

SEPTEMBER 2023

OAKNOTES



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

Friends in Christ,

It's a privilege to serve Oakmont Presbyterian as Temporary Pastor during the time from when Steve retires until the Interim Pastor arrives. The term will begin August 15 and we hope to have the Interim here around October 1. So, hopefully, I will be with you for about six weeks if all goes well. Please be prepared for all not to go well though as the search for a Pastor or an Interim Pastor can be arduous and we want to take the necessary time to find just the right person, the one whom God calls to OPC.

I am contracted for 19 hours a week and expect to be in the church office or making hospital or care facility calls for the better part of three days a week, Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

To reach me you may leave a message at the church on a routine matter. In case of pastoral emergencies do not hesitate to call my cell phone - 412-216-6647. I am faithful in checking email - RevvvLee@gmail.com (Note that 3 "v"s and 2 "e"s)

In his sermon on August 6 Steve reminded us that our calling now is to live with hope and courage in the midst of a time of change. That we will do, and in doing we are confident God will find the way forward for us all.

Blessings this day,

Lee





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: SEPT 10, 17, 24; OCT 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29



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

Member Death

Diane Harrell—August 2

Laura Crawford—August 16



AV Teams/Members Needed to Live Stream Services

Have you wondered how you could become a part of this vital ministry live streaming our late worship services to those not able to attend in person? No advance special knowledge is required as individual/team training sessions will be arranged. Contact Ron Burkert to volunteer at 412-780-0958 or at raburkert@comcast.net

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.

OPC Volunteers – Items that may be **missing from OPC events are tablecloths, aprons and dishtowels**. If you find any of these OPC supplies, please return to the church ASAP. Thank you!

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Robert Lee Nichols, Jr.	Temporary Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco	Associate Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson	Pastor Emeritus
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.



Sisters and Brothers at OPC,

My heart is filled with gratitude for the many ways you have embraced me in departing as you did during my service to the church. You have launched me into this new phase of my life with celebrations, loving words and many hugs. Your expressions of kindness and love at the luncheon, the dinner, the final worship service and reception, in hallway conversations and in your farewell cards have been a wonderful gift that continues to bless me and my family. I am deeply grateful and will forever hold you in my heart. Thank you.

Grace to you all, and

Peace,
Steve W

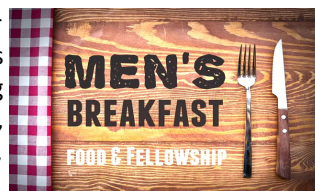


The Worship Arts Team is looking for "stitchers" for the Chrismon project. If you would be interested in helping with this project, or you know of someone who would like to help, please note the information below.

Kits for the Chrismons will be available after the 11:00 church service on Sunday, Sept 17th. A kit will include all materials to make the one Chrismon, instructions, pattern, needle, size 11 Aida cloth, floss, and beads, if that pattern calls for beads. The patterns are not complicated and can be completed easily, even if you are a beginning stitcher or you have not done cross stitch in a while.

There will be baskets by the PA and 5th street entrances for collection of the completed projects. We ask that all completed stitching be returned no later than Sunday, Oct 8th.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship - September 5 at 8:30 am in Dining Room, we begin a new season! Our goal is a good breakfast, a good program after breakfast and an opportunity to make new friends and see old friends. Breakfast is served family style and each month we try to have a stimulating program on a variety of topics dealing with history, economics, health, international affairs, nature, religion, science, local community issues and travel. **September 5**, the program is about the history, tagging and migration of the monarch butterfly.



October 3rd program is on the French and Indian War with emphasis on events that occurred in our local area. If you have never attended before, we encourage you to give it a try! This is open to Oakmont and surrounding communities.

A HEARTFUL OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS

An English proverb, dating back to the 1300's, states "Many hands make light work". Regarding Steve's retirement celebrations, this was very true of the members and friends of OPC. Our team cannot express strongly enough how very thankful we are to all the volunteers and members who so generously gave of their time and talents to help in many, many ways. This was a 10-month project from start to finish!

Our special thanks to:

- Maureen** – For printing, creating labels, sorting mail, fielding tons of telephone calls, keeping secrets, offering advice and maintaining balance in a caring way.
- Marge and Tracy** – For accounting, managing reservations and financial gifts. Always in a loving way.
- Buster** – For lifting, moving and rearranging tables/chairs in the Dining Room and Friendship Hall. Always willing to lend a hand.
- Janine Michaels, Doug Crist, Ron Burkert** – Who chronologically organized, produced and facilitated the history of Steve's photos. They were responsible for the ability to show these photos at the dinner, in Friendship Hall and at Steve's reception.
- Doug Crist** – For taking all the photographs at each event.

We are grateful for those who "toasted" Steve at the June luncheon and those who shared their stories about Steve at the July dinner.

To ALL those men and women who volunteered to transport members, decorate, set-up, clean-up, wash/dry dishes, serve, replace empty trays/beverages and usher we are grateful, that together, we made Steve's departure such a wonderful, moving memory for him. We know he will cherish each event and feel he was appreciated and very much loved!

THANK YOU TO ALL!
Retirement Celebration Team

**Deacons Booth at
Oakmont Street Sale
July 29, 2023**



**OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

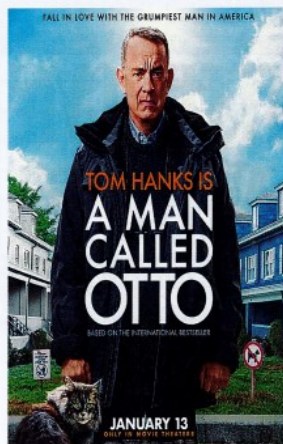


**FALL
FILM SERIES
2023**

SEPT 8 *A Man Called Otto* (2022)

Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

Tom Hanks, Mariana Treviño, and Rachel Keller (PG-13 2h, 6m)



SEPT 22 *80 For Brady* (2023)

A group of friends made it their life-long mission to go to the Super Bowl and meet NFL superstar Tom Brady.

Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno, and Sally Field (PG-13 1h, 38m)

OCT 6 *Little Boy* (2015)

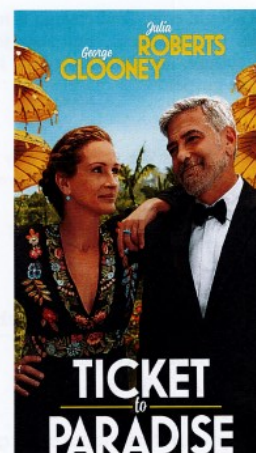
An eight-year-old boy is willing to do whatever it takes to end World War II so he can bring his father home. The story reveals the indescribable love a father has for his little boy and the son has for his father.

Jakob Salvati, Emily Watson, and David Henrie (PG-13 1h, 46m)

OCT 20 *Ticket to Paradise* (2022)

A divorced couple teams up and travels to Bali to stop their daughter from making the same mistake they think they made 25 years ago.

George Clooney, Julia Roberts, and Sean Lynch (PG-13. 1h, 44m)



**OPC Chancel Choir Rehearsals Resume
September 7, 2023**

The Chancel Choir is gearing up to resume weekly rehearsals on Thursday, September 7th at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room (Upper Level of the Education Wing). We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30ish pm. Our first Sunday back to lead in worship will be September 10 on Homecoming Sunday. We are happy to have new singers join us at ANY time of the year - OPC members, visitors, and community members - from Grade 9 and up. We have openings in all 4 parts (SATB), but in particular we need Altos and a few more sopranos! You just need a willingness to learn and develop your voice and a servant's heart to give of your time as you join in an awesome opportunity to lead God's people in Worship. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Michael Frank at 412-828-5770 x206 or via email mfrank@oakmontpresby.org.

Children's Choir will be resuming soon! The Children's Choir, under the leadership of Bev Taylor, will soon be making music again! Rehearsals will be held on Sunday mornings 10:15am – 10:45am in the Children's Choir Room (Upper Level of the Education Wing). ANY children ages 5 and up - from the church and community, are welcome to participate in this group. It is a great way to learn about music, singing, worship leadership, teamwork and sharing one's gifts and talents. Please contact Bev on her cell phone at 412-736-9707 with questions or for more information.

PRAISE THE LORD ... BELLS WILL CONTINUE TO RING!

Our prayers have been answered. The JuBELLation Ringers welcomes OPC members Barb Ayers-Cavendish, Sue Sanford and Debbie Trumble, as well as returning ringer and former OPC member Wendy Heleen. They will be joining Bert Erickson, Bob Erickson, Jim Haleen, Betsey Sellers, Bev Taylor and Hodge Worsham under Michael Frank's continued directorship.

Many thanks to those who have responded to our need ... but there is still room for additional ringers. Just 2 more will enable us to utilize the lower bass octave of bells and chimes, and 4 more will enable Bert to return to directing. If you'd like to join us, please contact Bert Erickson at rkerxn@gmail.com. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday's from 4:00-5:30 pm in the choir room and will resume on Sept. 6. We look forward to sharing our music in worship on Sunday, Oct. 15 at the 11:00 service.

The **Oakmont United Methodist Church** is hosting a concert on **Sunday, September 17 at 3:00 pm** in their sanctuary. All are invited to attend and enjoy Performers' Potpourri. The concert will feature music by Telemann, Malavé, Schubert and Rachmaninoff presented by a variety of musicians: Dr. Edith Humphrey & Faye D'Ippolito, pianists; along with a baritone soloist, a cellist, an oboist and a composer/pianist playing his own works. Donations will be appreciated.
Oakmont United Methodist Church
419 Maryland Avenue, Oakmont

Coming in the October Newsletter, look for information regarding the Chancel choir's commissioning of the anthem, *Lord Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace* by Philip WJ Stopford in recognition and celebration of Steve Wilson's retirement.

Some of you will recall that last spring I led a Bible study on the book of Revelation that met Thursdays at 11:00 AM. It is time to think about what we might do this fall. I'm happy to offer a Bible study on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 11:00 AM (or some other time on those days). I am willing to tackle any book you want: Leviticus? Esther? Ezekiel? Hebrews?

I am also happy to offer a Bible, book, or topical study on Wednesday evenings at 7PM. One of many books worth reading together is N. T. Wright's *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. A topic study could be on subjects like "Spirituality for Presbyterians," "Is Science Our New Religion?" or "The Place of Pilgrimages in the Christian Life." (Anyone interested in going on a pilgrimage?)

These are just some possibilities. I am eager to hear from you.

If you have a topic you'd like to explore, I'll do my best to set up an "independent study" and meet with you occasionally to discuss what you are reading and thinking.

Above all, let me know if you are interested in any of these opportunities so I can begin to make plans. If you prefer another day or time, let me know that too and I'll do my best to accommodate people. Please email me with your thoughts, suggestions, and questions. scrocco@oakmontpresby.org

Regards,
Steve Crocco

C. S. Lewis and Christian Truth



Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sundays

September 17—October 8, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 am

with

Dr. Lou Mitchell

"Coffee and Conversation"

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) is widely considered one of the most effective Christian thinkers of the twentieth century. He used his exceptional literary talents to set out the truth claims of Christianity. From his non-fiction works like *Mere Christianity* to his beloved children's books, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, to his science fiction work, *The Space Trilogy*, Lewis creatively described the Christian faith, defended it from critics, and above all, made clear why Christianity has an enduring appeal in an increasingly secular world.

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|---------------------|--|
| September 17 | <i>C. S. Lewis and his Conversions</i> |
| September 24 | <i>Defending Christianity from its Critics</i> |
| October 1 | <i>Christian Truth through Fantasy Stories for Children</i> |
| October 8 | <i>Christian Truth through Fantasy Stories for Adults</i> |

Dr. Lou Mitchell has been deeply interested in C. S. Lewis for the past forty years. He has a Th.D. from Harvard Divinity School. He is the author of *Jonathan Edwards on the Experience of Beauty*. Dr. Mitchell spent his career as a pastor in several PCUSA churches in the states of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

!!! Come early for coffee and a donut !!!

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	8:30am WORSHIP (SANQ) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANQ) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	28 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPPR & DR)	29 4:00pm Membership Committee (DR)	30 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	31 8:00pm NA's (DR)	1	2 9:45am Choir Rehearsal (SANQ) 11:00am L. Crawford Memorial Svc (SANQ) & Reception (DR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)
3	8:30am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANQ) 10:00am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANQ) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	4 LABOR DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (MPPR)	5 8:30am Men's Breakfast & Speaker (DR) 12:00pm Staff Meeting (SGR)	6 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 4:00pm JEBELLATION Rangers Rehearsal (CR) 6:30pm Lions Club Glass Cleaning (KIT)	7 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	8 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPPR)	9 8:00pm AA's (DR)
10	HOMECOMING SUNDAY 8:30am WORSHIP (SANQ) 9:30am Trustees (LJB) 10:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANQ) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANQ) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:00pm Homecoming Picnic	11 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPPR & DR)	12 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)	13 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 4:00pm JEBELLATION Rangers Rehearsal (CR)	14 10:00am Sauge On (KIT/CHEN) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	15	16 8:00pm AA's (DR)
17	8:30am WORSHIP (SANQ) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANQ) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	18 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPPR & DR)	19 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	20 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 4:00pm JEBELLATION Rangers Rehearsal (CR) 6:30pm Lions Club Glass Cleaning (KIT)	21 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	22 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPPR)	23 8:00pm AA's (DR)
24	8:30am WORSHIP (SANQ) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANQ) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	25 12:00pm AA's (MPPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPPR & DR)	26 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	27 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 4:00pm JEBELLATION Rangers Rehearsal (CR)	28 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	29	30 8:00pm AA's (DR)

Oakmont Presbyterian Church
HOMECOMING PICNIC
Sunday, September 10

**Join your OPC family for food and fellowship
immediately following worship.**

**Bring a dish to share, labeled with the dish name and your name,
to the church dining kitchen before worship.**

Last names A-O bring a dessert.

Last names P-Z bring a side dish.

Main course and beverages will be provided.

RSVP to the church office (412) 828-5770

with the number in your group;

or sign up at worship on August 20 & 27th and September 3.

Oakmont Presbyterian Church
415 Pennsylvania Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

Return Address Service Requested

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