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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.



Hot Dogs, Tacos, Pancakes, and Hearts

“For surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans

for your welfare and not for your harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me.” (Jeremiah 29:11-14)

The longing for the Lord is planted deep within our hearts, and if we pay attention, we will discover God’s presence in all of life.

As I write these words, I am aware that outside my window it is a cold, grey, foggy, bleak winter day, and even though I find myself longing for warmer, brighter days, I know that God is at work in the world and in me and you.

Every day God provides each of us with unique opportunities to open our eyes and ears and minds and hearts as to how we can use our gifts and abilities to make a difference in the world.

On Sunday, February 12, following our worship experience, everyone will be invited to “Let’s taco bout love,” a potluck featuring a Taco and Valentine theme. Please bring something to share. (See page 2.)

On Tuesday evening, February 21, everyone is invited to the Compton Heights Christian Church for a pancake fundraiser for Isaiah 58 Ministries.

I know it seems like my heart is led by my stomach since we have all of these wonderful activities involving food planned for this month, but I am also excited that we are working closely with other congregations and ministries as we seek to join forces in our neighborhood and the larger community of faith.

You are also invited to attend the joint Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m. at the Compton Heights Christian Church. I have been invited to preach that evening as we begin our 40-day Lenten journey. I hope that you will come to participate in this inspiring service.

Please be sure to pick up a Lenten Devotional so that you can spend time every day in prayer and contemplation.

May you seek God with your whole heart, trusting and knowing that you will find compassion, forgiveness, connection, encouragement, and strength for the journey ahead.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Wanda

SPECIAL LUNCHEON



Let's Taco 'Bout Love!

Mission & Justice and Evangelism & Membership are teaming up to host a taco event & Valentines Day celebration!

Ground beef, tortillas/taco shells and soda will be provided.

Here's how you can help... Please bring anything that goes with tacos, like:

- Tortilla chips & dip
- Taco sauce
- Guacamole
- Shredded lettuce
- Grated cheese
- Chopped tomatoes
- Sour cream
- And of course, chopped onions!



OR – bring side dishes and desserts!



**February 12
Fellowship Hall
Right after the service
Bring a friend!**

Following the luncheon volunteers will be welcome to help with the cleanup and to help make Go Bags.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Matt Hanify

Worship

We at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church hope that your new year is going well so far. Yes, it's only been a month, but we always want good months.

We continue to ask people to try and maintain some modicum of pandemic standards. We do our best to limit physical contact with one another, and we try to remember to mask up when we're in close proximity. We also ask that people use their best judgment and to come with kindness in your heart. Welcome, as always. Always, always welcome.

We also continue to offer online worship via Zoom if you prefer.

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

Communion

Communion will be offered on Sunday, February 5. We offer semi-traditional portions of bread and juice that have been prepared in keeping with COVID-19 protocols. For those looking for a safer option, we also offer small, individual cups of juice with a portion of communion bread in the lid (this also doubles as the gluten-free option). If you are immunocompromised or just want to play it safe, use this. IN fact, we reserve the right to abandon the more standard bread and juice and to go solely with the individualized portions of bread and juice. And you are welcome to bring your own communion materials from home, if you prefer (this would be the safest option).

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 Wanda or someone on our committee.

Sunday School

Children's Sunday school continues working through *Feasting on the Word* at 9:30 in the morning. Until the weather warms up, the class is meeting in the nursery, which is on the second floor of the Education Annex. If you need help with directions, please track somebody down who will be happy (they better be happy) to show you the way. If you are a first-time student, welcome. There are no prerequisites other than to show up roughly on time and participate enthusiastically.

Adult Sunday School has also started back up, also at 9:30 in the morning, also studying *Feasting on the Word* (although not the same *Feasting on the Word*). However, it meets in a room in the basement of our main building. Much like the instructions above, track somebody down for directions and, yes, that person still will likely be happy to point you in the right direction.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. (in person only)

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study is reading and discussing *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans, a book that is "alternately beautiful and scathing, bold and tentative, humorous and intensely serious" (according to someone who has read it). Everyone is invited and welcome to come

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

to Bible study (even if you haven't done the reading!).
Wednesday Bible Study, 11:00 a.m., Zoom (259 777 226, password Disciple)

Volunteering

We are in perpetual need of volunteers at various positions: greeters, liturgists, nursery caregivers (this last job features a bit of extra paperwork, but we are happy to walk you through that), Sunday School leaders, etc. Please let one of us know, or you can sign up on the website, oakhillpcusa.org (the "Worship" tab has an orange box that contains a Sign-up Genius link).

Minister of Music

Susan Brown will be having shoulder surgery in February. We offer up our prayers for her for a smooth procedure and a speedy recovery. We also pray for the talents of her medical team. And we pray for her family and friends and anybody who knows her, really – she's fantastic. In the interim, we will be in John Holt's extremely capable hands – he's also fantastic.



Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 22, kicking off the Lenten season. Oak Hill will participate in an ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service at Compton Heights Christian Church, 2149 S. Grand, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to join us. Please check the Oak Hill website (oakhillpcusa.org) closer to the date regarding the service and pandemic-safe ashes.

If you would like to purchase Chancel flowers for worship on a special Sunday morning, sign your name on the Flower Chart on the door next to the office and indicate the person(s) or event being honored. (You may also bring appropriate flowers if you wish.) The usual double spray arrangement costs \$60.00. Payment should be made to the church office in person or by mail.



Altar Flowers

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

At their first meeting of the year Jeff Dahl, Millie Crittenden, and Josh Smith, joined Valery Welch as members serving on this committee. They talked about their responsibilities, upcoming events and brainstormed about future activities. This month they are hosting the coffee hour and the February 12 luncheon (see page 2).

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

“Won't it be wonderful when black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history.”

—Maya Angelou

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our MLK Sunday Service project. Sandwiches, Go Bags, blankets, cleaning products and hygiene products, sheet sets, legislative letters, and “we miss you notes” galore! And what an amazing lunch. Thanks for all your efforts! This is the best community ever, everyone working together to create lunch to share with one another, completing mission projects, and cleaning up the leftovers and putting it all away! This is what community looks like!

Public Witness Action

Below is a public witness action you might be interested in participating with regarding military aid to Israel.

<https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/PCUSA/Campaigns/99960/Respond>

Your Isaiah 58 Ministries shopping list.

February 2023

5th - Oatmeal

12th - Canned Fruit (your favorite)

19th - Salt Free Seasoning

26th - Bar Soap or Deodorant

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

March 2023

5th - sardines

12th - canned chili

19th - cooking oil (smaller bottles)

26th - razors/shaving cream

Until the time comes that all of US History is taught from one book, check out these Black History Month resources.

<https://blackhistorymonth.gov>

<https://www.history.com/.amp/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/01/1075623826/why-is-february-black-history-month>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/black-history-month>

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

By Brian Heuckroth

Session has approved the 2023 budget and our Treasurer Brent Crittenden will present this to the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023. No spoilers here, you'll need to hear it from Brent, but it's good news, and you get donuts! Tuck-pointing and outer wall repairs are needed to stop some water leaks into the buildings, and proposals are being solicited. We have some water leaks which need to be addressed before they get worse. We have a boiler pump to get repaired as well, so the maintenance gnomes will need to get busy.

In very cold weather, we need to take precautions to prevent pipes from freezing. Typically, we barely turn on a water flow at the faucets most at risk, such as in barely-heated rooms or along outside walls, because moving water doesn't freeze as fast as still water in pipes. If you come across a dripping faucet, please don't turn it off without checking with one of us or with Carole or the Pastor, it may be on for a good reason.

We are replacing burned-out fluorescent lighting tubes with LEDs as they wear out, as use of LEDs lowers electricity cost, LEDs last MUCH longer than tubes, AND the LEDs don't have toxic mercury in them as the

old-style fluorescent bulbs have. Good news all around.

The time is coming for us to envision how we will embrace new ways of utilizing our substantial property assets. Pastor Wanda is leading the effort to "do the vision thing" and is looking for participation. If you are motivated to participate, speak out, and seek it out!

Peace be with you all!

Brian Heuckroth

Chair, Stewardship and Property

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

In December 2022, Session approved the following dates for celebrating the Lord's Supper in 2023: January 8 (rather than January 1), February 5, March 5, April 2, April 6 (Maundy Thursday), April 9 (Easter), May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, and January 7, 2024.

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their January 11, 2023 Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in December was 50.

Membership as of December 31, 2022, was 96. (No change from the previous report.)

Financial Reports for December and Year-to-Date 2022

	December	2022 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	\$49,759.26	\$224,581.73
Budgeted	\$31,150.00	\$212,050.00
Over (Under) Budget	\$18,609.26	\$12,531.73
Expenses		
Actual	\$13,763.35	\$158,053.38
Budgeted	\$17,259.79	\$212,193.51
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$3,496.44)	(\$54,140.13)
Net Revenue/(Loss)	\$35,995.91	\$66,528.35

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

Session elected Brent Crittenden Treasurer.

Session elected Carole Adams as Clerk of Session.

Session elected Donna Cook to serve as Oak Hill's Designated Elder Commission to the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy.

Session voted not to designate 2023 General Mission funds to be used to support Ukirk.

BOOK CLUBS

Oak Hill Book Club

The Oak Hill Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, at the Barrow residence to discuss "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Please bring your dinner and join us to discuss one of the most popular books of 2022.

If you want to join us on Zoom for discussion only, please do so at 7 p.m.: 259 777 226. Password: Disciple (case sensitive)

Wednesday Touchy Topics Book Club

The Touchy Topics book is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, to discuss *How the South Won the Civil War*, by Heather Cox Richardson. The author traces the story of the American paradox, the competing claims of equality and subordination woven into the nation's fabric and identity. The group has decided to meet every other month in 2023. The April book will be *No Future Without Forgiveness*, by Desmond Tutu. This book explores how South Africa attempted to move forward from decades of despotism by not only exposing atrocities committed in the past but also reconciling with its former oppressors. Anyone is welcome to join the discussion for any book.

Touchy Topics Book Club, Wednesday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (contact the church via Facebook for the link)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, February 16, at 10 a.m. (or whenever you can make it) in the Theleos Classroom. Please bring a sandwich - salad, chips, dessert, and coffee will be provided.

CRAFT CLUB

Craft Night has been cancelled for February.



LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) and Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Cor. 2:1-12, (13-16); Matt. 5:13-20
Thursday, February 12	Deut. 30:15-20 and Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37
Sunday, February 19	Exodus 24:12-18 and Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9
Ash Wednesday, February 22	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 and Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
Sunday, February 26	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 and Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11

