



**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024 at 11:00 am**

**GATHERING IN FAITH**

“The first thing to realize is everything is about relationships - church, worship, meetings, ideas, budgets – no matter what we’re talking about in the church, it’s about relationships.”  
*And the Church Actually Changed, N. Graham Standish*

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

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

Call to Worship  
*Leader: The Lord is Risen! Alleluia!*  
**People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**  
*Leader: Beloved, let us love one another.*  
**People: We love because God first loved us.**  
*Leader: Let us worship God.*

\*Hymn of Praise *We Know That Christ Is Raised* *Hymnal, No. 495*  
**See next page**

\*Prayer of the Day (please remain standing)

Call to Confession Ronnie Bailey  
Prayer of Confession  
**God of all hope and joy, we confess  
that we continue to live in fear.  
You make us branches of Your vine,  
but we fail to abide in You.  
You extend Your promise to all,  
Yet we seek to cut off and exclude.  
Forgive us, God of grace.  
Sanctify us in Your perfect love,  
the love that casts out all fear,  
so that we may truly love one another;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
...time for silent confession

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*

John Brownlow Geyer, 1969

Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Em-braced by  
2. We share by wa - ter in His sav - ing death. Re - born we  
3. The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. The Spir - it's  
4. A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows As Christ's new

death He broke its fear - ful hold; And our de - spair He turned to  
share with Him an Eas - ter life As liv - ing mem - bers of a  
pow - er shakes the church of God. Bap - tized we live with God the  
bod - y takes on flesh and blood. The u - ni - verse, re - stored and

blaz - ing joy.  
liv - ing Christ. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Three in One.  
whole, will sing:

Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

♩=46-50

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: *Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Acts 2:17, 21)  
Friends, hear and believe the good news: in the name of Jesus Christ, we are  
forgiven!*

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen!**

\*Act of Praise  
*Alleluia*

**Congregation Singing**  
Sung twice

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**  
- Text and music Jerry Sinclair

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination  
New Testament Reading  
*The Word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

Acts 8:26-40

Shirley Hoops  
Pew Bible, NT, page 127

Time with the Children  
As the children gather

*Where Children Belong*

Ronnie Bailey  
**Congregation Singing**

This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the  
wor-ship-ing throng. Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and  
cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

WORDS: James Ritchie  
MUSIC: James Ritchie  
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RITCHIE  
Irregular

Children go to JAM after time with children.

Sermon

*Am I Included?*

Tim Spring

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*Hymn of Response

*Live Into Hope*

Hymnal, No. 332

TRURO LM

Thomas Williams, 1789

Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Jane Parker Huber, 1976

1. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, Of sight re -  
2. Live in - to hope the blind shall see With in - sight  
3. Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, The right to  
4. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed From chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
and with clar - i - ty, Re - mov - ing shades of  
speak, the right to be, The right to have one's  
fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see The year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
pride and fear—A vi - sion of our God brought near.  
dai - ly bread, To hear God's word and thus be fed.  
full re - lease To faith and hope and joy and peace.

Text: © 1980 Jane Parker Huber; from *A Singing Faith*. Used by permission.

Faith Community Concerns, the Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Steve Crocco  
**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

Tim Spring

A Choral Offering  
Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir; Andy Gerro, Cello

*For Everyone Born*

Brian Mann/arr. Tom Trenney

*For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,*

Refrain

*And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,  
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power, a system that's fair, ...*

*For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong, ...*

*For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,  
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, ...*

-Shirley Erena Murry, 1998

\*Doxology

using tune: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD

\*Hymn of Dedication

*O for a World*

Hymnal, No. 386

AZMON CM

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

1. O for a world where ev - ery - one Re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2. O for a world where goods are shared And mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly And strug - gle with each choice  
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The fool - ish ones are wise.

Where love is lived and all is done With jus - tice and with praise.  
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, E - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty And gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn; Out - casts be - long, Who per - ish - es will rise.

5. O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,

Where time and tears will be no more,  
And all but love will cease.

Alternate version, 466

Text: © Medical Mission Sisters, 1990. Used by permission.

\*Charge and Blessing

Tim Spring

Postlude

*Postlude on TRURO* (in the style of a Trumpet Tune)

Organ

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

### WORSHIP NOTES

**Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed!** During the days of Easter (Easter-tide), we remember Christ's rising from the tomb, His post-resurrection appearances, His ascension, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. 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.

**Sunday, May 5 – 8:30 am and 11:00 am – Sixth Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday**

Rev. Steve Crocco will preach *Was Jesus an Extremist?* based on Matthew 10:34-39. We will celebrate the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper.

**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 Christine Pater, piano; Paul Banahasky, electric bass; Keith Parton, drums.

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- *The Presbyterian Hymnal – Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.
- *Where Children Belong - Sing the Faith* © 2003 by Geneva Press; adapted and compiled by permission from *The Faith We Sing* © 2000 Abingdon Press. Music/text: James Ritchie.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Communion for the Homebound.** Please notify the church office if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home (412-828-5770).

**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.

**Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet WEDS, MAY 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 pm in the Lona McCrea Room.** We plan to finish our study with Lessons 8 and 9. We look forward to our **Annual Picnic Luncheon on WEDS, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in the Dining Room;** staff is invited to join us!

Men's Breakfast Fellowship - join us on Tuesday **May 7 at 8:30 am in the Dining Room.** The **Grace Notes, Riverview High School's 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: 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**Bridge Pastor Search Update** Your Bridge Pastor Search team is earnestly working to source a Pastor equaling the level of competence, caring, ministry and compassion we are fortunate to have with Pastor Tim. Since his departure announcement a few weeks ago our team has met, edited and updated information necessary for posting this opportunity on the Presbytery website for an opening set to begin on OCT 1<sup>st</sup>. As of Wed. April 24th the position has been posted and our task of finding a talented Bridge Pastor has begun. This position is designed to last approx. 6 months until our Installed Pastor Team sources a permanent Pastor for OPC. We will continue to provide the congregation with our progress as it becomes available.

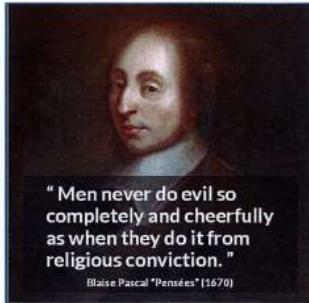
*OPC Bridge Pastor Committee: Nick Kokales & Sally Huber Lewis Co Chairs, Chris Hudak, Christine Little, David Geis, James Kinter - moderated by Rev. Dr. Edwin Van Driel*

**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.



## CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>April 28 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
9:45 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b> (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children’s JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)
12:05 pm	Youth Group
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>April 29</b>
12:00 pm	AA’s (Small Group Room)
6:30 pm	IPNC (Small Group Room)
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop #854/Cub Pack #137 (Multi-Purpose Room/Dining Room)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>April 30</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>May 1</b>
10:00 am	Women’s AA (Dining Room)
11:00 am	Bible Study (Small Group Room)
12:15 pm	Staff (Small Group Room)
1:30 pm	PW Circle Meeting (Lona McCrea Room)
4:00 pm	Service at Longwood Chapel
4:30 pm	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (Choir Room)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>May 2</b>
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
8:00 pm	NA’s (Dining Room)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>May 3</b>
7:00 pm	OPC Film Series (Multi-Purpose Room)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>May 4</b>
10:00 am	Youth Car Wash Fund Raiser
8:00 pm	AA’s (Dining Room)
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>May 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion</b> (Sanctuary)
9:15 am	Trustees (Library)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion</b> (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children’s JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)



# Religious Extremism: What's It About?

*Sundays*  
**May 5, 12 and 19, 2024**  
 9:30 – 10:30 am  
 with

**"Coffee and Conversation"**  
**Oakmont Presbyterian Church      Dr. Steve Crocco**

Perhaps the easiest way to denounce a religion, a movement, or a political party today is to label it "extreme" and its practitioners as "extremists." After considering what might count as "religious extremism," this Adult Ed class will consider three examples: Islamicism (Islamic fundamentalism), White Christian Nationalism, and a lesser-known movement of the Religious Left that can be called "Identitarian Religious Globalism," which can include religious supporters of Hamas. After the three sessions, you will be able to approach the fall election season with some new questions, better definitions, and a dose of skepticism.



<b>May 5</b>	<b>Islam Needs a Reformation Now</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>White Christian Nationalism</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Identitarian Religious Globalism</b>

**The Rev. Dr. Steve Crocco** is the Associate Pastor at Oakmont Presbyterian Church. Prior to coming to OPC, he served as the library director at Yale Divinity School, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Steve has a Ph.D. in religious ethics from Princeton University.

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

### 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         |

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# CARWASH

MAY 4TH 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

415 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. OAKMONT, PA 15139



JOIN US AT  
OPC FOR A  
MISSION  
TRIP  
FUNDRAISER



## 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 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Pennsylvania Avenue  
[www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org)  
412.828.5770