

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Youth Led Advent Service

Sunday, December 4 at 6:00 PM

### Oakmont Christmas Carol Walk

Sunday, December 11 at 6:00 PM

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24 at 7:30 PM

### Combined Services 10:00 AM

December 18, December 25 & January 1



It is difficult to believe that December has arrived! We look forward to celebrating the season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts, homes, and sanctuary for the celebration of the birth of Christ. There are gifts to purchase and wrap, Christmas trees to put up and decorate, and visitors to welcome into our homes. I would like to encourage you to not forget that in the midst of these preparations, the most important part of this celebration IS the birth of our Savior and Lord; Jesus, the Christ child born in stable, placed on a bed of hay in a manger for his bed. In the most humble of places, Jesus willingly left the glory of heaven and entered into this world of sin and suffering. Knowing what lay ahead of Him, Jesus grew up with his brothers, learning the skills of a carpenter at the side of his father. There was no earthly celebration at his birth. However, the choir of angels celebrated this long awaited birth of this King,

I encourage each of us, as we approach this season of celebration, of love and giving, that we remember that this is not about how many gifts we give or receive. It is the celebration of God come to earth! We have done nothing to deserve God's presence among us, and yet, Christ has offered His life, as an example for us. Let our focus be upon giving and not receiving; on loving one another, and being the hands and feet of Christ to those in need this season. May God's blessings be upon you!



### ***Oakmont United Methodist Church***

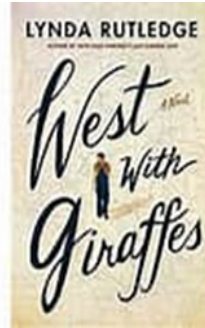
419 Maryland Ave  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
412-828-9499

*Pastor Beth*



## HOPE CIRCLE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, Jan. 12th at 11:00 in the Social Room to discuss *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave.



It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late. (From the publisher.)

Please consider Hope Circle, a place to enjoy fellowship and discussion.



Friends Together is an informal small group that is open to all who enjoy a meal with friends and good conversation. The group will meet for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Freedom Square Diner in Verona. No reservation is needed, just come if you are able. Laughter and lots of good coffee are guaranteed!

## GENERAL FUND NUMBERS FOR OCTOBER

Balance	9/30	-\$18742.92
Income		\$19,848.16
Expenses		\$13,026.86
Transfer out (to Memorial Acct.)		\$2,000.00
Transfer in (from Endowment Acct)		\$19,000.00
Balance	10/31	\$5,078.38



*Thank you for your continued support of the Oakmont United Methodist Church during this difficult and challenging time. Your offering can be sent by mail to:*

*Oakmont United Methodist Church  
419 Maryland Avenue*

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to pray for Audra Assad, Vi Bibza, Charlene Brunner, Randal Burdelski, Barbara Charlton, Emma Lee Crannell, Robert Davis, Lew Ferguson, Jackie Gaughan, Beth Harley, Mark Harley, Joann Hildebrand, John Hildebrand, Karen Kemp, Sharen Lenkey, Rose Miller, David Null, Cathy Smierciak, Julie Trenn, Betty Wilson, Micaiah, Susan, Leslie, Elizabeth

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles are due by January **15th** for the February newsletter.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail, please call the church office or send us a message at [oakmontumc@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontumc@gmail.com)

*The purpose of the Oakmont United Methodist Church is to grow in our dedication to the worship of God, the teaching of God's word and the caring ministry of Christ. We do this through Jesus' grace, mercy, and love which we share with the world through our daily living.*



*A note from SPRC:*

It is the Advent season. It's a time during which we prepare for Christmas...a time for giving, and for letting the people that we love and care about that we appreciate them. Please help us show the OUMC staff that we appreciate all of their hard work and contributions to our church. SPRC will collect money and will distribute to staff as a Christmas present from OUMC. Please deliver your contributions by December 11th to either the church office or to any SPRC member. Thanks very much for your consideration of this request!

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES



Your Missions Committee will collect new gloves for children, women, and men and distribute them to the Verona United Methodist Church's clothes closet. We're spreading the "g-Love!" Drop off your donations in the basket by the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall, just off the Sanctuary.



**Cookies are needed** to be delivered to our shut-ins for Christmas. If you could bake cookies, please drop them off in the Social Hall by 11 AM on December 11.



Bright red and green envelopes grow on the Giving Tree. Some envelopes are designated for Giant Eagle gift cards, which will be given to the Verona United Methodist Church Food Pantry. Some envelopes are designated for the Circles Program, run by Roots of Faith. The Circles Program provides coaching and mentoring and teaches participants how to reach their financial goals, allowing them to lift themselves out of poverty. The program costs \$1,800.00. We will provide scholarship money towards the cost of this life-changing program.

Drop off the gift cards and the donations toward the Circles scholarship in the Giving Tree Box and have a blessed Christmas!

Thank you!

Turkey bags with non-perishable items for local food banks should be returned to the church no later than December 11.



# DECEMBER Birthdays

- 3 JoAnn Hildebrand  
Jessica Jacka
- 5 Cory Kircher  
Aiden Sciullo
- 6 Becky Houston  
Maggie Kate Steimer
- 8 Jim Anderson  
Terri Aubele
- 9 Gwyneth Fichte  
Leah Lacey
- 13 Duncan Jones
- 15 Ashley Rajkowski
- 16 Barbara Charlton  
Jennifer Binkley
- 18 Bonnie Allison
- 20 Randal Burdelski  
Matthew Rajkowski  
Marcus Shaffer
- 21 Derek Banas  
James Denny
- 25 Colleen Briggs
- 26 Cheryl McClain  
Angel Steimer
- 27 Donald Dezzutti  
Gregory Gaughan
- 30 Joy Cottrill
- 31 Genevieve Casarcia

# JANUARY Birthdays

- 1 Laurel Rotter
- 4 William Ashbaugh  
Alex Caruso
- 7 Carol Ovamio
- 9 Bob Holstine
- 10 Terry Kaminsky
- 11 Julia Lenkey  
Diane McCutcheon  
Jason Smierciak
- 12 Bo Anderson
- 16 Christine Smith
- 19 Kylie Briggs
- 20 Ryley Handyside  
Rose Miller
- 22 Jim Beiber  
Chris Chapa
- 26 Gladys Fichte  
Beth Harley
- 27 Michelle Walsh
- 28 Candice Ashbaugh  
Bruce DeTurck  
Steven Hein
- 29 Taylor Kennedy  
Don Stoner, Sr.
- 30 Marty Kennedy  
Beth Orbin  
Arika Simmers
- 31 Catherine Rosfeld



A recent survey revealed that we have 1048 items in our library, including CDs and DVDs. We've got Biblical commentaries, devotional materials, craft idea books, cookbooks, biographies, tales of spiritual journeys, romance novels and novels of suspense and adventure! Sadly, the survey also revealed that only 15% of the library's offerings have ever been checked out.

The book checked out most often (8 times) is John Wesley: His Life and Theology by Robert Tuttle. We have 1 book checked out 5 times; 5 books checked out 4 times; 7 books checked out 3 times; 29 books checked out twice; and 104 books checked out once.

We are in the process of locating shelves to better display the children's book collection so children can see the colorful covers and reach the books.

The collection will be reduced through careful culling to make room for books with fresher content.

As always, if you have a book suggestion, please put it in the church library mail slot. The church library is downstairs, in the same room as the Social Hall. So, come on down and check it out!



Have you ever wanted to ring the bell for The Salvation Army at Christmas time? You know you want to. Now is your chance! Oakmont United Methodist Church's Mission Committee is looking for folks to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at Verona Giant Eagle. Bell ringing begins November 18 and runs to New Year's Eve. Bell ringers take shifts lasting 1 hour. Ringing occurs Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. If you're interested, please call Rick Rosenberg at 412-996-0566.

**We apologize if we inadvertently missed your birthday.  
Please call the church office and let us know about your very special day!**