

APRIL 2023

OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church
415 Pennsylvania Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139
412.828.5770

Friends in Faith,

The white bungalow home is now much as I remember it. Seeing my home-away-from-home in Wood River, Illinois triggers fond memories: waking to the sounds of cooing doves, breakfasts on the back porch, naps under the droning window fan, and, after supper, wrestling with my sister who first taught me how to lose. My periodic pilgrimages to my grandparents' former house connect me to my "roots" and reminds me of much that I am.

To remember their identity, our Hebrew spiritual ancestors were instructed to ["revisit" \(recite\) their history. It was a humble, but powerful story:](#) *"A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey."* (Deuteronomy 26:5-9) Recalling these key events reminded them that their (our) mighty God had approached them in mercy, blessed them with freedom from bondage, and led them to a new life in a new land.

The festival days of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter) recall pivotal events in Jesus' saving work, but they are more important than historical observances. Our worship in Holy Week reminds us of our spiritual family's dramatic journey with God, what God has done for us, and the resurrection life that we may now live.

A pilgrimage to worship in Holy Week renews our grounding as the people of God - loved, forgiven, healed, transformed and commissioned by God for lives of grace. For the renewal that comes from our revisiting and remembering, I await with joy our time for Holy Week worship.

Yours in Christ,

Steve

[Holy Week Schedule](#)

Palm Sunday – April 2nd, 8:30 & 11 am Steve Crocco preaching the sermon *Sealing His Fate, Sealing Our Fate.*

Maundy Thursday – April 6th, 7:00 pm, Steve Wilson, preaching the sermon *In Remembrance*, t
the Lord's Supper will be celebrated

Community Good Friday Worship, Riverside Community Church, Noon, Steve Wilson preaching the sermon
What Are We To Make of Good Friday?

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at OPC – April 7th, 8:00 pm, a dramatic service of shadows, darkness,
Scripture and music led by the Chancel Choir and lay readers

Easter

7 am – Community Sunrise Worship, Oakmont Country Club

8:30 & 11:00 am – Steve Wilson, preaching the sermon "A New Day!"





Chancel Flowers – 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 starting April 16**

Member Deaths

Mary Moore 03/20/23



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

**Singers
Wanted**

The Chancel Choir is seeking Sopranos/Altos to sing with the choir for spring! As you may have noticed we are blessed with an abundance of wonderful Tenors and Basses... a rarity in most church choirs ... we are also blessed with wonderful Soprano and Alto voices... the issue is we just don't quite have enough to adequately balance with the tenor/bass sections, especially when someone is ill or is traveling.

The current soprano/alto singers have to work harder to help keep us in balance and we need to have the tenors and basses hold back to help the four parts balance. IF you might be able to sing with us, it would certainly help out the current soprano/alto sections. We know at the end of March we will be losing another great alto, who is moving to the sunny/warmer climate of South Carolina! Please prayerfully consider if this is the time you might offer **your** musical gifts here at OPC. If you have questions, **please contact Michael Frank at the church office 412-828-5770 x206 or via email mfrank@oakmontpreby.org**

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Congregational survey last month! Brian Wallace from Pittsburgh Presbytery will be interpreting the results of the Survey and present those results to the Session on April 11th. Subsequently, the congregation will be invited to a joint CAT Scan and Interim Team town hall type meeting **April 16th following the 11:00 worship service**, to participate in an open discussion addressing the

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.



DEACON HIGHLIGHT - CHRIS HUDACK

Oakmont Presbyterian Church is fortunate to have Christopher Hudack, a very active church member who says he loves being involved, serving, and helping others. He is a dedicated Deacon who previously served a six year term during which he was a moderator and is currently filling in for a two year term. Chris is also working diligently with the Interim Pastor Search Committee to help lead our church into the future.

Born and raised in North Huntingdon, PA, Chris graduated from Norwin High School. While attending West Penn Nursing School, he met the love of his life, Wendy. Together they graduated with four-year nursing degrees, and they married in 1997. Chris and Wendy moved to Oakmont in 1999 and began an earnest search for their church home. As they attended OP, listened to Steve Wilson's sermons, and got to know Steve as a warm and caring pastor, they knew they had found their church family.

Chris and Wendy are blessed parents with two amazing children, Christoph and Hannah. Following in his parents' career path, Christoph, age 22, will soon graduate from Pitt with a nursing degree. Fourteen-year-old Hannah is a busy eighth grader at Riverview, an accomplished violinist, a soccer player, and a cast member in Riverview's spring musical. The family is complete with Harley, their black German Shepherd. Chris is employed as a nurse practitioner at the Veteran's Administration in Oakland, and Wendy is a nurse practitioner for Pittsburgh City Schools. When they have free time, the family enjoys riding bikes, skiing and seeing the sights of America. Because Hannah is a Harry Potter enthusiast, the family is considering a trip to London sometime soon! For the past thirty years, Chris also has spent many hours refereeing soccer at all levels.

Philippians 4:4-6 is one of Chris's favorite Bible verses: May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: Rejoice! Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking Him with a thankful heart.

Christopher Hudack is certainly an asset to our church and to the Oakmont community!

From Ronnie...

What a season of introspective Lent it has been, and ending it with a celebration of our Risen Savior as a church family is the greatest gift of all. I love seeing the Lord move in all different ways within this community. I see the hearts of people who constantly show up to serve and preach The Gospel with their life and being.

As warmer weather approaches, I am reminded of our spring and summer programming. We are nearing the end of Children's Choir for the school year (and what a blessing this has been), and we pause our education programs for a moment.... but I want to remind you it does not stop there. We will begin praying for the kids that will be in our church for Vacation Bible School and other programs. We will begin to form teams to staff them. We can praise the Lord for answered prayers and what is still yet to come. I invite you to pray with me, and to consider where God is leading you to participate in the life of this congregation. True life change is happening within our children and youth, and all our members. We truly have a front row seat to God's power at work.

Confirmation Class (grades 7-12) Classes are **April 23, 30, May 7, 28 at Noon. Youth will be joining OPC on June 4.** Contact Ronnie Bailey (r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org) with questions.

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

From the desk of Steve Crocco...

Since last fall, a small but steady group of people have accompanied me in a weekly Bible study of the book of Revelation. At the rate we are going, the study will end before Easter. By that time, the faithful attenders will know all the secrets of the book that will impact our lives going forward. Those secrets in biblical prophecy include the roles of the Knights Templars, China, the recent discovery of Noah's Ark, and Lee Harvey Oswald. I am kidding. None of those things play a role as far as I can tell. Our study began by looking at the letters to the churches in the early part of the book. The letters found something good to say about the churches and they were usually critical too. We spent a few weeks wondering what a letter to the church in Oakmont might look like. When we got to the "good stuff" in the book we discovered that John's vision of the future was deeply influenced by what had happened in Israel's past. Revelation also tries to account for the Christian martyrs and God's promise to vindicate them. In John's day, Babylon the Great was probably a reference to Rome. But every era has its own version of Babylon or Rome—an empire that demanded obedience and offered wealth and pleasure in exchange. John's vision contains a graphic picture of the defeat of the Babylon in his day and, by extension, the Babylons of other days, down to and including our own. With the defeat of each Babylon, the coming of the new heaven and the near earth become more real.

Celebration Updates for 2023

You've seen these dates for upcoming events in newsletters and bulletins honoring and celebrating the August retirement of Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson. In case you haven't yet written them in your calendar, here they are again!

June 11: **Potluck Luncheon** at OPC after the 10:00 am worship service.

July 14: **Celebratory Dinner** at Veltre's - invitations to be mailed in mid-May.

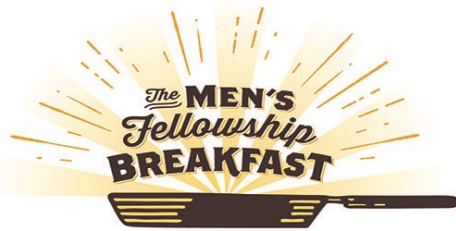
August 13: **Final Worship with Steve and Reception** following the 10 a.m. service.

Volunteers will be needed for the events above. Contact Nancy Sloan to offer your assistance or ideas.

Some original members of OPC have met and shared stories/memories. We are still eager to hear from who were not able to attend. You can email stories and/or memories to Sherry Geis.

Direct any questions to any member of the committee:

Chris Little	christinehlittle@gmail.com	or 412-721-5955
Kathy Bowser	greta03@verizon.net	or 412-828-8409
Lin Ewing	ljewing8012@aol.com	or 412-600-9259
Nancy Sloan	nancy.oakmont@gmail.com	or 941-780-4342
Sherry Geis	geisherry@gmail.com	or 724-443-5447



Men's Breakfast & Speaker April 4th - 8:30 am in the Dining Room

Please join us for a hearty breakfast! Our speaker will be Ken Hall. Ken worked for most of his career training executives and managers at PPG in skillful leadership.

Ken is a dedicated Christian. His topic will be *Managing Interpersonal Conflict*.

All are welcome! Bring a friend!

OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

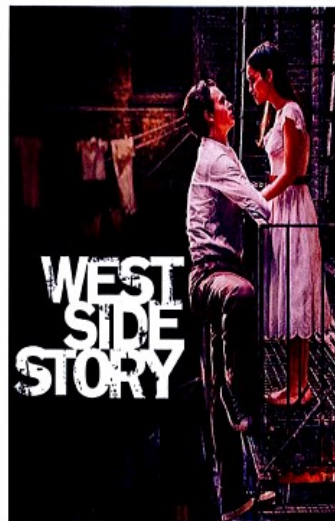


FALL
FILM SERIES
2022

You Are Invited

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

APR 14 *West Side Story (2021)*
An adaptation of the 1957 musical, explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds.



APR 28 *Emperor (2020)*
Emperor is inspired by the legend of Shields "Emperor" Green, a descendant of African kings turned outlaw slave in the pre-Civil War South. Seeking freedom for his family, Emperor fights his way north, joining the daring raid on Harper's Ferry and helping to alter the course of American history.



EASTER CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

All are welcome to join us at Oakmont Presbyterian Church for a community Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt! There will be activities, snacks, and a bunch of eggs to search for (In case of rain we will have the hunt downstairs in the church). It will be a great time!

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Steve Crocco, preaching

Palm Sunday Processional led by Children of OPC (11:00 am)

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, Riverside Community Church

Steve Wilson, Guest Preacher

7:40 pm - *Prelude for Good Friday* (organ) at OPC

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 at 11:00 am:

Chancel Choir, Brass, percussion and organ

Invite a friend or neighbor to join us!

Soups On met March 16 and made Lentil Sausage Soup, Minestrone Soup, and Cheesy Corn Chowder which are available in the downstairs freezer for a loved one or neighbor who needs a cup of cheer! **April 20 at 10am – next soup making event.**

Deacons are collecting nearly new sweatpants. *Phyllis*, our “donation attendant”, will be accepting contributions at the top of the stairs, 5th Street entrance.

Food Donations - The Deacons thank you for your continued support and donations to the food banks at RCAC and Verona Methodist Church. This supports many families in our community. Please continue to place donations in the shopping carts or drop off financial donations to the office or in the collection plate. Any questions, please contact Judy Murray 724-816-7561.

HANDBELL CHOIR UPDATE ... submitted by Bert Erickson



The bell choir continues to provide music at our worship services and special events – Carol Walk and Jubilant Praise concert – but it has been a challenging year. Since we have not recovered from the loss of ringers as a result of the pandemic, I have again returned to ringing so that I could cover two vacant positions. A huge thank you to the ringers and especially to Michael Frank, who continued to direct the handbell choir this past year as I was needed behind the table!

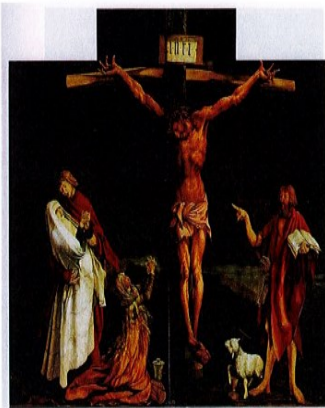
We're at a critical juncture and I honestly don't know what the future holds for the bell choir. The lower bass and upper treble bells, as well as the lower bass chimes and orchestral chimes, remain unused as we don't have enough ringers to utilize them. Our group is aging, with nearly half of the ringers over 70 years of age and many in their 60's, so recruitment remains a major issue and concern.

Rehearsals next year will be moved to Wednesday evenings in the hope that we may be able attract new ringers. In the meantime, I will remain hopeful that members of our congregation will prayerfully consider joining us so that we're able to continue sharing our handbell ministry for years to come.

Grünewald's Vision of Christ

In His "Crucifixion"

Matthias Grünewald, as part of a larger sixteenth-century work, the *Isenheim Altarpiece*, painted one of the most moving renderings of the crucifixion of Jesus. His work offers deep insights into the meaning of Christ's sacrifice. It is a good way to celebrate Palm Sunday and understand why Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding a donkey and hailed as the Messiah, the King of the Jews.



"Coffee and Conversation"

Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 2

9:30 – 10:30 am

with Dr. James Davison

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

Exploring the Parables of Jesus



Dr. Angela Hancock

"Coffee and Conversation"

Oakmont Presbyterian
Church

Three Sundays in

April and May

9:30 – 10:30 am

Angela writes about this series: "Jesus came teaching in parables, but parables teach by confounding our expectations. We will dig into some mysterious and messy parables, asking not only *what* they mean for our lives today, but *how* they mean."

April 23 *"Something Hidden" and "A Seed Growing Secretly"*

April 30 *"The Sleepy Bridesmaids"*

May 7 *"The Wrong Outfit"*

The Rev. Dr. Dienhart Hancock is associate professor of homiletics and dean of the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and has served churches in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Tennessee. She is married to PC (U.S.A.) pastor Trent Hancock, and has two young adult children.

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

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	LENT 5 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12) 4:00pm 38th Annual Sponsorship Concert (PCPC)	27 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPPR)	28 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	29 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 6:30pm Lenten Supper (DR) 7:15pm LENTEN WORSHIP	30 11:00am Bible Study (SGR) 12:30pm Session Team and Ronnie (JTB) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	31 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPPR)	1 10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MBC) 11:00am Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt 8:00pm AA's (DR)
2	PALM SUNDAY 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPPR) 9:30am Trustees (LIR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP & PROCESSIONAL (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12)	3 MODAY OR HOLY WEEK 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPPR)	4 TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 8:30am Men's Breakfast & Speaker (DR)	5 WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR)	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANC) 8:00pm NAs (DR) 8:05pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 GOOD FRIDAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLASSES AT NOON 12:00pm Community Good Friday Service (Riverstone Comm Church) 7:40pm PRELUDE FOR GOOD FRIDAY (organ) 8:00pm SERVICE OF TENNIBRAE	8 8:00pm AA's (DR)
9	RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER DAY 7:00pm Sunrise Service - Oakmont Country Club 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am EASTER WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	10 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPPR)	11 12:00pm Staff (SKR) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)	12 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	13 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	14 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPPR)	15 MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 8:00pm AA's (DR)
16	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	17 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPPR)	18 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	19 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	20 10:00am Soups On (KITCIEN) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	21	22 8:00pm AA's (DR)
23	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12)	24 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPPR)	25 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	26 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	27 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	28 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPPR)	29 8:00pm AA's (DR)
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Save the Date!

The 23rd Annual Jubilant Praise Concert
Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Theme: *Sing Out My Soul*

Oakmont Presbyterian Church
415 Pennsylvania Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

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