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Oak Hill News

No. 04 APRIL 2025 Volume 75

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

"See, I am making all things new."
Revelations 21:5

Spring emerges with yellow daffodils, magnolia trees, cherry blossoms, and bird songs. We are reminded that new life is all around us.

One of the invitations to spirituality is to a new life of freedom and deeper love. As we examine the new life of springtime, how can we also be more aware of this invitation in our own lives? Do we open our hearts and minds to God's transforming power, or are we walking around with our eyes and hearts closed to new life within our own souls?

Do we really believe in God's transforming power when we experience it, or do we respond to this promise with doubt, fear—or unbelief?

Just as it is a reality for the trees and flowers, transformation is also a reality for us. The challenge with spiritual transformation requires our hearts and minds to be open before we can see the evidence and experience the wonder.

I invite you to participate fully in all of the events of Holy Week (see page 3) so that you can fully rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

This year we will also be celebrating 130 years of ministry and mission in this place on Easter Sunday. We will be rolling out the plans for our year long 130 anniversary celebration. Throughout the year we will be remembering the past, revitalizing the present, and reimagining the future.

We hope that you will also plan to join us for a special worship service on Sunday, April 27, as our young people re-tell the story of Jonah and the Whale—Dr. Seuss style. Please be sure to invite a friend, neighbor, and a family member to all of these special services.

May you experience God's unconditional love and transforming grace in an unmistakable way as new life bursts forth all around us and within us this Easter.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Wanda

Oak Hill's 130th Anniversary

We're going to be 130 years old! (We don't look a day over 29, do we?) Oak Hill will be kicking off a year-long celebration of our founding in April 1895 on Easter Sunday, April 20. The inspiration for our celebration will be our Mission Statement, with events that connect to the action verbs in the statement–worship, love, serve, and grow–and incorporate the beliefs that Jesus is our guide and community is our goal. We'll celebrate our history while looking forward to a vibrant future. You'll have to wait until Easter for the big roll-out of the special celebration logo and a list of upcoming events, but a "homecoming" worship service, a neighborhood block party, and a "staycation" mission experience are all in the works.

Right now, our ad hoc committee consists of Lisa Thompson (chair), Josh Smith, Donna Cook, Jan Stanford, Lori Mullins, Megan Frank, Karen Zigler, Rev. Alan Meyers, and Rev. Wanda Lowry. Do you have ideas for the celebration? Please share them with one of our committee members. Better yet, if you would like to help with the planning and implementation of the celebration or certain events, join the team for our next meeting on Sunday, April 6, after worship in the Theleos Room.

--Submitted by Lisa Thompson

The Bulletin Board

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Mission and Justice will be hosting the monthly luncheon on the last Sunday of April (27th). It will be a true "Potluck Palooza." Please bring a main dish to share. If you bring a Dr. Seuss inspired side dish or dessert, you'll be entered into our contest. Yes, there will be voting, we're still a democracy! We love fabulous prizes, and we'll have some to share. Join in the fun!

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Matt Hanify

Lent and Easter

Lenten devotionals: This year's devotional is *Vincent van Gogh and the Beauty of Lent*, from the SALT Project. Each week, biblical texts and Van Gogh's work throw light on each other, pointing toward simple, powerful practices you can try yourself, with your family or friends, with your congregation. Week by week, travel this Lenten journey together toward the light of Easter morning – with van Gogh as your guide. Copies are available in booklet form in the sanctuary. Feel free to pick one up.

Easter Lilies

If you wish to purchase an Easter Lily to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter, April 20, in honor or memory of someone, you may fill out a form available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the church office by 12 Noon on Friday, April 4. Each lily comes with 3-5 blooms and costs $25.00. You may also call the church office directly (314 664-5525) to place an order. Plants may be taken home following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Easter.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Wednesday services (April 2 and 9): Epiphany UCC (2911 McNair) has been offering a weekly study program during Lent every Wednesday. A light supper is offered at 6:30 p.m., followed by Psalms and prayer practices at 7:00 p.m., led by Pastor Krissy. **(Oak Hill will be providing the meal on April 2, and Pastor Wanda and Pastor Alan will be leading the study classes.)** For more details, please visit the website (epiphanyucc.org).

Palm Sunday (April 13): On Saturday, April 12, at 10:00 a.m. in the Large Assembly Room under the sanctuary, please grab a pair of scissors and join us in making crosses for Palm Sunday.

Maundy Thursday (April 17): We will be hosting a joint service with St. John's Episcopal, Compton Heights Christian, Epiphany UCC, and Isaiah 58 Ministries at 7:00 p.m. Communion will be offered. This has previously been a foot- and hand-washing service and will be available on Zoom (meeting ID 768 992 383).

Good Friday (April 18): Epiphany UCC will be hosting the Good Friday service. Starting at 7:00 p.m., the service will also be available via Zoom. Visit the website (epiphanyucc.org) for more details.

Saturday Easter Vigil (April 19): On Saturday afternoon and evening from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m., we will be holding vigil in the sanctuary to await Christ's resurrection. Reserve an hour on our Sign-up Genius (located in an orange box under the "Worship" tab at our website, oakhillpcusa.org) to pray, light candles, ruminate on Scripture – somebody even plans to spend the hour playing the piano, because if you're going to play, it might as well be on the nicest piano you can access.

Easter Sunday (April 20): Two service options are available. Our sunrise service begins at 6:15 a.m. (sunrise is scheduled for 6:18 a.m.) and is held outdoors on the front steps, weather permitting. Dress warmly. Intinction Communion will be offered – our first intinction since last year's sunrise service. Then our regular service is 10:30 a.m., 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. Non-intinction Communion will be offered.

Special Worship Experience – April 27
Jonah and the Whale
(Dr. Seuss style)

Followed by the "Potluck Palooza"
(a true potluck—bring a main dish to share and a Dr. Seuss inspired side dish or dessert).

Worship

Look at you, finding your way to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. Well done you! You won't find a better group of people than those right here. That might be an overreach, let me try again – you won't find a better group of people who also happen to be located in this building at this particular time than the people who are here right now. I feel more confident in that one. And you've managed to snag yourself some light newsletter reading. I think your week might be looking up. Anyway, welcome!
Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., in person or on Zoom (meeting ID 768 992 383)

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 6. 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. And everyone is invited to share.

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.

And we're thinking of returning to the occasional intinction Communion (where you dip the bread yourself). What are your thoughts on this? We will still offer the individual Communion units if you're super uncomfortable. Honestly, let us know your thoughts either way.

Sunday School – adult and youth

Starting at 9:30 in the morning in the Large Assembly Room, downstairs from the sanctuary, Miss Lisa and Miss Sarah lead the children in craft-building, hiding messages around the building, fishing for things. There's music to be heard and sung, lessons to be learned. It's a great time for kids generally from pre-K to fourth or fifth grade.

Adult Sunday School also meets at 9:30 in the morning in the Theleos Room. Miss Donna and Pastor Alan, who are always excited to see new faces, lead in-depth, thoughtful lectionary discussions. You might be thinking "I don't want to be the only person there." Well, you won't be – trust me, it's been very popular. And now you might be thinking "Look at all these people, I don't want to stand the whole time." There are plenty of chairs, plenty of room, and there's a special spot there just for you.

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

Calming Corner

If your child needs a break from service, or if you need a quick break from service, we have a Calming Corner in the Large Assembly Room dedicated to that purpose. We have toys and puzzles and rugs set up. We have a television, so you don't have to miss a moment of the action-packed service. There is a fully stocked (last I checked) changing station. Snacks are located nearby (again, last I checked). And we are happy to send one of our older kids downstairs to help out if you need.

Wednesday Bible Study

The Bible study group will continue exploring *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem*, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Beginning on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem – Roman governor Pontius Pilate leading Roman soldiers into the city, contrasted with Jesus as he rode in on a humble donkey – *The Last Week* depicts Jesus giving up his life to protest power without justice and to condemn the rich who lack concern for the poor. 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)

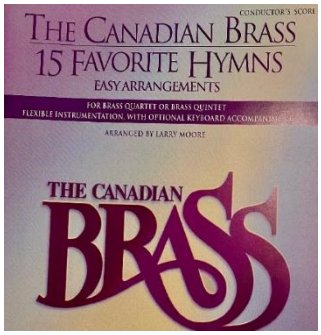
Volunteering

We are in regular need of help around here. The work is not difficult, which is good, because the pay is pretty low (see heading to this section for a better idea of how much we "pay"). Being a liturgist is great, a personal favorite of mine. Being a greeter – also good, requiring you to be here a bit earlier, but not much. Youth group chaperone – I haven't actually done this, because somebody would likely be mortified if her father were hanging around the youth group. Anyway, if you feel like helping, we're happy to take whatever we can get. Look in the orange box in the worship tab and sign up. And if you have questions, let someone know and we'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Choir

Chancel choir rehearses at 9:00 a.m. in the Choir Room (Room 1 on the first floor of the Educational Building). Please contact our Minister of Music, Susan Brown, if you'd like to participate.



You're invited to play in Oak Hill's Easter morning chamber ensemble!

Susan Brown, Oak Hill's talented Minister of Music, will be our keyboard accompanist.

Only 2 rehearsals – one on Monday, April 14, 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the sanctuary and one on Easter morning 9 a.m. (before the 10:30 a.m. service).

Easy to learn but elegant arrangements from The Canadian Brass 15 Favorite Hymns

Oak Hill member Bette Welch will be our conductor. Bette is a former music educator with elementary through high school band, high school chorus, church choirs, and chamber orchestras. She pulls together low-stress, fun ensembles that everyone feels good about. No one is alone on a part, ***so do not worry if you haven't played in a while!***

To sign up for music: Call 314-368-5488 Valery Welch or email valery@bjwelchcpa.com.

Eden Johnson, Tower Grove Youth Pastor (youthpastoreden@gmail.com), continues to work with our youth people. The group could always use help with chaperoning or providing snacks. Let Pastor Eden know if this sounds like something you could do.

On April 5 at St. John's, they will prepare a Peace Meal from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. (2:00-4:00 p.m. meal prep, 4:00-6:00 p.m. meal service and clean-up) to be served to anyone who might need it.

Scheduled April events:

- Saturday, April 5: St. John's, 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 6: No meeting.
- Sunday, April 13: AMEN House, 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 19: Tower Grove Park, Turkish Pavilion, Oak Hill Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, April 27: No meeting.

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Josh Smith

Game Night

We had a great turnout for our Game Night on February 20. Mysteries abounded, whether in the dim purple light of the Fungeon, or the cerebral Clue whodunit in the History Room. And nothing is more mysterious than trying to locate an opponent's Battleship. We had the neighborhood youth group in force and plenty of adults joined as well. (See Scenes from Oak Hill on page 9.) Please join us next time we play, for glow pong, or chalk art, or monopoly, or maybe even a bingo-style hall game of Bunk-o! We'll announce dates and times through the weekly email blast.

It's time to gather your peeps, foil rabbits and Laffy Taffy's and bring 'em to church! We will have candy boxes out accepting donations for the children's Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 19. Please keep an eye out for extra goodies when you go to the grocery store.

Easter Egg Hunt

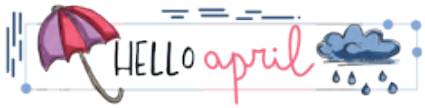
We will host our annual community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19, at 10:00 AM, at the Turkish Pavilion in Tower Grove Park. It's the large red and white pavilion on Center Cross Drive. We'll have an egg toss, games for toddlers, chalk art, and two levels of egg hunts. If you'd like to help "hide" the eggs, please come early and join us at 9:00 AM. It's always a fun (and busy) day with lots of chances to welcome children from the neighborhood and invite folks to join us for church.

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Mission and Justice for ALL

It's April!



Know rain? Know flowers!

Ready to shop?

Isaiah 58 Ministries reports that they are in need of toilet paper, Mac & Cheese, and peanut butter. Feel free to substitute those items for our "regularly scheduled" items.

April 2025
6th - peanut butter
13th - cooking oil (48 oz. or less)
20th - multi/all-purpose cleaner
27th - bar soap

May 2025
4th - tuna
11th - canned ravioli with meat
18th - coffee or tea
25th - multi-purpose cleaner

Thanks to Craig for delivering all of our donations to Isaiah 58 each week.

YES! 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. **"Keep calm and carry on-derwear!"**

AMEN St. Louis. We've connected with our local ministry partners, and we're almost all set to go. June is completely booked for 2025. Groups are inquiring about July & August. We have an inquiry for July and a small family group scheduled for early August. We also have a weekend group booked for November. We keep adding information to the website. Watch for volunteer workdays and other projects between now and May!

Hunger Action. Thanks to Dena for all of her organizing and coordinating efforts. We can't keep up with her, but I think she sent out yet another lunch for our Bounce Back Project friends and Sarah Gibson provided the main dish! Enchiladas! Thanks Sarah! Watch for more information from Dena about new projects.

Go-Bags are available outside the sanctuary and in the Large Assembly Room.

"The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful". —E. E. Cummings

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Bob Ream

Committee meeting (March 3)

I. Active projects

A. Wall repairs following the work to reroute the heating pipes leading to the education building are proceeding.

B. We were told the official letter from Hartford Steam Boiler regarding their insurer-mandated inspection of the Church facilities is arriving soon. We anticipate having to address a minor reconfiguration of the AMEN House boiler pressure valve assembly and are waiting for that letter to potentially add that work to a bid for new air conditioners and an examination of the church boiler (see below).

C. Received a bid from Fielder Electric for hard-wired EXIT signage with battery backup for the AMEN House ($1900). This bid from our trusted electrical service contractor was forwarded to the Session.

D. Sidewalk repairs waiting for review by the St. Louis Commissioner of Streets. Toby E. "highlighted" the most worrisome slab with bright orange paint.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (cont'd)

E. Nonprofit Security Grant application for security lighting and cameras remains under Federal review.
F. Initial imaging of the interiors and exteriors has been completed. An architect has been found to provide renderings of re-imagined use of space in the Church.
G. There are actually 4 nonfunctional AC units (incorrectly identified as 3 last month): 2 of the 5 covering the Sanctuary; 1 of the 2 covering the Large Assembly Room; and 1 of the 2 covering the Nursery Area. The committee has recommended to the Session that 1 AC unit in the Sanctuary and 1 AC unit in the Large Assembly Room be replaced.
H. We have 1 bid for replacement of the Education Building Roof and are awaiting a second bid on the work. Of note, there is evidence of some failed mortar joints on the roof (adjacent to the air conditioners) that may require additional tuckpointing and/or caulking not covered by the roofing estimates.
I. Unscheduled Church boiler shutdowns will need to be investigated and may involve draining sludge from the system to avoid triggering a false "low water" shutdown. (Josh S. has been resetting the system at least weekly through the winter.) We are planning to include this HVAC investigative work with the AC replacements and AMEN boiler work to potentially reduce costs.
J. An unscheduled AMEN House boiler shutdown was investigated by Josh S.. The system was vented to release trapped air. Hopefully this will resolve the issue.
K. No evidence of cold weather water pipe damage thus far. As the weather turns warmer we will stop the intentional leaking faucets and toilets and resume looking for *unintended* leaking faucets and running toilets.

II. New Business

A. The committee forwarded a building use request from the Gateway Men's Chorus to the Session, who approved the request at their meeting 2/26/25. The Chorus is requesting the Large Assembly Room and Stage for rehearsal and performance space this summer. Brent C. is working with the group on pricing and a formal agreement.
B. The committee has forwarded a final draft of Building/Facility Use Policy to formalize the process of handling requests for use of Church space and property.
C. Inspection of the gas meters by Spire on March 10 was uneventful.
D. Evidence of mice in the Smiley and History Rooms has prompted a renewed effort to secure food and trash in appropriate containers. Glue traps have been placed in the Smiley and History Room as well as the kitchen.
E. A joint retreat for the Session, the Mission Study Team and this committee was held on March 15 to develop a unified approach to the existing and potential projects to be undertaken by the Church.
F. On April 13th Bob R. will announce the annual "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering to take place the following week on Easter Sunday.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their March 12, 2025, Stated Session Meeting.

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in February was 59.

Membership as of February 28, 2025 was 109. (The transfer of Will Jones to St. Paul UCC on February 26, 2025.)

The following financial report was provided to Session:

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

Budget vs. Actual Income and Expense Summary for February and Year-to-Date 2025

	February	2025 YTD Total
Income		
General	$13,899.96	$25,314.54
Investment Income	$15.59	$43.96
Total Actual	$13,915.55	$25,358.50
General	$14,086.67	$28,358.50
Investment Income	-	-
Total Budgeted	$14,086.67	$28,173.34
Over (Under) Budget	($171.12)	($2,814.84)
Expenses		
Actual	$27,772,19	$54,823.78
Budgeted	$22,255.94	$48,206.88
Over (Under) Budget	$5,516.25	$6,616.90
Net Revenue/(Loss)	($13,856.64)	($29,465.28)

Session elected Matt Hanify and Will Woodward as commissioners to attend the Presbytery Gathering in Cape Girardeau, MO, on May 3.

Session voted to approve holding a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025, in the sanctuary following worship to approve a list of nominees to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Session voted to approve sending a copy of the proposed Building/Facility Use Policy to the Gateway Men's Chorus for consideration as a result of Session's approval on February 26 to rent space to the group in the church for rehearsals and performances in June.

BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Deb Wiethop

Book club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, at the Barrow residence to discuss "The Women: A Novel" by Kristin Hannah. The book is about a young Army nurse who survives the Vietnam War.

This is the third Tuesday of the month and has been changed from our regular meeting date of the second Tuesday.

You may join us on Zoom at 7 p.m.: 259 777 226. Password: Disciple (case sensitive).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Submitted by Jan Stanford

Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, April 17, at 10 a.m., weather permitting. Bring a sandwich -- salad, chips, dessert and coffee will be provided.

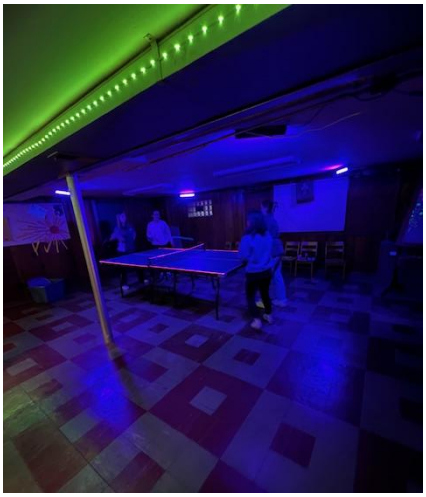
Under the Oak Tree

The sympathy and support of the congregation is extended to Rick Soles and Donna Cook, son and daughter-in-law of Mel Soles, upon Mel's death on March 25, 2025. Mel was 105 years of age.

Scenes from Oak Hill

Food Mission

Game Night



Bible Readings for the Month

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

Sunday, April 6	Isaiah 43:16-21 *and Psalm 126;* Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13	*Palms:* Luke 19:28-40 *and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Passion:* Isaiah 50:4-9a *and Psalm 31:9-16;* Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
Monday, April 14	Isaiah 42:1-9 *and Psalm 36:5-11;* Heb. 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
Tuesday, April 15	Isaiah 49:1-7 *and Psalm 71:1-14;* 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
Wednesday, April 16	Isaiah 50:4-9a *and Psalm 70;* Heb. 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL (cont'd)

Maundy Thursday, April 17	Ex. 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 *and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;* 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday, April 18	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 *and Psalm 22;* Heb. 10:16-25 *or* Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 19	Gen. 1:1-2:4a *and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26;* Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 *and Psalm 46;* Gen. 22:1-18 *and Psalm 16;* Ex. 14:10-31; 15:20-21 *and* Ex. 15:1b-6, 11-13, 17-18; Prov. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 *and Psalm 19;* Isaiah 55:1-11 *and Isaiah 12:2-6;* Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11 *and Deut. 12:1-4, 7; 36a, 43a;* Ezek. 36:24-28 *and Psalm 42 and 43;* Ezek. 37:1-14 *and Psalm 143;* Dan. 3: 1-29 *and Sg. Three 35-65;* Jonah 1:1-2:1 *and Jonah 2:2-3 (4-6) 7-9;* Zeph. 3:14-20 and *Psalm 98;* Rom. 6:3-11 *and Psalm 114;* John 20:1-18
Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday, April 20	Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isaiah 65:17-25 and *Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;* 1 Cor. 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 *or* Luke 24:1-12 *Easter Evening:* Isaiah 25:6-9 *and Psalm 114;* 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49
Sunday, April 27	Acts 5:27-32 and *Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 or* 2 Kings 7:1-16 *and Psalm 2;* Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

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

Ms. Carole Adams
Secretary

Eden Johnson
Youth Leader

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.