



Oak Hills United Methodist Church
 6069 Bridgetown Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45248
 513-574-1131; oakhillsumc.org
 oakhillsumc@fuse.net



June 2023 The Oak Notes

by Pastor Justin

Pastor's Corner



Pastor Article

Summer is finally here. Summer is an interesting time in the life of the church. Some people are so busy that we rarely see them. It's a season filled with vacations, camping, travelling, grilling out, and enjoying the summer weather. Kids are home from school so it's a good time to enjoy family and get away.

Let's face it. It's easy to get caught up with life in our summer vacation plans and get lazy with our faith during the summer months. I see it happen every single year. People who are in the habit of attending church every week, stop going. It usually starts with "legitimate" reasons, centered around work, or family, or play. But after a while it starts to become the new norm. New habits begin to form. And faith ends up fading into the background not just for the season, but permanently.

Summer shouldn't be a season to take a vacation from your faith. Summer shouldn't be a time to stop growing or to stop giving. Summer should be the time to press in and grow in our faith. It should be the time we devote ourselves to next steps and take on new spiritual practices that further our growth because we have the time and the space to do it!

As we enter into this summer season, I want to challenge you to use this summer to invest in your faith in new ways. Take the time to adopt a new spiritual discipline. Find a quiet spot outside in the beauty of the weather to meet with God. Take time to read through the Bible and pray. When you are home, make it a priority to be here. If you are out of town, find join us via Facebook or our YouTube channel.

Hebrews 10:25 says: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

I wonder: As you start to think about your summer plans, where does Jesus rank in your priorities? Will he go with you on vacation or will a break from school and work mean a break from him as well?

Next Sermon Series Prayer Dare Promo

When it comes to our own personal spiritual growth, prayer may very well be the most powerful and most under-utilized tool in our arsenal. Most of the time, when we pray, we pray comfortable prayers. We pray for healing. We pray for God to watch over us. We ask for God's blessing. Yet, if we look at the prayers in the Bible, the prayers that we see are inherently dangerous, not safe. Over the next few weeks, we will be in a new series called The Prayer Dare. Throughout this series, I want to challenge our church to pray some really specific prayers over our lives. We will ask God to search us, to break us, to fill us, to lead us, and to send us. These are not easy prayers. They are hard prayers to pray. They are prayers for people who want to go deeper in their faith and truly make Jesus their one thing. They are the kinds of prayers that God uses to really change us. To pray these prayers is going to take guts. But if we step out and actually begin to pray like this, our faith and our church will never be the same again.

Pastor Vacation

Pastor Justin will be on vacation from Sunday, June 4 - Saturday June 10. Amit Dutta will be preaching on Sunday June 4. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time you may contact Pastor Scott Meeker from Zion United Methodist at 513-617-5952. For all other church related questions, please contact the church office (513-574-1131), Bob Schloss (513-702-7118) or Mary Flannery (513-378-7085).



Administrative Board Topics of Interest

(1) On Tuesday, June 27 at 7 p.m. , there will be an informational meeting to discuss and ask questions about possible disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. It will be led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Jenn Lucas. The purpose of the discussion is to keep you informed of what is going on in the UMC, our options, and to discern whether or not we should take steps toward disaffiliating from the UMC at this time. A vote will NOT be taken at this meeting. Any potential disaffiliation would require a 2/3 majority vote of all official church members present at a duly called Church Conference at a later time. Non-members would have a voice, but no vote if such a vote were to occur in the future. If you are not a member and want to become an official member of the church please see Pastor Justin about membership.

(2) We would like to begin telling the story of what God is doing in the various ministries of the church. If you have a story of how God has moved in your ministry please share it in writing with Pastor Justin.

(3) The trustees have received bids to replace the boiler and repair the roof. We will use funds from the sale of the Ebenezer parsonage to cover these expenses. However, if you would like to give to these projects, above and beyond your normal tithes and offerings, you are encouraged to do so.

(4) Finances for the first quarter came in with a net loss of \$1,775 due to a strong month of giving and the receipt of our first quarter grant income during the month of March. April was the weakest giving month of the year, bringing in only \$11,589 with expenses totaling \$16,264, resulting in a loss of \$4,675. We would ask you to remain faithful in giving and meeting your pledges as we move into the summer.

(5) We are encouraging each person in the church to consider sponsoring a child for VBS.

(6) All kids and youth ministry workers have had their background checks updated.

(7) Due to growth in the number of people being served at Sissy's pantry, we are in need of donations of non-perishable canned goods. Our kids will be doing a food drive during Vacation Bible School this year

Old iPhones If anyone is upgrading their iPhone to a 10 or higher, please consider donating it to church for an additional camera.



Announcements

- 6/1-3 - West Ohio Annual Conference
- 6/4 - High School and College Graduate Recognition
- 6/4-10 - Pastor Vacation
- 6/5 - Trustees, 7pm
- 6/7 - UMW Luncheon, 12 pm
- 6/11 - Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm (Bring your favorite game and a snack to share)
- 6/12 - Finance 6:30 pm; Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 6/16 - Young at Heart, 7 pm
- 6/18 - Happy Father's Day
- 6/19-23 - Vacation Bible School, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 6/24 - Block Party, 2-4 p.m. @ Bob and Sue Schloss Home
- 6/25 - VBS Sunday
- 6/25 - Passionate Worship, 12 pm
- 6/27 - Disaffiliation informational session 7 p.m.
- 6/28 - Community Dinner, 6 pm
- 6/30 - Scrapbooking/Craft Group, 7pm

Worship - Sunday, 10:30 am

Sissy's Pantry - Wed 6:30-8:00 pm

Zoom Prayer - Thursday, 11 am

Bible Studies

Sunday School 9 am

Women's Group: Mon 10 am

John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

TOGA-1st and 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.

@ 5609 Green Acres Ct. Cincy

Congrats Graduates!

Oak Hills would like to say congrats to our 2023 graduates. High School: Mary Grace Heath , Gabriela Neiheisel, Grace Phillips, Jessica Miller, and Kaylee Williamson. College: Bailey Garcia and Patrick Walker. Graduate recognition Sunday June 4, 2023.





Israel Trip

Join Oak Hills United Methodist Church and Legacy Christian Church in Harrison as we join together for a fun faith-filled experience of a lifetime. Pastor Justin Fuhrmann and Pastor Mark Garrett will be leading us as we tour the Holy Lands with Medji Tours from October 23-31, 2023. We'll take a boat ride in the Sea of Galilee. You'll have the opportunity to be baptized in the Jordan River, to see the Dead Sea, Masada, and Jerusalem. We'll pray with others at the Western Wall. We'll sing Christmas carols at the place where Jesus was born, and reflect at the place where he was crucified. We'll take communion together, worship in a church in Jerusalem, and eat a Sabbath meal. There will be devotions at the sites along the way. In doing so, the Bible will come to life in a way you've never dreamed. The cost of the trip is \$2,870 (plus airfare) per participant. That covers the tours, guides, hotels, and 2 meals a day. We need at least 12 people to make the trip possible, and if we get 15 to go, the cost of the trip will go down to \$2,600 (plus airfare) per participant. All prices are based on double occupancy rooms.. It is not too late to register. You can still register online at <https://mejditours.com/tour/harrison-legacy-church/>. The deadline to register is July 24, 2023.

Vacation Bible School Supplies Needed

If you can donate any of the following items please let Kathy Cramerding know 513-348-9555. 3— Large cartons of instant oatmeal, 3—sun visors, 2—2 liters of diet soda, 9—wooden boards of different widths to be used as balance beams(they need to be 4 or 5 feet long), 1—Large plastic tablecloth, 3—rolls of painter's tape or duct tape, 3—squirt bottles.

Youth Group

In Youth Group, we have been completing fun activities and learning about God's Armor and how our faith is bigger than our giants and sins. We learned that our God is a miracle worker, and the same miracles in the Bible are still happening in our present-day lives. Have you praised God for all the miracles he's working on in your life? We will learn how to "Grow with God" in the next few weeks. If you have any pre-teens/teens who would be interested in joining youth group, we meet on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.!

In other news, the teens will be painting the youth room this summer— a beautiful sky with sun and clouds, rainbows, and all the things "happy"- If you have any paint supplies you'd like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. We are in need of small detail brushes, rollers, painter's tape and paint trays. Thank you!

Upcoming Events: Saturday, June 15-17: Spirit Song at Kings Island: *Crowder, Lecrae, Cain, and Ben Fuller will perform on Thursday; *Tobey Mac, Tauren Wells, Katy Nicole and Joseph O'Brien will perform Friday; *Skillet, Newsboys, KB and Stephen Stanley will perform Saturday. **The day with the most interest is the day we will attend.** Saturday, August 5th: Reds Game and Faith Concert, 4 pm. For King+ Country will be performing post-game. Scavenger Hunt: Date TBD. If you are interested in attending any of these events please contact Ali, youth coordinator: 513-923-7253 or email Godsnation1935@icloud.com. Please let me know by June 5th if you'd like to attend PKI and by June 12th if you'd like to attend the Reds Game and Concert— ALL ARE WELCOME!!! It's sure to be a good time!

Thank you,

Ali

OHUMC Family Ministries

Romans 8:38-39 —For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Upcoming Family Ministries Events

Graduate Sunday - Sunday, June 4

Please let us know if you have any graduates you'd like to honor this year. We will have a special presentation highlighting them and will give them a graduation gift.

Summer VBS - Monday-Friday, June 19-23, from 6:30-8:30 pm

Don't forget that the closing program will be on Sunday, June 25th. Invite your neighborhood kids and friends to the weekly program nights and the Sunday morning program!

Weekly Sunday School Program:

Every Sunday, we have children's Sunday school from 9-10:20 am and then JAM during the worship service. The youth also have Sunday school from 9:30-10:20 am every week. Last week, we had a record 10 children in Sunday School. Thank God! The kids are having a great time learning about "board games" and the life lessons that are taught from friendly competition. Ms. Kathy has also added a component of a Service Sunday once a month on which the children can participate in a service project benefiting the church or community at large. For example, they made Memorial Day memoirs from flowers, flags, and bows last week.

Below are some recent photos from kids and youth Sunday School.

