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Oak Hill News



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With Jesus as our guide and community as our goal, we worship, love, serve and grow

Pastor's Corner

It's so awkward.

That's all I could think about the first time I attended a Maundy

Thursday worship service in which the congregation I was visiting included, gulp, a foot washing. It's just so awkward.

Taking my socks off. Other people seeing my toes. Other people touching my feet. Other people, total strangers, sitting that close to me, seeing my feet, then touching my feet. The weird water tub. And feet. And strangers. No. No, no. Nope, Nuh-uh. No way. No.

That first service was so uncomfortable. I was desperately hoping I could sit in the back and just close my eyes and the ushers would leave me alone. I sat there (because obviously it would be even more awkward if I just got up and left), committed to my plan of just avoiding the foot washing and putting it out of my mind and trying to just listen to the rest of the service.

But a thing happened as I listened to the text, and pondered the sermon, as I let the music and the moment of Maundy Thursday sink in.... I realized that I was growing more comfortable with the idea. Not because I wanted these strangers touching my feet. But because, maybe it is supposed to be awkward.

All of this Jesus stuff, it is supposed to be different, and counter-cultural, and radical, and yeah, a little

awkward. Serving others in this way, loving others in this way, and really allowing others to love and serve you in a way we Westerners aren't used to.... It is super awkward.

And it's super important.

As we approach this Holy Week, as we get closer to these hard events, confessions, decisions, as we re-read these texts and re-remember this wild bit of our faith story, it's okay to feel awkward. It's okay to feel uncomfortable.

I hope we can welcome that, and allow the discomfort to inform us, challenge us, and help us to grow. And as you read your devotionals, attend special worship services, take time to sit vigil at church or at home, and even as you come to our foot washing service on Maundy Thursday, I hope something about this season creates some tension, brings up some questions, and calls us to explore. It can be so awkward. This faith stuff. This community stuff. This Jesus-following stuff.

And it's super important.

With love and in hope for how we are growing together (and with a promise to show up with some freshly-pedicured feet this month), let's welcome the awkward, and see how Jesus might meet us there.

In faith,
Pastor Erin



The Bulletin Board

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The April luncheon will be on Sunday, April 7. The Mission Committee will provide some casseroles, but will need sides and desserts. A free will offering basket will be available. All funds raised will go toward the mission trip for renting vans and gas money. Please contact Dena Roper with any questions.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Palm Crosses and Easter Prep

On Saturday, April 13, at 9 a.m. everyone is invited to meet in the kitchen to make Palm Crosses to be handed out after the Palm Sunday worship service. We'll also be prepping some crafts for Good Friday and Easter worship services. No special skills are required, just show up ready to help out!



Psalm Sunday

We'll hold our annual Palms to Passion worship service on Sunday, April 14th. All children are invited to meet in the Faith and Fellowship Room before worship to participate in the Palms processional.

Maundy Thursday

A joint Maundy Thursday ecumenical service with Compton Heights Christian Church Christian Church will be held at Oak Hill at 7 p.m., April 18.

Good Friday

On Good Friday, April 19, the Stations of the Cross will be held at Oak Hill at 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pastor Erin will lead a special prayer at 5 p.m.

Holy Saturday

An Easter Vigil will be held from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday April 20. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary, for individuals to take hour-long shifts holding vigil in our sanctuary space on Holy Saturday.

Easter

On Easter Sunday there will be a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. and a service at 10:30 a.m. Bring flowers from your garden to decorate the Easter cross.



NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Pastor Alan and Pastor Erin have begun teaching a new Adult Sunday School Class looking at how Presbyterians read scripture, and specifically how we interpret the texts so often used in conversations about LGBTQ issues. We'll look at different interpretations of the texts we always hear about, and we'll dive into some texts that maybe should be heard more often. Join us, on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Theleos Room.

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership and Evangelism Committee needs your help in preparing for Oak Hill's annual Easter Egg Hunt, as well as to visit our extended members

Gifts and greeting cards will be available in the Large Assembly Room for our extended members. We appreciate your help in delivering them so that our extended members know we are thinking about them even if they are not able to attend worship services at Oak Hill. (An announcement will be placed in a weekly Sunday bulletin as to when the gifts and cards are available to be picked up and delivered.)

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (cont'd)



Individually wrapped candies that will fit in plastic Easter eggs are still needed for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20. Please place your donations in the boxes in the Large Assembly Room or the church office. The eggs will be filled at the same time as Palm Sunday cross-making on Saturday morning, April 13, 9 a.m.



If you are available to help on Saturday, April 20, or know of children you would like to invite to the annual Easter Egg Hunt, please plan to join us at the Turkish Pavilion in Tower Grove Park that morning. Please plan to bring baskets to collect the eggs. Helpers should arrive at church at 9 a.m. or the Turkish Pavilion at 9:15 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m.



MISSION COMMITTEE



PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND FUNDRAISER

Our annual pancake breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 14, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Be on the lookout for a couple of new breakfast options! Funds raised will go toward the mission trip for van rentals and gas to help the team get to Baltimore! Any help is appreciated. Please contact Dena Roper with any questions.

MISSION TRIP

Be on the lookout for fundraising events to help with the mission trip expenses! We have our reservations, but now we need to get there! Please let Dena Roper know if you have any questions.

FOOSBALL

Foosball is Tuesday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m. It's a fun night of community with our neighborhood kids. Please join us for pizza, snacks and fun! It's at the Great American Human Foosball, located at 3227 Morgan Ford Road. Please contact Dena Roper with any questions.

OPEN GYM NIGHT – CANCELED IN APRIL

Open gym night falls on Good Friday in April. Therefore, we will not meet. Please contact Dena Roper with any questions.

It's April at Isaiah 58 (I58) Ministries

Thanks to everyone who participated in the I58 Pancake Supper. With your help we raised \$1800 to help financially support the ministry. A special thanks to Bette and Valery Welch and Band Together Friends for their great performance.

Plans are under way for our Annual Meeting to be held in June and our Back to School Event in August. (Think backpack, school supplies, bouncy house and dunking tank!)

April 2019

7th - canned fruit
14th - canned stew
21st - deodorant
28th - pasta

May 2019

5th - canned spinach or other greens
12th - rice or rice mix
19th - animal crackers or vanilla wafers
26th - tuna or tuna helper

MISSION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Cleaning products and personal care items are always needed.

Anything you are able to donate is **always** welcome. It doesn't have to be on the list. Bring an extra from your pantry or the store sales. Please keep Isaiah 58 clients, staff and volunteers in your prayers.

Any questions about Isaiah 58 services, collections, volunteer opportunities and events can be directed to Donna Cook.

AMEN HOUSE

We have been busy as ever at AMEN House, welcoming over 50 visitors in February and March! In February, we welcomed about 15 LGBTQIA+ clergy and their supporters from the United Methodist Church. This was a very hostile time for United Methodists, as the church debated same-gender marriages and the affirmation of queer clergy. Those who stayed at AMEN House expressed their gratitude for having a safe and welcoming place to come home to in the midst of the storm. One pastor left us a note saying, "Thank you for your amazing generosity and hospitality! You all made us feel like we had a home to come back to each night. Although things did not turn out as we had hoped, we know that God is good and Love is love." We're proud that we were able to support these brave folks during such a painful time.

We've also been busy hosting groups of young people who are seeking to do service, learn about systems of injustice, and be formed in their faith in the process. The Confirmands from St. Lucas UCC joined us for a Confirmation retreat for the second year in a row, doing service projects at Lydia's House and Karen House and participating in Sacred Conversations on Race. A dynamic group of 14 college students from College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts visited us for an alternative break, diving deep into service projects and critical reflection on white supremacy and resistance work. They had the opportunity to speak with lots of local activists and community leaders about what resistance looks like, reflect on their own diverse faith jour-

neys, learn new spiritual practices, and discern where God is calling them to be of service. This was the first time that the College of the Holy Cross sent us a team for alternative break, and they have already contacted us asking if they can come back next year! And lastly, we hosted a mission trip from Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames, Iowa. These amazing high schoolers were brave in tackling hard topics during Sacred Conversations on Race and did some amazing service for local organizations.

Thank you so much for your on-going support of the ministry of AMEN St. Louis!

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

One Great Hour of Sharing

On Easter, April 21, Oak Hill will receive donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).

All around the world we see people whose homes and even loved ones have been washed away by hurricanes and floods, people trapped in systems of injustice and oppression, and people who will go to bed tonight hungry or without a roof over their heads.

Donations collected are used to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Self-Development of People (SDOP), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP). The PDA and

SDOP receive 32 percent of the offering and the remaining 36 percent goes to the PHP.

OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. It enables our church to actively engage the world so that faith comes alive and the world wakes up to the new possibilities God has placed before us. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. An envelope for the offering will be in the April 14 Sunday worship bulletin or you may just send a donation to the church. Your check should be marked, "One Great Hour of Sharing Donation."

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Mr. Bruce Wiebe, Director, Special Offerings, Presbytery Mission of Presbyterian Church USA, sent a letter to the church dated February 15, 2019 thanking the church for our support of the Special Offerings. This is in recognition of Oak Hill's donation of \$1,391 to the Christmas Joy Offering.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

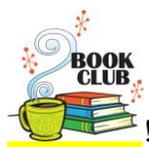
Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, April 4, in the Theleos Room at 10 a.m. Bring a sandwich -- salad, chips and dessert will be provided. In May, Mary Pollock from Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services will come to our meeting to tell us about the work they do and to receive a donation of stuffed bears made by the Circle. If you would like to join us to hear her speak and are able to join us for lunch in May, please let Jan Stanford or Carole Adams know you are planning to come.

BOOK CLUB

The Touchy Topics Book and Discussion Group will be discussing *"The Sellout"* by Paul Beatty on Wednesday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Hartford Coffee. All are welcome to join the conversation!



The book club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, at the Barrow residence. We will watch the movie, *"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society."* Please bring your dinner and join us. We are always looking for new members.



ARTS AND CRAFT CLUB

Craft Night

Please join us for Craft Night on Friday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Theleos Classroom, for a fun evening of crafting! It will be a "bring your own project" evening, but there will be a sewing project available if anyone wants to bring their sewing machine. We need to sew the edges of some sheets for Winter Outreach. Please bring a snack to share! Please let Dena Roper know if you have any questions.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their February 13, 2019 Stated Scheduled Meeting:

Average Worship attendance in January was 66.

Membership January 31, 2018 is 107.

Financial Reports for January and Year-to-Date 2019

	January	2019 Total
Income		
Budgeted	\$15,537.00	\$15,537.00
Actual	\$30,072.71	\$30,072.71*
Expenses		
Budgeted	\$15,383.00	\$15,383.00
Actual	\$18,218.43	\$18,218.43

*Includes Wamser Trust Fund earnings.

Session approved the 2018 Annual Statistical Report.

Stewardship and Property Committee reported on the following use of the building which had been approved:

- Take 2 Productions for rehearsals through March
- South City Church for a Reclaim MLK worship, discussion, and meal on January 20 from 4 to 7 p.m.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

- Mary LaTragna and her Kitco Renaissance St. Louis Group use of the gym on second, fourth, and fifth Fridays through August for practice
- AMEN House (Annie Girsch) use of the gym on February 15 for a group from St. Luke's UCC

Session approved allowing Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty to use the church on Saturday, September 21, for a trivia night fundraiser. Those attending will be allowed to bring alcoholic beverages to the fundraiser for their own personal consumption. No alcoholic beverages will be sold or served.

Session approved receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy Offerings in 2019.

Session approved applying for a Hunger Action Congregation Grant from the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. The recipient of the grant would be Isaiah 58 Ministries. Oak Hill is a Certified Hunger Action Congregation which hosts Isaiah 58 as a feeding ministry.

Session approved canceling the March 13 Stated Session Meeting. The next meeting will be April 10.



LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

Sunday, April 7	Isaiah 43:16-21; <i>Psalm 126</i> ; Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
Passion/Palm Sunday, April 14	<i>Palms</i> : Luke 19:28-40; <i>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</i> ; <i>Passion</i> : Isaiah 50:4-9a; <i>Psalm 31:9-16</i> ; Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 <i>or</i> Luke 23:1-19
Monday of Holy Week, April 15	Isaiah 42:1-9; <i>Psalm 36:5-11</i> ; Heb. 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week, April 16	Isaiah 49:1-7; <i>Psalm 71:1-14</i> ; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
Wednesday of Holy Week, April 17	Isaiah 50:4-9a; <i>Psalm 70</i> ; Heb. 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday, April 18	Exodus 12:1-4; (5-10) 11-14; <i>Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19</i> ; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday, April 19	Isaiah 52:13-53:12; <i>Psalm 22</i> ; Heb. 10:16-25; <i>or</i> Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
Great Vigil of Easter, April 20	Gen. 1:1-2:4a, <i>Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26</i> ; Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13; <i>Psalm 46</i> ; Gen. 22:1-18; <i>Psalm 16</i> ; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18; Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-6; Prov. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6; <i>Psalm 19</i> ; Ezek. 36:24-28; <i>Psalm 42 and 43</i> ; Ezek. 37:1-14; <i>Psalm 143</i> ; Zeph. 3:14-20; <i>Psalm 98</i> ; Rom. 6:3-11; <i>Psalm 114</i> ; Luke 24:1-12
Resurrection of the Lord/Easter April 21	Acts 10:34-43 <i>or</i> Isaiah 65:17-25; <i>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</i> ; 1 Cor. 15:19-26 <i>or</i> Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 <i>or</i> Luke 24:1-12 Easter Evening: Isaiah 25:6-9; <i>Psalm 114</i> ; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49
Sunday, April 28	Acts 5:27-32; <i>Psalm 118:14-29 or</i> <i>Psalm 150</i> ; Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31



Isaiah 58 Ministries Pancake Supper



Scenes from Oak Hill

Ashes to Go



**Isaiah 58 Ministries Pancake Supper
(cont/d)**



Worship



Oak Hill News

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
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We are a welcoming congregation where visitors are always expected!

Choir Rehearsal – 9:00 a.m.

Christian Education – 9:30 a.m.

Service of Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Nursery Care – 10:30 a.m.

The ministers of Oak Hill Church are its members assisted by:

Rev. Erin Counihan
Pastor

Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers
Parish Associate

Ms. Susan Brown
Minister of Music

Ms. Annie Girresch
Director AMEN St. Louis

Ms. Carole Adams
Secretary

Articles for publication
in the
Oak Hill News
need to be
submitted in writing
to the church office by the
3rd Monday of each
month.