



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!

Pastor Heather



**THE LOG
NEWSLETTER
OF
OAKHURST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH USA
DECEMBER
2022**

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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 [Deborah Carter](#) for details



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 fast-paced 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

12-5 Alex Brown

12-7 Hannah Perkins, Jemma Nicholson Crawford, Micahel Orta

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 Families

All 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!



12/4 - Advent Wreath making party!

*Get creative and enjoy some holiday treats
with new & old friends!*

*RSVP to Pastor Heather so we have enough supplies -
heather.chase@oakhurstpresbyterian.org*



*12/11 & 12/18 - Telling the Advent story as we journey
to the manger. Snacks provided for the long trip to
Bethlehem.*



*****Adult Education Event***December 11th at 10 am**

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

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

→ 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.
→ 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)



Advent 2022

Generation to Generation



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 Advent Begins! LIGHT a Candle for Hope and read today's Advent Devotion.	28 PRAY: Thank you God for this Advent season. May it be a time of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Amen.	29 READ: Psalm 33:22 What brings you HOPE this Advent season?	30 Sing or listen to, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and practice HOPEFUL anticipation as we await Christ's birth.	1 Spread HOPE by doing a random act of kindness today: pay for a stranger's coffee, hold open a door, donate to charity, etc.	2 Watch a favorite Christmas film like Elf or A Christmas Story	3 Decorate your home for Christmas as an expression of HOPE for Christ coming into the world.
4 LIGHT a Candle for Peace and read today's Advent Devotion.	5 PRAY: God, help me to let go of what weighs me down and let me discover your PEACE this Advent season. Amen.	6 READ: Luke 1:78-79 How might God be guiding you towards the path of PEACE?	7 Tonight is a full moon. Go outside and look up at how brightly it shines. Can you feel God's PEACE surround you?	8 Take a walk outdoors to enjoy the fresh air and notice the many wonders that God has created.	9 Jesus' PEACE brings order and calm when things feel out of control. What brings you peace when you are stressed or worried?	10 Sing or listen to, "Silent Night" and reflect on the PEACE Christ brings to our lives and the world.
11 LIGHT a Candle for Joy and read today's Devo. Cantata Worship at 11am Fellowship Dinner and Youth Play at 5:30	12 PRAY: Lord, help me to put my time and energy into those things that truly bring JOY to myself and others. Amen.	13 READ: Luke 2:10-11 What fears are holding you back from taking hold of the JOY Christ offers to us?	14 Send someone a Christmas card to brighten their day and fill it with a little bit of JOY.	15 Make a list of good, JOYFUL news you have heard recently. Then pray and thank God for good news of great joy!	16 JOY makes our hearts smile, knowing God loves us. What else makes your heart smile and fills you with joy?	17 Pray for the people who have no family nearby.
18 LIGHT a Candle for Love and read today's Devotional.	19 PRAY: God, help me to LOVE others the way you love me: fully and unconditionally. Amen.	20 READ: John 1:14 How is God calling you to LOVE others in this Advent season?	21 Call a family member or friend you haven't spoken to in a while. Remind them that they are loved.	22 Bake or buy a sweet treat to share with someone to let them know you are thinking of them.	23 Light four candles: one for HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Ask God to open your heart to receive these gifts.	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:30pm
25 LIGHT the Christ Candle and read today's Devo. 11 am Sing Along and Sharing the Story	26 PRAY: Thank you, God, for all of the gifts this Advent season has brought: especially your HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Amen.	27 READ: Psalm 106:1 How will you carry the spirit of Advent with you into the new year?	28 Gather up clothes, toys, books, and other items you no longer need and donate them.	29 Turn on a lamp or light in your home and take a moment to reflect on the light of Christ entering our world.	30 Enjoy a favorite hot beverage and take a few minutes to reflect on the past year: What are you grateful for?	31 What New Year's resolution will you make to help you draw closer to God in 2023?

SAVE THE DATES

DEC. 4

Special worship with Columbia Seminary's new President, Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo. Preaching, baptisms and dedication of pledges.

DEC. 11

11 AM Christmas Cantata "Christmas is Waiting to be Born" based on the words of Howard Thurman by Rev. Dr. Lisa Allen McLaughlin

5:30 pm Community Holiday

Dinner and Christmas Pageant by our Youth-Fundraiser for Youth Trips

DEC. 24

Christmas Eve Service - 5:30pm

DEC. 25

Sing Along and Sharing the Story Worship at 11 am

JAN. 1

Worship on Zoom