

The Log

July 2023

OAKHURST
PC(USA)

A note from Pastor Katie

Rest.

Recently, I have had several conversations with people - inside and outside of the church - who are in desperate need of rest to alleviate their exhaustion. Rest from overworking and overdoing. Rest from caregiving and serving. Rest from illness and injury.

There are also folks yearning for rest in terms of a deep pause. A pause to open time for renewing and repairing relationships. A pause to give space for both joyous and traumatic events to settle in and new routines to emerge. A pause to be in the presence of God and those we love.

We know the importance of rest. We know our bodies, minds, and spirits function better when rest is a regular part of our lives. We know our ability to be in relationship with people is enhanced when we rest. We know our ability to vision, dream, and discern God's call for our lives and our communities emerges with rest.

With so many, if not all, of us in need of rest, it's surprising that it is counter-cultural to create space to make it happen.

I have wondered for awhile what it looks like for communities of faith to provide that space, model that space, empower folks to seek and create that space in their individual and our communal lives together.

We as individuals and as a community of faith need rest to be renewed...to dream...and to discern. We need rest that brings us together to "be" in the presence of God and one another.

I wonder how we can create that space together at Oakhurst. What are your thoughts?

Peace,

Katie

THIS ISSUE:

Page 1
Pastor's
Page

Page 2
Events,
Birthdays,
Weekly
Meetings

Page 3
Wednesday
night dinner

Page 4
Creation
Wise,
Peace-
making
and Justice

Page 5
Christian
Education

Page 6
Staff News



At its June 22 meeting, Session

- Approved partnering with Backpack Buddies to deliver nonperishable food to a local elementary school beginning in the fall.
- Empowered the Youth and Personnel Committees and Pastors to post Youth Director Position Description, to interview candidates and recommend to session a youth director to be hired.
- Elected Commissioners to the August 15 Presbytery meeting.
- Approved serving an inclusive communion with both options of individual bread and juice as well as prepackaged elements.



July Birthdays



7-2 Jonathan Ashe
7-3 Jennifer Kimball
7-4 Fred Wise, Jesse Turner Williams
7-5 Charles Copp
7-7 Shea McPherson, Isla McPherson
7-8 Rori McKinzie, Maya Boesel, Nicole Blackwell, Leah Gose
7-10 Suzette Gooch
7-11 Chrys Rogers
7-12 Joan DeWitt
7-13 Alexandra Costello
7-14 Meldora Skaggs
7-15 Loren Munson, Megan Gallagher Roberson
7-16 Elijah Wu
7-17 Peter Thomas
7-18 Micah Lipscomb, Anna Magnes
7-19 Nicholas Willis
7-20 Daniel Biniyam

7-21 Nick Wilson, Kristin Jordan
7-22 William Studstill, Cally Curtis
7-23 Harry Jefferson, Amit Nadella
7-24 Ann Starks
7-26 Isaiah Dunlap
7-27 Bethlehem Abera
7-28 Kenneth White, Adam Green
7-29 Berni Munson, Melissa Johnson
7-30 Owen Lipscomb, David Olali
7-31 Fred Gose, Biniyam Kifelew

Weekly Calendar

Sundays

11 am Worship

Tuesdays

6 pm Gospel Choir

Wednesdays

4:30 pm Racial Justice Vigil

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursdays

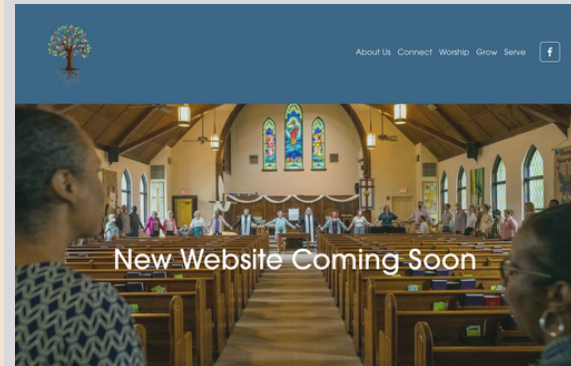
10:30 am – Prayer Group

4:30 pm - Racial Justice Vigil

6:00 pm - Podcast Group

Saturdays

10 am- Racial Justice Vigil



Watch our website for upcoming changes with new photos and information!

www.oakhurstpcusa.org

Church Office Hours: 404-378-6284
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-2

Pastor Katie & Pastor Heather
Sabbath Days: Monday & Saturday

Deacon of the month for July:
Deborah Carter
Contact information in OneChurch
or call the church office.



We had such a great time sharing together for the first Wednesday Night Supper on June 21st, and we look forward to you joining us in the month of July! Jazz music and board games are the activities of the day for the last Wednesday Night Supper of the summer on Wednesday July 19th! Join us for an evening of fellowship underneath the tunes of jazz music with your loved ones. *Its going to be a great time!*

Vegetarian and Meat options for entrée will be provided.

If you want to bring a side item or treat to share, always feel free to bring some. If you want to just show up after a long day, just bring yourself and a desire to connect.

When: Wednesday July 19th

Time: 6:30pm

Where: Jefferson Fellowship Hall

What to bring: Yourself and those you love!

Suggested Donation: \$5/person

Please kindly RSVP to Samantha (intern@oakhurstpresbyterian.org) to this email if anticipating attendance by Monday, July 10th @ 3pm, so we can plan for enough food.

In your RSVP, please include:

- Number of people joining us
- Food allergies
- Accommodations that would help you participate fully
- If you need a ride or would be willing to pick up folks who couldn't attend otherwise.

CreationWise Tip by Margie Ashe

Living
Sustainably

with
Creation

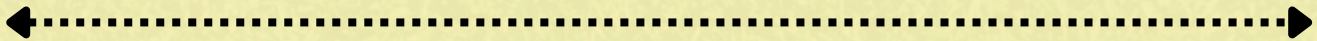


CHARM, The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials, will soon open a second location at 1225 Columbia Drive in Dekalb County! CHARM recycles items like electronics, mattresses, cooking oil, tires, textiles, appliances, metals, plastics and more. While curbside plastic recycling is limited to jugs and bottles with necks, CHARM accepts plastics 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, and stretchy plastic film. Creationwise is going to place a Charm Plastics recycling bin in the Fellowship Hall near the glass and battery recycling. We invite you to place clean, dry plastics from home in the bin and Creationwise will take them to CHARM for you.



Peacemaking and Justice and CreationWise Team

We're having a Meatless dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 on Wednesday, July 12, and really hope you'll join us. There's no need to register, no need to bring any food, just bring yourself and your family and join us for a planet-friendly meal. In addition to good food and fellowship, we'll be viewing a short section of the documentary film "The Letter" which tells the incredible story of the Laudato Si' encyclical letter by Pope Francis, through the eyes of frontline leaders battling the ecological crisis across continents. A powerful - and surprising - dialogue with the Pope brings new hope for our common home. Hosted by your CreationWise Team and Peacemaking & Justice.



Peacemaking and Justice

ASK – Asking Saves Kids

Guns now exceed auto accidents as the leading cause of death of U S children. ASK starts a critical conversation between neighbors about guns in the home. Half of homes with children have a gun and half of those guns are left unlocked or loaded.



What parents can do to keep their kids & families safe. **ASK.** Is there a gun in the home & how are guns stored? (should be locked and stored separate from bullets). It's a simple question parents need to Ask before sending their kids to play (or hang out) at someone's home. As more parents Ask, attitudes and behaviors about guns in the home change and lives are saved.

THANKS to all who wore orange during Wear Orange for Gun Violence Awareness – June 2-4.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters was held on April 30. Forty-five letters were delivered to our U S Senators and Representatives in support of legislation that reduces hunger.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On Thursday nights this Summer, we are looking at different formats for learning (podcasts, tv shows, articles) about the history of this country and its impact on our daily way of life that has either led to injustice or freedom.



We will take a break on July 6th and resume with a new podcast or series until August. We will transition back to a book for our focus when Sunday school starts again.

May – July: Thursday Night Class Racial Justice Podcasts

Discussions at 6 - 7 pm on Zoom. Join the discussion here - <https://zoom.us/j/95010421516>.

Sunday School will Kick-Off on August 20th with a Kick-Off Breakfast and Open House.

We need adults with energy and imagination to support our Youth and Children Classes! Sign-up to help build-up our youth and their education around their faith as a:

Sunday School Teacher or Helper
Youth Volunteer Leader
Nursery Volunteer
Christian Education Committee member

Please contact Pastor Heather to get involved in this vital ministry at OPC today!



Youth Ministry

July 16th - Youth Group SERVES discussion at 12:30 pm with lunch provided in Leach Hall

Our youth went on mission trips this summer in Asheville and Raleigh. They returned very interested in being actively involved with service in our local community. Our Pastoral Intern, Samantha, will lead this gathering, as the youth make plans for service as part of their ministry this year.

July Youth Room Clean-Up Day!

Love to organize or tidy? Watch for a date to join efforts to get the youth room ready for this Fall in Leach Hall. We need help cleaning, prepping the kitchen for meals, and re-organizing furniture for group meetings. RSVP to Pastor Heather to get involved.

Youth Group Kick-Off - First Weekend of August

Youth Group for Middle and High Schoolers will kick off the first weekend in August with a social event for fun and catching up from the summer. Of course, there will be food. We are finalizing for the evening of Friday (August 4) or Saturday (August 5), so save those dates on your calendar to start off another great year of Youth Group! Hooray!

Transitions in Ministry

Dear Friends,

*Below are two letters of transition from dear staff members, who have offered tremendous gifts to our community. **We are grateful for Dr. Lisa** and the ways in which she has shared her abundant gifts for music, worship, and pastoring. Her three years of ministry among us has been constant source of joy, presence, and praise, including through the pandemic. We pray clarity and blessing upon her during her journey of discernment. **We are grateful, also, for Harvey** and their ministry among us. They have been a faithful presence for our youth and their families - connecting, playing, being present, and planning times together throughout this past year. We pray for healing, strength, and renewal for them as they continue on their journey.*

The Session and pastors of Oakhurst are committed to having a staff team that reflects the multi-cultural identity of this community of faith, and we are equally committed to conducting efficient and Spirit-led searches for these two positions. If you have thoughts, questions, recommendations, please reach out to Pastor Katie.

Greetings, Oakhurst Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers over the past six months as I have been in France on assignment as the Interim Choral Director/Scholar-in-Residence at the American Church in Paris. My time there was an immense blessing and full of God-breathed encounters.

While I have returned to Atlanta, I am saddened to report that I will not be returning to Oakhurst. My appointment with the Sixth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is shifting to focus more on worship and music. As such, I will be spending some Sundays in our district churches, working with congregations to assess and improve worship, through instruction and planning, using my forthcoming book, *The OneWord Worship Model: A New Paradigm for Church Worship Planning* (Cascade Books, 2023).

I have truly enjoyed my tenure at Oakhurst and am forever grateful for your love, support, and encouragement these past three years. It was a joy to work and worship with you each Sunday I was present. The Gospel Choir will always hold a special place in my heart. I pray God's continued blessings over Oakhurst, today and always. Keep singing praises to the Creator, and until we meet again, may God continue to hold you in the palm of God's hand.

Grace and peace,

Lisa M. Allen-McLaurin

Reverend Lisa M. Allen-McLaurin, Ph.D.

To my Oakhurst family,

It is with a deep sadness that I must resign my position as Youth Director effective June 22, 2023. Due to struggles with my mental health, I am taking a step back from most responsibilities in my life, and this includes school. I will not be returning to Atlanta for the fall semester; therefore, I am unable to fulfill my duties as Youth Director.

To the Oakhurst Youth,

You are all superstars! Being able to get to know you over these past months has been one of the shining lights in a world that seems to get darker and darker every day. Never lose that light. You can make this world a better place.

I wanted to write a little note for each of you individually, but it made me too sad. So, I will say this, the connection that you all have is like no other. You are some of the most genuine people that I have ever met. Please keep being genuine. There is nothing in this world that is more rare and more valuable than a genuine person.

I am so extremely honored to have known you all. Like the song says, there is a sweet sweet spirit at Oakhurst. Thank you for being my family when my biological family was so far away. You're all invited to my wedding!!!

With love,
Harvey