

MARCH 2024

OAKNOTES



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

Dear Friends,

Author Garrison Keillor is best known for his Lake Wobegon tales. They are a pleasant exercise in nostalgia. On one occasion Keillor recalled his childhood Thanksgiving dinners, as the family gathered around the table and remembered the blessings of the past year. Uncle John usually gave the prayer, which caused everyone to squirm. As Keillor said, “Everybody in the family knew that Uncle John couldn’t pray without talking about the cross and crying ... Sure enough, Uncle John prayed, talked about the cross, and cried ...” Then Keillor adds these memorable words: “All of us knew that Jesus died on the cross for us, but Uncle John had never gotten over it.”

Keillor’s story reminds me of the wild swing of emotions that this month of March brings to us as Christians. There is the unadulterated joy of the Palm Sunday parade. There is the sadness and the tears of Maundy Thursday as Jesus prays, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” There is the seeming hopelessness and sorrow of Good Friday, as Jesus hangs on the cross and we sing, “Upon that cross of Jesus, Mine eye at times can see, the very dying form of One who suffered there for me.” We leave the sanctuary in silence. And just when it seems that no one who knows what truly happened on Golgotha’s cross is ever going to get over it, the dawn of Easter morning and the empty tomb herald the greatest news humankind has ever heard. He is risen!

The weeks of March are a journey, and I invite you to join us on that journey. The Bible pictures Christians as people who are on a journey. The first words Jesus spoke to his disciples were, “Follow me.” When we answer that call we are a pilgrim, on a journey, on the way, on the road. We travel best when we travel together. This year, join us in the activities, our worship services, through all the highs and lows of the journey to the cross and the joy and wonder of the empty tomb. It will be the best trip you’ve ever taken!

In Christ,

Pastor 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 7 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

Beginning this month, we will be hi-lighting what groups our church mission committee supports. This month we are hi- lighting Crestfield Camp and Conference Center in Slippery Rock, PA.

The following information was provided from the Crestfield website: Crestfield.net
Christ - centered, Crestfield Camp and Conference Center is called to provide a sacred space to facilitate exploration and encounter with God's hospitality, God's Creation, and the formative power of Jesus through energy, imagination, intelligence, and love.

Crestfield serves over 155 Presbyterian churches. They also provide retreating facilities and conferencing facilities. They have been providing retreats to middle and high schools for many years.

God is Good, Diane McKenzie

With the election of a Pastoral Nominating Committee on February 11, OPC is off and running in the process that will lead to the selection of its next called pastor. While the PNC will do the heavy lifting, there is work for all of us to do, like praying for the PNC and the pastor who will eventually be called.

After a long weekly Bible study on Hebrews followed by a short series on favorite Psalms, we'll turn our attention to the book of Hosea in March. Hosea is considered one of the minor prophets, but there is nothing minor about the book he wrote except, perhaps, its size in comparison to the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. This study will take us into the month of May.

Hosea addressed his people in the northern kingdom when they were suffering in a war with the Assyrian empire. God called him to marry and love a prostitute, Gomer, to represent God's love for Israel. After responding to Hosea's love, the book seems to be heading for a fairytale ending. However, Gomer bore three children who were not Hosea's and eventually left him. Hosea pursued Gomer and eventually brought her back to himself. The book shows that God's love will not let Israel go.

That message is no less true and life-giving today. Join us Wednesdays at 11:00 in the Small Group Room.

Steve Crocco

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.



Youth Schedule and Updates

- March 3** Youth Fun Day after 12pm worship
- March 10** Attend Riverview Musical at 2pm, let Ronnie know in advance so she may get tickets!
- March 13** Youth to help serve at Lenten dinner at OPC
- March 14** Youth to serve dinner at Light of Life 4:30-6:30
- March 24** Palm Sunday Youth Group 12pm

Thank you to all who supported our first sub sale! We raised over \$450 for youth mission; we will be doing another fundraiser this month!

Children's Update

JAM Kindergarted-2nd grade will be learning about the six weekly Lent stories leading up to Easter, we covered several of Jesus' parables and will have special activities for Sundays in Lent.

Our older elementary class is learning about several Old Testament stories and will also be learning about Lent.

All children and those from OPC are invited to join our **Easter Extravaganza, March 31 11:00am - 12:30pm**. We will be having an Easter egg hunt and activities as well as snacks!

We also have a completely up and running nursery staffed by a clearanced adult and a high school student assisting every Sunday from 10:30am to 12:00pm. Children enjoy spending time with these adults and participate in many activities!

All children and families are welcome at OPC!

Ronnie

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

MAR 1 *Sound of Freedom (2023)*

The incredible true story of a former government agent turned vigilante who embarks on a dangerous mission to rescue hundreds of children from traffickers.

Jim Caviezel, Mira Sorvino, Bill Camp (PG-13 2h, 11m)

MAR 15 *Jules (2023)*

Milton lives a quiet life of routine in a small western PA town, but finds his day upended when a UFO and its extraterrestrial passenger crash land in his backyard.

Ben Kingsley, Harriet Sansom Harris, Jane Curtin (PG-13 1h, 27m)

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

EASTER FLOWERS

Time to order Easter flowers to make the church glorious for Easter! Please use the form below. Place form and payment in the Sunday offering plate, mail it, or drop off at the church office **NO LATER THAN MARCH 11th**.

Name _____

Phone _____

Quantity		Price
_____	Lilies @ \$10.35	_____
_____	Tulips @ \$7.00	_____
_____	Daffodils @ \$9.60	_____
_____	Azaleas @ \$14.25	_____

pink OR white (circle one)

If this is to be in memory/honor of someone, please indicate below and their name will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

Your Name: _____

In **MEMORY** of _____

In **HONOR** of _____

Wednesday Lenten Suppers —6:30 pm (Dining Room)

Wednesday Lenten Worship—7:15 pm (Friendship Hall)

~ offering reflections on various Spiritual Disciplines/Practices ~

- FEB 21** *Meditation* - worship in the Taizé style
with members of the Chancel Choir, cantors, and instruments
- FEB 28** *Simplicity* - worship from Celtic Tradition with a Men's Quartet
- MAR 6** *Solitude* - using Evening Prayer Worship order with a Mixed Double Quartet
- MAR 13** *Guidance* - worship with Folk influenced music
with Diane McNally and Ken Crawford – vocals and fretted instruments
- MAR 20** *Confession* - worship with Jazz influenced music with Mark Jackovic and
friends along with our JuBELLation Ringers handbell choir



HOLY WEEK / EASTER AT OPC 2024

PALM SUNDAY – March 24 at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Distribution of Palm Crosses

Rev. Dr. Tim Spring preaching: *THE ROADS LESS TRAVELLED: The Road to Jerusalem*

Palm Sunday Processional

Ministry of Music: JuBELLation Ringers, Children's Choir and Chancel Choir

MAUNDY THURSDAY – March 28 at 7:00 pm

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

Rev. Dr. Tim Spring preaching

Ministry of Music: Chancel Choir

GOOD FRIDAY – March 29 at 8:00 pm

Noon - Community Good Friday Service at St. Thomas Episcopal Church (378 Delaware Ave.)

8:00 pm - *Service of Tenebrae* at OPC

preceded by *Prelude for Good Friday* at 7:40 pm (organ)

A dramatic service of shadows, darkness, scripture, and music that enables participants to reflect deeply on the events of Christ's last week leading to the crucifixion.

EASTER SUNDAY – March 31 at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Festival of the Resurrection of The Lord

Rev. Dr. Tim Spring preaching: *THE ROADS LESS TRAVELLED: The Road to the Empty Tomb*

Ministry of Music at 11:00 am: Chancel Choir and Percussion

Invite a friend or neighbor to join you at our services!

Weekday Bible Study – The weekly Bible study WILL NOT meet on Wednesday, FEB 28. The study **will resume on Wednesday MAR 6 at 11:00 am in the Small Group Room**. Our study into the spring will consider the book of Hosea, one of the minor prophets, beginning with Hosea 1:1-2:13.

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.

Soups On met FEB 15 and made *Cheesy Corn Chowder*, *Chicken Noodle Soup*, and *Tuscan Veg Soup*. 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 MAR 21.



Men's Breakfast Fellowship - join us on Tuesday **MAR 5 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.

MAR 5 - Gary Tabas, MD and Pitt Med School Professor will discuss: "How to get the most out of your doctor visit" - Why it matters how you prepare, and what you can do to ensure a meaningful and productive visit with your doctor.

APR 2 –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.

2024 Officers

Elders

Sam Anderson
Dave Barr
Hank Buechli
Ron Burkert
Janice French
Lin Ewing
Debbie Hays
Jan Hepler
Nick Kokales
Chris Little
Sally Huber Lewis
Grace McGhee
Diane McKenzie
Shannon Meyers
Deb Nichols
Rich Ogradowski
Bev Taylor
Jean Wimer

Deacons

Pam Billet
Sheri Dimon
Sue Gibbon
Mary Graham
Terri Kedzierski
Bobbie Lio
Carla Lowman
Joan Massack
Shane Michael
Judy Murray
Debbie Trumble
Chris Wilson

Trustees

Aaron Boyer
Rick Jeroski
Les Leasure
Curtis McLaurin
Dan McNally
Jack Meyers
Dale Remai
Tom Tumulty

MARCH 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	LENT 3 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)	4 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	5 8:30am Men's Breakfast & Speaker (DR)	6 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (CR) 4:30pm Service at Longwood at Oakmont (Chapel) 6:30pm Lenten Supper (DR) 7:15pm LENTEN WORSHIP (FH)	7 8:00pm NAs (DR)	8 7:00am OPC Film Series (MPR)	9 8:00pm AA's (DR)
10	LENT 4 - Daylight Savings Starts 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)	11 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	12 10:00am Garden Club of Oakmont Board Meeting (MPR) 7:00pm Pastor Noon Comm (SGR)	13 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (CR) 6:30pm Lenten Supper (DR) 7:15pm LENTEN WORSHIP (FH)	14 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	15 7:00am OPC Film Series (MPR)	16 8:00am Session Retreat at OP 8:00pm AA's (DR)
17	LENT 5 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)	18 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	19 10:00am Garden Club of Oakmont (MPR, DR & KITCH) 7:00pm Deacons (DR)	20 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (CR) 6:30pm Lenten Supper (DR) 7:15pm LENTEN WORSHIP (FH)	21 10:00am Sings On (KITCHEN) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	22	23 8:00pm AA's (DR)
24	PALM SUNDAY 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)	25 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	26	27 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm WORSHIP & CONVENTION (SANC) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	29 Church Closes at Noon GOOD FRIDAY 12:00pm Community Good Friday Svc (St. Thomas Episcopal Church) 7:40pm PRELUDE FOR GOOD FRIDAY (organ) 8:00pm SERVICE OF TENEBRAE	30 8:00pm AA's (DR)
31	RESURRECTION OF THE LORD / EASTER DAY 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)	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (MPR & DR)	2 8:30am Men's Breakfast & Speaker (DR)	3 10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (CR) 4:30pm Service at Longwood at Oakmont (Chapel)	4 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAs (DR)	5 7:00am OPC Film Series (MPR)	6 8:00pm AA's (DR)

Wednesday Lenten Suppers —6:30 pm (Dining Room)

Wednesday Lenten Worship—7:15 pm (Friendship Hall)

~ offering reflections on various **Spiritual Disciplines/Practices** ~

FEB 28 *Simplicity* - worship from Celtic Tradition with a Men's Quartet

MAR 6 *Solitude* - using Evening Prayer Worship order with a Mixed Double Quartet

MAR 13 *Guidance* - worship with Folk influenced music
 with Diane McNally and Ken Crawford – vocals and fretted instruments

MAR 20 *Confession* - worship with Jazz influenced music with Mark Jackovic and
 friends along with our JuBELLation Ringers handbell choir

Oakmont Presbyterian Church
415 Pennsylvania Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

Return Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakmont, PA 15139
Permit No. 36