

The Log December 2022 Oakhurst Presbyterian Church A Note from your pastor

It feels strange to start this Advent journey not having finished our search for our new interim. I thought that journey would be done and they'd be writing this article for the Log, but as I have learned, things don't happen on my timeline. As we enter Advent, a season of waiting, instead of feeling anxious like a child waiting for their Christmas presents, maybe this year waiting feels more familiar to us. Maybe after 2+ years of COVID, we've gotten better at our Advent practice of waiting? We've waited so long to finally be back together and (hopefully) it will be so. We will be back together on that cold winter night in the sanctuary as we sing by candlelight and listen to that familiar story of Jesus' birth. But I don't think waiting ever gets easy. We are not living in our time, but instead in God's time. Our work is to trust and believe that God is at work now, just like when God brought Jesus into the world, bringing hope and joy. And, as we await our new interim pastor to come, we can trust and believe that God is working in our midst to bring us new hope and joy.

So in this time of waiting, I encourage you to come to our Adult Education class on Dec. 11th at 10 am "Discerning God's Mission Through Oakhurst Presbyterian Church" and join the conversation led by our own Rick Barger on what God might be calling Oakhurst to be as we trust in God's hopes for this community. In this time of transition in pastoral leadership, come and listen to the Spirit and what the Spirit might be telling us about the future and missional direction of our congregation. See where God is working in our preparations for our new pastoral leadership, even beyond the interim. For those who don't know, Rick for over 30 years has equipped, coached, and formed leaders and congregations to become the best version of themselves in being the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus in the world. Please come and be a part of this important conversation for OPC.

And, don't forget to join us for the many celebrations this month of who we are right now as OPC when we celebrate baptisms and communion alongside our Stewardship Dedication service on Dec 4th and then praise God through our Christmas Cantata, celebrate our election of new elders and deacons and enjoy our playful Youth-Led Christmas pageant on Dec 11th. And, finally, celebrate together on Christmas Eve on the 24th at 5:30 pm candlelight service and Dec 25th with a morning Christmas Day sing-a-long at our normal 11 am service. Trust and believe in this time of waiting that God is faithful. Thank you to all who faithfully pledged to OPC this stewardship season so that we can continue the ministry that God is calling us to now and in the days ahead. We are truly blessed. Can't wait to see you at church this month!



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DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FESTIVE FUN AT OPC - DEC 11th at 5 pm

The main dinner will be prepared and donations are welcomed. If members want to participate they may bring a cold salad or dessert. At 6:30 we will ask all members to help clear the tables and chairs so we can all attend the pageant.



The next **Oakhurst Young(er)** Adults gathering will be on Friday December 16. Contact <u>Deborah</u> <u>Carter for details</u> **Sundays** 10:00 am Church School 11 am Worship

Tuesdays 6 pm Gospel Choir (<u>contact Rev.</u> <u>Dr. Lisa Allen-McLaurin</u>)

Wednesdays 4:30 pm Racial Justice Vigil 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (<u>Contact</u> <u>Matt Wauchope</u>)

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

Saturdays 10 am- Racial Justice Vigil



Deacons of the Month Laura Neito (404) 378-1490 Jennifer Greene (404) 323-0260



Our next Supper Club gathering will be in the New Year, on January 7, 2023 at 6 p.m. Please get your copy of The Trees by Percival Everett, and plan to join us. It is a library book and may be purchased for \$10+. Mary

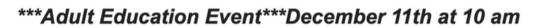
An uncanny literary thriller addressing the painful legacy of lynching in the US, in this bold, provocative book, Everett takes direct aim at racism and police violence, and does so in a fastpaced style that ensures the reader can't look away.



December Birthdays

- 112-1 Jacob Chase, Cheryl McKinzie 12-2 Aida Biniyam, Erich Daub 12-3 Paul Essah 12-4 Sarah Thorsen 12-4 Sarah Thorsen 12-5 Alex Brown 12-7 Hannah Perkins, Jemma Nicholson Crawford, Micahel Orta 12-10 Jakob Styles, Ann Voigt 12-10 Jakob Styles, Ann Voigt 12-14 Samuel Wauchope 12-15 Alan Ashe, Margaret McPherson, Ann Boon Rhea
- 12-16 Mary Watkins, Craig Wilson 12-17 Suzette Hollins, Frances Jenne
- 12-19 Andrew Williams
- 12-20 Jacqueline Johnson
- 12-23 Gladys Adams, Pam Giles
- 12-24 Katie Brown, Dennis Hollins,
- 12-27 Sylvia Wilson
- 12-31 Greg Hall, Vickie Wingard

Advent Sunday School for Children and FamiliesAll Classes during December will be in the Jefferson Fellowship Hall from 10:00 am -
10:40 am. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend for festive fun and snacks!Image: Start School for Children and FamiliesImage: Start School for Children and guardians are encouraged to attend for festive fun and snacks!Image: Start School for Children and guardians are encouraged to attend for festive fun and snacks!Image: Start School for Children and EnglishImage: Start School for the long trip to bethlehem.



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Discerning God's Mission Through Oakhurst Presbyterian Church with Rick Barger

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Join the conversation led by our Rick Barger on what God might be calling Oakhurst to be. As we are in transition in senior pastoral leadership, we will listen to the Spirit and what the Spirit might be telling us about the future and missional direction of our congregation.

The Rev. Dr. Rick Barger and his wife, Harriet, began visiting OPC in February and joined in July. Rick is a retired Lutheran (ELCA) pastor and former president of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. For over 30 years Rick has equipped, coached, and formed leaders and congregations to become the best version of themselves in being the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus in the world.

Youth Sunday School resumes in Leach Hall on Dec 4th with Harvey leading!

CreationWise Tip - Margie Ashe

Americans alone use approximately 4.6 million pounds of wrapping paper each year and half of that ends up in the landfill. The list of items that can't be recycled is long: bows, ribbons, sticky tags, glittery holiday cards, tape, wrapping paper that contains

glitter, foil, plastic, velvet, or any sort of texture. Instead consider using 100% paper products, Kraft brown paper, newspaper, old maps, or children's artwork to wrap your presents this holiday season. Reusable options include muslin bags or folding fabrics using Furoshiki wrapping techniques.

Peacemaking & Justice

 \rightarrow 155% more people are shot in incidents where assault weapons are used.

→ Since the assault weapons ban expired in 2004, there's been an 183% increase in massacres and a 239% increase in fatalities.

 \rightarrow 67% of Americans support a ban on assault weapons. *Bradypac

The White House supports an assault weapons ban "to get weapons of war off America's streets." Add your voice to those in support of banning assault weapons.



Wednesday, November 16th was opening night for A Home For Everyone In Dekalb's Winter Shelter. A partnership between "A Home" and the Decatur First United Methodist Church (DFUMC), work to coordinate the shelter began in April 2022. The shelter will be open on all nights when the temperature is 35 degrees or below. We need YOUR help to make it happen. If you'd like to volunteer, please email A Home for Everyone at ahomeforeveryoneindekalb@gmail.com or just sign up when the signup link is sent.





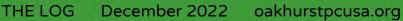
December 11th after Worship in the Sanctuary and Zoom! We NEED you to VOTE for new leaders for the upcoming terms for deacons and elders!

We have a great list of nominees for deacons and elders who have thoughtfully discerned to take the next step and offer their gifts for leadership and service at OPC. Please pray and join us on

December 11th for the Congregational Meeting to elect our new classes! For Deacons Class of 2025 Susan Brown, Laurie Culp, Suzette Hollins, Zeena Regis

For Elders Class of 2025 Ann Davis, Kathy Hancock, Jennifer Kimball, Magnolia Walker

Elder Class of 2024 - Paula Couch (2 year term) Elder Class of 2023 - Suzette Hollins (1 year term) - Bennett Hylen (Youth Elder)





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25 LIGHT the Christ Candle and read today's Devo. 11 am Sing Along and sharing the Story	18 LIGHT a Candle for Love and read today's Devotional.	11 LIGHT a Candle for Joy and read today's Devo. Cantata Worship at 11 am Fellowship Dinner and Youth Play at 5:30	니 LIGHT a Candle for Peace and read today's Advent Devotion.	Advent Begins! LIGHT a Candle for Hope and read today's Advent Devotion.	NUS	Advent 2022
26 PRAY: Thank you, God, for all of the gifts this Advent season has brought: especially your HOPE, PEACE, J0Y, and LOVE. Amen.	19 PRAY: God, help me to LOVE others the way you love me: fully and unconditionally. Amen.	12 PRAY: Lord, help me to put my time and energy into those things that truly bring J0Y to myself and others. Amen.	S PRAY: God, help me to let go of what weighs me down and let me discover your PEACE this Advent season. Amen.	28 PRAY: Thank you God for this Advent season. May it be a time of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Amen.	MON	С е
27 READ: Psalm 106:1 How will you carry the spirit of Advent with you into the new year?	20 READ: John 1:14 How is God calling you to LOVE others in this Advent season?	13 READ: Luke 2:10-11 What fears are holding you back from taking hold of the JOY Christ offers to us?	G READ: Luke 1:78-79 How might God be guiding you towards the path of PEACE?	29 READ: Psalm 33:22 What brings you HOPE this Advent season?	ΗCE	Generation to Generation
28 Gather up clothes, toys, books, and other items you no longer need and donate them.	2 Call a family member or friend you haven't spoken to in a while. Remind them that they are loved.	IH Send someone a Christmas card to brighten their day and fill it with a little bit of JOY.	✓ Tonight is a full moon. Go outside and look up at how brightly it shines. Can you feel God's PEACE surround you?	3O Sing or listen to, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and practice HOPEFUL anticipation as we await Christ's birth.	WEШ	om to (
29 Turn on a lamp or light in your home and take a moment to reflect on the light of Christ entering our world.	22 Bake or buy a sweet treat to share with someone to let them know you are thinking of them.	15 Make a list of good, JOYFUL news you have heard recently. Then pray and thank God for good news of great joy!	B Take a walk outdoors to enjoy the fresh air and notice the many wonders that God has created.	Spread HOPE by doing a random act of kindness today: pay for a stranger's coffee, hold open a door, donate to charity, etc.	TΗU	remero
30 Enjoy a favorite hot beverage and take a few minutes to reflect on the past year: What are you grateful for?	23 Light four candles: one for HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Ask God to open your heart to receive these gifts.	16 JOY makes our hearts smile, knowing God loves us. What else makes your heart smile and fills you with joy?	9 Jesus' PEACE brings order and calm when things feel out of control. What brings you peace when you are stressed or worried?	Watch a favorite Christmas film like Elf or A Christmas Story	Η̈́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́	liom
31 What New Year's resolution will you make to help you draw closer to God in 2023?	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:30pm	1∕7 Pray for the people who have no family nearby.	1O Sing or listen to, "Silent Night" and reflect on the PEACE Christ brings to our lives and the world.	3 Decorate your home for Christmas as an expression of HOPE for Christ coming into the world.	SAT	Course of Projection Characteristics
JAN. 1 Worship on Zoom	Christmas Eve Service - 5:30pm DEC. 25 Sing Along and Sharing the Story Worship at 11 am	5:30 pm Community Holiday Dinner and Christmas Pageant by our Youth- Fundraiser for Youth Trips DEC. 24	11 AM Christmas Cantata "Christmas is Waiting to be Born" based on the words of Howard Thurman by Rev. Dr. Lisa Allen McLaurin	Special worship with Columbia Seminary's new President, Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, Preaching, baptisms and dedication of pledges. DEC. 11		SAVE THE

118. Service and

Generation to Generation



Advent 2022

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