

SEPTEMBER 2025

Beloved church family,

The Lord who keeps us and gives us courage is with you!

Not so long ago, we were looking forward to the summer, and now it is already behind us. I pray it was a good season for you, and that you have been reenergized for the days ahead, even if there were disruptions along the way.

The focus for the month of August was faith and how fundamental it is to our conversion to Christ. According to Hebrews 11:1, “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Faith opens us to the supernatural power at work in creation and the Spirit of God dwelling within us. It keeps us grounded, hopeful and confident that even when things do not go our way, we can still trust God for a good outcome.

In one of my sermons, I spoke about the distinction between corporate (public) worship and private worship, noting that the way we worship in public reflects our private devotion. Worship is more than Sunday morning attendance. What we practice in private shapes our public witness. This is biblical, whatever we do in secret will come to light.

This matter of worship, along with developing good spiritual practices and discipline, is very important for our overall spiritual health. Such practices help us cope with and navigate life’s challenges. Reading our Bibles daily and praying are two such essential practices. Some people often say they are unsure where to begin or how to approach reading Scripture. Resources such as the *Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide* can assist us in these areas. Beginning in October, we will also start a monthly prayer meeting and invite the congregation to pray at 4:19 pm daily. These efforts are intended to help us grow spiritually.

Just as the physical body goes through developmental stages and changes as it matures, so too should we be maturing in Christ, moving from drinking milk to eating solid food. This growth happens when we identify our shortcomings and submit to God’s pruning work in our lives.

Abide in faith, and may God make you complete in everything good as you seek to do God’s will.

Rev. Natoya Thomas-Smith



The fall Schedule will begin
on September 7, 2025

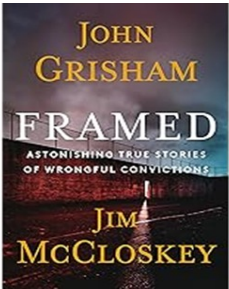
Contemporary Worship	9:00 AM
Sunday School	10:00 AM
Traditional Worship	11:00 AM



Oakmont United Methodist Church

419 Maryland Ave
Oakmont, PA 15139

HOPE CIRCLE
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

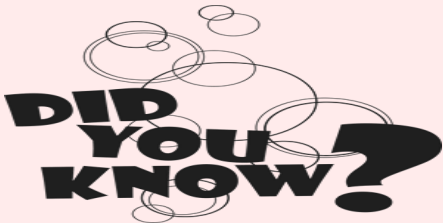


Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, September 11th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Adult Sunday School Room to discuss *Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions* by John Grisham and Jim McCloskey. John Grisham is known world-wide for his best selling novels, but it's his real-life passion for justice that led to his work with Jim McCloskey of Centurion Ministries, the first organization dedicated to exonerating innocent people who have been wrongly convicted. Together they offer an inside look at the many injustices in our criminal justice system. A fundamental principle of our legal system is a presumption of innocence, but once someone has been found guilty, there is very little room to prove doubt. These ten true stories shed light on Americans who were innocent but found guilty and forced to sacrifice friends, families, and decades of their lives to prison while the guilty parties remained free. In each of the stories, John Grisham and Jim McCloskey recount the dramatic hard-fought battles for exoneration. They take a close look at what leads to wrongful convictions in the first place and the racism, misconduct, flawed testimony, and corruption in the court system that can make them so hard to reverse. Impeccably researched and told with page-turning suspense as only John Grisham can deliver, *Framed* is the story of winning freedom when the battle already seems lost and the deck is stacked against you. (From the publisher)

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

GENERAL FUND NUMBERS FOR JULY

Balance	6/30/2025	\$6,027.64
Income		\$15,811.06
Expenses		\$17,997.09
Transfer from Trustees account		\$805.00
Balance	7/31/2025	\$4,646.61



Did you know that Church Conference takes place every fall? Our Church Conference will take place this year on October 15th at 7:15 PM. It will take place here at Oakmont United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting that is chaired by the Conference Superintendent (formerly the District Superintendent). The meeting will cover relevant church matters. Its responsibilities include reviewing a congregation's ministry and mission, approving the pastor's compensation and staff salaries, electing church leaders, approving candidates for ministry, and setting goals for the coming year. The 2026 budget will be voted on. You can refer to section 247 of the Book of Discipline for more information.

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 Patti Rudy
3 Will Orbin
4 Linda Ashbaugh
8 Sherry Lauffer
Mack Ross
10 Kathy Haught
Jim Sweetland
13 Declan Hawk
14 Jim Pahlman
Tyler Marotta
15 Donna Jacka
16 Darlene Lloyd
Val Riley
17 Dean Caruso
Janet Parkins
19 Linda Turner
22 Bonnie Myers-Toward
23 Bill Jacka
24 Julie Kelley
25 Lucille Byers
26 Lauren Parkins
29 Kaitlyn Minyon

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

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



SAVE THE DATE!

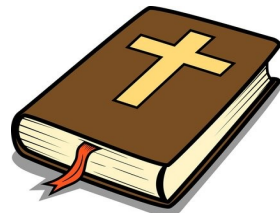
Church Conference

October 15, 2025

7:15 PM

At Oakmont UMC

**Bibles will be presented
during worship next month.
Please let us know if you have
a child in the 2nd or 3rd grade.**



FRIENDS TOGETHER

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 Tuesday, September 2nd, at Freedom Square Diner in Verona. No reservation is needed, just come if you are able. Laughter and lots of good coffee are guaranteed!

IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Barbara Charlton who passed away on July 15.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations in memory of Ron Standifur were received from Barbara Marcus, Karen & Jim Sweetland and Diane McCutcheon.

Donations in memory of Barbara Charlton were received from Donald & Linda Haun, Diane McCutcheon, Polly & Doug McCracken and Karen & Jim Sweetland.

PRAYER CONCERNS

We remain in prayer for Audra Assad, Terri Aubele, Randal Burdelski, EmmaLee Crannell, Diane and Donald Dezzutti, Lew Ferguson, John Froehlich, Beth Harley, Joann Hildebrand, John Hildebrand, Julia Lenkey, Sharen Lenkey, Tom Murray, Marigene Nelson, and Cathy Smierciak. May the Lord hold them close and comfort them with the assurance of God's steadfast presence.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles are due by September **15th** for the October 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

News from the Worship Support Committee

Fifth Sunday Worship

Fifth Sunday Worship: What is this, you may ask? That's a good question! If a month has a fifth Sunday, we will have one service so the whole family of God at Oakmont UMC can worship together and reconnect. The format will be much the same as in our combined worship services, featuring a blend of contemporary and traditional aspects of the liturgy. The last Fifth Sunday for 2025 will be November 30, which is the first Sunday of Advent. Please mark your calendars for these special church family worship events, which begin at 10 a.m. If you have questions, please reach out to any member of the Worship Support Committee. See you there!

Community Dinner

The Missions Committee is hosting the Community Dinner on September 24 at Verona UMC. The Committee would greatly appreciate monetary donations to help cover the cost of food. Please prayerfully consider donating towards this mission outreach opportunity.

Thank you.

Calling Post

We have a new messaging system so we can let you know of important events happening at Oakmont UMC. If you would like to be included and have not received any messages, let the church office know!



Astral Chamber Ensemble

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

OAKMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7:00^{PM} 419 Maryland Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

For Tickets: 

Angela Massey **FLUTE** Laura Usiskin **CELLO** Caroline Owen **PIANO**



ROMANTIC MASTERWORKS

The award-winning musicians of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble, Angela Massey (flute), Laura Usiskin (cello), and Caroline Owen (piano) present "Romantic Masterworks." The concert will feature significant works by Romantic composers, including Dvorak, Gaubert, Karg-Elert, and the magnificent Trio in D Minor by Felix Mendelssohn. Join us for a brilliant evening of music with the Astralis Chamber Ensemble.