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# Oak Hill News

No. 06 JUNE 2023 Volume 73

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

## Pastor's Corner

It is hard to believe that summer is here! Soon we will be welcoming our summer mission teams to the AMEN House. For many years we have invited the congregation to join the mission teams for game nights. Some of you remember the activities that occurred (before the pandemic) which included pizza and human foosball. Please bring me pictures of those events! I want to see those pictures.

This year we invite you to be a part of our Neighborhood Nights events to be held on Wednesday evenings at the Turkish Pavilion in the Tower Grove Park. We will be inviting members of our congregation as well as members of Compton Heights and St. John's congregations and neighbors in our area to come together from 6 to 8 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to come at 5:30 p.m. to help grill the hot dogs and prepare the area for our guests. We will serve a simple meal at 6:00 p.m. and the games and activities will begin at 6:30 p.m. Our friend Clayton Delaney will be organizing and leading the games again this year. The events will take place on Wednesday June 7, 14, 28, Friday, July 7, and Wednesday, July 12 and August 2.

We hope that you will put these dates on your calendar and try to invite a friend to come with you. It is a great way for our church to be more visible in the neighborhood. It is an opportunity for us to engage with our neighbors in a fun, relaxed environment. It also provides a chance for us to meet with our mission participants and learn more about their experiences.

One of the daily themes for our mission teams is "Every living thing needs community." The devotional materials for that day include the following excerpt: "Nothing in creation is wholly alone. We are designed to live in communities alongside people who love and support us, as well as within communities of other creatures—such as plants and animals—which we respect, love, care for, and rely on for sustenance. A human community is a diverse, interconnected, materially dependent neighborhood that welcomes newcomers."

Please support our efforts to reach out to our neighbors by participating in the "Neighborhood Nights" in the park and praying for these important endeavors.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Wanda

## FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



The Stewardship and Property Committee is responsible for the time of fellowship following worship in June. On Sunday, June 25, they will host a true potluck fellowship luncheon. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite summertime food to share, whether it be a main dish, vegetable, salad, or dessert. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend or neighbor!

## WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*By Matt Hanify*

***Worship***

Welcome to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. Our mission statement: "With Jesus as our guide and community as our goal, we worship, love, serve, and grow." We meet every Sunday (roughly) to discuss the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. We then generally head downstairs, where our discussions often revolve around cake. So, either because of our lofty and official-sounding mission statement or the tantalizing possibility of cake, we are very glad that you're here.
Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., in person or on Zoom (meeting ID 768 992 383)

***Communion***

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, June 4. Couple of quick notes regarding Communion: First (and most importantly), everyone is welcome. Second, we currently apply a two-pronged approach to Communion. We offer portions of bread and juice in separate containers, which may or may not be recyclable. We also offer individualized Communion units with juice on one end and a piece of bread on the other. This acts as both our pandemically safer option and 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.

***Sunday School – Adult and Youth***

Sunday school is taking a break for the summer. We want to thank Lisa Thompson, Sarah Gibson, the Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers, Donna Cook, and all the other volunteers for their leadership and teaching this year, and we look forward to starting Sunday school again in September.

***Nursery***

Normally we offer nursery care to all children up to third grade, and we have even been pretty flexible on that "third grade" rule. But we are shutting nursery down for the summer. Hold on: Since you're reading this, I assume you have some interest in nursery-related information. Well, it just so happens we might be in the market for someone to work in the nursery each week. This is not a typical Oak Hill volunteer "job" – this one would pay (not much, but still). If you are interested in this, please notify anyone on the Worship and Christian Education Committee and we will figure out where to go from here.

***Wednesday Bible Study***

Wednesday Bible Study is going to be taking a break over the summer (there's a lot of that going around), but we look forward to joining up again in the fall to cover some very interesting materials. We would also like to send a special appreciation to Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers for coordinating and leading the Wednesday Bible Study this year, facilitating thoughtful, faith-based discussions for everyone – even those who did not do the reading for the week. Thanks, Alan, for everything you do for us.

***Volunteering***

If you would like to take on a larger role here at Oak Hill, please let us know. We have several opportunities solely for the satisfaction of a job well done. We need greeters and liturgists. If you have artistic sensibilities, we can use that as well. We will find a place for you that fits your skill set. 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*

**Ready for Your Photo!** The E&M Committee is excited to move ahead with the OHPC Photo Member Directory. It's how we reach out to each other—and it is also how new members get to know who we are!

Three easy steps:

1. Identify the name of each person in the photo (going from left to right).
2. Update any of your contact information that has changed since the last member directory.
3. Email your photo and information to: treasurer@oakhillpcusa.org.

Thank you so much for helping the E&M Committee add photos of your lovely faces to the directory!

**Visitor Gift!** Another work in progress…. The E&M Committee thinks it would be so much fun to greet visitors and send them home with a memorable, re-useable gift. The Committee hopes to have a prototype of a take-away gift for the Session to review (and offer recommendations for changes) in our next Session meeting.

**Art Wall Design & Creativity!** Artists and crafters, don't forget! Josh Smith and Sarah Gibson are looking for participants with an art wall 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*

**It's June!**
**We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference, and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity.**

**- George Takei**

"**Pride Month** is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally." **Library of Congress**
**"Trans people are extraordinary, strong, intelligent, persistent and resilient. We have to be. And we will not stand for the picking and choosing of rights. We still have hope." - Grace Dolan-Sandrino**

Oak Hill will be participating in the **Tower Grove Pride Fest** in September. Watch for more information!

**MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)**

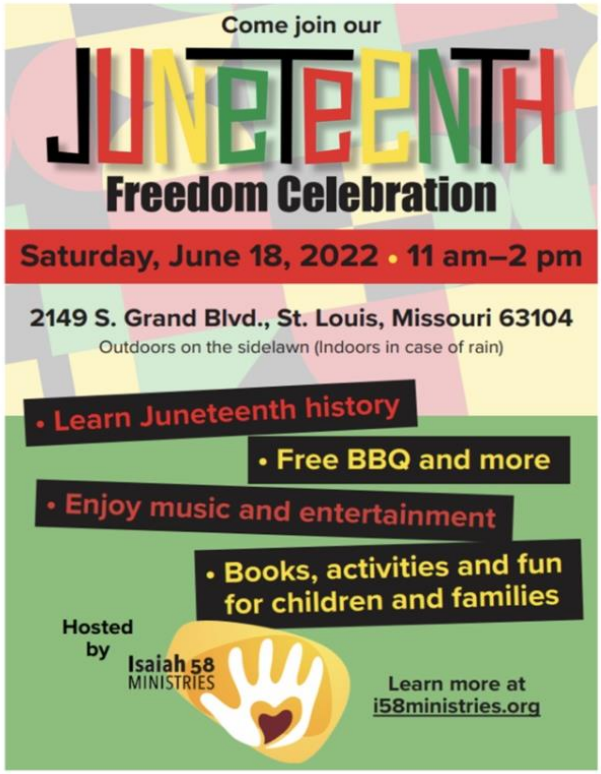
**Isaiah 58 Ministries Shopping List**

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

**July 2023**
**2nd -** oatmeal / facial tissues
**9th -** canned fruit
**16th -** salt free seasoning
**23rd -** dish soap
**30th -** toilet paper

We'll be collecting facial tissues for Isaiah 58 through the end of June for the Back-to-School Fair held in July.

Isaiah 58 Ministries is hosting its second **Juneteenth Celebration** for neighbors and guests. All are welcome to join in the festivities! Learn about the history of Juneteenth, enjoy free BBQ and more. There will be music and entertainment and activities for children and families. The event will be held outdoors at the ministry, on the side lawn at 2149 S. Grand, Saturday June 17, 11AM - 2 PM.




**AMEN St. Louis :** Our first group is arriving on June 4th! We'll welcome 13 participants from **Southminster Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, Kansas.** June 11 - 17 we'll host a group of 15 from **First United Methodist Church, Arlington Heights, Illinois.** We take a break during the third week. Our final group for June is the 25th - June 30, from **4th Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois.** Our groups will be working throughout the week with our ministry, mission, and community partners. You can find out more information about our groups here.

- **https://www.lydiashouse.org/**
- **https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/african-american-history-at-father-dickson-cemetery.htm**
- **https://www.facebook.com/NewRootsUrbanFarm**
- **https://light4thedarkness.com/**
- **https://www.counterpublic.org/about**

- **https://www.greenhousestl.org/the-ghv-campus/**
- https://stlfoodbank.org/
- **https://i58ministries.org/**

## • MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Keep your Wednesday evenings open for fun in the park (TGP) with our visiting teams. Watch the Weekly Updates for more information about time, place, food, and fun!

**A special "Thank you" to Karen Ziegler** for the donation of the meat cutter! It's really helped us prepare meals for our Hunger Action Outreach.

**And of course, we always have to ask you to save stuff.** We're collecting plastic grocery bags to share with Tent Mission and I58 and egg cartons for New Roots Urban Farm. Look for our drop off box!
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

*By Brian Heuckroth*

Stewardship and Property had a very productive workday on May 20, in combination with Donna, Dena, and their team.

S&P wishes to thank all the people who showed up to fix up, spruce up, and tidy up our grand set of buildings. Special thanks to Eric Bischoff and son Oliver for the beautiful job on fixing the sidewalk cracks, to Josh Smith for updating the AC drain to help keep our sanctuary cool this summer, to Brian Beckmann for the upgrade on the band platform, to Brent Crittenden for restoring network access to Amen House, and to Carole Adams for organizing a great lunch for all the workers. My hat is off to Don Stanford as well, he is a true gift to our congregation, and the only octogenarian I know who still lays down asphalt.

We still have some repairs to pursue, including the tuckpointing and roof repair to keep Pastor Wanda dry when it rains heavily. Both of these are in process and should be complete in June.

**OHPC Work Day 05/20/23**

| PRIORITY | AREA | TASK |
|---|---|---|
| DONE | A/C | drain for A/C |
| DONE | AMEN House | Wifi Access Point |
| DONE | Lunch | |
| DONE | Pastor Office | remove unwanted furniture and bric-a-brac, reorient furniture |
| DONE | Sanctuary | clean archway |
| DONE | Sidewalk | patch cracks |
| DONE | Parking Lot | fix pothole in middle of parking lot |
| DONE | Education | gutter guard |
| DONE | Sanctuary | improve chancel music stage area |
| DONE | Education | find homes for stuff in hallway by nursery |
| DONE | Education | add downspout extension to route roof water away from patch |
| IN PROCESS | Education | patch hole in roof |
| TO BE DONE | Sanctuary | clean up stairwell |
| TO BE DONE | A/C | check A/C operations, program thermostats |

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their May 10, 2023, Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in April was 53.

Membership as of April 30, 2023, was 96. (No change from the previous report.)

Financial Reports for April and Year-to-Date were not available.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

Session approved the following to serve as representatives on the Mission Study Team: Paul Bordeaux, Donna Cook, Brent Crittenden, Heather Macarthur, Josh Smith, Jan Stanford, and Lisa Thompson.

Session approved Pastor Wanda taking two weeks of continuing education from August 1 to 15. (This time was approved in the Terms of Call when she became our Transitional Pastor.)

Session approved cancelling the July Stated Session Meeting.

## BOOK CLUBS

***Oak Hill Book Club***

Book club will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, at the Barrow residence. We are discussing *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. Set in the summer in Minnesota in 1961, the plot centers on a quartet of murders in and around a small town. Please bring your dinner and join us.

Those who wish to join us by Zoom may call in about 6:30 p.m.: 259 777 226 Password: Disciple (case sensitive).

***Wednesday Touchy Topics Book Club***

The next Touchy Topics Book Club meeting will be Wednesday, June 7. The group will discuss *The Reason I Jump: the Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*, by Naoki Higashida (translated by KA Yoshida and David Mitchell), which is available via Amazon or Barnes & Noble, at your local library, via Audible or Kindle, or any one of the other ways people obtain reading material. In *The Reason I Jump,* Higashida shares how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds.

At the following Touchy Topics Book Club meeting on August 2, the group will discuss *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation,* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. This reexamination of perhaps the most influential subculture in this country shows that, far from adhering to biblical principles, modern white evangelicals have remade their faith, with enduring consequences for all of America.

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

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, June 15, at 10 a.m. (or whenever you can make it) in the Theleos Classroom. Please bring a sandwich - salad, chips, dessert, iced tea, and coffee will be provided.

## CRAFT CLUB

It's that time again to gather your latest project and your favorite snacks and join us on Zoom on Friday, June 16, at 7 PM for Craft Night! Join us for a chat and some fun. Zoom info: 823 1780 8360. Password: Disciple. Contact Dena Roper with any questions.

## Under the Oak Tree

Congratulations to our former pastor, the **Rev. George Wilcox,** for finishing a 5K marathon in Rockledge, FL, on May 6, 2023. Rev. Wilcox, who suffered a stroke after he ran a 5K marathon with his son John on May 4, 2021, was able to complete the 5K marathon May 6. At a banquet following the marathon, he was honored by the American Heart Association and the Orlando Regional Medical Center. (Funds raised from the event will be used in the Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic for clients who can't afford items needed for therapy.) Great job, George! We are so proud of you!

Wife Marcia, George, son John

George and his re-hab team

Bible Readings for the Month

**LECTIONARY FOR JUNE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday, June 4 | Gen. 1:1-2:4a *and* *Psalm 8:2;* Cor. 13:11-13; Matt. 28:16-20 |
| Sunday, June 11 | Gen. 12:1-9 *and* *Psalm 33:1-12;* Rom. 4:13-25; Matt. 9:9-13, 18-26 |
| Thursday, June 18 | Gen. 18:1-15 (21:1-7) *and* *Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;* Rom. 5:1-8; Matt. 9:35-10:8 (9-23) |
| Sunday, June 25 | Gen. 21:8-21 *and* *Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17*; Rom. 6:1b-11; Matt. 10:24-39 |

# Scenes from Oak Hill

**Church Workday – May 20**

**Don Standford patching parking lot**

**New drain extension** **Roof Patch Educational Building**

**Getting AMEN House ready for Mission Groups**

**Celebrating Mel Soles' 104th Birthday**

## Pentecost Sunday
## May 28

## Celebrating High School Graduates

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.***
**(*on break during the summer, starting 5/28)**

**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.