

Faith and Service in the Season of Covid-19 at Oakmont Presbyterian Church

November 15, 2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have met the challenges of a turbulent year! COVID-19 has altered, but did not diminish OPC ministry and mission. Through your gifts we have provided *financial support* to individuals and families in need, *provided ongoing pastoral care*, supported the *mission of Christ in the world*, provided *both on-line and in-person worship*, and held weekly in-person *prayer gatherings, weekly Zoom Bible studies and Sunday School*. Our *Micah 6:8 Team* is providing opportunities and resources to learn about racial issues and possible responses. Our *new Education Director for Children and Youth* has been reaching out to our children and youth and building momentum in children's and youth ministries. *Our bell choir and ensembles from our chancel choir* have provided music for weekly worship as well as developing a *Veterans' Day musical tribute*. A *virtual carol walk* is being prepared. *Ongoing building needs have been addressed and new audio-visual equipment* for the sanctuary and Friendship Hall has been installed. *A new AV team* to run the audio and cameras has been formed and is being trained to live-stream worship. Our *Deacons* deliver food donations to the Oakmont and Verona food pantries and receive gifts annually for the Angel Tree. The *Light Bearers* respond to OPC and community needs. The *Holy Ground Team* provides spiritual care for members and several non-members with chronic and serious illness. The Holy Ground Team will post a *Hope for the Holidays worship service* early in December. We are working to become a satellite location for the *Samaritan Counseling Center* which will provide counseling services to OPC members and to the local community.

Narrative (or Missional) Budget Format – This budget format goes beyond listing which committee gets what funds to a narrative that reflects what your gifts are accomplishing. Copies of the traditional line-item budget are available in the church office for review.

A Reduced Budget in Response to Reduced Income – As the COVID-19 virus caused the closing of the church last March, each of the Session Committees and the Trustees revised their 2020 budgets to respond to the anticipated coronavirus-caused reduction in income. Because the coronavirus continues to affect worship attendance and church events, elders agreed for 2021 to maintain that reduced budget wherever possible. As a result the draft 2021 budget is approximately \$3,000 less than the reduced 2020 budget or \$55,206 less than the original 2002 budget.

What Your Gifts Are Accomplishing

Thoughtful and Inspiring Biblical Worship	\$259,188
Nurturing Persons in Their Faith	\$200,928
Our Mission for Christ	<u>\$168,981</u>
Total	\$629,097



2021 OPC Costs	
Operational costs per day (budget per day)	\$ 1,724
Operational costs per member per year (budget per member)	\$ 1,523

OUR PLAN FOR REACHING OUR MINISTRY GOALS

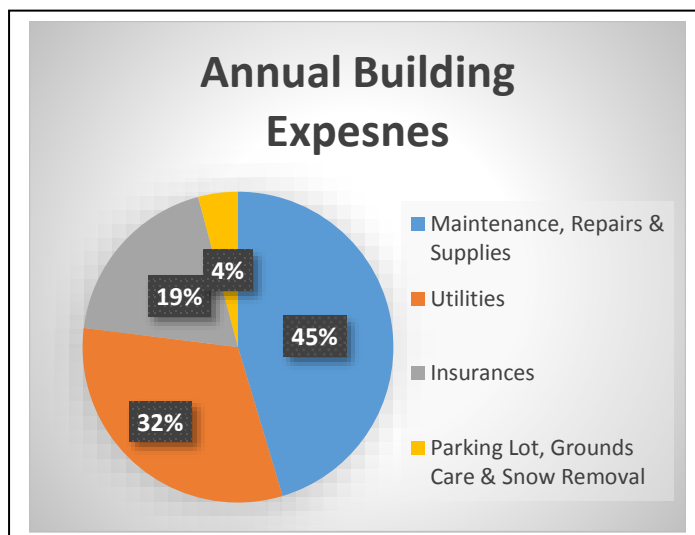
A. To Provide Thoughtful, Inspiring Biblical Worship Every Week of the Year

We have adapted worship to reflect safe practices during the pandemic. While we worship physically distant in-person or via our monitors at home, we remain a community of faith worshipping God and seeking to be faithful. In worship we have maintained a Biblical and spiritual focus midst the social and political upheavals.

2021 Budget Total: \$259,188 which includes a percentage of the utilities and insurance, Pastors' salaries, the Music Director/Organist's salary, the Secretary and Custodial salaries, the Education Director for Children and Youth, children, adult and youth ministry expenses, telephone, copier and building maintenance.

Annual Building Expenses

Maintenance, Repairs & Supplies	\$33,000
Utilities	\$23,000
Insurances	\$13,750
Parking Lot, Grounds Care & Snow Removal	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total	\$90,250



These expenses, provide for a welcoming and accommodating physical facility. Regular maintenance and improvements allow us to focus on our primary goals of worship, nurturing the faith and serving Christ in mission.

B. Nurturing Persons in their Faith

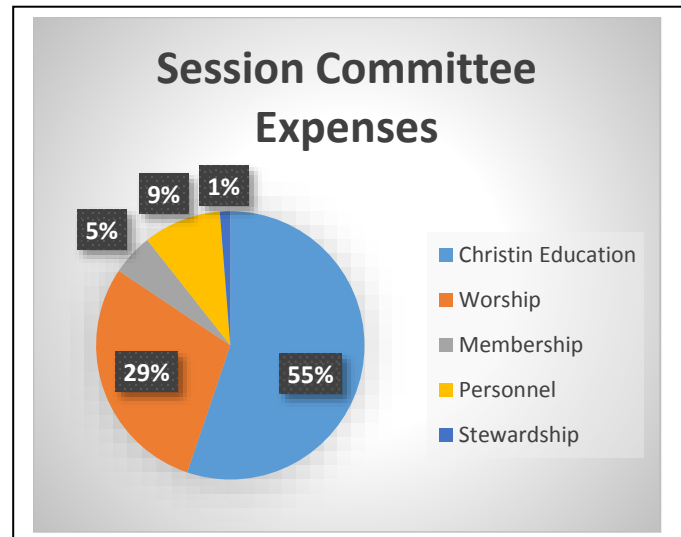
OPC education fosters spiritual growth in a wide variety of venues. *This fall*, Ronnie has been communicating weekly with each individual child and young person at OPC. Don leads a weekly Zoom Bible study. Susan Kabazie and Eric Walker led the confirmation gatherings. Sunday School for adults this fall included Dave Fawcett leading 4 weeks on *Issues of Race* and Sam Anderson leading 4 weeks on *Living Unafraid*. Beginning in September Steve has been hosting weekly Wednesday prayer gatherings.

In the coming year, after a safe and effective vaccine has been widely distributed, we hope to return to in-person Bible studies, seasonal devotions, Friday Night Movies, and much, much more to nurture our faith. Also, we hope to continue to be a spiritual place for those in the community who desire to benefit from OPC programs.

2021 Budget Total: \$200,928 which includes a percentage of the utilities and insurance, Pastors' salaries, the Music Director/Organist's salary, the Secretary and Custodial salaries, the Education Director for Children and Youth's salary, adult and youth ministry expenses, telephone, copier and building maintenance.

Session Committee Costs

Christian Education	\$13,250
Worship	\$ 7,000
Membership	\$ 1,200
Personnel	\$ 2,250
Stewardship	\$ <u>300</u>
Total	\$24,000



C. Our Mission for Christ

We are committed to bearing fruit for God in our corner of the world, and as far as God enables us to reach. This year, we collected weekly food for 2 local foodbanks. Also, we are providing meeting space for 3 weekly recovery group meetings, the Boy Scouts and a grief support group. Financially, we are supporting the ministries of Camp Crestfield, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Pittsburgh Presbytery work, the mission of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, national and international crisis relief, and, locally, mission to the Somali Bantu community in Pittsburgh, the Blessing Board and Living in Liberty. Our international mission includes support for Michael and Rachel Ludwig (Niger), Catherine Day (Rwanda) and Dick Tafur Villacorta (Peru).

2021 Budget Total: \$168,981 which includes a percentage of utilities, expenses, and insurance, the Pastor's salaries, the Secretary and Custodial salaries, the Education Director for Children and Youth's salary, telephone, copier, utilities, maintenance, support of international mission, crisis relief ministries and help for local people suffering.

Total needed in 2021 to fulfill our ministry and mission: \$629,097.

Please join in our ministry and mission by return your 2021 estimate of giving card (please call the church office at 412.828.5770 for a replacement card), or by submitting your estimate of giving on the church website at: [2021 Estimate of Giving Form](#).

Thank you!

Your Session and Trustees