



Dear Oakhurst Friends and Families,

Thank you for your continued support of mission and ministry at Oakhurst PCUSA. As promised in January, the Finance & Business Committee is giving you a mid-year update on where we are as a congregation. We've had some victories and some challenges however, we are still in a very good financial position. As you can imagine, inflation has hit the church as well. Please receive this overview report from the Finance & Business Committee - Valarie Wilson, Dennis Hollins, Virginia Richards, Magnolia Walker, Nancy Friauf, Chris Brown, Jessica Daoust, and Rev. Barbee

Going into 2022 OPC was in a very good financial position due to the excellent oversight of expenditures and accountability. Even with the pandemic, OPC was in the best financial position we'd experienced in years. This put us in a position to absorb some very expensive and unexpected maintenance expenses. But, we count that a victory because we had the money. In the first six months of the year we had to address the following issues:

HVAC	\$131,000.00
Sanctuary Roof	\$ 21,450.00
Plumbing	\$ 2,612.97
Hazardous Tree Removal	<u>\$ 2,498.00</u>
Unexpected Expenses in 2022 so far	\$157,560.97

Insurance to cover the church has increased 19%. This is the going rate, as we shopped around for a better rate. This will show up in the second half of the year in a very real and painful way.

Congregational Giving is 38% below what was pledged for 2022.

2022 budget from January - June	\$220,551.33
2022 expenditures from January - June	\$239,058.02 (8% below what was budgeted)
Mid-Year Overview	(\$14,827.53) (This is the amount we are behind)

What's coming? The clothes closet water abatement project. We are able to address this issue with a generous donation from a member. There are other water issues in the building. The rest of the building also needs a new roof. This will be approximately \$75,000 +. The sanctuary ceiling now has damage from two water leaks instead of one. There are many other needs as well. Please continue to give to the Renovation Project Building Fund. For those of you who have given, thank you. Your gifts make a difference!!

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The bottom line is not worse because of our strong financial position going into 2022. Because this money was not in the budget, our money for expansion and creative ministry has been greatly depleted. In order to maintain OPC's strong financial position the church needs you to bring your pledge not only current, but Stewardship is asking that you commit to giving \$25.00 to \$50.00 additionally each month, as you are able. If you do this, we can get back to our strong financial position and enjoy some of the many outreach and ministry opportunities in which we want to participate.

OPC is very fortunate to have a new bookkeeper, Jessica Daoust. Jessica has simplified our statements, created ways for us to track our spending more accurately and safely. We have moved to a system where the bookkeeper is not the only person who has access to the church files, as in the past. This cost a bit more but we felt it paramount that the church be in control of its finances and not an outsider alone. Please listen to a more detailed report from [Jessica here.](#)

Additionally, OPC's new office manager, Cheryl Hartman, is able to manage the running of the office, including paying the bills. This change has allowed a more consistent oversight and congruency with the expenses of the church.

OPC has launched the long awaited new website which has already served as a great draw for visitors to the church. It is alive, current, and leans into upcoming happenings and invitations to participate in the life and ministry at Oakhurst. Our web designer has worked with Cheryl in training her to do constant updates so OPC has no maintenance fee to pay an outsider to do needed updates. If you have not seen the new site we invite you to check it out. [www.oakhurstpcusa.org](http://www.oakhurstpcusa.org). Additionally, OneChurch is alive and well. This is the working software for members of OPC. We often get requests for phone numbers or addresses. If you login to OneChurch, you have all of the church information right there for you. It's easy and fun. You may access OneChurch here. <https://oakhurstpcusa.onechurchsoftware.com>. You may also download the app on your smart phone.

How can you get involved additionally? If you like to count money. We need counters. Contact Virginia Richards at [vrichards150@gmail.com](mailto:vrichards150@gmail.com). We also need Stewardship team members. Contact Valarie Wilson at [vwilson@gsba.com](mailto:vwilson@gsba.com). If you like working with numbers and would be interested on working with the budget, contact Dennis Hollins at [dhollins7@gmail.com](mailto:dhollins7@gmail.com). If you have experience with personnel matters and policies, contact Nancy Friauf at [nancyfriauf@gmail.com](mailto:nancyfriauf@gmail.com). We need YOU!

Thank you for your continued support of the work and witness of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church USA. This church could not exist without your support. I am personally grateful for this team of hardworking members and their dedication to this ministry. I have enjoyed working with all of them. They are a dream team. I am asking the prayers of the congregation. I will travel to Germany for the World Council of Churches meeting from August 28 - September 9. I was voted by the denomination to represent the PCUSA with Neal Presa for this very meaningful event. Though I speak a little German, I have not been to Germany before and I am still aware of the pandemic but, I am trusting God. This is an honor to serve you and the denomination in this way.

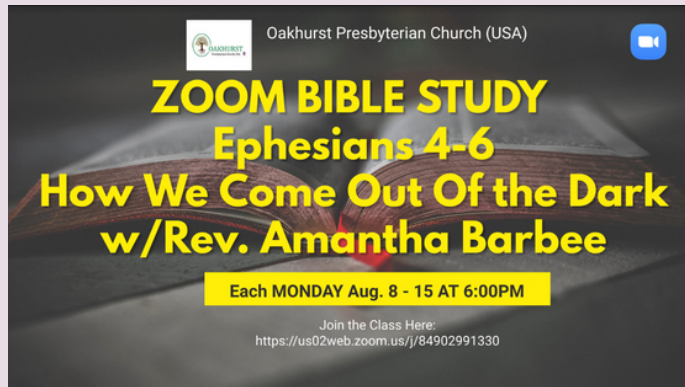
Continue to pray for Oakhurst and for one another as we continue to come out of the dark.

Blessings,  
Rev. Amantha Barbee



The Session has called a Congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, August 14, to act on Reverend Barbee's request to dissolve her pastoral relationship with Oakhurst Presbyterian Church.

Mary Smarr, Clerk of Session



Deacons of the Month  
David Patton (404) 683-1900  
Jackie Randolph (770) 601-5839



8-1 Evelyn Wu, Tanya Myers,  
Valarie Hills Rawls  
8-2 Tobias Hylan  
8-3 Desiree Cabrices  
8-6 Marti Loring  
8-7 Kate Kochel  
8-11 Ashley Wrenn, Sherryl Willis  
8-12 David Patton  
8-15 Anna Bennett, Micheal  
Giles, Keith Munson, David  
Travillion, Isabella Wauchope  
8-17 Ana Belote, Sean Evans  
8-19 Finnegan Downey, Valarie  
Wilson

8-20 Travis Williams  
8-21 Kevin Belote  
8-23 Haley Pate, Adeep Sully-  
Grover  
8-24 Rahjahn Dashiell, Jim  
Watkins  
8-25 Ida Fonkoue, Corey  
White  
8-27 Deborah Carter  
8-28 Ramone Fonkoue  
8-29 Beth Costello  
8-30 Clifton Green, Duane  
Truex  
8-31 Minagustina Wigan

## Weekly Action Opportunities

### Sundays

11 am Worship

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

6 pm Gospel Choir ([contact Rev.  
Dr. Lisa Allen-McLaurin](#) )

### Wednesdays

4:30 pm Racial Justice Vigil  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir ( [Contact  
Matt Wauchope](#) )

### Thursdays

10:30 am - Prayer Group  
4:30 pm - Racial Justice Vigil

### Saturdays

10 am- Racial Justice Vigil



**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.





## AUGUST 21st at 10 am!!

We are Coming out of the Dark! It looks great for Sunday classes and, who doesn't love Free Donuts with Quality Christian Education for All Ages!

Watch the Weekly Enews for more details for Adult topics and clues about surprise guests for Kids. We'll have some Hybrid classes, but mostly in-person.



## Are you ready? The nursery is opening in August!

We still need items from the nursery Registry by August 7th, so please help out this vital ministry of the church! ([click for link to donate items](#))

We need people power too! Talk to Pastor Heather about getting trained so you can help out with our little ones. All volunteers must be background checked & complete Protective Training.



## New Adult Classes Starting in September!

### Grief & Resilience Class

Twice Monthly meetings  
Sundays from 12:30-1:45 pm  
Beginning on Sept. 18th

**Join Pastor Heather & Zeena Regis**

in this class to learn about grief and resilience in these times of (post) pandemic life.



### Young(er) Singles & Couples Study Group!

This new group is forming as a way to study and learn together in creative ways and different locations!

Connect with Pastor Heather to Learn more and get on the email list about the first gathering.



Oakhurst Presbyterian Church USA  
Decatur, Georgia

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
greater atlanta

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church  
118 Second Ave, Decatur, GA 30030

**YMCA Breast Cancer Screening Presentation  
Following Worship  
October 2, 2022**

Also, Mammograms are available for Men and  
Women who are: 40 - 64 years old  
Have No Health Insurance  
Meet Income Requirement

*Call Today for your Appointment*  
Transportation Assistance also provided  
Call Thomasine Leachman

404 835-1632  
YWCA OF GREATER ATLANTA  
ENCOREPLUS PROGRAM

This Program is supported by Susan G. Komen and  
Georgia Center for Oncology Research & Education

## Oakhurst's Centennial Celebration

See an updated version of the 1980's presentation made by Kathy Hill on July 17, 2022 which includes members who joined in the 1980's.

Rev. Nibs Stroup and Rev. Caroline Leach will be preaching on  
9/11/2022

### Look for these happenings later in August:

- o Ways you can sign up to help make our Neighborhood Centennial Celebration a big success on Saturday, October 15!

- o Recognition of 42 members who joined our church in the 1990's on August 14.

- o Oakhurst Centennial in the Decatur news: Shout Out to find former members, about our October 16 Close of the Centennial Year Worship Service.

- o Announcements about how to order a Centennial T-Shirt



## Peacemaking and Justice Committee

### General Assembly Actions

General Assembly Commissioners renewed the church's commitment to end gun violence by developing the Decade to End Gun Violence (2022-2032), commended congregations participating in the Guns2Gardens program and added Gun Violence to Matthew 25 Initiative.

called for divestment from fossil fuel companies (Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Marathon, Phillip 66 and Valero) for not doing enough to slow global warming.  
allowed the church to declare itself a Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church.  
approved three overtures on Israel and Palestine, including support to lift the siege on Gaza, and recognition that Israel's laws, policies and practices constitute apartheid against Palestinian people.

# PEACEMAKING AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

## AIDS WALK ATLANTA

OPC's participation in AIDS Walk Atlanta is how we can make a difference in the fight against HIV and AIDS. This year's 5K is Saturday, September 24 at Piedmont Park.

You can support our effort by going to the [OPC team page](#) here to take one of the following actions: \*Join as a virtual walker \*Join as a walker

\*Join as a runner \*Donate to help us reach our fundraising goal

If you have already signed up for AIDS Walk Atlanta, you can go to your profile page to join the Oakhurst team. Please reach out to team leader [Dorrie Toney](#) if you have questions. QR Code for OPC Team



## CREATIONWISE TIPS

This summer we are witnessing extreme and lasting heatwaves in much of the country and around the world. As the atmosphere heats up, now 1.1 degrees C or 1.9 degrees F, these extreme heat waves will become the norm. Planting trees is the single best thing we can do as individuals to help to provide cooling and shade in our cities, towns, and neighbors. "The average tree absorbs an average of 10 kilograms or 22 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) per year for the first 20 years."

Not only do trees we plant absorb CO2, they provide a place to get in the shade as a respite from the extreme summer heat. Trees also promote biodiversity in the your neighborhood environment. Planting trees is something each of us can do to combat the climate crisis. I am asking each of you to plant some trees or donate to a local organization that plants trees in your area. One such organization is [treesatlanta.org](#). You can also visit the site [onetreeplanted.org](#) for more information and to donate to planting trees. - John Baldwin

## Climate Crisis Corner

Noah's Ark serves as a model for confronting the climate crisis: follow God's instructions to build an ark of inclusive, compassionate biodiversity for the bottleneck all Creation must now squeeze through. Greetings from [www.thirdwayfarm.com](#), MD, where, until October, I'm learning to feed microbes in God's life-giving, carbon-sequestering soil that turns death to life. I accidentally drowned the micro-greens last week, but they haven't kicked this 48 year old intern out of the RV just yet! Even in our own yards and window sills, we can create mini-arks. Eliminate toxic chemicals and manicured lawns, plant native pollinator plants and trees for habitat for local and migratory species, or even add a bat or owl house affixed to a tree. Check out [www.wyldecenter.org](#) in Oakhurst for ideas. In the words of Rev. Barbee, we must come out of the dark and take action.

Submitted by Rev. Alan Jenkins, CreationWise