



**Oakmont United Methodist Church**  
419 Maryland Ave  
Oakmont, PA 15139

Oakmont United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2025

**Beloved Church Family,**

Since the last Sunday in August, I have been preaching from the Psalms and will continue to do so for the next three weeks. The Psalms, or Psalter, is a collection of songs and prayers spanning Israel's history and reflecting the people's experiences as they journeyed with God. Many of the hymns and spirituals songs we use in worship are inspired by the Psalms, their timeless messages expressed in verses and stanzas.

The Psalms often shape our liturgy and order of worship. For example, in the Methodist tradition, the *Revised Common Lectionary* provides four readings each Sunday, one of which is always a Psalm. This reminds us how deeply the Psalms are woven into the structure of Christian worship.

There are many genres of Psalms, making them appropriate for different settings, seasons, and celebrations in the life of God's people. While not all of them read like traditional songs of praise, they reflect the full range of human experience before God: joy and sorrow, confidence and doubt, praise and lament. Most are attributed to David, and together they give voice to prayers that cover nearly every aspect of life.

The Psalms are arranged in five "books":

- Book 1: Psalms 1–41
- Book 2: Psalms 42–72
- Book 3: Psalms 73–89
- Book 4: Psalms 90–106
- Book 5: Psalms 107–150

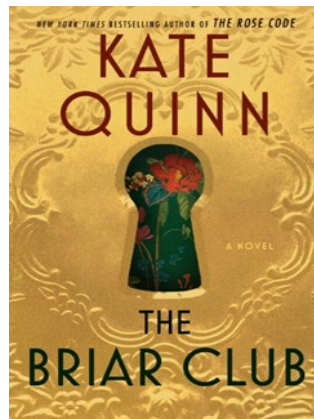
It is no surprise that the Psalms remain a favorite for so many. They speak to us because they reflect our own lives. We know what it means to suffer, to grieve, to face injustice and oppression. We also know the joy of worship, the hope of God's promises, and the comfort of God's presence. Whatever our circumstances, there is a Psalm that speaks to us, reminding us of God's mercy, faithfulness, and holiness.

As we dwell in the Psalms together, my prayer is that you discover anew how our relationship with God embraces the whole range of human emotions. Like the psalmists, may we always turn to God, trusting that God is with us, and that God's goodness and mercy endure forever.

**Find comfort in the words of the Psalms!**

**Rev. Natoya Thomas-Smith**

## HOPE CIRCLE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, Oct. 9th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Adult Sunday School Room to discuss *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. Washington, DC, 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boarding-house in the heart of the nation's capital where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic room, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship: poised English beauty Fliss, whose facade of perfect wife and mother covers gaping inner wounds; policeman's daughter Nora, who finds herself entangled with a shadowy gangster; frustrated baseball star Beatrice, whose career has come to an end along with the women's baseball league of WWII; and poisonous, gung-ho Arlene, who has thrown herself into McCarthy's Red Scare.

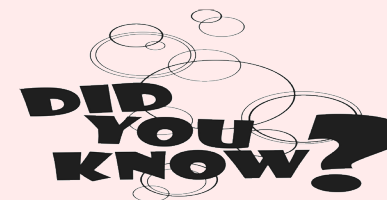
Grace's weekly attic-room dinner parties and window-brewed sun tea become a healing balm on all their lives, but she hides a terrible secret of her own. When a shocking act of violence tears the house apart, the Briar Club women must decide once and for all: who is the true enemy in their midst?

Capturing the paranoia of the McCarthy era and evoking the changing roles for women in postwar America, *The Briar Club* is an intimate and thrilling novel of secrets and loyalty put to the test. (From the publisher)

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

## GENERAL FUND NUMBERS FOR AUGUST

Balance	7/31/2025	\$4,646.61
Income		\$11,579.00
Expenses		\$21,957.26
Balance	8/31/2025	-\$5,731.65



Did you know that Oakmont UMC has an adopted road that we clean twice a year? The one cleaning coincides with Earth Day and the other takes place in the fall. We are in need of help with cleaning the road and we need the congregation's help with this. There has been a decreasing number of people showing up each time and it is a lot of work for few people to do. This would be a much simpler task if we had more hands. Please consider helping with this so that we don't have to give up our adopted road. We will meet at the S & T Bank across from Sheetz on October 4th at 8:30 AM. Any time that you can give on that day is helpful. Bags, vests and gloves will be provided.

*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 Rhianna Mechesney
- 4 Donna Maggio
- 6 Katherine Burdelski
- 7 Jeff Allen  
Cindy DiCocco
- 8 Mark R. Dicocco  
Donna Medved
- 9 Cathy Smierciak
- 11 Victoria Burdelski  
Alica Mechesney
- 14 Cameron Marzullo
- 15 Megan Minyon
- 17 Jan Beiber  
Addison Rajkowski
- 22 Sharen Lenkey
- 23 Rob Jackson  
Nancy Standifur
- 25 Leslie Siegle
- 27 Janet Delchambre  
Eric McCall
- 29 Owen Szallay
- 30 Alexis Ferguson  
Sean Provenza

We apologize if we inadvertently missed your birthday.

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

# KINGDOM KIDS

**THE KINGDOM KIDS GROUP IS A FUN PLACE FOR LITTLE ONES TO PLAY GAMES, MAKE CRAFTS, AND HEAR BIBLE STORIES. KIDS WILL LAUGH, LEARN, AND GROW AS THEY DISCOVER HOW MUCH GOD LOVES THEM!**

OCTOBER 12TH

NOVEMBER 16TH

DECEMBER 21ST

**Who:** Pre K & K

**One Sunday a month!**  
It's OK if you can't make it every month, join us when you're available.

**6:00 - 7:00pm**  
419 Maryland Ave, Oakmont PA

**More Information:** OUMCyouthdirector@gmail.com

# THE CREW

**COME BE PART OF THE CREW! THIS FAITH AND FUN-FILLED GROUP HELPS ELEMENTARY KIDS GROW IN THEIR LOVE FOR GOD THROUGH BIBLE STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS, AND MUSIC. IT'S A PLACE TO BUILD FRIENDSHIPS, LEARN ABOUT JESUS, AND HAVE A GREAT TIME TOGETHER!**

OCTOBER 5TH

NOVEMBER 2ND

DECEMBER 7TH

**Who:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**First Sunday of the month!**  
It's OK if you can't make it every month, join us when you're available.

**6:00 - 7:00pm**  
419 Maryland Ave, Oakmont PA

**More Information:** OUMCyouthdirector@gmail.com

## IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Thomas Ritter who passed away on August 28.

## 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.

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

A donation in memory of Ron Standifur was received from EmmaLee Crannell.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles are due by October **15th** for the November 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](mailto:oakmontumc@gmail.com)

## Church Conference

October 15, 2025

**7:30 PM**

At Oakmont UMC



**Adopted Road Clean Up**  
Saturday, October 4  
8:30 AM

**Any time you can give is appreciated!**



Now that Fall hours have begun for OUMC, we would like to remind you to start thinking about the Christmas Bazaar, which will be on November 22, one week before Thanksgiving.

There will not be a luncheon this year, however we will still have Attic Treasures, Crafts and Bake Sale.

Please bring items for Attic Treasures to the Primary Room or leave them in the Parking Lot Entrance. Once again, we cannot accept TVs, Computers and Printers. And PLEASE check your jewelry for items you no longer wear.

We added plants recently and they were a huge success. So if you have plants looking to be re-homed, we will gladly accept them.

---

### NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

On September 20, 2025 OUMC hosted a concert by Astralis Chamber Ensemble. This event was organized by the Finance Committee. The concert was an effort to raise funds for the General Fund to go toward operating expenses. It was a wonderful evening of beautiful music and fellowship. The only disappointment was that more members of the congregation didn't participate. In spite of the low participation, we were able to raise \$500 for the General Fund. The cost of the concert was covered 100% by sponsor donations and there was no expense to the Church, just the use of the facility. In the future we would like to hold more events like this one to raise money, create fellowship opportunities and bring people who are not members to our Church. Our goal is to grow our congregation. We need to hold events that bring folks into our Church. Hopefully, we will have greater participation by OUMC members in the future.

### MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

The Missions Committee thanks everyone who donated money, desserts, service, and food to the Roots of Faith Block Party on August 28 and the Community Dinner on September 24. Thank you for participating in the mission and outreach activity of the Oakmont United Methodist Church.

Laity Sunday is coming up, and Randy Datsko will step into the pulpit for both services bringing his message that focuses on Matthew 25 – the parable of the sheep and the goats. Randy volunteers in prison ministry, and we're eager to hear how God led him to that ministry focus.

Throughout the month of October and November various mission and outreach ministries will be highlighted.



Mission and Outreach –  
Oakmont United Methodist Church

**Save the Date for From Amen to Action:** Saturday, November 15 members of Oakmont United Methodist Church will join hundreds of other Pittsburgh area Christians to pack food boxes for those facing food insecurity. We'll meet in our church parking lot and drive to Pittsburgh Theological School. The event begins with prayer at 8:30 and once the Amen is sounded, we'll spring into Action! We'll be done at 11:30 and will head back to Oakmont at that time. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who need community service hours to fulfill that obligation. Join in and make a difference!

**Senior Care Bags:** Last Christmas season we supported Roots of Faith's senior care bags ministry. We donated 11 care bags to seniors who live in nursing homes in the Sharpsburg area. We'll be doing that again this year, so keep your eyes peeled and ears perked up for more information on this project.

Mission and Outreach Planning for 2026: Can you believe we're several weeks into autumn already? In no time we'll be celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. Each year at this time the Missions Committee reviews the year and plans for the upcoming year. Do you have mission and outreach ideas? We bet you do! Please share them with any member of the Missions Committee or, better yet, please attend an upcoming meeting. We're curious to hear your ideas for mission and outreach!