

# Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

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• New Members

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

November 2018

From Pastor Bill Chadwick — Dear Friends:

I finally got around to reading the highly-recommended book, *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved*, by Kate Bowler. (Some of you studied it together online with folks from Chain of Lakes.) It's tremendous! Professor Bowler writes about her experiences following her diagnosis of Stage IV colon cancer at the age of 35, with a husband and young son. I can't recommend the book too highly. It's simultaneously heart-breaking, inspiring, funny and superbly helpful.

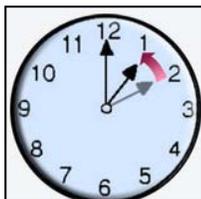
At the conclusion of the book, Bowler lists two appendices. Let me share shortened versions. I encourage you to memorize these or file this in your "A Safe Place" file for later reference.

*Appendix 1: Absolutely Never Say This to People Experiencing Terrible Times: A Short List:*

1. "Well, at least..." Don't minimize...
2. "It's going to get better. I promise." Well, fairy godmother, that's going to be a tough row to hoe when things go badly.
3. "God needed an angel." This one takes the cake because (a) it makes God look sadistic and needy and (b) angels are, according to Christian tradition, created from scratch. Not dead people looking for a cameo in *Ghost*...
4. "Everything happens for a reason." The only thing worse than saying this, is pretending that you know the reason. I've had hundreds of people tell me the reason for my cancer. Because of my sin. Because of my unfaithfulness. Because God is fair. Because God is unfair. Because of my aversion to Brussels sprouts...
5. "So how are the treatments going? How are you really?" I can hear you trying to understand my world and be on my side. But picture the worst thing that has ever happened to you. Got it? Now try to put it in a sentence. Now say it aloud fifty times a day...

*Appendix 2 Give This a Go, See How It Works:*

1. "I'd love to bring you a meal this week. Can I email you about it?" ...really, bring me anything...I remember the first gift I got that wasn't about cancer and I was so happy I cried. Send me funny Youtube clips to watch during chemotherapy...
2. "You are a beautiful person." ...Everyone wants to know they are doing a good job without feeling like they are learning a lesson. So tell your friend something about his life that you admire without making it feel like a eulogy.
3. "I am so grateful to hear about how you're doing and just know that I'm on your team." You mean I don't have to give you an update? You asked someone else for all the gory details? *Whew*...
4. "Can I give you a hug?"
5. "Oh, my friend, that sounds so hard."
6. \*\*\*\*\*Silence\*\*\*\*\*



**Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 4.** Remember to set your clocks back one hour (for example, change 11:00 pm to 10:00 pm) before you go to bed!



**Come enjoy our Americana Cabaret!**

**Saturday evening, November 10, at 6:00 pm**

The Chancel choir and friends will treat you to an evening of American folk songs and patriotic music.

Besides our soloists, small group and large group singing, you'll be invited (encouraged) to join us in a couple of sing-alongs! Stay for a social hour after the program!

Invite some friends and enjoy an entertaining evening

**Free will donations will go to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund.**



**Photos of Your  
Loved Ones**



**For All Saints'  
Sunday**



We invite you to bring photos of departed loved ones to place on display in the sanctuary on **All Saints' Sunday, November 4**. You may bring them to the church office ahead of time or simply place them in the sanctuary that morning. Please label them so all will recognize your loved one.



**Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 pm**

**at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church**

#### **Upcoming Group Events**

>**Thursday, Nov 1, 11:00 am, Caregiver Support Group** meets. Anyone who is taking care of a spouse or parent is welcome. Those receiving care are welcome to come for an activity time.

>**Monday, Nov 5, 6:00p – 7:30p, Feed My Starving Children with Rainbow Fellowship**, Eagan location. Please sign up in the narthex — 30 spots reserved!

>**Friday, Nov 9, 9:30 am, Singles Group** (and anyone who wants the fellowship) will go to the Bell Museum of Natural History. Carpool from the church at 9:30. Cost is \$14 for the museum admission plus the planetarium show at 10:30. After browsing the museum, we'll have lunch at a nearby restaurant. **Let Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068) know by Nov 5** if you are interested so she can get tickets.



### Help decorate the church for Christmas!

You have the opportunity to help decorate the church by donating money in honor of, in memory of or in celebration of a special event. Your contributions allow us to provide flowers and greens for the sanctuary with the remaining donations going to VEAP. Sign up on Sundays, December 2, 9 and 16.

In addition, you can order chancel flowers for Sundays in 2019! If there is a particular Sunday you prefer, call Penny Nesbitt at 952 941-6166.



While you're at it, **bring in your favorite crèche** (be sure your name is on it) during the week beginning November 25. Variety has made this popular in past years!

### Oak Grove is a very friendly community. Yay!



At the same time, when the prelude (*church music*) begins, we encourage chatting to take place **outside** the sanctuary. Other worshippers are trying to get into a worshipful mood and the musicians have worked hard to prepare beautiful music. Yes, please greet those around you, but save the extended conversation for after the conclusion of the service. Thanks!

**The Presbyterian Women Circles** invite you to join us for this year's study. "God's Promise" is a study of the Old and New Testaments showing examples of how God is with us through good and bad times as God promised. Two circles meet at the church. **Evening Star Circle** meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm; contact Connie Nesbitt at 612-702-0684.

**Goodrich-Nord Circle** meets on the second Wednesday at 8:45 am; contact Margaret Koch at 952-881-2582.

Our next **Coordinating Team meeting** is Monday, November 5 at 1:30 pm. We'd love to have you join us for Circle and for the upcoming events!

**PW Knit Tree** will be in the Narthex from November 25 through December 9. Please cover our tree with homemade or purchased mittens, hats, scarves and other small garments. We will donate all items to Cornerstone (for victims of domestic violence) for their Santa Shop. Our past generous donations have been greatly appreciated!

Last year we collected over 80 items. Thanks to all of you! Contact Margaret Koch with questions (952-881-2582).

**SAVE THE DATE**

On Thursday evening, November 15, Oak Grove will host a meeting sponsored by the Bloomington Housing Coalition (BHC).

The purpose of the gathering is to keep the citizens of this community up-to-date on the efforts by the city to prevent the loss of the existing affordable housing in Bloomington. In addition, we will receive information about the city's plan for increasing the number of affordable housing units to accommodate current and future needs. Individuals from Bloomington's community development office, school district and city council will participate, as well as a representative from one of the area's non-profit preservation buyers. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm with something light to curb your appetite and it will conclude at 8:00 pm. There will be a scheduled time for questions and answers. Child care will be available.



**Save Your 2019 Calendars**

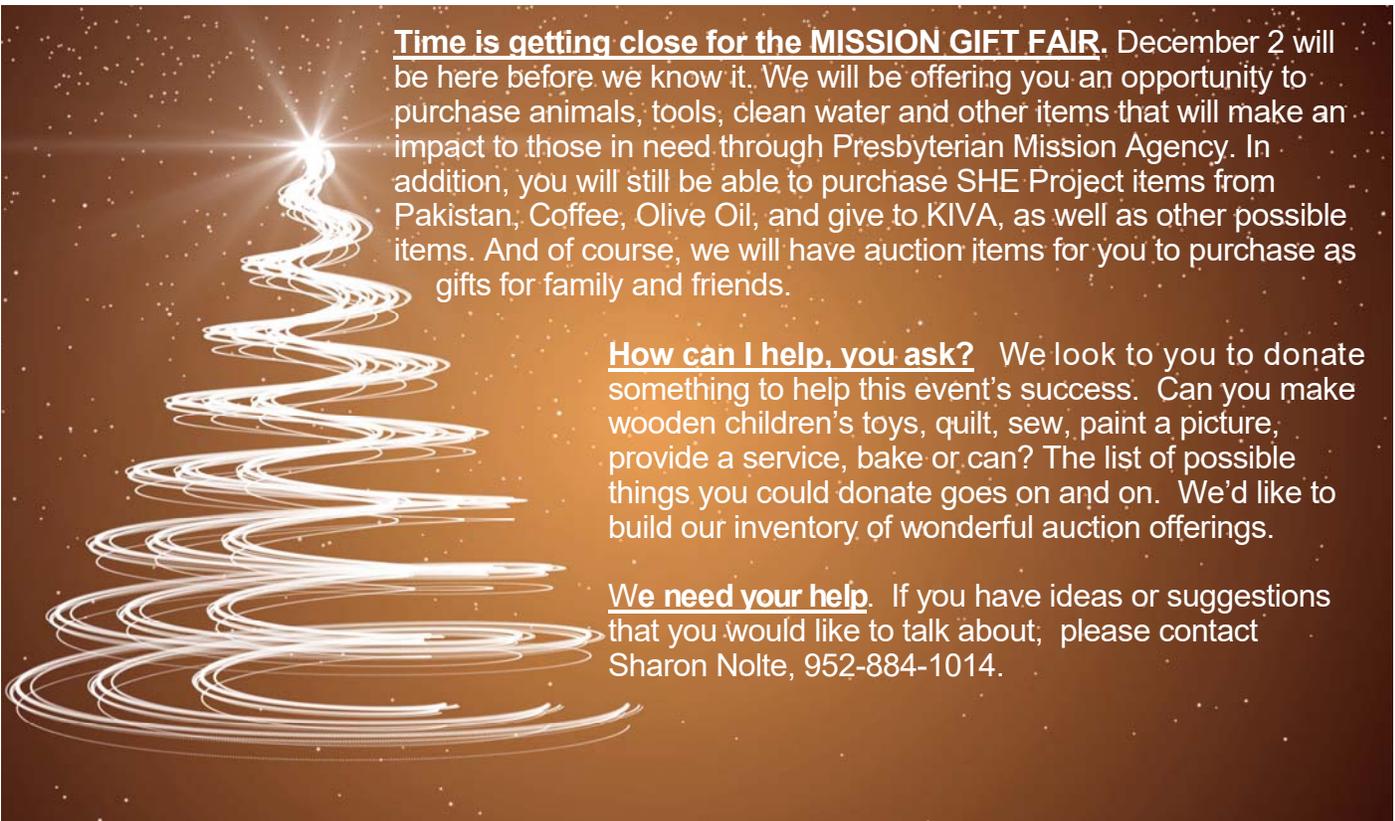
*from the Supportive Housing Committee*

Many of us get calendars in the mail this time of year from various organizations that we support financially. Wondering what to do with all those calendars? Bring them in and Supportive Housing will contribute them to Aeon and other organizations that can use them for residents. Look for the basket in the narthex. Thanks!!

**Time is getting close for the MISSION GIFT FAIR.** December 2 will be here before we know it. We will be offering you an opportunity to purchase animals, tools, clean water and other items that will make an impact to those in need through Presbyterian Mission Agency. In addition, you will still be able to purchase SHE Project items from Pakistan, Coffee, Olive Oil, and give to KIVA, as well as other possible items. And of course, we will have auction items for you to purchase as gifts for family and friends.

**How can I help, you ask?** We look to you to donate something to help this event's success. Can you make wooden children's toys, quilt, sew, paint a picture, provide a service, bake or can? The list of possible things you could donate goes on and on. We'd like to build our inventory of wonderful auction offerings.

**We need your help.** If you have ideas or suggestions that you would like to talk about, please contact Sharon Nolte, 952-884-1014.



### What You Can Do To Prevent Gun Violence

*from the Social Justice Committee*

1. Contact your representatives in Congress and ask that they:
2. Support universal background checks and waiting periods for all gun purchases.
3. Support a ban on semiautomatic assault weapons, armor piercing handgun ammunition and .50 caliber sniper rifles.
4. Help close the gun show loophole that allows purchases with no background checks.
5. Contact your mayor and city council members and demand that steps be taken in your community to prevent gun violence.
6. Attend a public prayer service or peaceful demonstration to end gun violence.
7. Attend Oak Grove's screening of *Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence*, on Saturday, January 19, 2019.



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**2018 Golden Harvest Dinner**

**Nov 4 -- Immigration** -- Stephanie Gil is coming to Oak Grove to tell us why she feels we should help immigrants in the United States. She will talk to us about the things that immigrants go through in their home countries and what they go through in the United States. There will be time for questions at the end of our time with Stephanie. She received rave reviews at a recent Presbytery meeting. Come hear what Stephanie has to say.

**Nov 11 -- Social Justice as it relates to affordable housing issues.** The Oak Grove Supportive Housing Committee (SHC) has invited Aaron Berc from the Jewish Community Action (JCA) to share their work in affordable housing. Our SHC has benefitted greatly from the training the JCA has made available to us.

**Nov 18 -- Cyber Security 2018.** Cyber criminals get smarter and their schemes get more sophisticated every year. Experts predict cyber crimes will cause \$6 trillion in damages by 2021. What can you do to protect yourself? Fred and Karen Alonzi, owners of **PAR3.IT**, will lead a presentation on the current threats and methodologies used to commit cyber crime, and offer advice on how to minimize the threat to your identity and your wallet.

**Nov 25 -- Cornerstone Advocacy Program.** Meg Schnabel, Director of Cornerstone, will speak about it's founding by a small group of people in 1983, and its development into the advocacy program and resident facilities in 10 cities, including Bloomington. The goal of Cornerstone is to reduce domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking.

### Children's Ministries

In November, children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be learning the stories of Moses, Jonah and some Psalms.

### Youth Ministries

Youth meet **every Sunday** morning at 9:30 am for **Walk-in Discussion** in the Sr. High Room.

Youth meet **every Wednesday** evening when there is WoW! for **group discussion** in the Sr. High Room.

We invite everyone to join us on **Sunday, November 18** after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service for our **Pancake Brunch Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser**. Youth should arrive by 9:30 to prepare the food.



### Waffle Brunch for C.R.O.P



**Creative People!****Join the Creative Hands Across the River Crafters**

No matter what your interest, bring your projects and join our friendly monthly meetings alternating between Oak Grove and Presbyterian Church of the Apostles (PCA — 701 E. 130th St, Burnsville).

**Check the schedule below for dates and locations.**

It's a fun way to get to know folks from PCA & Oak Grove and to get some work done on your crafting projects.

Questions? Dawn Baddeley [dawnrn90@comcast.net](mailto:dawnrn90@comcast.net) (PCA) or Yvonne Dodge [yvonesdodge@hotmail.com](mailto:yvonesdodge@hotmail.com) (Oak Grove).

*A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.*

Nov 3 at OGPC (1st Saturday)

Dec 1 at PCA (1st Saturday)

Jan 12 at OGPC (No meeting)

Feb 9 at PCA (2nd Saturday)

Mar 9 at OGPC(2nd Saturday)

Apr 13 at PCA(2nd Saturday)

May 11 at OGPC (2nd Saturday)

**Westminster Town Hall Forum  
Tuesday, November 13, Noon**

**Presidents of War: From 1807 to Modern Times** presented by **Michael Beschloss**, award-winning author of nine books on presidential history. Trustee of the White House Historical Association and the National Archives Foundation. His forthcoming book is *Presidents of War*.

Free and open to the public. Westminster Presbyterian,  
1200 Marquette Ave. Minneapolis.  
Parking available in nearby ramps.

## November 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+)



|   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 Alice Hawks**90; Bob Heise; Sonya Butler                          | 16 Dan Olson; Frank Uvodich                                |
| 3 Betsy Marvin  | 17 Carol Wanless; Shawn Wimberly                           |
| 5 Carol Osweiler; Cassie Snyder;<br>David Wilkens*16; Marilyn Eidem | 18 Gary Rossow; Randy Johnson;<br>Terrie Hall              |
| 6 Drew Paape*14   | 20 Julie Andert; Liam Sowers*9                             |
| 8 Makree Cham*4   | 21 Lila Netten; Mitzi Pickard**93                          |
| 9 Carol Long  | 22 Ella Snyder*21  |
| 10 Evan Wilkens*14  | 23 Adam Wilkens  |
| 12 Kathy Hansen   | 26 Gus Gillies*10  |
| 13 Bud Burnes**89; Karyn Arazi                                      | 27 Phil Hall**87   |
| 14 Bev Carroll**85; Elise Kelly                                     | 28 LeRoy Horn; Natalie Myers*11                            |
| 14 Paige Ferguson   | 29 Isabelle Wideman**95; Jan Carter;<br>Maxine Engberg**93 |
| 15 Barb Skogland; Brayton Montcho*2                                 | 30 Dick Fields; Jeanne Goodwin                             |

| Through             | 2018      |            | Act vs Budg | 2017       |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|
|                     | Actuals   | Budget     | Fav/(Unfav) | Actuals    |
| <b>Income YTD</b>   | \$600,993 | \$564,133  | \$36,860    | \$488,481  |
| <b>Expense YTD</b>  | \$568,389 | \$591,425  | \$23,036    | \$517,815  |
| <b>Income – Exp</b> | \$32,604  | (\$27,292) | \$59,896    | (\$29,334) |



### End of Year Financial Info

submitted by Meghan Dooley

**Final Year 2018 Offering:** All contributions credited for tax year 2018 **must be postmarked or received by no later than December 31**. Please note the office will close at Noon on Friday, December 28.

**Stock Donation:** If you are considering donating stock to the church for the 2018 tax year please do so by Friday, December 21.

**Do you have Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** from your retirement account(s)? Do you want to avoid taxes *and* extend the mission and ministry of Oak Grove? Some of our faithful members have chosen to support Oak Grove Church by requesting that checks from account(s) be sent directly to the church (2200 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington 55431) for use as needed most. These amounts are in addition to the normal pledged giving. If you would like to do this, please contact your financial planner now to avoid end of year taxes. Contact Meghan for info on where to have funds sent.

**Prepayment Contribution Alert** — If you are making a 2019 advance pledge payment, please make your payment by separate check.

If you have questions, about any of this information, please contact Meg at 952-512-2052 or [mdooley@oakgrv.org](mailto:mdooley@oakgrv.org).

### Give to the Max on November 15!

Please mark your calendar and take part in Give to the Max Day on Thursday, November 15.

Your donation on this day may help us win additional prizes! On November 15, every gift made on GiveMN.org will be entered into additional prize drawings for the GiveMN Golden Ticket, which will be awarded as often as every 10 minutes. Your gift of \$10 or more could instantly turn into an extra \$500, \$1,000 or even \$10,000 for us! The more gifts we generate on GiveMN.org during Give to the Max Day, the more our chances increase to receive those additional prizes. It's a great way to pay your 2018 Per Capita (\$34.50) or to just give a little extra to the church and any of your other favorite Minnesota charities.

It's easy to do! **Go to GiveMN.org and search for Oak Grove Presbyterian Church.**

### Congratulations!

**Mia Gabriella Soderlund** was born September 17. **Tammy Kaplan** is a proud grandmother. **Greg Stignani & Abby Graham** were married October 7. **Elyse & Maxwell Montoya**, children of Jane Samsal & Paul Montoya and grandchildren of Diane Samsal, were baptized on October 21.

### Thank You, Oak Grove

A huge thank you to Deacons and Elders for a wonderful Golden Harvest Dinner! Thank you to our singers, Cece Klueh and Rich Price, our piano players, John Anderson and Judy Cooper and for everyone who attended and enjoyed a lovely celebration!  
*Mary Koon*

Please pass along our appreciation for Oak Grove's generous support of Presbyterian Mission. The most recent \$3,000 gift for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance was wonderful, but the church has been faithfully supporting the denomination's mission for a long time, and we want them to know that we are grateful for every gift. For many years, OGPC has supported the Special Offerings and given through Shared Mission. Because of individuals and churches like Oak Grove, we are able to share God's love as Jesus' hands and feet all around the world.

*Rev. Rhonda K. Kruse, Mission Engagement Advisor—Midwest, Presbyterian Mission*



**Doug Pine** donated a crabapple tree in memory of his wife, **Janet**. Look for it near the basketball hoop north of the church. In spring, it will burst into beautiful bloom.

### Condolences to family and friends

**Lauretta Racer** died September 10.  
**John Dixon**, Mary Render's brother, died in early October in Fargo.  
**Tammy Freiborg**, Ken's wife and Dexter & Amanda's mother, died in a car accident on October 5.  
**James Hamilton**, Carolyn's husband, died October 19.

### Grief Support Coalition

Thursdays through Nov 15, 4:30 - 6:00 pm  
St. Richard's Catholic Church  
7540 Penn Ave S, Richfield, MN  
612-869-2426 [www.strichards.com](http://www.strichards.com)

| Date   | Topic   |
|--------|---|
| Nov 1  | The Courage to Ask: Embracing Help on the Path to Healing |
| Nov 8  | Where is God in My Grief                                  |
| Nov 15 | <i>A Time of Remembrance</i>                              |

### Oak Rovers at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum





The **Annual Oak Grove Presbyterian Women's Retreat** is a time of whatever you need; fun-relaxation-education-exercise-fellowship we hope you will get from it what you need. Our theme this year is "Walking in the Spirit of Hope". Please sign up early to help us in the planning process, <http://bit.ly/2019womenretreat>. For more info, contact Karen Gerdes at [bkgerdes@comcast.net](mailto:bkgerdes@comcast.net).



**Oak Grove is represented at C.R.O.P**

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

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

**Oak Grove Staff**  
 Ministers: **the 496 members**

Pastor **Bill Chadwick**  
[bchadwick@oakgrv.org](mailto:bchadwick@oakgrv.org)

Assoc. Pastor  
**Mary Koon**  
[mkoon@oakgrv.org](mailto:mkoon@oakgrv.org)

Director of Music:  
**Judy Cooper**  
[jcooper@oakgrv.org](mailto:jcooper@oakgrv.org)

Office Administrator:  
**Beth Angerhofer**  
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**Meghan Dooley**  
[mdooley@oakgrv.org](mailto:mdooley@oakgrv.org)

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Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**  
[sgreimel@comcast.net](mailto:sgreimel@comcast.net)

Clerk of Session:  
**Connie Nesbitt**  
[clerkofsession@oakgrv.org](mailto:clerkofsession@oakgrv.org)

Child Care Provider:  
**Lacey Jones**

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

**Parish Associates**

**Deb DeMeester**  
[DeMeesterD@aol.com](mailto:DeMeesterD@aol.com)

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**Janet Shannon**  
[janshannon1@comcast.net](mailto:janshannon1@comcast.net)

**2018 Per Capita is \$34.50**  
**2019 Per Capita is \$35.70**

## Prayers for Nathan & Session

During worship on October 7, our Youth and Young Adult Director, Nathan Hirsh, informed the congregation that he has resigned in order to focus on his mental health issues. We are very grateful for Nathan's ministry among us this past year and we continue to hold him in prayer as he moves into the future.

The youth ministry program is in excellent shape right now, with a cadre of amazing adult volunteers and programming in place for the next few months and planning for next summer's Guatemala trip is in process.

What's next for staffing? We don't know. The session is beginning a period of discernment now. We welcome your prayers and ideas.