



The Log

March 2023

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church

A note from your pastor

THE LOG
OAKHURST
PC(USA)
MARCH 2023
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Ambiguity and uncertainty are hard places in which to dwell. I'm not sure there are many people who wander in the world hoping their path could be just a bit more hazy. Yet, we know (or are in the process of learning...or are digging in our heels of denial) that our lives have far more moments of uncertainty than clarity.

We each have different thresholds and areas of ambiguity that we can accept. For example, some folks can embrace mystery in their faith and familial relationships, but if something shakes up their work environment, they can't find stable ground for any of it. When this happens, folks have a strong desire to grasp back on to stable ground as soon as possible.

Surely, all of us are living with more than a healthy amount of ambiguity and uncertainty right now, and that's before the layoff or mental health crisis or cancer diagnosis. And it's before we start wondering about Oakhurst: Who are we? Where are we going? What is God calling us to be and do today?

Some of us are doing just fine living in this liminal space; others of us are ready to be done. Either way, restlessness and angst are likely to emerge.

In one of our lenten devotionals, Inward Work for Outward Living, the first week is focused on "Examining our fear to live with faith", and the first scripture lifted up is Jeremiah 29:11: *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.* These are exactly the words that God is whispering to us in this community right now. And this plan...this vision...this dream that God has for us is something we will hear as we draw near to the heart of God together.

The journey through ambiguity can feel like a very thin place - a place where there is no barrier between heaven and earth and the Holy Spirit is almost palpable. This is more likely when a group of people have committed to listening, growing, and serving together. My prayer for you — my prayer for us — is that we will find peace and hope in God's words from Jeremiah and strength and courage from the Oakhurst community as we journey together.

May it be so.

Katie

At its February 23, 2023, Stated Meeting the Session:

- Heard the good work that the Deacons are doing,
- Agreed to update financial policies and procedures to require action to liquidate any gifts of property or stocks given to OPC within thirty days of receipt, and to sell current stock holdings within thirty days,
- Approved a part-time, temporary position to tackle numerous building and grounds projects,
- Approved a special collection of clothes and toiletries for Turkey Earthquake victims,
- Heard reports from Session committees on their sustainability actions,
- Approved participation in the following special offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness and Christmas Joy, and
- Agreed to move payroll responsibilities from Chair of the Personnel Committee to the Financial Manager.

Church Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9- 2
404-378-6284

Pastor Katie & Pastor Heather
Sabbath Days: Monday & Saturday

Deacons of the month for March:
CJ Evans and Suzette Hollins
Contact information in OneChurch
or call the church office.



3-2 Ethel Steverson
3-3 Brad Kaiser
3-4 Joaquin Meza Rulon
3-7 Lily Ashe, Jacob Smith
3-8 Margie Ashe, Miriam Green, Margaret Locke
3-9 Kevin Moran
3-10 Brady Bennett
3-11 Baxter Copp, Jennifer Green
3-14 Page Anderson
3-17 Anna Beck

March Birthdays

3-18 Loren Locke
3-21 Mika Kiriaku
3-22 Veronica Ransom
3-23 Kimberly Hightower, Lydia McNinch
3-26 Kathy Hill, Barbara Merchant
3-27 Amelia Perkins, Jordan Elizabeth White
3-29 Nina Bryan, Kabir Sully-Grover
3-30 Jason Smith, Caitlin White

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

CJ Evans

evanscj@gmail.com

Suzette Hollins

ahhollins130@gmail.com



Lent is a season of reflection, meditation, prayer, repentance, surrender, transformation, and re-dedication. This year, the Liturgical Arts team would like to invite you on a prayer walk of the church windows. There are messages in each window that can be used for prayer and reflection. The prayer walk is self guided and may be used differently by each person. Stay for as little or as long as you like.



Family and Kids Activities

READY for SOME FUN! Mark your calendars and meet other people like you at OPC (or reconnecting after pandemic). Sign-ups to attend and volunteer coming soon. Want to join the team to organize events? Pastor Heather wants YOU! The plan is to have a Church Retreat in the Fall for all and need a team to pull that off. Join the Christian Education TEAM to help out!

March 11th - Drive-In Movie Night at OPC

When & Where: 6 pm to 8:30 pm in the lower parking lot

What: Bring the kids, chairs, picnic dinner and we'll provide an outdoor movie & popcorn (maybe even s'mores?). We'll share the movie by enews, so mark your calendar for a kid-evening together.

March 19th - Planting Seeds of Hope: Microgreens Project

When & Where: After church in the Fellowship Hall

What: Come learn about growing your own food at home and plant seeds that you can take home to create hope for environmental justice in our world.

April 2nd - Palm Sunday Palooza

When & Where: 10 am in Room 204 & during church

What: We are celebrating the triumphant entry of Jesus this Sunday, so come to Sunday school to prepare for the palm processional (Waving our palms branches) and our leading worship with singing the opening hymn. Hosanna!

April 9th - Easter Sunday Fun - Flowering of the Cross & Egg Hunt

When & Where: 10:45 am at back of church & after church in the yards outside

What: All children are asked to bring a flower for the "flowering of the cross" procession at the beginning of the service to celebrate Jesus' new life & Easter. We meet at the back of the church to get ready. Then following worship bring your baskets for a fun egg hunt tradition and sighting of the Easter Bunny on our beautiful green spaces. Bring a friend too!

April 23rd - Earth Day Play Date & Lunch

When & Where: After church at the lower playground by parking lot

What: Celebrate creation this afternoon as we play & eat outside together! We'll have lunch provided, so watch for sign-ups. Plus, there will be a special visitor in church for Children's Time, so don't miss out!

May 5th-7th - Young Families Camp at FDR State Park

Come have fun with other OPC families through meals, games, time at the beach and campfires at night. Get more information from Laura Rulon (lrulon@kindezi.org) and David Patton (patton812@hotmail.com) about snagging a place to park your tent or a bed or two in a cabin.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES - MARCH CLASSES



March Youth Schedule

03/05

10:00 am- Middle School Sunday School
(OWL: Body Image)

12:30 pm- High School Youth Group (Murder Mystery)

03/12

10:00 am- Mixed Drop In Sunday School
12:00 Hunger Walk

03/19

10:00 am- Middle School Sunday School
(OWL: Healthy Relationships/Relationship Skills)
12:30 pm- High School Youth Group

03/26

10:00 am- Mixed Drop In Sunday School
12:30 pm- Middle School Youth Group

Adult Offerings in March

GENESIS Bible Study with Rev. Alan Jenkins
3/5, 3/12, 3/26 in Room 204

3rd Sunday Hunger Action Series with
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light on March
19 - Coping with Grief in Activism and
Channeling into Hope with Rosaleen Xiong
Jefferson Fellowship Hall

We Are All Different: Speaker Series for
Disability Awareness Month | Room 207
3/5 - We Are All Different: Learning the
Various Types of Disability | Leader: Beth
Mackie
3/12 - We Are All Different:
3/26 - We Are All Different: Sharing our
Experiences | Leader: Loren Munson & Inez
Giles



**Want to join the Thursday Book Group,
but don't have time to read?**

Listen to the Podcast -
<https://www.thesumofuspodcast.com/>

Then, join on March 9th - 6pm on Zoom
for discussion and conversation
about how to take action.

Here's the link -
<https://zoom.us/j/95010421516>

NEW Group Forming!

We Are All Different, is a new monthly group
for people with different abilities and those
who are interested in support or advocacy
for justice around disabilities.

Beth Mackie, Deborah Carter and Pastor
Heather are leading/hosting. Email [Pastor
Heather](#) to let us know you'd like to join.
After March classes, we will send out doodle
poll for monthly meeting date and time
(Zoom & in-person opportunities).



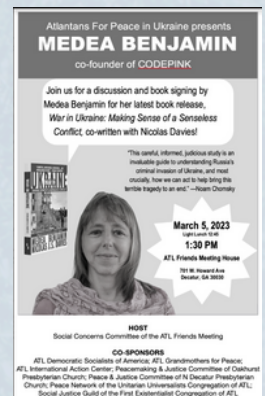
CreationWise Tip by Mary Gould Oakhurst Battery Recycling Program

In the fellowship hall window by the door near the elevator you will find 2 plastic containers for recycling batteries. The container on the right is for alkaline batteries which have more power, last longer, but have more toxic waste. The chemicals inside alkaline batteries make it necessary to recycle them separately. Chris Beck takes them to Emory University to be recycled.

The container on the left is for regular household batteries as well as hearing aid batteries. Kathy Hancock takes them to CHaRM to be recycled. We should recycle batteries to reduce pollution, keep them out of the landfill, and prevent toxic degradation of the environment. When recycled their parts will be reused to make new batteries to help in the glass and steel industries. So please bring your used batteries to Oakhurst. Our Earth will thank you!

Peacemaking & Justice

Atlantans for Peace in Ukraine presents Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CODEPINK and Peace Activist who believes that negotiations are still possible in Ukraine. As people of faith, we need to hear her words because we seek peace for all people. Join us for a discussion and book signing of her latest book, *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*. March 5, 2023, 1:30 p.m. at Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Avenue, Decatur 30030. Co-sponsors include Peacemaking and Justice Committee of OPC.



Presbyterians for a Better Georgia 2023 Lobby Day | Tuesday, March 14 | 8:15am – 1:30pm

Meet at Tull Hall, Central Presbyterian for a light breakfast and update on issues. At 10 a.m. meet our elected officials at the State Capitol. Ride MARTA. Parking is limited.

To find your state legislators: <https://www.openstates.org>

HB 404 | The Safe at Home Act - requires landlords to provide rental homes that are “fit for human habitation” and increase protections for tenants who are facing eviction because they failed to pay their rent on time. Current state law does not specify what conditions make a home habitable, and tenants must continue to pay rent even if their rental is unsafe to live in.

HB 19 | State Appropriations Bill - *Encourage legislators to fund as of yet unfulfilled commitments made by the state of GA as a part of a settlement with the Department of Justice to provide supportive housing (housing vouchers and case management) to the severely mentally ill and those with substance abuse disorders, many of whom remain homeless or in institutions due to a lack of supportive placements in the community.

HB 129 | Public Assistance - expand temporary assistance for needy families eligibility criteria to pregnant women.

Facts on Gun Violence:

Several Gun Safety Bills have been introduced in the GA House of Representatives. Contact and ask your representatives to support HB 44 (background checks), HB 45 (3-day waiting period to purchase), HB 135 (Owner responsible if minor obtains and uses gun), and HB 161 (safe storage). To find your state legislators: <https://www.openstates.org>.



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.

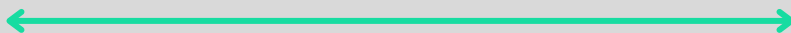


These are the prayers we received:

"Lord, Hear our Prayers"

Answers to Our Prayers from Stewardship

- Prayers that the Oakhurst family will come together- showing up for each other in worship, fellowship, generosity, outreach to others and praying for comfort to those who need special prayers
- We celebrated the life of Rita Carter on February 18th with a beautiful worship service and repast with support from so many in the congregation - young and old
- Prayers for visionary leadership and renewed commitment from all those who attend here
- We had Rev. Dr. William Yoo come and preach and teach in Sunday School on how we must take action to address the impact of racism in the church
- Prayers that Oakhurst's congregation will support the work of this church
- Creationwise Team had great support from the congregation for its ReduceReuseRecycle table 3 Sundays in January for ecojustice work



Contact Information - as easy as an App

Have you ever been away from your computer and wanted information from the church? It can all be as close as your phone!

Download the OneChurch App on your phone and you will have the church directory and calendar with you at all times! When you open the app the first time you will have to sign in with your username (your email) and your password. Then you will have the power of knowledge as close as your phone!



My One Church App

On the top left there are three lines. One click will offer you a listing of people, events (calendar), groups and more. Give it a try and enjoy!

Mailboxes / Lost & Found

If you have lost something at the church, check the area just outside the church office. Glasses, jewelry, and more have been left there for people to claim over the past year.

Wanting to leave a note for a church staff member or officer? There are mailboxes on the second floor near the bathrooms listing all the elders, a box for the deacons, boxes for the pastors, and other staff. Officers, please check your box when you are here.