

MAY 2024

# OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
412.828.5770  
[www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org)

Dear Friends,

Years ago, our daughter decided to attend a college 565.8 miles from home, in Greenville, Illinois. When we dropped her off in August of 2007, we knew she would not be home again until Thanksgiving. When we picked her up at the airport in mid-November it was a grand reunion. She talked all the way home, sharing stories and bubbling with excitement. As we walked up the steps from our basement carrying luggage, my daughter froze three steps from the top. In the three months since she'd been gone, we had purchased a new kitchen table. She pointed at it and said, "What is that?!" When we explained that it was, obviously, a new kitchen table she said, "You shouldn't be making changes like that without asking me!"

We all act differently when faced with change. Some face into the future, excited about what might be possible, and some hold onto the kitchen table and say, "Leave it right where it is!" I don't know how you react to change but I do know we live in a world that is constantly changing, and the speed with which it changes has accelerated. It took Thomas Jefferson two weeks to travel from Philadelphia, America's then capital, to his estate in Monticello at the turn of the nineteenth century. By 1850, the same journey could be done by steam train in one day. In Fortune magazine's first issue, February 1930, it reported that 94 percent of all passenger cars in Japan were made in America. In 1971, the first-generation Intel processor had 2,300 transistors. Today, a single microchip can have a transistor count in the billions. Who knows what the future will hold? Organizational consultant Warren Bennis once famously observed that the "factory of the future will have only two employees, a man and a dog. The man will be there to feed the dog. The dog will be there to keep the man from touching the equipment."

We all know that Oakmont Presbyterian Church is changing. Pastor Steve has been retired for over half a year now. I've been the Interim pastor now for just as long. As you may know, when I accepted the call back in September, I signed a one-year contract that would run through September of 2024. **At the end of the worship service on April 7, I announced to the congregation that I would be re-retiring as of September 30.** My time here has been wonderful. This church has a long and important history and I am certain that the future of Oakmont Presbyterian Church is bright. The gifts of the people, the presence of the Holy Spirit and the possibilities of the future all point to the fact that God has plans for this church!

**The Interim Pastoral Nominating Committee has already been meeting and they will be searching for a 'Bridge Pastor'; one who will serve for 6 months, if needed. The Pastoral Nominating Committee has also begun meeting, searching for that new pastor that will lead us into the future.**

In 1577 English Explorer Sir Francis Drake penned the following prayer which I present for our use in the coming months: "Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love."



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 14 and onward. Please contact Carla Lowman for details at 412-826-5914. AVAILABLE DATES: May 5, 26; June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.



**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 send out a big **THANK YOU to Debbie Hays** for her many years of service and help with the Lay Readers who have participated in the Good Friday Tenebrae services. Debbie took over this role when Karen Smith moved to Ohio a number of years ago. Debbie has been responsible for contacting/lining up the readers, supplying their readings and covering the details in rehearsal prior to and during the service. Her dedication to this cause has made our Tenebrae services so meaningful and polished.

Debbie has now taken on roles with the Membership/Fellowship Committee, so we send her our THANKS!

The Worship Committee will soon be seeking the next person who may be willing to take on this important role.

**Deacons - Food Donations** - Thank you for your donations to the food banks at RCAC and Verona Methodist Church supporting families in our community. Continue to place donations in the shopping carts or drop off financial donations to the office/collection plate. Food donation questions, contact Chris Wilson at 412-779-7024. **For the month of APRIL**, Deacons will be **collecting men's spring/summer clothing**. The bin is in the 5<sup>th</sup> Street vestibule. If you need something picked up contact Bobbie Lio 412-310-8807.

I am sharing two groups that the Mission Committee supports through Mission Dollars.

**The Blessing Board** is a Christian based quality furniture bank. They are a nonprofit 501(C) (3) organization located in Shaler, PA. They were at one time located here in Oakmont on Pennsylvania Ave near the park. They pick up donated furniture, appliances, and goods and then re-donates the items to those in need at no cost in response to what God has done for us. The Blessing Board not only accepts furniture as stated above they also accept financial contributions or a gift of your time through volunteering or participating in their events. Here are a few statistics from their website The Blessing Board. Org. In 2023 the Blessing Board helped 3,557 people, served 131 different zip codes, 23,930 items were given away or 852,023 pounds were kept out of landfills.

**Verona United Methodist Church Summer Camp.** For 2022 and 2023 the dollars we provided helped with meals for the youth. Some of these youths are disadvantaged so getting a good meal while not in school is very important.

Let us remember from Mark 16:15 And he said to them. *Go Into All The World and Preach The Gospel To All Creatures .*

God Is Good,  
Diane McKenzie

## 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.





## 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).

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**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

#### MAY 3 *Critical Thinking (2020)*

The true story of the Miami Jackson  
High School chess team which was the  
first inner city team to win the U.S.  
National Chess Championship.

John Leguizamo, Rachel Bay Jones,  
Michael Kenneth Williams  
(Not Rated 1h, 57m)

#### MAY 17 *The Blind (2023)*

Long before Phil Roberston was a reality  
TV star, he fell in love and started a family,  
but his demons threatened to tear their lives  
apart. This is the true story that started a  
dynasty.

Aron von Andrian, Matthew Erick White,  
Ronan Carroll (PG-13 1h, 48m)

#### MAY 31 *A Call to Spy (2019)*

In the beginning of WWII, with Britain be-  
coming desperate, Churchill orders his new  
spy agency, SOE, to recruit and train wom-  
en as spies. Based on a true story.

Sarah Megan Thomas, Stana Katic, Radhi-  
ka Apte (PG-13 2h, 3m)

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

**Communion for the Homebound.** Please notify the church office if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home.

**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.**

**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



The Presbytery has requested OPC to reassemble the **Interim Pastor Nominating Committee** (IPNC) endorsed by Session to conduct a Bridge Pastor search. The committee is challenged with maintaining the high quality of pastoral compassion, leadership and care displayed by Pastor Tim during his tenure at OPC. The IPNC has begun the work of sourcing a Bridge Pastor to begin upon Pastor Tim's departure on September 30, 2024. The PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) is also working diligently to source a permanent "Installed Pastor" to begin approximately 04/01/25. Hopefully a quality pastor can be found prior to 6 months going by. However, to ensure no further transitions prior to our Installed Pastor beginning his/her leadership at OPC in April of 2025, we look to have the new Bridge Pastor in place from 10/01/24 - 03/31/25.

*IPNC Team - Nick Kokales and Sally Huber-Lewis Co-Chairs, David Geis, Christine Little, Christopher Hudak, Jim Kinter - moderated by Dr. Rev. Edwin Van Driel*



**Saturday, May 4th, 10am - 2pm Car Wash at OPC!**

All donations will support the Youth Group's mission trip to Detroit in June.

**"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.



Men's Breakfast Fellowship - join us on Tuesday **May 7 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.

**May 7 – Grace Notes**

**Riverview High School select girl's choral group, will return for their annual visit and musical program.**

**All are welcome!**





**Beginning**  
**May 26 through September 8**  
worship times will be  
**8:30 and 10:00 am** in the Sanctuary

## **2024 Officers**

### **Elders**

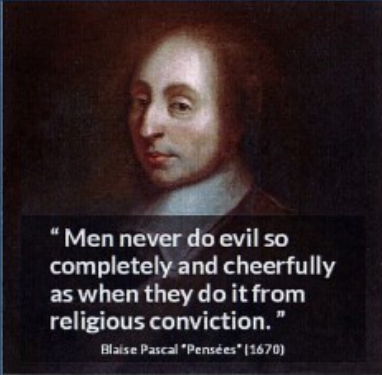
Sam Anderson  
Dave Barr  
Hank Buechli  
Ron Burkert  
Janice French  
Lin Ewing  
Debbie Hays  
Jan Hepler  
Nick Kokales  
Chris Little  
Sally Huber Lewis  
Grace McGhee  
Diane McKenzie  
Shannon Meyers  
Deb Nichols  
Rich Ogrodowski  
Bev Taylor  
Jean Wimer

### **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 Remail  
Tom Tumulty



# 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><i>Islam Needs a Reformation Now</i></b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b><i>White Christian Nationalism</i></b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b><i>Identitarian Religious Globalism</i></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 !!!**

# MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 9:30am Coffee &amp; Conversation (MPP) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 12:05pm Youth Group (Grades 6-12)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MPP &amp; DR)</p>	30	<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 1:30pm PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 4:00pm Service at Longwood at Oakmont (Chapel) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAA's (DR)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPP)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Youth Group Car Wash Fundraiser (OPC) 8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:30am WORSHIP &amp; COMMUNION (SANC) 9:15am Trustees (LIB) 11:00am WORSHIP &amp; COMMUNION (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MPP &amp; DR)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30am Men's Breakfast &amp; Speaker (DR)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAA's (DR)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>MOTHER'S DAY 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am WORSHIP &amp; RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 12:00pm New Member Reception (FH)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MPP &amp; DR)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00am Garden Club of Oakmont (MPP) 7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC) 7:00pm Session (DR)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Soups On (KITCHEN) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR) 8:00pm NAA's (DR)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPP)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>DAY OF PENTECOST 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 11:00am WORSHIP (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MPP &amp; DR)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00pm Deacons (DR)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR) 4:30pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal (SANC)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00pm NAA's (DR)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>TRINITY SUNDAY 8:30am WORSHIP (SANC) 10:00am WORSHIP (SANC) &amp; Livestream and children's JAM Classes (prek-Grade 2 &amp; Grades 3-6) 12:15pm Youth Group &amp; Mission Trip Meeting 2:30pm JP Rehearsal (SANC) 4:00pm Jubilation Praise Concert (SANC)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY 12:00pm AA's (SGR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #854 &amp; Cub Pack #137 (MPP &amp; DR)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00pm Our Journey Without Them (MBC)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Women's AA (DR) 12:15pm Staff (SGR)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00pm NAA's (DR)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00pm OPC Film Series (MPP)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:00pm AA's (DR)</p>



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