



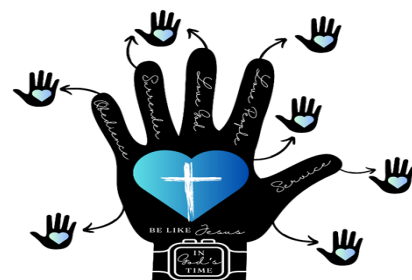
**Oak Hills United Methodist Church**  
6069 Bridgetown Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45248  
513-574-1131; oakhillsumc.org  
oakhillsumc@fuse.net



August 2025 The Oak Notes

### Pastor Article

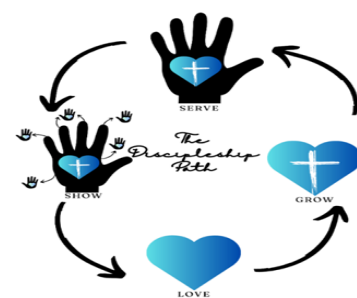
Over the last couple years, we have been on a journey toward being a church that makes disciples who make disciples. We defined what a disciple is: “An obedient follower of Jesus Christ, who is becoming more and more like Jesus in word and in deed; they love and serve God and his people and are reproducing that same kind of life in other people.” We developed a picture to convey that definition, and the framework for a discipleship path. Back in May, I attended the National Disciplemaking Forum in Houston, Texas. I went into the conference seeking God’s guidance, asking what our NEXT STEP as a church should be, and I came out with a clear answer: We need to flesh out our discipleship path. If we are going to produce the kind of disciple we say we want to produce, then what are the things we need to make sure that everyone in our church knows at each step in the process? And how are we going to train our people to invest these things in the people that they are investing in themselves? Our board began this discussion in July and I am currently in the process of recruiting a few practitioners. The plan is for me to meet with a few people this fall to model how to train and invest in people, and then take on a few more, while encouraging them to take on a few people themselves. If you would like to be a part of this team and would be willing to invest in others in this way, please speak with me about it. To be a part of the team you must have at least these three things: (1) You must be leaning forward and growing in your faith; (2) you must have the time and be willing to be present at every meeting; and (3) you must be willing to take on and invest in other people yourselves once we get through the training. Like Jesus did, our goal is to pour into people for a season and then release them to minister to others.



### The B1G 10 Series Promo

Who is God? Who are we? How ought we to live? What kind of people should we strive to become? What’s God’s vision for the good life? Those are some of life’s most important questions. And each, finds it’s answer in the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are key part of the Bible. They define what matters to God. They define the kind of God he is, and who God desires for us to be. Author and theologian J. I. Packer compares them to the handbook for a car. A car is a complicated piece of machinery, and the handbook tells you how to take care of your car properly so that you can get the most out of it. The Ten Commandments are God’s guidebook for life. They tell us how we ought to live in relationship with God and with those around us that we might have our best possible life. These B1G 10 are God’s way to the good life, but they also say something to us about who our God is and what God values. Over the next 10 weeks, we’re going to be taking a deep dive into the Ten Commandments and their ongoing relevance for today. Our goal is to see God anew and to become the kind of people God made us to become. I hope that you will join us throughout this series as we seek to live life God’s way.

*Pastor Justin*



# OHUMC Family Ministries



## Family Ministries



Back to School Bash – Saturday August 9, 11 am-1pm. Each team, committee, and ministry of the church is asked to host a game booth and to give prizes (school supplies). We are asking each group to provide enough school supplies for 200 kids and/or teens. Each booth should have either a generic option that could be used for teens and kids (e.g., folders, notebooks, pens, pencils) or if you have an elementary specific item (crayons, glue sticks, etc.) another more generic item for junior and senior high teens. If you are not a part of a team, committee, or ministry of the church, donations of school supplies are always appreciated. Set up will be at 9 am. All volunteer servants are asked to arrive by 10 am. Please see Kathy Cramerding for any questions and to volunteer to help.



It’s been a fun summer with various outings for the youth! We had a great turnout at Nova Trampoline Park and Bowling at Western Bowl, and will end the summer with a swim party at The Freudemann Swim Club!

The youth group will be joining forces with “Risk Taking Missions” to help OHHS with Adopt-A-Student and other various needs at the high school.

May everyone enjoy the last few weeks of summer - time really does fly when you’re having fun!



### Looking Ahead:

Meals on Wheels volunteering: Saturday, August 16th, 10am-12pm.

After School Program resumes Thursday September 4th, 3-4:30pm.



### Administrative Board Topics of Interest

1) We worked on fleshing out our discipleship path with a series of training objectives. Our hope is that everyone in the church understands and knows these things and how to train others in them as well. This will serve as the framework for the training we will lead our practitioners through this fall. If you would like to see and review it, please see Pastor Justin. Feedback is always appreciated.

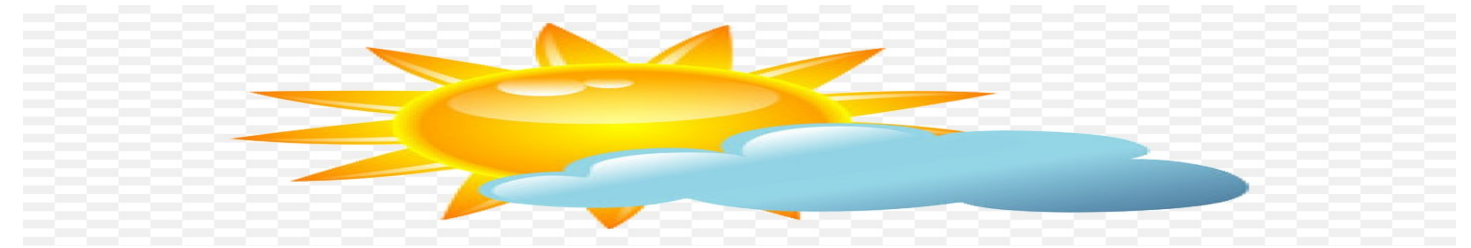
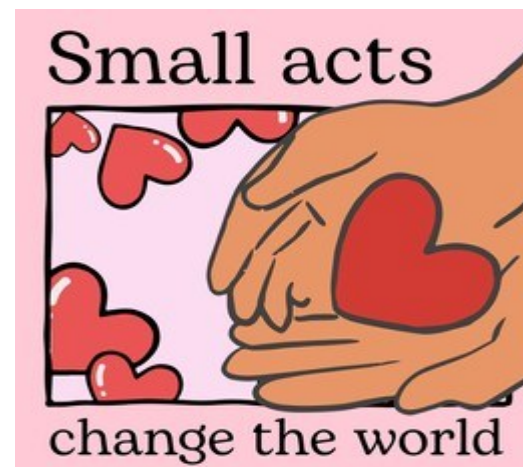
2) The month of June was another positive month financially. Our income for the month was \$24,572 and our expenses \$16,326, for a net gain of \$8,247. Of this, \$6,125 came from grants. This brings our year-to-date gain to \$8,823. This is up from a \$8,782 loss at this time in 2024. As a result, the finance team is exploring the possibility of giving more to our conference apportionments than budgeted. We budgeted to pay \$2,984 in district apportionments (100%) and \$2,500 in conference apportionments (12.5%). Our plan is to wait through the summer to see where we are and then decide from there. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving and all the work you have done to move us toward financial stability.

3) The trustees are taking bids for replacing the carpet in the sanctuary and the lobby. Should they move forward support for these funds would come from our capital proceeds received from sale of property.

4) The old blacktop playground just outside the front door will be turned into a pickleball court. The rapid increase of this hobby in our world makes this a great opportunity to reach out to our neighbors. If you would be interested in leading a hobby based ministry around pickleball once up, see Pastor Justin.

5) Fundraising is beginning a quarterly outreach push called "Little Acts, Big God." The idea is to create small points of contact to show people our love and care. The first one will be called "Kindness Matters." Be on the lookout for more information about this and see Sherilyn Reynolds if you have any questions.

6) Ali Scully will be leading our youth and any adult volunteers who wish to help to serve at Meals on Wheels on Saturday, August 16 from 10 am-12 pm. Kris Smith has volunteered to drive the bus.



### Announcements

8/3 – Church Picnic, 2 pm @ Dave and Karen Freudemann's  
8/4 – Trustees, 6 pm  
8/6 - UMW Luncheon, 12 pm, Ron's Roost  
8/9 – Back to School Bash, 11 am-1 pm  
8/10 – Family Game Night, 6-9 pm  
8/11 – Finance 6:30 pm; Board 7 pm  
8/13 - Dinner and Devotions, 6 pm  
8/14 – Nominations, 6 pm  
8/15 – Young at Heart, 7 pm  
8/16 – Youth Meals on Wheels Service Day, 10 am-12 pm  
8/17 – SPPRC, 12 pm  
8/22 – Arts and Crafts, 7 pm  
8/27 – Community Dinner, 6 pm  
8/31 – Membership Class, 12 pm  
9/1 – Labor Day – Office Closed  
9/4 – Youth After-School Program Resumes, 3-4:30 pm

Worship – Sunday, 10:30 am

Sissy's Pantry – Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 pm

Zoom Prayer – Thursday, 11 am

### Weekly Bible Studies

Sunday School 9 am

Women's Group: Monday 10 am

John's Study: Tuesday, 6 pm

Pastor's Study (Later NT Letters): Wednesday, 2 pm.

John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 am



### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

