



Oak Hills United Methodist Church
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August 2023 The Oak Notes

Pastor's Corner

Over the last several months in worship we have been centering in on some of the key ingredients to our spiritual growth. We have explored the necessity of making Jesus the one thing that our life is truly about. We have looked at the power of prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit to bring real change. In this month's newsletter article, I want to explore the importance of getting involved in a small group.

Acts 2:42-47 gives us a blueprint of what the early church was committed to. We hear that they devoted themselves to four things: The Word of God (the apostle's teaching), fellowship, communion (the breaking of bread), and prayer. We are told that they not only gathered to worship at the temple, but they also got together in people's homes during the week. They worshiped both in large corporate settings (the temple), but also in small group settings (in their homes). They cared for each other and provided for each others' needs. And because of their devotion to each other, the church grew rapidly.

Here are 5 reasons why you should consider joining a small group:

(1) **Relationships:** A small group gives you the opportunity to get to know people at a more intimate level. Sunday mornings are a great time to worship with the whole family of God, hear a sermon, and engage in corporate vision casting, but a small group gives you the chance to build deeper relationships, to get to know people for who they really are, and to find a place to genuinely belong and be loved.

(2) **Faith Development:** When we gather in small groups, we gather together around the Bible. We listen to the Word of God. We consider what it has to say to our lives. We hear what others think. We ask questions. And we're challenged to grow in our faith and actually apply what we are hearing to our lives. Sunday is a great time to get a broad teaching of the Bible. But small groups allow us to dig deeper and to consider how we can actually apply what we are hearing through conversations with real people. In doing so, we grow in our love for God, we learn to hear God's voice, and we actually grow in our faith.

(3) **Prayer, Support, and Encouragement:** The truth is: We were never made to do this life of faith alone (Genesis 2:18). Biblical faith was never meant to be an individual thing. We

were made to walk this life of faith together with others that we might grow more and more like Jesus. When we gather together in small groups, we gather together with other people. We do life together. We walk with each other in our struggles, our joys, and our pain. We encourage each other. We pray for each other. We hold each other accountable to actually make the changes that we desire to make. Our spiritual growth is no longer our responsibility alone; the group rallies around us and takes responsibility for the growth of all.

(4) **Faith Sharing:** One of the reasons we struggle to share our faith with our friends and family is because we are not comfortable talking about our faith. Small groups give us a natural avenue to learn to talk about our faith in a safe space as we talk about the Bible and our lives with other people. The more we get comfortable talking about our faith in general, the easier it is to share with others also.

(5) **A Place to Invite Friends:** A small group is a natural place to invite friends and family. Sometimes people are more comfortable going to a small group setting than attending a large Sunday morning service. The intimacy of the setting and the genuineness of the conversation creates a natural space to invite others in and to ask them to dip their toes in the water and come and see what faith is all about.

If you are not currently in a small group, I would urge you to consider getting involved in one this fall. In addition to our current Sunday morning class, Monday women's group, and TOGA, we will be launching a few new groups this September. I will be starting a new group on the Gospel of Mark on Wednesday's at 2 p.m. (starting September 13). In addition, Tim Janson will be leading a group on the Gospel of John on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. (starting September 12). Both groups will be held at the church. For both groups we intentionally chose to center on a gospel for the goal of the Christian life is to be like Jesus, and what better way is there to learn to be like Jesus than by exploring what he actually said and did.



Administrative Board Topics of Interest

(1) Following the informational meeting on disaffiliation, the board had a candid conversation to discuss possible next steps. The consensus was to take no further action at this time. We do not believe that we have the necessary 67% threshold required for disaffiliation nor do we have the financial resources that would be required to disaffiliate even if the vote did manage to pass. Given our negative cash flow to date, a loan is not feasible and given the short time frame a fundraising campaign is not prudent either. We may reassess this should the 2024 General Conference change the current denominational stance, but until that time we believe that it will only tear our church apart to go any further down this road. If you have any questions about any of this or about disaffiliation in general, please see Pastor Justin.

(2) Thanks to the receipt of our quarterly grant income from the district (\$4,250), we had a positive cash flow during the month of June, netting \$247 in savings. We brought in \$15,416 and spent \$15,169. Year to date, our weekly income from pledges, tithes, and donations remains down as do the number of checks we are receiving each week. Over the last two months, in particular, we have brought in \$2000 less in offerings than our average monthly giving for the year. Average monthly income stands at \$15,625 and average monthly expenses at \$16,997. As such, we remain at a negative cash flow of \$8,229 year to date or \$1,371 per month. We continue to ask you to remain faithful in giving and if you are behind on your pledge for the year, we would ask you to work faithfully to bring it up to date.

(3) Linda Wise is in the process of sending out mid-year financial statements. Please let her know if you would like an email statement or if you would prefer to continue receiving paper statements. If you would like an email statement, please verify with her that your email address is up to date.

(4) There will be a church ministry fair on Sunday, August 13, following church. If you are a ministry leader, please have a booth ready to showcase your ministry.

(5) There will be a churchwide picnic and potluck following church on Sunday, August 27 at the home of David and Karen Freudemann (6355 Carriageview Lane). Bring a dish to share and your swimsuits.

Bible Studies

Sunday School 9 am

Women's Group: Mon 10 am

Gospel of John: Tues 7 pm (starting Sept 12)

Pastor's Study (Mark): Wed 2 pm (starting Sept 13)

John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 am



Worship – Sunday, 10:30 am

Sissy's Pantry – Wed 6:30-8:00 pm

Zoom Prayer – Thursday, 11 am



Festival of Sharing 2023

OHUMC has participated in the Festival of Sharing for over 40 years. We collect kits of various items to assist those in need here in Ohio and around the world. When a need arises it is too late to start collecting needed supplies. Through the Festival of Sharing, Church World Service has been able to store kits and then quickly respond to help. Here are a few examples of how supporting Festival of Sharing Kits have touched the lives of neighbors throughout the state of Ohio... After tornadoes devastated communities in Dayton, your support provided Cleanup Buckets, Hygiene Kits and Blankets. In Franklinton, children received the school supplies they needed to succeed in the classroom, and the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless has been able to provide Hygiene Kits and Blankets at their six warming centers throughout the city.

This year we are being asked to assemble 4 types of kits: school kits, hygiene kits, flood buckets and period packs. You can help by assembling a whole pack, by donating some items for a pack or donating funds to complete partial packs and funds to cover shipping costs.

Your donations will be collected in a box in the narthex. We have some of the book bags and 3 of the buckets for flood buckets, so don't worry if those items are difficult for you to get. There are lists of items needed for kits available in the narthex and online at fosohio.org. Donations will need to be made to OHUMC by **Sunday September 17** so we can get them ready to move on to our collection point at Westwood UMC. If you can help package kits after Worship on that Sunday, your help would be most welcome. See Linda Wise with questions, comments or offers of help. Lpwise@fuse.net or 513-205-8104.

School Partnership

Oak Hills UMC is a proud partner with Oakdale and Springmyer Elementary Schools. We would like to do a School Partnership

school supply drive for the upcoming school year. Please bring in any donations by August 13. In particular, Oakdale has requested the following items: sharpened #2 pencils, highlighters, headphones, thin sharpie markers, glue sticks, and expo markers. During worship that Sunday we will pray over the upcoming school year and bless their staff and teachers. We have invited them to be with us in worship. Also, if you would like to read with students in the upcoming school year please let Pastor Justin know ASAP so that we

Announcements

8/2 - UMW Luncheon, 12 pm

8/5 - Sports Card Show, 9 am-3pm

8/5 - Youth Outing: Reds Game and Concert

8/13 - Teacher Appreciation Sunday (Please have all school donations to the church).

8/13 - Church Ministry Fair (after church)

8/13 - Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm (Bring your favorite game and a snack to share)

8/25 - Scrapbooking/Craft Group, 7pm

8/20 - Faith Forming Relationships Meeting, 12 pm

8/27 - Potluck lunch after church @ Dave and Karen Freudemann's (6355 Carriageview Lane)

8/30 - Community Dinner, 6 pm

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.



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 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:



The Youth Group is excited for the upcoming Reds game next weekend. We continue to learn about God's love for us as we read about the 10 Commandments.

Ali



OHUMC Family Ministries

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in Your Presence is fullness of joy; at Your Right Hand are pleasure forevermore.



Shout-out to Ms. Kathy:

We want to take a moment to honor Kathy Cramerding (Ms. Kathy), who has tirelessly given of herself to the kids ministry at OHUMC for many years. She faithfully plans and shares Bible lessons and series with the children in fun and engaging ways every week. And she is quick to communicate those lessons with parents to reinforce the Bible lessons at home during the week.



The kids all love her and the days that they get to spend their "Bible bucks" that they earn for memorizing Scripture and participating in class. "Buy Day" should be a national holiday. Ms. Kathy prays daily with the children, having them repeat prayers and share requests with each other. No matter how large or small, every appeal is heard and acknowledged. She also takes the time and asks questions to get to know every child and their needs individually.



Ms. Kathy, we are thankful for YOU! May God richly bless you for sacrificing your time and talents to share God's Love and Hope with the children at OHUMC. We love you very much!

Jo

