

# The COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Church of Oak Orchard  
Millsboro, Delaware 19966

March 2025  
Volume 3—Issue 3

*A Message from Pastor Ed*

## The Lion and the Lamb

March is a month of transition. It comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, so they say. But for those who follow Jesus, these words carry a much deeper meaning.

Jesus is both the Lion and the Lamb. Think about that for a second. He is the roaring, powerful Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5), the King who reigns with authority. But He is also the Lamb who was slain (Revelation 5:6), the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Strength and gentleness. Justice and mercy.

We love the idea of Jesus as the Lamb. The gentle, forgiving, loving Savior who welcomes us with open arms. But are we as comfortable with the Lion? The One who calls us to lay down our lives, to take up our cross daily, to follow Him no matter the cost? The One who flipped tables in the temple and demands our complete surrender?

Too often, we try to tame the Lion, making Jesus fit into our comfortable lives. But He is not safe. He is not predictable. He is the King. And when we truly understand that our response should be complete awe and obedience.

This March, as the season shifts, let us remember that Jesus is both fierce and tender, strong and sacrificial. He is worthy of our full devotion” not just when it is convenient, but always.

Will you follow the Lion who leads with strength? Will you trust the Lamb who laid down His life for you?

Let us stop settling for a small, manageable Jesus. Let us worship Him for whom He truly is our victorious, all-powerful King and our merciful, sacrificial Savior.

—Pastor Ed



*Then one of the elders  
said to me, "Do not weep!  
See, the Lion of the tribe of  
Judah, the Root of David, has  
triumphed. He is able to open  
the scroll and its seven seals."  
Revelation 5:5 NIV*

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# Faith, Food, Fellowship



FELLOWSHIP  
LUNCHEON  
FEBRUARY 2nd







## ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

### A Call for Renewal

By Art Schmidt

*“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”* (Isaiah 40:31 NIV)

We are in the beginning of the Lenten Season [March 5—April 19] a time when spiritual disciplines are emphasized, such as prayer, mercy, and grace. Lent is a season when we set out on our personal search to enrich our faith and find a pattern of faithful living and expression on our journey of faith.

I have always had an affinity for Celtic music, carols, and culture. I have also been intrigued by the spirituality of the Celts—those people of faith from Ireland and the British Isles who have a tradition of sanctity, learning, and stewardship. In their tradition, there is a sense of unity and balance in life that the “Celtic Knot” symbolizes. “Celtic knotwork patterns are symbols of our life’s journey, an attempt to make sense of the maze of our existence. They represent a continuity of life with no beginning and no end, a journey to one’s spiritual center, an inner quest for spiritual rebirth, and a pathway to the sacred and divine source of life.”<sup>1</sup> From the ancient source of the Christian experience, we find insight into the importance of recognizing that all aspects of our life and the life of all creation are entwined. The Lenten Season calls for renewal and gives us a sense of faithful responsibility in our actions and our witness to Jesus Christ.



Let’s make this season of Lent a time of renewal—a time to realize that our personal and spiritual lives are entwined and to recognize our responsibility as individuals and as a community of faith in the world God has given us. One of the important concepts of the Celtic Christian faith is *anam cara* (soul friend): the philosophy and belief that two souls that experience this unique “soul friend” connection will be stronger together than they are apart. *Anam cara* describes a person who acts as a teacher, companion, and spiritual guide. Pastor Allen Miller is our church’s *anam cara* because the role of a pastor is to be a “soul friend” to those they have been called to serve. The friendship between Christians is an act of grace, recognition, and belonging that fosters a deep and special companionship on our journey of faith.

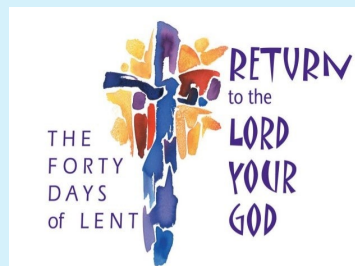
*Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way. And guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will and aware of our soul’s need. Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all the lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen. Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever. Amen.*

—Alfred the Great (Ninth Century)



### CELTIC CIRCLE PRAYER FOR LENT

*Circle me Lord, keep protection near and danger afar.  
Circle me Lord, keep hope within, keep doubt without.  
Circle me Lord, keep light near and darkness afar.  
Circle me Lord, keep peace within and evil out.*



<sup>1</sup> Katrina Davenport, *A Primer of Celtic Art Symbols*

## THAT'S WHO I PRAISE

I wanna walk like Moses,  
Right through the waves.  
One day I'll see that promise land, no longer slaves.  
Though the fear is talkin', no it can't take out my faith.

I'm gonna give Him glory  
With all my thanks.  
'Cause there's no greater, stronger higher name and  
That's who I praise.

**He is the lion of Judah,**  
**He is the lamb that was slain.**  
The only One who's worthy, worthy,  
Worthy of all of His names.  
That's who I praise.

He is the risen Messiah,  
He is the ancient of days.  
The only One who's worthy, worthy,  
Worthy of all of His names.  
That's who I praise.

I wanna love like Jesus,  
That kinda grace.  
I wanna live like I've got  
no more precious time to waste.

I'm gonna give Him glory  
With all my thanks.  
'Cause there's no greater, stronger higher name and  
That's who I praise.



Recorded By: Brandon Lake  
Songwriters: Steven Furtick, Ben Hastings, Brandon Lake, Michael Nichols, and Zachary Lawson.

## I PRAY

that I can be honest  
enough to admit all my  
shortcomings; brilliant  
enough to accept flattery  
without it making me  
arrogant; tall enough to  
tower above deceit;  
strong enough to treas-  
ure Love; brave enough  
to welcome criticism;  
compassionate enough  
to understand human  
frailties; wise enough to  
recognize my mistakes;  
humble enough to  
appreciate greatness;  
staunch enough to stand  
by my friends; human  
enough to be thoughtful  
of my neighbor; and  
righteous enough to be  
devoted to the  
Love of God.  
Amen!





## CONTAGIOUS FAITH



Patriotic Tara



Future Tara  
at 100 years old!  
Always a fashionista!

The person I have chosen for “the Contagious Faith Spotlight” is Tara Somers. Tara is painfully shy and humble. In the time I have been here I have watched her grow in so many ways!

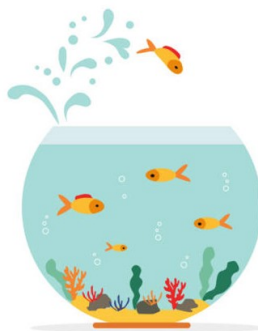
While Tara is still very shy and humble, I am seeing a person growing stronger in faith, confidence, and yes, even boldness. I’ve seen her step up to the plate in Vacation Bible School and children’s time. She has been attending all of our Sunday morning electives. She has a servant’s heart, especially behind the scenes, always offering to house sit, cat sit, dog sit, and fish sit! Even if the fish jumps out!

I’ve always said, “Look into a person’s eyes and you can touch their soul”! When I do that with Tara I see a tender heart. I see compassion, a smile a mile wide that is truly contagious.

Even though Tara has found a new confidence, she has remained humble. Tara is becoming a beacon, a lighthouse so to speak. What is truly amazing is that she exudes Jesus without even using words. That is to say she is living out loud!

Keep it up Tara! We are proud of you,  
and we love you!

Associate Pastor Ed Vidzicki  
(717) 940-7433



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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

# Ministry in Motion!

## Ministry NECESSITIES & Updates

Our Church is growing. PRAISE THE LORD! As this is happening, we need help! I could sugarcoat this request, but I won't! The Lord says there is a COST of discipleship and ministry work, but the rewards are out of this world!!!

Maintenance- we need volunteers to help with church building and grounds maintenance. No experience necessary. Contact one of our pastors.

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 Linda Mansker for details [lpmansker1120@gmail.com](mailto:lpmansker1120@gmail.com) 302-448-1004

Teaching a Bible Study or Sunday Elective Class

Contact Pastor Ed [ezicki@gmx.com](mailto:ezicki@gmx.com) 717-940-7433

Women's Ministry- those interested in participating as well as leading the ministry at church.

Contact Kayla McDonald [kayla@oakorchardchurch.com](mailto:kayla@oakorchardchurch.com) 302-945-0633

Men's Ministry- those interested in participating as well as leading the ministry at church.

Contact Pastor Ed [ezicki@gmx.com](mailto:ezicki@gmx.com) 717-940-7433

Community Evangelism- We need ideas that will draw our community to church.

Contact Elder Steve Miller [are\\_all\\_the\\_good\\_ids\\_taken@yahoo.com](mailto:are_all_the_good_ids_taken@yahoo.com) 302-258-7499

Kids Sunday Ministry- We are in desperate need of class teachers and helpers for different age groups from infants- 14 yrs old on Sundays from 11am-12:15pm

Contact Mike Koly [dmkoly@verizon.net](mailto:dmkoly@verizon.net) 610-350-8025

Or contact Pastor Ed [ezicki@gmx.com](mailto:ezicki@gmx.com) 717-940-7433

Youth Group Ministry- we are looking to create a team who is willing to participate in youth activities on a regular basis.

Contact Pastor Ed [ezicki@gmx.com](mailto:ezicki@gmx.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





## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our church's Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 9, after a combined worship service and followed by a luncheon. The purpose of the meeting is to review the major church operations of the previous year. Pastor Allen, Ted Brown, and Kayla McDonald provided reports for their areas of responsibility. Pastor Ed was not able to attend, so Pastor Allen read Pastor Ed's report.

### ◆ Allen Miller, Senior Pastor

In my report given at the congregational meeting I shared a few highlights from 2024. The most important was the wonderful addition of Pastor Ed to our staff and the reorganization of the responsibilities for the Elders. Through Chairman Ted Brown's valuable input, our church is in a position of growth with stronger leadership. Each elder now has an area of ministry to oversee allowing the pastors more time to do our work of preaching and teaching.

Because of this restructuring we are able to expand our ministry and better meet the needs of those God is sending us. We are going to develop a 5-year plan for growth and future leadership. Pray with us for visitors to become members and for each member to become a disciple maker, fulfilling the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20.

### ◆ Ed Vidzicki, Associate Pastor

To briefly encapsulate my report into one paragraph, I would say that we are growing and along with growth comes challenges, responsibilities, and much needed prayer. Please prayerfully consider what God is asking you to do, and where you can use your gifts most appropriately. As a family of believers, let's charge forward as God calls each and every one of us to do.

### ◆ Ted Brown, Church Board Chair

We installed handicap bar in men's bathroom. Replaced mail boxes and wooden supports. Repaired the crack in brick flower box at the end of the church. Filled in ruts in front yard. Handicap opener installed at ramp door. Replaced stove thermostat. Replaced loose receptacles in Sanctuary. Deep cleaning in the kitchen, including replacing the wheels on the stove. Double door fridge repaired at no charge. Weed Wacker and accessories donated for grounds. Installed wall in Youth Center for B&G club storage. Painted step by ramp yellow. Painted vents for crawl space. Obtained materials to hook up new coffee maker. Repaired leak above ceiling in hall to restrooms and replace the ceiling tile. New carpet runners for doors at hall to Sanctuary. Preventative Maintenance items were checked for Safety items we can do in order to save service calls from vendors. Monthly we conduct inspections of Fire Extinguishers, Emergency Lights, Exterior Doors. Quarterly: Smoke Detectors, Refrigerator Coil, HVAC Filters, Kitchen Hood Filter. Semi-Annually: Smoke Detector battery change, HVAC Coils. Also completed replaced 3 batteries for emergency lights. Volunteers would be helpful in completing these inspections, approximately one hour per month. More helpers would lessen the number of months for each one to cover. Thank you for your Building Fund donations.

### ◆ Kayla McDonald, Church Administrator & Assistant Treasurer

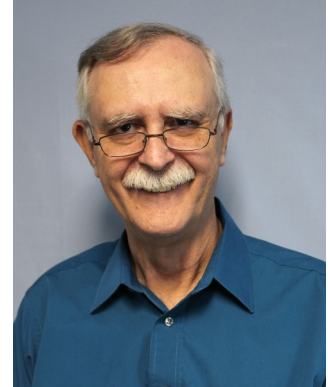
We ended last year with \$11,000 in our operating account, \$59 in our building fund, \$592 in our community missions account, and \$15,000 in our emergency savings. Our overall financial health is consistent with years past where unfortunately we are having to dip into our emergency savings to cover unexpected expenses and even building repairs. We are hoping that church membership will increase giving to the building fund in order to cover monthly maintenance and needed repairs. We thank all the faithful tithers in our church. For those who tithe and need an annual tax letter please make sure you do one of the following: see Kayla for a special tithe number and envelopes or use our online giving portal through Tithe.ly. Scan the QR code on page 18 with your phone camera and scroll down to set up online donations if you prefer that method. Blessings as we move forward in 2025!

# Board Members 2025

*Leadership through Faith,  
Dedication, Prayer, and  
the Spirit.*

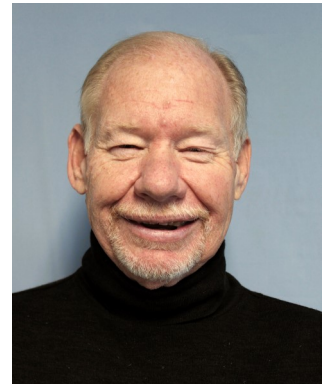
## **SENIOR PASTOR: Allen Miller**

My family moved to Millsboro from Bristol, Virginia in 1970. I did not know it then but this church in Oak Orchard would become very important to me. It was here that I met my wife Carol and rededicated my life to Jesus. We were married at this church in 1976 and we lived in Tennessee and Pennsylvania as I studied for ministry. In 1989 the church's founding pastor Silas Dukes asked me to come and work with him and that November I became an associate pastor. I served with him until 1996 when the Lord called him home. Since then it has been my honor to serve God's family here at our church for 34 years. Carol and I enjoy riding in our little red convertible on pretty days and visiting our children and grandchildren in Texas and Iowa. We also love being a part of this incredible church family that has come to be such a part of our life.



## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Ed Vidzicki**

I grew up in Lancaster County, PA. I worked at RCA as an Electronic Engineer and then followed my calling by attending seminary and became a youth pastor and associate pastor. I have lived in Delaware for two and a half years and have been worshipping at this church for about four months and I recently became a member. I knew this would become my church home the first time I walked inside and I love our pastor and church family. I like interacting with people and find joy in those relationships. I love sharing my faith with others and watching God work. I believe God created humor and I love to experience that.



## **CHAIR: Ted Brown**

I was born in Oceanside, New York. I joined the United States Navy and was in the Mobile Construction Battalion for 4 years. Then I was in the Carpentry Shop at Grumman Aerospace for 7 years. I moved to Salem, N.Y. in 1972 and was a self-employed cabinet maker and general contractor for 26 years. I then became the Facilities Manager for a hospital with 120 bed nursing home in 1996 and worked up to Director of Environmental Services. I retired in 2011 at age 70 and moved to Delaware. I lived in Leisure Point and met Pastor Allen when he came there for Sunday services during the summer. We were hooked and started to attend services at OCCC. It did not take long to see that this is a FAMILY CHURCH and we had found our home.





## **VICE CHAIR: Steve Miller**

I grew up in Sussex County, Delaware and lived here all my life except for one year. I'm a carpenter by trade and I've been a member of this church all my life. My mother started bringing me here from when I was an infant. What I like most about our church is the people and my family. I play various instruments and write songs, I also make fine woodworking projects to give as gifts.



## **ELDERS:**

### **Dave Hammer**

I was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Suitland, Maryland. I worked in the field of telecommunications for 50 years for firms such as C&P Telephone, AT&T, Bell Atlantic, and Bell Canada International. I have lived in Delaware for 8 years. Allen and Delores Scott introduced me to this church and I have now been a member for six years. I love the friendship and fellowship of the members. I like to golf and read non-fiction books about history and economics.



### **Mike Koly**

I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and lived in Delaware for 9 years. I am a retired electrical engineer with 25 years of experience working with electric utilities as a distribution and transmission system planner. I have been a member of this church for about 8 years. I was very happy to find a pastor who preached biblical truth in a loving and connecting way, and a congregation that treated me as part of their family. Whether it be through community outreach, fund raisers or mission events, our church is never reluctant to be led by the Holy Spirit to share God's great love of Jesus with others. My favorite fun activity is sailing with my family.



### **Art Schmidt**

I grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, and lived in Baltimore for 16 years before relocating to Delaware in 2011. My career of 30+ years was in the field of COMSEC (communications security). I have been on staff with Delaware Beach Life Magazine for 13 years. I'm a published writer and photographer. I was raised & baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church and then a United Methodist for 28 years before joining our church in 2023. Being led to this church was a turning point in my life for the better. A church home provides a firm foundation and belonging to this faithful and love-filled church family is a tremendous blessing.





*What does leadership in the church look like and why is it important?*

God has established offices for the oversight of His church. The Bible calls for pastors, elders and deacons.

Pastors, together with the elders are charged with the spiritual oversight and well-being of the church, no small task! The qualifications of the pastor/elder are given in Titus 1:5-9 as well as 1 Timothy 3:1-6. Both are called overseers, responsible for sound teaching and all aspects of church life.

This year the elders in our church have been following through on a much-needed review of these offices for the church. We have established specific areas of oversight for each elder to increase productivity and lighten the load of responsibility beyond the pastoral staff and administrator. In that respect, soon we will begin work on establishing Deacons and Deaconess who will be charged with the hands-on needs of the congregation as the early church did in Acts 6:1-6. This is part of a continuing effort to create an atmosphere of growth. We ask you to be in prayer for us to be faithful in following the Lord's leading in this work.

Here is the refined church leadership structure for the Community Church of Orchard and on the next page you will find the breakdown of elder responsibilities. These diagrams should help all those in the church, those new and seasoned attenders, understand who is responsible for certain duties and where to seek guidance if needed. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of the pastors or elders for clarification.





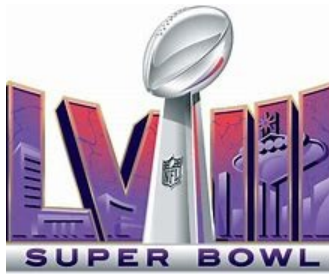
## *Elder Responsibilities*

-oversee all areas of the **church's functions** and report on assigned advocate positions monthly in partnership with overseeing pastor.

<i>Overseeing Pastor</i>	<i>Pastor Allen</i>	<i>Pastor Allen</i>	<i>Pastor Allen</i>	<i>Pastor Ed</i>	<i>Pastor Ed</i>	<i>Pastor Ed</i>
Current Elder Advocate	Church Administration	Church Family Care	Property Maintenance	Adult Education & Programs	Childrens Education & Programs	Community Evangelism
<b>Church's Functions</b> <u>Manage Pastoral Duties</u> <u>Spiritual Needs of Church</u> -Sermons -Worship -Weddings -Funerals -Sacraments -Baptism -Biblical Counseling -Membership -Members engagement	<u>Manage Day-to-day Operations</u> -Answer Phone Line -Answer emails -Financial Management & Reporting -Board Secretary -Record keeping -Calendar Management -Event Management -Order supplies -Oversee the production & distribution of paper & digital content -Assist Pastors and Elders in positions	-Home Care Ministry -visitation -meeting the needs of our unwell, isolated or homebound	-Repairs -Church upkeep -Grounds upkeep -Preventative Maintenance Schedule	-Sunday Elective -Men's Ministry -Women's Ministry -Small Group Studies	-Sunday Jr. church classes -Nursery -Peewee -Jr. Church -Teens -Youth Group -Youth Outreach	-Visitor/ attendee engagement -Community engagement & advertising campaigns

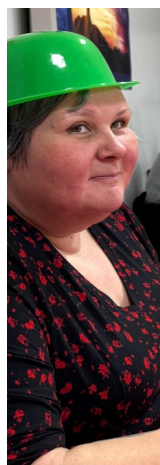
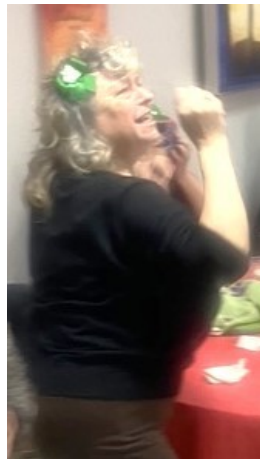


Tara Somers & Bonnie Shaw—  
the bobbsey twins or  
double trouble?



Several people came  
to watch the game  
at church and snack.  
A good time was  
had by all.

**GO EAGLES!**





# Kayla's Birthday Party

A group of church family members gathered at the Long Neck Diner on Wednesday, February 19 to celebrate Kayla's birthday that is actually on the 22nd.



Kayla made a cinnamon crunch cake with homemade marshmallow buttercream icing. Yum!



# Kid's Korner



—By Jessica Baker

Kendall Baker, youngest of 4, Aunt to 2 nephews, Braxton and Carson, and 1 niece in Heaven Avery Grace. Kendall loves God, her family, spoiling her nephews, sports, and cows.

She loves to bake. Peanut butter brownies are her favorite thing to make. She also loves to travel. Outer Banks is her all-time favorite, but Gettysburg and Florida are a close 2nd and 3rd. Going on adventures and trying new things are fun for her. She even tried ziplining for the 1st time this year and she's starting Kart Racing in the Spring of 2025.



Kendall is an Honor Roll student and has even made High Honors (straight A's) a couple of time too. In elementary school she was nominated and received the "Golden Night" award twice for being a good student, having excellent grades and a positive attitude.

She continues to maintain her Honor Roll grades in Middle School and receives praises from her teachers. Kendall has played and excelled in a wide variety of sports over the years, gymnastics, swimming, basketball, soccer and this year in 7th grade she made the school's Basketball Team and participated in BPA (Business Professionals of America) working hard and having the opportunity to compete at the state level in February.

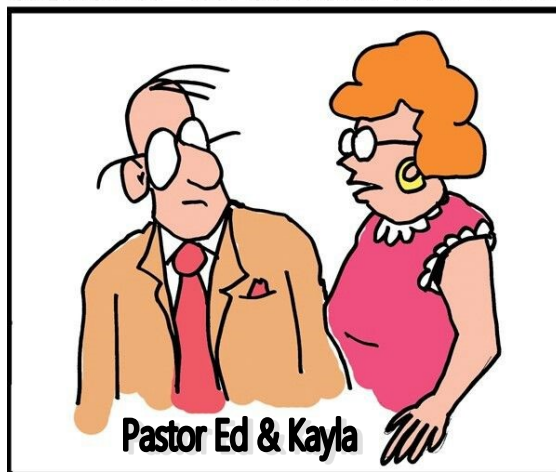
## Kendall Baker







### CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I just realised why no one was in church today... I forgot to unlock the doors."



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Marsha Hepler
- 9 Diane Long
- 19 Alice Vidzicki
- 21 Marie Scott
- 24 Colby Murray
- 25 Don Strantz
- 25 Glenn Hall
- 26 Betty VanDyke
- 26 Sam Mood
- 29 Carol Bradley





# It's a Sign!

All the church's interior and exterior signage was updated. The signs were designed, produced, and installed by AD-ART Signs of Georgetown. The project was funded by a generous anonymous donation. Thank you!









## Community Church of Oak Orchard

*Where Friends Become Family!*

32615 Oak Orchard Road, Millsboro, DE 19966



### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Kayla McDonald  
Advisors: Pastor Allen,  
Pastor Ed, Ted Brown  
Design: Art Schmidt



### ONLINE DONATIONS

Use the portal on  
our website:

[oakorchardchurch.com](http://oakorchardchurch.com)

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

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

Scan the QR Code below  
to visit our website.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Kingdom Prayer Group*

*3:00pm every Thursday*

*Faith Under Fire*

*9:30-10:30 Bible Study Room*

*Elective class led by Pastor Ed*

*Faith Under Fire 9:30-10:30am*

*Sunday 3/2, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30*

*3/1 Movie Matinee 12pm*

*3/2 Fellowship Luncheon*

*12:30pm after 11am service*

*3/4 Church Friends Night Out*

*6:30pm Location announced*

*3/9 Passwords 102 9:30am*

*3/10 Board Meeting 5:30pm*

*3/14 Worship Night*

*6:00pm Ice Cream Social*

*3/17 Dinner & Discussion*

*6pm Countering the Culture*

*3/21 Meals 4 Missions 3-6pm*

*3/24 Zoom & Summer Series*

*6:30pm Dinner*



### CHURCH BOARD of ELDERS

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



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 or 11:00 AM  
in person or online.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Watch our services on:  
Facebook—  
[@oakorchardchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oakorchardchurch)

YouTube—  
[@CCOakOrchard/streams](https://www.youtube.com/CCOakOrchard/streams)

### BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays 6:30 PM  
Zoom Bible Study

Wednesdays 9:30-11 AM  
AGAPE Bible Study

### ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays 10:00 AM  
T.O.P.S. Meeting  
(Take off Pounds Sensibly)

Wednesdays 8:00 pm C.D.A.

Thursdays 3:00 pm  
Kingdom Prayer Meeting

Fellowship Luncheon  
1st Sunday of the Month  
at 12:30