



Oak Hills United Methodist Church
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2023 The Oak Notes

Pastor's Corner

It was August 10, 2002. It was a hot, summer day in a small country church in the middle of nowhere. Melissa and I stood before God, our family, and our friends to exchange our wedding vows. It's one of the few days I remember in great detail. I remember the nerves and the fear I felt that morning as I woke up. I remember the tears that began to flow when the processional began. I remember praying with the groomsmen before the ceremony. After the prayer was over, one leaned over and said, "Last chance to change your mind." I remember the things that went wrong: We were going to use the bread that was left over from lunch for communion, but there wasn't any left over. So we ran to the neighbors' house and came back with a hot dog bun. When we went to leave the reception the battery in the car was dead. We actually have pictures of guys in tuxes with jumper cables. I remember the ring not quite fitting because my hands had swelled up in the heat. But probably the thing I remember the most are our vows. Melissa and I chose to write our own vows. We wanted them to be meaningful and lasting. We recited those vows to each other several times over the next several months as a way of expressing our commitment and love for each other. Over the past 21 years, in those moments when things got hard, it was always been those vows that come back to my mind to give me the strength to press on.

Ecc 5:4-5 says: "When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it; for he has no pleasure in fools. Fulfill what you vow. It is better you should not vow than that you should vow and not fulfill it."

It is with great joy that I write to notify you of our upcoming fall stewardship campaign. Our theme for this year's campaign is "Promise Keepers." We will be centering in on the five vows that we all make when we become members of the church: The vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. and what it means to uphold these vows as an act of personal stewardship before God. For these vows are just as serious and just as important to God as the vows we make to our spouse at our weddings.

Each week we will focus in on one of those vows, culminating with our pledge Sunday on October 15.

Once again, this year's campaign will use Herb Miller's *Consecration Sunday*. *Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual growth, rather than the need of the church to receive. Churches that approach stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view money merely as a way to pay their bills, but as part of helping people grow into ever increasing Christlikeness, for part of what it means to be a disciple is to uphold our vows.

As a result, we will treat you like followers of Jesus who want to give unselfishly and generously to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. We will encourage you toward regular, proportionate giving (tithing) in response to the question: "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During worship, I will lead us in a time of personal commitment as an act of worship before God. Every person who completes a giving card does so voluntarily. We urge you to come even if you feel strongly opposed to filling out a card. This process will be done in such a way that no one feels compelled to do so. We will do no home solicitation to ask you to complete a card. However, we will send a Pledge Card to anyone who is not able to be physically present with us in worship on Sunday October 15 and we will make phone calls to encourage your participation and attendance at Consecration Sunday events.

Pastor Vacation



Pastor Justin will be on vacation from September 4 through September 10. Amit will preach on Sunday, September 10. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time you may call Pastor Scott Meeker from Zion UMC at 513-617-5952. For all other church related questions please call the church office at 513-574-1131, Board Chair Mary Flannery at 513-378-7085, or Lay Leader Bob Schloss at 513-702-7118.



OHUMC Family Ministries

Every week, please join Ms. Kathy in Sunday School from 9 - 10:30 am. All kids are welcome! They do fun crafts, games, and lessons centered around the Bible while learning how to live like Christ-followers. Here are some upcoming days to remember:

- Rally Day - September 17, 2023. Pastor Justin will pray over all the Sunday School teachers and Bible Study leaders and announce the children moving to the Youth class.
- Trunk or treat will be on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 1-3 p.m.. A fun family event with candy for kids in costumes, grilled hot dogs, crafts, games, maze, and corn hole. Come and invite your friends! We also need volunteers to decorate their cars and pass out candy, work the games, do tattoos, monitor the maze, monitor the craft table, and help with the grill. We need a lot of volunteers and there are many ways someone can help. If you would like to decorate your car or just volunteer, please let Kathy Cramerding or Sue Scholss know. We also need volunteers to come and help assemble the maze on October 14.



The Youth Group has had a fun summer full of Bible readings, activities and an adventure to the Reds Game and Faith Concert! We're excited to welcome 2 new members in September!

The Kids and Youth group will be attending HallZOOween at the Cincinnati Zoo, Saturday October 14th from 12-4pm. Dress up in your favorite costume and trick or treat around the zoo while exploring all the amazing animals! This event is free to attend; just pack a lunch! Please reach out to Ali Scully, youth coordinator, if you and your child would like to attend. We are also in need of volunteers.

May everyone have a blessed school year!

Thank you, Ali



SEPTEMBER

New Small Groups Starting

In Ephesians 5:1, Paul calls us to “be imitators of God” and to “live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” In the church, we say that we exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (cf. Matthew 28:18-20). A disciple is an imitator of Christ, one who looks, acts, and lives like Jesus in every way. There is no better way to grow into Christlikeness than to actually spend time looking at what Jesus did, what Jesus said, and how Jesus lived. And then asking: What does this mean for how I live my life today? Our aim is not simply to learn about Jesus, but to actually apply what we are learning to our lives that we truly be changed by him. This month we are launching two new small groups, one on the Gospel of John (Tuesdays, 7 p.m., beginning Sept 12) and one on the Gospel of Mark (Wednesdays, 2 p.m., beginning Sept 13) that we might grow together into ever increasing Christlikeness. I hope you will join us!

Estate Planning Workshop

Let’s face it. Estate planning is complicated. Mostly because people do not know the right questions to ask. When should you plan? Where do you begin? What do you need? Is what you have in place right now good enough to ensure that your assets actually go where you want them to after your death? On Tuesday, September 19 at 2 p.m., Zimmer Law Firm, a law firm that specializes in estate planning, will be here to lead us through a presentation on estate planning and answer any questions you may have. Our hope is that you will also consider including the church in your will as a part of your long term planning.

Parsonage Clean-up

As you know, September is international “Clean-Up Your Former Parsonage” month...Okay, maybe that’s not accurate but it is true that on September 9th and September 16th (Saturdays) beginning at 9:30am we need your help to dust, sweep, mop, weed, rake, patch (you get the point) the old parsonage. So mark your calendar and bring your favorite supplies. Can’t do any of the above you say? Maybe then you could help by preparing and serving lunch and beverages.

Membership Class

There will be a membership class after church on Sunday, September 24. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in becoming an official member of Oak Hills United Methodist Church please let Pastor Justin know so that we can be sure to have enough food and membership packets available that day.

Harvest/First Fruits Canned Food Drive

The children have decorated grocery bags to be filled. The bags will be placed in front of the church on the 1st Sunday in October and due on the last Sunday in October, at which point the children will present them at the altar. Please note: Sissy’s pantry is already well stocked with specialty bean items, like garbanzo beans, black beans, and the like, so please consider giving a different kind of bean.



SEPTEMBER

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

Announcements

9/3 – Stewardship Team Meeting, after worship

9/4 – Labor Day: Office Closed

9/5 – Trustees, 7pm

9/4-10 – Pastor Vacation

9/6 – UMW Luncheon, 12 pm

9/9 - Old Parsonage Clean-up Day, 9:30 am

9/10 – Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm

9/11 – Finance 6:30 pm; Board Meeting, 7 pm

9/12 – Gospel of John Study Begins, 7 pm

9/13 – Gospel of Mark Study Begins, 2 pm

9/15 – Young at Heart, 7 pm

9/16–Old Parsonage Clean-up Day, 9:30 am

9/17 – Rally Sunday

9/19 – Estate Planning Workshop, 2 pm

9/19 – Staff-Pastor Parish, 8 pm

9/22 – Scrapbooking/Craft Group, 7pm

9/24 – Membership Class, after worship

9/27 – Community Dinner, 6 pm

10/14–Sports Card Show, 9 am-3 pm

10/21–Trunk or Treat, 1-3 p.m.

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.

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.

