



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends and Family,

May is such an amazing month. The weather is brighter. Many transitions in family and work-life occur. Of course, all the rain we've had brings God's beautiful flower arrangements in nature. We are so blessed, indeed.

In the book of Revelation, it talks about every tribe, nation, and tongue and how we were created, all of us, in God's image for God's joy. The month of May certainly captures the essence of our diversity and focus. We honor Haitians, Asian Pacific Americans, Latinx, and God in nature. We are also very mindful that it is Mental Health Awareness Month. Let's celebrate by getting involved and learning about all of these images of God.

Each Sunday you will hear from a different committee. We have been diligent in keeping everyone safe during the pandemic but we are opening slowly and carefully and it's time for you to get involved. We are visioning what it means to be the body of Christ, post-Covid. Please join us in the work of the Lord. "Faith without works is dead." (James 2)

We offer a huge showering of gratitude for Alfred Appiah who has served as the seminary intern for two semesters. Alfred will graduate this month and his next steps lead to Yale in pursuit of a Ph.D. Alfred used his financial skills on the Stewardship Committee, his preaching and teaching skills in worship and Christian Education, and his Liturgical arts and production skills in his amazing Holy Week devotional and his work on the Visual Arts team. We have been blessed by his presence here and wish him every success as he ventures to the next part of his journey. Please offer him well wishes. His last day with us will be May 22nd. Alfred will be preaching and his family will be in service with us. Please come and support him and his ministry.

Starting May 9th there will be a 6-week Antiracist Practices for Faithful Leadership seminar. The class will be held on Zoom on Mondays at 6:00 pm. There will only be 25 slots available. The members of session will have the first opportunity to register. Afterward, the class will be open to the congregation until the slots are filled. Registration will only be open for one week. Check your email for an invitation to register. I am offering this powerful class as we continue to live into what it truly means to be an antiracist house of God.

Please continue to pray for Ukraine, for the USA, and for those dealing with Covid-19 in every way.

Blessings,

Rev. Amantha Barbee, Senior Pastor

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Session Report

from April 28, 2022

- Heard that at its April 5 called meeting, the Presbytery voted to dissolve the congregation of Atlanta Korean Presbyterian Church as recommended by the Administrative Commission.

- Heard that Jessica Daoust was hired as Bookkeeper effective April 20, 2022



Meeting May 22, 7-8 pm

Deacons for the Month

Kim Hightower 404-630-2184

Mien Wigan 404-596-3489



"Oakhurst will host a special guest from the Chattahoochee Nature Center in celebration of Earth Day on May 1st.

The Chattahoochee Nature Center is a nonprofit which connects people to nature in many different ways. The Nature Center is also a rehabilitation center for birds of prey, and reptiles who are native to Georgia. Most of them are released back into their original home in the wild, but some of their injuries deem them non-releasable, so become residents of the center.

The Eastern Screech Owl visiting is one of these non-releasable animals. Please come to hear this animal's story and its role in the ecosystem..

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



May Birthdays

May 1 Sean Kennedy

May 5 Alison Myers-Beck, Susan Platt

May 6 Marcia Kochel

May 8 Mary Smarr, Alexia Watts

May 10 Reese DeJesus

May 11 Alice Bowles

May 12 Jason Bowles, Charles

Kuhstoss

May 13 Joyce Holden-Kuhstoss

May 14 Phillip Stump

May 15 Patty Bonner

May 16 Katie Ricks

May 17 Bobby Coates

May 19 Sara Richards, Eli Hall

May 22 Bemene Piaro

May 23 Greta Reed, Melvin Cody, Ryan

Locke, Heather Chase

May 25 Ian McNinch

May 27 Donovan Kuhstoss

May 28 Marcus Jefferson, Sharon

Lorincz

May 29 Paula Couch

May 30 Carl Osborne

May 31 David Schutten

CreationWise



About 11 million tons of plastic waste is dumped into our oceans every year. And this number could triple by 2040. Since plastics aren't biodegradable, they never disappear...If an animal were to die from consuming plastic, its body would decompose and release the plastic back into the ocean to kill again. Marine and coastal species cannot survive with this rate of plastic waste. Corporate plastic manufacturers are not concerned with the negative environmental impacts of plastic which is made from fossil fuels. Almost half of all plastic produced every year is single-use plastics which should be avoided. From Friends of the Earth US.

In support of marine life and a healthy environment free of plastics, consider supporting companies that use recyclable packaging. You may also consider expressing concern for the environment to companies that produce single-use plastics.

Climate Crisis Corner

Industrial agriculture and transport of, say, lettuce from California, is a prime driver heating the planet. For me, the most hopeful response relates to God's first commandment- to serve and keep the Garden. Regenerative, predominantly organic gardening and pasturing practices sprout across the globe and right in Decatur. Such practices build up soil, which retains more moisture, mitigating drought and flooding while simultaneously sequestering carbon from the atmosphere. Benefits abound: nutritional value is retained when consumed locally; your dollars stay in the local economy; we develop relationships with farmers. Check out www.georgiaorganics.com for a farm or market near you, where EBT cards are accepted at double your dollar.

Peacemaking and Justice

During the arrests at the Capitol attack, police seized enough ammunition to shoot every member of the House and Senate 5 times. Guns and hate are a fatal combination. In an average year, more than 10,300 hate crimes in the United States involve a firearm- more than 28 each day. In most of the US, [including the state of GA], some people convicted of hate crimes can still legally buy and have guns.



Oakhurst, along with local churches and organizations throughout the US, are working with a national effort to reduce guns in communities and to stop the NRA "guns everywhere" campaign. Contact the Peacemaking & Justice committee to get involved.



Help support our community in need! Beginning May 7, the Outreach Committee will collect non-perishable food and toiletries for donation to the Free99 Fridge project throughout east Atlanta. For more information, visit

www.free99fridge.com or contact Brady and Anna Bennett at

bwbennett09@gmail.com.

[Click on image or here to see flyer](#)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

May 2022

Children's Education in Fellowship Hall 10:00-10:40 am

May 1 - May 22nd - Play Practices

May 8th - Can you Hear Me? Speaking in Tongues

May 15th - You're on Fire!

May 22nd - Singing God's praise

June 5th Pentecost Play

All kids are needed for the cast & crew!



Thanks to Suzannah Lipscomb

for directing & her team, Jennifer Kimball & Margie Ashe

Adult Education in 2nd Floor Classrooms

10:00-10:45 am

5/8 - 1 Corinthians 12 & 13

"The Body of Christ: Cultural Humility Through Listening" -

Video & Discussion by Dr. Michelle Lee Barnewall at Biola Chapel

5/15 - Philippians 2:19-30

"Social Capital and its Power" - Video & Discussion by Dr. Jerry Park from Baylor University

5/22 - Coffee & "Bible" Talk

Small group bible study on Romans 5:1-5 with time for coffee and snacks too as we catch up with new & old friends! Invite a NEW MEMBER to come to class with you!



YOUTH

Congratulations Graduating Seniors

We will recognize all these youth in June as they transition from High School to their next steps!

Lilly Ashe Miriam Green

Tony Travillion Anisa Travillion

Ian McNinch

Youth Director Search

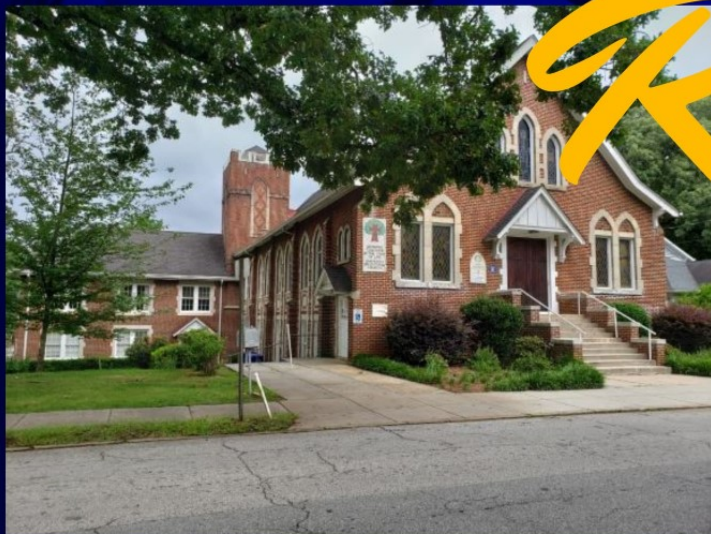
We are searching for a new youth director and have the position posted, so if you know of someone interested please email [Marcia Kochel](#)

If you want more information about upcoming summer trips, please email Pastor Heather Chase.

May 2022

	EVENT	LOCATION
May 8	No Youth Group - Mother's Day	
May 15	Parent & Youth Summer Trip Meeting	Fellowship Hall
May 15	Middle School Youth Group 5:30-7 pm	Meza Rulon's
May 22	ALL YOUTH BOWLING TRIP	

OAKHURST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH USA



CHURCH *Restoration* PROJECT

God's House Needs You!

Give to the
Building
Fund

One Time Gift

Give three ways
Mail: 118 Second Ave
Decatur, GA 30030

+Pledge '22

HOSTED BY
**BUILDING AND
GROUNDS**

One Time Gift

+ Pledge 22

Oakhurst Needs You

Though we started the year in a great financial situation our church building has cost us tremendously in the first quarter. Due to on-going deferred maintenance we have been forced to spend \$125,000. We are still in need of additional work in and around the building. Please consider pledging an additional amount or giving to the building fund today. See links below. Thank you for your support of mission and ministry at Oakhurst.

Friends on the move - Changes of Address

We have several members of our church family move recently. We rejoice in their new homes and pray for these friends in their new surrounding:

Please join us in prayers for:

Nancy Friauf (and Sean Evans)

Ann Boon Rhea

Joan DeWitt

You can find their new addresses in OneChurch by logging into your account [here](#).

If you have trouble logging in contact [Cheryl](#) or [Virginia Richards](#) for help.

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

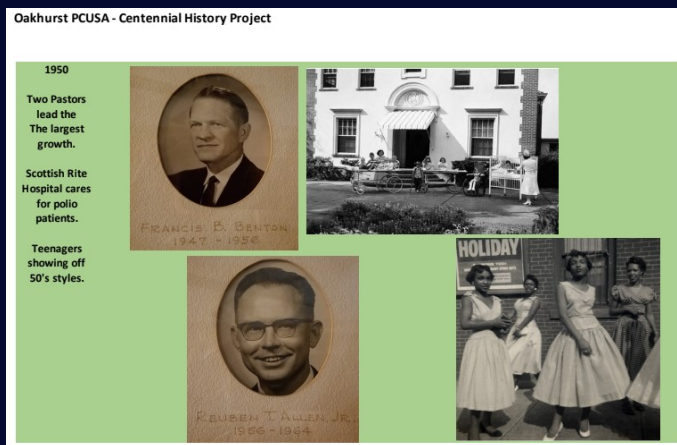
JULY 17 - Special guests for the 1980's - Rev. Nibs Stroupe & Rev. Caroline Leach AND Tommy Teaver as accompanist

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



Many lives have been touched by the ministry of Oakhurst Presbyterian. **Nancy Allen** recalled some of her memories in 2016 [here](#)

This month we look at the 1950s, a period of Rock and Roll, polio, McCarthy-ism and more. [Click here](#) to see how our history related to the world around us in photos



[At this link you](#) can compare timelines between the church and the world

Excerpted Notes from the Minutes of Session and the Women's Auxiliary Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, Decatur, Georgia Centennial Celebration	Additional Excerpted Facts from Documented Historical Sources
OPC HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION, DEACONS & WOMEN'S AUXILIARY	ATLANTA/DECATUR EVENTS
1950 •Rev. Francis C. Benton continues as pastor since 1947, having graduated from Columbia Seminary. •24 couples were married at OPC between 1950-1952. •Clothing and supplies were sent to Europe and Asia to help with war recovery. •Budget Total: \$32,500 •15 Elders; 20 Deacons •Membership: 721; Sunday School: 654	1950 •Polio treatment becomes important purpose for Scottish Rite Hospital in Oakhurst neighborhood.
1951 •Cottage Meetings were prayer meetings held in members' homes. In March these were held in preparation of the Revival held each April. •Bought lots between 2nd Ave. & 3rd Ave. for \$1,400. •Session votes to donate "manpower" to establish new church at Clairmont Rd. •Session enjoys watching Atlanta vs Nashville on "the television after a meeting at an elder's home." •July: session dismisses members to the new Glenoak Presbyterian. •December: Miss Marie Brogdon called to be a DRE (director of religious education) at a salary of \$3,000 per year.	1951 •Drive in Theaters became very popular. •All Black Snedecor Memorial Presbytery dissolves; its churches become part of a new Georgia-Carolina Presbytery of the PCUS.
1952 •January - Rev. Wilkes Dendy approved to preach at a Revival. •Men of the church agree to build a 2-story, 16' square addition for the DRE's office and a "Pioneer" (middle schoolers) classroom. •June - a member is told to meet with the Session after "numerous complaints regarding his conduct prior to the opening of S.S." •Clairmont Presbyterian Church is organized with 76 members. •27 babies were baptized in this year alone. (133 babies were baptized during this decade.)	1952 •The Revised Standard Version of The Bible was published by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

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