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Oak Hill News

No. 04 APRIL 2024 Volume 74

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

Pastor's Corner

Last week I had the opportunity to go to one of my favorite places in this area, The Missouri Botanical Garden. I had not been there for several months, and so I was a bit surprised by the trees and flowers bursting forth in vibrant colors. I didn't know there were so many different types of daffodils. The cherry and crabapple blossoms were spectacular. I was aware that new life is all around us.

As I walked along the garden trails, I found myself humming that old hymn which proclaims, "I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am his own, and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known."

We are now in the Season of Eastertide, which marks the 50 days until Pentecost. It is also Springtime.

The invitation is before us, to be open and careful, to not get so caught up in the busy pace of life that we fail to see God's transformation and growth in ourselves and others. This spring, be aware of the resurrection that is taking place within yourself and others. God's transformation is taking place and new life is all around us and within us if we just take a moment to recognize it. Be aware, scripture says, "See, I am making all things new."

May you experience God's unconditional love and transforming grace throughout the Season of Eastertide.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Wanda

The Bulletin Board

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

There will not be a fellowship luncheon in April.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Matt Hanify

Worship

Welcome to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. Thank you for being here. Thank you for setting aside some time to worship with us. We are so glad that you have joined us. However, if you're not feeling well, if you're out of town, if you're still not comfortable with crowds, we understand – we continue to offer online Zoom worship. We just want you to join us; it's what all the cool kids are doing. However, when you're here, we're glad to have you with us.

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, April 7. We offer bread in a wicker basket and juice (not in a wicker basket, because we're tidy). If you are immunocompromised or aren't feeling well, we also offer small, individual cups of juice with a portion of bread in the lid. This 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 reach out to Pastor Wanda or someone on our committee, and we can schedule a time.

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 in the morning on the lower level of the main building in the Theleos Room. You absolutely do not have to be a regular attendee – you are welcome to come and discuss. Miss Donna and Pastor Alan would love to see you.

Children's Sunday School also meets at 9:30 in the morning. Class currently meets in the Large Assembly Room, which is directly below the sanctuary. And you also don't have to be a regular attendee. If you haven't been to Sunday School in a while, or at all this year, please don't let that stop you. Miss Lisa and Miss Sarah would love to see you.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. (no Zoom option)

Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible study group's next work is Bart Ehrman's *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*. Ehrman, a professor of religion at UNC Chapel Hill, offers a fascinating look at early forms of Christianity and shows how they came to be suppressed, reformed, or forgotten. Per *Time* magazine, "A charting of the full theological kaleidoscope would take volumes, but it is possible, using Ehrman's book as a jumping-off point, to examine some of the more striking and widespread of the Christian roads not taken." Everyone is invited and welcome to participate in Bible study (even if you haven't done the reading), but if you want to know the reading assignment, contact the church office or Pastor Alan.

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

COVID-19

It was about two years ago when we first returned to in-person worship. And for months thereafter, we included a discussion on COVID-19 in our newsletter and briefly went over our policies. And this is a place where "do unto others" and "let's avoid being judgmental" are crucial to how we work. So, generally speaking: if you don't feel well, stay home; we don't require masks, but if 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

Like every well-run organization, we have things around here that need doing, and we would like you to help us. Greeters, liturgists, singers, people who just want to share their opinion regardless of whether they know what they're talking about – we need them all. Visit our website (oakhillpcusa.org) and open the Sign-up Genius, which is in an orange box under the "Worship" tab.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

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. Toys and puzzles and rugs are set up. TV should be on, so you can continue with service. And we are happy to send one of our older kids downstairs to help out, show you around, that sort of thing.

Choir

Chancel choir rehearsal is Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to join the singers in their singing, Susan Brown, Minister of Music, would love to have you. We are thrilled to have Susan back in the building with us. And we are beyond grateful for the talents of John Holt, who filled in during Susan's absence. We are blessed to have so many talented people at Oak Hill. We are also blessed to have people who write newsletter submissions. Those two groups may not overlap entirely.

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Josh Smith

Laughs abounded at Game Night on March 8 A dozen fine Oak Hill folks brought snacks and favorite games. We played board games, trivia games, Mexican graphic bingo (you'd have to see it), marshmallow skill time trial games (you'd have to see this one also), and even tried out glow pong in the Dungeon (Fun-dungeon below AMEN House). Please join us next time we have a game night!

Basketball / Kickball / Park Day

Come out and enjoy the park with Oak Hill PC on Sunday, April 21, at 3:30 p.m. We will try out the new basketball courts in Tower Grove Park, just east of Arsenal and Center Cross Drive, behind the Turkish Pavilion. We will play basketball and will also have some slightly lower energy games as well. Then, at 4:30 p.m., we will play a game of kickball with our Confirmation Class. This is a special educational game as well, as we use the idea of base running as an allegory to our faith journey. So, we will need volunteers to help (seated or standing) hold signs, coach bases, and also volunteers to play kickball.

If you have a Bags/Cornhole game, Croquet set, Frisbee, or other fun outdoor game, please bring it along. Outdoor chairs or picnic blankets are also a great idea. We will have some light refreshments as well. There is parking in the park near the Turkish Pavilion and also along Arsenal, near Bent. *If it is rainy, we will postpone the day to Sunday, April 28, at the same times.*

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Mission and Justice for all.

"There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it." - Amanda Gorman

Bookings are filling up at AMEN St. Louis. Watch for upcoming workdays to clean and tidy the space for our summer visitors. Also, we'll be having activities in the park again, dates still to be determined. Plus, there will be opportunities to hang out with our visiting mission teams and work alongside them with our community mission partners.

Your Isaiah 58 Shopping List

April 2024
7th - Mac and cheese
14th - your favorite canned fruit
21st - canned baked beans
28th - paper towels

May 2024
5thth - sardines (an I58 favorite)
12th - chili
19th - cooking oil (smaller is best)
26th - toilet paper

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Isaiah 58 is in need of summer clothes, especially women's summer tops and dresses and men's spring and summer clothes. They really appreciate seasonally appropriate clothing donations, short on long term storage. All of your contributions are appreciated. You can make a monetary donation to Isaiah 58 Ministries through their website or through Oak Hill's giving portal.

"Where flowers bloom so does hope."
— Lady Bird Johnson

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

By Brian Heuckroth

March was a busy month for S&P.

First of all, MANY thanks to Don Stanford, Carole Adams, and all the crew who helped put on the St. Patrick's Day feast! We had a large turnout and, unsurprisingly, no leftovers!

The tuckpointing project has been completed, which will hopefully render the building water-tight and allow us to now concentrate on repairing the walls and ceilings which were damaged by water entry. Many thanks to Josh Smith for all his work to guide this along!

There are a few areas which could use some fill dirt to make the ground slope away from the building, which we will do ourselves over the next 1-2 weeks. We are taking bids for the plaster repairs already and hope to kick this off after Easter.

Once the heating season is over, we will repair the water pipe leaks and the boiler pump. We envision a workday to dig up the floor to uncover the leaky pipes, then engaging a plumber to repair the pipes themselves.

Since we are rapidly approaching the cooling season, we will call for an inspection for our AC units and decide which of the units get repaired/replaced. We are also considering a central air system as a long-term solution, though this would be costly. Stay tuned for further developments.

Brian H. presented the One Great Hour of Sharing offering information, which was received on Easter Sunday.

Don shepherded the bug sprayer for his annual preventive visit to keep us safe from the creepy-crawlies.

Our new chairlift (the lower one from the side door down to the Large Assembly Room) has an issue with the configuration of the supports, causing it to stop moving sometimes when the footrest contacts the stairs under load. We are looking into this issue to get it resolved.

Finally, since spring is approaching, we are going to organize a "Spring Workday" at Oak Hill Pres to take on some improvement projects. We have done these in previous years to do building maintenance, work on the plants and sidewalks outside, cleaning of kitchen and other worthy targets. If you have ideas, or wish to join in, please get in touch with the office (Carole) or Brian H.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Application Packets for the fall semester of 2024 from the Oak Hill Scholarship Fund are available in the church office. 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.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their March 10, 2024, Called Session Meeting and their March 13, 2024, Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in February was 51.

Membership as of February 29, 2024, was 95.

Financial Reports for February and Year-to-Date 2024

	February	2024 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	$10,362.14	$16,961.57
Budgeted	$ 7,146.67	$14,283.34
Over (Under) Budget	$ 3,215.47	$ 2,678.23
Expenses		
Actual	$19,237.09	$41,842.79
Budgeted	$20,178.62	$43,164.94
Over/(Under) Budget	($941.53)	($1,322.15)
Net Revenue/(Loss)	($8,874.95)	($24,881.22)

On March 10, 2024, session approved Quinn Colwell, Betty Finley, Jeannie Lichtenwalner, and Kimberely Thompson becoming active members by Reaffirmation of Faith, and Doris Finley becoming an active member by Profession of Faith and Baptism.

On March 13, 2024, the session approved Lori Mullins becoming an active member by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Session approved the baptism of Doris Finley to be held on March 24, 2024.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, at the Barrow residence to discuss *"Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America"* by Heather Cox Richardson. One of our era's most insightful historians reports on the threats to America's democracy.
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

Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, April 18, 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 on Friday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held in the church basement. Bring your own project and create with us! Hope to see you there! Contact Dena with any questions!

Under the Oak Tree

It's a Boy!!

Congratulations to Layne and James Forbes on the birth of their son Alfred (Freddie) Lee Forbes.

Alfred (Freddie) Lee Forbes, born 3/12/24, 8 lbs. 11 oz.

Bible Readings for the Month

LECTIONARY FOR

APRIL

Sunday, April 7	Acts 4:32-35 *and Psalm 133 or* Isaiah 65:17-25 *and Psalm 3;* 1 John 1:1-22; John 20:19-31
Sunday, April 14	Acts 3:12-19 *and Psalm 4 or* Isaiah 6:1-9a *and Psalm 40:1-5;* 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
Sunday, April 21	Acts 4:5-12 *and Psalm 23 or* Zech. 10:1-12 *and Psalm 80:1-7;* 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
Sunday, April 28	Acts 8:26-40 and Psalm *22:25-31 and* Exodus 19:1-6 and *Psalm 118:19-25;* 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Scenes from Oak Hill

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Brian and Pastor Alan

Session celebrating Pastor Wanda's Birthday

Game Night on March 8

Making Palm Crosses

Baptism of Doris Finley

When it rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

—Janna Firestone

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
B. "Peace be with you."
C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
D. "I am risen!"

Answer: (See John 20:19, 21.)

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
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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.