

The COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Church of Oak Orchard
Millsboro, Delaware 19966

March 2026
Volume 4—Issue 3

Message from Pastor Ed

Moving Forward Together

March reminds us that progress often happens quietly. While the landscape may not look dramatically different, real growth is taking place beneath the surface. At Community Church of Oak Orchard, this reflects how we see God at work—patiently, purposefully, and best accomplished together.

We believe the church is not something we attend, but a family we belong to and a mission we share. That belief is captured in our **TEAM philosophy**, which guides how we live, serve, and move forward as one body:

T — Together

We were never meant to follow Christ in isolation. God designed us to grow in community—worshiping together, supporting one another, and carrying burdens side by side. Unity is not optional; it is foundational to who we are as the church.

E — Engaged

Faith is not passive. Being engaged means showing up with intention—participating in worship, serving with our gifts, and investing our time and energy in what God is doing here. We don't spectate; we contribute.

A — Available

We choose to live with open hearts and open hands. Being available means saying yes when God prompts us, stepping in when help is needed, and remaining flexible as He leads. Availability creates space for God to work through us.

M — Missional

Our faith extends beyond the church walls. We are called to live sent lives—loving our neighbors, building relationships, and reflecting Christ in our everyday interactions. Mission is not a program; it is a way of life.

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*Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!*

Matthew 21:9

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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

Visitation 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! 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 Joanne Hammond.

Joanne is a quiet but powerful testimony to contagious faith in action. Time and again, she has amazed doctors with her remarkable ability to recover from difficult hospital stays. While medical teams focus on treatment and healing, Joanne focuses on something just as important: sharing the love of Jesus with everyone around her.

Even in moments when she could easily turn inward, Joanne consistently looks outward. With a warm smile and gentle spirit, she speaks words of encouragement to doctors and nurses who care for her. As a simple but meaningful gesture, she presents them with small Jesus figures — tangible reminders of hope, grace, and the presence of Christ in their daily work. Many caregivers have been deeply touched by her kindness and unwavering faith and a few are not quite sure what to say or do. But that doesn't even phase her! She plows right ahead!

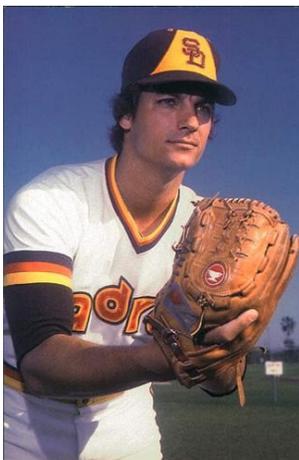
Joanne's life is a beautiful example of how faith can shine brightly in challenging circumstances. Her resilience, gratitude, and desire to bless others transform hospital rooms into places of ministry. Through her actions, she reminds us that contagious faith isn't about grand gestures — it's about faithfully sharing Jesus' love wherever we are, even from a hospital bed.

Joanne thank you for latching on to our "Little Jesus Ministry". I suspect that you hold the record for the most "Little Jesus" figures handed out by our church.

Community Church of Oak Orchard
Associate Pastor Ed Vidzicki
717-940-7433



"The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:26



I was shocked at how radically they had cut my arm back. The incision started at my neck and went in a diagonal to my underarm area. The arm was gone. The shoulder blade was gone.

And the left side of my collar bone was gone.

"Okay, God. This is what I've got to live with.

Put this behind me; let me go forward."

And when the one-armed man looked back at me (in the mirror), there was peace in his eyes.

—**Dave Dravecky**

David Dravecky is an American former professional All-Star baseball player and left-handed pitcher. He was diagnosed with a desmoid tumor in his left arm which then had to be amputated. He became a motivational speaker and author of three books.



ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Why Not?

By Art Schmidt

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him .” James 1:5

“The Will of God” is one of those phrases common with theological, philosophical, and emotional implications. It’s not easily explained or easy to learn, but accepting “*God’s will*” unconditionally can be a difficult precept that every Christian confronts at some point in their faith journey. The word “*why*” has pierced my lips many times—“*God, why did this happen to me or why did that happen to them?* But as Christians we know better than to ask God “*why*” because we already know why – it’s His will.

In 2005, my mom had her first stroke. She lived alone and I became concerned when she didn’t answer the phone, so I drove to her home. When I walked inside, I heard Mom calling to me and I found her on the kitchen floor. She couldn’t get up so I tried to help her but couldn’t. When the EMTs arrived, they determined Mom had a stroke the night before and her left side was paralyzed. My first thought was to ask God, “*Why?*” After Mom was released from rehab, I moved her into my home and hired full-time private duty home care. Three months later I started having a sharp pain in my right side and then I was diagnosed with lymphoma—a tumor in my right hip. My doctor arranged for me to be admitted to the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at John’s Hopkins right away so they could begin the chemo therapy. That first night in the hospital I felt overwhelmed and called out to ask God, “*Why?*”

In 2012, a good friend was the victim of a hit and run accident at the intersection of Rehoboth Ave. and Route 1. He was riding his bike home after having dinner with friends and was mowed down like a blade of grass by a drunk driver and thrown 50 feet to his death. The driver fled the scene but was later apprehended by police in the CVS parking lot while trying to dislodge the broken bike’s remnants from underneath his vehicle. When I first heard the news, I was in complete shock and my first thought was to ask God, “*Why?*”, but then I prayed for his grieving family and friends instead.

Last summer, my neighbor Jack (in his 80’s) was leaving Harris Teeter headed to his car with a cart filled with groceries and was hit by a pickup truck speeding through the lot. Jack was knocked down and suffered a broken collar bone. The truck hit with such force that the cart became lodged inside the front grill and the police told Jack the cart probably saved his life. When I heard the news from another neighbor, my first thought was, “*Why did this happen to Jack? He was just out doing his weekly grocery shopping.*” But then after the initial shock passed, the “*why*” changed to gratitude that Jack wasn’t hurt more seriously and thanking God for watching over him.

We know hazards exist wherever our journey takes us, and we don’t always know why things happen or understand what God is doing. But we know that even Bible figures expressed their questions to God, so talking to God and asking questions can help us process our feelings. Someday, our questions will be answered – “*Nothing is hidden that will not be revealed*” (Luke 12:2) – but until then, we trust in God and accept His will. It’s ok to ask God “*Why?*” with humility and trust that His plan for us is perfect and good because He loves us. But, it’s probably better to say...“*Why Not?*”

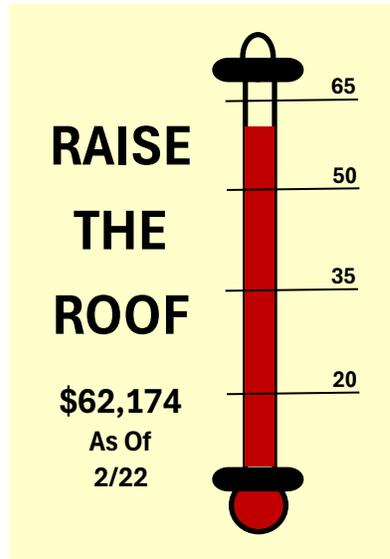
“Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God’s peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NCV)

✦ HAVE COURAGE

“Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.”

- Victor Hugo





The third “Raise the Roof,” a night of praise and purpose, was held on Sunday, February 15. The celebration was led by Pastor Miller and featured a “Comedy Special.” Eight people attended the night of celebration, laughter, and praise, and the donations received totaled \$350. THANK YOU to all those who attended and donated to the roof fund. An online donation of \$5,000 was also received that day!

Since that event, additional donations have been made bringing the Roof Fund total to \$62,174! Praise God! We are now very close to reaching the goal needed for the project. The Church Board has been diligently reviewing contractor proposals and will make a selection based upon an evaluation of materials, cost, and warranty. Once the roof fund goal is met and a contractor has been selected, an announcement will be made.

— *Art Schmidt, Treasurer*



Pastor’s Message *(continued from page 1)*

This TEAM philosophy fuels our vision. God has placed Community Church of Oak Orchard in a growing community filled with opportunity. Our desire is not simply to grow larger, but to grow deeper—stronger in faith, stronger in relationships, and stronger in our witness.

As we move through March, let us recommit ourselves to moving forward together—unified in purpose, faithful in action, and trusting that God is actively shaping our future as we remain committed to His call.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Ed



We are going to do the next several reports a little different. There was some discussion at the Annual Congregational Meeting regarding the introduction of new Elders to the board. With the changes we have made to the responsibilities for the Elders, the incoming Elders will serve a period of time as an “Elder in training”.

Going back to the formation of the church, Pastor Dukes built the church. He had a lumber business and a strong relationship with our Savior, so this was a dream come true for him. Pastor Dukes was a hands-on person, originating from his business. When Pastor Allen joined the church, he was under the leadership of Pastor Dukes, so naturally he became a hands-on leader as well. This was okay until the church grew larger and we all slow down naturally. The workload on Pastor Allen and Kayla had become overwhelming and something needed to change. Some do not like change, however change can be constructive. Also, there is no “I” in the word “TEAM”.

A number of years ago, the Elders started to work on an “Elder Responsibilities” chart. We started by making a list of the church’s functions. Next, we separated those functions into 7 groups. Each group has an overseeing Pastor, and an Elder Advocate, who reports to Overseeing Pastor. The Elder Advocate is the person you will go to with questions instead of asking one of the Pastors or Kayla. This gives everyone a personal advocate whose responsibility is to see to it that needs are taken care of. As you will see on the lists of church functions, a lot of these areas are actually separate committees that fall under the Elder Advocate listed. So, this gives you a “go-to” person if you are interested in helping out in one of these areas. Many hands make for an easier workload and in turn make it enjoyable. These church functions will change from time to time as we add or merge. We have been working off this process for the last 3 years and it is showing very positive signs of making things flow easier with positive returns. One big area is that each Elder Advocate gives a report at each monthly board meeting. This gives the board time for discussion and a question answer time for the entire team. That input is so valuable for this organizational process. As you may see, to ask an oncoming Elder to just walk into the position without some initial guidance is just asking for issues. The existing Elders will stay on the church board until there is sufficient time to train the incoming elders in order to make the transition as smooth as possible.

In the next issue we will look at the chart to see the different church functions and see where we may be able to fit in. After that we will look into each of the 7 groups, one at a time.

Thank you all and God Bless
—*Your Church Board*





When you Run alone, it's called RACE,
and when God Runs with you,
it's called GRACE.



To be resilient is to bounce back from life's setbacks with grace.

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.”

Titus 2:11

UPDATE FROM
JANUARY'S NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL NEWS



Foreclosure Filings Jump 32% From a Year Ago—2 Tourism States Rank Among the Highest in the Country

By Julie Taylor, February 11, 2026

Foreclosure filings remain elevated across the country, up 32% from a year ago. This includes default notices, scheduled auctions, and bank repossessions. There were a total of 40,534 U.S. properties with foreclosure filings—with [Delaware](#), Nevada, and Florida topping the list. "Foreclosure activity in January rose year over year for the 11th straight month, continuing a trend that has now carried into early 2026," says Rob Barber, CEO of ATTOM, a leading curator of land, property, and real estate data. Foreclosure starts were up 26% from a year ago, while completed foreclosures increased 59%.

Nationwide, 1 in every 3,547 housing units had a foreclosure filing in January 2026, according to the firm's latest report. "Although foreclosure activity has been rising steadily, overall levels remain well below historic peaks, suggesting that most homeowners are still on stable footing even as higher housing costs and broader economic pressures create stress in certain pockets of the market".

ATTOM's report incorporates documents filed in all three phases of foreclosure: default and notice of default; notice of foreclosure; and real estate-owned or REO properties, defined as properties that have been foreclosed on and repurchased by a bank.

Worst foreclosure states

The state with the worst foreclosure rate in January 2026 was [Delaware](#), with 1 in every 1,612 housing units with a foreclosure filing.

In Delaware, the median listing price is \$480,950 and homes stay on the market an average of 77 days, according to Realtor.com® data. "The reasons I have heard for people foreclosing on their properties mainly is due to the increase in property taxes combined with the costs going up for your everyday things needed for a person to survive," Delaware real estate agent Carol Quattrociochi, with eXp Realty, who specializes in foreclosed properties, tells Realtor.com.

Don Ash of Alliance Realty in Delaware tells Realtor.com that a recent reassessment is to blame for property taxes skyrocketing in the state. "We hadn't had a reassessment in 40 years— 1984 was the last time," he says. "A lot of people's property taxes have now increased, some by 50%, and they're just not able to afford those payments." Ash says he currently has two foreclosed properties that are under contract and five more in the pipeline.



Source: <https://www.newsbreak.com/share/4487635434730-foreclosure-filings-jump-32-from-a-year-ago-2-tourism-states-rank-among-the-highest-in-the-country?>



Steph and Friend



Karen—our piano SOUL-oist



Rand
That coat is so fluffy, it's a cozy snuggle-fest



Amelia
sharing her Valentine's candy.



What a lovely shade of plaid!

Tara

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

COMING EVENTS

- 3/1 *Fellowship Luncheon*
Following the 11am Service
- 3/8 *Daylight Savings Time Starts*
- 3/9 *Church Board Meeting 5:30pm*
- 3/16 *Dinner & Discussion 5:45pm*
Countering the Culture
Dinner 5:45-6:30
Class Session 6:30-8pm
- 3/18 *Cyndee DeForest Celebration*
of Life 11:30am, Meal to follow
- 3/20 *Meals 4 Missions Dinner*
Turkey & Fixings 4-7pm
Preorder required
- 3/22 *Raise The Roof 5:00pm*
- 3/28 *Kids Easter Egg Hunt 11am*
- 3/29 *Palm Sunday*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Marsha Hepler
- 9 Diane Long
- 19 Alice Vidzicki
- 21 Marie Scott
- 23 Cameron Mosley
- 24 Colby Murray
- 25 Don Stranz
- 25 Glenn Hall
- 26 Caydence Kinzer
- 26 Sam Mood
- 29 Art Gandy
- 31 Joyce Peteah



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03-11-2013

I SEE THERE ARE A FEW OTHER FOLKS OUT THERE WHO ENJOY THE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME CHANGE

Crabby Road

3-12-07

I never bother turning my clock ahead. It's easier to just show up for everything an hour late.



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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 6pm

Rooted Women's Ministry
The Forge Men's Group

Church Monthly Activities

1st Sunday

Fellowship Luncheon
12:30pm

3rd Monday (Oct-Mar)

Dinner & Discussion:
Countering the Culture
Dinner 5:45pm
Discussion 6:30pm
Special Series:
U.S. Constitution

BOARD of ELDERS

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

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
Layout/Design: Art Schmidt
Advisors: Pastor Allen,
Pastor Ed, Ted Brown



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.



SCAN ME