



Oak Hills United Methodist Church
 6069 Bridgetown Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45248
 513-574-1131; oakhillsumc.org
 oakhillsumc@fuse.net



Pastor Article

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 "Investing in Eternity." The fact is we all invest in what we deem to be important. Our investments define our cares, our concerns, our values, and our priorities. The greater the investment is, the greater we declare its importance and value for our life. If we want to know what's really important, all we have to do is consider how we are using our time, our talents, and our treasures. The real question is: What are we investing in? Are we investing in ourselves or are we investing in eternity? Our theme verse for this year's campaign puts it this way: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also. ... No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other" (Matthew 6:19-21, 24). I wonder: What are you really investing in? Are you truly investing in eternity?

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

Online Giving

Did 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 and go directly to our online giving portal.



October 2024 The Oak Notes

helping people grow into ever increasing Christlikeness, for part of what it means to be a disciple is to give as Jesus gave. To sacrifice as Jesus sacrificed. To invest in him to the same extent that he freely chose to invest in us.

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 percent of my income is God calling me to invest in eternity?" During worship, I will lead us in a time of personal commitment as an act of worship before God. Every person who completes a 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 20 and we will make calls to encourage your participation at Consecration Sunday events. A lunch will follow worship that day, prepared once again, by our friend, Chef Henry Warman. Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic and prayerful participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Pastor Justin

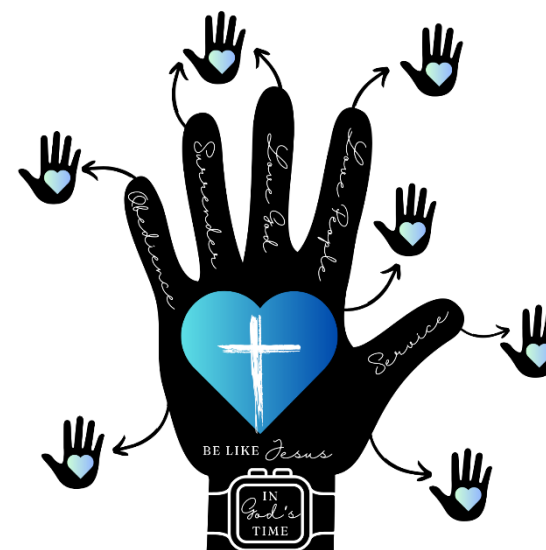
Kroger Rewards

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.



Administrative Board Topics of Interest

1) We continue to work toward the development of a discipleship path. We explored a few examples of what this looks like in other churches and then started listing and assessing how each of our ministries are doing at making the kind of disciple we say we want to produce. We are seeking to identify two things: (1) our current effectiveness (or lack of effectiveness) in making disciples, and (2) what gaps exist in our current process that we might better move people forward. From there, we hope to clearly identify our step-by-step process to producing disciples of Jesus Christ. As a reminder, we believe a disciple of Jesus Christ is an obedient follower of Jesus, 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.



2) At the direction of the Church Conference, the trustees have begun negotiations with Home City Ice regarding the sale of the old Penn Property. They are seeking to have Home City Ice take responsibility for the retaining wall and to see if we can attain the lot with the pumpkin patch as a part of the sale.

3) The trustees have selected a color for the repainting of the fellowship hall. It is a shade of light blue. The date for the painting is yet to be reset. They have also taken bids to replace the exterior awnings. Pastor Justin is in the process of applying for a hospitality grant to convert the old prayer room into a welcome center and café and the cost of the awnings have been included in this grant request as well.

4) Ammesty Thomas decided not to move forward with the Church Secretary position after all. The SPPRC is in the process of conducting interviews to find a replacement for Bev. In the interim, a few volunteers are assisting pastor with office tasks and the office will only be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Pastor Justin works from home to write his sermon on Monday and Friday is his day off.

5) This year's Church Conference has been scheduled for Monday, November 11 at 6 p.m. During this meeting, we will elect new church leadership for 2025, set the pastor's pay package for 2025, and receive the annual membership, trustee, and pastor reports. All members of the church can vote.

6) August finances reflected a net loss of \$18,079. \$10,829 of this came from maintenance expenses to the Bridgetown parsonage, which was covered by proceeds from the sale of the Ebenezer parsonage. Year to date we have a loss of \$33,713 or \$4,214 per month. As we enter into our annual stewardship campaign this month, we would ask each person to dig deep and take one step up in giving to the Lord.

7) Fundraising will be doing a couple fundraisers in the near future, including a laundry detergent sale, a bake sale, and a possible Bob Evans Fundraiser (a day when they give a portion back to the church).



OCTOBER

Announcements

- 10/7 - Trustees, 6:30 pm
- 10/9 - UMW Luncheon, 12 pm
- 10/13 - Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm
- 10/14 - Finance 6:30 pm; Board Meeting 7 pm
- 10/18 - Young at Heart, 7 pm
- 10/20 - Consecration Sunday; Celebration Lunch
- 10/25 - Arts and Crafts, 7 pm
- 10/26 - Trunk or Treat, 1-3 p.m.
- 10/27 - All Saints Sunday Remembrance
- 10/27 - Passionate Worship, 12 p.m.
- 10/30 - Community Dinner, 6 p.m.

- Worship - Sunday, 10:30 am
- Sissy's Pantry - Wed 6:30-8:00 pm
- Zoom Prayer - Thursday, 11 am

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
- Youth After School Program: Thurs, 3-4:30 p.m.



All Saints Remembrance

On Sunday, October 27, 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 Jane Zimmer, Bernice Block, Donna Wolfer, Greg Wilson, and Pat Yards. If you know of anyone else from the church who has passed on to glory 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!



Food Donations

Harvest Food Drive:

Family ministries is doing a canned food drive to help Sissy's Pantry during the month of September and October. Please pick-up a decorated grocery bag from the lobby, fill it up, and return it to church by Sunday, October 27. The pantry especially needs canned ravioli, beefaroni, spaghetti-o's, chili-mac, spaghetti, etc. Canned tuna, chicken, spaghetti sauce, boxed spaghetti and macaroni, soup (basic such as chicken noodle), peanut butter and jelly. We are currently spending around \$500 every two weeks to stock the pantry.

Operation Christmas Child:

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are available in the lobby. Boxes are due back by Sunday, November 17. You can also fill a box only at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline



OHUMC Family Ministries



Trunk or Treat:

Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 26th from 1-3 p.m. Please sign up to decorate a trunk and pass out candy or to help with the games or maze. We are also looking for donations of wrapped candy. See Kathy Cramerding to sign up or if you have any questions.



The youth after school program succeeded with a successful launch! We had around 30 youth in attendance and several students who signed up to come! One was so excited that he was ready to invite his friends and another came back and hung out. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped, Duebbie Queen Ice Cream, and the Yard Sign People. God is great and so many prayers were answered! So excited to see God move in the lives of the youth.

Looking Ahead:

- Oct 25: Costume Party October during ASP
- Nov 10: Scallywag 3-4:30pm Putt Putt/Mini Golf
- Dec 12: Christmas Party & Service Project
- Jan 26: 3pm-4:30pm Bowling with youth group
- Feb 23: Volunteering at Meals on Wheels 12-2pm
- Mar 23: TBD (Activity chosen by youth)
- Apr 10: End of School Year Party

