



Oak Hills United Methodist Church
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May 2024 The Oak Notes

Pastor Article

Among the many people who have shaped me and my faith over the years, one of the most significant was my mom. Though my mom always had a desire to go to college, she got married right out of high school and put her life, her career, and her dream on hold to start a family and raise us kids. It wasn't until we went off to college that she returned to school to fulfill her dream. She stayed home from work when we were little. When we went to school, she took a job at the school library so she could be part of our lives. I even remember giving up some precious recess time to go and help mom in the library.

From an early age, mom and dad took us to church almost every week. We attended Sunday worship, participated in Sunday School, confirmation, and youth group. We were at church just about any time the church was open, and, since my parents both served, we did too. They wanted to ensure that we had a solid foundation of faith that we could build our lives upon, and thanks to that I am in ministry.

Mom always sought to invest in us the values of independence, accountability, responsibility, and the need to excel. It was never if we go to college, but when we go to college. From the time we were eating baby food, mom would ask us which kind of food we wanted so that we could learn to make decisions for ourselves. When we got in trouble there were consequences. There was one year in junior high that I was grounded to my room for almost the entire year. I don't really recall what I did, but I'm pretty sure it had something to do with my temper. From the time I got home, to the time I went to bed, I was in my room, and it's not like we had a TV or video games in our rooms to keep us occupied. Yet, every time I got back out, I was back to my old routine and it didn't take long till I was back in there again. Mom used to always say: "You think we're making you behave, but really we're making us behave." You see she knew she had to live as a good example for us to follow; she couldn't expect us to do what she wasn't.

I'm reminded of an old story. It's a story about four Bible scholars. One day, they were arguing about which translation was the best. One of them argued for the King James, because of the beauty and eloquence of its language. Another liked the New American Standard Bible because of its accuracy to the original text. The third was sold on the New Living Translation because it made it readable today. Finally, after a few moments, the fourth spoke up: "I personally prefer my mother's translation." They all started to laugh, but he stopped them and said: "No really, my mom translated each and every page of the Bible into daily life. Just watching her, it was the most convincing translation that I've ever read."

Paul puts it this way in 2 Timothy 1:5-6: "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you." As Paul approaches the end of his life and gives Timothy his final words of instructions, he tells him to do two things: (1) To remember the faith that was invested in him by his mother and grandmother, and (2) to fan it into flame—that that spark that was first invested in him by them might be nursed to become a roaring forest fire in his life.

What about you? Who are the faithful examples of faith in your life? As we move toward mother's day later this month, I challenge you to reflect on the ways that your own mother or grandmother or maybe a mother-like figure invested in you and provided a foundation of faith for you grow and move forward. Remember where you have come from. Remember what they put in you. Guard it and fan it to flame.

Have a very blessed and happy Mother's Day,

Pastor Justin



Administrative Board Topics of Interest



1) The church board began our exploration of what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We looked at Isaiah 53:4-6, John 3:16-18, 6:60-69, and Revelation 5:9-14 asking what makes Jesus so attractive to follow. We also spent time reflecting on what it means to call Jesus the master of our life and wrote out some personal reasons for following Jesus as his disciple. Next month, we will continue this discussion by exploring Jesus' strategy for disciple making and some characteristics of a disciple.

2) Barb McLaughlin officially moved into the Bridgetown Parsonage and began renting it out on April 1. This will be an additional source of revenue for the church, helping us move toward a balanced budget.

3) The trustees began working on painting the Wilke chapel in April in preparation for launching a teen-after school ministry this coming the fall. We are still looking for donations of old but working video-game systems, video games, gently used board games, ping-pong paddles/net/balls, and a foosball or pool table. We have received a \$5000 Go Grant from the West Ohio Conference for this project.

4) Risk Taking Missions is exploring a summer trip to Matthew 25 Ministries and how we might partner with Bloc Ministries. Bloc Ministries currently resides in the former Heritage Baptist Church building in Price Hill and ministers to troubled youth and adults who have been rescued from human trafficking. For more information on these non-profit organizations see their websites m25m.org and onebloc.org.

5) The fundraising team had a silent auction during the March Easter Party and raised \$455. We expect the White Oak Nursery Fundraiser to generate around \$225. These projects are part of our ongoing effort to find alternative means to generate income beyond tithes and offerings to support the budget.



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: 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.



Bible Studies

Sunday School 9 am

Women's Group: Mon 10 am

Pastor's Study (Mark): Wed 2 pm

John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 am

TOGA: 1st and 3rd Thursday @ 5609
Green Acres Ct. Cincinnati, Ohio
45248



OHUMC Family Ministries



Worship – Sunday, 10:30 am

Sissy's Pantry – Wed 6:30-8:00 pm

Zoom Prayer – Thursday, 11 am



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



Announcements

5/1 – UMW Luncheon, 12 pm

5/2 – National Day of Prayer

5/2 – Flying Pig Marathon Service Day, Leave 12 pm

5/6 – Trustees, 6:30 p.m.

5/6-10 – National Teacher Appreciation Week

5/11 – Men's Breakfast @ Frisch's, 9 am

5/12 – Happy Mother's Day

5/12 – Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm

5/13 – Finance 6:30 pm; Board Meeting 7 pm

5/17 – Young at Heart, 7 pm

5/18 – Great Miami River District Super Serve Saturday

5/24 – Arts and Crafts, 7 pm

5/27 – Office Closed: Memorial Day

5/29 – Community Dinner, 6 pm

5/29-6/1 – West Ohio Annual Conference

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.

VBS: This year's Vacation Bible School will be held from Sunday, July 7 to Thursday, July 11 from 6:30-8 p.m. Each night will include a time of worship, a Bible story, crafts, and games. Our theme is "On the Case," a detective theme exploring the parables of Jesus Christ. Lessons include spending time with God is how we grow (Parable of the Sower), using our gifts is how we serve (Parable of the Talents), spending time with others is how we care (Parable of the Good Samaritan), and sharing our story is how we love (Parables of the Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Sons). We are currently in need of volunteers to serve as crew leaders and to help with decorations beforehand. If you can help in any way contact Kim Warman.

Youth Room/After School Program: We are working toward launching an after-school ministry when school starts back up in the fall. We are looking for donations of old but working video-game systems/games, gently used board games that teens will enjoy, ping-pong paddles/net/balls, and a foosball or pool table. Over the next few months we will be painting and updating Wilke chapel in preparation for this ministry. We have received a Go Grant of \$5000 for this project.

Back to School Bash: The Back to School Bash will be held on Saturday, August 3 from 1-3 p.m. Each ministry in the church is asked to run a game and to pick a school supply to distribute. A follow-up discussion will be held on Sunday, May 19 after church. All teams should have a representative present.



Youth Group

Last month Youth Group learned about building confidence with God. In May we will focus on "finishing well". With the end of the school year quickly approaching, students are facing temptation to coast through the remaining weeks and days. This can not only affect them academically, but it can affect their faith as well. Chances are, they are excited about summer and being with friends and family, and not looking very closely at making the most of the time they have before summer arrives. We will read from 1 Corinthians and talk about our faith and the school year. This summer we will have a few outings for the youth group— bowling and the zoo. Dates TBD.



Thank you,

Ali

