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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.

A Message from Pastor Alan

March 23, 2022

Dear Oak Hill Friends,

If you were in the sanctuary for worship last Sunday, wasn't it wonderful to sing hymns again -- even if we were, each of us, "The Masked Singer?" You may know that I love to sing hymns anyway. But I was especially moved by our first hymn, the "Canticle of the Turning:"

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God who is turning the world around.

The words of that hymn take on special meaning during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In spite of all the horror that is going on there, we must believe that violent power and brutal oppression will not have the last word. Why do we believe this? Not simply because of the incredible courage and steadfastness of the Ukrainian people (and of their President, notably). Not simply because some military observers are saying that Russia is losing. Not simply because of talk of peace negotiations. All those things are encouraging, surely. But, for believers in the God revealed in Jesus Christ, the ultimate source of our confidence in the victory of life and peace and justice and humanity is not any of those things.

The God "who is turning the world around" is the One who raised the crucified Jesus from the dead. All the power of the Roman Empire, the power of violent domination that put Jesus to death, could not stop that resurrection. Nor could it stop the final victory of the way of Jesus, the way of love. Easter is the sign and guarantee from God that that final victory is coming, in spite of all that may seem to make it unlikely. Easter is that "saving word that our forebears heard," the "promise which holds us bound, Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God who is turning the world around."

The remembrance of the self-giving love of God, poured out on the cross, and of the demonstration that love cannot finally be defeated, is what our observance of Lent and Holy Week and Easter is all about. We should find hope and joy in this season, whatever we see and hear on the news. God is turning the world around! Amen.

Your Oak Hill amigo,
Alan Meyers

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Matt Hanify

Worship

We have officially returned to in-person worship, and it has been fantastic to see everyone's smiling, singing (you read that right!) faces. Actually, I was not in attendance last Sunday, but I assume, since the church has been holding services for over a hundred years in my absence, that things went really well. We still ask people to maintain many of the pandemic procedures that we have come to know and tolerate: mask wearing (even when we're singing), limiting physical contact, keeping a safe distance from one another. We will continue to offer an online worship option for our extended members or those who are still not quite comfortable enough to attend. And we will still not be partaking in after-service coffee hour in the Large Assembly Room downstairs. If the weather is nice, we encourage people to do their post-worship chatting outdoors.

Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., in person (been awhile since I wrote that) or on Zoom (meeting ID 768 992 383; subject to change based on COVID-19 numbers).

Volunteering

Now that we're back in person, we have things that need done, and we would like you (that's right – you) to help us do things. We need greeters, liturgists, nursery caretakers (this particular task requires a bit of paperwork), and probably half a dozen other roles that need to be filled. Visit our website (oakhillpcusa.org) and open the Sign-up Genius, which is in an orange box under the "Worship" tab or you may just click on

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0545aba722a4fd0-ohpc>.

Communion

Communion will be celebrated April 3. In-person worship "features" tiny goblets with a teaspoon or two of grape juice on one side and some bread-like material that's smaller than a Chiclet. It is the safest way for us to participate in Communion, and I have yet to talk to anyone who likes it. So, if you wish, you are absolutely welcome to bring your own bread and "wine." It doesn't even have to be bread; it could be tortillas or Triscuits or snack cakes from 7-11. We

often say that "all are welcome," and this applies to Communion materials you bring from home.

We will also have Communion on Easter Sunday, April 17. More details are included below in our special Easter pull-out section (due to budgetary concerns, it might not actually be a pull-out section). We also offer in-home Communion for our extended members. Please let us know if one of our extended members would like Communion in their home, and we can schedule a time. Please reach out to Pastor Alan or someone on our committee.

Sunday School

Sunday school has started up again. Both children and adults will be following the "*Feasting on the Word*" for Sunday school, which is a lectionary-based curriculum. Adults meet in the Large Assembly Room directly beneath the sanctuary. Children meet in what can only be described as the Sunday School room. It is on the main floor (not the upstairs floor) of the educational wing of the church, all the way at the end, and then take a left and go even farther. Similar to in-person worship, both Sunday school classes will try to offer a Zoom option for those who cannot make it to the church. (**Note: There will not be any Sunday school classes on Easter.**)

We could also use some help in leading Sunday school, especially for the adult class. The curriculum is laid out pretty clearly, so the prep work primarily consists of familiarizing yourself with the day's lesson, showing up on time, and preparing yourself to be awash in adulation for doing such a task.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.: adults in the Large Assembly Room and children in the Sunday School room; also available on Zoom – use the ID for online worship (768 992 383) to be admitted into the correct breakout room.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible study is reading *Witness at the Cross: a Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday*, by Amy-Jill Levine, which explores the role of each witness to the crucifixion of Jesus. Classes are at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays on Zoom (meeting ID 259 777 226).



*Worship With Us
This Easter*



Easter

We have a lot to cover regarding this particular season, and you will likely find Easter-related information throughout the newsletter.

Lenten devotionals: Copies of *Making the Road: Walking through Lent*, a Lenten devotional by Teri McDowell Ott, are still available to anyone who wants one. We are also happy to email you a copy. Please contact anyone on the Worship & Christian Education committee for more details.

Easter flowers: Normally, we offer people the opportunity to purchase a flower in honor or in memory of someone to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter. However, this year we are unable to get a variety of Easter flowers from a nursery but, let me be clear, we'll have a few lilies in the sanctuary, along with the fresh flowers that we use to decorate the cross. So instead, we are suggesting people may wish to take this opportunity to offer a donation to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, part of which supports Ukrainian humanitarian relief. (See the article regarding the OGHs under Stewardship and Property.)



Palm Sunday (April 10): If you would like to help make palm crosses for the Palm Sunday service, meet at the church on Saturday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m.



April 10

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday (April 14): We are planning a joint, online service with Compton Heights Christian Church at 7:00 p.m. Details will be announced later. Watch our website or our Facebook page.

Good Friday (April 15): We will not be having a service on that day, but we will be sending readings via email for some quiet, personal reflection.

Holy Saturday vigil (April 16): One-hour slots (from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) are available via Signup Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0545aba722a4fd0-ohpc1>) to hold vigil in the sanctuary and await the resurrection. On a personal note, I highly recommend an hour in the sanctuary to consider, you know, everything. It can be a truly moving experience.



Easter Sunday (April 17): Worship is at regular time (10:30 a.m., both in person and on Zoom), and Communion will again be served (see earlier Communion guidance). We will also be decorating the cross with flowers. If you remember to bring your own flowers, that's fantastic, but we will have flowers available for people who don't regularly show up to church with flowers.

We will unfortunately not be holding a sunrise service, but you are welcome to join another church for its crack-of-dawn service.

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Stephanie Hoegger

E & M met on March 7 to plan the busy months ahead.



On **Sunday, April 3**, we will host the re-scheduled **Brown Bag Fellowship Lunch** after our worship service. Please bring your own brown bag lunch and

join us outside in front of the sanctuary. Tables and chairs will be set up. We will provide water and chips. We look forward to a time of fellowship and enjoying nice spring weather together! (In case of rain or cold weather, this event will be canceled.)



And it's finally that time of year again! Please join us on **Saturday, April 16, at 10:00 a.m.** for the annual OHPC **Community Easter Egg Hunt** in Tower Grove Park, at the Turkish Pavilion. Open to all! Please bring your Easter basket. Like last year, the egg hunt will be no-contact to help keep everyone safe—kids will collect empty eggs and return them for scoops of candy. Please consider donating small, individually wrapped candy for this event. Candy donations may be placed in the box outside the sanctuary next to the chairlift, or in the church office. We are also looking for volunteers to help at this fun event—please reach out to anyone on our committee if you are interested!



Keep an eye out for more outdoor fellowship opportunities in May. E & M will meet again on Monday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Greetings from Mission & Justice

Your Isaiah 58 Ministries Shopping Lists:

April 2022

- 3rd - Canned Tuna
- 10th - canned fruit, your favorite
- 17th - small container of laundry detergent (Dollar Store size)
- 24th - rice mix or package of rice.

May 2022

- 1st - canned chicken
- 8th - 1 lb. packages of sugar
- 15th - multi-purpose cleaner
- 22nd - you favorite canned vegetable
- 29th - 2 lb. packages of flour



Thanks to everyone for your continued support. All your in-kind gifts and monetary donations are welcome!

We were able to provide emergency housing for a group of High School Freshman from Harvester Christian Church, St. Charles, at AMEN St. Louis the weekend of March 25 - 27. Their original plans were cancelled at the last minute and Love the Lou referred them to us. We're glad we could help them.

We're keeping a low profile in April, there are Go-Bag available, and we're preparing for our summer mission teams starting up in June. Watch for a supply drive for AMEN House, a workday on May 15 after church, and an MCU Celebration coming on May 19. More details to follow as all the plans are firmed up.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

By Brian Heuckroth

Stewardship and Property has had another busy month in March.

- One Great Hour of Sharing offering is coming up this April. We will present a Moment for Mission on April 10 and take the offering on Easter Sunday, April 17 (see below).
- We have the new combination heater/AC unit installed in the Theleos Room. Thanks to Mike Hale for managing the electrical contractor to change out the plug to modern specs and to Don Stanford for finding and delivering the new unit to church. Enjoy the room!
- Once the warm weather arrives, we will have another workday to do some painting and repair on the doors and windows.
- We see needs to have some tuckpointing done to take care of some minor leaks, and that is coming up next month.



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

Ukrainian humanitarian relief: As of March 6, according to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, 1.7 million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries, with families being separated due to the restriction on men leaving. Those remaining are facing disruptions to water, heat, electricity, and communications. Health services, already weakened

due to the pandemic, are also facing shortages. And the people most affected, who are struggling the most to survive, are those who are most vulnerable: the elderly and persons with disabilities. The UN estimates the Ukrainian invasion will eventually affect 18 million people. Your gift to the OGHS allows for an immediate response from PDA when emergencies like this occur.

We will receive the OGHS on Easter Sunday, April 17. Envelopes for this offering are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your donation in the offering plate on the table or send your check to the church. Online giving is also available on our website (oakhillpcusa.com, click the “Donate” tab). Our combined donations provide us with a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need and confirms the church’s support of OGHS.

For those who wish to personally donate directly to Ukrainian humanitarian relief, visit pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/ or text PDAUKR to 41444.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their March 9, 2022, Stated Scheduled Meeting:

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in February was 44.

Membership as of February 28, 2022, was 95.

Financial Reports for February and Year-to-Date 2022

	February	2022 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	\$9,848.93	\$20,419.26
Budgeted	\$7,110.00	\$14,430.00
Over (Under) Budget	\$2,738.93	\$5,989.26
Expenses		
Actual	\$6,518.20	\$32,780.20
Budgeted	\$8,124.22	\$33,633.44
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$1,606.02)	(\$853.24)
New Revenue (Loss)	\$3,330.73	\$12,360.94

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

Session approved re-opening the church for in-person worship on Sunday, March 20, 2022 with same safety restrictions as before and adhering to the following guidelines:

1. Masks will still be required for the congregation.
2. Social distancing still required. Everyone sitting in the pews is required to maintain a 6' distance from those outside your inner circle. If you are not comfortable next to people, please feel free to move to another location.
3. The congregation will be allowed to sing, but masks are still required.
4. Communion will be served using the pre-packaged communion units provided by the church. People may also bring their own elements. Hand sanitizers will be widely available.
5. Sunday School will be hybrid (in person and on Zoom), following these guidelines.
6. The nursery will be re-opened pending notification from the Worship and Christian Education Committee. (Nursery care is provided during our Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship service.)
7. On Sundays there will not be an indoor time of fellowship following worship. Everyone will be encouraged to visit with one another outside following the service.
8. Church group and committee meetings may resume following the same rules that apply to worshipping in the sanctuary. It is up to the group to decide if they wish to meet in person or online. If you plan to meet in person at the church, please notify the office so your meeting may be put on the calendar, thus avoiding any conflict if another group/committee is meeting.

9. Non-church group meetings may resume following the same criteria as mentioned above. Groups wishing to meet at Oak Hill should contact the church office.

10. We will continue with hybrid worship services until further notice.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 3 will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, in the Theleos Room. Please bring a sandwich -- salad, chips, and dessert will be furnished.

BOOK CLUBS***Oak Hill Book Club***

The Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, at the Barrow residence to discuss "*Still Life*" by Louise Penny. It is the first of the highly acclaimed Inspector Armand Gamache books by the Canadian author. Please bring your dinner and join us.

Or you may join us on Zoom: 259 777 226 Password: Disciple (case sensitive) Discussion begins about 7:00 p.m.

Thursday Touchy Topics Book Club

The Touchy Topics book club meets Wednesday, April 6. The book this month is *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country in the World*, by Sarah Smarsh. A finalist for the National Book Award, *Heartland* focuses on cycles of poverty and social class in Kansas and challenges the myth that people earn less because they are less. For May, the book is *The Other Black Girl*, by Zakiya Dalila Harris, a novel that follows the only Black woman working for a publishing company. Touchy Topics Book Club, Wednesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom (contact the church via Facebook for the link).

CRAFT CLUB

Craft Night

Craft Night scheduled for April 15 is canceled because it is Good Friday. We will resume in May.

Under the Oak Tree



Oak Hill Presbyterian

Isaiah 58 Ministries wants to thank Oak Hill Presbyterian for the donation of food, hygiene products, and clothing you gave to the ministries during the fourth quarter of 2021. All was greatly appreciated.

Your church’s generosity helps Isaiah 58 Ministries in serving those in need. Thank you ever so much!

Peg Cooper
Isaiah 58 Ministries Board Member

Dear Friend:

Thank you so much for your recent contribution of \$1,350.00 given on 01/16/22 for our ministry at Isaiah 58 Ministries. What a blessing to have the support of wonderful people as we strive to serve our community with love and compassion.

It has been a difficult two years as we have worked to navigate the complexities of serving our community during a global pandemic. Please know that your gift makes possible the many ways in which we continue to serve those in need.

Every day we work to care for our guests in a holistic manner that honors the entire person. We connect services and resources to those in need, advocate for the poor and refer individuals to critical community-based resources. We also provide educational opportunities, both for our guests on the topics of nutrition and health as well as life-skills training, AND to volunteers, mission groups and other organizations around the issues of poverty and food insecurity. Finally, we supply emergency provisions and basic needs through our food pantry and clothing room ensuring that our guests know that their needs are our top priority.

As we continue to positively impact the lives of over 600 families per month through our various services and programs, we are uplifted by your generous and ongoing support.

Again, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We pray good health and many blessings upon you and your loved ones in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Rev. Brenda L. Booth
Executive Director
Isaiah 58 Ministries

Scenes from Oak Hill

New Heating/Cooling Unit in the Theleos Room



Easter Flowers at Oak Hill



LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

Sunday, April 3	Joshua 5:9-12 and Psalm 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10	<i>Palms:</i> Luke 19:28-40 and <i>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</i> <i>Passion:</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a and <i>Psalm 31:9-16</i> ; Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL (cont'd)

Monday of Holy Week April 11	Isaiah 42:1-9 <i>and Psalm 36:5-11</i> ; Heb. 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
Tuesday of Holy Week, April 12	Isaiah 49:1-7 <i>and Psalm 71:1-14</i> ; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
Wednesday of Holy Week, April 13	Isaiah 50:4-9a <i>and Psalm 70</i> ; Heb. 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday, April 14	Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 <i>and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19</i> ; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday, April 15	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 <i>and 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, Saturday, April 16	Gen. 1:1-2:4a <i>and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26</i> ; Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 <i>and Psalm 46</i> ; Gen. 22:1-18 <i>and Psalm 16</i> ; Ex. 14:10-31; 15:20-21 <i>and Ex. 15:1b-13, 17-18</i> ; Prov. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 <i>and Psalm 19</i> ; Isaiah 55:1-11 <i>and Isaiah 12:2-6</i> ; Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11 <i>and Deut. 32:1-4, 7, 36a, 43a</i> ; Ezek. 36:24-28 <i>and Psalm 42 and 43</i> ; Ezek. 37:1-14 <i>and Psalm 143</i> ; Dan. 3:1-9 <i>and Sg. Three 35-65</i> ; Jonah 1:1-2:1 <i>and Jonah 2:2-3 (4-6) 7-9</i> ; Zeph. 3:14-20 <i>and Psalm 98</i> ; Rom. 6:3-11 <i>and Psalm 114</i> ; John 20:1-18
Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day Sunday, April 17	Acts 10:34-43 <i>or</i> Isaiah 65:17-25 <i>and Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</i> ; 1 Cor. 15:19-26 <i>or</i> Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12 <i>or</i> John 20:1-8; <i>Easter Evening</i> : Isaiah 25:6-9 <i>and Psalm 114</i> ; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49
2 nd Sunday of Easter, April 24	Acts 5:27-32 <i>and Psalm 118:14-29</i> <i>or</i> Psalm 150 <i>or</i> 2 Kings 7:1-14 <i>and Psalm 2</i> ; Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
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www.oakhillpcusa.org

office@oakhillpcusa.org

We are a welcoming congregation where visitors are always expected!

**Christian Education for All Ages
9:30 a.m.**

**Service of Worship
10:30 a.m.**

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

(Vacant)
Pastor

Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers
“Amicus Ecclesiae”
(Friend of the Church)

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.