

Oakmont United Methodist Church

AGES:
Preschool through
6th Grade

Easter Egg hunt

**SUNDAY MARCH 29
EGG HUNT BEGINS AT 3:15**

**419 MARYLAND AVE
OAKMONT PA, 15139**

RSVP by
March 26th

Join us for crafts,
snacks, and an
Egg Hunt

412-828-9499
oumcyouthdirector@gmail.com



Oakmont United Methodist Church

419 Maryland Ave
Oakmont, PA 15139



Beloved Church Family,

As you journey with Christ this Lent, may the grace of God draw you ever deeper into the very heart of God.

At a recent worship support meeting, someone asked: *“What do Methodists give up during Lent?”*

The simple answer is that Methodists are not required to give up any specific food or activity. While some choose to fast or set aside certain habits, our tradition emphasizes practices that draw us closer to God. In the Wesleyan understanding of holiness, we are called to ongoing self-examination and disciplined living. The continual work of sanctification shapes our habits and makes us attentive and circumspect in our choices throughout the year, not only during Lent.

Lent is often understood as a strict 40-day season of fasting, abstaining from meat, limiting social activities, or giving up favorite pastimes. These disciplines can be meaningful. However, Lent is ultimately a season of prayer, reflection and renewal as we journey with Christ toward the cross and prepare for the joy of the resurrection.

Because the new life comes through the crucifixion, we are called to take up our cross and follow Christ, the one who bears it with us. We do this through what John Wesley calls the “means of grace:” prayer, fasting, scripture reading, worship and acts of mercy and generosity. These practices do not earn salvation, for we are saved by grace through faith. Rather, they help us grow in holiness as faith produces faithful action.

John and Charles Wesley preached the necessity of the new birth and sanctification. They taught that works do not produce faith; rather, faith produces work. This conviction shaped the many ministries they established for both personal and social holiness.

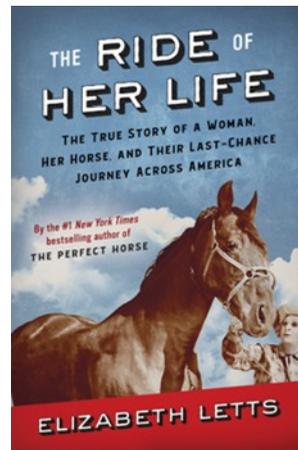
For Methodists, Lent is less about simply giving up and more about taking something up, deepening our relationship with God, renewing our inner life and preparing our hearts for Easter.

As we journey through this holy season, may we experience renewal and draw closer to the one who walks with us to the cross and beyond.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you during this holy season of Lent.

Rev. Natoya Thomas-Smith

**HOPE CIRCLE
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**



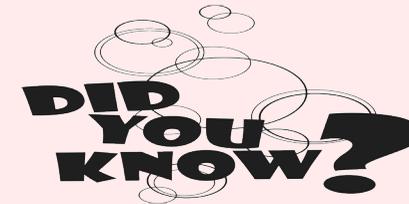
Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, March 12th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Adult Sunday School Room to discuss *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts. In 1954, Annie Wilkins, a sixty-three-year-old farmer from Maine, embarked on an impossible journey. She had no relatives left, she'd lost her family farm to back taxes, and her doctor had just given her two years to live--but only if she lived restfully. He offered her a spot in the county's charity home. Instead, she decided she wanted to see the Pacific Ocean just once before she died. She bought a cast-off brown gelding named Tarzan, donned men's dungarees, loaded up her horse, and headed out from Maine in mid-November, hoping to beat the snow. She had no map, no GPS, no phone. But she had her ex-racehorse, her faithful mutt, and her own unfailing belief that Americans would treat a stranger with kindness.

Between 1954 and 1956, Annie, Tarzan, and her dog, Depeche Toi, journeyed more than 4,000 miles, through America's big cities and small towns, meeting ordinary people and celebrities--from Andrew Wyeth (who sketched Tarzan) to Art Linkletter and Groucho Marx. She received many offers--a permanent home at a riding stable in New Jersey, a job at a gas station in rural Kentucky, even a marriage proposal from a Wyoming rancher who loved animals as much as she did. As Annie trudged through blizzards, forded rivers, climbed mountains, and clung to the narrow shoulder as cars whipped by her at terrifying speeds, she captured the imagination of an apprehensive Cold War America. At a time when small towns were being bypassed by Eisenhower's brand-new interstate highway system, and the reach and impact of television was just beginning to be understood, Annie and her four-footed companions inspired an outpouring of neighborliness in a rapidly changing world. (From the publisher)

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

GENERAL FUND NUMBERS FOR JANUARY

Balance	12/31/2025	\$6,109.06
Income		\$12,810.90
Expenses		\$19,859.23
Balance	1/31/2026	-\$939.27



that Oakmont United Methodist Church has a prayer chain? The prayer chain consists of members of the congregation who will commit to pray for needs as they arise. We are looking to update the list of people who are on the prayer chain. Please let the church office know if you would be willing to be included.

Also, if you have a prayer request contact the church office and the request will be sent to those who are on the prayer chain.

Prayer Concerns

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

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.



- 1 Diane Dezzutti
Tyler Handyside
Stephen Lenkey
- 2 Mackenzie Marotta
- 3 Emma Briggs
- 4 Daniel Ross
- 6 Cindy Gaughan
Kaitlyn Lacey
- 9 Nina Crannell
- 15 Braeden Mechesney
- 19 Dawn Whyte
- 23 Evelyn Ferguson
Risdon Ferguson
Ian Simmers
- 24 Jack Ross
- 27 Elaine Grimes
- 29 Max Orbin
- 31 Carol Lacey
Thomas Murray

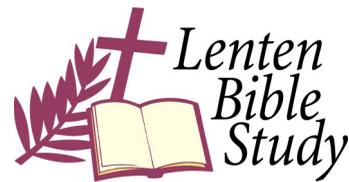
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles are due March 15th
for the April newsletter.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please call the church office or send us a message at oakmontumc@gmail.com



Don't forget to spring forward
one hour on March 8!



A virtual Lenten Bible study and prayer meeting takes place on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.

The Zoom link to join the study is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89461591602pwd=EuaQuFa0K45ZGmoeTP0bxMuT9mOaQX.1>

Meeting ID: 894 6159 1602

Passcode: 436738

Thank You

Thelma Lloyd has served as the Oakmont UM Communion Steward for over ten years. Prior to becoming our steward she helped Janet Parkins who also served as our steward. Serving as the Communion Steward requires a lot: ensuring supplies for communion are on hand, keeping the linen cloths free from grape juice, setting up and cleaning up communion every month. It's hard to understand the effort and devotion needed until you have cut up a loaf of bread into 80 mini cubes or filled 80 tiny plastic cups using a squeeze bulb bottle. Thelma recently retired from being our Communion Steward and it required all 8 members of the Worship Team to replace her! The next time you see her give her a big thank you for all the work she has done for us.

Oakmont United Methodist Church Mission, Outreach and Witness Activities 2026

At their January meeting, the Missions Committee identified mission, outreach and witness activities for OUMC in 2026. Mission, outreach and witness is a responsibility to which all of us are called. You're invited to participate and/or support the following:

1. Ongoing relief efforts for Jamaica. Details to come.
2. UMCOR in March. Diaper and Period Product Drive in April-May.
3. Verona UMC Summer Fun Camp from Mid-June to early August.
4. Block Party at Roots of Faith. Date to be determined.
5. Community Dinner at Verona UMC September 23.
6. From Amen to Action in November
7. Senior Care Bags from November-December.
8. Christmas Cards/Gifts to Shut-Ins in December.
9. Giving Tree for hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens for Verona UMC from December-January.

If you have a mission activity idea, please reach out to any of the Missions Committee members. We'd love to hear from you!

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

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



Greeters are needed at both worship services on Sunday mornings. Can you help point a visitor in the right direction if they need assistance? Can you give a bulletin to anyone who doesn't have one? Can you give a friendly smile and a friendly greeting to those entering the sanctuary? We have the perfect way for you to serve. Please sign up in the chapel if you can spare ten minutes of your Sunday morning to help out.

WPAUMC 2026 District Restructuring

The District Structure Task Force was convened to assist the Annual Conference in discerning how best to realign district boundaries and leadership structures in response to changing missional realities, clergy deployment needs, and the faithful stewardship of people and resources. Guided by the Bishop's vision and in consultation with the Cabinet and Conference leadership, the task force has focused on **recommending a reduction from ten districts to four supervisory areas**; developing district leadership models that emphasize mission, flexibility, and strong lay involvement; and identifying ways to promote greater consistency in required processes across districts, particularly those related to clergy formation and support. This work remains in progress. The Bishop is hosting ten meetings across the conference which have started.

EASTER FLOWERS

*It's time to order flowers to surround the altar on Easter. Orders and payment must be received by **March 15**. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office with your check made payable to OUMC. Please take the flowers home with you following the Easter service.*

_____ Daffodils **\$12.00**

_____ Tulips **\$12.00**

___ yellow ___ pink ___ red

Ordered by _____

Phone No. _____ *Amount Paid* _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

*You also have the option of donating toward the purchase of Giant Eagle gift certificates for the local food banks. Donations must be received by **March 15**.*

Amount donated _____

