



## **Maundy Thursday Service**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM

## **Good Friday service**

April 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon

## **Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service at Oakmont Country Club at 7:00 AM

Contemporary Worship at 9:00 AM

Breakfast at 10:00 AM

Traditional Worship at 11:00 AM



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

419 Maryland Ave  
Oakmont, PA 15139

412-828-9499



Beloved Church Family,

Easter is a major Christian festival, celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. For this reason, Easter falls on a different Sunday each year, between March 22 and April 25. It marks the culmination of Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and continues through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Easter is the most sacred observance in the Christian faith. It proclaims victory over the power of the crucifixion and affirms God's plan to establish a new and better covenant. The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands at the very center of Christian belief and is the anchor upon which Christian hope rests.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, underscores this truth when he declares: "And if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain... If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins"(1 Corinthians 15:14, 16). Easter, the day on which we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, is therefore foundational to the Church and to the life of faith.

While the religious significance of Easter is well understood, it is often overshadowed by secular activities, festivities, carnival-like celebrations, and excessive revelry, that risk diminishing the message of Christ. There is no denying that Easter is a season of joy and celebration, carrying both religious and cultural meaning. Yet, as the Church, we are called to ensure that its sacred significance is not lost.

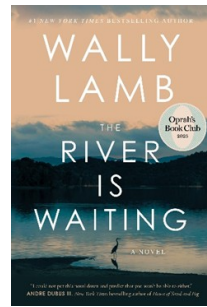
Each of us bears responsibility for how we observe this holy season. As we celebrate that Christ is risen, there should be no disconnect between our faith and the way we live and celebrate. Rather than being consumed by a culture of excess, we are invited to live intentionally, faithful in our witness, generous in our service, and committed to the mission of God.

The resurrection of Christ proclaims that God's sacrifice for humanity has overcome the power of sin. My prayer is that as we celebrate Easter, this powerful message will be reflected not only in our words, but in our values and daily lives.

**May you have a blessed and holy Easter, rejoicing in the living hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

Rev. Natoya Thomas-Smith

## HOPE CIRCLE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, April 9th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Adult Sunday School Room to discuss *The River Is Waiting* by Wally Lamb. Corby Ledbetter is struggling. New fatherhood, the loss of his job, and a growing secret addiction have thrown his marriage to his beloved Emily into a tailspin. And that's before he causes the tragedy that tears the family apart.

Sentenced to prison, Corby struggles to survive life on the inside, where he bears witness to frightful acts of brutality but also experiences small acts of kindness and elemental kinship with a prison librarian who sees his light and some of his fellow offenders, including a tender-hearted cellmate and a troubled teen desperate for a role model. Buoyed by them and by his mother's enduring faith in him, Corby begins to transcend the boundaries of his confinement, sustained by his hope that mercy and reconciliation might still be possible. Can his crimes ever be forgiven by those he loves? (From the publisher)

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

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to pray for Audra Assad, Terri Aubele, Randal Burdelski, Emma Lee Crannell, Diane Dezzutti, Donald Dezzutti, Lew Ferguson, John Froehlich, Beth Harley, Joann Hildebrand, John Hildebrand, Julia Lenkey, Sharen Lenkey, Jonathan Lewis, Tom Murray, Marigene Nelson, Janet Parkins, Cathy Smierciak, Ed Smierciak, Bob Whyte, Kelly Winovich, Samantha Woods

## GENERAL FUND NUMBERS FOR FEBRUARY

Balance	1/31	-\$939.27
Income		\$17,554.80
Expenses		\$20,080.11
Balance	2/29	-\$3,464.58



## Did you KNOW?

Oakmont United Methodist Church is in need of a Church Historian. At our Church's last Charge Conference, the superintendent told us that position is crucial for documenting our history for future members. There is already a book of historical data that was compiled in the 1990's. It needs to be updated to include events and information from that point to the present. If you have an interest in the history of Oakmont United Methodist Church and would like to volunteer for this position, please contact the Church Office at 412-828-9499.

*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.*



- 3 Abasilum Smith  
Abasilum Smith Jr.
- 9 Scarlett Ferguson
- 10 Galen Chapa
- 11 EmmaLee Crannell
- 13 Todd Eaton
- 19 Willow Banas  
David Dezzutti  
Dillon Provenza  
Jordy Witucki
- 20 Audra Assad  
Matt Huha
- 21 Robert Rotter
- 24 Kim Marotta
- 25 Abby Anderson  
Matthew Rajkowski, Jr.
- 26 Jim Ashbaugh  
Bill Handyside  
Matt Provenza
- 28 Lisa Ashbaugh
- 29 Jacqueline Ashbaugh

**We apologize if we inadvertently missed your birthday.**

**Please call the church office and let us know about your very special day!**

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Articles are due by **April 15th** for the May newsletter.

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



Graduation Sunday is right around the corner. Please call the church office and notify us of anyone who is graduating from high school, college or a trade school so that we can recognize their accomplishment.

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS**

From April 12 to May 31, Oakmont United Methodist Church will once again collect diapers and period products to support the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank. The need is greater than many realize. According to the most recent statistics from the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank:

1 in 2 families with young children struggle to afford enough diapers to keep their babies clean, dry, and healthy.

Nearly half (47%) of families report diaper need nationwide

Babies without enough diapers are at higher risk for diaper rash, infections, and health issues

1 in 4 parents miss work or school because childcare requires an adequate supply of diapers

Families often must choose between diapers and basic needs like food or utilities

Parents experiencing diaper need are more likely to report stress, anxiety, and depression

There is a real economic impact to not having diapers. Families experiencing diaper need lose income—on average missing over 5 workdays per month, which can mean hundreds of dollars in lost wages. Providing diapers has been shown to reduce healthcare costs by millions of dollars and improve child health outcomes. Diaper assistance helps parents stay at work, strengthening family financial stability and local economies.

Have you ever heard of period poverty?

2 out of 5 people struggle to afford period products

1 out of 3 low-income individuals miss work or school due to lack of period supplies

1 out of 4 students miss school because they cannot afford period products

Lack of access is linked to negative mental health outcomes, including higher rates of depression

Did you know that programs like SNAP and WIC do not cover the cost of diapers and period products? As an outreach ministry, Oakmont United Methodist Church stands in the gap.

When we collect diapers and period products we:

Help families stay healthy

Support parents' ability to work

Ensure children can attend childcare

Promote the dignity and equality of women and girls

Please support this annual drive. Thank you.