

JUNE / JULY 2023

OAKNOTES



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



Beloved in Christ,

The upcoming pastoral transition has led me to think about the last 30 years at Oakmont Presbyterian Church. There have been many blessings (which I will mention in worship) and more than a few challenges as well including: whether to merge, whether to install an elevator, how to respond to years with financial shortfalls, and when to expand or reduce staff. Some people issues have challenged us. Some issues have focused on the direction of the church – such as our decision to renovate our organ. Challenges whether minor or monumental weigh upon pastors, elders and members alike.

I am grateful that at OPC we have faced challenges *together*. Session has been and continues to be a group in which elders and pastors may express their ideas with conviction. We respect one another and understand that moving forward faithfully requires that we think and pray together through issues. Each person's input is essential to reach a healthy resolution.

Perhaps it is no secret that over the years church members have personally shared their convictions with me. Sometimes their sharing has risen out of concern for the health of the church. Other times, they have shared out of personal interest. What has mattered is that they have been willing to be honest with me. I have done my best to listen so that I may understand their point of view and then allow it to be a part of the wider church "conversation". Members' willingness to share honestly their thoughts and concerns have enabled me to understand issues more fully and, at times, to help leaders to be informed of lesser-known perspectives.

I have also been blessed by multiple members who have embraced a ministry of support for their pastor. Again, honesty-with-respect has characterized those relationships and conversations. At times, those "ministers to the pastor" have kept me from making mistakes. Other times, they've helped me see another side of issues. Always, their care has been an encouragement without which ministry would have been a pressing burden.

Another lesson I've learned in working with leaders and members is that the faithful and healthy resolution of issues is often hidden at the start. Only through conversations and prayer over time have healthy and faithful resolutions become clear. While some issues demand immediate and decisive action, the majority of the challenges have required thoughtful, prayerful deliberation over time.

Our church has benefitted from the resources of an excellent Presbytery staff. Our General Minister came and spoke to us about divisive theological issues. Our Stated Clerk has advised Session and me on prudent procedures. Our Associate Minister from the Presbytery has supported our staff and has helped us to see how many of our issues are present in and challenging to other churches.

Lastly, we have benefitted from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty. Not only have they led adult education seminars and preached in worship, they have offered their expertise in matters theological and programmatic.

While a congregation (and their pastor!) might wish for a challenge-free future, the real gift has been God's Spirit working through our speaking, listening and praying together.

Yours in Christ,

Steve



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: June 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30



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

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.



JUNE

I am so excited to spend this summer serving our kids, youth, and congregation at OPC. I ask you to be in prayer for us during summer programming, Vacation Bible School, and our Mission Trip we will be on for a week. I ask that you pray for the volunteers-- all of those who are giving their time to speak into young people. Pray for the families that will enter our church, maybe even for the first time. That those families would feel the love we have for them and our community—and that they are all welcome and safe in this space. I ask that you also pray that the students and families will experience Jesus. That is what keeps us going throughout the week.

I pray that you will ask, “How is God calling me to be apart of this?” As Ms. Laura Crawford reminded me this spring... we can all build up the church in some way. We all have gifts and talents that the Lord uses for His glory. We can all be faithful in the smallest, seemingly mundane (to us), ways and He uses that to bless others. He also uses that to remind us of His presence always in our lives.

Our young people are pouring their hearts out to the Lord and truly learning what it means to follow Him with everything they have. It is a privilege to be a part of this and to get a front row seat to their growth. Oh.... The more they will learn, the more they will grow, and the closer they will get to Jesus.

JULY

There has been a recurring theme in my life that God always brings me back to in transition or overwhelming seasons. It is the truth we find in Philippians 1:6, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”

The work that God started at OPC, He will finish. The work God started in our young people; He will see through. Not that we started... but that which God started. I believe now more than ever that there has been a good work started in our church and carried on through generations. It will not stop with us—the legacy will only get stronger.

I recall reading this verse after transferring from a college I thought I would graduate from. I also recall writing my seminary admissions essay on this verse. Fast forward, I will be preparing to start classes next month.

I am excited for all the transitions coming. I am excited for all the new things we will have to celebrate with each other. In this season, I'm excited to notice even more ways God has worked things out for us. I am so confident in

Ronnie

By the time you are reading this, a decision will have been made about whether to continue a Bible study into the spring or summer months. That people at OPC continue to be interested speaks to their strong desire to study Scripture. I am not sure that last year's Bible study on the book of Revelation answered everyone's questions, but it did give us all a better understanding of this important book in the Bible.

I am sorry to see Coffee & Conversation end during the summer months. It's been a great year! One of the high points this spring was a session that featured four retired pastors talking about what OPC could expect in the coming pastoral transition. Debbie Blair, Cliff Buell, Lou Mitchell, and Lee Nichols offered a few remarks and then answered questions. It was a lively conversation! More than once, the word “grieving” came up as something the church could expect to go through as Steve Wilson retires after thirty years at OPC. It was not the first time I heard the word “grieving” in this context and I am sure it won't be the last.

There are different forms of grieving and people grieve differently. I think most of us will go through some form of grieving at Steve's departure. I'll grieve the loss of a colleague who taught me much about ministry in the year and a half I've been here. We'll all have a chance to think about Steve's impact over the next few months and the losses we feel.

Rather than think about grief as one would grieve over a death, it may be helpful to think about the grief people experienced with the retirement of Steeler QB Ben Roethlisberger at the end of the 2021 season. My three sons have never known another QB. Their sense of loss was real, but their grief was mitigated by three things. The first was gratitude to Big Ben for years of extraordinary football. The second was a respect for his desire to retire. The third was hopeful anticipation about the future.

In Steve Wilson, we have a future hall-of-fame pastor. Let's grieve as we need to, but let our grief be mitigated first by gratitude for his years of extraordinary service. Second, by respecting his desire to retire. And third, by hopeful anticipation about the future of OPC with a pastor who we trust will one day join Steve in the Hall of Fame.

Steve Crocco, Associate Pastor

The **Presbyterian Women's annual covered dish luncheon will be on Wednesday, June 7 at 12:30 in the Dining Room.** All women in the church are invited to attend. The Church staff is invited to attend. This will be our farewell luncheon with Steve.

Graduates – If you know of OPC graduates from High School or College, please call the church office (412.828.5770) to inform us.

Per Capita - Each year our church is assigned an amount to pay per member that covers the administrative costs and programs of our Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly. In 2023 that amount is \$35.70 *per active member*. Each year we receive contributions toward their per capita from about one-half of our members and make up the other one-half from general contributions. So far this year we have received \$5,235 from 140 of our 400 members. If you have not paid your per capita amount, it would help if you could. If you have questions, please contact Marge Kuhn, at the church office (412.828.5770).

Prayer Requests - Members of our church will pray for you and anyone in need. Please send prayer requests to: prayers@oakmontpresby.org or contact Carol Heimerich at 412.242.1028.

Soups are available in the downstairs freezer for a loved one or neighbor who needs a cup of cheer!

OPC Film Series - Join us at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Brochures are available in the vestibules. Elevator door entrance opens at 6:15 pm.

June 2 - *Operation Seawolf*

June 9 – *All Saints*

Deacons - Food Donations - Thank you for your donations to the food banks at RCAC and Verona Methodist Church supporting families in our community. Please continue to place donations in the shopping carts or drop off financial donations to the office/collection plate. Questions – contact Judy Murray at 724-816-7561.

The Interim Pastor Search Committee - May/June will be spent reviewing/interviewing candidates. We plan to have a commitment in July with a start date in September. The Committee - Nick Kokales and Sally Huber-Lewis (co-chairs), Christine Little, Jim Kinter, Chris Hudak and Dave Geis. Feel free to ask questions. Keep them in your prayers.

Youth Group will resume regularly in Fall 2023. Youth will be going on a mission trip to Seth, WV **June 10-16th**. Youth are encouraged to serve in Vacation Bible School at the end of June.

Mark your Calendars! Ready, Set, Move **VBS will take place June 26-30th 5:30-8:00pm**. Register online or to volunteer at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/opc23>



Sing with *The Summer Choir* We welcome singers of all ages to join The Summer Choir on **June 11, 18, 25**. Sing one week or two or all three, depending on your schedule. All you need to do is attend the rehearsal at 9:00am, in the choir room and then sing in worship at 10:00am. The music selected is easy enough to learn that morning or it may be picked up the Wednesday before.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION UPDATES

Celebratory Dinner at Veltre's Friday, July 14th 6 pm

Please send your reservations as quickly as possible as space is limited to the first 200 guests. A wait list will be established once we reach our attendance limit. We are not assigning seats so we ask that you fill your table of 8 when you arrive. We look forward to a wonderful evening.

If you have transportation needs, please call Christine Little 412-721-5955.

Collection of Cards and Letters

Steve has said the gift he would like most as he retires is an album of cards and expressions from those whom he has served. This is our opportunity to express our thanks to him with an everlasting gift.

Items to be included in the album should be sent by **June 15** to Sherry Geis or placed in the designated box in the church office. Please keep size to "8 ½ by 11" or smaller.

You can also mail them to Sherry Geis, 6006 Cunningham RD, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Final Worship with Steve and Reception, Sunday August 13th 10 am

We will have a reception in the Dining Room following the worship service with light refreshments and final celebration. Many hands are needed to prepare, set up and help before and after the reception.

Please call or email Diane Harrell to volunteer: 412-828-1147 or Dianelee123@aol.com



Strawberry Festival & Potluck Lunch

Enjoy a casual picnic-style lunch as we share "stories" of our favorite times with Steve.

Sunday, June 11

In the church dining room after 10 a.m. worship.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please sign up in the 5th Street vestibule on Sundays in May.

Ham barbeque sandwiches and strawberry shortcake will be provided.

Last names A to F please bring cookies.

Last names G to Z please bring a side dish.



JUNE

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	TRINITY SUNDAY 8:30am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANC) 9:30am Trustees (LIB) 10:00am WORSHIP/COMMUNION/CONFIRMANDS (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 11:00am Confirmation Reception (FH)	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	YOUTH MISSION TRIP (WV) 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:00am Summer Choir (CR) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 11:00am Strawberry Festival & Potluck Lunch (DR)	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	FATHER'S DAY 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:00am Summer Choir (CR) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Rock Baptism Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:00am Summer Choir (CR) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 11:15am VBS Decorating	26	27	28	29	30	
	29				1	2	3
					7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPPR)	10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPPR) 8:00pm AAs (DR)
	12:00pm AAs (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPPR & DR)	12:00pm Staff (SGR)	10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:30pm PW Women's Picnic (DR)	8:00pm NAs (DR)	7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPPR)	YOUTH MISSION TRIP (WV) 8:00pm AAs (DR)	
	YOUTH MISSION TRIP (WV) 12:00pm AAs (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPPR & DR)	YOUTH MISSION TRIP (WV) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)	YOUTH MISSION TRIP (WV) 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	YOUTH MISSION TRIP (WV) 10:00am Soups On (KITCHEN) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	YOUTH MISSION TRIP (WV)	YOUTH MISSION TRIP (WV)	
	12:00pm AAs (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPPR & DR)	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (5:30-8pm) 12:00pm AAs (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPPR & DR)	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (5:30-8pm) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (5:30-8pm) 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (5:30-8pm) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (5:30-8pm)	

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Trustees (LIB) 10:00am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>3 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)</p>	<p>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>5 10:00am Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>6 8:00pm NA's (DR)</p>	<p>7 6:00pm S. Wilson Celebratory Dinner, Velvet's (RSVP REQUIRED)</p>	<p>8 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>9 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am WORSHIP/COMMUNION (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>10 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)</p>	<p>11 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)</p>	<p>12 10:00am Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>13 8:00pm NA's (DR)</p>	<p>14 6:00pm S. Wilson Celebratory Dinner, Velvet's (RSVP REQUIRED)</p>	<p>15 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>16 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>17 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)</p>	<p>18 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)</p>	<p>19 10:00am Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>20 10:00am Soups On (KITCHEN) 8:00pm NA's (DR)</p>	<p>21 6:00pm S. Wilson Celebratory Dinner, Velvet's (RSVP REQUIRED)</p>	<p>22 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>23 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>24 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)</p>	<p>25 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)</p>	<p>26 10:00am Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>27 8:00pm NA's (DR)</p>	<p>28 6:00pm S. Wilson Celebratory Dinner, Velvet's (RSVP REQUIRED)</p>	<p>29 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>30 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>31 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)</p>					



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