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Oak Hill News

No. 05 MAY 2024 Volume 74

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

Pastor's Corner

I saw an interview with the Dali Lama in which he read a list of the wars, divisions, and conflicts in the world. "How do we bring people together?" the interviewer asked. His answer? "More picnics." You come together. You share food. You kick a ball around. You sit and talk with your neighbors, sharing food and stories and life. Peace by picnic.

Almost every month, the Evangelism and Membership Committee (E&M) hosts some kind of a fun activity or event to provide opportunities and space for people to connect with one another. Over the past few months E&M has hosted a bowling event, a game night, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt (which by the way drew more people than ever before), and a fun afternoon in the Tower Grove Park featuring basketball, croquet, a pick-up guitar jam, and a rowdy, rousing game of kickball with the confirmation class (which provided a metaphor for helping us to keep going and growing in our spiritual lives). Each of these events has provided fun ways for people to get together and meet new people.

One of the exciting components of these activities is that they provide opportunities to invite friends and family members to attend an informal "non-churchy" event. I see these kind of activities as an "on ramp" or a way of making it easier for new people to become better acquainted and more comfortable with our Oak Hill community. I am very excited to see that many people are taking advantage of these fun activities to invite new people to come mix and mingle. We have had a lot of people bring family members and friends to these events.

In the weeks and months ahead there will be many more opportunities to share the excitement of Oak Hill with others. On Sunday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo), we will be celebrating worship and communion at 10:30 a.m., followed by a great luncheon featuring "Walking Tacos." On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, everyone is invited to wear red to our worship experience as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the summer months, we will once again host "Neighborhood Nights" at the Turkish Pavilion in Tower Grove Park nearly every Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This fun "picnic" is co-sponsored by the AMEN House and the E&M Committee. We have also received a "special grant" from the Presbytery to help fund this outreach event. It is another great opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative to share good food, games, laughter, and fun. I hope that you will put it on your calendar (Wednesday evenings in June, July, and August) and make plans now to be intentional about inviting someone to come with you.

I am already looking forward to summertime fun! It will be here before we know it!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Wanda

The Bulletin Board

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

May 5 Potluck

Worship and Christian Education (WCE) is sponsoring May's potluck. Because of the date, and because we love to celebrate the victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla, May 5 will be a taco potluck. WCE is supplying the taco meat (and maybe a vegetarian option; we haven't 100% worked through all the details). We're asking you to provide toppings: lettuce, sour cream, salsa, cheese, whatever else you think might be tasty. If you would rather just bring a Mexican-themed side dish or an alternate main course or dessert, that would also be fine. If you just want to show up and eat, that would also definitely be fine. We hope you can make it.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Matt Hanify

Worship

Welcome to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. Birds are chirping. Flowers are blooming. Tower Grove Park is alive with the sound of kickball. Then we're all cranking the furnaces back on, muttering angrily under our breath. Remember: We still offer online Zoom worship if you would rather. However, you're here, we're glad to have you here. Again – 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, May 5 (also, see "Fellowship Luncheon" above for another event). Portions of bread (the artisanal kind because that's what it says on the package) and juice (which may or may not be artisanal) are offered to anyone who is here. 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.

We also offer in-home Communion for our extended members. 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 Sunday School meets at 9:30 in the morning on the lower level of the main building in the Theleos Room. 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.

Children's Sunday School meets at 9:30 in the Large Assembly Room, which is downstairs from the sanctuary. Miss Lisa and Miss Sarah work 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, crafts, playacting.

Note: Sunday School for both adults and youth will be taking a break starting on May 26.

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

Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study is reading *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*, by Bart Ehrman. *Kirkus Reviews* calls it "A well-crafted, scholarly tale of forgeries, burned books, doctrinal feuds, and other episodes in the making of the New Testament and the early Church." 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)

Zoom

If you're looking for information on Zoom worship at Oak Hill, please see the "Worship" section above. However, if you ever watched people run the Zoom webcast and thought to yourself, "I think I might like to try that some Sunday or a series of Sundays," then feel free to contact anybody who is running Zoom and ask about volunteering. We have a few people who know what to do; we would love to have more.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Volunteering

If you would like to take on a larger role here at Oak Hill, we would like that as well. We need liturgists and greeters; sign-up is on the Oak Hill website (oakhillpcusa.org) under the worship tab. If you're new here and just feeling things out, there's no rush to overwhelm yourself with a litany of new responsibilities. But if you feel the call to do more, we have more to do.

Childcare

Kids are noisy, and we kind of like that about them. They're energetic and enthusiastic and can never get enough sweets. But sometimes, they might need a break. Sometimes, you might need a break. An area is set up downstairs where you can take your little one as needed to just breathe for a few moments. The service should be on the television down there. Nobody will judge you. We all understand.

Choir

Chancel Choir rehearsal is Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Like many things at Oak Hill, if you want to participate, just show up. You don't need an audition song or an accompanist. Susan Brown, Minister of Music, would love to have you. Just show up!

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Sandy Kay

Greetings from E&M! Will May be summer or back to winter? I know, what a thought! The committee met on April 1, 2024, April Fool's Day, and not one joke! There was so much planning and discussion there just wasn't time. With summer coming we are working hard to have it be a fun one for all.

We welcomed Noel Harding, one of our brand-new members, to the committee and he is ready to work and has some great ideas already. He hopes to help with the "Neighbor Nights" at Tower Grove Park with the BBQing. Way to go Noel!

Meanwhile, April brought us, of course, the fabulous Easter Egg Hunt at TGP. It was a great success with others in the community coming as well as a lot of folks from neighboring communities as well as plenty of Oak Hillers. Thanks to all who helped at the hunt and for all the generous candy donations. We hope to have some materials to market summer AMEN House activities next year.

We are in the final sprint to put together the new Church Directory. Please take a moment to let us or the office (Carole) know if your information has changed and/or if we have it. We are still missing photos. You can upload photos to treasurer@oakhillpcusa.org, bring one in, or ask someone to take one and send it in for you. We are approaching the final proofread before assembling the final directory.

Josh is working on a new banner for the "Neighbor Nights" and some smaller banners for the Advent activities.

We are hoping to put the information for the Wednesday Bible Study up on the Art Wall. We meet on Zoom so this would let the community know and also remind any of us passing by. It is interesting and thought provoking with Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers as our facilitator. We are a lively group and we learn so much.

We are working on getting a new shipment of mugs and also some sticker packs to personalize them.

We celebrated an early Earth Day with a fun time outdoors on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Almost 30 people showed up, and we went way beyond basketball and kickball...we also played ladder ball, croquet, football, there were even guitars and percussion! Lots to do and the best part was you could also choose to just sit and enjoy the sun and have snacks on a lawn chair or blanket. We brought

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (cont'd)

out our banner to advertise our presence to the neighborhood. Our kickball game was a 20-person triumph with powerful kicks and embarrassing fielding, and we helped our confirmation students learn about their faith journey. Maybe we all had a little faith journey! Please join us next time we play in the park.

Our next meeting will be May 6, 2024 @ 6:30 PM on Zoom.

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Mission and Justice For All

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less. - Marie Curie

Watch the weekly update for more information about our AMEN House workday on May 18. Keep your **Wednesdays open in June, July, and early August for Neighborhood Nights in the Park** (TGP) with our AMEN St. Louis mission teams, and youth from St. John's and Compton Heights Churches, starting in June. (We confess one of them will be on a Friday.) More details in the June newsletter.

Your Isaiah 58 Shopping List

May 2024
5th - sardines (An I 58 Favorite)
12th - chili
19th - cooking oil (smaller is better)
26th - toilet paper

June 2024
2nd - canned ravioli with meat
9th - coffee or tea
16th - diapers - sizes 5, 6, 4T, 5T, or baby wipes
23rd - all-purpose cleaner
30th - canned tuna

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. They are 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.

Chat with **Dena Roper** sometime about the amazing ministry she does with the Bounce Back Program, providing lunch for folks taking classes to reenter the work force. The last week of April she was busy cooking up some food for the group! Thanks, Dena!

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Also, a special shout out to **Paul Bordeaux** for his work on the Board of Metropolitan Congregations United.

At the end of the day, we must go forward with hope and not backward by fear and division. - Jesse Jackson

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

By Brian Heuckroth

Now that the big tuckpointing job is completed, S&P is moving forward with the next set of priorities for the buildings and grounds, including plaster and wall repairs, re-grading the ground outside the walls to direct water away from the building, prepping our AC units for the cooling season, repairing a gutter downspout, getting our security lighting to work better, bird-proofing AMEN House, fixing the boiler, and other tasks.

The chairlifts have had a few issues recently which are being addressed. The upper chairlift has a few loose wires which should be tied down so that the charging happens reliably, and the mounting for the lower chairlift needs to be raised to clear the stair treads. These are in the near-term list to get them done as soon as possible.

We are upgrading the lights around the buildings to use LED fixtures when the bulbs wear out or other things fail with the fluorescent fixtures. This applies specifically to the hallway lights beside the kitchen, as well as others throughout the complex.

We are planning to have a workday for May 18, 2024, in cooperation with the AMEN House team. We will be publishing a sign-up list with the jobs to be done in the very near future and hope to see you there.

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. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith.

- 40% of the offering remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our church and local community.
- 25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer experience, e.g., to train and equip volunteers to engage in mission at 13 sites in the U.S. and around the world.
- 25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12-18, and those called to accompany them.
- 10% supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative, which was affirmed at the 221st General Assembly in 2014.

We will receive the Pentecost Offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. 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 10, 2024, Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in March was 61. We had 25 at our Easter Sunrise Service and 82 at our 10:30 a.m. Easter Service.

Membership as of March 31, 2024, was 101.

Financial Reports for March and Year-to-Date 2024

	March	2024 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	$21,372.85	$38,334.42
Budgeted	$22,311.67	$36,595.01
Over (Under) Budget	($938.82)	$ 1,739.41
Expenses		
Actual	$21,811.86	$64,044.65
Budgeted	$24,563.22	$67,728.16
Over/(Under) Budget	($2,751.36)	($3,683.51)
Net Revenue/(Loss)	($439.01)	($25,710.23)

Session approved allowing the Treasurer to move current PCUSA CDs (as they mature) to 13-month CDs because the 13-month CDs are paying a higher interest rate.

Session approved Oak Hill applying for a $3,000 Summer Grant from the Presbytery to help fund the Neighborhood Nights outreach program for middle and high school students from the neighborhoods as well as from Oak Hill, St. John's, and Compton Heights. Neighborhood Nights will take place at the Turkish Pavilion in Tower Grove Park every Wednesday evening and mission groups staying at the AMEN House will be included.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, at the Barrow residence to discuss "*I have some questions for you: A Novel"* by Rebecca Makkai. This riveting novel is part true-crime page turner and part-time coming-of-age saga.
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, May 16, 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 canceled for May. Please consider coming to the AMEN workday on Saturday, May 18, and help us get ready for the summer season! Contact Dena with any questions.

Scenes from Oak Hill

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunt (cont'd)

Easter Sunrise Service

Easter

Easter (cont'd)

Bible Readings for the Month

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

Sunday, May 5	Acts 10:44-48 *and Psalm 98 or* Gen. 35:9-*15 and Psalm 101;* 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
Thursday, May 9, 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 12	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 *and Psalm 1 or* Jer. 10:1-10a *and Psalm 108;* 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
Sunday, May 19, Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezek. 37:1-14 *and Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;* Rom. 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Sunday, May 26	Isaiah 6:1-8 *and Psalm 29;* Rom. 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Mother's Day – May 12

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 19)
(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.