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Oak Hill News

No. 01 JANUARY 2025 Volume 75

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

from the PASTOR

Epiphany is the day and the season of the church year when we patiently watch and listen as God is quietly revealed before us once again. Sometimes, even when we try hard to do so, we just don't see God in our everyday lives or in the events of our troubled world. Epiphany gives us the time and the resources to watch, wait, listen, look, and discern the light, life, and truth of the Lord's presence in our midst.

Contemporary observances of Epiphany include the coming of the Wise Men with gifts for the Christ child and the baptism of Jesus. The season concludes with Transfiguration Sunday, when the church remembers the radiant vision of the disciples who saw Jesus' garments turn bright and heard a voice saying, "This is my son, whom I dearly love. Listen to Him!"

Epiphany is the time when the church gathers to remember and reflect on the mighty acts of God in the birth of Jesus Christ. As we watch and wait for the light of Christ to overcome the darkness, we see the Christ child who will become prophet, healer, teacher, and savior.

We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 5, 2025. We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Commuion, and the ordination and installation of new elders for 2025. Please join us for cake following this special worship experience.

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting following the worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2025, where we will receive the 2024 Annual Report. Please join us as we reflect on the highlights of 2024, and as we look forward to the upcoming goals and priorities for 2025. Donuts will be served.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to the Lord and to the Oak Hill Presbyterian Church.

Amazing things are happening here. God is at work in incredible ways. In 2024 we welcomed 15 new members to the church. We also baptized 3 adults and 1 child.

We also increased our pledges by more than 12% this year. Please be sure to join us for worship and for these special celebrations.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Wanda

The Bulletin Board

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

The Evangelism and Membership Committee will be hosting a luncheon on Sunday, January 12. It will be a true potluck. Everyone is asked to bring a dish that will serve 8, if possible. Please come and join us. There is always plenty of food for everyone!

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Matt Hanify

Worship

Happy New Year! We hope your Christmas was truly blessed and joyous. Welcome to Oak Hill Presbyterian, where every week, we strive toward our mission statement: ***With Jesus as our guide and community as our goal, we worship, love, serve, and grow.*** We just wrapped Advent, which we kind of miss, but now we move into Epiphany, where we celebrate the visit of the Magi, who were the type of people to bring a present (super polite, the Magi). But we also celebrate the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity.

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

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, January 5. Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table, so come on down. We offer pre-sliced portions of bread and individual servings of juice. We also offer individual 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.

Sunday School – adult and youth

Children's Sunday school starts up again on January 5 at 9:30 in the morning, downstairs in the Large Assembly Room. Miss Lisa and Miss Sarah are working with the children through *Feasting on the Word.* If you are a first-time student, welcome. The only prerequisites are to show up, participate, and have fun.

Adult Sunday School also starts back up on January 5, also at 9:30 in the morning. But it meets in the Theleos Room, which is downstairs in our main building. The prerequisites here, much like the youth class, are to show up, participate, and have fun.

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

Calming Corner

Directly downstairs from the sanctuary, in the Large Assembly Room, near where our young people engage in Sunday School, is our Calming Corner, a place for people who might need a little break. You can't miss it – there's a large screen fastened to the wall, and the only channel is the upstairs service. We also have books and games and toys and a changing station, and we're happy to send one of our older students downstairs with you to show you around and keep you company and show you where the best restroom facilities are.

Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study is continuing with *The Meaning of the Bible*, by Douglas A. Knight and Amy-Jill Levine. Dianne Bergant, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Old Testament Studies of the Catholic Theological Union (who did her graduate studies at St. Louis University), says that "Knight and Levine demonstrate both their scholarly proficiency and their expertise as seasoned educators. This book should appeal to a broad audience." Everyone is always 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)

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Volunteering

If you would like to help out around here, please let us know; we would like that very much. We regularly need greeters and liturgists. The choir always welcomes new voices. And not one of these roles requires church membership. Alternatively, on the church's website, oakhillpcusa.org, is a link under the "Grow" tab that contains volunteer opportunities. Or feel free to speak to anyone around here, and we will be happy to point you in the right direction.

Choir

Chancel choir rehearsal is at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room on Sunday mornings. Please contact our Minister of Music, Susan Brown, if you'd like to participate.

Youth Group

Eden Johnson, Tower Grove Youth Pastor (*youthpastoreden@gmail.com*), leads kids from neighborhood churches (St. John's Episcopal, Oak Hill Presbyterian, Compton Heights Christian) in experiences, discussions, and snacks – lots of snacks. They have gone to the movies. They have assembled Go-Bags for our unhoused neighbors. And they have established a safe place to explore and discuss. Contact Oak Hill or Pastor Eden for more information:

- January 5: Epiphany nature walk starting at St. John's, 4:00–5:00 p.m.
- January 12: Collective art project, AMEN House, 5:00–6:00 p.m.
- January 19: Off
- January 26: Bowling at Epiphany Lanes, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Let There Be Peace on Earth

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Josh Smith

Bowling Fun

Escape the snow and stay inside for some good old fashioned BOWLING! Please join us and our youth at Epiphany Lanes on Sunday, January 26, for some fellowship, some free bowling, probably some T Ravs, and definitely some fun. No RSVP needed, we have room for everyone, just come on out. If you need a ride, you can call Josh Smith 314.497.7417.

Sunday, January 26, 3:30 - 5:30 PM
Epiphany Lanes
3164 Ivanhoe Ave, St. Louis, MO 63139

When Doves Dry

If you haven't seen the ART WALL lately, you just have to make a trip now! Freshly decorated with some peace-bringing doves. How did they get there? We painted them, of course. Some "Oak Hillians" and the youth group collaborated on a dove-painting-fest on a special Game Night - Art Edition. The doves were designed by Kimberley Thompson (hooray! and thanks!) Thanks to all who helped produce these wonderful symbols of God's peace for the season.

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Mission and Justice for all.

"The beginning is always today" – Mary Wollstonecraft.

Save the Date

Friday, January 24, 2025 "Winter Coat Drive & Fund Raiser New Roots Urban Farms." https://facebook.com/events/s/winter-coat-drive-w-no-antics-/1117101299363669/ at The Sink Hole, 7423 S. Broadway, St. Louis MO 63111 - $5 with a coat or hygiene donation or $10. Featured performers: No Antics, Sprite, Brawsh, The Public, Upendo. Doors open at 6:30 PM, show at 7 PM. (Someone organize a group and let's go!)

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Isaiah 58 Ministries Shopping List

January 2025
5th - Beef Stew
12th - Canned Fruit
19th - Coffee or Hot Chocolate
26th - Small sized laundry detergent

February 2025
2nd - sardines
9th - canned fruit
16th - salt free seasoning
23rd - razors / shaving cream

We're collecting underwear for Isaiah 58's Back to School Fair 2025. I'm glad we have a head start. We need 125 pairs of adult size underwear for teen girls and boys. Assorted sizes. Each child receives 5 pairs of underwear with their back-to-school supplies. They would really like the underwear in packs of 5. (I found that hard to find). Plus, folks may not be able to buy 5, but they may be able to buy 1 or 2. So if you are able, we'd appreciate the help. (We're still saying three more times, oops 4.)

We need an underwear joke. Here's one…
Knock Knock!
Who's there?
Underwear.
Underwear who?
I underwear my friends are.

Thank you to all the folks who brought donations for the I58 Holiday Store! Special shout out to Georgia! Thank you all! Thank you for donating to Jeans for Teens! We donated a trunk full of toys to New Roots Urban Farm, thanks to Toby for the fun gifts from The Elks and Donna for using her BRO shopping skills to pick up some more. Dena also sent out our stash of ham and cheese sandwiches to them as well.

There are Go-Bags in the entry way container as well as the Large Assembly Room. T hank you to our neighborhood youth group led by Pastor Eden for putting together the bags. We're impressed by their attention to detail!

The Cookie Sale was a huge success. At this writing we're putting together the final numbers, but we think we have $500 or are REALLY close! Thank you for bringing your tasty treats and going home with a new batch, crocheted trees, some dog treats, note cards and more! You're the BEST. Proceeds will benefit Lydia's House of St. Louis https://lydiashouse.org/ and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. https://pcusa.org/disaster-assistance/active-responses/national-disaster

There might be more to come, check out the Weekly Updates for more information.

"Pessimism leads to weakness, optimism to power". — William James.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their December 11, 2024, Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in November was 54.

Membership as of November 30, 2024, was 107.

The following financial report was provided to session following the meeting:

Financial Reports for November and Year-to-Date 2024

	November	2024 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	$70,509.06	$244,199.53
Budgeted	$13,076.67	$181,948.37
Over (Under) Budget	$57,432.39	$62,251.16
Expenses		
Actual	$20,152.09	$238,693.16
Budgeted	$19,915.92	$245,692.42
Over/(Under) Budget	$236.17	($6,999.26)
Net Revenue/(Loss)	$50,356.97	$5,506.37

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

Session approved the final budget of $286,235, as presented, for 2025. This includes $244,958 General (church), and $42,177 AMEN House.

Session approved serving the Lord's Supper on the following dates in 2025: February 2, March 2, March 5 (Ash Wednesday), April 6, April 17 (Maundy Thursday), April 20 (Easter), May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, and December 7.

Session approved having a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, to receive annual reports from the session and church organizations, including financial reports, and to receive the approved budget for 2025.

Session approved having a special mission retreat on January 18, 2025.

The following action was approved by Session at a Called Session Meeting on December 15, 2024:

Annie Corbitt, Megan Frank, and Craig Junk were received as Active Members.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January. 14, at the Barrow residence to watch the movie, *A Haunting in Venice (2023).* The third movie featuring Kenneth Branagh as retired detective Hercule Poirot features a seance and a murdered guest and is based on a 1969 Agatha Christie book.
Please bring your dinner and join us. We are looking for new members to join us in 2025!
Those who want to join on Zoom may join us about 7 p.m.: 259 777 226 (password: Disciple is case sensitive).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Submitted by Jan Stanford

Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, January 16, at 10 a.m. weather permitting. Bring a sandwich -- salad, chips, dessert and coffee will be provided

Bible Readings *for the* Month

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

Sunday, January 5	Jer. 31:7-14 *and Psalm 147:12-20;* Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18
Monday, January 6 Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6 *and Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;* Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12
Sunday, January 12 Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 41:1-7 *and Psalm 29;* Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sunday, January 19	Isaiah 62:1-5 *and Psalm 36:5-10;* 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
Sunday, January 26	Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 *and Psalm 19;* 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Scenes from Oak Hill

Youth Group

Youth Group (cont'd)

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.
(In Person Only))

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

Eden Johnson
AMEN Director and Youth Leader

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.