

APRIL 2024

# OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139

Dear Friends,

John Fawcett was preparing to move. At the age of 32, he was leaving his small church in Wainsgate, England for the prestigious Carter Lane Church in London. Fawcett had worked hard. Orphaned at 12, he was forced to work fourteen hours a day as an apprentice to a tradesman in order to support his brothers and sisters. He taught himself to read and studied continuously. When he was ordained at the age of twenty five he moved to Wainsgate. For seven years he served the tiny church of 100 members before receiving the invitation to move to London.

But Fawcett never moved. The last of his possessions were loaded onto the moving cart as Fawcett began saying his goodbyes. Tearfully he said farewell to those he had loved for the last seven years. They returned his tears and his love, too. It was too much for Fawcett. London would have to wait. Unloading the cart, he decided to stay in Wainsgate a little longer. The young man never moved to London. He never left Wainsgate. He died there fifty four years later.

Fawcett eventually became one of England's greatest preachers. His love for his people and their love for him not only kept him in Wainsgate, but also prompted him to write a well known hymn we still sing today: "Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian Love the fellowship of Kindred minds is like to that above."

Fawcett's story reminds us of the great blessing of being a part of the church, the fellowship of believers. Author J. Todd Billings writes: "The congregation is the only place (that I can think of!) in Western culture where we develop relationships, celebrate our faith and life together, and also extend those same relationships all the way through dying and death." I pray the congregation of Oakmont Presbyterian Church will always treasure this great gift that God has given! In my short time in your midst I've experienced this gift, and I'm hoping that many others will find their way to OPC to experience (and expand!) this great gift.

Yours in Christ,

Tim





**Chancel Flowers** – In keeping with our Lenten tradition, flowers will not be needed during Lent. Please consider providing flowers in the chancel again beginning April 14 and onward. Please contact Carla Lowman for details at 412-826-5914.



**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**



**We have a new custodian!** We are happy to announce that David Brennan has been hired as OPC's new full-time custodian! He is on board as of this week. David lives in Apollo with his wife and three children. Please welcome him and say hello when you see him!

**THANK YOU** to those who purchased flowers in celebration of Easter.

**Becoming a Part of the OPC Family of Faith New Member Gathering**

We at OPC are a diverse group of people who find meaning in gathering together for worship, study and service. Gatherings for those interested in becoming a part of the OPC family of faith will be **Sundays, April 7, 14 and 21 from 9:30 am – 10:30 am in the Marie Berg Chapel. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, May 12 during the 11:00 am worship service.** If you are interested or have questions, please contact Tim Spring at tspring@oakmontpresby.org or through the church office at 412.828.5770.



**Oakmont Presbyterian Church**

**Save the Date!**

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

Theme: *Let There be Peace...*

with Carnegie Brass, JuBELLation Ringers and the Chancel Choir



**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.



### MISSION NEWS ...

The church mission group supports Dick Teague Villacorta. He lives in the Jungle City of Pucallpa, Peru. We started supporting him and his missionary in 2019. Our youth and a group of our adults traveled to Dick's village a few years ago.

Dick is now married to Beatrice. They have a daughter, Dorothy, who just celebrated her first birthday. He is also a volunteer firefighter in his spare time. He and Bea serve their community through Bible - Based Children's Programs, ministry in the hospital, and elderly and youth ministry in their church. They share the gospel by distributing food and clothing on the streets.

For Dick to get to different sites he must either ride his motorcycle approximately 10 hours. Take a bus for 4 hours and then ride in a boat for 1 hour. The financial support that we provide helps Dick and Bea continue their ministry outreach activities.

Mark 16:15 - and he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

*God Is Good, Diane McKenzie*

**THANK YOU to Paulette Rock** for stepping in and heading up the Wednesday Lenten Soup & Salad meals this past Lent! She took up the banner from our dear Diane Harrell this year so these times of fellowship before the worship experience could continue. Paulette agreed to this one-year commitment. We now need to **begin seeking /call a NEW LEADER/head person(s) to organize and run these for 2025.**

We also say **THANK YOU** to the crews that helped serve and clean up each week! It could not happen with ALL of you!!

And a huge **THANK YOU to Dan & Linda McCurdy** for providing a delicious soup from Oakmont Deli every Wednesday of the series!

**2024 Per Capita** - Each member is asked to **contribute \$36.35 for the Per Capita Fund.** Your contribution enables the local Presbytery, regional Synod and national General Assembly to provide resources to operate the church. Please remember to give using the envelope (included in your box of envelopes). If you do not pay your Per Capita amount, the money will be taken from the Church Operating Expenses.

### OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



### SPRING FILM SERIES 2024

#### APR 5 *The Hill (2023)*

The remarkable tru-story of Rickey Hill's improbable journey to play Major League Baseball.

Colin Ford, Dennis Quaid, Joelle Carter (PG 2h, 6m)



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

#### APR 19 *Golda (2023)*

Focuses on the intensely dramatic and high stakes responsibilities and decisions that Golda Meir, also known as the "Iron Lady" of Israel faced during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Helen Mirren, Zed Josef, Claudette Williams (PG 13 1h, 40m)



# *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.

- |                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>April 7</b>  | <b>“Confession as Verb and Noun”</b>  |
| <b>April 14</b> | <b>“The Church Against Nazism”</b>    |
| <b>April 21</b> | <b>“The Church Against Apartheid”</b> |
| <b>April 28</b> | <b>“Confessing Freedom Today”</b>     |

**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)!!***

**39TH ANNUAL  
SPONSORSHIP CONCERT**



*Handel's Messiah,  
Parts 2 and 3*



**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024  
4:00 PM**

*Fox Chapel Festival Chorus  
and  
Academy Chamber Orchestra*

*Guy Russo, director  
David Billings, organist*

**Free Admission/Reception**

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church  
384 Fox Chapel Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15215





Men's Breakfast Fellowship - join us on Tuesday APR 2 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. Chuck Erdeljac, "Oakmont's Poet" and former Riverview school superintendent, will present on the topic: *How Martin Luther changed the Church and the World: Implications for Us Today.*

**39th Annual Sponsorship Concert**  
**Sunday, April 14 at 4:00pm**  
**Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church**  
 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, 15215

This year's concert will feature George Frideric Handel's most beloved oratorio Messiah (Parts 2 and 3). Messiah was chosen as perhaps the most meaningful music for this year's Sponsorship Concert, as it will be the last such event before the retirement of both David Billings and Guy Russo from FCPC's staff this summer. The concert will feature the FCPC Chancel Choir and guest singers ( including 21 OPC Chancel Choir singers) forming the Fox Chapel Festival Chorus as well as the Academy Chamber Orchestra.

The concert is free.  
 A reception in the Atrium follows the concert.

The youth and children have been enjoying community with each other and other friends! We have found a lot of different places this past month... tweeners retreat, rocking in Children's Choir and JAM class, doing mission fundraisers, serving Lenten dinners, going to Starbucks, having fun at escape room and laser tag! Our April schedule will come out in the next week, that will be posted online and in the bulletin. We are looking forward to the future and deepening our faith and our community in more meaningful ways!

We invite the congregation into anything we are doing, we would love to have you and for you to get to know the kids even more!

*In Christ,*  
*Ronnie*



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	<b>RESURRECTION OF THE LORD / EASTER DAY</b> 7:00am Sunrise Service - Oakmont County Club 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	<b>1</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	<b>2</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast & Speaker (DR) 6:30pm Session/PNC Meeting (DR)	<b>3</b> 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 4:30pm JubELlation Ringers Rehearsal (CR) 4:30pm Service at Longwood at Oakmont (Chapel)	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	<b>5</b> 7:00am OPC Film Series (MPR)	<b>6</b> 8:00pm AA's (DR)
7	<b>8:30am WORSHIP (SANC)</b> 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30am New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	<b>8</b> 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	<b>9</b> 10:00am Garden Club of Oakmont (MPR) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)	<b>10</b> 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm JubELlation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00pm AA's (DR)
14	<b>8:30am WORSHIP (SANC)</b> 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30am New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	<b>15</b> 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	<b>16</b> 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	<b>17</b> 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm JubELlation Ringers Rehearsal (SANC)	<b>18</b> 10:00am Soups On (KIT) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	<b>19</b> 7:00am OPC Film Series (MPR)	<b>20</b> 8:00pm AA's (DR)
21	<b>8:30am WORSHIP (SANC)</b> 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30am New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 3:00pm Scout (DR)	<b>22</b> 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	<b>24</b> 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm JubELlation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00pm AA's (DR)
28	<b>8:30am WORSHIP (SANC)</b> 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	<b>29</b> 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 4:30pm JubELlation Ringers Rehearsal (CR) 4:30pm Service at Longwood at Oakmont (Chapel)	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	<b>3</b> 7:00am OPC Film Series (MPR)	<b>4</b> 8:00pm AA's (DR)



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