



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

October 2025 The Oak Notes

Pastor Article Stewardship Campaign

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 "Treasures in Heaven: Learning to Put God First." It is based on Matthew 6:19-21, 24: "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 your 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." Throughout this campaign, we will be exploring what it really means to put God first in our life by looking at five key principles that drive the biblical concept of stewardship: (1) Creation and Ownership: Because God is the creator of the world, God is the owner of all things; we are merely stewards of the things that God has given us. (2) Abundance and Scarcity: Because our God is a God of abundance and not a God of scarcity, there is always enough when God is in the room. (3) Trust and Provision: Because our God can be trusted to provide, we need not worry or store up for ourselves treasures on earth; God provides for the birds and the lilies of the field, how much more you! (4) Responsibility and Accountability: Because we are stewards of God's good gifts, we are accountable for how we use the things that God has given us. And finally, (5) Tithing and Generosity: Because God is generous, we are called to put God first by giving of our tithe and being generous with our resources.

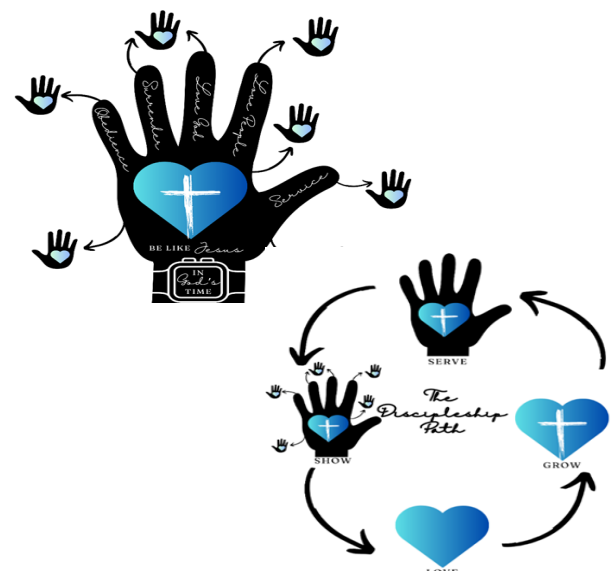
Once again, this year's campaign will use Herb Miller's Consecration Sunday. Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual growth, rather than the need of the church to receive. Churches that approach stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view money merely as a way to pay their bills, but as part of 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 give as I learn to put God first?" 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 November 9 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



October

Administrative Board Topics of Interest

1) The month of August generated \$14,908 in income and \$21,982 in expenses, for a net loss of \$7,073. Year to date income stands at \$160,871 and expenses at \$155,950, for a net income of \$4,921. Overall, our income is up 10.1% (\$14,780) our expenses are down 7.7% (\$13,089) from the same time last year. We thank you for your faithfulness in giving and ask for your ongoing faithfulness as we enter the fall.

2) The lease on our copy machine is up in the month of October. We are looking to replace our current machine with a smaller one with less bells and whistles. We will likely purchase a copy machine, rather than lease one so that we can save in the long term. The trustees are currently pricing machines.

3) The SPPRC is recommending a 5% increase (or \$2,600 annually) to Pastor Justin's salary for 2026. The board also approved the SPPRC recommendation to increase custodian Donna Patrick's wage for 2026.

4) This fall's church conference will be held on Monday, November 10 at 6 p.m. All members of the church have voice and vote. During this time, we will vote to approve Pastor Justin's change in salary, adopt the Nomination Committee's recommendations for lay leadership, celebrate what God has done in the last year, and receive required reports, including the trustee's report and the membership audit.

5) Youth Sunday School will begin at 9 a.m. rather than 9:30 a.m. to bring it in line with kids and adults.

6) Promotion Sunday will be on October 5. We will pray over all teachers and students during this time.

2026 Leadership Recommendations (See enclosed – to be adopted at Church Conference 11/10)

Pastor Vacation

Pastor Justin will be on vacation from Sunday, October 5 through Saturday, October 11. On Sunday, October 5, Fire Chief Allen Walls, of the Colerain Township Fire Department, will join us. He will be sharing his story of how God brings hope out of the ashes. His testimony began when he experienced great loss due to tragedy that struck his crew during the line of duty. Through that tragic experience, he ultimately encountered Jesus Christ, who brought him out of his dark place, into the hope of new life. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, you may contact Rev. Scott Meeker of Zion Community Church at 513-617-5952. For all other church related questions, please contact the church office (513- 574-1131), Lay Leader Bob Schloss (513-702-7118), or Board Chair Mary Flannery (513-378-7085).

October is Pastor Appreciation Month





Announcements

10/1 - UMW Luncheon, 12 pm
 10/1 - Grief Share Resumes, 6 pm
 10/3 - Operation Christmas Child Workshop, Friendship Baptist 6:30-8:30 pm
 10/5-10/11 - Pastor Justin Vacation
 10/6 - Trustees, 6 pm
 10/8 - Dinner and Devotions, 6 pm
 10/11 - BLOC Ministries, Horses on the Hill Volunteering (Youth), 9:30 am-12 pm
 10/12 - Disciplemaking Practitioners, 12 pm
 10/12 - Family Game Night, 6-9 pm
 10/13 - Finance 6:30 pm; Board 7 pm
 10/15 - Grief Share, 6 pm
 10/17 - Young at Heart, 7 pm
 10/18— Maze set up at 9:00 am
 10/19 - Faith Forming Relations, 12 pm
 10/24 - Arts and Crafts, 7 pm
 10/25 - Trunk or Treat, 1-3 pm
 10/26 - Disciplemaking Practitioners, 12 pm
 10/27 - LifeLine Screening
 10/29 - Grief Share, 6pm
 10/29 - Community Dinner, 6 pm
 11/9 - Consecration Sunday and Dinner
 11/10 - Church Conference, 6 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 (Romans): Wednesday, 2 pm
 John's Study: Thursday, 10:30 am
 Youth After School Program, Thursday, 3-4:30 pm

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

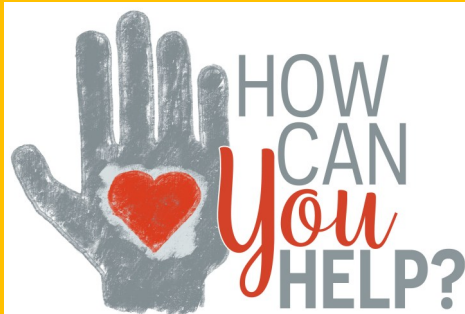
Did you know that you can give to the church through your phone? Simply download the free Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app on your phone, search for Oak Hills United Methodist Church, and then set up an account. Once it's set up you will be able to give either a one time or reoccurring gift. You can 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 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.



OHUMC Family Ministries



Family Ministries

Celebrate with Us!

On Sunday, September 21, we welcomed three new members into the life of our church: **Dan Brown**, **Jeffrey Fuhrmann**, and **Rob Schulte**. Please join us in welcoming them to our church!



Faith Forming Relations and **Family Ministries** will have a meeting Sunday after church on October 19th in the Adult classroom.

Faith Forming Relations will also be doing our **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE**, starting on Sunday, October 12th and be ending the drive on Sunday, November 16th. We will be placing brown bags in the Narthex on October 12th, and all bags are due back by November 16th. Please see the enclosed flyer. Items needed to fill the bags are: Canned chicken, canned tuna, ravioli/spaghetti O's, chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, peanut butter, jelly, boxed spaghetti pasta, cereal, mac n' cheese, canned fruit.



Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival will be on Saturday October 25 – from 1-3 p.m. Volunteers are still needed to decorate their trunks and hand out candy. Even if you are unable to decorate a trunk, please donate some candy. You can also help with monitoring the maze, run a game, and help with crafts. There will also be food on the grill. See Kathy Cramerding for questions.



We **NEED** Volunteers to **setup the MAZE on Saturday October 18th at 9:00am**. The more volunteers that help, faster the maze goes up.

