



Oak Hills United Methodist Church

The Oak Notes

January 2023

by Pastor Justin

Pastor's Corner

New Year's is a time of new beginnings. It's a time that causes us to pause and reflect. We ask key questions like: Who are we? Why do we exist? And what's really important to us? We stop and take stock of where we have been and where we are going. The same is the case in the church, New Year's offers a good time to stop, take a good look at who we are, and remind ourselves where we are heading.

In his last will and testament, Jesus defined our mission this way: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt 28:18-20).

At the core, we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Everything we do, from our worship experiences, to our small groups, to our outreach ministries, is about creating new disciples of Jesus Christ and helping current disciples grow deeper in their faith.

As we begin this new year, I want to challenge you to begin to think of yourselves as missionaries. Not missionaries who go overseas to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with other nations, but everyday missionaries right where you live, work, and play. At home, at school, at work, at the mall, or the park.

Our mission field is all around us. According to one study, 23% of people claim no religious belief at all. That means roughly 1 in 4 people that you meet have absolutely no faith of any kind; there are a

large number of people right around us that we see every single day that have no hope of heaven. And Jesus has called you and he has called me to be ambassadors of his good news to the world. What he has invested in us was never meant to be a dead-end investment. It was meant to be invested in people.

It's not an issue of churches. We have hundreds upon hundreds of churches all around us. The issue is that people are not living into their call to be missionaries right where they live, work, and play. As a result, over the next few weeks we're going to be getting really practical. We're going to talk about how we are called to be everyday missionaries. We're going to talk about the urgency of our mission. We're going to explore how we can make an impact, and how to share our faith right where we already are. Because the fact is, Jesus doesn't have a plan B. We are his plan A. We are his one and only strategy. The question is: Will we respond to his call to be everyday missionaries, right where we live, work, and play?

I challenge you, this New Year, make it your resolution to share your faith with others every single day.

How to contact us:

Address:	6069 Bridgetown Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45248
Web	http://oakhillsumc.org
Email	oakhillsumc@fuse.net
Phone	513-574-1131

Snow Policy



With winter weather fast around the corner, we wanted to take time to let you know what to expect. In general, Pastor Justin will do everything possible NOT to cancel worship. If worship must be canceled it will be announced on our Facebook page and on our church website on Sunday morning no later than 8 a.m. In such cases, Pastor will still stream his sermon live online provided that he has internet service.

In general you can expect the following:

(1) **Level 3 Snow Emergency** (in Hamilton County): If there is a level 3 snow emergency, all in-person worship services, church activities, and meetings will be canceled and the church office will be closed. The sermon will be streamed live online provided that Pastor Justin has internet service at home.

(2) **Level 2 Snow Emergency** (in Hamilton County): All in-person church activities and meetings will be canceled. Pastor Justin and the Chair of the Church Board (Mary Flannery) will determine

by Pastor Justin

whether in-person worship services will proceed on a case-by-case basis. If we do cancel, the sermon will be streamed live online provided that Pastor Justin has internet service at home. Pastor Justin and Beverly Boone will determine if the office is closed on a case-by-case basis. Each person is encouraged to use their own wisdom and discernment to determine whether they will elect to get out on the roads.

(3) **Level 1 Snow Emergency** (in Hamilton County): All in-person worship services, church activities, and meetings will proceed as scheduled provided the pastor can get to the church safely. If he can't the sermon will still be streamed live online, provided that Pastor Justin has internet service at home. The church office will be open. Each person is encouraged to use their own wisdom and discernment to determine whether they will elect to get out on the roads.



Family Ministries by Amit and Lorna Dutta



Winter Carnival 2023 - February (specific date and time TBD)

What: A joyful time of games and fun for the whole family held in the OHUMC Fellowship Hall.

OHUMC Kids & Youth Update:

Sunday school is from 9-10:20 am every Sunday. Join us for a Bible-based lesson with crafts and prizes! Ms. Kathy ensures kids learn about the Bible and have something to take home. Then, enjoy JAM (Jesus and Me) in the Sunday school hall during the main worship service. We have fantastic volunteers like Mrs. Kim, Mr. Joe and Mary, and Mr. David and Mrs. Ronda. Puppets also visit the worship service multiple times a month, which is always exciting!

The youth enjoy meeting weekly for group time on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for a fresh coffee bar and breakfast. Please join us if you're a youth aged 12-17! We invite adults and families to join one of our family ministries' events. We'd love to see you there. :)

Feel free to share any suggestions for Family Ministries with Amit Dutta at amitincincy@gmail.com.

And nations shall come to Your Light, and kings to the brightness of Your Rising (Isaiah 60:3).

Upcoming Family Ministries Events:

Winter Jam 2023 - Friday, January 20th, from 4 pm to 11 pm

What: "World Vision presents Winter Jam Tour, hosted by Newsong & produced by Premier Productions, Christian music's biggest tour, is back for 2023 with headliners We the Kingdom and Jeremy Camp and a solid lineup of acts including Andy Mineo, Disciple, Austin French, NewSong and featuring for the first time Dove Award-winning new artist of the year Anne Wilson." - Heritage Bank Center. If you'd like to attend, please contact Amit or Lorna Dutta.



Amazon Smile

Oak Hills United Methodist Church is now set up as a beneficiary on Amazon Smile. This gives a small percentage of each purchase you make at Amazon back to the church. We would encourage you to go to smile.amazon.com and connect your Amazon account to Oak Hills United Methodist Church. Step 1: Go to smile.amazon.com. Step 2: Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com. Step 3: Search for Oak Hills United Methodist Church. Step 4: Select Oak Hills United Methodist Church in Cincinnati (there is also one in Austin, Texas listed so be sure not to grab that one). Step 5: Go to smile.amazon.com when you shop at Amazon. If you just go to amazon.com, it won't give back to the church.

Kroger Rewards

Oak Hills United Methodist Church is currently set up as a beneficiary on Kroger Community Rewards. This gives a small percentage of each purchase you make at Kroger back to the church. If you have not already done so, we would encourage you to connect your Kroger card to Oak Hills UMC online. Step 1: Get a Kroger Card. Step 2: Create a digital account at www.kroger.com and link your Kroger card. Step 3: Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards. And click where it says search for your organization here. Step 4: Search for Oak Hills United Methodist Church. When the church comes up, select it and click save. From now on, when you use your Kroger card a small percent of what you spent is given back to the church.

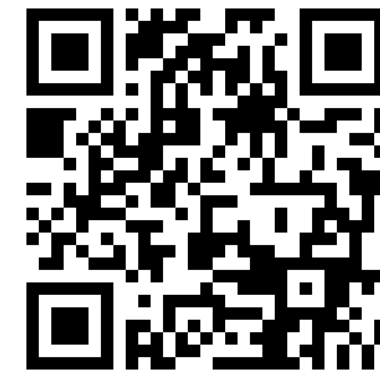
Vanco

Did you know that you can give to the church through your phone? Simply download the free Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app on your phone, search for Oak Hills United Methodist Church, and then set up an account. Once it's set up you will be

able to give either a one time or reoccurring gift. You can also contact Linda Wise (513-205-8104; lpwise@fuse.net) to set up an automatic payment to the church.

Online Giving

Do you know you can now give on our church website? Simply go to www.oakhillsumc.org and click give in the bar at the top of the page or scan the QR code below and go directly to our online giving portal.



Announcements

- 1/2 - Office Closed: New Year's
- 1/2 - Trustees, 7pm
- 1/4 - UMW Lunch, 12 pm
- 1/9 - Finance 6:30 pm; Board 7 pm
- 1/20 - Young at Heart, 7 pm
- 1/25 - Community Dinner, 6pm
- Worship - Sunday, 10:30 am
- Zoom Prayer Meeting - Wed 6:00-6:30 pm
- Sissy's Pantry - Wed 6:30-8:00 pm

Bible Studies

- Sunday School 9 am
- Women's Group: Mon 10 am (1st Mon 9:30 am)
- John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 am
- TOGA: 1st and 3rd Thursday, 7pm @ 5609 Green Acres Ct., Cincy