



## Pastor's Page

May the peace of the living God be with you. As I reflect upon this time of resurrection I am wondering about our brother Jesus. I am wondering how he really felt in that garden of Gethsemane when it was made clear to him that he must take that death filled walk to the cross. He was fully human, after-all. What crossed his mind and spirit the moment he knew that he had less than a week to live? What crossed his mind when he realized that he would die in pain? What was he thinking when he thought about his mother, his friends, his brothers?

What are the times in our lives when we were called into what seemed to be an impossible task? No matter how we thought about what we had to do, our humanity said, "this is a no win situation." We, perhaps asked questions like, "why is God asking me to do this? This is sucking the life out of me mentally, physically, and spiritually. Why, Lord? What or who will I have to give up to do what the Lord has asked me to do?"

Dealing with systemic racism is too big of a task. I don't know what to do, Lord! Dealing with codependency issues is too great of a task and I don't know how to break free. Dealing with my family dynamics is more than I can bear and I would just rather sit in silence, even though the guilt of that is killing me. Dealing with my children who are often disrespectful is too much for me. I'd rather make excuses and name them fragile, even though you made them perfect, Lord. I'm so angry with all the changes I've gone through in every aspect of my life that I can't even see a way forward, Lord. I hate change!

Eli, Eli lama sabachthani. Lord, why have you forsaken me? Why, Lord? These emotions and feelings are real. But, as Easter people, we must not stop on Good Friday. We must reach into our hearts of faith and know that Sunday morning comes. Through our baptisms we are resurrected with Christ! Jesus' last week pointed and resulted in eternal life. His pain and suffering was so we wouldn't have to suffer alone. Because he was faithful to his journey his mother, his friends, and his brothers were made free! May we as people of God live into our resurrected lives, exercise our faith, and trust the process with God. Make that long journey in your own lives. Just make it with God and be free indeed!

Happy Easter, Rev. Amantha Barbee, Senior Pastor

## The Log

Newsletter of  
Oakhurst  
Presbyterian  
Church USA  
April 2022  
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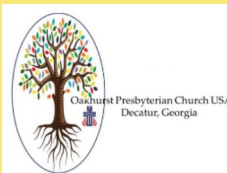
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# Session Report

from March 24, 2022

Susan Hylen gave the quarterly report of the Deacons Approved:

- Outdoor worship for Palm Sunday(4-10), Easter Sunday (4-17), Earth Day (5-8), and Memorial Day (5-29)
- Hosting the New York Handbell Choir in concert on July 29;
- Fundraising by the Youth Committee with sales after church to fund summer youth trips.

## Deacons:

Deacons for the Month

David Patton: 404-683-1900

Jackie Randolph: 770-601-5839

### Hagar's House Volunteers Needed.

**Our week of service is April 12-18.**

Can you help?

Volunteers purchase and prepare food for 10-30 people and deliver it to Hagar's House between 4:30 and 6:00.

Hagar's House, a 30-day emergency shelter for local families, is a program of the Decatur Cooperative Ministry.

To join Oakhurst's team, email CJ Evans (evanscj@gmail.com) or call 434-826-7363.

## April Birthdays

April 2 Jake Hill

April 3 Maia Calloway, Hayden Fitzhugh

April 4 Maggie Davis, Gaela Peters, Dacia Preston

April 5 Alexander Fitzhugh, Jacquelyn Hillman

April 9 Ted Smith

April 10 Justin Thomas

April 12 Beth Thompson

April 13 Amy Marti

April 16 Ann Gresham

April 17 Zeena Regis Dashiell, Leslie Hill, Zaire Shipman, Suzette Smikle

April 18 Luke Harwood

April 19 London Pankey

April 20 Andrew Baker

April 22 Nick Wynn

April 23 Will Kochel

April 25 Justin Bryan, Tim McNinch

April 27 Isabella Cabrices

April 28 Collin Cornell, Kathy Hancock

April 29 Louetta Cody

April 30 Bennett Hylen, Charles Johnson, Lillie White

## Weekly Meetings

### Sundays

11:00 am Worship

### Tuesdays

7 pm Gospel Choir

### Wednesdays

4:30- Racial Justice Vigil

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursdays

10:30 am - Prayer Group

4:30 - Racial Justice Vigil

### Saturdays

10 - Racial Justice Vigil



The book for April 23 at 6 p.m. is A Quantum Life by Hakeem Oluseyi. In this inspiring coming-of-age memoir, a world-renowned astrophysicist emerges from an impoverished childhood and crime-filled adolescence to ascend through the top ranks of research physics. Navigating poverty, violence, and instability, a young James Plummer had two guiding stars—a genius IQ and a love of science. This is a library book; it is also available for purchase for \$12+. Please get your copy and plan to join us.



OAKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

# HOLY WEEK



Daily video meditations presented by  
Alfred Appiah  
Ghanaian Inspired Reflections

10  
APR

PALM SUNDAY-REV. BARBEE  
OUTDOOR SANCTUARY | 11:00 AM

11  
APR

NOON PRAYER SERVICE-ALFRED APPIAH  
ZOOM | 12:00 PM

12  
APR

NOON PRAYER SERVICE-REV. CHASE  
YOUTUBE | 12:00 PM

13  
APR

NOON PRAYER SERVICE-REV. ALAN JENKINS  
ZOOM | 12:00 PM

14  
APR

MAUNDY THURSDAY-REV. BARBEE  
SANCTUARY | 6:30 PM

15  
APR

GOOD FRIDAY-REV. BARBEE  
SANCTUARY | 6:30 PM

17  
APR

EASTER SUNDAY-REV. BARBEE  
OUTDOOR SANCTUARY | 11:00 AM

17  
APR

EASTER EGG HUNT-REV. CHASE  
FRONT YARD | 12:30 PM

## Climate Crisis Corner

### Climate Crisis Corner - Prayer for the Earth:

Creator of the living world, we admit that often we are the center of our stories. During this season of self-reflection, center our hearts and minds on the earth that cries out to you against its adversaries. Guide us to be Mother Nature's allies, not oppressors. Guide us to center other's stories over our own. Guide us to build a community that represents the land of the living. By Christina Toney-Schmitt.

CreationWise for April, 2022.

Paul writes that Jesus is the firstborn of all creation, and the soil gives witness to this truth, as we walk from Lent to Easter. Here in the end-times, where Oakhurst Youth, when my age, will no longer be able to visit coastal towns where they currently exist, I lift up my favorite book, *The Great Re-Imagining*. Theodore Richards, an anti-racist activist and theologian in Chicago, prophesizes: 'Apocalypse is a rite of passage.' The great revealing is the end of the world, . . . as we know it. Capitalism's oil and war-dependent competition stands naked and exposed, and the truth of the Beloved Community's cooperative models shine ever-more clearly. Support local farmers building up soil, children and our immune systems as we put one foot in front of the next in this rite of passage, where the Empire crumbles and the New Creation swells.

Alan Jenkins

For Presbyearthcare.org Lenten Devotions, [click here](#)



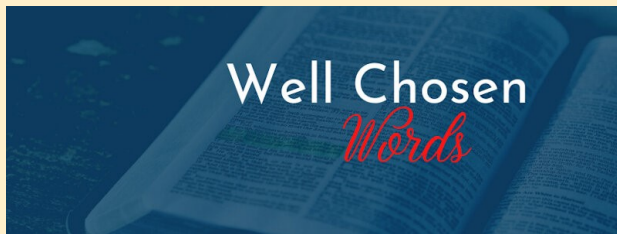
## Christian Education for Adults

Sunday, April 3, there are two options for Adults from 9 - 10 am on Zoom

Lenten Bible Study The Original 40 Days: The Flood and Other Tales in Genesis 1-11.  
Leader: Tim McNinch.

Living in the Wilderness Times: Book Study of No Cure For Being Human by Kate Bowler Leader: Pastor Heather Chase.

Classes will take a break on April 10 (Palm Sunday) and April 17 (Easter).



**April 24th from 9:45-10:45am**

The Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity  
(RED) Team at Oakhurst will be hosting  
an event entitled:

**"Well Chosen Words:  
A Guide on Respectful Language that Builds the Beloved Community".**

The discussion will be on Sunday, April 24th from 9:45-10:45 am both virtually and in person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) updated the "Well Chosen Words" guide for inclusive language in 2018 and this will be the center of our discussion.

Elder Dorrie Toney will lead us in discussion and small groups. Whether attending (in-person or virtually) please sign up on the [form listed HERE](#).

Please review the article about updated language and brochure below.

Contact Charlie Copp (charlesdcopp@gmail.com) if you have questions.

[Presbyterian Inclusive Language Guide Updated](#)

[Well Chosen Words Brochure](#)



Please complete this short 6 question Christian Education survey and let us know about in-person and virtual classes!

[Click Here for Survey](#)

Thanks for your response by April 3rd!!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION for Children

### Easter Egg Hunt, April 17th After Church - HELP NEEDED!



The traditional Easter Egg Hunt is BACK! On Easter Sunday, we'll have young children up to 3rd grade enjoy a festive hunt out in the yard. Please RSVP to assist us with planning. We'd also appreciate help from a few volunteers. [Click the link and sign-up today!](#)



### PENTECOST IS COMING SOON!

Suzannah Lipscomb & Jennifer Kimball will be leading the Children's Sunday School in a Pentecost play! All kids are needed for the cast & crew, [click to sign-up to participate by April 3rd.](#)

Rehearsals will start after Easter and the play will be on June 5th.



## Youth Programming April 2022

April 3	No Meeting - Spring Break!	
April 10	5:30-7 pm Middle School Youth Group	Evans'
April 14	Holy Week Cross Walk @ Home	
April 17	10 am EASTER SUNDAY & Egg Hunt Help	Outdoor Sanctuary
April 24	10 am Sunday School for ALL Youth	Leach Hall
	5:30 - 7 pm High School Youth Group w/special guest	Myers Beck's

[Click here for more Youth Ministry Information](#)



The Centennial Team is

EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE 4 SPECIAL HISTORY SUNDAY DATES TO SAVE:

MAY 15 - Special guest - Rev Brady Radford Preaching

JUNE 12 - Special guests for the 1970's - family of Dr. Lawrence Bottoms and  
Dr. James Andrews

JULY 17 - Special guests for the 1980's - Rev. Nibs Stroupe & Rev. Caroline  
Leach AND Tommy Teaver as accompanist

OCTOBER 15-16 - Special Guests and Celebrations to close out our Centennial  
Year.



The Centennial Team is honored to show you some of the activities and events that took place at OPC during the 1940's. Our plans are to continue bringing you our historical research each month, decade by decade.

This month we look at the 1940 with a collection of photos showing life at Oakhurst Presbyterian, our community and our world. [Click here for photos.](#)



[At this link you](#) can read excerpted notes from the Minutes of Session and the Women's Auxiliary Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, Decatur, Georgia Centennial Celebration along with world events including Pearl Harbor, to see how our church responded

They are fascinating readings to see how worlds collide between the church and the world around us.