



The Log

November 2022

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church

**Generosity:
The Heart of God**



A Note from your pastor

Our stewardship theme this year is "Generosity: The Heart of God" and I was struck by how the scripture from 2 Corinthians for the campaign goes beyond generosity to describe God. Not only is God most generous, but God is also extravagant with us. God goes beyond abundance to extravagance. As we prepare for Advent at the end of the month the word extravagance reminds me of the gifts of the Magi - gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts seem foolish to give to a baby, such costly or wasteful gifts. But, I have come to believe in foolishly giving like those wisemen.

That is not to say that I give my pledge unwisely. Instead, I believe that my gifts are being invested in what some might say is foolishness. A belief that people can come together and have an impact on the world for positive change. And despite what the latest newspaper article states about our human behaviors, year after year, I give my pledge to support the church's efforts to work toward a world that seems impossible. A world where people believe that others are valuable and worthy of love, access, respect and safety. And, yes, to do this work often we are called to do what can seem foolish - imagine a new way of living, be creative about our worship and believe in abundance like our church founders did while standing under a tent 100 years ago thinking "there needs to be a church here" and found a way to build a church they could not see. And, Oakhurst Presbyterian is still called to do this work of imagining and creating not only with our financial resources; but our time and talents to disrupt the status quo - just like that sweet baby Jesus did on that starry night long ago - and bring about a change from kingdom to kingdom where we one as are siblings in Christ.

We are so blessed here at Oakhurst and I pray that as you decide on how you will give this stewardship season that you give extravagantly and enjoy the blessing of your gifts as we celebrate this new season of life at OPC through many wonderful events this Winter. Beginning with our Love Supreme concert and fundraiser for hunger issues on Nov 17th, then our beautiful Advent Cantata that is a creation of Dr. Lisa - "Christmas is waiting to be born" on Dec 11th and, of course, our tradition of the youth Christmas pageant on Dec 11th and Holiday Marketplace on Nov 14th that lifts up our artists in the congregation and supports the youth to do mission work in the summer. Your gifts will not go to waste. Trust that your gifts, just like those of the wisemen, will be used for God's purpose.

See you at church soon.

Pastor Heather

THE LOG NEWSLETTER OF OAKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA NOVEMBER 2022

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Oakhurst Presbyterian Church
Celebrating an ever evolving
past for Christ's Service Today
OakhurstPCUSA.org

Updates from October 27, 2022 Session Meeting

At its October 27 meeting Session 1) accepted Susan Harris into membership, pending Baptism on December 4; 2) approved changes to the OPC Bylaws and adopted a new gift policy; 3) approved monthly bonuses for Associate Pastor and Administrative Assistant for extra duties, retroactive to September 1 and continuing until an Interim Pastor is in place; 4) Accepted recommendation to have January 1 (New Years day) worship on zoom; and 5) with much joy expressed especially by the youth and those who work with youth, agreed to hire Alexis Harvey as Youth Director effective November 4, 2022.



November Birthdays

11-1 Lily Marti, Lucy Marti

11-2 Jackie Regis

11-3 Bill Platt

11-4 Martin Buss

11-6 Cynthia Spurley, Colin Truex

11-7 Joey Costello, Nancy Friauf, Samuel Patton, Magnolia Walker

11-8 Emmett Watson Williams

11-9 Ben Speight

11-10 Kentria Alston-Brown

11-11 Naseane Dashiell-Sykes
11-11 Dave Hess

11-12 CJ Evans, Macario Meza
Rulon, Johnathan Smith

11-13 Chris Beck, Stephe Koontz, Ginny Merritt

11-16 Leslie Munson, Joann Bruce Rose

11-17 LaVerne Shuman

11-18 Maeve Belote, Pam Grisham, Rick White

11-19 Harriet White

11-20 Donna Gose

11-21 Elizabeth Wilson

11-23 Michael Harris

11-24 Jackie Foster

11-26 Matthew Cabrices,
Carolyn Clark, Patrece Giles,
Jackie Robinson

11-28 Carly Ambler, Mary Gould, Charlayne Scarlett,
Jamaal Scarlett

Sundays

10:00 am Church School

11 am Worship

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



Deacons of the Month

Mien Wigan 404-596-3489

Kim Hightower 404-630-2184



Supper Club will meet next on **November 12 at 6 p.m.** via zoom.

We will be discussing **This Tender Land**, by William Kent Krueger. This is a library book and may be purchased for around \$10. We hope you will get the book and plan to join us.

This Tender Land is an enthralling, bighearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole. It's the unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression.



Generosity: The Heart of God

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2 Corinthians 9:10-11 - The Message

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. God gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

We invite you to prayerfully consider and reflect on the ministry you make possible through your financial pledge for the upcoming year. Your commitment helps our Session forecast the action and impact that we will have in the community.

We know that this year has been very difficult for all from Covid-19 and other crises. Many of us have been severely impacted – even devastated and we invite you to lean on this congregation for healing.

For those who are in a position of relative strength, we invite you to consider how great a blessing your generous financial pledge will be. Join us as we lift one another and the community in this time of crisis.

Pledge in any of these ways!

1. Complete and return by mail the pledge card you received.
2. Online at our website. <https://oakhurstpcusa.org/pledge>
3. E-mail Cheryl in the church office.
4. Mobile device: QR Code >>>>>>>>>>



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The Letter of James: Putting Faith in Action - Led by Susan Hylen. Room 204



Martin Luther called James an 'epistle of straw' and wasn't sure it should be part of the canon. But in our context, James may have a lot to say about the ways faith and action are intertwined. Join us to find out more!

Standing our Holy Ground- Led by Mary Smarr Room 207



Young(er) Singles & Couples Study Group!

FRIENDSGIVING!

November 18th at 6:30 pm

We'll meet at Deborah Carter's home -

4488 Allgood Springs Dr.

Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Thanks for RSVPing by Nov 11th!



Outreach Committee: Patty Bonner

I was hungry and you fed me.

A survey of Oakhurst concerning our outreach priorities revealed that addressing hunger is a top concern. While we continue to support the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry (DEAM), we have now also adopted the Free99Fridge Atlanta ministry. This grassroots organization replicates the community fridge concept that exists nationwide in the US, as well as in Europe.



The idea is to reduce food waste while simultaneously addressing food insecurity. Citizens, restaurants and grocery stores donate food in fridges located in public spaces and people in need select items available in round-the-clock access. The 12% increase in grocery prices over the past year has placed more people in dire circumstances. This fact, combined with elevated gas prices, leaves many families struggling to cope. Oakhurst members can reach out to our at-risk neighbors by donating to the brightly yellow painted Free99Fridge located near North Decatur Presbyterian Church at 611 Medlock Rd. You can put canned and bottled goods in the pantry section, as well as hygiene items, and plastic flatware. The adjacent fridge preserves fruit, vegetables and bakery items. People consistently contribute PBJ sandwiches in labeled ziplock bags. Senior living homes contribute leftover prepared vegetables in labeled disposable containers (and you can do the same with your leftovers). If you are feeling frustrated and helpless by witnessing the suffering in the world, consider making a weekly stop by the Free99Fridge. If you don't have leftovers from your own table, pick up a bag of managers specials in your grocery store and help someone out!

Hagar's House Volunteers Needed

Oakhurst Presbyterian's third and final week of service at Hagar's House will be November 28-December 3. Can you help? Volunteers purchase and prepare food for 10-25 people and deliver it to Hagar's House between 4:30 and 6:00. To join Oakhurst's team, contact CJ Evans (evanscj@gmail.com / 434-826-7363).

The IPNC (Interim Pastor Nominating Committee) is reviewing candidates and conducting interviews. We hope to make a decision soon. Please pray that the Holy Spirit leads us to the Interim Pastor who will lead us forward.

The Worship Committee - Virginia Richards

(vrichards@georgiasouthern.edu) **The Worship Committee is working on a permanent rotation for ushers.** This is a call for folk who would like to get involved in church service but don't have time for a heavy workload. Please contact Virginia Richards, if you want to try ushering.



Do your talents include keeping financial records and attention to detail? You are needed to count money contributed to Oakhurst. This is an important volunteer role. Everyone who gives depends on the counters' accuracy for their financial records. We are starting training for counters November 6 after worship. If you fit this role and want to help, please contact Virginia Richards at vrichards@georgiasouthern.edu

Piloting a change in worship. Feedback welcome.

We will stop projecting bulletin words during worship on the choir wall on November 13. This is a pilot for the month of November. To assist Mother Nature, we encourage you to either open your bulletin from the weekly email or the QR code by the doors. Are you not using the online bulletin because the print is too small? We have an idea contributed by Mien Wigan: Take a screen shot of the bulletin and use that during worship. You can enlarge it to see it better! Try it for the environment.

CreationWise Tip - Anna Bennett.

This month we set back our clocks an hour and darkness comes a little earlier each day. Hibernation season is here! To be CreationWise, here are a few tips to get cozy sustain-

ably through the colder months. Don't only rely on your heater to stay warm-bundle up with some soft socks, extra blankets, and dial down the thermostat a few degrees. You can also leave your curtains open during the day to let sunlight help to naturally warm your home. Also try to eat seasonal-pears, apples, squash, kumquats, and other fall produce make great additions for comforting fall recipes and will help to support local growers at the same time. Opt for slow cooker recipes too: hot crock pot meals are so comforting in the fall and winter and often use less energy overall than the oven. As leaves fall and clocks fall back, the late autumn reminds us to move a little more slowly and gently through the world.



Peacemaking and Justice

Gun Violence Prevention: The Presbyterian Church (USA) has "common understandings" that are used in lessons and conversations on gun violence prevention. The first is - Gun violence is a public health epidemic that impacts our communities, congregations and members, whether they know it or not. Statistics reflect that impact in several ways. One is financial; the cost is estimated to be approximately \$229 billion each year. At \$229 billion, the toll from gun violence is \$88 billion more than what the US government budgeted for education in 2014, and divided up among every man, woman and child in the United States, it is more than \$700 per person.* What can you do? Join in the conversation and work with others to reduce gun violence. *Everytown for gun safety.

Vote on Nov 8: The opportunity to vote early ends Nov 4. Get to know your candidates at wabe.org/candidates-2022-election. For additional information check <https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/voter-registration-elections> or your county elections office.

Warming Shelters: Oakhurst is supporting the non-profit organization A Home for Everyone and Decatur First United Methodist Church in advocating for and setting up warm places for the unhoused. We are providing a donation for MARTA cards (or most urgent need) for the unhoused to get to shelters. Shelters are to be open when the temperature is 35 degrees or below.

There is also a need for volunteers to

- Serve from 6 to 9 pm, helping to set up the shelter and greeting guests
- Make and/or serve dinner for 25
- Serve from 8:45 pm to 6:30 am, sleeping overnight (with shelter manager present) and setting up breakfast
- Drop off breakfast for 25 on evenings when the shelter is open.

If you are interested in these volunteer opportunities, please send an email to ahomeforeveryoneindekalb@gmail.com.

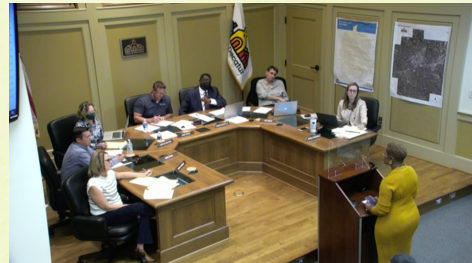
Decatur Housing- Mary Gould.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Pff4z8y2Jn9X--qRabKZYMtpVhUTafoB/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115355178395925478699&rtfpof=true&sd=true>

Many from Oakhurst wrote letters to City Commissioners and Valarie Wilson, Mary Gould, Richelle Patton, and Denise Boesel attended two meetings in person or virtually regarding "Missing Middle" plans (for duplexes, triplexes and quads) to provide for more diversity of housing options in Decatur, one way to address Decatur's lack of housing for those of various income levels. The meetings/public hearings were held on October 11 and October 17. [See more details here.](#)



Citizens voiced their opinions concerning missing middle housing during the Decatur City Commission meeting on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022. Photo by Dean Hesse.



There were over 100 people at the first meeting with many overflowing into the hall. It is important to point out that there were no more than 3 or 4 people of color in attendance. Most comments were against the initiative, expressing fear of density, parking problems, absentee landlords, lack of control, etc. Valarie Wilson made an impassioned speech supporting affordable housing. You can listen to her speech at [www.decaturga.com/affordable housing](http://www.decaturga.com/affordable-housing). Allowing Missing Middle housing types should cause the market to begin to create smaller unit mixes allowing people to buy or rent at lower prices in neighborhoods. This will also help affordable housing initiatives that work with subsidies (funding from government) to have flexibility to build more affordable housing types.

The plan proposed by the Planning Committee was recommended as a denial due to comments raised that the Planning Commission felt needed to be addressed before a final policy could be accepted. Because the Planning Commission recommendation does not prevent a policy from moving forward - it is a recommendation only - the policies continue to move forward and the comments made by the Planning Commission are considered. For more information, read Decaturish article - <https://decaturish.com/2022/10/decatur-residents-concerned-about-affordability-of-missing-middle-housing-policy/>



Youth Happenings This Month

November 4-6 Middle School Youth Retreat at Camp Calvin
Meet at Church at 6 pm, Return to Church at 11:30 am

November 5-6 Sr. High Youth Lock-In 6:30 pm - 10 am at Church

November 13 Marketplace Fundraiser 12:30-2:30 pm -
Youth will sell pizza and homemade treats

November 20 Youth Group 12:30-2 Christmas Pageant Planning

November 27 5:00-7:00 pm - Christmas Pageant Practice at church

