



Oak Hills United Methodist Church
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August 2024 The Oak Notes

Pastor Article

Well, it's August and that means two things: the end of another summer and the start of another school year. For Melissa and I, that means that we now have a senior and in just a year our first child will be out of the home. We are already knee deep in college applications and scholarships as we begin this year!

The new school year also marks an important time for ministry in the life of the church. As people return from vacation, it marks a time when people often will make new commitments whether to get involved in a small group or to serve in some way in the church. Over the past two years of ministry together we have made community outreach and involvement a major priority in the church. Over the last two years, we have worked closely with the principals, the students, and the teachers at Springmyer and Oakdale Elementaries through assistance with food and hygiene items as well as through time in the classroom. This generally entails being in the classroom for about an hour each week and working one on one or in small groups with children. In the group I am in, I assist with helping first graders with reading and in helping second graders with sight words and by playing fun games with them. We also have assisted in book fairs and with the financial literacy program at Springmyer and did a movie night at Oakdale. It really is rewarding to invest in the lives of children. You don't have to know a whole lot to be able to love kids. The only requirement is that you do a background check and be willing to show up once a week or once a month (depending on the needs of the teacher and the number of folks in each class).

The other major project we have in the works right now is our after school ministry. The vision for this project came as Ali worked closely with high school students through the morning Bible study we launched at the schools last year. The students wanted a place close-by they could hang out with friends after school. That led to us applying for grant funding to refurbish Wilke chapel

and turn it into a new youth space with ping-pong table, foosball table, video games, board games and the like. We plan to launch this new ministry on Thursdays beginning September 12, from 3-4:30 p.m. in Wilke chapel. We would ask you to be in prayer for this ministry this month. In addition, we are looking for volunteers to serve on Thursday afternoons. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Ali at 513-923-7253.

Finally, as always, I would encourage you to keep being in conversation with your family, neighbors, and friends. Invite them to come. Churches that grow are invitational and are invested in the community!

Announcements

- 8/3 – Back to School Bash, 1-3 pm
- 8/5 – Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 8/7 – UMW Luncheon, 12 pm at Ron's Roost
- 8/8-9 – Global Leadership Summit
- 8/11– Meeting with Ali and Congregation about Youth Group 11:45-12:15 p.m.
- 8/11 - Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm
- 8/12 – Finance 6:30 pm; Board Meeting 7 pm
- 8/18 - Church Picnic at Karen and Dave Freudenmanns 6355 Carriageview Ln. Cinti, OH 45248 @ 2pm.
- 8/23 – Arts and Crafts, 7 pm
- 8/24 – Sports Card Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 8/25 - Special Church Conference 12 p.m.
- 8/28 – Community Dinner, 6 pm



Worship – Sunday, 10:30 am

Sissy's Pantry – Wed 6:30-8:00 pm

Zoom Prayer—Thursday @ 11 a.m.



Jurisdictional Conference 2024 Report

The North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church met July 10-13, 2024 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Jurisdictional Conference is a regional body charged with the election and appointment of bishops within the jurisdiction. The North Central Jurisdiction includes 10 Annual Conferences: Dakotas, East Ohio, Illinois Great Rivers, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Northern Illinois, West Ohio, and Wisconsin. Equal numbers of lay and clergy delegates are elected by each Annual Conference with clergy members voting for clergy delegates and lay members voting for lay delegates. As determined by the General Conference in May, there were no new elections of bishops in the United States this year. However, there is one important thing to share from this year's conference: With Bishop Palmer's retirement on September 1, 2024, East and West Ohio will move to a shared bishop. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has been named as the Bishop of the East and West Ohio Conferences for the next quadrennium.

Currently Bishop Jung is the resident bishop of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, where he has served since 2012. Before that he served as bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference for 8 years. Previously, Bishop Jung was ordained as an elder in the Wisconsin Conference, serving as a pastor in congregations in Wisconsin, California, Texas, and South Korea. He also served as District Superintendent in Wisconsin. He has served as president of the General Board of Global Ministries since 2016 and chair of the United Methodist Korean National Plan since 2012. Under his guidance, multiple language versions of the small group "Longing to Meet You" was developed. He has served as the chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Kangnam University in South Korea, a member of the Ecumenical Forum for Korea at Geneva, Switzerland, and is actively involved in Korea peace and reconciliation efforts. He has served as faculty for the Five Day

and Two Year Academy for Spiritual Formation since 2005. Previously, he served as president of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), member of the Board of Directors for the General Board of Discipleship, the United Methodist National Hispanic Plan, the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Conference, the General Commission of United Methodist Men, and Just Peace. He is currently Adjunct Professor at Yonsei University in South Korea and Claremont School of Theology. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also holds an M.A. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA; an M.A. from the Dongguk University Graduate School in Seoul, South Korea, and a B.Th. from the Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, South Korea.

His wife, Im-Hyon, is an elder in the Wisconsin Conference and currently serves as the director of International Relations, Asia and Global Programs, for the Upper Room/Discipleship Ministries. They have two adult sons Jae-Hugh and Jae-Joon, who is married to Brittney, and one granddaughter, Sydney.

A welcome video from Bishop Jung can be found at the following link on the West Ohio Facebook page: www.facebook.com/westohioumc/videos/1138309983917466. Please join me in welcoming Bishop Jung.



Bible Studies

Sunday School 9 am

Women's Group: Mon 10 am

John's Study: Tuesday, 6 pm

Pastor's Study (Mark): Wed 2 pm

John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 am

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



Online Giving

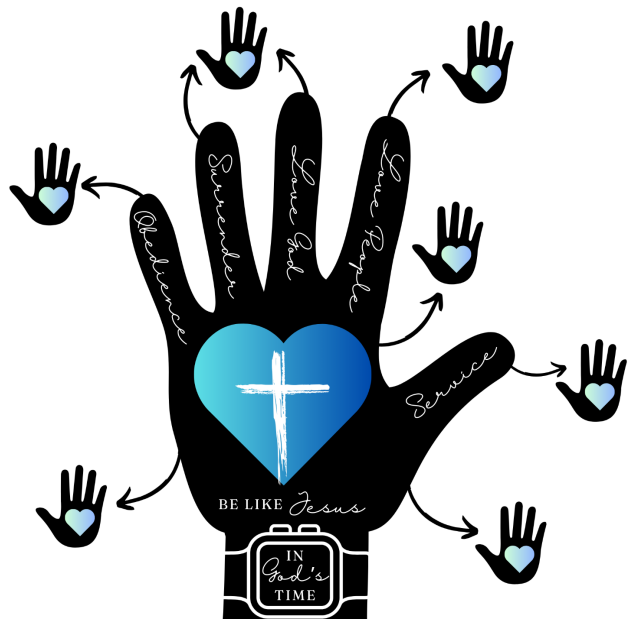
Do you know you can now give on our church website? Simply go to www.oakhillsumc.org and click give

in the bar at the top of the page or scan the QR code below and go directly to our online giving portal.



Administrative Board Topics of Interest

1) We continued our work on discipleship by forming a consensus picture of what our definition of a disciple looks like. As a reminder, we believe a disciple is an obedient follower of Jesus Christ, who is becoming more like Jesus in word and in deed; they love and serve God and his people and are reproducing that same kind of life in other people. In the picture below we see a hand, representing the service of a disciple. On the hand is a heart, represented the love of a disciple. The cross, representing Christ, is at the center of it all. Each finger represents one of the characteristics of our definition: obedience, surrender (a necessity to become more like Jesus and less like ourselves), loving God, loving people, and service. The arrows and the small hands/hearts reflect the how that same life is reproduced in the life of other people. And this whole process of becoming like Jesus happens in God's time (watch).



2) At the permission of the District Superintendent and the District Committee on Building and Location, we have decided to move forward with the sale of the lot behind the garage to Home City Ice. They made an offer of \$130,000 for former Penn property--the back lot with the wooden playground. This is a lot that we generally only use one time a year during our Easter party. Home City Ice already owns the barber shop lot. There will be a special church conference on **August 25, 2024 @12pm** for the purpose of voting on the sale of this land. Anyone who is an official member of the church is eligible to vote at this special church conference. If you are interested in be-

coming an official member of the church please see Pastor Justin. Please address any questions you may have regarding the sale to either Bob Schloss or Anthony Smith.

3) The trustees are working on a water mitigation project for the old parsonage due to heavy leaking when it rains. This project is estimated to cost around \$11,500. Funds will come from capital proceeds from the sale of the Ebenezer parsonage last year. This means, it will now take around two years to break even on the rental property next door with all the repairs that were needed to make it livable.

4) The trustees are beginning to plan for the painting of the fellowship hall later this fall.

5) We received clarity from Bob Schloss on his Mother's Day commitment to update the women's lounge in the pantry downstairs. Funds for that project will not come from church funds.

6) Finances continue to run in the red each month. Once we take out the capital expenses that are funded by the sale of the Ebenezer parsonage we are running short by just shy of \$1,500 per month. Once again we would ask for you to please give faithfully by offering that tithe (first 10%) back to God.

***We would like to request that everybody please pick up after themselves and put things away where they belong when you are finished using them. Your mother does not live here. We want to establish a culture of hospitality and respect that says I will leave a space better than I found it for the next group.



Global Leadership Summit 2024

Pastor Justin will be attending the online stream of Willow Creek's annual leadership summit on Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9. If you are interested in developing yourself as a leader, I would encourage you to join him. You may register here: <https://globalleadership.org/summit>. Pastor Justin has attended this conference every year for the since 2010. It is the best leadership training available.



OHUMC Family Ministries



Vacation Bible School was from Sunday July 7 to Thursday July 11 and centered on the theme "On the Case." Each day our junior detectives probed one of the parables of Jesus to see how we might grow in our faith and we learned that we grow when we spend time with Jesus, use our gifts, care for others, and share our story. We had 15 children present throughout the week and 15 volunteers and student helpers. A big thanks to everyone who helped throughout the week and all who helped with the set.

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. If you are not in a group and would like to donate, we are asking for donations of the following supplies: tissues, yellow highlighters, composition notebooks, small boxes of zip lock sandwich bags, pink erasers, dry erase markers, and 24 packs of crayons. Any items brought in after the Back to School Bash will be donated to Springmyer and Oakdale Elementaries, who we will pray over during our August 11 service.

Youth Room/After School Program:

We are working toward launching an after-school ministry when school starts back up in the next few weeks. In the last month, we have acquired some things for the space, including some carpet, furniture, game systems, foosball table, and ping-pong supplies. We are now looking for people who would be willing to serve each week alongside Ali. Please see Ali, if you are interested in helping. We will be launching this ministry on Thursday afternoons beginning September 12, 3-4:30 p.m. in Wilke chapel.

2024-2025 School Year Assistance : The 2024-2025 school year is gearing up and once again we will be helping out at Springmyer Elementary School. We are looking for people who would be willing to assist in the classroom (once a week or once a month for an 1 hour), volunteer at the school book fairs (a few times each year), spend time engaging with kids in a positive way in the lunch room (any 30 minute shift between 11-12:30 p.m.) and help with traffic at dismissal from 3-3:10 p.m. If you can help out please let Pastor Justin know . A school background check is required for each of these service opportunities.



Youth Group

The new youth room is coming along nicely-- a fresh coat of paint and new carpet on the stairs has really brightened up the room. There are a few finishing touches to be done and the room will be ready for the launch of the after school program. We are blessed to have been gifted the grant money in order to make these improvements.

Thursday, September 12th from 3-4:15 p.m. is the first day of the after school program! Youth Group is looking for volunteers to help: 1.) Guide students into the building, 2) Stay in the youth room, and 3) Bring snacks and drinks.

It doesn't need to be a weekly commitment to help, though would be great for the youth.

There will be an informational group meeting in the youth room after church on Sunday, August 11th. We will discuss the after school program and upcoming events outside the church. Plan on attending if you're able to keep up on youth group events.

Please reach out to Ali if you are able to help with any of these things. The youth are the future of this church and we can all work together to make a difference in their lives.

Thank you,
Ali



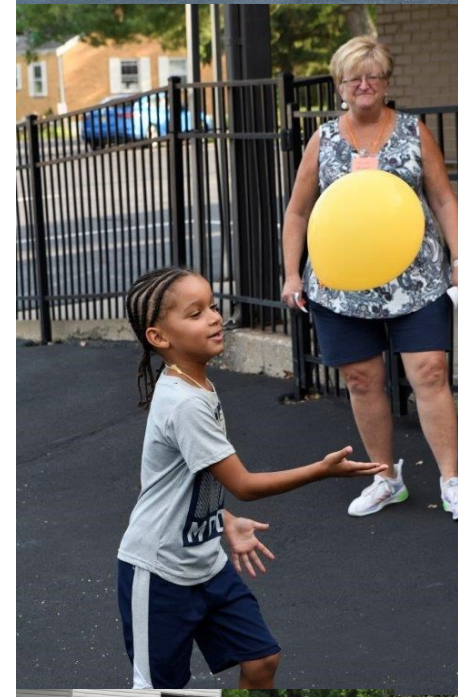
THANKS FOR
ATTENDING
VBS



Highlights From VBS



Vacation
BIBLE SCHOOL



Highlights From VBS