

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">OAKNOTES</h1>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oakmont Presbyterian Church</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH 2020</p>

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of our former Associate Pastors publicized events as “the best ever” or “a don’t miss it” event. We applauded the enthusiasm even though I never remember anyone saying “that was the best ever...I’m glad I didn’t miss that!” I am remembering his signature publicity as Lent begins this year on Wednesday, **February 26th**. We will observe **Ash Wednesday** – so named for the traditional imposition of ashes – at **7:15 pm** and ashes will be available for those who wish to receive them.

The traditional approach to Lent is to *give up something for which we have an inordinate attachment* to “teach the body a lesson”, if you will, that it can live without something that is too dear in our mind. In his book Give Up Something BAD for Lent, Pastor and author James W. Moore encourages readers in a different Lenten direction: to *give up something bad* such as harsh, condemning judgments; enemies; running away; a bad habit; or pettiness. Others have found in Lent *an opportunity for taking on a new, healthy habit*: physical activity, spiritual reading, communicating with loved ones, serving in a clothing cupboard, or exploring a new form of prayer.

Given our different life phases, personal journeys, and life situations a one-size-Lenten-observance does not fit all. Equally true is that letting Lent slip by unnoticed would be a missed opportunity to know and experience God’s love more fully, to be more healthy in mind, body and spirit, or to get out of our comfort zone and serve others.

I cannot promise this will be the “best ever” Lenten focus, but I do believe that our Lenten observances will give the Spirit something with which to work for our ongoing personal transformation. **Worship on Sundays in Lent will focus on The Lord’s Prayer** - Matthew 6:5-13 (14).

March 1 – *Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be Your Name*

March 8 – *Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven*

March 15 – *Give Us Today Our Daily Bread*

March 22 – *Forgive us Our Debts as We Forgive Our Debtors*

March 29 – *And Deliver Us from Evil*

Lenten Midweek Worship Plan (7:15 pm in Friendship Hall) will focus on *Simple Spiritual Practices that Transform Us*

February 26 - (Ash Wednesday, No Lenten Supper) – *Self-Examination and Confession*...to surrender my weaknesses and faults to the forgiving love of Christ and intentionally desire and embrace practices that lead to transformation.

March 4 – *Rest*...to honor God and my human limitations through restful rhythms.

March 11 – *Prayer of Lament*...to take my complaints, anger, sufferings, frustrations and heartaches to God.

March 18 – *Service*...to reflect the helping, caring and sharing love of God in the world.

March 25 – *Care of the Earth*...to honor the Creator by loving, nurturing and stewarding God’s creation.

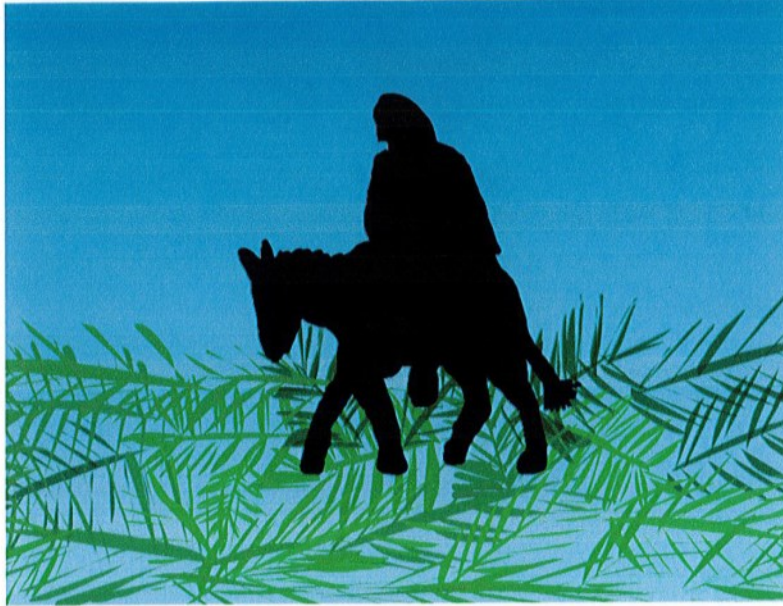
April 1 – *Visio Divina*...to worship God in the beauty of created things.

Lenten Suppers of salad and soup begin on Wednesday, March 4th, 6:30 pm in the Dining Room. Watch for the soup listings in the weekly worship bulletin.

A blessed Lent to us all!

Steve

**All children of the church ages 4-13 are invited to sing
in a special Palm Sunday processional!
Rehearsals will be held during**



worship services beginning on the following Sundays:

Feb. 16, 23,

March 1, 8 and 29

Please contact Angie Thompson

(althomp321@gmail.com)

For information

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Deaths

Ginny Wellman, died 01/30/20

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 collection box located in the church office.





PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, **March 4 at 1:30 in the Lona McCrea Room.** We will be continuing our study entitled Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments. The lesson is titled "Words of Love: Don't Kill Each Other". The purpose of the lesson is to understand the many faces of murder and how the beloved community is to honor life by refusing any and all death-dealing behaviors. Murder can be the death of a body, or a spirit, or of hope for the future. All women of OPC are invited to attend for a time of stimulating discussion, fellowship and devotions. And as always there will be some tasty refreshments to share. Hope to see you there.

SAVE THE DATE!

22nd Annual Jubilant Praise Concert
Sunday, May 24, 2020 at 4:00 pm

Theme: *Homeward Bound* -
A musical journey of sacred and patriotic selections,
exploring the many aspects of *Home*.

OPC FILM SERIES SCREENINGS

You are invited to join us for the Oakmont Film Discussion Series every other Friday evening at **7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room, lower level.** Everyone is welcome: family, friends, and any one who needs a hug, or come for Christian fellowship! Admission is FREE and we supply the popcorn! Don't forget to stay after the film for a wonderful and inspiring discussion.

Mar 6 - *Biggest Little Farm*

Mar 20 - *Sweet Inspirations*

Apr 3 - *Art of Racing in the Rain*

Apr 17 - *Downton Abbey*

*Movies may be borrowed for 2 weeks, please contact Jody Dickinson (412-828-3644)
or Clare Oskin (412-828-3579)*

GREETERS

If you are unable to be a Greeter on your assigned date, please contact another Greeter to take your station. **If you are interested in becoming a Greeter**, please contact Pat Zanella (724-733-1338).

FLOWERS

Please sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Fifth Street vestibule or contact Carla Lowman at 412-826-5914.

USHERING

Interested in Ushering? Please contact the church office.

Your OPC family really does care about you! But 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 a staff member or the church office so that we can be there in your time of need. You are loved!

Military Connections sends pillowcases to troops in combat areas. They do not have laundry facilities and typically use a pillowcase for 2 weeks and discard it. Many folks who sew have trunks or closets full of fabric which they will probably never use! Are you one such person or do you know someone who is? According to Military Connections founder Summer Tissue, the print on the fabric does not matter. Of course it needs to be a fabric suitable for this use, not wool, polyester or burlap! The troops are thrilled to have a pillowcase regardless of the pattern! If you have friends or relatives who might have a stash of fabric, please pass this information along to them. OPC member Laura Crawford is willing to make the pillowcases on behalf of the Oakmont LIONS Club. If you have fabric to donate, please drop it off in the OPC office.

WOMEN'S RETREAT MARCH 20-22, 2020

Mark your calendars, ladies! This year's Women's Retreat will be held at Laurelville Christian Retreat Center in Mt. Pleasant, PA in a peaceful and beautiful setting. It is just a one hour drive from Oakmont and it proves to be even better than last year's retreat, which was a great success.

Accommodation is in motel type rooms with 2 or 3 per room and private bath. The food service is buffet style and the food is excellent. Just think...no food prep or clean up for the whole weekend.

Plans have not been finalized but activities last year included focused discussion, scripture reading, prayer, yoga, crafts, sharing with others, hiking, s'mores and singing to guitar around the campfire, quiet moments of solitude and meditation, laughter, and lots of connecting with others.

The cost has not been determined, but if finances would prevent you from attending, there will be scholarship funds available. Contact Laura Bentley to discuss this.

For more information as it becomes available, indicate your interest by placing your name on one of the sign up sheets which are in each of the sanctuary vestibules. We will make sure you get all of the info!



OPC WOMEN'S RETREAT
Theme: "The Gift of Years"
a time of reconnection and restoration

Friday, March 20, 7:30 pm to Sunday, March 22 after lunch
\$140, includes meals, lodging, and retreat activities
at Laurelville Retreat Center, Mount Pleasant, PA

Reserve your spot by March 1
Sign up in the Fifth Street vestibule



Please join us! Do you enjoy listening to The **JuBELLation Ringers** in worship each month when our music brightens our sanctuary and brings color to our Sunday services? Have you thought about ringing but didn't think there was room for you in the bell choir? Are you interested in learning a new skill? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then now is your chance to join us. *The JuBELLation Ringers has several vacancies and we are in need of ringers to be part of our ensemble.* Prior handbell experience is helpful but not required. However, good rhythm skills and the ability to read music are a must. We invite you to use your God-given gifts and talents and join us. Not only will you bless others, but you will receive the blessings of fellowship and shared ministry. For more information, please call Bert Erickson at 412-828-0693 or email erxn@verizon.net.



EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to think of flowers for decorating the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Help us make the church glorious for Easter. Please use the order blank below to select your choice. Place with cash or check in an envelope clearly marked "Easter Flowers" and place in the offering plate.

The *deadline for ordering is MARCH 24th*.

Name _____

Phone _____

<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Price</u>
_____	Lilies @ \$9.15	_____
_____	Tulips @ \$6.35	_____
_____	Daffodils @ \$9.00	_____
_____	Hydrangeas @ \$12.65 pink or blue (circle preference)	_____
_____	Azaleas @ \$12.95 pink or blue (circle preference)	_____

If this is to be in memory/honor of someone, please indicate your name and their name the way you want it printed in the bulletin.

Your Name: _____

in memory of

Name: _____

Your Name: _____

in honor of

Name: _____

Flowers may be taken following the 11:00 a.m. Easter worship service. If this is a problem, contact Dixie Anderson (412-828-2137) or Ann Buechli (412-828-9382).

Some dates to keep in mind for the Youth Group:

March 7- Homeless Ministry: Meet at the church at 9:30 am, arrive back around noonish

March 27- Catacombs: Meet at the church at 7 pm for a fun game in the dark around the church building.

Starting March 15, we will be doing a "Pick a Number" Fundraiser; We will have two boards for each sanctuary entrance. Donations can either be the amount listed on the card or a multiple of that amount. The table will include information about the Mission Trip.

If you are interested in going on the Mission Trip, contact Elizabeth Nicodemus by March 15.

Some dates to keep in mind for Children's Ministry:

Music rehearsals for a special Palm Sunday processional will be held the following Sundays after Time with the Children and during Children's Church downstairs: March 1, 8 and 29. Palm Sunday is April 5.



You are all invited to attend the local Fox Chapel area annual, ecumenical **World Day of Prayer Service**. This year It will be held at **Faith United Methodist Church, 261 West Chapel Ridge Rd. on Friday, March 6 at 11:00 AM**, chaired by Barbara Amsler of the host church. The church is handicapped accessible.

This service this year was prepared by people in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), with the theme, "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk," based on the Gospel of John 5: 2-9a. The special speaker for the day will be Sandra Matoushaya, a native of Zimbabwe who is the Engagement Coordinator of the Board of the Western PA UMC Conference.

A community choir representing local and Oakmont churches, featuring music written by Zimbabweans, will be under the direction of Wilberta Pickett and accompanied by David Billings, both of the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church.

Following the service a light luncheon will be served with foods from Zimbabwe, with a suggested donation of \$8. **Reservations are requested for the meal and for free child care. Call 412-828-3197.** Parents are asked to pack children's lunches.

World Day of Prayer is held around the world in over 170 countries, and is attended by Christian men and women of all creeds, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestants of many denominations. It had its roots in 1897 with women's missionary projects, and was formally convened in North America in 1927. The offering of the day will go to serve the needs of women and children in Zimbabwe.

**GENTLE YOGA FOR WOMEN**

Monday evening yoga classes for women will **begin again on March 2 in Friendship Hall**. All women are welcome, and you are welcome to bring a friend!

Class is held **6:30-7:30 pm** and in that hour we focus, stretch, strengthen, breathe, and relax. It is an hour we take to focus on ourselves in the present moment; we not only move our bodies, but we quiet our minds and calm our hearts. No yoga experience is necessary, and if you prefer to sit in a chair rather than on the floor, that is fine. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a beach towel or small blanket and a yoga mat if you have one or use one of ours.

March classes will be March 2, 9 (Multi-Purpose Room), 16, 23, and 30.

If you have questions, see Sherry Geis or contact her at 412-719-1582.

SAVE THE DATE!

Three Rivers Ringers Concert
Sunday, May 3, 2020 - 7:00 pm
Oakmont Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

The Three Rivers Ringers (TRR) is Pittsburgh's premier community handbell ensemble. Founded in 2010, TRR has performed at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2012, for the American Guild of Organists' regional convention in 2015, and has appeared in "Love the Coopers," a motion picture released in November 2015. In 2016, TRR was honored to perform at the National Seminar for Handbell Musicians of America. Of special note, TRR has also performed with the world-renowned Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at their Holiday Pops concerts in December 2015, 2016 and 2019 to great acclaim. OPC's own bell choir director, Bert Erickson, has rung with TRR occasionally over the years and is now a full-time member of the ensemble. She is excited that the TRR will be ringing at OPC this spring!

**Tuesday, MARCH 3 — MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Time: 8:30 am **Place:** Dining Room



Join us for a hearty breakfast and don't forget to bring a friend!

Our speaker will be David Fath, Assistant Executive Director of Behavioral Health and Drug & Alcohol Services at Milestone Centers. Milestone is a private, nonprofit, community-based human services agency supporting the needs of individuals with behavioral health challenges and intellectual and developmental disabilities in communities throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Oakmont Presbyterian Church
415 Pennsylvania Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

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**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 26
7:15 pm, Sanctuary**

Imposition of Ashes

Preaching: Rev. Laura Bentley
Ministry of Music: The Chancel Choir

A staffed nursery is available during the service
for infants through 3-year olds.

There is no Lenten supper on Ash Wednesday.
Lenten suppers begin on Wed., March 4th at 6:30 pm
Mid-Week Lenten Worship will be held at 7:15 pm each Wednesday