

OCTOBER 2023

OAKNOTES



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

Dear Friends,

A writer once penned these words: “We spend eighty percent of our mental energy thinking about the past or future, and only twenty percent thinking about the present.” When I heard those words, I immediately remembered sitting in professor Dale Bowne’s Greek class as a sophomore at Grove City College. Teaching young minds the complexities and idiosyncrasies of a new language, he said, “You should know that the Greek language has two words for time: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* means time, how we measure time, past, present and future. *Kairos* means ‘the right time.’”

Certainly, the members and friends of the Oakmont Presbyterian Church are thinking about ‘*chronos*’ these days. With the retirement of Rev. Steve Wilson, you are thinking about the three and a half decades of his ministry; what you have accomplished together, how you have grown, how ‘the two became one,’ literally, with the merger of Riverside and Oakmont Presbyterian churches. Relationships deepened, marriages were performed, funerals were conducted, and generations passed through these doors. God was good, and God is good!

At this point in the church’s history, I also want to encourage you to think of ‘*kairos*’ time, the right time. All the great events of the gospels occur in the fullness of time : “When the time for Elizabeth had become full she bore her son John” (Luke 1:57). “The time has come to its fullness and the kingdom of God is close at hand” (Mark 1:15). “When the time had come to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman” (Gal. 4:4), and in the fullness of time God will “bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth.” (Eph. 1:10). This is a *kairos* moment in the life of Oakmont Presbyterian, the ‘right time.’ Something has ended, and we are not certain what the future holds. Now is the ‘*kairos*’ to pray, to work, to anticipate the movement of God in this place, and to dream.

What will God do in the coming months? One thing we know for sure: God has been with us in the past and will lead us into the future! I’m excited to be with you as your interim pastor, and look forward to meeting with you, working with you, and praying with you for the future of Oakmont Presbyterian. This is an interesting time in the history of the church. It is the right time, a time to work with anticipation and to dream of where God is leading this church.



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: OCT 1, 15 and 29; NOV 5, 12 and 26



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

Member Deaths

Jackie Powell - September 2
 Dave Sipe - September 6
 Rev. Hydie Houston - September 10
 Polly Kokales - September 10

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Chrismon project. Please **return completed Chrismons to the church no later than Sunday, OCT 15.** There will be a basket for collection at both Pennsylvania Ave and 5th Street entrances. If you have any questions, please email Adele Selinger at adeleselinger@gmail.com. Thank you again for your help!



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 Judy Murray at 724-816-7561.

Soupers gathered in SEPT for the first monthly **Soup's On** for the 2023-2024 season. We made Tomato Basil Soup and Classic Chicken Noodle Soup. Stop by the OPC Kitchen and pick up a serving or two from the freezer and take it to a friend, neighbor, or relative who needs a cup of cheer and see your smiling face!

For the past few weeks, I have been gaging people's interest in and availability for a Bible study this fall. Wednesday at 11:00 seems to be a good time. I am happy to repeat the same study Wednesday evening-at 6:30 or 7:00 for those who are busy during the day. Depending on interest, we can think about beginning the Wednesday evening with a simple meal. Two books I'd be interested in studying are the Gospel of Mark and Hebrews. **If you are interested in attending one of the two sessions, please contact me. If you have a preference for Mark or Hebrews let me know that too.** If you are not sure right now, email me at scrocco@oakmontpresby.org. **The Bible study or studies will start Wednesday OCT 11.**

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tim Spring	Interim Pastor
The Rev. Robert Lee Nichols, Jr.	Temporary 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
The Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson	Honorably Retired Pastor Emeritus

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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 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.



Friends in Christ,

When I retired from Fox Chapel Presbyterian, I was the longest serving pastor that church had ever had - from November 1999 to February 2018, close to twenty years. When I "retire" from Oakmont Presbyterian I will certainly be the shortest serving pastor this church has ever had - from August 14, 2023, to October 8, 2023, not quite eight weeks. It has been a real joy to serve as your Temporary Pastor, during the time between Steve Wilson's retirement and the onset of Tim Spring's ministry as Interim Pastor. These are rich and challenging days for Oakmont. I am confident with the quality of the programs here and with the faithful discipleship of this congregation the days ahead, though uncertain, will be fruitful and will add another beautiful chapter to the history of this great church. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this small way. It has been a privilege. Deb and I look forward to joining you in the pews.



Lee Nichols

2023 OPC YOUTH SCHEDULE (And things to know)

I am so incredibly thankful for this community of faith. You serve and love each other so well. You embody Jesus every day. You model that for your siblings in faith, and for our youth and children. By participating in church and answering God's call on your life, you are giving those around you a "how to manual." You are encouraging them through life's challenges just by being who you are in Christ.

1 Peter chapter 4 tells us that we all have received a gift, and we should use our gifts to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace. When we do that, Christ is glorified, and our world is lifted up. That is one thing I am certain of in the family of Oakmont Presbyterian Church, we will strive for that no matter the cost. Let us keep saying "yes" to God, and be a participant observer of all God will do in us and through us.

Youth Ministry Philosophy and Vision

At OPC we want our teens to be reminded that they are loved, cared for, and accepted wherever they are in their faith journey. Everyone has a name, everyone has a story, and every story matters. We provide programming and events to build relationships, meditate on The Word, and encourage each other through life's many ups and downs.

October

October 8 - Youth group 12pm
October 15 - "Walk after church"
October 21 - Fall-Fest OPC 11-12:30

November

November 2 - Serving dinner at Light of Life 5-7pm
(if 2-3 students are available)
November 5 - Youth Group 12pm
November 19 - Youth Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck

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

OCT 6 Little Boy (2015)

An eight-year-old boy is willing to do whatever it takes to end World War II so he can bring his father home. The story reveals the indescribable love a father has for his little boy and the son has for his father.

Jakob Salvati, Emily Watson, and David Henrie (PG-13 1h, 46m)

OCT 20 Ticket to Paradise (2022)

A divorced couple teams up and travels to Bali to stop their daughter from making the same mistake they think they made 25 years ago.

George Clooney, Julia Roberts, and Sean Lynch (PG-13. 1h, 44m)



C. S. Lewis and Christian Truth



Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sundays

September 17—October 8, 2023

9:30 – 10:30 am

with

"Coffee and Conversation"

Dr. Lou Mitchell

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) is widely considered one of the most effective Christian thinkers of the twentieth century. He used his exceptional literary talents to set out the truth claims of Christianity. From his non-fiction works like *Mere Christianity* to his beloved children's books, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, to his science fiction work, *The Space Trilogy*, Lewis creatively described the Christian faith, defended it from critics, and above all, made clear why Christianity has an enduring appeal in an increasingly secular world.

September 17 C. S. Lewis and his Conversions

September 24 Defending Christianity from its Critics

October 1 Christian Truth through Fantasy Stories for Children

October 8 Christian Truth through Fantasy Stories for Adults

Dr. Lou Mitchell has been deeply interested in C. S. Lewis for the past forty years. He has a Th.D. from Harvard Divinity School. He is the author of *Jonathan Edwards on the Experience of Beauty*. Dr. Mitchell spent his career as a pastor in several PCUSA churches in the states of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

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



Come join us on Tuesday **Oct 3 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.

Each month we try to have a stimulating program on a variety of topics dealing with history, economics, health, international affairs, nature, religion, science, local community issues and travel.

OCT 3 - the program is *History in Your Backyard – The French and Indian War in Western PA.* Dick Williams a retired history teacher and consultant to the Heinz History Center and Soldiers and Sailors will present the program.

NOV 7 - program will be *Dementia and Dementia Care.* If you have never attended before, we encourage you to give it a try. This is a program open to Oakmont and surrounding communities.

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