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Oak Hill News

No. 03

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Volume 74

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



I get the same questions a lot. It has to do with faith. People often wonder—How in the midst of everything that happens—and everything that is going in the world—do you hold on to faith?

Because all too often we have absorbed an understanding of faith that requires a life to work out. Whether we admit it or not, we may assume that with enough trust or belief or right action or prayer, we can get some sort of guarantee out of life. A life without trouble. Or a life without pain. Or a life of no suffering.

And then we look around us. And we may see only trouble, pain, and suffering. In our lives. In the lives of people we love. Around the world.

How do you hold on to faith and hope in the face of all there is to despair?

Throughout the season of Lent we find ourselves wrestling with these kinds of questions and fears and doubts. As we walk with Jesus on his journey through the wilderness all the way to Jerusalem, we recognize that he experienced these kinds of challenges too. Jesus does not promise that our lives

will be free of pain or suffering. Indeed, he challenges us to “take up your cross and follow me.”

Yet, in the midst of these challenges we are reminded that we are not alone. God is with us every step of the way offering us strength for the journey.

I hope that you will be strengthened in your spiritual journey during the season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter by participating in our special worship experiences. I encourage you to make worship a priority in your life. I hope that you will plan to participate in the events of Holy Week including: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (joint service with our neighbor congregations at 7:00 p.m. at Compton Heights Christian Church), Good Friday (a joint service at 7:00 p.m. at St. John’s Episcopal Church), Easter Vigil in our sanctuary, Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m., and East Sunday. I have often said that in my experience, we cannot truly celebrate the amazing power and joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday without commemorating the events of Holy Week.

Please invite some friends and family members to come to these special services with you.

May you experience God’s presence and love in an unmistakable way as we journey toward Jerusalem together.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Wanda

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The Stewardship and Property Committee will host the March fellowship luncheon to be held March 17. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day they will be serving corned beef and cabbage (a kids' meal will also be provided.) There will be cake, too! You don't need to bring anything, just come and enjoy! A free-will offering will be collected to defray expenses.



WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Matt Hanify

Lent

Lenten devotionals: This year's devotional is *Local Pilgrim*, by Teri McDowell Ott and others. *Local Pilgrim* explores what God might reveal to us if we intentionally explored our communities. Lent is the perfect season for a pilgrimage such as this, leading to meaningful contemplation and sacred discoveries. Devotionals are available in the back of the sanctuary, or you may contact Donna Cook at Belladonna63123@hotmail.com to get a link to the digital file.

Easter Flowers



If you wish to purchase an Easter Lily to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter, March 31, we will have order forms in the Sunday bulletins on March 3 and 10, or you may call the church office (314) 664-5525 to place an order. Each Easter Lily will cost \$22.50. You may dedicate your flowering plant in honor or memory of someone. The deadline for all orders is Friday, March 15. You can place your order in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary or give it to Carole Adams. Payment made be made with your order, given online, or you may just send a donation to the church. Your check should be marked, "Easter Lily."



Palm Sunday (March 24): We will make crosses for Palm Sunday on Saturday, March 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the Large Assembly Room under the sanctuary. It's a 16-step process (according to the one website I visited), which seems like a lot, but pancakes are probably the most complicated thing I ever make in my house, so I am probably not a good judge. But don't let that deter you – join us and have some fun.



Maundy Thursday (March 28): This year's multi-congregational Maundy Thursday service will be hosted by Compton Heights Christian Church (2149 S. Grand Boulevard, comptonheights.com) at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday (March 29): St. John's Episcopal Church (3664 Arsenal, towergrovechurch.org) will host a multi-congregational Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. Please contact the church for details.



Saturday Easter Vigil (March 30): To await Christ's resurrection, we hold vigil in the sanctuary on Saturday afternoon. The sign-up link is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545ABA722A4FD0-ohpc1>, or we will have a sign-up sheet in the basement during coffee hour. You can reserve an hour (or more – it's up to you) to pray, meditate, light "candles," or whatever else might move you during this time.



Easter Sunday (March 31): Two service options are available. Our Sunrise Service begins at 6:30 a.m. and is held outdoors on the front steps, weather permitting. Intinction Communion will be offered; this will be our first intinction in a while. At 10:30 is our regular service, where we flower the cross and celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Feel free to bring your own flowers, but we will have flowers available as well. Communion will also be offered.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Worship

Welcome to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. We're glad you made your way here. We're a small but active congregation three blocks south of Tower Grove Park. And it's here where we are recommitting ourselves to our mission statements: **"With Jesus as our guide and community as our goal, we worship, love, serve, and grow."** Thank you for coming.

We continue to offer online Zoom worship. If you're not feeling well, if you can't make it, if you're still not into the whole "crowd" thing, we understand. We just want you to worship with us and to feel welcome.

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

Communion

Communion will be offered on the first Sunday of the month, March 3, and twice on Easter Sunday, March 31. We offer portions of bread lovingly heaped in a reasonably sized wicker basket. Juice is also available in tiny plastic cups in a fancy, non-wicker serving tray. For those of you who may be immunocompromised or aren't feeling well, we also offer small, individual cups of juice with a portion of bread in the lid. This also doubles as the gluten-free option. You are also invited to bring your own Communion materials from home if you prefer.

In-home Communion is offered 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 meets at 9:30 in the morning. Class is currently meeting in the Large Assembly Room, which is directly below the sanctuary. Miss Lisa and Miss Sarah will be happy to see you. It's an interactive and creative experience, often featuring crafts. If this is your first class of the year – welcome. If you have been coming for a while – also, welcome.

Adult Sunday School also meets at 9:30 in the morning on the lower level of the main building (the "older" part of our building) in the Theleos Room. Miss Donna and Pastor Alan lead lively discussions

based on lectionary materials. Much like the Childrens' Sunday School, you do not have to be a regular attendee – you are welcome to come and discuss.

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

Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible study group is currently discussing *The Great Divorce*, by C. S. Lewis – you've heard of him. Lewis uses a bus ride from Hell to Heaven as a starting point for an extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgment. And while Oak Hill is very proud of our policy of not endorsing any commercial product (at least I assume that's our policy), a free version of the book is available for the Books app on iPhones and other Apple devices. Everyone is invited and welcome to participate in Bible study (even if you haven't done the reading).

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

COVID-19

For months, we've included a discussion on COVID-19 in our newsletter and briefly went over our policies. Nobody's saying that everything is completely gone, but I just checked the numbers, and they're pretty low. That said, there's no reason not to be cautious if you wish. In broad strokes: if you don't feel well, stay home; we don't require masks, but if you feel that you would rather mask up, feel free; masks are available at the entrances, along with hand sanitizer; we're not actively engaged in social distancing, but we certainly don't judge those who are; Zoom service is available, with details above in the "Worship" section of the newsletter.

Volunteering

If you would like to take a more active role around here, we can make that happen. We could use help in various positions: greeters, liturgists, educators, 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).

Childcare

If your child needs a break from service, or if you need a quick break from service, we have a space in the Large Assembly Room dedicated to that purpose. We have toys and puzzles and rugs set up. We have

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

a television, so you don't have to miss a moment of the action-packed service. And we are happy to send one of our older kids downstairs to help out if you need.

Reverend Ryan Landino

Presbytery Leader of Giddings-Lovejoy, the Reverend Ryan J. Landino, led worship on February 11. It was an honor to welcome him to Oak Hill, and it was an even bigger honor to serve him lunch and cake. Learn more about Reverend



Landino on Facebook at "Pastor Ryan's Sixty Second Sermons" or his blog site, sixtysecondpreacher.wordpress.com.

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Josh Smith

Membership Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of Oak Hill church? Should you be? Well, yes, and for starters, it's free. Also, it's a great way to become an active participant in voting for how we choose leadership, run the church budget, and welcome other visitors into our faith community. On February 25, we hosted an after-church lunch to provide information about all the rights, duties, and responsibilities (and fun) that come with membership. If you missed that lunch, don't worry, we will be hosting another in the near future. If you have any questions about how we Presbyterians do things, or would like to talk about membership, check with Pastor Wanda or with any of the E&M team - Jeff Dahl, Sandy Kay, or Josh Smith.

We are hosting a game night at Oak Hill on Friday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. We'll have snacks and beverages, and of course some games and puzzles,



but feel free to bring your own favorite to teach others! We'll also try out our new ping pong table and (not for the faint of heart), we may even try a game of black light glow-pong!



Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 30, at 10:00 a.m. at the Turkish Pavilion in Tower Grove Park. We have games and hunts for our smallest friends under 5, and a high-speed, high-energy hunt for the older kids. Be sure to invite your friends and family with children of any age, we always have a blast! Plus, there's always lots of extra candy, and coffee if it's a chilly sort of Easter weekend!

Candy Donations

If you'd like to help us get prepared for the big hunt, we welcome your donations of wrapped candy. We will have donation boxes sitting outside the sanctuary, starting in mid-March. It's also great if you can volunteer to help hide the eggs on Saturday morning, March 30! We usually start at the Turkish Pavilion around 9:15 a.m. Look for the SHINY NEW Oak Hill Presbyterian Church banner!!!

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for lots of fun activities we are lining up for the spring and summer. Basketball in Tower Grove Park? Sure thing. An ice cream truck day? Yep.

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Greetings from the Mission and Justice Committee

March is the best time to start again, because if spring can do it, why can't you?

....Unknown

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

AMEN ST. LOUIS

We continue our planning for Summer 24 for AMEN St. Louis with groups scheduled from Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, near Kansas City; First Presbyterian Church of Topeka; First Christian Church of Topeka; Salem UMC of Verona; WI; 4th Presbyterian of Chicago (their third visit); Cooper Creek Church of Champaign, Illinois. We are also anticipating a group from Greenfield UMC, Iowa mid-March. Watch for opportunities to hang out with the groups sometime during the summer.

We'll be scheduling an AMEN House clean up day to get the house ready for summer. Stay tuned.

Isaiah 58 Ministries Shopping List

March 2024

- 3rd - canned greens
- 10th - your favorite pasta
- 17th - your favorite jelly or jam (plastic bottle, please)
- 24th - your favorite hearty soup (no water needed) or chili
- 31st - crackers - your favorite

April 2024

- 7th - mac and cheese
- 14th - your favorite canned fruit
- 21st - canned baked beans
- 28th - paper towels

**Your favorites and bargains are always welcome!
Thank you for your continued support.**

With our mild weather we are not anticipating any emergency food preparations, but Dena is on the lookout for opportunities as they arise.

And that's the end of our report. It's our slow time, and so we are resting up for the summer adventures.

**Spring is coming! Just kidding, it's March.
Here's another snowstorm.**

....*Unknown*

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

By Brian Heuckroth

It's quite busy for Stewardship and Property (S&P).

We have many repair projects going on now. The tuckpointing contractor is active now, and we are excited to see the work in progress. Once the building is water-tight, we will commence the restoration of the interior spaces which have been affected, including the women's bathroom outside the Large Assembly Room, the wall of the Small Assembly Room, the Theleos Room, the Upper Room, and the Smiley Room.

Additional potential projects include upgrading the audio system in the Large Assembly Room, replacing the missing section of downspout above the alleyway, and improving the exterior security lighting for the buildings.

There is an additional water problem in the Education Building under the floor, and we will need to tear up a section of floor to repair it, in order to restore the heating ability in the Education Building. Boiler repair is being postponed until spring unless it quits altogether before then. We are installing remote sensors to monitor the temperature in the buildings, in order to prevent any surprises in the winter and summer months.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

On Easter, March 31, Oak Hill will receive donations to the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Donations collected are used to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Self-Development of People (SDOP), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP). The PDA and SDOP receive 32 percent of the offering and the remaining 36 percent goes to the PHP. Each gift to this offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations and is a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. The OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (cont'd)

together every year to work for a better world. Envelopes for the offering can be found on the tables in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary, give online, or you may just send a donation to the church. Your check should be marked, "One Great Hour of Sharing Donation."

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Application Packets for the fall semester of 2024 from the Oak Hill Scholarship Fund will be available in the church office beginning March 1. The purpose of this fund is to assist members of the Oak Hill family in their pursuit of higher education. Individuals eligible are students pursuing an under-graduate college degree or a post-secondary degree at any state-licensed educational facility. Graduate students are not eligible for this scholarship. Applications must be submitted by June 1 to be considered for scholarship. Please contact the church office or Carole Adams for an application.



Daylight saving time begins on March 10

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their February 21, 2024, Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in January was 48.

Membership as of January 31, 2024, was 95.

Financial Reports for January and Year-to-Date 2024

	January	2024 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	\$ 6,599.43	\$ 6,599.43
Budgeted	\$ 7,136.67	\$ 7,136.67
Over (Under) Budget	(\$537.24)	(\$537.24)
Expenses		
Actual	\$22,378.72	\$22,378.72
Budgeted	\$22,986.32	\$22,986.32
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$607.60)	(\$607.60)
Net Revenue/(Loss)	(\$15,779.29)	(\$15,779.29)

Following the examination of our newly elected officer Noel Harding, the session voted to approve the examination and to ordain and install Noel, as a ruling elder, on February 28, 2024.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, at the Barrow residence to discuss "Remarkably, Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. A charming and witty exploration of friendship and hope trace's a widow's friendship with a giant Pacific octopus.

Please bring your dinner and join us.

Those who want to join on Zoom may join us at 7 p.m.: 259 777 226 (password Disciple: case sensitive).



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Submitted by Jan Stanford

Weather permitting, Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, March 21, at 10 a.m. or whenever you can make it. Please bring a sandwich - salad, chips, dessert, and coffee will be provided.

CRAFT CLUB

Submitted by Dena Roper

Craft night will be held on Friday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. The plan is for it to be a bring your own project night, but there may be a special project. So, if you're interested in the special project, check in the week before. Schedules need to be checked before we know for sure. Bring a snack or not and plan on a fun time! Contact Dena with any questions.

Bible
Readings for the Month
LECTIONARY FOR

MARCH

Sunday, March 3	Exodus 20:1-17 and <i>Psalm 19</i> ; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
Sunday, March 10	Num. 21:4-9 and <i>Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22</i> ; 1 Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
Sunday, March 17	Jer. 31:31-34 and <i>Psalm 51:1-12</i> or <i>Psalm 119:9-16</i> ; Heb 5:5-10, John 12:20-33
Palm Sunday, March 24	<i>Palms</i> : Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:2-16 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; Mark 14:1-15, 47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)
Monday, March 25	Isaiah 42:1-9 and <i>Psalm 36:5-11</i> ; Heb. 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
Tuesday, March 26	Isaiah 49:1-7 and <i>Psalm 71:1-14</i> ; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
Wednesday, March 27	Isaiah 50:4-9a and <i>Psalm 70</i> ; Heb. 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday, March 28	Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14 and <i>Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19</i> ; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday, March 29	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and <i>Psalm 22</i> ; Heb. 10:16-25 or Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Easter
Sunday,
March 31

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 and *Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24*;
1 Cor. 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
Mark 16:1-8;
Easter Evening: Isaiah 25:6-9
and *Psalm 114*; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8;
Luke 24:13-49

Scenes from Oak Hill
Candle Making



**Presbytery Leader visits Oak Hill
Rev. Ryan J. Landino**



Tuckpointing Has Begun



Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
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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.

**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.