



The Log

January 2023

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church



THE LOG
OAKHURST
PC(USA)
JANUARY
2023

THIS ISSUE:
Page 1
Pastor's Page

Page 2
Events,
Birthdays,
Deacons,
Weekly
Meetings

Page 3
Christian
Education

Page 4
Family news,
RED Team
Event

Page 5
CreationWise
Peacemaking
and Justice

Page 6
Prayers from
Stewardship

Dear Oakhurst Family,

I am grateful for the Holy Spirit calling me into a new way of being in relationship with you. Of course, the Spirit had help from your Interim Pastor Nominating Committee. Their authenticity, honesty, hope, and hard work are a testament to the strong community that exists within the expansive arms of Oakhurst.

Your commitments to hospitality, justice-seeking, and relational ministry are going to be strengths we lean into during this interim time. A time of universal transition and change, multiple pandemics that continue to infect our communities, and a deep commitment in the world around us to sever the webs of support that we seek to strengthen and expand?

It is challenging and holy work that we are about to embark on together, and I look forward to doing it together.

By way of introduction, I am a "cradle Presbyterian" and was also formed in the ecumenical-ish Protestant chapels on military bases. My father was in the Army, and my mom became a Presbyterian minister while I was in middle school and continued on to become a pastoral counselor. I moved around a lot and learned that the baptismal vows taken on my behalf by a small group of people when I was six weeks old were claimed and honored by people in each and every church I attended.

Once I came out and heard my call to ministry at a time when LGBTQ folks were denied ordination, my relationship with the church become more complicated. You can hear about this in the sermon I preached at Oakhurst on October 9.

I have three foundational values which ground me in my presence as a mom, daughter, sister, friend, pastor, spiritual director, colleague, swim meet timer, and, really, everything I do. You will witness these as I journey with you and as we seek to deepen and strengthen this community of faith together.

I value **authentic relationships**, where we come as our full selves - with our hopes and hurts, dreams and fears, comfort and awkwardness. It is in opening ourselves up to authenticity which enables us to show up exactly where we are.

I value **truth telling**. When I worked at Apple (a story for another newsletter), we worked to give one another fearless feedback. We, as a team, understood that we were committed to specific goals, and we wanted to improve ourselves and our team towards that goal. While assuming positive intent (another Apple phrase), fearless feedback means giving and receiving celebrations, questions, concerns, and wonderings.

I value **being alive**. Howard Thurman says, *"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."* I seek everyday to be living alive and to create spaces where others can do the same.

I look forward to the journey we will begin together on January 15.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Katie

From December 8 Session Meeting

Approved extended leave for Gospel Choir Director, Dr. Lisa Allen-McLaurin, starting January 2023, for an educational opportunity in Europe.

Approved request from Housed the Unhoused DeKalb Alliance to hold a Community Forum at OPC on January 9, 2023, 7 p.m.

Called the Annual Congregational Meeting following worship on January 29, 2023.



- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Youth Parents/Guardians!**
Jan 22 after church
Parent meeting for mission trips, communications & more
June 4-9 (High School) & June 12-17 (Middle School)
Mission Trip Dates
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Youth!**
Jan 22nd - 1st High school youth group of 2023 in Leach Hall
Jan 29th - 1st Middle school youth group of 2023 in Leach Hall

WANT TO STAY IN THE KNOW ABOUT YOUTH EVENTS?

Please download "Whatsapp" App parents and youth to keep up with communications from Harvey. More information to come.



1-1 Sue Edmonds
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

1-17 Teleshia Brown, Keira McPherson
1-18 Aimee Webb Girard
1-19 Loretta Jefferson, Jordan Ricks
1-21 Kathy Dawson
1-24 Joe Ambler, Yolonda Ross
1-25 Elisabeth McNinch, Divya Nadella
1-26 Ian Nadella, Corey Willis
1-27 Nina Smith
1-30 Paddy Brown, Leah Bryan, Rhani Lott

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



Deacon of the Month

Deborah Carter 706-340-7359



Supper Club

Our next Supper Club gathering will be on January 7, 2023 at 6 p.m. Please get your copy of The Trees by Percival Everett, and plan to join us; all are welcome. It is a library book.

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES - January Classes

Adult Sunday School on Sundays at 10 am (depending on the offerings)

1/8 - Characteristics of Vibrant Congregations

Room 204 - Leader Rev. Rick Barger

Please join the 2nd installment of a conversation on what God might be calling Oakhurst to be. We will listen to the Spirit and what the Spirit might be telling us about the future and missional direction of OPC and what hopes and dreams we have to share with our Interim Pastor Katie.

1/12 - Online Course ****The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs All of Us*, by Heather McGhee

*** Zoom link - <https://zoom.us/j/99145171017> email Pastor Heather to join class

1/15 - **Martin Luther King Jr Intergenerational event** in Jefferson Fellowship Hall with Carolyn Renée, Social Justice Activist working in the US & Ghana through healing and the arts

1/22 - Peacemaking & Justice Class: **Torture in Our Name**

Room 207 - Leader: Anne Hughes

This class will focus on the stories of the resiliency of survivors of solitary confinement and their allies who have staged successful legislative campaigns in their states to ban solitary confinement. The class will include discussion after watching this video with poignant interviews that will leave you inspired to get engaged.

1/22 & 29 - Bible Study Class

Room 204 with Alan Jenkins

1/29 - Peacemaking & Justice Class: **Voter Suppression: Its Impact on elections 2022/2024**

Room 207 with Mary Smarr

View the film "Vigilante" to get the facts on Voter Suppression in GA (reduction in voting days from 17 to 7, for instance) and discuss ways to support equal ballot access in future elections.

Children's Sunday School Classes (Kindergarten -5th grade) at 10 am

1/8 - Science and Scripture with Pastor Heather and Suzannah L - Room 202

1/15 - Martin Luther King Jr Intergenerational event in Jefferson Fellowship Hall

1/22 - Music & Movement with Jackie & Gretchen - Rm 204

1/29 - Godly Play with Kathy D & Ginny M - Rm 202

Youth Sunday School(6th through 12th grade) in Leach Hall led by Youth Director, Harvey

1/22 - Our Whole Lives for Middle Schoolers

1/29 - Sunday School for ALL Youth

Oakhurst Family News and Updates

Harriet Alston

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Harriet Alston, long time member of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, will be held
Saturday, January 14th at 11 am

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church
118 Second Ave
Decatur, GA 30030



Happy to announce the birth of
June Pinto-Taylor, on
December 28, 2023, to
Josh and Emily Pinto Taylor
(and siblings Ezekiel and Trinity)



"This Land Tells A Story"

ROOT CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS:
RACE, GENTRIFICATION, AND THE UNHOUSED IN METRO ATLANTA

COMMUNITY FORUM: MONDAY, JANUARY 9th – 7 P.M.

OAKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 118 SECOND AVE. DECATUR, GA 30030

PANEL MEMBERS:

DAN IMMERGLUCK, PhD, Professor of Urban Studies - Georgia State University.
Author of "Red Hot City Housing, Race, and Exclusion in Twenty-First-Century Atlanta"

SARA PATENAUE, PhD, Development Manager, Decatur Housing Authority

SHELLY SIMMONS, Executive Director, Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia

KAMAU FRANKLIN, Founder of Community Movement Builders, Inc.

MODERATOR: **FONTA HIGH**, Co-Chair Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights

SPONSORED BY HOUSE THE UNHOUSED DEKALB ALLIANCE

Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights, Coalition for a Diverse Decatur/DeKalb, Georgia Advancing Communities Together (GeorgiaACT), CasaAllerna, Housing Justice League, Atlanta DSA, Abundant Housing Atlanta, A Home for Everyone in DeKalb, Community Movement Builders, Inc., Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council

CreationWise Tip

by Kathy Hancock, Elder



Habits and customs are hard to change, but updating laundry habits will bring immediate benefits to the environment and your wallet. This first change is easy, wash in cold water. This one change will cut your energy consumption for washing by more than half. Keep in mind that modern detergents are typically formulated to clean just as well in cold water. A second change, air drying your clothes is more challenging requiring space and a bit more of your time, but results in significant energy savings. I confess that I do minimal air drying. Instead, I focus on the third change which is wearing my clothes multiple times before laundering. Many times, shirts and pants worn for a day are not dirty and can be worn again another time or two or three. An added benefit is less laundering extends the life of all fabrics.

CreationWise plans for 2023:

- In January, we'll have a table in the Fellowship Hall after church with ideas to help you Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Stop by, share your ideas and perhaps learn some new approaches to living sustainably as a part of God's creation.
- On January 25, along with the Peacemaking & Justice committee, we'll have a Meatless Dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. The Rev. Tom Hagood, representing the New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta, will be our speaker. There's no need to bring anything except yourself. Laura Nieto will be preparing a delicious potato soup for all.
- In March, look forward to spring and the new growth that arrives with warmer weather. There will be a special, take-home project to grow microgreens on a window sill in your home.
- In April, look forward to Earth Day Sunday on 4/23!
- Later in the year, we plan to have a special speaker tell us about the birds that nest in our bell tower.
- The exciting possibility of installing solar panels on our sanctuary roof is being investigated. An initial evaluation indicates we could reduce our energy purchases from GA Power by nearly 60%.

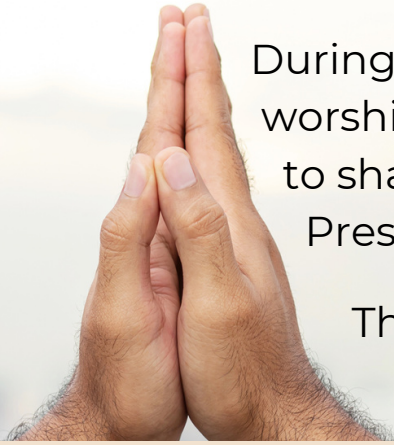
Peacemaking & Justice

Have You Seen These Gun Statistics?

- There are about 393 MILLION guns in America.
- An average of 110 people die from guns every single day.
- Guns are the leading cause of death for children under 18.*
- About 3 MILLION children are exposed to gun violence each year.
- More than 1 MILLION Americans have been shot in the last decade. Bradypac

ASK: Asking Saves Kids* - This initiative is to educate congregations and communities about issues of gun control, safety measures and awareness.

Prayers for Oakhurst from Stewardship Dedication



During our Stewardship Dedication worship service we asked church members to share their prayers for Oakhurst Presbyterian in the coming year.

These are the prayers we received
"Lord, Hear our Prayers"

- Pray for an interim pastor who will bring healing, comfort, hope and pastoral care in 2023
- Prayer for our church family: That God gives us wisdom to look ahead and imagine a future where our building and real estate serve new purposes that lift up those in need and those whose faith is low or missing in their lives
- Prayers for healing and vision & may we walk the path that God has planned for us
- Praying that Oakhurst will find a new vision that grows from its members to neighbors and strangers who will become a part of us
- Prayers for a vibrant, loving congregation
- I pray that Oakhurst will continue to grow and thrive - both the community and this old building
- May OPC truly be a light in the community and the world
- Prayers for Oakhurst for gratitude that we have come this far by faith, through hills and valleys, green pastures and still waters
- Prayers for growth, great leadership and healing of the community
- Prayers that we might be a community of transforming, subversive joy
- Prayers for Oakhurst is that we will recognize our society is in transition in many ways and that we will find new ways to truly be THE CHURCH that God would want us to be. I pray that we will be open to the Spirit's leading and be willing to try new ways to serve.
- Holy Spirit, thanks for your blessings to this community. Please continue to guide us
- That God will guide us in this coming year in our stewardship of our old, old building. 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 give us the will to bring more affordable housing to Decatur. That God will make us open to HER guidance in ways we've never thought of or thought possible
- Dear Lord, Thank you for blessing this church for over 100 years. Please continue to lead us to do your work in this world
- That Oakhurst's congregation will support the work of this church
- Prayers for visionary leadership and renewed commitment from all those who attend here
- I 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.
- Most loving God, Thank you for all you do and how you love us. May we extend that love, compassion, to all. And be changed by your love. Amen