



PASTOR'S PAGE

Grace and Peace Oakhurst Family,

The month of March begins our journey to the cross. The season of Lent begins on March 2 and ends with Easter on April 17. What shall we do in this time of reflection, and self-examination to deepen our relationship with God and others? What shall we do to remove those things that stand between us and our Savior?

I am a firm believer that an honest, sincere, and habitual look in the mirror helps us to understand who we are and how we show up in the world. This practice allows us a pathway to answer the question, "who are we being?" Who are we being as individuals, family, church members, and in the community? Are we faithfully doing the work to lean into the multicultural society in which we live? This is not just about dominant culture oppression but a responsible journey to the cross with Jesus who absolutely gave everything for us.

What does it mean to be in a multicultural worshiping environment? It means the ability to see, truly see one another. We can't ask anyone to be or act differently. We can't ask anyone to be or act like another person. We can't place our expectations on another's reality, and that has all to do with mutual respect, no matter the ethnic background. We are richly diverse as a people and each one has something powerful to offer. To accept that gift from God we must be willing to sit in uncomfortable spaces, respond to tough questions, meditate and pray on God's word together, understand that each person reads the Bible through their own life lens, and be willing to learn from someone different from ourselves.

We have a group thinking through reparations, another group thinking through social justice, and another group thinking through race, ethnicity, and inclusion. We have the opportunity to communally address one of the most painful and oppressive habits of white supremacy culture as a church family, micro-aggressions. We cannot think through the aforementioned efforts without addressing the pain of the oppressed. Will you commit to walking this journey together to GIVE UP MICRO-AGGRESSIONS for Lent? This will require people of color to be honest and require white people to be uncomfortable. This is required to grow closer to one another, and to God.

We have seen inequities in the country, the state, and in our own community, especially during the pandemic. We can make a difference. We can invest in freedom for all. In the famous words of Fannie Lou Hamer, "nobody's free until everybody is free." Oakhurst, let's chart a path for freedom this Lenten season, in Jesus' name.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Amantha Barbee, Senior Pastor



The Log

Newsletter of
Oakhurst
Presbyterian
Church USA
March 2022
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February 24, 2022

Session Meeting

- Received Melissa Cobb into membership by letter of transfer from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens, GA.
- Heard reports from Sessional committees on actions taken by their committees to protect and sustain creation.
- Approved participation in Presbyterian offerings - One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness and Christmas Joy, during 2022.
- Heard that the retirement of Kelly Newkirk, bookkeeper, and the resignation of Jaquel Scott, Youth Director, have been accepted.
- Heard that return to face-to-face worship is planned for February 20.
- Elected Commissioners to 2022 Presbytery meetings. The first meeting is February 12.
- Approved the 2021 Annual Statistical Report of the church and 2022 Budget.

DEACONS:

Deacons for the month of March:
Cassandra Andrews, (678) 862-5314
C.J. Evans, (434) 826-7363.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-2 Ethel Steverson
3-3 Brad Kaiser
3-4 Joaquin Meza Rulon
3-7 Lily Ashe, Jacob Smith
3-8 Margie Ashe, Miriam Green, Margaret Locke
3-9 Kevin Moran
3-10 Brady Bennett
3-11 Rev. Amantha Barbee, Charles Copp, Jennifer Green
3-14 Page Anderson
3-17 Anna Beck
3-18 Loren Locke
3-21 Mika Kiriaku
3-22 Veronica Ransom
3-23 Kimberly Hightower, Lydia McNinch
3-26 Kathy Hill
3-27 Amelia Perkins, Jordan Elizabeth White
3-29 Nina Bryan, Kabir Sully-Grover
3-30 Jason Smith, Caitlin White

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sundays

9:00 am Adult Sunday School
The Original 40 Days: The Flood and Other Tales in Genesis 1-11
Leader: Tim McNinch zoom

Living in the Wilderness Times:
Book Study of No Cure For Being Human (and other truths I needed to hear) by Kate Bowler
Leader: Pastor Heather zoom

10:00 Children Doughnuts & Devotions

11:00 am Worship

Mondays

6:00 pm **Leaning into Lent** - Rev. Barbee

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



March 12, 6 pm the Supper Club will discuss **Dear Martin, by Nic Stone**.

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers.

This is a library book. we hope you join us by Zoom

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

[Full information here](#)

Two options for Adults on Sunday morning 9 am - 10 am on Zoom

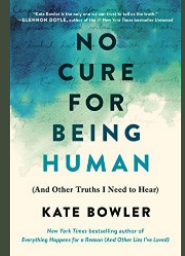


Lenten Bible Study The Original 40 Days: The Flood and

Other Tales in Genesis 1-11. Leader: Tim McNinch. Each week, we'll read and discuss one of the tales in the opening chapters of the Bible, including the 40 days and nights of the great flood. We'll consider each story's literary role in this introductory section of the Bible as well as its potential significance in our own contexts. [Zoom](#)

Living in the Wilderness Times: Book Study of No Cure For Being Human (and other truths I needed to hear) by Kate Bowler

Leader: Pastor Heather. As we enter the 40 days of Lent, the number 40 reminds us of the time for God's people in the wilderness, Jesus' journey in the desert and how, as people of God, we now are also in a desert or wilderness time. During this study we will look at how we will answer the same question the people with Moses faced - how do I live now? How do we move forward when there is no going back? - as we look at Kate Bowler's book, No Cure for Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear) and her invitation to be human together. Because, together, we can learn how to build a beautiful life inside new limitations. Together, we can learn how to find hope and courage and beauty by making peace with our beautiful, terrible finitude. [Zoom](#)



Children's CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday mornings from 10-10:40 am

Oakhurst Park Pavilion

(across the street from the church)

March 6, 13, 20 & 27 - "Doughnuts & Devotions" Oakhurst Park at 10 am.

We'll meet in the pavilion with parents and kids for an activity, bible devotional, coffee and doughnuts with parent supervised play time afterwards. [For more Information](#)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry is [happening at Oakhurst Presbyterian](#) including weekly activities and upcoming trips. Click the link above to see the calendar and more information.





Our Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2, 2022. Come and worship together as remember God's presence in our fragile, human lives and find comfort through our faith together.

12:00 pm - Zoom service of prayer and music*

6:00 pm - Outdoor service with reflection, prayer and music*
- in outdoor Sanctuary with social distancing and masking

*ashes will be available for individuals to pick-up for use to mark themselves with sign of the cross. You can pick up your ashes after worship on February 27 or in the church office on Monday, (2-28) from 9-1

**Monday Night Spiritual Growth in a New Year
with Rev. Barbee - Mondays at 6:00PM EST**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84902991330>

Meeting ID: 849 0299 1330

One tap mobile +13017158592,,84902991330#



March 7 - Giving up Micro-aggressions for Lent p.1

March 14 - No FULL Zoom class but reflection and assignment

March 21 - Giving up Micro-aggressions for Lent p.2

March 28 - No FULL Zoom class but reflections in groups of 2

April 4 - FULL ZOOM culminating session

From the RED TEAM

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW and lift your voice around legislation
that will limit the education of GA children around CRT**

Georgia has five bills in the State House covering K-12 and college that ban training classroom employees to teach, act upon or encourage particular "divisive concepts" (especially about race.) In a particularly big reach, one bill bans K-12 schools from requiring students to engage in or observe a discussion of public policy.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO READ THE COMPLETE INFORMATION INCLUDING WHO TO CONTACT.](#)

Climate Crisis Corner

The [IPCC report](#) of 2021 inspired the Creation Wise Committee to create this corner for one year. If that report were not stirring enough, the latest significant climate news predicts one foot of sea level rise by 2050, due to increasing instability of the [Thwaites Glacier](#) in West Antarctica. Our faith tradition, amazingly, addresses climate crises and sea level rise in Genesis 9. Creator God calls Noah and family to create an [ark of inclusion](#), an ark of compassion for a future date of a new start for all Creation. With Noah as our guide, we create arks of compassion on land, where ever we have influence- in our front yards free from chemicals or fossil fuel tools, or simply in a window planter ripe for pollinators. See also this [PC\(USA\) resource and video](#). For all Creation, Alan Jenkins



CREATION WISE Tip for March

The Problem with Plastics and What to Do?

The intergovernmental organization, The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released a report on 2/22/22 [titled Global Plastics Outlook](#). The numbers are shocking. According to OECD: "Globally, the annual production of plastics has doubled, soaring from 234 million tonnes (Mt) in 2000 to 460 Mt in 2019. Plastic waste has more than doubled, from 156 Mt in 2000 to 353 Mt in 2019. After taking into account losses during recycling, only 9% of plastic waste was ultimately recycled, while 19% was incinerated and almost 50% went to sanitary landfills. The remaining 22% was disposed of in uncontrolled dumpsites, burned in open pits or leaked into the environment."

The good news is that this report details steps and strategies for governments to take to reduce plastic waste and transform plastic consumption into a much more circular lifecycle AND many public and private organizations, as well as industries, are working diligently seeking and implementing solutions.

As individuals and consumers, we have an important role. Simply put we have some habits to change. Follow the 4 Rs: REFUSE that single use plastic bag, that styrofoam to-go container, that plastic bottle of water. REDUCE consumption of beverages in to-go cups, of coffee K-cups especially when other alternatives are available. REUSE plastic yogurt cups to start seedlings. As a last resort, RECYCLE. Be mindful of how you can implement the 4 Rs in your daily living. Together we will make a difference.

Reach for the Stars and Change the World

Harriet Tubman told us that "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Harriet Tubman is one of the most notable women in American history for her courage and advocacy of women's rights and she never felt she couldn't make a difference for herself and her community - no matter how daunting the task seemed.

The Peacemaking & Justice Committee would like to provide you with resources to advocate for justice in our community and across Georgia. Advocacy can seem intimidating and frequently we find ourselves believing that our voices don't have any power. Those are both ideals that those in power want us to believe. The truth is, we can all be advocates. Advocacy is defined as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.

[CLICK TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE AND FIND IMPORTANT ACTIONS TO TAKE](#)

Oakhurst Presbyterian in the 1930

Kathy Hill, on behalf of the Centennial Committee, has researched what life at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, and our community looked like in the 1930s
Click on the graphics below to read the whole story

Excerpted Notes from the Minutes of Session and the Women's Auxillary 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	
1930	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rev Mickel resigns in March; OPC is without a pastor for almost 9 months.• Reduced 1930 Budget is adopted - \$5,594 - without line item for an on-going building fund.• New Building Committee is elected.• The church was unable to assist in the work of reducing Atlanta Presbytery's Home Mission debt due to heavy financial obligations.• Decatur Presbyterian church permitted the boys of Oakhurst to use their basketball court once a week.• Rev. Claude H. Pritchard was installed on December 14.• Active Membership: 299 Adults.	1930	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decatur's population more than doubled between 1920-1930.
1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Session and the Sunday School voted to end separate budgets and adopted a unified budget system on March 8.• Homecoming services were held in honor of the church's 10th anniversary in October. It was also Rally Day and special services were held.• Mr. Forrest Traylor's services were secured to develop a young people's choir.• Song books were purchased for evangelistic services.	1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WATL radio begins broadcasting and country music becomes big business in Atlanta.
1932	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Twentyfifth Annual Meeting of the Woman's Auxillary of Atlanta Presbytery was Held at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church April Ninetieth and Twentieth 1932. Many members had delegates in their homes.• The 11th Anniversary of the church was celebrated special services and the Lord's Supper on October 2.• A school of Home Missions was sponsored by the Woman's Auxillary in November.• Vesper services begun November 20 at 5 pm in lieu of regular Sunday night	1932	

