

The COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Church of Oak Orchard
Millsboro, Delaware 19966

November 2025
Volume 3—Issue 11

Message from Pastor Ed

November: A Month of Gratitude, Sacrifice, and Reflection

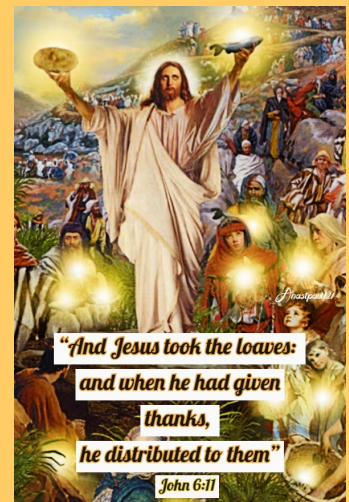
November is a month unlike any other. The air grows colder, the trees shed the last of their leaves, and the days shorten as we step into the early shadows of winter. Yet within this season, three markers remind us of the rhythms of life, faith, and God's calling: Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, and the beginning of winter.

Thanksgiving points us back to one of the most central commands of Scripture: gratitude. The apostle Paul tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). As families gather around tables filled with food, the deeper invitation is to gather around the goodness of God. Thanksgiving is more than a day—it is a posture of the heart. In a world often fixated on what is missing, Christians are called to live out of abundance, declaring, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."

Veterans Day reminds us of sacrifice. We honor those who gave of themselves, sometimes fully, so that others could live in freedom. As believers, this mirrors the very heart of Christ, who said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). While we remember our veterans with deep respect and gratitude, we are also reminded that their service points us to the greatest act of sacrificial love—the cross. Every veteran's courage is a small glimpse of the eternal victory we have in Jesus.

And then, the **beginning of winter** whispers lessons of its own. The shortening days and cooling winds remind us that seasons change, both in nature and in life. Ecclesiastes 3:1 declares, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Winter invites us to slow down, reflect, and prepare. Just as the land rests before spring renewal, our souls are reminded to rest in Christ, waiting with hope for the new life that is to come.

So, as November unfolds, let us live in gratitude, honor those who have sacrificed, and embrace the lessons of winter's approach. In doing so, we fix our eyes not on the passing of time, but on the eternal God who holds every season in His hands.



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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

Our Contagious Faith Spotlight person for November is Madeline Hauenstein.

Madeline has been attending C.C.O.O. FOR 52 years. Madeline came to the Lord in part by her parents faithfully bringing her to church. There was one particular service where there was an altar call, and she was feeling the tugging of the Holy Spirit. Their battle was on! She felt Jesus sitting on one shoulder and the devil sitting on the other shoulder! Who would she choose? She squirmed repeatedly as the battle for her soul raged on in her head! Suddenly she jumped out of her seat nearly knocking her mom to the floor! Madeline said, “Mom, I have to go forward now”, and she did! That is when Jesus became the Lord of her life. Amen!

From that point on Madeline has been involved in many programs and activities here at the church. Here are just a few that I am aware of:

- ◆ Jr Church
- ◆ Sunday School (Children)
- ◆ Phone prayer chain (still in charge of this)
- ◆ Remembrance Service
- ◆ Faithful attendee of Agape Bible study

Now for a few personal comments. On one of my first Sundays at church I looked over at her and what did I see? I saw a little fury creature named Katie. A very well behaved pooch with arthritis. She comes to church regularly! And I might add very well behaved!

I also know that she faithfully brings two bags of groceries for “The Blessing Corner” regularly. And in closing, I have found that she also has quite a sense of humor and likes to play practical jokes! You can ask her about that!

Madeline, we love you!

—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

The Decision

By Art Schmidt

“Faith is the hand of a beggar reaching out to accept the gifts from the King. Eternal life is a free gift. It’s given through grace and not something earned or deserved.” —Corrie ten Boom

We are sturdy beings, but when a serious illness hits we suddenly become weak and fragile. One of the hardest parts of a serious illness is being in-between—the painful and empty time between being the healthy person we were and the recovered healthy person we want to be. Feelings of grief, anxiety, fear, and apprehension about what’s ahead plague us when we’re in-between. We may feel lost and alone as we attempt to make our way down the jagged unfamiliar path. Acceptance is very difficult and our faith begins to buckle. We strive to see the purpose and we search for God in our midst. We ask God, “Why me, why now?”

I had six chemo treatments for lymphoma in 2005. After the second one, I developed a Neutropenic Fever which is a common side-effect of chemo therapy and was admitted to John’s Hopkins. I was released a week later and very glad to be home. I weighed 128 pounds and felt too weak to eat or even get out of bed. I had reached a fork in the road and didn’t know whether I wanted to continue the fight or give up. I had enough of being ill—doctors, hospitals, scans, and medications. I felt overwhelmed trying to care for my ill mother and dealing with my own illness. I was horrified by how gray and withered I looked when I saw myself in the mirror. “Lord, how can I believe that I’m going to get well when I already look dead?” God’s reply came in a whisper, “Your mother needs you, so be strong and keep going.”

Mom’s night nurse, Diana, lived near John’s Hopkins and shuttled me from home to the cancer center for the chemo treatments. I was too weak to walk and had to use a wheelchair to get around the center. The waiting room was depressing, so I’d hang out in the cafeteria. When Diana dropped me off for the third treatment, I was depressed and still trying to decide which road to take. It was a beautiful summer morning, so I wheeled myself out through the main entrance and onto the open veranda. Other than a brief car ride to/from the hospital or doctor’s office, I hadn’t been outside for two months. My spirits were lifted right away just being outdoors and feeling the warmth from the sun on my face.

I positioned myself in the best vantage point and watched the street vendors set-up for the lunchtime rush. People were streaming in and out of the center all oblivious to me watching them as if I was invisible, and that’s when it struck me—I wasn’t among the living. Oh, I was alive, but fighting for my life instead of living it. That was the moment of revelation—when I decided to continue to fight and get well so I could be among the living again. I wanted to go back to work, worship at my church, spend weekends at the DE shore, and be with my family and friends. I wanted to live! My attitude changed, my spirit uplifted, and my hope restored. I felt empowered to get well and go on to live my life with God’s blessing.

The tests indicated that the tumor was gone after the fourth treatment, but I went on to complete the plan. After the sixth treatment, tests verified the tumor was gone. This November marks the 20th anniversary of my being cancer free! Praise God! The illness and treatments took a heavy toll on my body, and it took more than a year to fully recover. Amazingly though, the journey made me a stronger person and brought about growth in spirit and faith. I have a much greater appreciation for the blessings in my life especially my good health. To this day, when I’m facing a difficult situation, I remember that sunny morning at the cancer center—perched high above the street in a wheelchair watching the people go by—and reminded of the decision I made that changed my life and brought me to where I am today.

*“There’s hope in front of me; There’s a light, I still see it;
There’s a hand still holding me; Even when I don’t believe it.”¹*

Oh Lord, when our journey’s path brings us to places filled with jagged rocks and steep cliffs where navigation becomes difficult, thank you for being our spiritual GPS. You guide us along our way and give us the strength to keep going even when we can’t see what lies ahead. Help us to understand that we are being moved forward even when we’re in-between, empty, and waiting for you to fill us. Remind us that we are not alone. God is with us. Amen.

¹ Danny Gokey. “Hope in Front of Me”, 02/18/14, AZLyrics.com

60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!



Pastor Silas Dukes & his wife, Mae Dukes

What a blessed event!
Our 60th Anniversary & Homecoming
Celebration was a great success.

We had many friends from days gone
by who made the trip to worship with
us again. Such fond memories and
so many smiles and retold stories.

Special thanks for the efforts of the
team leaders and all those who
helped make our day so special.

To God be the glory!
— Pastor Allen Miller



WORSHIP SERVICE



Tim Domanski, Song Leader



Kid's Time with Pastor Ed



**The Rogers Sisters
Carol, sister Millie, and
family friend Rose West**



Lynn Moore, Guest Speaker

October 5

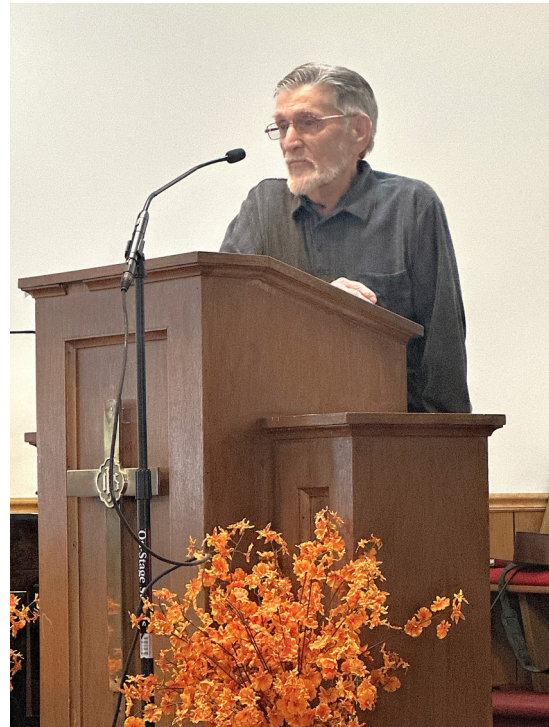
HISTORY CELEBRATION



The Veasey Family Gospel Singers



The Honorable Dale Duke



Dave Rossington



**Associate Pastor
Ed Vidzicki and
wife Sue**



**David Sugard
and sister
Diane Burl**



**Patrick Miller,
Fire Co. President
and Bonnie Rogers,
Auxiliary President**



**Kayla McDonald
represented her dad
Charles Williams**



The Celebration concluded with a Fellowship Luncheon



We are almost at the end of the year and so far, the church has done very well financially. Our next goal is to accomplish two major repair projects: replace the sanctuary roof and the brick facade on the front of the church building.

The estimated cost to replace the roof is \$65,000 and \$16,000 for the brick facade project. The church board has discussed plans and several ideas for these projects to move forward. The first step was to allocate all the donations from the 60th Anniversary Celebration to these projects. A total of \$4,886 including \$1,000 from the IRVFC was donated that day, so we have a great start!

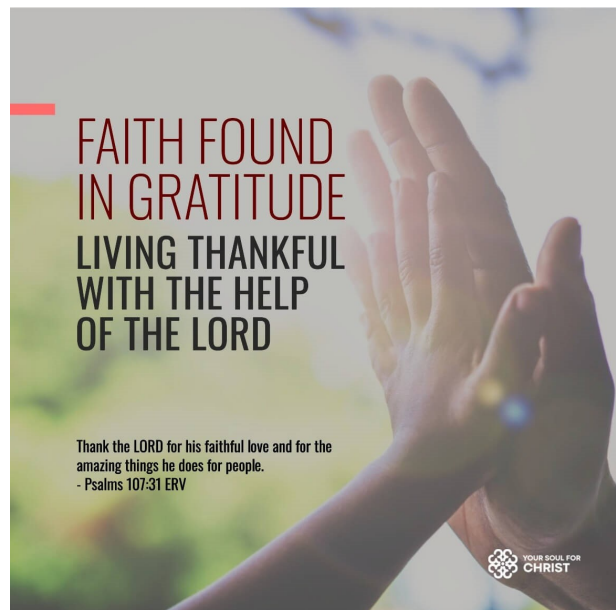
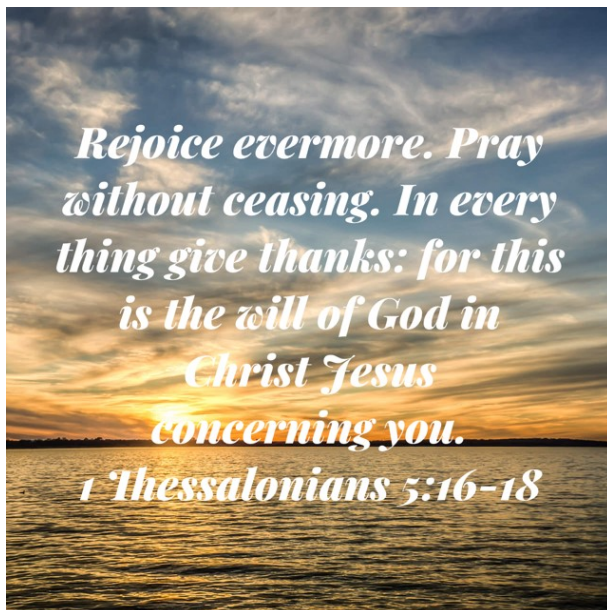
Of course, our ability to do these projects will depend on the funding being available and we know that other priority repairs and maintenance projects always seem to pop up unexpectedly.

Throughout the church's 60 years, all the building projects we have worked on have a way of working out. So, we have faith that someday these projects will be completed. I want to thank everyone for their continued financial support. We couldn't begin to accomplish this work without your support. We are blessed to have this property and honored by the stewardship of maintaining it.

Therefore, church family, stand firm!

Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV

— Art Schmidt, Treasurer



REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

It has been a while since we have given a report from the board. Our church has been growing recently, which is a wonderful blessing. Before we start, let's go over the background of your board. Your board consists of both permanent and temporary positions.

The permanent positions are the Pastors, Church Administrator, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Elder Emeritus. All positions for service to this church are decided on by the board, then brought to the membership at either the annual congregational meeting or a special meeting, for approval by the church membership. The Elders serve a three-year term. Annually the Senior Pastor asks for a committee consisting of 2 members from each service to submit names to the board for the open positions. They are then voted for at the annual church congregational meeting.

This church is God's church, and does not belong to the Officers. The church is here by your gracious donations, and we are here to serve you. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please bring them to any officer you feel comfortable with.

To get started, the monthly board meeting is held the second Monday of every month at 5:30 PM located in the Church Conference Room. All meetings are open to every church member. The only exception is when the board may have the need for an executive session, which is usually done after the conclusion of the regular meeting.

We open and close our meeting with prayer. Before the meeting every board member receives, via email, last month's minutes, current financial report, and reports from the Pastors and all the elder advocates who oversee the function of the church they are the head of. The "Elders Responsibilities" handouts are available at the church information center in the main hall. By reviewing these ahead of time, it saves some time.

The first order of business is to review the Meeting Minutes from last meeting to be sure there are no corrections and then a vote to approve the minutes.

The second item is to review the Financial Report. We discuss any item that may be slightly over or under the average. This gives every board member a complete understanding of what is spent, why it is spent, and what account the money came from. As you have heard at the congregational meetings, there are multiple accounts for the church. This is to ensure that when monies come in, they are designated for a special purpose, and then placed into the proper account.

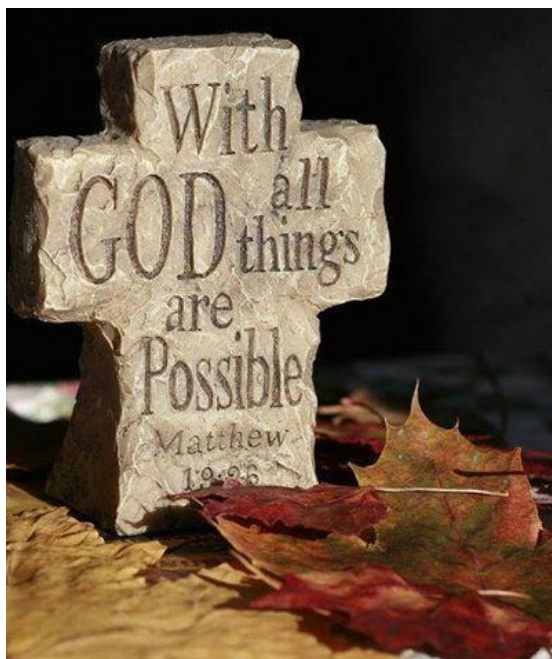
The next order is to hear from the Pastors and each Elder regarding their activities over the past month. There is time after each report for discussion and brainstorming to aid every member, so we can do the best job for your church.

After the reports, we look at all Old Business for updates. These areas include items such as the progress on the Church Constitution and Bylaws, formation of Deacons and Deaconess, revising our Facility Brochure, ways to help outside missions, and general items for the church's daily functions. Lastly, we discuss New Business. All items in both old and new business remain on the agenda until they are completed. We then close the meeting with prayer.

We encourage you to attend any meeting and learn more about your church. In future reports we will keep you advised on important issues from each report the board discusses. Your church is a "TEAM" effort and there is no "I" in team. First, if one person has to do everything, they will soon experience burnout. The more team members we have for each area of our church, the less that will be required for each person thus making it less work for all involved. I cannot explain in words the feeling we get from volunteering a little time to God's work. So, if you can find it in your heart to help, on your terms, please give it a try and see how rewarding it is. You can pick up the Elder Responsibilities that lists all areas of service, located at the Information Center in the hallway.

Thank you all and God Bless,

—*Your Church Board*



Healing in Today's World

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” — John 14:12 NIV

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” — Mark 16:17-18 NIV

Why should we pray for healing when in our hearts and minds we don't believe it's possible in today's standards? Why would Jesus make it a declaration in the Bible if it were not possible?

He didn't seem to put a time limit on the ability to lay hands on those that needed someone to pray for the relief of their physical pain.

I am a true believer in the ability to heal or to be healed. Why are some healed and others are not? Again, only God has those answer. But, that doesn't change the fact that it is definitely possible.

I believe the recipient of God's healing must believe it can happen as well as the person who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can pray and lay hands upon the person afflicted.

— *Sandie Wysocki*



Words could never thank you.

How can we thank you Jesus for all you've done for us?

The sacrifice you gave that day is more than words could ever say.

You died and took our sins away, but rose again in the third day.

As we await for your return when you will sit upon your throne;

Every head and knee will bow, for you the Lamb the world will see,

The Heavenly Father within is Thee.

— *Ruth Norbeck*



In Loving Memory

Church Family,

Char had Scleroderma, a rare autoimmune disease that affects roughly 300,000 people, that is characterized by skin inflammation. Char had a more severe form of the disease with very slow progression that she was likely born with. It affected her skin, internal organs, and created problems with breathing, digestive issues, and heart complications. Char was diagnosed with Raynaud's disease in 1991, which can be an early warning of Scleroderma, but it was not confirmed until 2005. Her condition was managed as much as possible with medications.

Despite having this disease, we had a good life, raised four children, and on July 14 of this year celebrated 50 years of marriage. We worked hard and played hard. We loved camping and did so almost every weekend of the summer months. We lived in the country of upstate New York on the Vermont border, so there was plenty of farmland for us to ride our dirt bikes and four-wheeler. In the winter, we rode snowmobiles and sometimes brought hot dogs and hot chocolate. We would also start a fire and have a pig roast somewhere on the trails.

Char worked with me for 11 years doing general contracting projects. She helped tear out the old materials and install the new ones. You will get a laugh at this. I'd send Char to the landfill with a truck full of debris and she would come back with a half load of "GOOD STUFF". Later, Char became a leader for Weight Watchers and eventually became the District Manager. She would attend the annual training sessions and then teach what she learned to the leaders in her district.

Char's mom lived with us for a while, but then she needed daily care and moved into a local nursing home. Char had started a lunch meeting at that nursing home and then she got a job there so she could spend more time with her mom. The residents could not remember her name "Charlene Brown", and one day someone called her "Charlie Brown", a nickname stuck with her. Working at the nursing home was physically challenging, and Char hurt her back while trying to lift a resident who had fallen. She had to have back surgery and never got over that injury, so she had to quit the job.

Char began to decline slowly due to the back injury along with the Scleroderma. Her condition worsened making even normal daily activity difficult. I retired in January 2012, and we relocated to Delaware in July of that year. It wasn't long before we found this church home, and you know the rest of the story. Our motto is so true "Where friends become family". Char loved people and enjoyed the interaction. Everyone was so supportive of us and made that difficult time a little easier.

I want to thank all of you who attended the Memorial Service on October 18.

We love you all and may God bless each and everyone.

—Ted Brown



Charlene R. Brown January 8, 1948—August 4, 2025





Tommy McDonald, Kayla's hubby, is the co-captain of the Delaware Diamondbacks Paintball Team. They currently have 12 players and practice locally at Precision Paintball in Georgetown, DE. This year, they competed in tournaments through the Eastern Paintball League in New Jersey. These photos are of Tommy playing in the final tournament of the year on October 11. For the first tournament season, Tommy is proud to share that their 3-man teams finished 12th and 16th out of the 40 teams, and their 5-man team placed 14th out of 30. Check out their Facebook page: [DE.DiamondBacks](https://www.facebook.com/DE.DiamondBacks).



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

COMING EVENTS

11/2 Fellowship Luncheon
Following the 11am Service

11/3 & 11/17 Dinner & Discussion:
Countering the Culture
Dinner 5:45-6:30, Cost \$10 or less
Class Session 6:30-8pm Free

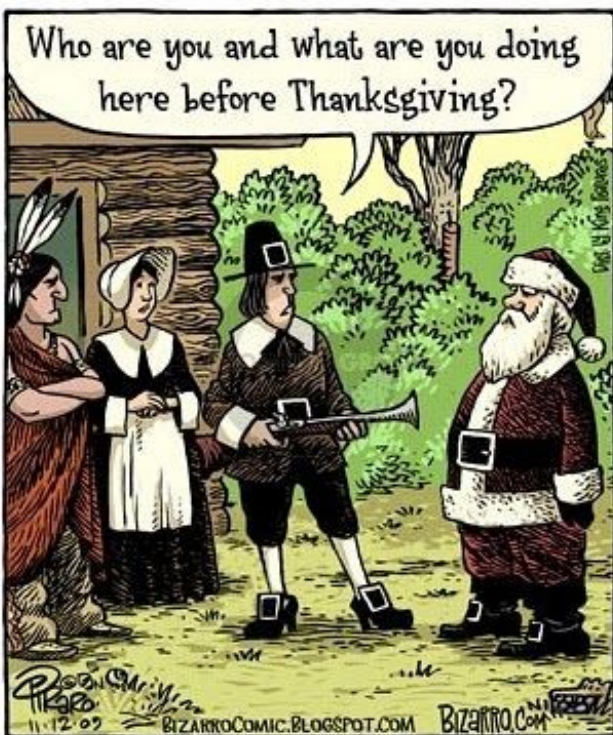
11/10 Church Board Meeting 5:30pm

11/17 Dinner & Discussion

11/27 Free Community
Thanksgiving Dinner 1-4pm

11/2 Daylight Savings Ends
Turn clocks back 1 hour

11/11 Veterans Day



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Kathy Moore
2 Jacob Rosado
5 Pastor Allen Miller
11 Dee Booth
17 Brian Hubbs
17 Rob Norbeck
20 Linda Piercy-Mansker
24 Joanne Hammond

2026 Directory Photos

Sunday, November 9—Youth Center Bldg.
9:15-10:30 am—12:30-1:30 pm
New members or if you'd like to update your old photo please attend.



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Gary Gobbler panicked when he realized he was one of only a few turkeys who were LEFT BEHIND, and so believed the GREAT POULTY RAPTURE had come and gone without him. Dumb Turkey, it's Thanksgiving



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
Layout/Design: Art Schmidt
Advisors: Pastor Allen,
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



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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.

