



**Oak Hills United Methodist Church**  
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## 2023 The Oak Notes

### Pastor's Corner

Friends,

I'd like to take just a few moments of your time to stop and celebrate what God is doing in our church.

Over the last few months, God has been showing up in some really significant ways. Consider this: For the last few months, I have been challenging you to pray for 5 new families by the of the year in our monthly prayer calendar. Since then, we have seen four new people from 2 different families come to the church, who are attending on a regular basis. Welcome Kurt Phillippo, Panji Pope, Liz and Matthew! In addition, we have also had a boost in the number of guests coming to worship. In August (I am writing this in early September), we had anywhere from 8-14 guests in worship on three consecutive Sundays. Moreover, at the end of August, we baptized and/or rededicated 5 people (most of them at our church picnic in Karen's pool): Susan Burns, Karen Freudemann, Eden Price, LeeLee Kilgore, and Axton Laws (see the pictures below) and baptized Kaison Wilson on September 19. I am also anticipating that we will have some new members profess faith at some point in October! What a joy it is when God's people are willing and ready to respond to his grace!

It tells me that our preaching on discipleship, making Jesus our one thing, prayer, and how to do devotions in an effective manner is working. It also tells me that our call to reach out, share faith, and be everyday missionaries right where we are is starting to get a little bit of traction. People are inviting their friends and neighbors to come and see. New people are coming and God is drawing people to this place!

So, I challenge you again! Keep reaching out. Keep engaging your friends and neighbors. Keep sharing your faith. Keep praying. Stage a celebration and give thanks! God is moving in this place! His presence is here and people are responding! I don't know about you, but I'm excited to see what happens next!



*Baptisms*

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 IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



### Bible Studies

Sunday School 9 am

Women's Group: Mon 10 am

Gospel of John: Tues 7 pm

Pastor's Study (Mark): Wed 2 pm

John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 am

TOGA: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7pm @  
 5609 Green Acres Ct., Cincy



### Announcements

10/1 - Passionate Worship, after church

10/2 - Trustees, 7pm

10/4 - UMW Luncheon, 12 pm

10/8 - Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm

10/9 - Finance 6:30 pm; Board Meeting, 7 pm

10/14 - Sports Card Show, 9 am-3 pm

10/14 - HallZOOween Youth Trip, 12-4 pm

10/15 - Consecration Sunday and Celebration Lunch

10/20 - Young at Heart, 7 pm

10/21 - Trunk or Treat, 1-3 pm

10/22 - All Saints Sunday Remembrance

10/22-11/1 - Israel Trip

10/25 - Community Dinner, 6 pm

10/27 - Scrapbooking/Craft Group, 7pm

10/28 - Special Annual Conference

11/13 - Church Conference, 7 pm

### Administrative Board Topics of Interest

1) The work on the boiler and the roof was completed during the month of September. These projects were covered by capital funds that came from the sale of the Ebenezer parsonage earlier this year.

2) During the month of September, we had two work days to clean up the old Bridgetown parsonage. Much work was done, but there is still additional work to be done to get it ready to generate rental income. If you can give 30 minutes or an hour of your time, clean a window or weed one flower bed or help in any way, it would be appreciated. See Bob Schloss or Anthony Smith if you would like to help.

### An Update from the Finance Team

Just as a shareholder in a corporation, you, as a member or attendee of this church have the right to know about the financial health of our church. In a nutshell, the situation could be better.

Our overall spending, on operating expenses and ministry costs, is better so far this year than it was in 2022. We're not foolishly wasting what God has entrusted us with and there's very, very little that could be reduced.

One might wonder how our funds are spent - below are monthly averages of several of the expense items year to date:

Salaries	\$5,455.81
Property Insurance	\$1,119.22
Utilities	\$1,198.68
Conference Pensions	\$1,297.00
Copier Lease	\$525.28
Taxes	\$516.59

On the revenue (income) side, things could be much better. Looking just at the revenue that flows into the church from tithes and offerings, there has been a 14% decrease in monthly income.

It's this reduction in income that has caused the church to be at a deficit so far in 2023 of \$16,760, an average monthly loss of \$2,095. Put more simply, we've spent more than we've received.

The solution is easy to see but possibly painful to achieve - increase tithes and offerings. October is Stewardship Month - please give thoughtful consideration and prayer as you move toward making your 2024 pledge.

Worship - Sunday, 10:30 am

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

Zoom Prayer - Thursday, 11 am





## October is Pastor Appreciation Month



### All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, October 22, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday. All Saints is an annual observance of the church that is set aside to celebrate and remember the godly legacy of those men and women who have went on to glory in the last year. During worship, we will remember Yvonne Foster. If you know of anyone else from the church who has passed on in the last year, please let us know as soon as possible so we can remember them as well. We hope that you will be able to join us for this special 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. Springmyer Elementary also plans to give to our pantry from their annual November Food

### Online Giving

Do you know you can now give on our church website? Simply go to [www.oakhillsumc.org](http://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.



### Church Conference

Our annual church conference will be held on Monday, November 13 at 7 p.m. During this time, we will adopt new church leadership for 2024, act on the pastor's pay package, receive reports, and vote on a recommendation from the Endowment Committee to disband the church endowment. Since it's inception, the endowment has only had a small amount given to it. Those funds have not been enough to generate more than a few cents of income each year. As a result, the endowment has not been able to achieve what it was intended to accomplish. Therefore, the Endowment Committee is unanimously recommending those funds be made available to support church building and maintenance needs. All official members of the church have both voice and vote on this matter. If you have any questions on this matter, you may direct them to John Wieman (Endowment Chair) or Bob Schloss (Finance Chair).

### Israel Trip

In conjunction with Legacy Christian Church in Harrison, Pastor Justin will be leading a small group from Oak Hills UMC on a trip to the Holy Lands from Sunday, October 22 (leaving around suppertime) to Wednesday, November 1 (returning midday). Each day, Pastor Justin will be leading devotions on the Bible in the places that Jesus walked. There will also be times of worship, prayer, and opportunities for baptism and communion. Pastor Justin will also be using this trip for his own spiritual growth and his continuing education for the year. It is often said that simply seeing the place where Jesus walked, radically changes the way you read the Bible. Pictures and key learnings from the trip will be shared with the congregation upon return. Amit Dutta will be preaching on Sunday, October 29. In case of a pastoral emergency during this time you may contact Pastor Scott Meeker of Zion UMC at 513-617-5952. For all other church-related questions you may contact Beverly Boone in the church office at 513-574-1131, our Lay Leader Bob Schloss (513-702-7118), or our Church Board Chair Mary Flannery (513-378-7085).

### Trunk or Treat

Will be Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 1-3 p.m..

A fun family event with candy for kids in costumes, grilled hot dogs, crafts, games,



Youth Group has added 2 new members- Matthew and Jeffrey! We just finished learning about Genesis, and now are focusing on friendships and self-identity. Youth Group has an upcoming zoo trip on Saturday October 14, 2023 from 12-4 p.m. Please reach out to me if you/your child would be interested in attending. All ages are welcome.

Thank you,  
Ali



# 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:

Trunk or Treat - October 21st from 1 pm – 3 pm.

There will be food on the grill, crafts, corn hole, games, and more fun activities!

Harvest/First Fruits Can Goods Drive for the Pantry - UMC children have decorated grocery bags to be filled. The bags will be placed in front of the church on the 1st Sunday in October.

Here's a recent picture of the kid's Sunday school!

