

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2023

# OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
412.828.5770  
[www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org)

Dear Friends,

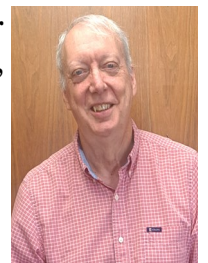
This is my first time writing for the December/January Oaknotes, and I find it a bit of a struggle. There is such a dramatic difference between these two months. December, of course, is festive and meaningful, with many traditions, family gatherings and the church anticipating and celebrating the birth of the Christ child. There are lights everywhere—Christmas lights on homes, Advent candles, and lights that adorn our Christmas tree. Even the atmosphere of December is ‘light’; there are parties and homecomings and carols that speak to the joy of the season (Don’t forget the **Annual Christmas Carol Walk beginning at OPC at 6:00 pm Sunday DEC 10!** Though December 21 is the ‘darkest’ day of the year, it doesn’t feel like it to most of us.

Then comes January. The excitement is over and they are busy cleaning up the confetti in Times Square. If fresh white snow falls in December, in January it looks dull and dirty. The Christmas carols are ancient memories, and the weather report seldom lifts our spirits. January leads to feelings like those expressed by pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber: “At one point in my life, my own depression had felt so present, so much like a character in my life, that it had actually felt right to go ahead and give her a name.”

So what to do with January? Consider these words of Barbara Lemmel in an article titled, “Makeshift Communities”:  
“The last week of January is always a time of celebration in our home: it is the week we get the sun back. Our house is located just to the north of the church. As winter advances and the sun makes its ever more southerly trek from east to west, there inevitably comes a day in late November when it fails to rise above the church roof at all. From that day until the end of January, on even the brightest days, our house stands in perpetual shadow. The irony is not lost on us. At this darkest time of the year, the church blocks the light from our home. We laugh about it every year, partly to keep our sense of humor when we’re so hungry for sunlight we can practically taste it. We also laugh to help ourselves remember that the Light of the World has come.”

Remember the words of Isaiah 60:1-2 throughout the days of December and January. **Join us for worship on these special Sundays, and especially on DEC 24<sup>th</sup> when we will worship at 8:30 am, 11:00 am, 4:30 pm and 10 00 pm.**

*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: DEC 3, 10, and 31; JAN 7, 14, 21 and 28**



**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**



**THANK YOU** from Dixie Anderson and Ann Buechli for your support of the poinsettias in making the sanctuary glorious for Christmas!

**YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions received in the church office by or postmarked ON DEC 31 will be shown on your 2023 statement. Due to Internal Revenue Service regulations, contributions received AFTER DEC 31 must be credited to 2024 contributions.



Presbyterian Women are looking forward to **their Annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, DEC 6 at 12:30 in the Dining Room.** Church staff is invited to the luncheon. PW Women will continue the fourth lesson of their Bible Study, *Sacred Encounters, Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus.*

December/January OPC Youth Schedule

**December** will be an exciting month for OPC! I'm excited to have our children, youth, and families participate in our Family Christmas Eve service, this has always been a fun and engaging service that allows our students to lead others in worship. We will have a fundraiser for youth mission during this service, we will be selling baked goods. Tell family and friends!

- DEC17- Youth Christmas Party 12:30 pm. Watch for details on how to participate! White Elephant Gift Exchange (everyone attending brings a gift!), games and treats.
- DEC 22 or 23—Baking cookies at church for bake sale fundraiser
- DEC 24- Family Christmas Eve Service, Bake-Sale for Youth Mission fundraiser

**To start 2024,** we begin youth group time by participating in “examen practices.” These practices are meant to help us pay close attention to our lives and where God is moving and active. We already participate in a form of this, every other week when we meet, by sharing our “highs and lows” at the beginning of youth group and seeing where we need to pray for each other. Spending time asking each other questions and listening to our lives will help form our community and also our individual relationships with God as we notice what brings us closer to him. I'm confident these spiritual practices and our time spent together will continue forming our community, bringing us closer together, so that we can serve the world and be a light.

*Ronnie*



**ADVENT WORSHIP AT OPC**

8:30 am and 11:00 am (Livestreamed)

*Christmas Through Different Eyes*

<b>DEC 3</b>	<i>Joseph</i>	Tim Spring, preaching
<b>DEC 10</b>	<i>Mary</i>	Tim Spring, preaching
<b>DEC 17</b>	<i>Herod</i>	Steve Crocco, preaching
<b>DEC 24</b>	<i>The Angels</i>	Tim Spring, preaching

**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 Co-operative 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. **Bring your gifts, wrapped or unwrapped, packaged together with the numbered ornament and place them by the Angel Tree on or before Sunday, DEC 3.**

These days I often ask myself and others, *How do you think things are going in the months since Steve Wilson retired?* I am not surprised to hear people say, *They're going well!* I'm not surprised because I've had an inside look at the hard work done by Steve and others to put us in our present enviable position. I've had a chance to work closely with Tim Spring. The phrase, "not missing a beat" comes to my mind.

Worship, committee work, helping with Coffee & Conversation, teaching a Bible study, and writing newsletters are among the things that give shape to my weeks. The fall Bible study on the book of Hebrews will be completed early in the new year. Soon I'll be asking about a new book to study—perhaps something from the Old Testament for the winter/spring.

Before long, OPC will turn its attention to a search for a new called pastor. In preparation, we should pray for the search committee, even before it is formed, and for the right candidate, even before he/she realizes a call may be taking shape.

What else can we do? As I said in a sermon in October, if we are fortunate enough to call a Spirit-filled person who is smart, dynamic, and creative, we must give her or him opportunities to be smart, dynamic, and creative. That means there will be changes ahead. And with change there are inevitably gains and losses. Keep in mind that the best way to prepare for change then is to make small changes now. Let's see what the new year brings!

Steve Crocco, Associate Pastor

## OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**FALL  
FILM SERIES  
2023**

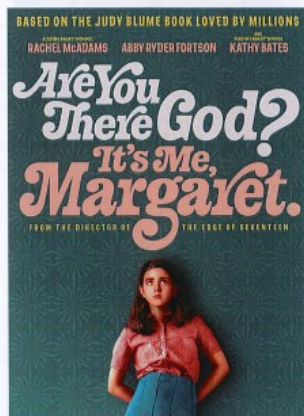
You Are Invited  
Admission is free!  
Everyone is welcome!  
Multi-Purpose Room  
(lower level)  
Every other Friday Night  
at 7:00 pm

DEC 1

### Montford, the Chickasaw Rancher (2021)

A remarkable story inspired by the life of renowned Chickasaw cattleman Montford T. Johnson, a man who overcame great hardships to establish a ranching empire along the famous cattle highway of the American West, the Chisolm Trail.

Martin Sensmeier, Dermot Mulroney, Tommy Flanagan (TV-14 1h, 36m)



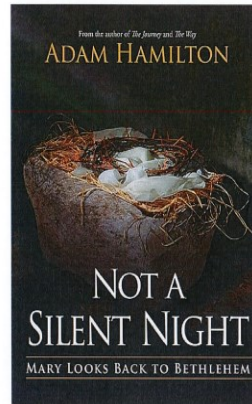
DEC 15

### Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret (2023)

When her family moves from the city to the suburbs, 11-year-old Margaret navigates new friends, feelings and the beginning of adolescence. A great coming of age story.

Abby Ryder Fortson, Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates (PG-13 1h, 46m)

## NOT A SILENT NIGHT Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem



"Coffee and Conversation"  
Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sundays

December 3 - 17, 2023

9:30 - 10:30 am

A video series with

Adam Hamilton

**Adam Hamilton**, nationally known pastor and author, presents this video retelling of Jesus Christ's life, in reverse order. Beginning with the final events, Mary travels back in time through his ministry to the beginning in a stable. This month, experience Advent and Christmas through the eyes of Mary, his mother.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 3  | <i>Beginning with the End</i>   |
| December 10 | <i>The Piercing of Mary's Soul, and Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished</i> |
| December 17 | <i>Mary, Full of Grace, and It Was Not a Silent Night</i>                 |

**Dr. Katherine Williams** is an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. An Oakmont Presbyterian Church member for 30 years, she has four sons and has been doing Advent studies at OPC since 2018.



Come join us on Tuesday **DEC 5 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.

**Dec 5** – the program will focus on *Fellowship*. Lee Nichols will recount a story about the importance of friendship and Dave Geis will then lead an activity to help us get to know a bit more about others in the group.

**Jan 2** – Michael Aleprete, Professor of Political Science at Westminster College will discuss *The Impact of Stalin's legacy on Contemporary Russia*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>16 CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MFR) 9:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 10:00am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>27 10:00am Worship Arts - Christmas Decorating 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #834 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MFR &amp; DR)</p>	<p>28 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)</p>	<p>29 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 11:00am Bible Study (FH) 4:00pm JUBILELATION Bingers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>30 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)</p>	<p>1 Youth Retreat at Camp Creafield 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MFR)</p>	<p>2 Youth Retreat at Camp Creafield 10:00am Officer Training (DR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>1 ADVENT 1 Youth Retreat at Camp Creafield 8:30am WORSHIP &amp; COMMUNION (SANC) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MFR) 9:30am Treaties (LJB) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP &amp; COMMUNION (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 12:00pm Congressional Budget Meeting (SANC)</p>	<p>4 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #834 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MFR &amp; DR)</p>	<p>5 8:30am Men's Breakfast &amp; Speaker (DR) 7:00pm Session (DR)</p>	<p>6 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 11:00am Bible Study (FH) 12:30pm PW Circle Luncheon (DR) 4:00pm JUBILELATION Bingers Rehearsal (SANC)</p>	<p>7 7:30am Organ Tuning (SANC) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)</p>	<p>8 Youth Retreat at Camp Creafield 6:00pm Choir Party (Kshazee)</p>	<p>9 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>10 ADVENT 2 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MFR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 6:00pm CAROL WALK (Singing at OPC)</p>	<p>11 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #834 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MFR &amp; DR)</p>	<p>12 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)</p>	<p>13 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 11:00am Bible Study (FH) 4:00pm JUBILELATION Bingers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>14 10:00am Scope On (GITCHENS) 8:00pm NAs (DR)</p>	<p>15 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MFR) 6:00pm Choir Party (Kshazee)</p>	<p>16 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>17 ADVENT 3 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MFR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Youth Christmas Party 3:00pm Amos Recital (SANC &amp; FH)</p>	<p>18 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #834 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MFR &amp; DR)</p>	<p>19 7:00pm Devotion (DR)</p>	<p>20 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 4:00pm JUBILELATION Bingers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>21 8:00pm NAs (DR)</p>	<p>22 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>23 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>24 ADVENT 4 / CHRISTMAS EVE 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 4:30pm FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 10:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (SGR)</p>	<p>26 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)</p>	<p>27 10:00am Women's AA (DR)</p>	<p>28 8:00pm NAs (DR)</p>	<p>29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>30 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>31 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR'S EVE 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) &amp; Livestream</p>	<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (SGR)</p>	<p>2 8:30am Men's Breakfast &amp; Speaker (DR)</p>	<p>3 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMB) 4:00pm JUBILELATION Bingers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>4 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)</p>	<p>5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>6 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>

**JANUARY 2024**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS / NEW YEARS EVE 8:30am WORSHIP (SANCC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANCC) & Livestream	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (SGR)	2 8:30am Men's Breakfast & Speaker (DR)	3 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 4:00pm JUBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	4 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	5	6 8:00pm AA's (DR)
7	8:30am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANCC) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP & COMMUNION (SANCC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	8 10:00am Worship Arts - Decor Take Down 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	9 10:00am Garden Club of Oakmont (MPR, DR & KITCH) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	10 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 4:00pm JUBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	11 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	12	13 8:00pm AA's (DR)
14	8:30am WORSHIP (SANCC) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANCC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	15 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	16 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	17 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 4:00pm JUBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	18 10:00am Soups On (KITCHEN) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	19 Session Retreat at OPC	20 Session Retreat at OPC 8:00pm AA's (DR)
21	8:30am WORSHIP (SANCC) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANCC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	22 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	23 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	24 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 4:00pm JUBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (SANCC)	25 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	26	27 8:00pm AA's (DR)
28	8:30am WORSHIP (SANCC) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANCC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	29 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	30	31 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 4:00pm JUBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	1 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NA's (DR)	2	3 8:00pm AA's (DR)



**4:30 pm – Family Friendly Worship Service**

The Children's Choir will be leading this service.  
Favorite Christmas Carols will be sung by the congregation.  
Children will be invited to share in the Christmas Story.  
Rev. Dr. Tim Spring will offer a word for the adults

**10:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship Service (Livestreamed)**

Rev. Dr. Tim Spring preaching  
The Chancel Choir will share in the Ministry of Music

*please visit our website at [www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org)*

**CHRISTMASTIDE**

**DEC 31** - 8:30 am and 11:00 am, 1st Sunday of Christmas  
Rev. Debbie Blair, preaching

**JAN 7** - 8:30 am and 11:00 am, Epiphany Sunday and Communion  
Rev. Tim Spring preaching

Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139

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