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Oak Hill News

No. 05 MAY 2023 Volume 73

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

Pastor's Corner

"Storm and Stillness, Breath and Dove, Thunder, Tempest, Whirlwind, Fire, Comfort, Counselor, Presence, Love, Energies that never tire." This verse from the hymn, "Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud" in our hymnal lists some of the descriptions that we have for the Holy Spirit.

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising to empower its mission and ministry to the world.

According to the story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic languages, the rush of a mighty ruach (which means wind, Spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered and appeared to them as a burning fire. The Holy Spirit empowered them to use their gifts to share the good news of our Lord Savior Jesus Christ with everyone.

According to the prophet Joel, people young and old will dream and will have visions of hope for the future. The Holy Spirit breaks us out of our preoccupation with ourselves and frees us to serve our neighbors. It loosens our grip on possessions ands set us free to love people.

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim in word and in deed God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ.

We hope that you will participate in our Pentecost celebration on Sunday, May 28. Please wear red that day. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share for our Pentecost potluck following the worship service. Please invite a friend to help us celebrate.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Wanda

SPECIAL LUNCHEON

This year, Pentecost is Sunday, May 28. We wear red (if we remember) to celebrate (hold on a minute, please) the end of the Easter season and the day the Holy Spirit descended like a wind upon the Apostles and other followers of Christ. We are not promising any wind. We are, however, offering a potluck in the great assembly hall, directly below the sanctuary. Bring a dish to share if you want, but mostly, bring yourselves and we will celebrate that whole thing I mentioned just a minute ago.

Submitted by Matt Hanify
Worship and Christian Education Committee

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Matt Hanify

Worship

Welcome to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. Originally located at the corner of Bent and Humphrey, our church was founded in 1895. Then a bunch of stuff happened, much of it centered around the teachings of Jesus and the drinking of coffee. And that pretty much catches you up. Again – welcome!

Regarding COVID-19, we ask people to use their better judgment and to be compassionate toward others. What all of that means is up to you. If you're not feeling well or you're after a safer option, we continue to offer online worship via Zoom. Again, please use your best judgment.

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

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on May 7. Currently, we are using a hybrid approach to Communion, meaning portions of bread and juice in separate containers. For a safer option (pandemically speaking), there are individualized Communion units with juice on one end and a piece of bread on the other. This doubles as our gluten-free 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.

Youth Sunday School

Children's Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m. in the nursery, which is upstairs in the Education Annex. Miss Lisa and Miss Sarah are working with the children through *Feasting on the Word*, which allows our youth to explore their personal and communal identity in Jesus Christ through meaningful community-building experiences, engaging Bible study, and relevant learning activities.

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

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School also meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Theleos Room, which is downstairs in our main building. Here, Pastor Alan and Donna Cook facilitate spirited, in-depth, lectionary-based discussions, which lead to a deeper understanding of and meaning from the Bible's teachings.

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

Youth and Adult Sunday Schools will be taking a break starting on Sunday, May 28. We look forward to resuming Sunday schools after Rally Day in the fall.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study is reading and discussing *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit*, by Henri J.M. Nouwen, which is available via Amazon, at Barnes & Noble (probably) or on Kindle. In this series of meditations, Nouwen discusses living in the present, joy, prayer, the spiritual life, relationships, family, and other topics with his signature clarity and insight. Everyone is invited and welcome to come to Bible study (even if you haven't done the reading!).

Wednesday Bible Study, 11:00 a.m., Zoom (259 777 226, password Disciple).

Graduate Celebration

We will celebrate our Oak Hill graduates during and after service on May 14. We are extremely proud of Avery Smith and Millie Crittenden and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. As part of that "wishing them best" business, our graduates are going to hold prominent roles in service that day. Then please join us as we all head downstairs for cake and dessert.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Volunteering

We have several jobs around here that need to be done but don't pay very well. If this sounds like something that would interest you, let us know – seriously. We need greeters, liturgists, and nursery caregivers (this last job features a bit of extra paperwork, but we are happy to walk you through that). We also like it when people share their artistic gifts: singing, painting, craft-related hijinks. Please let one of us know, or you can sign up on the website, oakhillpcusa.com (the "Worship" tab has an orange box that contains a Sign-up Genius link).

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Valery Welch

Many thanks to everyone for making our New Year of Fellowship (following the service) such a success! No single person or committee makes that happen—it is the result of our collective effort to share time with each other—to find meaningful conversation—to learn how we are—to discover celebrations—to share losses—and to find ways to be present for each other.

Fellowship. *Noun 1.* ***Friendly association****, especially with people who share interests.* I was recently rehearsing in the choir loft with Susan when I saw someone I didn't know sitting in a pew and I hollered out, "Hi! I'm Valery and we're having refreshments and conversation downstairs after the service. Please join us!" Others also extended an invitation. Guess what—she accepted. And now we have a new friend! Many times, it's just that simple.

New OHPC Church Directory! The OHPC Directory is how we find and reach out to each other! In the next few weeks, the E&M Committee will be updating the contact information for the directory. **We need your help**: (1) practice taking cell phone selfies and family photos; (2) save your very favorite photo that you want to go into the new directory; and (3) watch the Friday E-Blasts for a date and information on submitting your photo for the directory.

Farmer's Market Events! What a fun way to enjoy great foods, meet new friends, and share a takeaway gift with OHPC information! The E&M Committee is working on the details now. Again—watch that Friday E-Blast for details!

Art Wall Design & Creativity! Artists listen up! Josh Smith and Sarah Gibson have been in conversation about a design that celebrates acceptance, love sayings of Jesus, and diversity. If you are interested in participating, please let Josh Smith know.

The Evangelism & Membership Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Join us on Zoom and check us out!

Your Evangelism & Membership Committee:
Josh Smith, Chair
Millie Crittenden
Jeff Dahl
Valery Welch

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Let's celebrate in May: Moms, Teachers, May The Fourth (be with you), and Cinco de Mayo. Don't forget Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and Root Canal Appreciation Day. It's apparently celebrated on the second Wednesday of the month. We hope that's not a commentary of church Session meetings. (Clearly some of us need new hobbies.)

We hope by the time you read this we have celebrated with our Bus Museum Friends (and their return trip) and enjoyed community with the folks at New Roots Urban Farm. Below you'll find our Isaiah 58 shopping list. Included in the list you'll see a request for facial tissues. We will be needing 100+ boxes for the Back-to School backpacks. They prefer to have the slimmest of rectangular boxes. They will need to fit in the backpack and the cute cubes and giant rectangles make for awkward packing. Plus, we want to build something in the sanctuary. Remember the leaning tower of cake mixes?

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

May 2023
7th - Canned chicken / facial tissues
14th - bagged or boxed rice
21st - 2 lb. bag flour
28th - 1 lb. bag of sugar

June 2023
4th - Canned Ravioli with meat
11th - Coffee or Tea
18th - Diapers sizes 5, 6, 4T, 5T
25th - Baby wipes

Mark your calendar for May 20. For an AMEN St. Louis Workday. We're going to check on all the air conditioners, smoke detector batteries, supply inventory, and more. Stewardship and Property will also have some projects lined up in other areas of the church. Something for everyone. I've heard rumors of lunch!

More information on our AMEN Schedule next month!

Any questions or concerns: speak with Donna Cook, Toby Eckert, Dena Roper, or Heather Macarthur. Thanks for your prayers and support.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mark your calendar! We will be having a church workday on **Saturday, May 20, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** We'll be doing a lot of projects around the church, in the sanctuary, and the AMEN House so everyone is welcome to come and share their talents. If you see something that needs fixing, cleaning, painting, or whatever, please notify someone on our committee and we'll put it on the list.

PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come.

Pentecost arrives 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension—when Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus and the Scriptures are making an important theological point at Pentecost. Jesus ascends and the church is born. If his mission and ministry is to continue, it is upon us, his disciples, to keep it going, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us, who blesses us all with different gifts to be used at different times and in different ways. These gifts of the Spirit are bestowed upon us to be used for the "building up of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also addresses the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact on the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

We will receive the Pentecost Offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Envelopes for this offering will be 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 will also be available on our website (oakhillpcusa.com, click the "Donate" tab).

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their April 12, 2023, Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in March was 52. There were 42 at the Maundy Thursday Service, 17 at the Easter Sunrise Service, and 78 at the 10:30 a.m. Easter Service.

Membership as of March 31, 2023, was 96. (No change from the previous report.)

Financial Reports for March and Year-to-Date 2023

	March	2023 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	$17,545.59	$34,385.63
Budgeted	$19,705.00	$37,805.00
Over (Under) Budget	($2,159.41)	($3,419.37)
Expenses		
Actual	$24,837.45	$68,426.98
Budgeted	$18,090.24	$58,821.97
Over/(Under) Budget	$6,747.21	$9,605.01
Net Revenue/(Loss)	($7,291.86)	($34,041.35)

Session approved allowing the BUS-eum Mobile Museum to park on the church's parking lot during their stay at the AMEN House (April 19-23) and to ask people if they would like to make donations to provide food for the group.

BOOK CLUBS

Oak Hill Book Club

Book club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, at the Barrow residence to watch the movie, *News of the World (2021)*. Based on a book by Paulette Jiles, the movie starring Tom Hanks tells the story of an itinerant news reader who agrees to return a girl kidnapped by the Kiowa tribe to her people.

Please bring your dinner and join us. This is a change from our usual meeting date of the second Tuesday to the fourth.

Wednesday Touchy Topics Book Club

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 7. (They will not meet in May.) The group will discuss *The Reason I Jump: the Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*, is by Naoki Higashida (translated by KA Yoshida and David Mitchell) and is available at your local library (you might want to call ahead to confirm) or via Audible or any one of the other ways people obtain reading material. In *The Reason I Jump,* Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen-year-old boy with autism, shares how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine.

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, May 18, 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 will meet on Zoom on Friday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. Join us and Donna and I can share our adventures at the Midwest Fiber Festival (as in yarn festival) at the end of April and what projects everyone is working on! Contact Dena Roper with any questions. Zoom: 823 1780 8360 password Disciple.

Under the Oak Tree

Avery Smith will graduate from Visitation Academy on May 17, 2023. She has committed to Elon University in Elon, North Carolina, home to one of the top theatre programs in the country, where she will pursue a BFA in Acting. She is honored to join a cohort of just 16 acting majors in the class of 2027. Avery also plans to double major or minor in strategic communications or communication design.

Millie Crittenden is graduating from Nerinx Hall High School on May 12. She will be attending McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois, in the fall, where she plans to major in Business and Marketing. She accepted the opportunity at McKendree after being recruited for their soccer team and will play soccer for the university while she pursues her degree.

Dear AMEN St. Louis
Thank you for having us and opening the AMEN House and your hearts for us. We are truly grateful for the good company, great conversations and lovely food we had with you. We left with a huge smile on our faces and memories to cherish.
Our tour would not ever be possible without such wonderful and kind hosts like you.
Yours,
Joe, David, Bruno, Michael, Vivena, Svea
BUS-eum Mobile Museum

Bible Readings for the Month

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

Sunday, May 7	Acts 7:55-60 and *Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 or* Prov. 4:10-18 *and Psalm 119:9-32;* 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
Sunday, May 14	Acts 17:22-31 *and Psalm 66:8-20 or* Ezek. 34:1-7a *and Psalm 115;* 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
Thursday, May 18, Ascension of the Lord	Acts 1:1-11 *and Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 or* Dan. 7:9-14 *and Psalm 113;* Eph. 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
Sunday, May 21	Acts 1:6-14 *and Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 or* Isaiah 45:1-7 *and Psalm 21:1-7;* 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
Sunday, May 28 Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 *or* Num. 11:24-30 *and Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;* 1 Cor. 12:3b-13 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 *or* John 7:37-39

Scenes from Oak Hill

Visits with Extended Members

Mel Soles

Visits with Extended Members (cont'd)

Bev and Don Shockley

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service, Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, April 6, 2023
The Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn of St. John's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Meredith Jackson of Isaiah 58, Pastor Wanda and Pastor Alan, and the Rev. Steve Westbrook of Compton Heights Christian Church

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Making Palm Crosses

Easter

Flowering of the cross (action shot).

Properly flowered cross.

Easter (cont'd)

Every self-respecting sanctuary should be awash with confetti on Easter Sunday.

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 - 9:30 a.m.
(In Person through May 21)
(Resumes in the Fall)

Service of Worship
(In Person and on Zoom)
10:30 a.m.

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

Rev. Wanda Lawry
Transitional 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.