Ken Crawford, vocals with fretted instruments
- March 8** Using Evening Prayer Worship order
- March 15** Worship in the Taizé Style  
Ministry of Music: Chancel Choir, Cantors and Instrumentalists
- March 22** Worship with Jazz influenced music  
Ministry of Music: Paul Banahasky, Electric Bass  
Keith Parton, Drums  
Michael Frank, Piano
- March 29** Worship from the Celtic Tradition

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