



PASTOR'S PAGE

Grace and Peace,

Wow! What a May we have had. As we enter a new month, my first thoughts are of a prayerful pause. We pause to honor the lives of those lost in our congregation, the supermarket in Buffalo, the parishioners at Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, the Robb Elementary School, victims of Covid, and those in the war in Ukraine. How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? (Psalm 13:1)

These tragedies remind us of how precious and fleeting our lives are. We are reminded of how important it is to love, honor, respect, and care for all God's people. As Christians, this really shouldn't be an option. It matters not the color of our skin, our religion, our gender, our sexuality, or any other artificial tools meant to divide God's people. Our country as we know it was designed by white men for white men, and we are all suffering, even the white men trying to do the right thing. God made humans to worship, glorify, and honor God, period, hard stop. We were not created to lord over one another. But because of the design, we all have problems shifting to the way God intended because the way man intended is so prevalent in everything we do.

June is the month designated to celebrate the LGBTQIA community. In looking at scripture around how God made us, I believe there is a lesson for every social ill embodied in the scriptures that support the love of the LGBTQIA people God created. One, God loves LGBTQIA people. (Romans 8:38) Nothing can separate us from the love of God. With no exceptions, we all were "fearfully and wonderfully made" God created everyone's innermost being (Psalm 139:13-14). Two, God supports inclusion. With God, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male or female, for all are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). I hear an ongoing struggle with the acceptance of non-gender-conforming people. Our scripture tells us that the Apostle's first recorded baptism was of an Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:27) Three, God supports loving relationships. God blessed David's loving relationship with Jonathan (1 & 2 Samuel). Today, words shared between Ruth and Naomi are still being used in wedding ceremonies (Ruth 1:16-17). Four, we all, no matter our nationality, our culture, our sexuality, our religion, our gender, or our skin color, were made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27).

Oakhurst is a More Light Presbyterian Church, thanks to the recommendation of the P & J Committee and approved by your 2021 session. This means that "we are working toward the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry, and witness of the PCUSA and in society." Learn more at mlp.org.

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Amantha Barbee, Senior Pastor

THE LOG NEWSLETTER OF OAKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA JUNE 2022 THIS ISSUE:

Page 1
Pastor's Page

Page 2
Birthdays
Session
Deacons
Weekly
Meetings

Page 3
Peacemaking
and Justice in
Action

Page 4
Christian
Education
and Nurture

Page 5
Upcoming
Dates, classes
and
opportunities

Page 6
Oakhurst in
the 1960s and
1970s

Session Report

from May 26, 2022

- -Approved the engagement of Netflix by the Building & Grounds Committee on using OPC for the filming of Season 3 of "Sweet Magnolia."
- Agreed to set Earth Day Sunday as a recurring event, to occur on April 22, if that date falls on a Sunday; otherwise on the first Sunday after April 22.
- Approved a youth fundraiser - the sale of pottery by Suzette Hollins.
- Approved the Baptism of Samuel Neal and Isabella June Wauchope (children of Matthew Wauchope and Katie Stump) on May 29, 2022.



Deacons of the Month

Laura Nieto (404) 378-1490

Jennifer Green (404) 323-0260

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



June 1 Morgan Daub, Virginia Richards

June 2 Jason Girard

June 3 Jessica Sully

June 4 Brian Edmonds, Michael Kochel

June 6 Connor Evans, Julia Styles, Julia Wingard

June 8 Chris Brown

June 9 Karen Finney

June 10 Michael Spotts

June 11 Jean Fenton, Katie Stump

June 12 Julie Orta, Richelle Patton, Shamillia White

June 14 Makeda Biniyam, Myriam Watkins, Matt Wauchope, Bud Willis

June 15 Norah Dunlap, Noelle Thomas

June 16 Jami Wise

June 20 Denise Boesel, Ryan McPherson

June 21 Erin Harwood

June 22 Dorolita Toney

June 23 Benjamin Patton, Markitta Travillion

June 25 Lilith Baker

June 26 June Albea, Mereda Davis Johnson

June 29 Susan Brown

June 30 Ben Girard

Weekly Meetings

Sundays

11 am Worship

Mondays

6 pm Antiracist Practices for Faithful Leadership seminar

Tuesdays

7 pm Gospel Choir (summer break June 27- Aug. 1)

Wednesdays

4:30- Racial Justice Vigil

7:30 pm Chancel Choir (summer break June 22 until July 20)

Thursdays

10:30 am - Prayer Group

4:30 pm - Racial Justice Vigil

Saturdays

10 am- Racial Justice Vigil



Supper Club, Saturday, June 11, 2022, at 6 pm. Our book is **Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir**, by Natashe Trethewey. This is a library book and can also be purchased from a number of sources for less than \$10. Join us!

Moving through her mother's history in the deeply segregated South and through her own girlhood as a "child of miscegenation" in Mississippi, Trethewey plumbs her sense of dislocation and displacement in the lead-up to the harrowing crime that took place on Memorial Drive in Atlanta in 1985. Memorial Drive is a compelling and searching look at a shared human experience of sudden loss and absence but also a piercing glimpse at the enduring ripple effects of white racism and domestic abuse.

PEACEMAKING AND JUSTICE

[CLICK TO READ ALL THESE ARTICLES FROM PEACEMAKING & JUSTICE](#)

Bread for the World, Gun Violence, Climate Crisis Corner and CreationWise

2022 Bread for the World "Offering of Letters"

For many years OPC has participated in Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters. In doing so OPC joins with communities of faith across the country to write letters to members of Congress advocating for programs and policies which reduce hunger and poverty at home and abroad. The COVID 19 pandemic and now the war in Ukraine have increased hunger at home and around the world. [Click to read more](#)



Wear Orange June 3-5 in honor of survivors of gun violence.

[Read more here](#)

CLIMATE CRISIS CORNER

There are many ways to reduce our carbon footprint and, in doing so, love, care, and protect our home, God's Earth, from human caused climate change. Most ways involve using less fossil fuels, but there are other important ways and one is to compost your food waste. The organization, Leave No Trace, explains it well:

"You can have a significantly positive impact on the earth by composting. In 2017, over 60 billion pounds of food waste went to the landfill that could have otherwise been composted. Due to a lack of oxygen in landfills, food there does not biodegrade- instead, it results in a process called anaerobic digestion which produces Methane, a greenhouse gas more potent than Carbon Dioxide. Seek out a way to compost in your area - this could be in your home, backyard, your neighbor's yard, municipal or industrial compost. Check out worm composting- it is possible in areas where you don't have access to a lot of outdoor space."



CREATIONWISE

Summer is a season to move a little more slowly, delight in the rich bounty of Creation, and hopefully find a bit of time to renew our spirits before a busy fall begins. Many of us may be preparing to travel during the summer months. CreationWise hopes that all of us at Oakhurst find a moment (or a few days!) to relax and explore this summer. Big environmental concerns like the climate crisis and COVID-19, however, make it more important than ever that we take precautions to travel safely and sustainably. As we plan for summer vacations, day trips, and outings, we should look for less crowded destinations whenever possible. Going off the beaten path prevents "overtourism" in popular areas strained by a constant flow of visitors, and helps us stay safer during the pandemic as well by avoiding crowds! While staycations are hands-down the best way to ensure a low or no emission holiday, trains and buses are a good way to cut in-transit emissions for long-distance journeys (with masks on, of course). If we do need to fly to reach our destinations, we should try to get direct flights, which will cut down on the emissions that a trip entails (and will create an easier itinerary, too!). [MORE HERE](#)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JUNE 2022



Pentecost is **June 5th** and we have a play presented by our children, during worship and cake afterwards!

Directors, Parents and Actors- Don't forget practice at 10 am

The Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity Team at Oakhurst will host Well Chosen Words - Part 2: A Guide on Respectful Language that builds the Beloved Community



The discussion on **Sunday, June 19th from 9:45-10:45am** will be both virtual and in-person in the fellowship hall. 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. If you are interested in attending please sign up on the form listed [HERE](#). You can review the article discussing the updated language and download the brochure below here as well. Contact [Charlie Copp](#) if you have questions.

[Presbyterian Inclusive Language Guide Updated](#)

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about joining Oakhurst Presbyterian, Contact [Pastor Heather Chase](#) about the hybrid New Member class coming up on June 19, 2-3pm



Our Youngest need you!

We are grateful for the renovations to the two classrooms for our youngest members during the Pandemic and need your help to rebuild those rooms as we start fresh and clean this Fall. [Click the link](#) to purchase toys, crib sheets, craft supplies and more to get our classrooms ready. THANK YOU!



Each Sunday this Summer, we need 2 adults to help volunteer and help provide supervision for our little ones on the playground and read a story during the 2nd half of church. Here's the sign-up sheet - consider signing up for 2 Sundays over the next 2 months!



YOUTH

Our Youth are busy and out being the church in the World this Summer.

Our Middle Schoolers are leaving for Asheville Youth Mission on June 12-17. Please keep them in prayer! Thank you to Susan Brown & Meredith Gordon for chaperoning the trip!

Keep up with what is happening and how to support them [by clicking here](#)



[Congratulations Graduating Seniors!](#)

We will recognize all these youth on June 12th as they transition from High School to their next steps!

[Lilly Ashe](#) [Miriam Green](#)

[Tony Travillion](#) [Anisa Travillion](#)

[Ian McNinch](#)

Click on a name above to get more information.

OAKHURST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH USA



CHURCH Restoration PROJECT

God's House Needs You!

Give to the
Building
Fund

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

One Time Gift +Pledge '22

HOSTED BY
BUILDING AND
GROUNDS

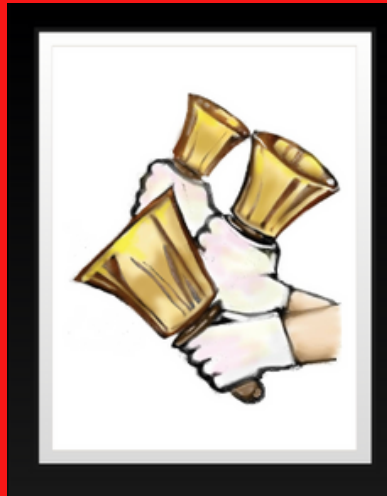
Oakhurst Needs You

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.

+ PLEDGE 22

ONE TIME GIFT

The New York Handbell Ringers will give a concert at Oakhurst Presbyterian on July 29th at 7:00 pm. Make plans to enjoy this highly skilled group. More information to come.



Important Items of Interest!

Possible Walking Group Forming

Enjoy nature and getting exercise? Please email [Melissa Cobb](mailto:Melissa.Cobb@oakhurstpcusa.org) if you're interested in being part of a walking and hiking group. Dates and times TBD. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Summer Choir Breaks

The Chancel Choir will take a summer break from June 22 - July 20.

The Gospel Ensemble will take a summer break from June 27- Aug. 1.

Church Office

Office Manager, Cheryl Hartman, will be out of the office from June 17-24th to attend the PC(USA) General Assembly meeting. She will have little to no email contact during that time.

[Register in advance for this meeting:](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84401200000)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. (Class dates 6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/11)



OAKHURST
Presbyterian Church, USA

ANTIRACIST PRACTICES FOR FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP

WITH REVEREND *Amantha Barbee*

PREPARING LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE

FREE REGISTRATION HERE
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84401200000>
MAY 23TH, 2022 | 6:00PM - 7:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: AMANTHA.BARBEE@OAKHURSTPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

An intro to the 1960's at Oakhurst PCUS

In 1960 John F. Kennedy brought a 'new generation' to the White House. Joan Baez and Bob Dylan brought folk music to the charts, the Civil Rights Movement inspired the Freedom Singers, and Rock rolled along. In Atlanta, clearing land for expressways and space for a Major- League-worthy Stadium meant demolishing in-town housing.



The demographics of South DeKalb, where many Oakhurst families lived, was changing fast. [Click here to see](#) photos and clippings about changes at Oakhurst, in Decatur and the world around it in the sixties.

As the Sixties progressed, the Civil Rights Movement would press ahead, the Vietnam War would dominate the news and spur a peace movement. Assassinations of JFK, MLK, and RFK would rock the world. By the end of the 60's another generation would demand even more social change, symbolized by a Festival at Woodstock.

[Click here](#) to view the 1960's OPC History History Timeline. [Click here](#) to see some of the images of the times and [click here](#) to read a brochure written to describe the importance of Dr. Martin Luther King's arrest and trial in Decatur in 1960-61.

In 2013, fifty years after Dr. King led the August 1963 March on Washington for Peace and Justice, Lorri Mills interviewed a group of Oakhurst members about their memories of the event. [Click here](#) for selections from those interviews.

THE CENTENNIAL TEAM "SAVE THE DATE" FOR JUNE HISTORY SUNDAY: JUNE 12 - Special guests for the 1970's - family of Dr. Lawrence Bottoms and Dr. James Andrews

An intro to the 1970's at Oakhurst Presbyterian

The 1970's were a remarkable decade in the world, metro Atlanta and at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church. Top news stories in the world news included the Vietnam War and the Anti-War movement, Gay Liberation, the Watergate Scandal and new technology advancements. Locally Atlanta has its first Black Mayor and MARTA trains begin operating. At Oakhurst, the first Black members joined the church and the first Black pastor was installed. There was so much happening in the 70's and we will learn more about it in this presentation.

[Click here to see this presentation](#)

1971 Highlights

Oakhurst 25 th Anniversary Year May- Rev. Jack Morris was elected Moderator of the Atlanta Presbytery Nov- Personal Pledge totaled \$10,713.15 Balance of budget from rental of educational building and Atlanta Presbytery gave \$10,000. New Elders and New Deacons with first Black Elder Jerry Reese, the first woman Elder, Mr. Evelyn Givens and five women deacons on Black church Life House. Dec- Rev. Morris finished his 7 1/2 years with Oakhurst. His sermon topic "I Had a Dream". It was a dream for an inclusive church. He started his dream and with God's blessing may this dream come true.	Decatur/Atlanta International Flights begin at Atlanta Airport Atlanta Gay Pride Festival established	World Email begins Vietnam War and Anti-War Movement
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1973 Highlights

Oakhurst January- Rev. James Andrews becomes Assistant to the Pastor April- Rev. James E. Andrews nominated Stated Clerk of General Assembly June- Dr. Bottoms elected Moderator of the General Assembly	Decatur/Atlanta Maynard Jackson becomes the first Black Mayor of Atlanta	World Oil crisis by OPEC Roe vs Wade First cell phone invented Space Station
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1976 Highlights

Oakhurst Jan- Twenty percent of the congregation was black and 6 of the 11 church officers were black Jan. 11- Session met with Atlanta Presbytery to work out the details of Dr. Bottoms retirement Jan. 29- Congregational meeting for acceptance of Dr. Bottoms' resignation Feb. 29- Last sermon for Dr. Bottoms Dec. 12- Congregational meeting to vote for the title of Pastor Emeritus for Dr. Bottoms to be presented in the near future.	Decatur/Atlanta Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta Botanical Gardens established	World Jimmy Carter defeats Gerald Ford to become President of the United States Black History Month (originally a week) by Dr. Carter G. Woodson The first Apple computer invented
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