



Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday
April 21, 2024 at 11:00 am

GATHERING IN FAITH

“Christ’s primary ministry is to the Father for the sake of the world; not to the world for the sake of the Father. This means that the world does not set the agenda for ministry, but the Father, who loves the world and seeks its good, sets this agenda.”
--Ray Anderson, *Theological Foundations for Ministry*, p.8.

Welcome Tim Spring
Please sign, pass and return Friendship Record pads during this time of announcements.

Minute for Mission Diane McKenzie

Trinity Toll *In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Prelude JuBELLation Ringers
Beside Still Waters Howard F. Starks

Call to Worship Tim Spring

*Leader: We come to God, our holy shepherd,
as we come to a green meadow.*

**People: God prepares a place for us,
and we give glory in God’s presence.**

*Leader: How excellent is this dwelling place
under the eyes of God’s care.*

**People: We turn to God in joy.
Our Good Shepherd provides for all our needs.**

*Hymn of Praise *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* *Hymnal, No. 171, Stanzas 1-5*

**The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His and He is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death’s dark vale I fear no ill with Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadest a table in my sight; Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight from Thy pure chalice floweth!**

*Prayer of the Day (please remain standing) Ronnie Bailey

Call to Confession Ronnie Bailey

Prayer of Confession

Often, O Lord, it sounds too hard: to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and lose our lives. Forgive us, for evading the privilege of ministering in Your name and in Your world. We long to meet You one day but we fear the roads we must take to get there.

...time for silent confession

Risen Lord, have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our hesitation. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in Your ways of peace.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still. This is the good news that prevails!

People: In Jesus's life, death, and resurrection we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*Act of Praise

Congregation Singing

**And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Deb Nichols

Psalm Reading

Psalm 23

Pew Bible, OT, page 501

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Time with the Children

Ronnie Bailey

As the children gather

Congregation Singing

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.**

-Thrupp's Hymns for the Young, 1836

As the children go to JAM

Congregation Singing

**Early let us seek Thy favor; early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.**

-Thrupp's Hymns for the Young, 1836

Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18; 21:15-17

Pew Bible, NT, page 103 and 116

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Sheep Feeding and Ministry

Steve Crocco

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Response *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian* using tune: *HYFRYDOL*

**God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead Your people fresh anointing of Your grace;
Send them forth as bold apostles to Your church in every place.**

**Christ our Savior, Sovereign, Shepherd, word made flesh, Love crucified,
Teacher, healer, suffering Servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
In Your tending may all leaders learn and live a Shepherd's care;
Grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.**

**Great Creator, Life-bestower, truth beyond all thoughts recall,
Fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
As You know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts
Oversee her life steadfastly, yet not overlook her faults.**

**Triune God, mysterious Being, undivided and diverse,
Deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
Help us in our varied callings Your full image to proclaim,
That our ministries uniting may give glory to Your name.**

- Carl P. Daw. Jr.

Faith Community Concerns, the Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Tim Spring

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will
be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us
our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us
from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts
Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Steve Crocco

A Choral Offering
Our Shepherding God †

Chancel Choir
Wayne L. Wold

*The God of love is our shepherd –
one who knows all our needs, abundantly feeds, enriches our lives with uncountable deeds.
Thanks be to God for being our shepherd. Praise, give praise to our shepherding God.*

*The God of love sends us shepherds –
Those who, all our lives long, help keep our faith strong,
and coax us to join in the dance and the song.
Praise be to God for sending us shepherds; Praise, give praise to our shepherding God.*

*The God of love makes us shepherds –
from a circle of friends, true caring extends 'til all taste the goodness our Savior intends.
Thanks be to God for making us shepherds; give praise to our shepherding God.*

*O God of love, bless your shepherds –
give them power to preach, and insight to teach, and artistry that will each soul deeply reach.
Thanks be to you for blessing your shepherds. We praise you, our shepherding God.*

*O God of love, bless all shepherds.
–Wayne L. Wold*

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.

In baptism, Deacon – Pam Billett; and Elder – Dave Barr were clothed with Christ and are now called by God through the voice of the church to enter into ministries of service and governance, announcing in word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ.

We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ, and we celebrate God's particular call to our brothers and sisters.

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and Installation

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit...Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, the Session of Oakmont Presbyterian Church now ordains and installs Pam Billett to the office of Deacon and installs Dave Barr to office of Elder calling them to active service.

*Confessing Our Faith (using the Apostles' Creed)

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal and gracious God, we give You thanks... By Your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do Your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

Choral Prayer

Holy Spirit, Lord of Love

Chancel Choir

*Holy Spirit, Lord of love, Who descended from above,
Gifts of blessing to bestow on Your waiting church below,
Once again in love draw near to Your servants gathered here;
From their bright baptismal day You have led them on their way.*

Constitutional Questions for Officers Elect

Do you trust in Jesus Christ Your Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? I do.

*Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.***

*Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.***

*Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.***

*Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.***

*Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.***

*Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.***

*Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.***

To Deacon:

*Will you be a faithful Deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.***

To the Elder:

*Will you be a faithful Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.***

Constitutional Questions for the Congregation

*Do we, the members of the church accept this Deacon and Elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.***

*Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.***

Elders are invited forward for the laying on of hands.

Choral Prayer

Holy Spirit, Lord of Love

Chancel Choir

*When the sacred vow is made, when the hands on them are laid,
Come in this most solemn hour with Your strengthening gift of power.
Give them light Your truth to see; Give them life Your own to be,
Daily power to conquer sin, patient faith the crown to win.*

Prayers of Ordination and Installation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, we give You thanks for Your steadfast faithfulness... For Your servants in every age, O God, and for the church of Jesus Christ, we give You all thanks and praise.

Prayer for Deacon

God of grace, pour out Your Holy Spirit on this Deacon... Give Pam joy in her walk of faith and a sure sense of Your abiding presence for her work of ministry.

Prayer for Elder

God of grace, pour out Your Holy Spirit on this Elder... Give Dave joy in his walk of faith and a sure sense of Your abiding presence for his work of ministry.

Concluding Prayer

Gracious God, through the waters of baptism... Make us strong in Christ to live as Your people and show forth Your saving love in the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Choral Prayer

Prayer for Blessing

Chancel Choir

David Schwoebel

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favor.

Direct us, O Lord, and further us with Thy continual help;

That in all our works begun, that in all our works continued, and ended in Thee,

We may glorify Thy name, and receive everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*—Adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer**

Welcome

Charge

Steve Crocco

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn

God Be with You

using tune: *GOD BE WITH YOU*

**God be with you till we meet again, by His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again, 'neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.**

- Words by Jeremiah E. Rankin

*Charge and Blessing

Steve Crocco

Postlude

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

Organ
tune: *CRIMOND*/arr. Gordon Young

Text for meditation: *Hymnal*, No. 170

WORSHIP NOTES

Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed! During the days of Easter (Eastertide), we remember Christ's rising from the tomb, His post-resurrection appearances, His ascension, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Traditionally on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, often called *Good Shepherd Sunday*, the Lectionary readings (a three-year cycle of Scripture readings used in worship) are about Jesus, The Good Shepherd. This is the most festive period of the church year filled with great joy and renewal. White is the official liturgical color for the season, but accents of gold may also be used to celebrate this joyous and festive time during the Easter season.

The Paschal Candle – represents the risen Christ, who passed from darkness to light, to become *the light* shining in the darkness (John 1:5), and it is the corollary of the pillar of fire in the Hebrew exodus. Traditionally, it is the largest candle used in the church and it stands at a central place. The Paschal Candle is lit throughout the Great Fifty Days (from Easter to Pentecost) and at Baptisms, Funerals or Memorial Services.

† **Our Shepherding God** – Commissioned by the Sanctuary Choir, Beulah Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA in honor of Michael P. Frank, III to celebrate his 10th anniversary as Minister of Worship and Music (May 2004).

Sunday, April 28 – 8:30 am and 11:00 am – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Tim Spring will preach *Am I Included?* based on Acts 8:26-40.

Early Worship at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary – a more intimate service in celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, approximately 45 minutes, with a simple worship order including the sermon and two congregational hymns with piano accompaniment.

Service for The Lord’s Day - at 11:00 am – in the sanctuary. This Festival Celebration of Christ’s Resurrection includes a fuller liturgy, with sermon and congregational hymns. Sharing in the Ministry of Music will be the Chancel Choir with guest cellist, Andy Gero.

JAM stands for “**J**esus **A**nd **M**e” and are our 2 classes for children. Kindergarten through Grade 2 and Grades 3-6. We welcome middle schoolers who want to mentor and build relationships with our younger kids. **JAM** will be held after Children’s Time that takes place during worship. We will have an engaging, fun, children’s sermon. Following that, children will join their classes in the upper level. Contact Ronnie with questions.

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- *The Presbyterian Hymnal – Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion for the Homebound. Please notify the church office if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home.

From the Deacons. Please notify Joan Massack (massack720@verizon.net) if you are aware of students in our church who are graduating from high school or college.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship - join us on Tuesday **May 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. **May 7 – Grace Notes. Riverview High School select girl’s choral group, will return for their annual visit and musical program.**

June 4 – Gary Rogers of the Oakmont Historical Society. will present a talk on *The Homefront, Life in Oakmont During World War II.*

Weekday Bible Study – Bible study **on Wednesdays in Small Group Room at 11am.** Our study will consider the book of Hosea, one of the minor prophets, beginning with Hosea 1:1-2:13.

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.

May 3 – *Critical Thinking* (2020)

May 17 – *The Blind* (2023)

Chancel Flowers – Are you interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary some Sunday to provide beauty to worship? One or two arrangements are welcome each week and can be placed *in memory of loved ones, in celebration of an event or to honor someone*, and all to the Glory of God. **Contact Carla Lowman (412-826-5914) to RSVP your date** with info and wording for the bulletin. **Available dates: APR 28; MAY 5; JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.**

Your OPC Family Cares About You! 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 so we can 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 or contact Carol Heimerich at 412.242.1028.

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 Chris Wilson at 412-779-7024. **For the month of APRIL**, Deacons will be **collecting men's spring and summer clothing**. The bin will be in the 5th Street vestibule. If you need something picked up contact Bobbie Lio 412-310-8807.

Soups On – met APR 18 and made Chicken Noodle, Cream of Carrot and Potato Leek. Stop down at the kitchen freezer and take a container to a friend, neighbor, or relative who needs a cup of cheer and to see your smiling face! Next Soups On will meet **MAY 16**.

Senior Luncheon Celebration: The invitations for the Senior Luncheon on Saturday, June 8, have been sent out. Please look for yours in the mail. This luncheon is for those who are 75 years of age and older. If you are 75 or older and do not receive an invitation, please let us know by calling or emailing Grace McGhee: 412-495-9214 or gmcghee124@gmail.com

The Presbytery has requested OPC to reassemble the **Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC)** endorsed by Session to conduct a Bridge Pastor search. The committee is challenged with maintaining the high quality of pastoral compassion, leadership and care displayed by Pastor Tim during his tenure at OPC. The IPNC has begun the work of sourcing a Bridge Pastor to begin upon Pastor Tim's departure on September 30, 2024. The PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) is also working diligently to source a permanent "Installed Pastor" to begin approximately 04/01/25. Hopefully a quality pastor can be found prior to 6 months going by. However, to ensure no further transitions prior to our Installed Pastor beginning his/her leadership at OPC in April of 2025, we look to have the new Bridge Pastor in place from 10/01/24 - 03/31/25.

IPNC Team - Nick Kokales and Sally Huber-Lewis Co-Chairs, David Geis, Christine Little, Christopher Hudak, Jim Kinter - moderated by Dr. Rev. Edwin Van Driel

Saturday, May 4th, 10am - 2pm Car Wash at OPC! All donations will support the Youth Group's mission trip to Detroit in June.

SAVE THE DATES "Revamped" Vacation Bible School will take place June 10-13. We will meet in the evenings June 10-12, and on June 13 we will spend the day at Camp Crestfield. We are looking forward to having so much fun! Clear the dates as we will need volunteers to pull off yet another successful VBS for the kids! Contact Ronnie with any questions.

From Clare Oskin - thank you to everyone at OPC for your cards and calls. I'm SO appreciative of your prayers and support. Once Clare is back at Highpointe, anyone can visit her anytime! She misses her church and realizes more and more how important it is. Thank you!

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	April 21 – 4th Sunday of Easter / Good Shepherd Sunday
8:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
9:30 am	New Member Gathering (Marie Berg Chapel)
9:30 am	JuBELLation Ringers rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
11:00 am	Worship/Ordination/Installation of Officers (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children's JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)
12:10 pm	Worship Committee (Small Group Room)
3:00 pm	Scouts (Dining Room)
MONDAY	April 22
12:00 pm	AA's (Small Group Room)
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop #854/Cub Pack #137 (Multi-Purpose Room/Dining Room)
TUESDAY	April 23
7:00 pm	Our Journey Without Them (Marie Berg Chapel)
WEDNESDAY	April 24
10:00 am	Women's AA (Dining Room)
11:00 am	Bible Study (Small Group Room)
12:15 pm	Staff (Small Group Room)
4:30 pm	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (Choir Room)
6:30 pm	Lions Club Eyeglasses Cleaning (Kitchen)
THURSDAY	April 25
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
8:00 pm	NA's (Dining Room)
FRIDAY	April 26
SATURDAY	April 27
8:00 pm	AA's (Dining Room)
SUNDAY	April 28 – 5th Sunday of Easter
8:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
11:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children's JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)
12:05 pm	Youth Group

What is Freedom?

Wisdom from Our Reformed Confessions



“Coffee and Conversation”
Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sundays, April 7-28, 2024

9:30 – 10:30 am

Through the Barmen Declaration (1934, in prewar Germany) and the Belhar Confession (1982, in South Africa), Reformed theology sought both to confess the gospel faithfully and to critique unjust totalitarian and racist political powers. In this four-week series we will explore the significance of these confessions and their relevance for contemporary discipleship and citizenship.

April 7 *“Confession as Verb and Noun”*

April 14 *“The Church Against Nazism”*

April 21 *“The Church Against Apartheid”*

April 28 *“Confessing Freedom Today”*

Derek Woodard-Lehman is Lecturer in Theology and Ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. His research and teaching ask how the theological question, “How shall we live as Christians?” informs and transforms the political question “How shall we live with other citizens?” in increasingly pluralistic and polarized communities.

Come early for coffee and a donut hole (or two)!!



**The 24th Annual Jubilant Praise Concert
Sunday, May 26, 2024 at 4:00 pm**

Theme: *Let There be Peace...*
Sacred and Patriotic music selections
exploring various expressions of *PEACE*

The concert will feature:
The Carnegie Brass, JuBELLation Ringers and the Chancel Choir

**We continue the tradition of the Armed Forces Medley
to recognize those who serve/served our country as we
celebrate our country's heroes.**

Parking may be found across the street at the Oak Ridge Condos
(opposite corner from the church) in both parking lots
– upper and lower (limited number of spaces).

Oakmont Presbyterian Church
Corner of 5th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue
www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org
412.828.5770

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tim E. Spring	Interim 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
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
David Brennan	Custodian
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator
The Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson	Honorably Retired Pastor Emeritus

415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139
412-828-5770 (Office)
www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org