

LOVING GOD...

CHANGING LIVES

Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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Sabbatical is not a break from ministry, it is part of ministry. I am incredibly grateful for the gift of a sabbatical this summer. From June 25 until September 22, I will be away from Oak Grove. The Biblical understanding of Sabbath of the land is found in Leviticus 25 in which every seven years the land is allowed to go fallow and its workers allowed to rest as well. The modern context of sabbatical includes rest, but allows for focused study or research. The focus for my time away will be art and storytelling. The months will be a combination of rest, reading, writing, exercise, and artistic experimentation. I also want to be open to where God's spirit may lead!

My time away will begin with a week at Clearwater guiding a group of middle school girls in a "Girl Power" camp. This camp is an outgrowth of a self-esteem group that I started at my internship church in Illinois. The week takes time to introduce girls to passionate, strong women and men who invite them to try a new skill. Deb DeMeester will lead an exploration of painting and Bill Chadwick will teach fishing.

Throughout the summer I'll be reading and working through *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity* by Julia Cameron. Julie Flanagan introduced this book during the 2018 Oak Grove Women's Retreat. The book is a 12-week journey into discovering our inner artist. Since my time at the retreat, I've been interested in trying just such an experiment!

Our faith is a storied one, and Jesus was one of the best storytellers ever. Before the written accounts of creation, the prophets, and Jesus, they were passed down orally, one generation to the next. I have always loved to read stories and learn the stories of others' lives. When my children were young, I was the storyteller at VBS every year and recently came to the realization that my favorite sermons to write are creative interpretations of scripture. In August, I will attend the National Biblical Storytelling Festival in Dayton, Ohio and will work with my professional storyteller friend, Megan. Next spring, it is my dream to invite Oak Grovers of all ages to share stories about significant experiences in their lives and archive them, a little like NPR's "Story Corps."

I am thankful that Oak Grove supports lots of creative pursuits, including tons of glitter! Working with my hands -- painting, knitting, baking, coloring, sewing, collaging -- provides a huge sense of well-being. I do not claim expertise in art, and don't even consider myself "crafty," but I'm aware of the profound spirituality of using color, fabric, paint, yarn, paper, etc. to express feeling. By experimenting all summer, I hope to apply what I learn (through experience and a class or two if I can) to children's projects and pastoral care.

During my time away, Jim and I will attend Synod School in Storm Lake, Iowa. During the week, we will enjoy vibrant worship, fellowship with lots of folks from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and participate in classes, including a class on ambiguous grief, and a fun look at relationships featured on the *Big Bang Theory* (the TV show).

I plan to read many books (including fiction) and will provide an annotated Bibliography when I return. I plan to walk and do yoga. I will paint some rooms in my house and clean out my pantry. I will attend worship services at different churches -- a luxury that is impossible at any other time. I will try to rest and disconnect. (The resting/disconnecting piece is the most difficult.) I love my work and ministry here at Oak Grove and will miss all of you. You will be in my heart and my prayers and know that life-giving ministry will abound at Oak Grove this summer.

See you in the fall! With love and peace, Pastor Mary

**Deadline for
the August 2018
Oak Leaves is
July 15 -
Articles may be
edited for space
and/or content.**

July
2018

Congregational Events

OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN
2200 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
Phone Fax
(952) 888-4621 (952) 888-2523
E-mail: ogpc@oakgrv.org
Website: www.oakgrv.org

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
8:30 am—5:00 pm
Friday—8:30 am - Noon

Oak Grove Staff

Ministers: **the 502 members**

Pastor **Bill Chadwick**
bchadwick@oakgrv.org

Assoc. Pastor
Mary Koon
mkoon@oakgrv.org

Director, Youth & Young Adults
Nathan Hirsh
nhirsh@oakgrv.org

Director of Music:
Judy Cooper
jcooper@oakgrv.org

Office Administrator:
Beth Angerhofer
bangerhofer@oakgrv.org

Financial Secretary:
Meghan Dooley
mdooley@oakgrv.org

Organist: **Nancy Hauser**

Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**
sgreimel@comcast.net

Clerk of Session:
Connie Nesbitt
clerkofsession@oakgrv.org

Child Care Provider:
Lacey Jones

Part-time Custodians: **Tim Dubis**
MartinAlan Smith

Parish Associates

Deb DeMeester
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Mary Pol
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Umo Udo
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Janet Shannon
janshannon1@comcast.net

2018 Per Capita is \$34.50

Pastor Bill will be on vacation July 21-August 4. Parish associate Bruce Ervin (612-644-0720) will be covering pastoral care from July 21-28, and Parish associate Mary Pol (210-218-6475) will be on call July 29-August 4.



Save the Date!
The all-church picnic
Sunday, August 19 at 10:30 am.
The Friendship Committee provides hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages. You can help by bringing a dish or dessert to share. Come to Moir Park Pavilion, 10320 Morgan Ave. S in Bloomington.



Twins Church Group Outing

Join fellow Oak Grovers on Sunday, July 15 at 1:10 pm for the Twins versus Tampa Bay Rays. We have 45 tickets reserved in the Field View area (section 303, rows 3-6) and can arrange for wheelchair seats, if needed. The cost is \$15.00. Look for the life size Brian Dozier in the narthex to sign up, or contact Ron Dubis (rojiti@aol.com) to reserve your space. **Sign up deadline is Sunday, July 1.**

Clearwater Forest Scholarship Fund!

submitted by Don Alman

On July 14, 2018, Don Alman will participate in the 16th Annual Lake-2-Lake 50 Mile Bike Tour to raise money for the scholarship fund. In the past fourteen years, Don has raised over \$30,550.00. If you would like to sponsor him this year, please talk to him at church or phone 952-888-4083.



V
B
S



Congregational News/Events

Upcoming Group Events

>**Tuesday, July 3, Noon, Burger 'n' Brew** Men's Fellowship at Zeke's. Pick up a friend who no longer drives and enjoy fellowship over lunch.

>**Monday, July 9, 5:00 pm, Singles** (and anyone who wants the fellowship and fun) meet at Zekes. No reservations needed!

>**Saturday, July 14, 2:00 – 6:00 pm - Rainbow Fellowship Post Pride Potluck Pool Party.** We're wrapping up the 2017-18 church program year with a potluck pool party! Gathering at Susan and Karen's in Prior Lake. Watch for an email if you've been involved!

>**Monday, July 16, 6:30 pm, Men's Mentor Group** (men of all ages who want to share ideas) will meet at Willie McCoy's for dinner; they will meet at the church at 8:00 pm for discussion.

>**Tuesday, July 31, 7:00 pm, Singles** and anyone who wants to join us, will go to Normandale Lake Bandshell for a concert by the Percolators, 60's music. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a beverage or treats, if you wish. Show up and look for familiar faces. Call Jane Jacobson if you have questions (612-267-9068).

The **Caregiver's Tea**, which meets the first Thursday of each month during the program year, will take a break for the summer. We will begin again in the fall after this time of rest. Please know that the pastoral staff is available to provide support when needed.

Lunch Bunch Respite Care is cancelled for July.

July Birthdays

(If you don't see your birthday, we either don't have that information or you requested that it not appear.)

*Important birthday (1-21) ** Significant birthday (85+)

3	Al Frechette	16	Amanda Fineran; Jack Kley; Jane Lund; Rod Myers
4	Gloria Larsen	18	Gordon Goodwin; Glenn Pettit**98
5	Greg Stignani	19	Beverly Sands
6	Doug Pine; Pat Wilson	21	Sara Impagliazzo
7	Tyler Bassett*18; Don Dunham**87; Bettie Egeberg**89	22	Zada Broers; Lou Traeder**89
8	Dorothy Beattie**89	23	Jackie Hall**86; Reid Lang*16; Priscilla Pearson
10	Zawadi Longrie*1	25	Freddy Alonzi*18; Julie Flanagan; Jill Gillies; Diane Samsal
11	Kaitlyn Rossow*16	26	Dick Lang
12	Mike Hoaglund; Jane Horn; Emily Propsom; Rodger Schwartz**89	27	Jeanine Radtke
13	Linda Brandner	29	Noel Eggebraaten
14	Sandy Crum; Jeanette Dunham; Mary Koon	30	George Wasson**87
15	Nancy Bogart**87		



Supportive Housing/Mission

Submitted by Nathan Hirsh

Supportive Housing Corner SafeNights Licensed!

After spending time as a volunteer at Oasis a few years ago, Oak Grove member Jim Koon became aware of an acute need that exists locally and nationally for accessible meals and lodging on an immediate short-term basis for minors who suddenly find themselves homeless or unsafe at home. Working with local, county, and state-level agencies and faith community leaders, Jim and others in the Oak Grove congregation developed a program that can be offered by local communities on a state-licensed basis to begin addressing these needs. The program is called SafeNights.

The Oak Grove Session last year approved Oak Grove as a potential site. A few months ago Safe Nights hired Nathan Hirsh to work ten hours per week with them. (This is separate from his roughly 32 hours/week job as Oak Grove’s Youth and Young Adult Director.)

This last week, Safe Nights received its license from the state of Minnesota to serve as the country’s first on-demand provider of emergency short-term lodging for students of nearby high schools who find they have no other safe place to turn. Officially in Fall of 2018, Safe Nights will begin to provide inclusive and loving support to Bloomington students experiencing homelessness. Work being done this year will form the template for further Safe Nights sites across the Twin Cities area, and we as an organization cannot begin to express our thanks to Oak Grove for its commitment to that mission from the very start.

In the weeks ahead, we will share with you a number of ways that you might consider getting more closely involved. In the meantime, anyone interested in assisting in this process as a volunteer, feel free to reach out to Nathan Hirsh or Jim Koon. We look forward to an incredible first year, and again, thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.

Financials *submitted by Sue Greimel*

Through May 31	2018		Act vs Budg	2017
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$442,190	\$376,645	\$65,545	\$290,285
Expense YTD	\$305,122	\$336,946	\$31,824	\$293,299
Income – Exp	\$137,068	\$39,699	\$97,369	(\$3,014)



WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 8:00 - 11:00 AM

at The Gerdes Residence, 10741 Sheridan Avenue S. 55431

Please bring non-perishable food items or cash donations.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

School Supplies Collection/Drive



Over the past year, VEAP has worked with leadership and staff in our local school districts to understand what the classroom teachers need most to support students throughout the school year. We learned that teachers need access to an inventory of school supplies all year long to keep students prepared to learn. However, conducting school supply drives and collecting donations is not something the schools and teachers are equipped to do. That is where VEAP, and you, come in.

This summer VEAP will collect and sort school supplies and then distribute those supplies to the schools to best meet the needs of families, students and teachers. Teachers know many of the students who may need help filling a backpack and during the pre-school meet-and-greets and orientations, they can make sure that every student has the supplies needed to be ready for the first day of school and the year ahead.

When: July 16 – August 1, there will be a box in the OGPC Narthex throughout the month of July. Please leave your supplies there.

What supplies are most needed? Backpacks, earbuds, USB thumb drives and calculators are the most needed items. As times have changed, so have the items that students need for school. Your donations of the above-mentioned items in addition to the **standard pencils, pens and paper** will help students succeed.

You may also drop them off at VEAP, 9600 Aldrich Avenue South, Bloomington, Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and until 7:00 pm on Thursdays.

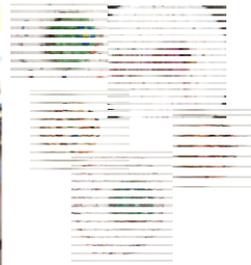


VBS

On-Line Book Club coming in July!

Participate in a book club from the comfort of your home, the lake or any other place you like. During the month of July, people from Chain of Lakes and Oak Grove will participate in an on-line book group. The group will read *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. The book is a memoir of Kate Bowler's encounter with stage 4 colon cancer. Bowler is a graduate of Macalester College and a professor of Christian History at Duke Divinity School. The book tells the story of Bowler's struggle to understand the personal, spiritual dimensions of the belief that tragedies are tests of character or somehow happen for a divine reason.

Participants of the book club will be encouraged to read about two chapters a week. A closed Facebook group page will be set up where private, on-line conversation will take place. Every Sunday we will share one or two questions on the Facebook page. We will ask all participants to respond to the questions and then participate in the ensuing on-line conversation during the week. A gathering of all participants will take place at a time to be determined. Contact Mary Pol at marynpoll@aol.com.



1st—5th grade GaGa Lockin and cupcake party



Youth Activities for July, 2018
Wednesday, July 18, 6:00 pm, Sr. High Family Dinner at the church.

A huge, Caribbean thank you...

...to all who helped at Vacation Bible School this year! It was a week of joyful learning, relationship building, and fun. Thirty-three children participated, 15 of whom were visitors! We are incredibly grateful for the many volunteers who gave their time and talents in service this week.

Adult helpers: **Judy Cooper, Karen Gerdes, Karna Mikkelson, Linda Johnson, Marikay Wolf, Cindy St. Martin, Anne and Larry Klueh, Lisa Sheff, Jeanine Radtke, Nathan Hirsh, Sue Greimel, Connie Nesbitt, Arlene Jullie, Heidi Schuchman, Patty Nail, Sue Powers, Iris Karow, Jody Milton, Bob Gerdes, Al Greimel, Bill Chadwick, Beth Angerhofer, Gramps and Pepita.**

Youth helpers: **David, Christina, Lily, Evan, Sam, James, Belle, Desi and Davis.**

Many hands made the week meaningful and love-filled. (Apologies to anyone I missed! Let us know so we can recognize you!)
Pastor Mary Koon



Dear Teammates:

I have been somewhat involved in the new version of the Poor People's Campaign, which has been organizing to try to bring a more just and peaceful world into being. At a demonstration at the state capitol recently, our friend Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer (former speaker at one of our February Forums) gave the keynote address. I share it with you.

Peace, Bill

Poverty, Inequality, and Militarism

Remarks by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer at the St. Paul Capitol Steps, May 29, 2018

During military rule in Brazil in the 1960s common graffiti captured the reality of the situation. It said: "Brazil is doing well. The people are not."

We can say much the same today. In the United States "the Stock Market is doing well. The people are not. The Military Industrial Complex is doing well. The People are not."

The United States is a very wealthy country but we lag behind all other developed countries on almost every measure of social wellbeing. For example, the United States has:

- The highest overall poverty rate, including child poverty;
- The highest infant mortality rate, and lower life expectancy.
- The worst rate of maternal deaths in the developed world (ranking 62nd);
- The worst health care system when measured by the three most important criteria: cost, access, and quality.
- The most punitive prison system and more prisoners per capita than any nation in the world;
- The most crime and the most violent crime;
- Higher rates of obesity and mental illness;
- Poor educational outcomes.

Why the United States Does So Poorly

There are two important factors that explain why our rich nation does so poorly relative to others in terms of social wellbeing.

Reason # 1: Inequality

Equity is an important key to social wellbeing and the United States is more unequal than almost all other developed countries.

- The richest 1% of U.S. families has wealth greater than the wealth of 90 to 95 percent of U.S. families added together.
- The richest 20% of U.S. families have 84% of the nation's wealth; the bottom 40% of U.S. families have less than 3/10ths of 1% of the nation's wealth.
- These statistics highlight why we need a poor people's movement in the United States.

Reason # 2: The Negative Consequences of Living in a Permanent Warfare State

Living in a highly unequal society has profoundly negative consequences for the majority of our people in terms of quality of life and social wellbeing. So too does living in a permanent warfare state. Martin Luther King in his “Beyond Vietnam” speech on April 4, 1967 understood this well. He noted that the hopes of the poor were shattered and broken because “of a society gone mad on war.” He warned “that America would never invest the necessary funds [to end poverty] so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube.” He stated bluntly that the United States had become “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world” and that a “nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

Members of Congress and Presidents, Republicans and Democrats alike, prioritize the needs of the permanent warfare state over meeting the basic needs of our people. President Trump has accelerated this trend. His proposed 2019 budget devotes 61 cents out of every dollar in the federal discretionary budget to military spending and war; and, another 8 cents for veterans who are wrestling with the mental and physical health challenges that arise from fighting unjust and unnecessary wars.

Our poor people’s campaign is really a campaign for the heart and soul of our nation. We must be perfectly clear in our recognition that social progress will only be possible if we reject, counter, and transform the permanent warfare state. As we do so, let’s be clear:

- Invading and occupying other nations is not defense.
- Positioning U.S. special operations forces in more than 120 nations is not defense.
- Garrisoning the world with more than 800 permanent military bases is not defense.
- Consistently being the world’s largest arms merchant is not defense.
- Building weapons systems we don’t need is not defense.
- Power projection in service to empire is not defense.
- I would also add that cultivating fear in order to mobilize support for permanent war and the so-called war on terror is indefensible. Americans are more likely to be killed by their furniture or by a toddler with a gun than they are by an international terrorist.

Let us also be clear that our responsibility to veterans must include challenging the ideology and culture that generates support for permanent warfare.

- Shallow patriotism is not the friend of soldiers.
- Cheap veneration of troops is not the friend of soldiers.
- Shallow patriotism and cheap veneration are critical components in a war culture that serves the permanent warfare state while undermining the wellbeing of the nation and its people, including soldiers.

The poor people’s movement is asserting a fundamental truth. There are many pressing problems to be faced and we can solve them but only if we organize together guided by a vision of a more peaceful, just, and compassionate nation committed to meeting the essential needs of all.



VBS Groups



Activities

