

The COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Church of Oak Orchard
Millsboro, Delaware 19966

December 2025
Volume 3—Issue 12

Message from Pastor Allen

Have you been counting down the days until Christmas? For some, the joy of the next Christmas starts before the balloons finish dropping on New Year's Eve. These people start long before Christmas and would have decorations that rival Clark Griswold if they could. Others come from families where there were no decorations at all until Christmas Day because it was part of the surprise along with the tree and the gifts.

Carol does such a good job decorating (she knows not to leave it up to me). She will start putting up things a little at a time soon after Thanksgiving. Then about a week before the big day she will put up the tree and carefully place the decorations on it like Bob Ross painting a picture on PBS Saturday canvas.

My joy is watching my children and grandchildren on Christmas morning. I love the smiles and the moments when you realize that someone is really delighted by a gift. I think the greatest thing is the joy of those still young enough to show their unbridled excitement. Precious memories.

The joy of that first Christmas was special to a select group who were privileged enough to get a glimpse of the Savior's birth. While the world slept unaware, they witnessed the most blessed event the world has ever seen. The Son of God came to earth robed in human flesh.

God's people had long anticipated the Messiah's coming but after 400 years with no prophetic message, (a period known as the silent years) they missed the joy of the glorious moment. One day the Messiah will come a second time. God's people are aware of His promised return but after some 2,000 years most people are not living with the expectation of His imminent return. Two people were waiting for the Messiah the first time with great anticipation, Simeon and Anna. They were blessed because they were waiting expectantly.

No one knows the day or the hour of Jesus' return, but like Simeon and Anna, we can keep watch and live life day by day with the mentality that today may be when He returns. The advent candles are a good reminder that the parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25) tells us to keep our wicks trimmed while joyfully awaiting the coming of our bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS



*For unto you is
born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord.
- Luke 2:11*

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Ministry in Motion!

MINISTRIES & COMMITTEES

Our Church is growing. **PRAISE THE LORD!** As this is happening, we need help! Ministries are an important part of our church. They help our church family to grow in faith, minister to the needs of the community, and provide outreach to those in need.

COMMUNITY EVANGELISM MINISTRY



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OAK ORCHARD

Community Evangelism Ministry—Engaging our community and drawing people to our church. If you are interested in helping to expand our church's reach, we encourage you to join us. We also support the Visitor Ministry.

Contact: **Elder Art Schmidt**, artisea@msn.com, 443-676-3588
or **Kristi Williams**, emschic17@hotmail.com, 240-841-5959

Home Care Ministry—We need more volunteers who are willing to bring a little cheer to those who are temporarily or permanently homebound. We love each other too much to let anyone be lonely. Contact: **Bonnie Shaw** 724-689-3894 or **Diane Long** 302-945-7627.

Kids Ministry—We would love for you to be part of our Children's Ministry team! We're looking for caring teachers and helpers to serve with kids of all ages (infants through 14 years) on Sundays from 11:00–12:15. Whether you enjoy rocking babies, helping little ones learn Bible stories, or encouraging our older kids, there's a place for you. Your time and heart can make a lasting impact! Our hope is to build 4 teaching teams so that each group only serves once a month. This way, no one carries the load alone, and everyone still has plenty of Sundays to worship and recharge while making a lasting difference in the lives of our kids. "If you feel God nudging you to be part of this ministry, we'd love to have you join us! Just add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulleting board in the hallway of contact Elder Mike Koly or Pastor Ed Vidzicki directly.

Contact: **Elder Mike Koly**, dmkoly@verizon.net, 610-350-8025
or **Pastor Ed**, Pastoredvidzicki@gmail.com, 717-940-7433



Men's Ministry—Our Men's Ministry exists to disciple men into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, equipping them to live as godly leaders in their homes, church, and community. We seek to create a brotherhood where men encourage one another, grow together in God's Word, and sharpen each other through accountability, prayer, and service. By modeling Christ's humility, strength, and love, we strive to raise up men who courageously stand firm in their faith, lead their families with integrity, and impact the world with the gospel.

Contact: **Pastor Ed**, Pastoredvidzicki@gmail.com, 717-940-7433



Women's Ministry—The rooted women's group meets on Thursdays at 6pm. The ministry provides a platform where women share experiences, challenges, and insights from a faith-based perspective through Bible and book studies.

Contact: **Kristi Williams**, emschic17@hotmail.com, 240-841-5959

Youth Group Ministry—We want to create a team willing to participate in youth activities.

Contact: **Pastor Ed**, Pastoredvidzicki@gmail.com, 717-940-7433

Maintenance—We need volunteers to help with church building and grounds maintenance. No experience necessary.

Contact: **Elder Ted Brown** 302-549-1450 or **Elder Steve Miller**— 302-258-7499
and_you_thought_my_last_e-mail_was_long@protonmail.com

Education—We're excited to offer many Bible Studies and Sunday Elective Classes, and we'd love for you to be part of leading them! If you enjoy sharing God's Word and helping others grow in their faith, consider volunteering to teach a class. Your gifts could inspire and encourage others in a powerful way.

Contact: **Pastor Ed**, Pastoredvidzicki@gmail.com, 717-940-7433

Thank you in advance, because I have FAITH that you are more than a pew sitter! If you are not physically able to volunteer then it is your duty to now assume the higher calling of prayer warrior.

—Love in Christ, Pastor Ed



GET INVOLVED

*Where Friends
Become Family!*



CONTAGIOUS FAITH

This month's contagious faith spotlight is on Jackie Grant.

By now, she is living on the eastern shore in Virginia, near her family. Jackie has attended this church for many years and of course, as we all age things have to change.

We recently had a party, wishing her well after agape. For as long as I have been here, she has been very faithful in her attendance. She also was very faithful to our Sunday morning electives. She and Madaline have been pretty much the inseparable twins. From time to time, I would have to tell them to settle down during class. Jackie could be like a child full of lots of things to say, and it didn't matter if it was in the middle of class or not. But that's one of the many things that we love about her.

Jackie is very much a people person there wasn't a moment that would go by that she wasn't willing to strike up a conversation. And that's what it takes to win people to Christ. Someone who is willing to take the time to just chat and allow the friendly conversation to migrate into talking about the love of Jesus.

Jackie, we wish you well! We miss you but we expect to see you again sometime soon! We love you, Jackie!

—Associate Pastor Ed Vidzicki



Every day of our lives, we need to be *intentional* and *prepared* for the opportunity to share about the love of Jesus. With practice and time it will become second nature to be able to do this. You will grow in *intimacy with Jesus* and with those around us!

In Christ, Ed Vidzicki



ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

GODMADE

By Art Schmidt

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27, NIV

We live in a “*label conscious*” society where so many people seem preoccupied and sometimes obsessed with labels—brand and social labels. Advertising firms bombard us with brand label hype to influence our self-image and how we spend our money and the news media bombards us with social label hype to influence what we value and how we think. This points to a flaw in our society: *Secular Conformity*—people want to look, act, and live according to what’s popular. In a recent sermon, Pastor Allen spoke to us about *Secular Humanism*—people believe they are capable of morality and self-fulfillment without the belief in God. As a result of these flaws, people end up feeling disappointed, empty, and angry. This is evidenced by the rapid decay and decline we are witnessing today in our society. Pastor Allen explained, “Our human nature is flawed. Sin took away our connection to God. The love of God flows through us and not from us.” So, when we distance ourselves from God, sin prevails and our spiritual life dims.

We are one in the body of Christ and it’s through that unity that we are empowered to actively participate in our church’s mission. Our moto, “Where Friends Become Family”, can only be validated with unity of spirit, heart and service. We are called to a joint commitment to discipleship and stewardship by God who requires unity within His church. Pastor Allen reminded us, “God ordained value in us. Faith is a gift of trust; the gift of eternal life is given through grace.”

In God’s eyes, we are one, but the evil one tries to divide the House of God with lies and hype, so we must guard ourselves against the traps of secular conformity and humanism that disrupt unity. As each of us ventures out into the mission field, let’s exchange those popular “social labels” with words of faith and service such as evangelist, witness, good Samaritan, and volunteer. As our journey takes us into this Advent Season, let’s strive to get closer to God and be mindful that we are one body. Our diversity makes us rich but unity makes us strong. We serve the designer of mankind—the one true God. Brand and social labels do not define us. We only wear one label on our hearts—*Godmade!*

The chorus from the song “Perfect People”:

*“There’s no such thing as perfect people; there’s no such thing as a perfect life;
so come as you are, broken and scarred; lift up your heart and be amazed;
and be changed by a perfect God.”¹*

EMMANUEL ✠ GOD WITH US

Forgive us Lord when we become distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas and the promise of a Savior. Help us to always be mindful that the gifts wrapped in paper under the Christmas tree are manmade, but the gifts gathered around the tree are wrapped in love and Godmade.



¹ Songwriters: Jason Barton, Samuel Mitzell, Matthew West



Trunk or Treat





October 31

MORE PHOTOS →



Trunk or Treat

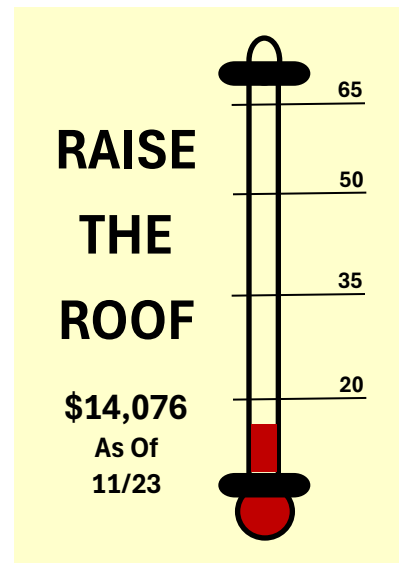


Faith, Food, Fellowship



FELLOWSHIP
LUNCHEON
NOVEMBER 2nd





The first “Raise the Roof” —A Night of Praise & Purpose— was held on November 23 and led by Pastor Allen Miller. One Sunday each month, we will be holding a special night of praise and worship that will include a love offering. The proceeds will go to the church’s Roof Fund. If you’d like to make a donation to the Roof Fund, look for the yellow envelopes in the main hallway and sanctuary. Be sure to write “Roof Fund” on your check.

A summary of our church’s 2025 financials will be provided in the February newsletter. Our church’s finances are being managed with good stewardship and transparency. A full accounting of church finances is provided to the Board of Elders for review and approval at each monthly meeting. As 2025 comes to a close, we pray for guidance and wisdom to navigate the path ahead in the new year. We also ask God to continue to bless our church with prosperity and growth.

— *Art Schmidt, Treasurer*



Community Church of Oak Orchard

Where friends become family.

No matter how difficult life becomes, we belong in families. There may be times when we let down those we love and fail people who care the most, but through it all we discover a group of people who make us feel that we belong, who say, "*What happens to you matters to me.*" Thus, we stand together and face all of life with a confidence born of a sure identity in the family.

- John F. Westfall

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." (1 Cor. 12:26).

Report from the Board of Elders

Your church is suffering from growth. However, this is a wonderful suffering, growth is exciting, seeing new faces and having new names to remember. We are so excited as our family is expanding. It also brings new challenges for us to be sure that we are taking care of everyone's needs, both the adults and children. We have wonderful volunteers who are giving their best to help our family grow and in meeting their needs. If you have any issues or special needs, please feel free to contact one of the Pastors or the Elder who heads up our different missions within our church. We also need to be patient with our younger family members, especially the children, as they can invade our comfort zones. As adults every one of us was a child, for some of us it was a long time ago and we may have forgotten how we acted and demanded special attention at times. So please look into your heart and love them as they grow and learn.

We have a number of our family members in the hospital, or at home recovering, or in a rehab facility. So please keep them in your prayers for healing and a quick recovery. We have a group of volunteers who provide visitation time with housebound and others who are in need of some love and fellowship.

Trunk or Treat was a wonderful success, we saw approximately 90 children and there was a number of phone calls with interest in our church. We wish to thank all the volunteers who made this year one of our best ones.

We have a number of activities going on such as the Elective Class, AGAPE Bible Study, Kingdom Prayer, Rooted Women's Group, The Forge Men's Group, Dinner and Discussion, and Zoom Bible Study. And soon to start Raise the Roof which will be uplifting. Also do not forget Meals for Missions are available for fellowship and a night out, for those in need. The church also offers a Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Dinner.

Thank you all and God Bless!

—*Your Church Board*

Bridge of Love

The Holy Spirit dwells from within;
You know He's there to keep us from sin;
The Holy Father was gracious with love
When he sent His son to us;
Our heavenly Father, he smiles from above;
For He bridged our life to his with His love.
The sacrifice from Jesus the Son,
That's the way God knew it was done.

— *Ruth Norbeck*





GOD IS WITH US

By The AFTERS

Where is God in the heartache?
Where is God in the fear?
Where is God when it hurts so bad
That you can't hold back the tears?
Where is God in the sickness
That the prayers didn't fix?
When it don't make sense, where is God in all of this?

He is right here where He's always been
He never left and He never will
Where is God? God is with us
He is right here where He's always been
It's where He'll be until the very end
Where is God? God is with us

Where is God in the ashes of a broken home?
Where is God when we lose the ones we love the most?
Where is God in addiction
When you lost the battle again?
When it's all too much, where is God in all of this?
God is with us.

He is right here where He's always been
It's where He'll be until the very end
Where is God? God is with us
So where is God? God is with us.

We might never know the answers
We might never know the outcome
But we know Jesus, we know Jesus
Even when we face the darkness.
We know better days are coming
'Cause we know Jesus, we know Jesus.

And He is right here where He's always been
He never left and He never will
Where is God? God is with us
He is right here where He's always been
It's where He'll be until the very end
Where is God? God is with us
So where is God? God is with us
So where is God

Songwriters: Joshua Havens, Matt Fuqua, Ethan Hulse,
Carter Frodge.

TOPS

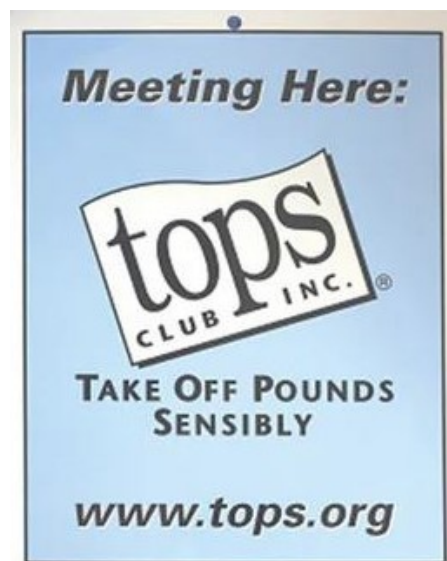
**T.O.P.S. meets at the church
each Tuesday morning.**

**Join us for the
support, accountability
and connections that you
need on your journey
to better health.**

Weigh-In: 9:00-9:45am

Meeting: 10:00-11:00am

The first meeting is FREE!





Members of our church and several members of Chuck & Marge's family helped to make this year's Thanksgiving Dinner another huge success! We had 68 dinner guests and several dinners were delivered to the homebound.





Olivia Wheeler is a 10th grade honor roll student at Sussex Central High School and was awarded “Student of the Month” in November. She is also a participant in the High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and ASL class. She eventually wants to go into the military.



Roark Thiel, age 4, wanted to be Optimus Prime for Halloween, so rather than buy a costume, the family decided to make it. Roark helped his grandmother and mom with the design to make sure he could “transform” quickly. “Optimus Roark” was a big hit at the church’s Trunk or Treat.

Send your snapshots in JPEG, TIFF, or PNG file format to Art (artisea@msn.com)



COMING EVENTS

12/1 & 12/15 *Dinner & Discussion:*
Countering the Culture

Dinner 5:45-6:30

Class Session 6:30-8pm

12/6 *Remembrance Service* 2:00pm

12/7 *Fellowship Luncheon*

Following the 11am Service

12/8 *Church Board Meeting* 5:30pm

12/12 *Meals for Missions Dinner*

Open-faced roast beef 3:30-6:30pm

Pre-order recommended \$16

12/14 *Communion at Both Services*

12/15 *Dinner & Discussion* 5:45pm

12/21 *Raise the Roof*

Praise with a Purpose -5pm

12/24 *Christmas Eve Service* 4:00pm

12/25 *Free Community Christmas*

Dinner 1:00-4:00pm

12/31 *New Year's Eve*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Rebecca Keene

3 Art Schmidt

3 Harvey Smith

6 Kenny Short

8 Linda Miller

10 Lisa McNeill

12 Kurt Hepler

14 George Shaw

17 Charles Williams

21 Linda Goshert

29 Gail Spitler





Community Church of Oak Orchard

Where Friends Become Family!

32615 Oak Orchard Road, Millsboro, DE 19966



Church Weekly Activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8am or 11am
in person or online.

Morning Elective- 9:30am
Open Prayer- 6pm

Watch our services on:
Facebook—
@oakorchardchurch
YouTube—
@CCOakOrchard/streams

Wednesdays 9:30-11am
AGAPE Bible Study
(Followed by lunch outing)

Thursdays 3pm
Kingdom Prayer Meeting

Thursdays 6pm
Rooted Women's Ministry
The Forge Men's Group

Church Monthly Activities

1st Sunday

Fellowship Luncheon
12:30pm

1st & 3rd Monday (Oct-Mar)

Dinner & Discussion:
Countering the Culture
5:45pm
Special Series:
U.S. Constitution

Other Activities

Tuesdays 10am
T.O.P.S. Meeting
(Take off Pounds Sensibly)

Tuesdays 6:30pm
Zoom Bible Study
(From Home)

Wednesdays 8pm
C.D.A.

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Kayla McDonald
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Pastor Ed, Ted Brown

BOARD of ELDERS

Chair: Ted Brown
V/Chair: Steve Miller
Pastor: Allen Miller
Assoc. Pastor: Ed Vidzicki
Dave Hammer
Mike Koly
Art Schmidt



ONLINE DONATIONS

Use the portal on
our website:

oakorchardchurch.com

Scroll down to the
bottom and click on
the "GIVE" button.

Office: 302-945-0633; Kayla@oakorchardchurch.com

Thank You
for supporting our
mission and for
your faithfulness
in giving!

Scan this QR Code
to visit our website.

