

Highlights

- Rally Day, page 2
- Sunday School Resumers, page 2

Inside

- Stewardship Campaign, page 4
- Book Clubs, page 6

Oak Hill News

No. 09

SEPTEMBER 2021

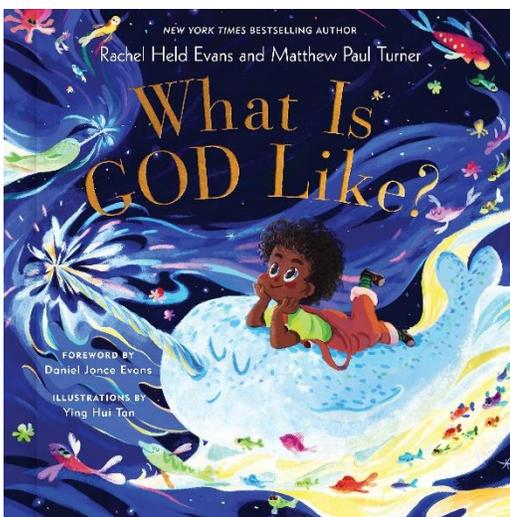
Volume 71

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

Pastor's Corner

In their lovely new children's book, "What is God Like?" authors Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner attempt to explain to a child, and really to us all, what God is and does and feels like. Ying Hui Tan's vibrant illustrations of God as parent, God as an artist, God as the wind, God as a gardener, God as a fort, God as stars, God as dancers, God as a friend, and God as so much more, bring to life this story and these answers about how we experience God in a variety of situations and relationships and circumstances and moments.

Toward the end, the authors and artist proclaim: "She is your protector. He is trustworthy. They are friends



when you feel alone. God hopes. God perseveres."

I've been leaning on this lovely little book this week, and praying through these hope-filled

descriptions of God. As heartbreaking bits of news tumble in, with every text and call about a beloved one's struggles, in each horrible news story and update on the state of our world, I find myself

praying: God protect us. God help us to persevere. God grant us hope. God don't leave us alone.

Oak Hill has two wonderful book clubs, we have a Bible study class in which we regularly dig into academic texts, and every Sunday I consult the great scholars of all time in preparing sermons and liturgy based on Holy Scripture that has been passed down to us through the generations. And yet, this week, it is this wonderful children's book that has lifted my spirit more than any of those big books.

I will leave a copy of "What is God Like" in the church library this week, in case you need a little reminder, in the midst of everything going on, in whatever state your prayer life is in, with whatever is weighing heavy on your heart right now, stop by after worship, flip through the pages, and do not forget, even now... what God is like....

With love,
Pastor Erin



**Also, to any of our families with tiny humans who might be interested in having a copy of this book at home, please let me know. I will get you a copy.*

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Matt Hanify

Worship

It is so great to see everyone back in the sanctuary! You all look like you've lost weight or gotten much taller or both. Sincerely great to see so many (mostly) familiar faces. We have had a few hiccups getting everything to work correctly, but I think we deserve a solid B+ on moving things back to in-person worship. However, and this will come as a shock to no one, the struggle is not over. Missouri COVID-19 numbers are on the increase, and St. Louis is no exception. We request that people continue to:

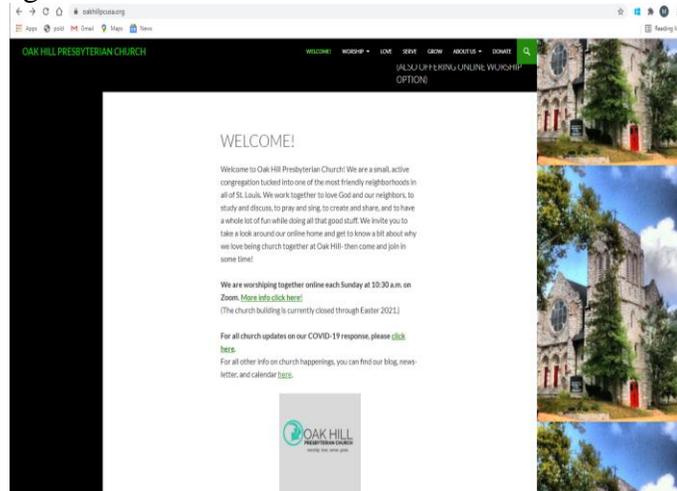
- Wear masks, which are provided free of charge in the back if you have forgotten yours
- Only sit in pews that have cushions
- Limit physical contact as much as possible
- Fill out the attendance form, located at the end of each pew
- Relegate post-worship fellowship to outdoors

And remember, if you aren't feeling well, please stay home and worship with us online. We will continue with our Zoom worship. Details are available on the church's website, oakhillpcusa.org.

Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., either in person or on Zoom (meeting ID 768 992 383)

Call for Volunteers

We still need ushers, liturgists, nursery caregivers, sous chefs, and myriad other roles. And we (meaning not me) have made sign-up easy. On the front page of our website (oakhillpcusa.org), click the tab that says, "grow."



The next page contains "OHPC Worship Leader Volunteer Sign-Ups: [Click here.](#)" Click there. You

will be taken to a SignUpGenius page, where you can select whatever role speaks to you. Nursery caregivers must be fully vaccinated and have background checks through Oak Hill (see Pastor Erin).

Communion

Our current communion process involves a tiny cup of juice, similar to a coffee creamer cup, and nestled in the lid is a communion wafer. This is the overwhelming favorite of nobody. We realize that the communion process is significantly less than ideal. However, it mitigates any touching between people and food and food and people, which makes it an extremely safe option. Also, by avoiding plastic zip-top bags, we decrease the amount of waste. So, for now, we will stick with this at least for September. This doesn't mean we don't have other options. If you prefer, you should feel free to bring bread or juice or both from home. I have it on good authority that bread and juice from home are every bit as communion-y as what you can get in church. We are also exploring more substantive options for World Communion Sunday on (checks internet quickly) October 3. Please realize, however, that the health of our parishioners is our primary concern, and any decision made will keep everyone's safety at the forefront. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact any member of church leadership.

Rally Day

We are planning a Rally Day this year, with OUTDOOR WORSHIP at the church, for Sunday, September 12. We ask that everyone bring a lunch and some chairs and prepare for outside service. This will be closer to a traditional Rally Day in that it is likely to have bingo. But other games will also be available. If the weather is bad, we will move everything inside and meet in the Large Assembly Room downstairs, because, you know, bingo.

Sunday School

This means that Sunday School will start back up on September 19, in the Large Assembly Room downstairs. For eight weeks, it will continue with the intergenerational Sunday School that was put on pause so we could go on summer break and visit Devils Tower. Sunday School classes will return to their separate corners, adults over here and children over there, in the new year.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday class is set to begin a study on Dr. Wil Gafney's book, *Womanist Midrash*. This book is an in-depth and creative exploration of the well- and lesser-known women of the Hebrew Scriptures. Using her own translations, Gafney offers a midrashic interpretation of the biblical text that is rooted in the African American preaching tradition to tell the stories of a variety of female characters, many of whom are often overlooked and nameless.

Wednesday Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. on Zoom (meeting ID 259 777 226)

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Stephanie Hoegger

The E&M committee hosted a Brown Bag Fellowship Lunch after service on Sunday, August 1. It was a big hit! Tables and chairs were set up outside the front of the church as a spot for folks to safely enjoy their lunches from home. Cold water and juice were provided. We ate sandwiches, homegrown tomatoes, sushi, lots of chips, and other tasty treats brought in brown bags. It was so nice to be gathering together for a meal after communion again.

The Art Wall's "What I love about summer in St. Louis" themed display continued through August and into September. But there's always time to add your own masterpiece! We have blank canvas/boards available for anyone wanting to contribute. Please check out all the talented and creative work of our members on display now.

The outdoor movie originally planned for August has been postponed. Stay tuned for updates on other fun opportunities for fellowship coming soon!

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Greetings from the Mission and Justice Committee

We've listed the Isaiah 58 Ministries wish list for September and October. Remember you are welcome to bring whatever you find on sale, whatever is hanging out in your pantry, or your favorite that you must share with everyone! Monetary donations are welcome as well. You can donate to Isaiah 58 through the church's giving page <https://www.oakhillpcusa.org/donate/> or directly through Isaiah 58's webpage <https://i58ministries.org/donate/>

September

5th - toothpaste

12th - macaroni and cheese or other boxed pasta or rice mix

19th - hearty soup

26th - oatmeal

October

3rd - hand soap

10th - canned chicken

17th - your favorite vegetable

24th - canned spinach or other canned greens

31st - Happy Halloween - black beans and/or mandarin oranges

We're still collecting pencils and three ring binder pencil cases!

We've put together more Go-Bags to share with neighbors in need, you'll find them in the box outside the sanctuary entrance by the chair lift.

September 25 - AMEN House Work Day. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Last minute cleaning and supply check for our group coming the first week of October. Contact Donna Cook for more information. Specific projects still to be determined.

Supporting Refugee Resettlement

We are collecting underwear and other needed household items to share with our neighbors at the [International Institute](#). You can bring any donation items to church on Sunday or take them directly to the

International Institute (3401 Arsenal). We have also made a call to see what kind of financial support they need at this time to help with the rapid resettlement of refugees from Afghanistan. Mission and Justice plans to make a donation on behalf of the congregation.

Thank you to everyone for your show of love and compassion for our neighbors and community.

Watch for more information about Mission and Justice events coming soon!

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

By Carole Adams

Property

Thanks to Mike Hale all the scheduled electrical work has been completed. The fuse box has been upgraded to a circuit breaker panel, and the electrical infrastructure for the chancel area in the sanctuary and the Theleos Room has been completed.

Stewardship and Property has been working on getting bids to replace the roof over the sanctuary which is worn out and need replacing. A second bid has been received. Our committee will meet to determine how we should proceed with this project. As previously reported, the roof replacement will be paid from the reserves we maintain for this type of need.

After running several electrical conductivity checks, the contractor found the battery charger on the chairlift that goes up to the sanctuary (otherwise known as the Screaming Eagle) was not producing any output. A new charger has been installed, and batteries replaced. The chairlift is now working. Please remember to check and make sure the lift has gone completely to the bottom or top of the track and that the light at the bottom of the lift is one. This will confirm that the battery is being charged.

The church van is still in the process of being repaired after it was vandalized in the act of attempted theft from our parking lot. The mechanical work has been done, the tires have been replaced, and it has been inspected and licensed. The only thing left to be done is the lock on the door needs to be fixed.

Don Stanford has been working hard to get the van back in service.

The HVAC systems are still being repaired and reviewed. All the units in the sanctuary are working except the one in the NE corner of the sanctuary.

Thanks to Brian Heuckroth the faucet in the restroom located by the library has been replaced and the commode in the Women's Restroom in the basement of the church has been repaired.

Stewardship



The Stewardship Campaign always begins in August with our committee, Stewardship & Property, asking the three other Session Committees (Evangelism & Membership, Mission & Justice, and Worship & Christian Education) and the Personnel Committee to tell us what they financially expect to need the following year to support their plans and programs (and salaries and the Terms of Call for the Pastor). When we have their input in September, our committee meets to set the preliminary budget for the following year and takes it to the October Session Meeting for approval. Once it is approved by Session, we schedule a Congregational Meeting in November to present the preliminary budget (and our plans) and to get the congregation's approval on the Terms of Call for the Pastor for the following year.

Following the Congregational Meeting, members and friends are given a letter and commitment card, asking them to tell us of how they plan to financially support Oak Hill in the upcoming year. This year we will ask that the commitment cards be returned on Pledge Dedication Sunday, which is tentatively set for November 14. Once received, we can prepare a final budget for Session's approval in December.

We sincerely hope that each person will begin to prayerfully consider how they can support God's ministry here at Oak Hill in 2022, not only financially, but also with their time and talents.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (cont'd)



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

“Peace at all times in all ways”
2 Thessalonians 3:16

On World Communion Sunday, October 3, we celebrate that Christ’s peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the communion table, in God’s house. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God, with active peacemakers here at home and around the world. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ’s peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. We celebrate the truth found in 2nd Thessalonians, *“Peace at all times in all ways.”*

On October 3 we will be receiving the Peace & Global Witness Special Offering. This Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. 25% of this Offering stays within our congregation, 25% goes to mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions, and 50% supports the work for peace and reconciliations being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

You can donate online, mail your offering to the church, or place it in the offering plates located in the back of the sanctuary.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their July 14, 2021 Stated Scheduled Meeting (Session did not meet in August):

Average Worship attendance in June (via Zoom and outdoor) was 44.

Membership as of June 30, 2021 was 98

Financial Reports for June and Year-to-Date 2021

	June	2021 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	\$25,217.79	\$90,438.47
Budgeted	\$26,647.23	\$81,460.00
Over (Under) Budget	(\$1,429.44)	\$ 8,978.47
Expenses		
Actual	\$15,965.59	\$104,344.76
Budgeted	\$19,047.30	\$109,780.80
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$3,081.71)	(\$5,436.04)
Actual Net Revenue (Loss)	\$ 9,252.20	(\$13,906.29)
Budgeted Net Revenue (Loss)	\$ 7,599.93	(\$28,320.80)
Over/(Under) Budget	\$ 1,652.27	\$14,414.51

A full financial audit of the church’s financial records was made and found to be properly recorded for the 2020 calendar year.

Session approved a request from the Ridgewood Church from Minnetonka, MI, to use the AMEN House from October 2 to 10, 2021. They have previously stayed here, and they plan their own programming so there won’t be any interaction with church members. It is an adult group with 8 to 12 people. We will require they follow CDC Guidelines and our Task Force Guidelines for groups of less than 15 meeting in our buildings. They will be allowed to self-determine the use of masks and we would recommend all be vaccinated.

Session approved awarding Alison Stanford a \$1,000 Scholarship Grant for 2021.

Take 2 Productions will be allowed to use Oak Hill for rehearsals (as they had done in the past) with the agreement to abide by Oak Hill’s Reopening Task Force guidelines. Session did agree to allow them to self-determine whether to use masks, based on the vaccination status of the group.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 3 will hold a Zoom meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 2. Zoom Meeting ID: 886 1391 8422, Passcode: 081116. (Call in by phone using phone number: 312-626-6799, then enter both the meeting ID and the passcode).

BOOK CLUBS

Oak Hill Book Club

This group is meeting in person at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, at the Barrow home to discuss “*The Huntress*,” by Kate Quinn. If you cannot make it in person, please attend on Zoom: 259 777 226 Password: Disciple (case sensitive)

Please read to book and join us! Bring a fast food dinner to enjoy before discussing the book.

Touchy Topics Book Club

September’s Touchy Topics Book and Discussion Group will discuss *Here For It: Or, How To Save Your Soul In America*, by R. Eric Thomas. From the creator of Elle’s “Eric Reads the News,” this collection of humorous and poignant essays explores the nature of being “other” and the journey toward reconsidering “normal.” In October, the group will discuss *The Round House*, by Louise Erdrich, which journeys to the Ojibwa reservation in North Dakota, where a boy explores the terrible events that permanently transform his family. We will meet on Wednesday, September 1, & Wednesday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 259 777 226; Password is Disciple.

ARTS AND CRAFT CLUB

Craft Night

Please join us for a virtual Craft night on Friday, September 17, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Please bring a project and snack and hang out with us! (Projects include stuff like crocheting, creating art, coloring, crossword puzzles, regular puzzles, your taxes, writing sermons, whatever works for you!). Log in information is meeting number: 823 1780 8360 Password: Disciple. Please contact Dena Roper with any questions.

PRESBYTERY OF GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY

Angels, Miracles and Stained-Glass Windows

The 2021 History Tour is scheduled for Thursday, September 30. We are planning to take a tour of some of the stained-glass windows and miracle sites around the area and hope to include: the windows at Kirkwood Pres, the Mount Grace Convent Chapel (better known as the Pink Sisters Chapel), the Shrine of St. Joseph, the Cathedral Basilica, and Second Presbyterian Church. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Adams Ave., Kirkwood, MO (we expect this to go through 4 p.m.).

Masks are required.

\$59 per person includes tour, boxed lunch and gratuities

Make reservations with Janet Stanford:

314-638-0195

9511 Howerton Drive

St. Louis MO 63123

Make checks payable to Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy (memo: History Tour)

Under the Oak Tree



The sympathy and support of the congregation is extended to Kim McMullin and her family upon the death of Kim’s husband Matt on August 26, 2021.



Oak Hill Presbyterian Church

Isaiah 58 Ministries wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to all those from Oak Hill Presbyterian Church who participated in the ministries Back to School Fair. They were wonderful and all in attendance, on that hot day, appreciated the games you provided.

It is churches such as yours that helps make Isaiah 58 Ministries able to serve the needs of the community.

Thank you ever so much!

Peg Cooper

Board Member



LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 5	Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125
Sunday, September 12	Prov. 1:20-33 and Psalm 19
Sunday, September 19	Prov. 31:10-31 and Psalm 1
Sunday, September 26	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124

Scenes from Oak Hill

Worship



August Membership Picnic



Fun After Church



Assembling Go-Bags for our neighbors in need.



Oak Hill News

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
4111 Connecticut Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63116-3926 (314) 664-5525

www.oakhillpcusa.org

office@oakhillpcusa.org

We are a welcoming congregation where visitors are always expected!

Christian Education – 9:30 a.m.
(Beginning September 19)

Service of Worship (In Person and Zoom)
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. 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.