

November 2021

# OAKNOTES



Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
415 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
412.828.5770  
[www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org)

Friends in Christ,

One of the regular challenges we face is keeping a balanced perspective. The frustrations of our life can color our outlook like overcast skies make for gloomy days. When such an attitude fills our thoughts, we can easily lose sight of God's sustaining blessings. If however, we can see the good with the bad, the blessing in the midst of our challenge, then it is likely that we will not be given to discouragement.

The gratitude that we seek neither denies nor minimizes our trials but sees them in the context of God's blessings. Even in a bad day there are significant moments to celebrate. Also, by faith we have: God's comforting presence in the midst of trial, God's wisdom in guiding us through them, and our hope that with God's help we will overcome them.

One spiritual tool, thanksgiving, helps us keep perspective by offering to God our gratitude for the blessings of our lives. The old hymn sings a sustaining wisdom:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

I invite you to write a thanksgiving each day this month and from your list, offer to God your personal prayer of gratitude on Thanksgiving Day. Then, from time to time, read your list of blessings (and add to it) to help keep perspective.

Grace to you, and  
Peace,

*Steve*





**Your OPC Family Cares About You!** Because there are times when you are ill, in the hospital or in emotional need and we don't know about it, please remember to contact the church office (412.828.5770) or a staff member (mstecik@oakmontpresby.org) so we may support you in your time of need. You are loved!

**Prayer Requests - Prayer Requests - Members of our church will pray for you and anyone in need. Please send prayer requests to: [prayers@oakmontpresby.org](mailto:prayers@oakmontpresby.org) or contact Carol Heimerich at 412-242-1028.**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—NOVEMBER

### **November 7—24th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:15 AM Adult Education with Steve Wilson (*A New Look at Saints*) - Multi-Purpose Room

9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)

11:00 AM Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)

12:00 pm Youth Gathering (grades 6-12)

### **November 14—25th Sunday after Pentecost**

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### **November 21—Christ the King/Reign of Christ**

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### **November 28—1st Sunday of Advent**

9:15 AM Adult Education with Steve Wilson (Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation*) - Multi-Purpose Room

9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-8) (2nd Floor)

11:00 AM Children during worship (PreK-2nd grade)

12:00 pm Youth Gathering (grades 6-12)



**Youth and Children's ministry** requires connection. The heartbeat of my calling and who I am has been to create a safe space for kids and give them a place to work out their spiritual development. And obviously, that hasn't been an easy task these days. However, I remember one particular moment of spiritual connection, trust, and relationship with me and some of the youth.

Usually during a typical communion, a spiritual practice for me is taking the communion bread with my weak hand. I know this might be hard to envision over words but when I was handed the bread, I would hold out my left hand over my right hand and take and eat... as a symbol of total reliance on God. To me, this practice reminds me (even though it feels awkward to use my weak hand) that communion is a means of receiving strength from God. I know I'm not blindly struggling towards an end goal, but rather God uses every part of me (even awkward weaknesses) to accomplish a mission. I used this practice in college, and even sometimes when I pray you will see me layer my hands as mentioned.

This story is important because two of my youth kids sat with me during communion and I explained to them this practice and why I do it. I intentionally had us stay in worship to take communion together and share with them one of my personal experiences. And of course, it's a little different since we have to rip and open the communion packages, but I've been doing that with my weak hand too, and I showed my youth how to do it and what the intention was.

Well, two months or so pass, and I look over during communion and see one of the students fidgeting with the communion package with her weak hand. This is significant because those little moments of trust and connection is really what we're striving for in this ministry. The things you teach, they matter. The beliefs you embody, they matter. And that's why we do church. To learn and grow with one another. So even during the hardest of COVID times, we are still growing and relying on God more than ever before.



**OPC STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson	Senior Pastor
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Ronnie Bailey	Education Director for Children and Youth
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Buster Harper	Custodian
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator
Tracy Messenger and Carol Huber	Nursery Attendants

415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139  
 412-828-5770 (Office)  
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**RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS**

**AAs:**  
 Mondays at Noon  
 Multi-Purpose Room  
  
 Saturdays at 8:30 pm  
 Dining Room

**NAs:**  
 Thursdays at 8:00 pm  
 Dining Room

**EYE GLASS COLLECTION**

The Lions Clubs collect used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Recycling Centers where they are cleaned, sorted by prescription strength and packaged. Most are distributed to people in need in developing countries where they will have the greatest impact. The Lions Clubs accept prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses and plastic and metal frames. Children's glasses are especially needed. For your convenience, there is a drop box located in the church office.





Laura Davis Crawford was born and raised in Buchanan County in the mountains of southwest VA. With an older sister and younger brother, she lived with her family on a small farm. As a young girl, Laura participated in many 4-H activities which later directed her to major in home economics at Virginia Tech. At that time in history, only eighty women were enrolled, and in 1956, Laura was one of 22 women who graduated with a degree in home economics. After graduating, she taught home economics for a year before marrying John Crawford and moving to Lincoln, Illinois. Laura was employed as a social worker for Lincoln State School. After the birth of two sons, Laura and her husband returned to Buchanan County where she continued her dual role as mom and home economics instructor. In 1964 the family moved to Tazewell County, and Laura's third son was born in 1966. For twenty years Laura was employed in social services, 17 years as a child welfare supervisor. Laura's last career position was VA Tech Cooperative Extension Agent in home economics. In the next phase of her life, Laura became a dedicated caregiver to her oldest son, severely injured in a motorcycle accident, who died in 1994. Laura provided loving care to her husband John who died in 2004 and to her mother-in-law who died in 2011. Laura's son Ken moved to Oakmont in 1993 and her son Charlie moved north to Moon Twp. In 2001. On many visits to Oakmont, Laura got acquainted with many of the OPC choir members who simply nicknamed her "Ken's Mom". In 2012, with the urging of her sons, she decided to leave her beloved Virginia and move north to be near her sons and their families. Laura is the proud grandmother of five and the great grandmother of six. In addition to her Deacon duties and Soup's On, Laura is an active member of Oakmont Lion's Club and DAR.

Member of OPC Since: October 2012, I think!

Hobbies and Interests: Reading, crafts and sewing (soup bowl cozies, tissue holders, tote bags and more)

Favorite Vacation: Anywhere with Family!

Favorite Foods and/or Local Restaurants: Cooking southern foods such as traditional sausage, biscuit, and gravy breakfasts, tomato pie, sweet potato biscuits, traditional yeast breads, and stack cakes.

You Would be Surprised to Know: After graduating from VA Tech, we home economic majors gathered for a reunion picnic every June in VA. As our families grew, we included our children and then our grandchildren. Eventually our children drove us to our gatherings which concluded two years ago.

Favorite Bible Verse: The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm

Why I Like Being a Deacon: I like getting to know members and being more involved with the activities of our church.

**Christmas Carol Walk 2021**  
**- POSTPONED -**  
**until**  
**December 11, 2022 6:00 - 8:30 pm**

With deep regret and a sense of responsibility for your safety and health, we need to once again, postpone our in-person celebration of the beloved Christmas Carol Walk. Due to the unpredictable nature of the COVID virus, anticipation of large crowds, and because of your wonderful support of this event, we feel it is in the best interest of everyone to postpone the Carol Walk one more year!

We look forward to gathering in person to celebrate the **40th Anniversary of the Carol Walk next year on December 11, 2022.**

*The Music Ministries and  
Ministerium of Oakmont and Verona Churches*

**The Great Emergence - *How Christianity is Changing and Why***

**November 14 and 21**

Led by Sam Anderson

These sessions will focus on the writing of Phyllis Tickle and Emergent Christianity. Her teachings reflect both her deep intellect and quick wit. Phyllis believes that the Church is in the middle of one of its every 500 year "Rummage Sales", where the Church cleans out its attic to make room for a new and stronger future.

You may not buy everything that Phyllis Tickle is selling. But she will give you the opportunity to think deeply, look into the future, and perhaps enjoy a laugh or two.

PHYLLIS TICKLE (1934 – 2015) Phyllis was the founding editor of the Religion Department of PUBLISHERS WEEKLY. As an authority on religion in America, she was frequently quoted in print sources, electronic media, and a much sought-after lecturer. She served on a number of advisory and corporate boards within the Episcopal Church and was a lay eucharistic minister and lector.

**The DEACONS are collecting TOWELS** (bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths, kitchen towels) **DURING NOVEMBER for the Light of Life Ministries on the North Side.** Please leave *towel donations in the black bin at the top of the stairs in the 5th street entrance.*



**The OPC Woman's Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 3 at 1:30pm.** We will be continuing our study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*. Our lesson will be on Rahab. Rahab is a socially unacceptable outsider who is intelligent and strong. A marginalized woman, she recognizes the power of the God of Israel. When God's own people are melting with fear, her wit and presence of mind allow God's plans to come to fruition. Come join us as we appreciate Rahab. All women of OPC are invited to share our study and fellowship.

**STEWARDSHIP NOTE...**

Stewardship letters have been mailed to each member household. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the church in the coming year and return your Estimate of Giving card by Sunday, NOV 14.

Your gifts help bring Christ's loving care in and through our church

Thank you,  
*Your Generosity Team*

**Soup's On** is a ministry to those who are either homebound, recovering from an illness or hospital stay, grieving from the loss of a loved one, or neighbor/friend in need. A "cup of cheer" is one way each of us can share the love of God with those around us.

Soup's On comes together once a month to prepare soup for freezing. Prior to gathering, emails are sent to those interested informing them of the date, time, soup(s) to be made, and ingredients needed. Folks respond and pick ingredients to bring. Recipe suggestions are received, and the group decides on what soup to make. We welcome you to join us!



If interested, please contact the church office at 412-828-5770

## ***POINSETTIA ORDER FORM***

Time to order red poinsettias to enhance the sanctuary for Christmas.

Drop off your form at the church office or mail to OPC (415 Pennsylvania Avenue Oakmont PA 15139) and note “*Poinsettia Order*” on the envelope.

For questions, contact Dixie Anderson (412-418-0280) or (dixwa@comcas.net) or Ann Buechli (412-657-1746) or (hjea44@gmail.com).

**December 7th is the last day to order poinsettias.**



<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Price (each)</b>	<b>= Total</b>
_____	4-5 inches (Pixie)	\$3.15	_____
_____	7 inches (2 stems)	\$11.10	_____
_____	8 inches (3 stems)	\$15.80	_____
_____	10 inches (5 stems)	\$36.75	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM <b>WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM</b>	<b>1</b> 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JuBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Oakmont Garden Club (DR) 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Session/Trustees (DR)	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR) 1:30 PM PW Circle Meeting (LMR) 2:00 PM Membership Committee (SGR)	<b>4</b> 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Holy Ground Ministry Team 8:30 PM AA's (DR)	
<b>7</b> <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM <b>WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM</b> 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)	<b>8</b> 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JuBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Oakmont Garden Club Board Meeting (LMR) 12:00 PM Staff 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR)	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	<b>11</b> 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	<b>12</b> 8:30 PM AA's (DR)	
<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM <b>WORSHIP &amp; Congregational Meeting (SANC) and LIVESTREAM</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30 AM Oakmont Garden Club (DR) 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JuBELLation Ringers (SANC)	<b>16</b> 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Deacons (DR)	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	<b>18</b> 4:00 PM Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #854 (MPR) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	<b>19</b> 8:30 PM AA's (DR)	
<b>21</b> <b>CHRIST THE KING / REIGN OF CHRIST</b> 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM <b>WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM</b>	<b>22</b> 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JuBELLation Ringers (SANC)	<b>23</b> 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 7:00 PM Our Journey Without Them (MBR)	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Women's AA (DR)	<b>25</b> <b>THANKSGIVING - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 8:00 PM NA's (DR)	<b>26</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30 PM AA's (DR)
<b>28</b> <b>ADVENT 1</b> 9:30 AM Elementary Sunday School 11:00 AM <b>WORSHIP (SANC) / Time with Children (Pre-K-2nd grade) and LIVESTREAM</b> 12:00 PM Youth Gathering (6-12 grades)	<b>29</b> 12:00 PM AA's (MPR) 7:00 PM JuBELLation Ringers (Choir Room)	<b>30</b> 4:30 PM Children's Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level) 5:20 PM Teen Choir (Children's Choir Rm - Lower Level)				

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