



PASTOR'S PAGE

Grace and Peace Oakhurst Family,

Who ever thought we'd be starting off 2022 with the cloud of Covid still hanging over our heads? This is not what we'd planned but that is no excuse for not making plans. We still have power by the blood of Christ Jesus. We still have God as our Creator, Author, and Finisher of our collective faiths. We have the Holy Spirit standing with and for us every single day. Though we certainly have challenges ahead we must find strength in God and be grateful. We must live in total gratitude. Can you find something for which you are grateful today?

I am grateful for a new office administrator in 2021. Cheryl Hartman has been a blessing to the staff and the congregation and works so hard to keep us all in communication.

I am grateful for Mary Smarr, our clerk of session. The session has had to operate in new and innovative ways because of the pandemic. We have had to go 100% virtual and Mary has worked to ensure that nothing slips through the cracks.

I am grateful for the building and grounds team! 2021 was extremely challenging for them. Water damage in an old building is a beast, time consuming, and full of unwanted surprises. They have handled them all to the best of their resources and ability.

I am grateful for the worship team, staff, sound and video team, music, and finance team. They had to make almost instant changes at times when Covid numbers shot through the roof. Every time a change was made, they had to quickly respond. Outdoor worship, indoor worship, Zoom worship, pre-recorded worship all offer a unique set of needs, none of which are simple.

I am grateful for the Covid Team. This is a tough assignment! I repeat, this is a tough assignment. Hearts, heads, and souls came into one space, to pray, think, and make extremely hard decisions. They knew these decisions would affect you and your family and they never lost sight of that.

I cannot name everyone but lastly and all inclusively, I am grateful for you. You have remained faithful, supportive, connected, prayerful, and hopeful. Our collective gratitude will sustain us. For what are you grateful today?

Rev. Amantha Barbee, Senior Pastor

The Log

Newsletter of
Oakhurst
Presbyterian
Church USA
January 2022

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DECEMBER 9, 2021 SESSION MEETING

The Session heard a report from the auditor of financial records for the year ending December 31, 2019, that no deficiencies in internal controls that were considered material weaknesses were identified. We are moving away from the PO Box. Please address/change any mail you have coming to the church to 118 Second Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030.

Dear OPC, on behalf of the Covid team. It is with deep concern for the health and wellness of our congregation and community that we have decided to go

back to online worship at least through January. The Omicron variant has caused record numbers of Covid cases and we have deemed it unsafe to gather in the sanctuary at this time. Rev. Barbee

You can watch the announcement on our [Oakhurst YouTube channel](#) here

COVID-19
SAFETY PROTOCOLS

DEACONS:

Deacons for the month:

Susan Hylen, (404-373-2334)

Zeke Dunn, (404-422-4587)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-2 Katherine Smith

1-3 Rose Jackson, Tasha White

1-4 Rita Carter, Laura Fehrs, Calvin Locke

1-5 James Copp

1-6 Kim Watts, Carter Wilson

1-8 Laura Rulon

1-12 Nathaniel Green, Anna Smith

1-13 Vince Smith

1-15 Evan James, Siverina Obe

1-16 Nancy Buss

1-17 Teleshia Brown, Keira McPherson

1-18 Aimee Webb

1-19 Loretta Jefferson, Jordan Ricks

1-21 Kathy Dawson

1-23 Sue Edmonds

1-24 Joe Ambler, Yolanda Ross

1-25 Elisabeth McNinch, Divya Nadella

1-26 Ian Kennedy, Corey Willis

1-27 Nina Smith

1-30 Paddy Brown, Leah Bryan, Rhani Lott

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sundays:

11:00 am Worship

Tuesdays

7 pm Virtual Gospel Choir-
Contact Dr Lisa McLaurin

Wednesdays

4:30- Racial Justice Vigil
7:30 pm Virtual Chancel Choir
contact Matt Wauchope

Thursdays

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

Saturdays

10 - Racial Justice Vigil



The Long Petal of the Sea by

Isabel Allende is our next read. It is a library book. You are invited to read it and join us on **January 29, 2022 at 6 p.m.**

"In the late 1930s, civil war gripped Spain. When General Franco and his Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life irreversibly intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love."

Watch the weekly e-news for the zoom link

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL

Are you hungry for Bible Study?

Spirituality?

Social Justice?

Black History?

Get ready for a new season of virtual Classes at Oakhurst Presbyterian:

January

Learning Hebrew through The Shema Prayer. 1/9, 1/23 & 1/30 9 am to 10am

We will look at The Shema from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 as we do bible study of this daily prayer from the Ancient Israelite tradition. We will learn about the Hebrew words of Shema, YHWH, Ahavah, Lev, Nephesh and Meod. We utilize resources from the Bible project and discuss the impact of translations and our understanding of God message to us from scripture.

No Hebrew Experience required - All are welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83063910526>

Jan 16th - Join Us for Annual MLK Jr Speaker Series with

Representative Hank Johnson We are excited to welcome

Representative Hank Johnson to speak at our MLK Jr celebration during worship. As he serves in his eighth term in the US House of

Representatives, Hank has distinguished himself as a substantive, effective lawmaker and a leading national progressive voice. He has worked to level the playing field for everyday Americans and we are

looking forward to his inspiring words about leadership, justice and facing the continuing impact of COVID-19 as people of faith.



February

Feb 13, 20 & 27 - Black History Month Class "African Roots of Slavery & Connections to US"

Our Columbia Seminary intern, Alfred Appiah, will be leading a zoom class as he shares from his connection to Ghana about the impact of slavery there and the relationship with issues today in the US.

March

We'll be focusing on Hunger and Food Issues with Outreach this year, so watch for classes around this topic. Bible Study with Tim McNinch will also be back in March!

Other Opportunities

Connect with Spiritual Practices with Dorrie Toney & Rev. Katie Ricks through Zoom. Contact Katie for more information - ktricks@icloud.com

**NOT TOO
LATE TO
PLEDGE**

*Stewardship
Campaign 2022*

Pledge here on our
[Website](#)

**Monday Night Spiritual Growth in a New Year
with Rev. Barbee - Mondays at 6:00PM EST**

Starting January 10- February 28
(without Feb 21)



Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84902991330>

No one would have ever believed that we would have experienced so much change in our lives since March 2020. Surely we would be free by now, free from pandemic, free from racial discord, free from recreating the way we even go to the grocery store, free from being forced to look at a computer all day, free from not being able to see our family and friends, but we are not. How in the world do we get to a place of freedom? We turn to the word of God. Join us as we **Journey through the Psalms (JTTP)** where God gives us full permission to feel, to grieve, to scream, and to have hope, peace, joy, and love.. [Click here for Syllabus](#)



The Outreach Committee's survey of the congregation found that our members want to assist in addressing hunger needs in our community. Outreach is studying ways the whole congregation can help to alleviate hunger. Stay tuned!

In December, Reverend Barbee, representing Oakhurst's Outreach efforts, purchased and delivered food to international students at Columbia Theological Seminary. Many of these students experience difficulty sourcing foods from their homelands. Columbia is starting a food bank stocking international ingredients and Oakhurst is partnering with them. This is one way that the Outreach Committee is focusing on local food needs.

Watch the weekly e-news for upcoming history of Oakhurst Presbyterian in the 1920s as celebrate 100 years of ministry decade by decade. Special guests are being invited to join us for worship in this coming year as we prepare for a Centennial Celebration in October. If you want to share history or help the committee, contact Jane Royall



Rev. Barbee participated in an interfaith panel Remembering the Insurrection with our own Rep. Hank Johnson. See the panel discussion here. <https://youtu.be/tiZFISlgZfE>

YOUTH NEWS

We have been invited to the Georgia State Capitol!!!! The Interfaith Children's Movement (ICM) is a grass root, interfaith advocacy movement that is dedicated to improving the well-being of all children in the state of Georgia. As part of the ICM's commitment to empower diverse and inclusive youth voices, they are inviting youth ages 12 to 17 to participate in the ICM Youth Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. This will be a virtual event.



Join the youth on January 30th for the first youth Sunday of 2022. We are honored to have Decatur Mayor, Patti Garrett, and Commissioner Lesa Mayer to join us. Please stick stay on Zoom after service to meet your elected officials.



Patti Garrett is the Mayor of the City of Decatur and has served as Mayor for six years and as a member of the Decatur City Commission since 2010. She serves as Chair of the Board of the National Civic League and on the Board of the Georgia Municipal Association. Patti is on Board of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and serves on the Local Leadership Housing Affordability Committee. She has been appointed to serve on the Georgia Municipal Association Equity and Inclusion Commission and serves on New American Pathways Advisory Council and the Islamic Speakers Bureau Advisory Council.



Lesla Mayer was elected to the City Commission in 2019. A City of Decatur resident since 2003, Lesla has been an active volunteer in the community, as well as at Oakhurst Elementary, Fifth Avenue 4th/5th Academy and Renfroe Middle School. Lesla served as the co-chair of the Fifth Avenue spring fundraiser in 2018 and 2019, and as coordinator of the first Renfroe Tailgate in 2019. Outside of Decatur, Lesla is an active volunteer with Junior Achievement. Lesla works as a Vendor Risk Manager for Truist, and has been with the organization for over twelve years.



Office Hours:

As a reminder, Scott is available every Thursday between the hours of 4pm-8pm. No appointment is needed. If you need to reach Scott before then, do not hesitate to call him at 404-552-5863.

Climate Crisis Corner

There is good news regarding the climate crisis we are confronting. It is good news that every faithful action we take to reduce our carbon pollution makes significant positive impacts for generations to come. Our individual actions are cumulative and together our impact will be large like the many grains of sand that make a beach. It is good news that there appears to be an awakening of popular opinion regarding the reality of climate change and its threat to life on Earth. [For service opportunities that address climate change](#) . For a look at the big picture of moving Georgia toward the [goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions](#)



LED for You

Would you like to save some money by lowering your electricity bill and, at the same time, reduce your carbon footprint? Your CreationWise team, with funding from the Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) and the Gould Art sale, has a plan to help you do that, called LED for You. This project will help you begin, or complete, your transition to LED lighting for your home.

To get this program started, we're rolling it out to seniors in our church family first. A CreationWise team member will make an appointment for an evaluation visit. We want to find out your wants regarding brightness and color temperature and, of course, get a count of how many LED bulbs are needed. The second visit will be the installation visit. There is no cost to you. Contact [John Baldwin](#) or [Kathy Hancock](#) to get started,



Creation Wise Tip - Contributed by John Baldwin

One way to help the environment is to use alternative means of transportation. Marta is an alternative that is accessible to all of us that live in metro Atlanta. Make a commitment this New Year to take Marta as an alternative to driving at least once a month.

To make it easy for you to jump on a bus or a train at a moment's notice do these two things first. Buy a Marta Breeze card. You can purchase them at any Marta Rail station. For those 65 and older and/or on Medicare you can also purchase a reduced fare Breeze card at a Marta store. You can find their locations on Marta's website. Regular fare is \$2.50 and reduced fare is \$1.00.

Second, download the Marta on the Go app on your phone. With the app you can quickly check schedules for buses and trains and also see in real time the location of any bus. With your Breeze card and Marta app you're all set. Avoid the traffic; leave your car at home. Hop on a bus or train and arrive at your destination stress free.