



# The Log

## February 2023

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church

Dear Oakhurst,

### A Note from your pastor

Thank you for the ways in which you have welcomed me, and continue to do so, as we begin this journey together. I look forward to the opportunity to hear even more stories as we continue in relationship. I told the iPNC that my first and primary goal was to meet people, listen to stories, and form relationships. These relationships are foundational for a faith community as we renew relationships after the pandemic, welcome new people into Oakhurst, and discern how God is calling us to be with one another here and as we go out into the world. I look forward to getting to know you whether we meet at your home, a coffee shop, or a lunch place near your work.

Speaking of “being,” I want to encourage you this month to be. I know that is a challenging task for we who look around and see so very much that needs to be done in our own lives, at Oakhurst, in Decatur, in our country, and in the world. I am not necessarily suggesting you stop what you’re doing now. I’m inviting you to pause, take a deep breath, and remember from where your source of strength comes.

We “do-ers” frequently find ourselves spread thin, overwhelmed, and thinking that it’s all up to us to get things done. And that’s even before we work on changing the world! The depth of our relationships with God and one another strengthens us, gives us courage, and reminds us that we are not alone.

When I worked with youth, we would close every meeting in prayer. We’d gather in a circle, and the youth would choose “thumbs right” or “thumbs left.” With everyone’s thumbs pointed in the same direction, we would grasp one another’s hands. If you put your thumbs in the same direction right now, you’ll notice that one of your hands would be holding up another hand and the other would be held up by someone else. We reminded each other that sometimes we need to be held, and at other times, we can be the ones lifting others up. That is indeed what it means to be the Body of Christ.

As we spend time being with God and one another, we’re much more able to trust that we can all turn our thumbs right and be just fine.

May it be so.



Katie

Note: I will be on study leave from Feb 13 - 20 for an interim pastor training course. As you already know, you are in great hands with Pastor Heather, the deacons of the month, and all who make up this web that is Oakhurst.

THE LOG  
OAKHURST  
PC(USA)  
JANUARY  
2023

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## From January 2023 Session Meeting

Approved the 2022 Annual Statistical Report, which will be provided to the PCUSA.

Approved request from Friends Meeting to co-sponsor an event with national anti-war activist and author Medea Benjamin.

Elected Commissioners to the February 11 Presbytery meeting.

Reviewed information and expectations for the Jan 29 Annual Congregational Meeting.

### Session by Class

2023: Chris Beck, Dennis Hollins, Suzette Gooch, David Travillion - Youth Elder slot is vacant

2024: Brady Bennett, Charlie Copp, Paula Couch, Dorrie Toney

2025: Ann Davis, Kathy Hancock, Jennifer Kimball, Magnolia Walker

Officers: Moderator: Rev. Katie Ricks, Assoc Pastor: Rev. Heather Chase, Clerk of Session: Mary Smarr

### Deacons by Class

2023: Deborah Carter (Coordinator), Zeke Dunn, David Patton, Jackie Randolph

2024: CJ Evans, Jennifer Green, Kim Hightower (Coordinator), Kathy Hill

2025: Susan Brown, Laurie Culp, Zeena Dashiell, Suzette Hollins



2-1 Paula Alston, Lunda Speight

2-5 Jane Royall

2-6 Isaac Chase, Patricia Essah, Brandon Knight

2-9 Jerry Watts

2-10 Ailya Epps

2-11 Rachel Jones, Silas Wauchope

2-12 Kathy Negrilli

2-14. Jane Jenne, Ray Wetzel

2-15 Anna Watkins Davis, Marni Riley

12-17 Miya Riley

2-18 Elinor McNinch

2-19 Andrew Marti

2-20 Harriett Alson

2-21 Lydia Green, Asa Hill, Fred Kuhstoss, Suzannah Lipscomb

2-22 Tea Marley, Daniel Orta

2-23 Hal Davis, L'Anni Hill, Marcia Peters

2-24 John Gose, Erin Myers-Beck

2-25 Jacob Evans, Ruth Anne Foote

2-26 Victor Meza

2-28 Keeron Emmanuel, Joshua Randolph, Terance Shipman

### Sundays

10:00 am Church School

11 am Worship

### Tuesdays

6 pm Gospel Choir

### Wednesdays

4:30 pm Racial Justice Vigil

7:30 pm Chancel Choir ( [Contact Matt Wauchope](#) )

### Thursdays

10:30 am - Prayer Group

6:00 pm - "The Sum of Us" Book Group on Zoom

4:30 pm - Racial Justice Vigil

### Saturdays

10 am- Racial Justice Vigil



### Deacons of the Month

Kathy Hill and Susan Brown



Hello OPC Friends and Family,  
Our Sunday School Class watched a short (35 minute) and powerful video called TORTURE IN OUR NAME. We thought you might enjoy watching it at your own pace so we are providing the link here

<http://www.nrcat.org/torture-in-us-prisons/torture-in-our-name-film> .

We would appreciate hearing your thoughts and ideas about how it represents the Christian message after you watch it. You can send them to Anne Hughes, Patty Bonner and/or [Laura Nieto](#)

# CALLED TO CARE.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ADULT EDUCATION SPEAKER SERIES FOR FEBRUARY & BLACK HISTORY MONTH

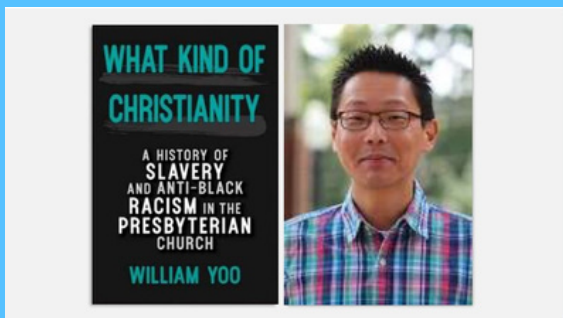
This month's speakers are truth tellers calling us to care about:

Our Community  
Our Laws

Our History  
Our Identity

As we look at ways to take action for justice as Oakhurst Presbyterian Church. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am.

**FEB 12th -Connecting Black History Month with our Church's History with Dr. William Yoo**



**FEB 19th - Our Laws and Lobbying for Justice with Tsarre Sanders from GIPL**



**FEB 5th: Zeena Regis, Reminding Us about Our Community & History**

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**FEB 26th: Being a Multicultural Church and what does it mean to live this truth? Congregational Discussion lead by the Race, Ethnicity and Diversity (RED) Team**

### **YOUTH Sunday School @ OPC**

Our Middle Schoolers are studying the sexuality curriculum, Our Whole Lives, this Spring.  
curriculum, Our Whole Lives,

Feb Classes 5th & 19th - Room 209  
February 12th & 26th - Leach Hall

Service, Study, and More

### **KIDS Sunday School @ OPC**



Prepare on Feb 12 & 26 in Rm 203

Feb 5 & 19 Godly Play in Rm 202

**Children will lead  
worship on 2/26**



## CreationWise Tip

The CreationWise Committee invites you to an amazing opportunity coming up March 16-18 at Columbia Theological Seminary. The conference, Just Creation: Shalom for Our Common Home, focuses on environmental justice, where theologians, scientists, artists, and activists will reflect on how the church moves forward in a time of precipitous climate change. Hermina Glass-Hill, OPC's excellent Earth Day 2022 preacher from South Georgia will be one of the many speakers, who will also be leading small group workshops and presentations. Come for one session or come for the whole conference, as people come from around the Southeast to our backyard (CTS). <https://www.ctsnet.edu/about-us/the-columbia-conference/> and <https://youtu.be/eYBUYySuL8U> For Creation, Alan Jenkins



## Peacemaking & Justice

Peacemaking and Justice Committee of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church is co-sponsoring an event at Friends Meetinghouse (701 West Howard Avenue, Decatur) on March 5, 1:30 p.m. with National anti-war activist and author Medea Benjamin. She will speak on her new book, War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict.

If you know families or individuals who need overnight shelter, please share this information. Frontline Response and Decatur First United Methodist Church are open when temperature falls to 38 degrees and below. Please contact [ahomeforeveryoneindekalb@gmail.com](mailto:ahomeforeveryoneindekalb@gmail.com) or 904-825-8035 for more information.

The City Commission will vote on the City of Decatur Missing Middle housing proposal on February 6, 2023. This is the second (final) vote. The Commission voted to support the proposal at its January 17 meeting. Please add the February 6 hearing to your calendar, plan to attend (Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St., Decatur 30030 at 7 pm) and speak in favor of this proposal. You are also encouraged to write to city commissioners asking them to vote yes. Presbyterians for a Better Georgia will have a legislative forum on zoom, 2/15/2023 at 7 p.m. Please add this event to your calendar and expect registration information soon. Priorities for the 2023 legislative session will be the focus.



### ANSWERS TO PRAYERS for 2023

"We pray for an interim pastor who will bring healing, comfort, hope and pastoral care in 2023"

- Rev. Katie Ricks arrived on Jan 15th as OPC's new interim pastor

We pray for visionary leadership and renewed commitment from all those who attend here.

-10 new leaders in the church were installed for service on Jan 22nd

"We pray that God will guide us to reach out to those in need in a significant and organized way. That God will show us how to and give us the will to bring more affordable housing to Decatur."

- OPC hosted Affordable Housing Panel discussion on Jan 9th with a full sanctuary of community & church members

We pray that the Oakhurst family will come together showing up for each other in worship, fellowship, generosity, and outreach to others and praying for comfort to those who need special prayers.

-The congregation showed up to support Harriet Alston's family as we hosted her celebration of life service on Jan 14th

**Please continue to keep our congregation in your prayers.**