

NOVEMBER 2023

OAKNOTES



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

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, when Rudyard Kipling was one of the more popular writers of his time, it was reported that he received ten shillings for every word he wrote. Some students at Oxford University, less impressed with this success than they should have been, sent Kipling ten shillings with the request that he send them "one of your very best words." He cabled back: "Thanks."

That is one of the best words in any language, and it is worth so much both to the person who speaks it and to the person who hears it. It's why parents teach children early on to say "Thank you". It's why we celebrate Thanksgiving annually. It's why we come to God with our words of thanksgiving, as King David did when he wrote this song: "O give thanks to the Lord call on his name, make known God's deeds among the peoples!" There does seem to be something innate in us that moves us to thank God. Do you remember the beautiful song of thanksgiving in the production of *Godspell*? *All good gifts around us, Are sent from heaven above, Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, For all His love; I really want to thank the Lord.*

So we will gather here at Oakmont Presbyterian on November 19th for a Thanksgiving dinner, and join our voices in giving thanks to God, as is our tradition. It is a privilege and joy to express our thanks together as brother and sisters. When we do so, we should also think about those among us who are in dire and difficult circumstances. It is not easy or automatic for some to be thankful because their life is dark and difficult. Thanksgiving doesn't come easily or naturally when the load you are carrying weighs you down. I am thinking about Alexander Whyte, a Scottish preacher of a century ago. Rev. While always began his prayers with an expression of gratitude. One cold, miserable day his people wondered what he would say. He prayed, "We thank Thee, O Lord, that it is not always like this."

I don't know where you find yourself this Thanksgiving, but I do know that our hope is in the Lord, and we look forward to the future with faith. There is a new kingdom coming; we see the signs of it among us. While we work and wait, let's remember that Jesus' last words to his disciples were these: "I will be with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20). Thank God!



Pastor Tim



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: NOV 5, 12 and 26; DEC 3, 10, 17, and 31



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

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.

Deacons – Baby It’s Cold Outside! The Deacons are collecting **men’s winter coats each Sunday in November**. Bring your donation to the 5th street entrance, Aunt Phyllis is waiting for your donation!

Soups On! - Stop by the OPC Kitchen and pick up a serving or two from the freezer of **White Chicken Chili and Fall Butternut Squash Soup** and take it to a friend, neighbor, or relative who needs a cup of cheer and see your smiling face! The next **Soup’s On will meet on Thursday, November 16 at 10:00 am**.

Coffee and Conversation NOV 5—Dr. Leanna K. Fuller, *Understanding How Family Systems Work at Home and at Church*.

Coffee and Conversation on NOV 12 & 19 - The Adult Education Committee has juggled scheduled topics this fall to devote two Sundays for opportunities to consider recent events in Israel and Gaza. Steve Crocco will offer brief opening remarks each Sunday, leaving the bulk of time for people to share views, ask questions, and engage in discussion. Please see Steve if you have any questions or suggestions for topics to consider.

All Saints Day, Sunday, November 5 – So that we may remember in worship the saints in your lives who have died within the past year, please call the church office (412.828.5770) or email mstecik@oakmontpresby.org with your saints’ names **by noon on Wednesday, NOV 1**. The congregation will be invited to speak additional names they would like to remember during the worship services.

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tim Spring	Interim Pastor
The Rev. Robert Lee Nichols, Jr.	Temporary 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
The Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson	Honorably Retired Pastor Emeritus

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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 collects used eyeglasses and delivers 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.



DEACONS ANGEL TREE 2023



A time-honored tradition at Oakmont Presbyterian Church is the Angel Tree sponsored by the Deacons. Congregants have the opportunity to fulfill a child's wish list this Christmas. Approximately 60 wish lists are provided to us by East End Cooperative Ministry, Riverview Community Action Corporation, and Verona Methodist Church. These are children whose parents have financial hardships, and consequently the children would not have a very special Christmas. **The Angel Tree with ornaments containing a child's age, gender, and wish list will be in the 5th Street entry way on Sunday, November 19.** Select an ornament from the tree, and record your name, ornament number, and phone number on the list provided. A Deacon will be available if you have any questions concerning this process. When your shopping is completed, **bring your gifts, wrapped or unwrapped, packaged together with the numbered ornament and place them by the Angel Tree on or before Sunday, December 3.** Please watch for updates in future bulletins or ask Mary Graham, Judy Murray, Sue Gibbon or Sherri Dimon for more information.

A note from Ronnie...

During this time of transition, I am especially thinking about how much good this church has done over the years. For the surrounding communities, for those beyond, and for each other. I find myself encouraged when I think about these things and have the biggest smile when I think of what the future will hold.

The youth and children in our care have been watching you, church. They know when you invest in them, remember their names, and want to connect with them. I am proud to be a part of a church community that cares so much about the next generation. I am certain of all the good things that will come of that.

I encourage you to continue pressing on to the goal which is ahead of us. Through faith in God, we have a beautiful opportunity to be the light in the world. Do not fear change or what is to come, but just know the same God who worked through this church through the decades is eager to start a new thing. Excited to partner in this work together.



OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



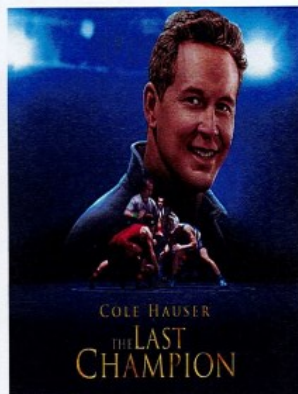
FALL FILM SERIES 2023

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

NOV 3 *The Last Champion* (2020)

When his mother dies, scandal-ridden ex-Olympian wrestler John Wright returns to a hometown that has not forgiven him.

Cole Hauser, Sean H. Scully, and Annika Marks (PG-13 2h, 2m)



NOV 17 *Breaking* (2022)

A marine war veteran faces mental and emotional challenges when he tries to reintegrate into civilian life.

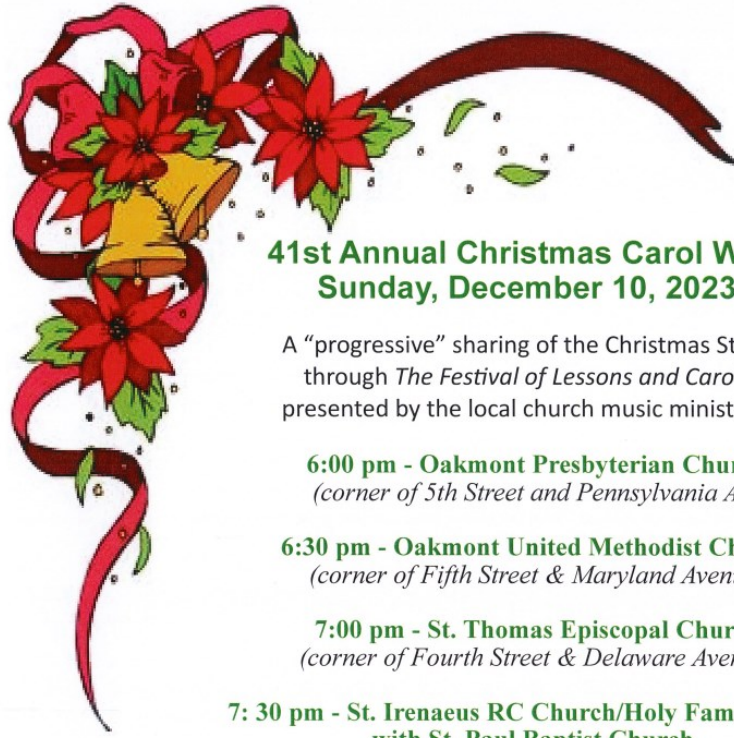
John Boyega, Nicole Beharie, Selenis Leyva, and Michael K. Williams (PG-13 1h, 43m)



Come join us on Tuesday **NOV 7 at 8:30 am in the Dining Room**. Breakfast is served family style at 8:30 so come a few minutes early. Our goal is to provide a good breakfast, an interesting program after the breakfast and an opportunity to make new friends and see old friends.

NOV 7 - Following breakfast will be a presentation by Amy Kowinsky, the Executive Director of Dementia360, a Presbyterian Seniorcare Network program designed to support and educate families caring for people living with dementia at home. Amy's presentation will give an overview of dementia and its effects on people living with it, as well as the profound effects this disease has on family caregivers and the support provided by Dementia360.

DEC 5 - program will focus on "Fellowship". If you have never attended before, I encourage you to give it a try. This is a program open to Oakmont and surrounding communities.



**41st Annual Christmas Carol Walk
Sunday, December 10, 2023**

A "progressive" sharing of the Christmas Story
through *The Festival of Lessons and Carols*
presented by the local church music ministries

6:00 pm - Oakmont Presbyterian Church
(corner of 5th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue)

6:30 pm - Oakmont United Methodist Church
(corner of Fifth Street & Maryland Avenue)

7:00 pm - St. Thomas Episcopal Church
(corner of Fourth Street & Delaware Avenue)

**7:30 pm - St. Irenaeus RC Church/Holy Family Parish
with St. Paul Baptist Church**
(385 Maryland Avenue)

A cookie reception will follow.

All are welcome and bring a friend!

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