



Friends and Family,

Grace and peace to you. We are six months into 2022. Where has the time gone? Just when we thought we were going to see a bit of light we were issued a major blow for women and families. I will not speak on the issue of abortion but I will speak on the issue of women's rights. This is a sad time for many and perhaps even a glimpse of foreshadowing.

The PCUSA is in the middle of the General Assembly in Kentucky. This is an unusually long meeting because we are still in pandemic. Committees were brought in four at a time instead of the entire assembly meeting at once. Our office manager, Cheryl, and I have been actively involved. Cheryl was in Louisville for one week in person, serving on the Polity committee. I have been and continue to be involved virtually. My duties have focused on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Theology-Worship-Education, and a new Confession focused on racism, slavery, and harm done to indigenous people by Presbyterians. We are in a time of transition, innovation, and modernization of the denomination. We will provide a snapshot of major changes made over the next two weeks in the bulletin and e-news. The committees are still meeting and the decisions made in committees will go to the entire assembly for voting over the next couple of weeks.

We are entering into the summer and the excitement there-in. We will embark upon a Sermon Series: Coming Out of the Dark. We will journey through Exodus and Moses' ministry and find inspiration as we come out of the dark as a people seeking opportunities to serve in a new and ever-changing church. Covid-19 has affected us in ways that we would have never imagined but God is still God and we are still God's people. There is work to be done. We are still growing, thanks be to God. How do we restart this ministry engine? On Sunday, July 17th there will be two classes offered at 2:00 pm. One will be a new member/seeker class - 101 with Rev. Heather. 101 is designed as an entry-level class to introduce you to the current leadership, PCUSA, and how we operate as a church. The second class will be 102: Taking A Deeper Dive Into Service with Rev. Barbee. The class will offer insight into what is happening and to hear from you as to how we can become more active in the church community and the community at large. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for these classes. Registration is required and you will read about that later in the newsletter.

I am excited to see so many of you back in worship. We have been very successful in not having Covid spread at worship service. You have done your part and we are so appreciative. Overwhelmingly OPC members are vaccinated, wearing masks, and staying at home if there is sickness. Thank you for taking care of and loving your neighbors. If you are at home with Covid, please let me know. I have assisted many members with needs while quarantined. Your pastors and deacons are available and will bring you just about anything you need. All you have to do is let me know. We want you safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry at OPC. Let's walk together, restart this engine, and praise the Lord!

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Amantha Barbee, Senior Pastor

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

Page 1
Pastor's Page

Page 2
Birthdays
Session
Deacons
Weekly
Meetings

Page 3 Youth
and Handbell
Choir Concert

Page 4
Gun Violence
and
CreationWise



Session in Action

from June 23, 2022

- Actions taken:
- Participation in the AIDS Walk Atlanta 9/24/22
- Session will meet face to face with a hybrid option in August.
- Established a communications team.
- Received an updated COVID protocol from the Covid Team
- Approved an agreement with Ztunes Music for shared space.
- The session will not meet in July

Ready to take the next step?



Join the New Member and Seekers Class
July 17th at 2 pm. Contact Rev. Heather Chase to register

RSVP: Heather.Chase@oakhurstpresbyterian.org

MEMBERSHIP 102

TAKING A DEEPER DIVE INTO SERVICE

Join Rev. Barbee in this next level class to explore ways that you may get actively involved here at Oakhurst PCUSA.

for more info & registration
amantha.barbee@oakhurstpresbyterian.org

SUNDAY, JULY 17TH
2:00PM

404-378-6284

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7-2 Jonathan Ashe
7-3 Jennifer Brown Kimball
7-4 Fred Wise, Jesse Turner Williams
7-5 Charles Copp
7-7 Shea McPherson, Isla McPherson
7-8 Rori McKinzie, Maya Boesel, Nicole Blackwell, Leah Gose
7-10 Suzette Gooch
7-11 Chrys Rogers
7-12 Joan DeWitt
7-13 Alexandra Costello
7-14 Meldora Skaggs
7-15 Loren Munson, Megan Gallagher Roberson
7-16 Elijah Wu
7-17 Peter Thomas
7-18 Micah Lipscomb, Anna Magnes



7-19 Nicholas Willis
7-20 Daniel Biniyam
7-21 Nick Wilson, Kristin Jordan
7-22 William Studstill, Cally Curtis
7-23 Harry Jefferson, Amit Nadella
7-24 Ann Starks
7-26 Isaiah Dunlap
7-27 Bethlehem Abera
7-28 Kenneth White, Adam Green
7-29 Berni Munson, Melissa Johnson
7-30 Owen Lipscomb, David Olali
7-31 Fred Gose, Biniyam Kifelew

Weekly Action Opportunities

Sundays

11 am Worship

Mondays

6 pm Current Events Through a Biblical Lens with Rev. Barbee

Wednesdays

4:30- Racial Justice Vigil

Thursdays

10:30 am - Prayer Group

4:30 pm - Racial Justice Vigil

Saturdays

10 am- Racial Justice Vigil



Deacons of the Month

Susan Hylen (615) 521-0668

Zeke Dunn (404) 422-4587



We are excited to have Daniel Black, author of *Don't Cry for Me*, at our next Supper Club gathering (zoom) on Saturday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m. *Don't Cry For Me* is a library book for those who choose not to purchase. Pick up your copy, plan to join us and invite others.

With piercing insight and profound empathy, acclaimed author Daniel Black illuminates the lived experiences of Black fathers and queer sons, offering an authentic and ultimately hopeful portrait of reckoning and reconciliation. Spare as it is sweeping, poetic as it is compulsively readable, **Don't Cry for Me** is a monumental novel about one family grappling with love's hard edges and the unexpected places where hope and healing take flight.

YOUTH IN ACTION

Please keep our Oakhurst Presbyterian Youth and their adult leaders in your prayers this Summer as High Schoolers travel to Memphis, TN on July 24-29.

Save the Date! All Youth Retreat- We are heading to Lake Lanier August 26-28 to start the school year!

YOUTH POOL PARTY

ALL YOUTH EVENT

July 10 at 5:30-7 pm

The Rulon-Meza family is inviting all OPC Youth to their house for a pool party!

RSVP to Pastor Heather

heather.chase@oakhurstpresbyterian.org

OAKHURST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH(USA) WELCOMES

NEW YORK HANDBELL RINGERS

JULY 29 2022
AT 7:00 PM

118 2ND
AVENUE,
DECATUR, GA
30030



This choir is made up of dedicated teens and adults ringing six-octave Schulmerich bells and seven-octave Malmark chimes under the direction of Scott Munson and Eiko Shimazu Cornelius, respectively. Their goal is always to be the very best ambassadors possible by upholding the motto of Handbell Ringers of America, "uniting people through a musical art".

FREE CONCERT &
DONATIONS APPRECIATED

PEACEMAKING AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FOCUS ON GUN VIOLENCE

In April 2022, a bill was signed allowing gun owners to carry concealed handguns without a license from the State (permitless carry). This is not what the majority of Georgians wanted. The Governor and 2nd Amendment enthusiasts cited widespread concern for safety among Georgians due to a spike in violent crime.

4.6 million American children live in homes with guns* that are both loaded and unlocked. And every year, nearly 700 children, 17 and under, die by suicide with a Gun.



A study by the Harvard School of Public Health of the 50 states reveals a powerful link between rates of firearm ownership and suicides. Based on a survey of American households it was found that in states where guns were prevalent rates of suicide were higher. The inverse was also true.

Though they tend to get less public attention than gun-related murders, suicides have long accounted for the majority of U.S. gun deaths. In 2020, 54% of all gun-related deaths in the U.S. were suicides (24,292), while 43% were murders (19,384), according to the CDC.

Do guns make us safer? Statistics point to a different reality.

* Journal of Urban Health, June 2018



CREATIONWISE TIPS

Let's take the last plastic straw challenge and join the movement to end the use of plastic straws. When at a restaurant, simply ask the wait staff to take it back. Plastic straws NEVER disintegrate. A [study conducted in 2010 revealed that 8,000,000 tons of plastic were thrown into the ocean](#). The World Economic Forum suggested that by 2050 plastic will be entering the ocean at a rate of a garbage truckload per minute.

The good news is that Starbucks and Burger King, Red Lobster, and others are experimenting with paper straws. If you discover a paper straw while eating in a restaurant, thank the manager for helping to care for our Earth!