

Upcoming Events

09/13

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Worship outside at 9:00 AM / Brunch at 10:00 AM

Blessing of backpacks

9/20

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

10:15 AM – Sunday School for all ages

9/24

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Oakmont UMC at 6:00 PM

9/30

COMMUNITY DINNER

Verona UMC from 4:00 – 6:30 PM



Oakmont United Methodist Church

419 Maryland Ave

Oakmont, PA 15139

412-828-9499



Greetings,

I love bowling. You may have gathered as much about me over our time together. Nothing pleases me more than to send ten pins flying off the rack and into the pit. There's nothing flashier than a big strike!

But more often than not, I don't get a strike. Most of the time, a pin or two is left standing after my first ball. When that happens, I have to knock down those left over pins to get the spare with my second ball. As much as I love to get a big strike, the key to getting a good bowling score is to pick up those spares. Missing a spare can be the difference between a win and a loss. Spares are a vital part of the game, but how often do you see someone at the bowling alley practicing nothing but spare shots? It's a lot like practicing putting in golf, or foul shots in basketball. It seems like easy points, but without practice we can miss out on those easy points and cost ourselves the victory.

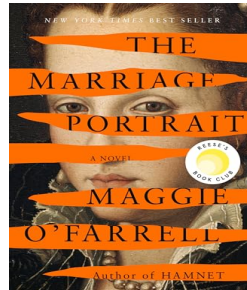
This reminds me of the discipline of spiritual practices; Prayer, fasting, bible-reading, worship attendance, giving, and many others. Spending time on the fundamental practices of our faith helps to form us and shape us each day so that when the tough times come we are prepared for whatever comes our way. They're called 'practices' for a reason. Time spent doing the mundane, routine practices of faith prepares us to handle the highs and lows of everyday life.

How often is it that our life seems out-of-control, chaotic, and miserable? How often is it that we wonder where God is in our situation in life? When we spend time practicing our faith through the simple steps, we are prepared when life becomes difficult. Sometimes when we are wondering why we are not hearing from God, the answer might be because we haven't opened their Bible in months, or haven't come to worship, or haven't said a prayer in weeks. We wonder why our finances are so difficult when we haven't practiced disciplined giving.

Practicing our faith isn't always going to look flashy or be exciting. I've practiced shooting ten pins, those pins on the edge of the lane, with people bowling next to me. I've heard them snicker at me when my score is very low, or when I throw a gutter ball at a full rack of pins. Spending time practicing spiritual disciplines often times isn't going to win us any "style points." We might even be laughed at. But in the end, we'll pick up more of those spares in life along the way.

Pastor Jim

HOPE CIRCLE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, Sept. 10th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Adult Sunday School Room to discuss *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell. Florence, the 1550s. Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo: free to wonder at its treasures, observe its clandestine workings, and devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding to the ruler of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio, Lucrezia is thrust unwittingly into the limelight: the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father just as quick to accept on her behalf.

Having barely left girlhood behind, Lucrezia must now enter an unfamiliar court whose customs are opaque and where her arrival is not universally welcomed. Perhaps most mystifying of all is her new husband himself, Alfonso. Is he the playful sophisticate he appeared to be before their wedding, the aesthete happiest in the company of artists and musicians, or the ruthless politician before whom even his formidable sisters seem to tremble?

As Lucrezia sits in constricting finery for a painting intended to preserve her image for centuries to come, one thing becomes worryingly clear. In the court's eyes, she has one duty: to provide the heir who will shore up the future of the Ferranese dynasty. Until then, for all of her rank and nobility, the new duchess's future hangs entirely in the balance.

Full of the beauty and emotion with which she illuminated the Shakespearean canvas of Hamnet, Maggie O'Farrell turns her talents to Renaissance Italy in an extraordinary portrait of a resilient young woman's battle for her very survival. (From the publisher)

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to pray for Audra Assad, Terri Aubele, Randal Burdelski, EmmaLee Crannell, Diane Dezzutti, Donald Dezzutti, Lew Ferguson, Joann Hildebrand, Julia Lenkey, Sharen Lenkey, Jonathan Lewis, Tom Murray, Marigene Nelson, Janet Parkins, Cathy Smierciak, Ed Smierciak

IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Beth Harley who passed away on July 29.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

If you wish to receive your newsletter by e-mail, please call the church office or send us a message at oakmontumc@gmail.com.

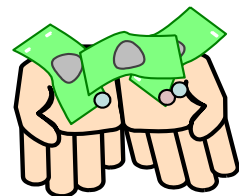


We are pleased to announce that Deb Ormay has volunteered to head up a spring Yard Sale! The tentative date is May 8th. You can bring your donations in anytime during office hours, either leave them in the entry area off the parking lot or leave in the primary room. No televisions, computers or heavy furniture please.

And remember, Deb cannot do this by herself. Please plan on helping out. Many hands make light work!

GENERAL FUND NUMBERS FOR JULY

Balance 6/30	-\$7,482.02
Income	\$12,798.30
Expenses	\$14,526.15
Balance 7/31	-\$9,209.87



Did you
KNOW?

Oakmont United Methodist Church Made \$730.65 from the pies, baked goods and crafts sold at the Oakmont Street Sale on July 25. This event is a great opportunity for our church to be visible in the community. We handed out brochures about the Church and Vacation Bible School. A big thank you to the women who volunteered to bake the pies and donated crafts from the last Christmas Bizarre to sell and benefit the Church. Thanks also to those who donated baked goods, set-up our booth, took down our booth and to those who volunteered to work in the booth throughout the day. A special thanks to Pastor Jim for spending the entire day at the event with us and speaking to many folks. A young man Pastor Jim spoke to even came to Church Service the following Sunday. Consider volunteering next year. It is a great way to show who we are and it’s lots of fun and fellowship. Celebrate a great job done by all!

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.

COMMUNITY DINNER

OUMC will host the Community Dinner on September 30 at the Verona United Methodist Church from 4:00 - 6:30 pm. Please prayerfully consider how you might help. These dinners are meant to assist those who are stretching their dollars, although everyone is welcome. We hope to see as many people involved as possible, and there are several ways you can help.

Please prayerfully consider one of the following:

- ☐ I will pray for this ministry.
- ☐ I will help to cook the meals.
- ☐ I will make a dessert. (If you choose to make a dessert, please drop it off at Oakmont UMC no later than noon on Wednesday, September 30th.)
- ☐ I will help transport the meals to Verona UMC as some items are too heavy for committee members.
- ☐ I will help serve.
- ☐ I will help clean up.
- ☐ I will donate to the expenses of this meal. (ANY amount is very much appreciated!)
If you choose to provide financial support towards the food, please mail your check to the church and indicate in the note section that it is for the Community Dinner.

NAME _____

PHONE _____



OAKMONT UMC

Sunday

SEPT. 13TH



WORSHIP: 9:00 AM
OUTSIDE IN THE CHURCH YARD IF WEATHER PERMITS

BREAKFAST: 10:00 AM
DOWNSTAIRS IN THE SOCIAL HALL



**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR WAYS TO
DONATE TOWARDS THE
BREAKFAST!**



- 1 Patti Rudy
- 3 Steve DiCocco
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
- 17 Janet Parkins
- 19 Linda Turner
- 22 Bonnie Myers-Toward
- 23 Bill Jacka
- 24 Julie Kelley
- 26 Lauren Parkins
- 29 Kaitlyn Minyon
Amy Moran
- 30 Ryan Sands

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



September 24, 2026

6:00 PM



Friends Together

Friends Together will meet on
September 1st at Denny's in
Harmarville. Join the group for
breakfast at 10:00 AM if you can!