

AUGUST 2023

OAKNOTES



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



Beloved in Christ

What wonderful celebrations you all planned and what a joy they have been for me and my family. I will remember the gentle roasts at the luncheon and the kind affirmations and tributes at the dinner. I will long remember your farewells. Taken together they feel like a warm and loving congregational embrace. Thank you all!

How blessed I have been to serve you! It is hard to capture in words all that this moment means to me including my love for you and for this church.

My attempt to say what I want to say will come in two final “sermons”: a dramatic retirement sermon on Sunday, August 6th (8:15 and 10:00 a.m.) and a final sermon on August 13th (10:00 a.m. only, no 8:30 a.m. service that day).

Reflecting on my years in ministry and this moment of approaching retirement, I wrote this simple poem.

Yours in Christ,
Steve

My God-given Task

I remember the conversation, but not the place.
I remember what was said, but not my face.
“Go into ministry?” he asked.
Was that for me my God-giv’n task?

My friend, a doctor of religion
Got my attention.
I began to consider it
“Did this soulful shoe fit?”

My presbytery made no lurch
“Get active first” they said, “in local church.”
To Baptists and Presbyterians—a federated assembly
I offered and led a simple Bible study.

Encouraged on, which seminary would be best
For this young man leaving the mid-west?
To Princeton I eventually went
To learn and grow and, one day, be sent.

Mountain Top Larger Parish
A people I grew to cherish
Called me to follow a saint and undertake
Leading the faithful people in his wake.

Six years later to a new home I tell
where my family and I would dwell.
Oakmont was my new call
Where I’ve been blest to serve, 35 years in all.

No pillar of cloud by day
Nor fire to guide my darkened way.¹
Still, the good Lord has guided
And in all ways always provided.

At Christmas I will write my friend
To say this ministry has come to end.
Again, I wonder and ask
What now, Lord, be my God-giv’n task?

¹ See Exodus 13:21

CONFIRMANDS—Joined June 4

Adam Adzima
Addy Bursick
Sophia Leasure
Ryland Ogradowski
Drew Ogradowski

New Member—Joined June 11

Marlee Fritz

Baptisms —July 9

Jake Thomas Brennan, born March 3, 2023
Harrison Osborne, born August 20, 2021
Henry Osborne, born November 29, 2016

**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



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: August 20, 27; September 10, 17, 24

**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 requests to: prayers@oakmontpresby.org

MEMORIAL AND GIFT COMMITTEE

In the second quarter of 2023 OPC received donations in memory of Mary Moore and Richard Jones. Thanks to the donation by Craig and Sharon Dimon there is a new leaf on the Memorial and Gift Tree in honor of Dr. Steve Wilson.

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

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THANK YOU to Dan McNally and the Trustees for the new water fountain with capacity to fill water bottles. You will find the new water fountain/bottle filler across from the Small Group Room on the main floor.



June 7—PW Picnic Luncheon, staff invited

Delicious picnic lunch along with honoring Steve's dedication to the PW women and his retirement.





June 13 – Key Bank Neighbor’s Day!

Key Bank, Oakmont Branch: Alex Havran, Tracey Messenger, and Natalie Gelpi,

Thank you for helping clean at OPC!

FROM THE RETIREMENT CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

It is with mixed emotions that we enter the month of August, for we know these are the last few weeks with Steve as our Senior Pastor and thus we are sad. However, knowing he will be able to begin his well-deserved retirement journey, we are glad for him. We pray he will be blessed in his retirement as we have been blessed by his presence and leadership here at OPC.

There is still a short period of time to submit cards, letters, and celebration gifts for those of you who have not yet done so. There is a box in the church office for these items. **Please get these in by August 6.** If you have questions, contact Sherry Geis at 412-719-1582.

Steve’s last worship service at Oakmont Presbyterian Church will be Aug. 13 at 10:00 AM. A reception will follow the service in the Dining Room. All are welcome. Please plan to arrive early as we expect more attendees than usual.

Keep Steve in your prayers as he makes this transition.

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

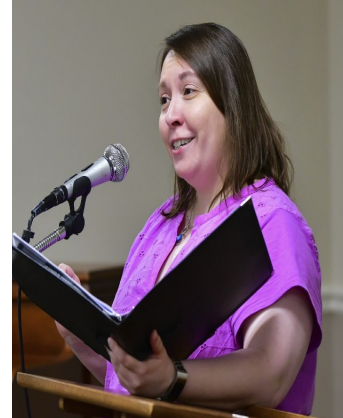
Deacons - Food Donations - Thank you for your donations to the food banks at RCAC and Verona Methodist Church supporting families in our community. Please continue to place donations in the shopping carts or drop off financial donations to the office/collection plate. Questions – contact Judy Murray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

The Interim Pastor Search Committee - 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 Hudack and Dave Geis. Feel free to ask questions. Keep them in your prayers.

Julie McKenzie is executing a lending library book drive this summer and will **be collecting books ranging from Preschool to 4th grade**. She would greatly appreciate it if you could donate new or gently used books. These books will be donated to the Penn Hills library and Oakmont library. There will be a box in each vestibule.

Chrismon Project - The Worship Arts Team is planning a project to replace the aging Chrismons that are used on the tree in Friendship Hall. Unfortunately, our current Chrismons, which are made of styrofoam and are at least 30 years old, have become brittle and many are no longer usable. The new Chrismon’s will be made using counted cross stitch. We will be looking for "stitchers" to help with this project. If you would be interested in helping with this project or know someone who would like to help, more information will be available in the next newsletter. Kits will be available in September so the Chrismon’s can be completed in time for use this coming Advent. Thank you in advance for your help.

Steve's Retirement Potluck Luncheon & Strawberry Festival
Sunday, June 11



August Newsletter Article- Ronnie

This summer has been filled doing the work of the Lord, and oh it has been so joyful. Our 7th-10th graders went on a mission trip to Seth, West Virginia from June 10th-June 16th. We partnered with another youth group and served those in the community. I know it was an impactful experience for those who went, and some of them are even planning to meet up with the other youth group again in August (building awesome friendships). We also hosted Vacation Bible School in June and it was another success. We had even more children this year eager to learn about the Gospel. I was honored to teach the Bible class this year, and I was so happy to see the kids light up about the things they were learning. We are excited to carry this energy into the fall— as there is still more work to be done. Colossians 3:23-24. Thank you to all the volunteers and those who continually commit themselves to serve our kids. I can't begin to imagine your reward.



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	8:30am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANC) 9:30am Trustees (LIB) 10:00am WORSHIP/COMMUNION (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	7 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	8 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)	9 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	10 8:00pm NA's (DR)	11 10:00am Refugee Meeting (SGR)	12 8:00pm AA's (DR)
13	10:00am Wilson Final WORSHIP SVC (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 11:00am Reception (DR)	14 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	15	16 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	17 8:00pm NA's (DR)	18 10:00am Refugee Meeting (SGR)	19 8:00pm AA's (DR)
20	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	21 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	22 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	23 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	24 8:00pm NA's (DR)	25	26 8:00pm AA's (DR)
27	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	28 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	29	30 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	31 8:00pm NA's (DR)		

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 13 - 10:00 am, Steve Wilson's final worship service at OPC.
Reception will follow in the Dining Room (lower level).
Please note - only ONE Service of Worship on August 13.



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