

MAY 2023

OAKNOTES



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

A Report from Advent and Lent

Friends in Faith,



Over the years we have encouraged spiritual reflection in Advent and Lent by printing devotions written by OPC members or by printing other's devotionals or by citing links to them. Both Princeton and Pittsburgh Seminaries publish thoughtful reflections for these penitential seasons.

This liturgical year my heart and mind (or was it the Spirit?) led me in a different direction. Last December, I began with one promising book. However, after muddling through the first chapters, I realized that it was not speaking to me. I returned to a book I had previously begun, [The Collected Sermons of David Bartlett](#). The Rev. Dr. Bartlett was the J. Edward and Ruth Cox Lantz Professor Emeritus of Christian Communication at Yale Divinity School and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. He was also an American Baptist Pastor.

What I found so nurturing in this book was how the Rev. Dr. Bartlett had one foot in worldliness with all its challenges and humanity and one foot firmly resting in faith. Included were a series of sermons on "On Being a Christian" and a series on "Great Words of Faith" like *incarnation* and *salvation*. Bartlett, now deceased, was clearly bright and humble and faithful. These 52 sermons include thoughtful reflections, new insights and encouragements in faith.

My devotional choice for Lent was a brand-new book by the Distinguished Professor Emeritus from Duke Divinity School, Richard Lischer. His book's title, [Our Hearts Are Restless](#), has the somewhat misleading subtitle "The Art of Spiritual Memoir". I was drawn to this book by a reviewer who wrote, "Lischer has a storyteller's genius, a pastor's instinct for emotional authenticity, a preacher's eye for tracing gospel truth, a scholar's skill at critical inquiry, and a Christian understanding of love and suffering."

The book has not disappointed me. In 21 chapters Lischer reviews the memoirs (or other writings) of well-known Christians like Augustine of Hippo, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Julian of Norwich, Emily Dickinson, Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day as well as some lesser-known Christians. Each chapter serves as an introduction to these notable followers of Christ along with a critical review of their writings. Reading this book was both a review of some history I know and discoveries of new information and spiritual insights.

My reading in Advent and Lent, 1) held my interest and 2) led me to think more about the Christian faith and my faith. Some years in the future I will likely be led to address some particular weakness in my life or in my faith, but, in these last two meditative seasons, my reading cultivated and fertilized the ground of my faith.

There are considerable resources for Christians that are profitable to read. Such writings may be found in Christian periodicals, reviewed in the secular press, or referenced by the fine speakers in our adult education classes. One vastly underutilized resource for spiritual reading is our own Steve Crocco who was the head librarian at Pittsburgh and Princeton Seminaries and at Yale Divinity School. Do you have a subject you would like to explore and need a reference? Call Steve Crocco.

Now, what to read this summer?

Yours in Christ,
Steve



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: May 21, June 4, 11, 18, 25.



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 to those who purchased flowers in celebration of Easter.
The sanctuary was beautiful!



Memorial and Gift Committee

In the first quarter of 2023 the Committee received donations in memory of Bob Coates, John McCollum, and Mary Moore. There are two new leaves on the Memorial Tree in memory of Richard Jones and John R. McCollum. Thank you to the donors.

The Committee paid \$158.95 for a new Keurig coffee maker for the Sunday morning adult education class.

OPC STAFF

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson | Senior 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 |

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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 collect used eyeglasses and deliver 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.





We express our deep **THANKS to the Worship Arts Team (WAT)** for their labors of love which enhance our worship spaces throughout the year. Especially busy during the Lenten/Holy Week and Easter season, with Wednesday set ups/tear downs, as well as Sunday morning and then Holy Week all with very different visual environments needed to enhance the numerous and different worship experiences. Many hours go into the planning and then the implementation of these visual offerings.

Adele Selinger serves as the Chairperson. She keeps us on task and often handles the smaller projects behind the scenes. The members of this wonderful team include Dave Geis, Sherry Geis, Judy Lightner, Keith McKenzie, Kathy Sampson, Sue Sanford, Erik Selinger, Nancy Sloan, Jean Wimer. If you have an interest in artistic creativity, we may have a place for you on our team. For more information or questions please speak to or email, Michael Frank mfrank@oakmontpresby.org or Adele Selinger aeisel3@verizon.net.

From the desk of Steve Crocco...

Spending almost all of my life on an academic schedule, I am used to things starting to transition to a summer schedule in May. OPC seems to be no different with the exception of the youth mission trip and Vacation Bible School in June. As I indicated in last month's report, I finished the year-long Bible study on the book of Revelation a few weeks ago. Feeling a hole in my schedule, I am asking around to see if there is any interest in a spring/summer study of some sort. If you're interested please let me know. The Adult Committee is currently considering speakers for next year. The Mission Committee plans to discuss hands-on mission opportunities for church members next year. It is not lost on me that Steve Wilson's time with us is dwindling. I feel like we're sitting on roller coaster as it chugs its way to the top of the first large hill. Once it crests, it's going to be quite a ride for all us. Steve will be on quite a ride of his own. I believe this will be an exciting time for OPC, mixing gratitude, a little sadness, and a great deal of excitement about what comes next.

Maybe you don't sing or feel you could ring bells, but YOU would love to be part of the Music Ministry... here is YOUR chance...Help provide music ministry through a financial gift. We are looking for sponsors to help underwrite the costs of the Jubilant Praise Concert and Pentecost Worship, both on May 28th this year.

Jubilant Praise Concert, 4:00 pm May 28:

- * The Carnegie Brass
- * The Percussionist
- * The Accompanist, Dr. David Billings (piano/organ)
- * Guest Singers (to fill out Soprano/alto sections)
- * The Cellist

Pentecost Worship, 10:00 am May 28:

- * Various instrumentalists playing in a small instrumental ensemble
- * 5 strings (2 violins/viola/cello/bass)
- * 2 Winds (oboe & clarinet)
- * 3 Brass (trumpet/ 2 Trombones)
- * Percussionist

If you would like to sponsor a specific listing above, please speak with Michael Frank for the amounts needed. You may reach Michael at the church office 412-828-5770 x206 or email mfrank@oakmontpresby.org. You may also make a general donation to *The Friends of Music Fund* and indicate **JP Concert or Pentecost** as you wish. OR you can donate in memory or in honor of a loved one!

THANK YOU for being part of the Music Ministry here at OPC!

Michael

Celebration Updates for 2023

You've seen these dates for upcoming events in newsletters and bulletins honoring and celebrating the August retirement of Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson. In case you haven't yet written them in your calendar, here they are again!

June 11: **Potluck Luncheon** at OPC after the 10:00 am worship service.

July 14: **Celebratory Dinner** at Veltre's - invitations to be mailed in mid-May.

August 13: **Final Worship with Steve and Reception** following the 10 a.m. service.

Volunteers will be needed for the events above. Contact Nancy Sloan to offer your assistance or ideas.

Some original members of OPC have met and shared stories/memories. We are still eager to hear from who were not able to attend. You can email stories and/or memories to Sherry Geis.

Direct any questions to any member of the committee:

Chris Little	christinehlittle@gmail.com	or 412-721-5955
Kathy Bowser	greta03@verizon.net	or 412-828-8409
Lin Ewing	ljewing8012@aol.com	or 412-600-9259
Nancy Sloan	nancy.oakmont@gmail.com	or 941-780-4342
Sherry Geis	geisherry@gmail.com	or 724-443-5447

OAKMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

MAY 12

7 Yards: The Chris Norton Story

A documentary that will inspire you to overcome. It took Chris Norton 7 years to walk his bride 7 yards down the aisle after a life-altering football injury.



MAY 26 Operation Seawolf (2022)

In the last days of WWII, Germany desperate for any last grasp to defeat the allied powers, formed the German Navy and the last remaining U-Boats for one last mission to attack the United States mainland.

TOWN HALL MEETING



SUNDAY, MAY 7th

In Friendship Hall

Immediately following the 11 am service.

The congregation is invited to a joint CAT Survey and Interim Pastor Team meeting to participate in a discussion addressing the results of the survey and how the results were used to help guide the Interim Pastor Team. We hope you will join us in the open exchange of information and ideas.



Strawberry Festival & Potluck Lunch

Enjoy a casual picnic-style lunch as we share “stories” of our favorite times with Steve.

Sunday, June 11

In the church dining room after 10 a.m. worship.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please sign up in the 5th Street vestibule on Sundays in May.

Ham barbeque sandwiches and strawberry shortcake will be provided.

Last names A to F please bring cookies.

Last names G to Z please bring a side dish.



Breakfast & Entertainment, Tuesday, May 2 at 8:30 am in the Dining Room. All are welcome to attend for a hearty breakfast and to listen to the Grace Notes from Riverview High School. Bring a friend!

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, May 7 and 21 from 9:30 am – 10:30 am in the Marie Berg Chapel. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, May 21 during the 11:00 am worship service.** If you are interested or have questions, please contact Steve Wilson at swilson@oakmontpresby.org or through the church office at 412.828.5770.

Soups On met April 20 and made Cream of Carrot Soup, Asparagus Soup and Cheesy Broccoli Chowder which are available in the downstairs freezer for a loved one or neighbor who needs a cup of cheer! **May 18 at 10am – next soup making event**

Confirmation Class (grades 7-12) Classes are **May 7 & 28 at Noon.** Youth will be joining OPC on June 4. Contact Ronnie Bailey (r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org) with questions.

Youth Group (grades 6-12) meet **May 21** at Noon. Contact Ronnie Bailey (r.bailey@oakmontpresby.org) with questions.

Food Donations - The Deacons 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 or collection plate. Questions - contact Judy Murray 724-816-7561.

During May, Light of Life Ministries will not be taking clothing donations. They are in the process of moving to the Ridge Place building. **They still need \$5 Giant Eagle gift cards for their incentive/recognition program used at the facility.** Aunt Phyllis, our OPC donation attendant, will be on duty at the 5th street entrance to accept donations.

The Interim Pastor Search Committee - May/June will be spent reviewing/interviewing candidates. We plan to have a commitment in July with a start date in September. The Committee - Nick Kokales and Sally Huber-Lewis (co-chairs), Christine Little, Jim Kinter, Chris Hudak and Dave Geis. Feel free to ask questions. Keep them in your prayers.

Exploring the Parables of Jesus



"Coffee and Conversation"

**Oakmont Presbyterian
Church**

**Three Sundays in
April and May**

9:30 – 10:30 am

Dr. Angela Hancock

Angela writes about this series: "Jesus came teaching in parables, but parables teach by confounding our expectations. We will dig into some mysterious and messy parables, asking not only *what* they mean for our lives today, but *how* they mean."

April 23	<i>"Something Hidden" and "A Seed Growing Secretly"</i>
April 30	<i>"The Sleepy Bridesmaids"</i>
May 7	<i>"The Wrong Outfit"</i>

The Rev. Dr. Dienhart Hancock is associate professor of homiletics and dean of the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and has served churches in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Tennessee. She is married to PC (U.S.A.) pastor Trent Hancock, and has two young adult children.

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

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12) 12:15pm Worship Committee (SGR)	1 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR & DR)	2 8:30am Breakfast & Entertainment (DR) 12:00pm Staff (SGR)	3 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR)	4 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	5	6 10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)
7	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee & Conversation (MPR) 9:30am New Member Gathering (MBC) 9:30am Trustees (LIB) 11:00am WORSHIP/COMMUNION (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes ((preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12) 12:15pm Town Hall Meeting: Changes in Pastoral Leadership - What to Expect (SANC)	8 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR & DR)	9 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)	10	11 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	12 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	13 8:00pm AA's (DR)
14	MOTHER'S DAY 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)	15 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR & DR)	16 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	17	18 10:00am Soups On (KITCHEN) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	19	20 8:00pm AA's (DR)
21	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am New Member Gathering (MBC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12)	22 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR & DR)	23 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)	24	25 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30pm Jubilant Praise Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	26 7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPR)	27 8:00pm AA's (DR)
28	8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) & Livestream and children's JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) 11:15am Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12) 4:00pm Jubilant Praise Concert (SANC)	29 MEMORIAL DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (MPR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR & DR)	30	31 10:00am Women's AA (DR)	1 8:00pm NAs (DR)	2	3 10:00am Holy Ground Ministry Team (MPR) 8:00pm AA's (DR)



23rd Annual Jubilant Praise Concert

Sunday, May 28, 2023—4:00 pm

3:50 pm—Gathering Music

**The Carnegie Brass along with the Chancel Choir,
Percussion, Piano, Organ**

Sing Out My Soul

A concert of sacred and patriotic selections.

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 in the
Oak Ridge Condo (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

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