



Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule

Inside this issue:

Congregational News/Events 2

Community 3

Social Justice/
Green Info 4

Supportive Housing
& Community 5

Calendar 6-7

Faith Formation 8

Financials/
Grief Support 9

Birthdays/Events 10

Thanks, Congrats
Condolences 11

Back Cover:
From Pastor Bill

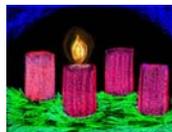
Photos throughout

Inserts (3):

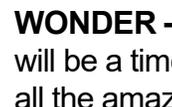
- WOW Calendar
- Climate Change
- New Members

Deadline for the January 2019 Oak Leaves is **December 15** - Articles may be edited for space and/or content.

December 2018



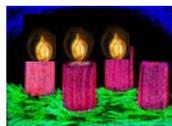
WAIT — December 2 Pastor Mary will lead worship and Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of Advent.



WONDER — December 9 Pastor Bill leads worship. Between services will be a time to dedicate our new organ, sing some Christmas carols and hear all the amazing sounds the instrument can produce.



Tuesday, December 11, 7 PM. Shadow and Light (sometimes called Blue Christmas, or Service of Remembrance). This service of worship is open to all, yet created especially for those who experience the holiday season with a bit of anxiety, dread or sadness. It is a service of respite and renewal, of light and life in a busy season. The service will include music, scripture, and readings as well as time to light a candle in memory and in hope.

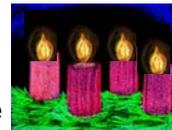


WITNESS — Sunday, December 16 8:15: Pastor Bill leads worship

10:45: The **Children's Christmas Pageant**. Come hear the ancient story of Jesus' birth told by our youngest members! This will include the baptism of Aiden Krentz. Both of his sisters were also baptized at the Children's pageant service in previous years.

WORSHIP — Sunday, December 23 One worship service at 10:45

Chancel Choir and an instrumental ensemble will present the cantata, *Canticle of Joy*, by Joseph Martin. Let the music of Christmas reawaken the promise of God's presence and love in our lives and remind each of us that our faith is a song worth singing – A Canticle of Joy that is made all the more glorious when it is shared. Please join us for this special service.



WOW — Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 pm: Pastor Mary leads family worship. **Children and youth!** If you would like to sing, play an instrument or read for this service, please contact Mary (mkoon@oakgrv.org or 952-888-4621).

10:00 pm: Candlelight Service, Pastor Bill preaching.

The early service is tailored for families with children and the Chancel Choir sings at the 10 PM service. Those who do not have a church home may be especially open to an invitation from you to join them for worship at this holy time of year.

Sunday, December 30 Only one service at 9:30. Pastor Bill leads worship.

Sunday, January 6, Epiphany of the Lord. Back to two services at 8:15 & 10:45 am.



Upcoming All-Church and Group Events

Adult Events



Sunday, Dec 2, after 10:45 worship. Caroling ! Rainbow Fellowship is once again hosting our annual All-church Christmas Caroling! This year we'll be across the street at Nine Mile Creek Senior Living. (It can't get any easier than this!). Meet in the narthex at 12:15pm and then we'll cross the street to bring some good cheer! If you know in advance you can attend, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. All are welcome!

- >**Tuesday, Dec 4, Noon, Burger 'n' Brew Retired Men's Fellowship** at Zeke's. Bring someone who is not able to drive and share in fellowship with others. No need to RSVP!
- >**Thursday, Dec 6, 2:00 pm, Caregivers' Tea and Respite Care** — for all caregivers and their loved one(s) to share experiences and have a small time of respite.
- >**Friday, December 7, 11:00 am, Singles** (*and anyone who would like the fellowship*) will meet at Bachman's (6010 Lyndale Ave) for lunch and browsing. Call Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068) if you want to carpool from church.
- >**Monday, Dec 10, 5:00 pm Singles** (*and anyone who would like the fellowship*) will meet at Zeke's for dinner and fellowship. No need to call, just show up and enjoy!
- >**Thursday, Dec 20, 11:00 am, Lunch Bunch Respite Care.** Bring your loved one and give yourself a little break to run errands or enjoy coffee with a friend.
- >**Monday, Jan 1, 4:00 pm, New Year's Potluck and Game Day** at Iris Karow's home. Call Jody Milton at 952-831-7325 to RSVP or for more info. All are welcome!

50 years +

Looking Ahead: On Sunday, February 10 during worship, we will recognize all those who have been married 50 years or more. Please bring/send a wedding photo no later than Wednesday, February 6 and we will put it on the screen that Sunday. Fun!



(Send your photo to Beth at ogpc@oakgrv.org or label and leave in the church office!)

Presbyterian Women (PW) have two study circles that meet from September to June – **Evening Star Circle** (contact Connie Nesbitt, 952-935-3810) meets Tuesday evening, Dec 4 at 7 pm at the church; and **Goodrich-Nord Circle** (contact Margaret Koch, 952-881-2582) meets Wednesday, Dec 12 at 9 am for Bible study and then at 11:30 they will meet for lunch at Taste of Scandinavia. All women of the church are welcome to join a circle. **Next Coordinating Team Meeting** will be Monday, January 7, at 1:30 pm at the church. All women who are members of the church are welcome to attend.

Presbyterian Women's Knit Tree PW once again has a Knit Tree in the narthex until December 9. Thank you for donating mittens, hats and scarves which we will give to Cornerstone.

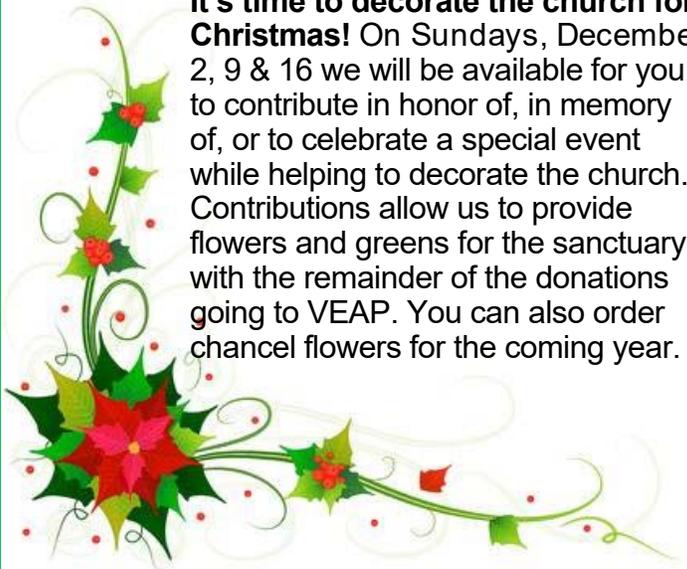


Name

We are joyfully experiencing a large group of first time visitors to Oak Grove. We celebrate this!

After the visitors have attended several times, a **GOLDENROD** name tag is made for each person, if they desire. Please remember to warmly greet these people as you spot those name tags. We Oak Grovers constantly hear from visitors how friendly we are and we want to maintain that momentum!

It's time to decorate the church for Christmas! On Sundays, December 2, 9 & 16 we will be available for you to contribute in honor of, in memory of, or to celebrate a special event while helping to decorate the church. Contributions allow us to provide flowers and greens for the sanctuary with the remainder of the donations going to VEAP. You can also order chancel flowers for the coming year.



River Heights Chorale will again present their Christmas concert in our sanctuary on **Sunday, Dec 9 at 3:00 pm.** The

Chorale is a volunteer choir committed to sharing quality choral music with the community and helping students, through scholarships, achieve their musical goals beyond high school. No tickets are needed. Free-will donations are accepted. Much of the donations go directly to fund student scholarships. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful holiday music.



Oak Grovers help David Wilkens with an Eagle Scout project of removing rocks to prepare for planting a garden.



Notice of Congregational Meeting

Two of our deacons have had to resign because of increased job responsibilities (at their paid jobs, not as deacons). The session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, December 9, 11:45 am** to elect two new deacons. The nominating committee will place in nomination the names of **Rita Raley** and **Karen Lignell**. Nominations from the floor are always in order.



Annual Minnesota Homeless Memorial March, Thursday, December 20 at 5:00 pm

The Oak Grove Social Justice Committee invites you to join us. The walk begins at the Hennepin County Government Center and ends 2.25 miles later at Simpson United Methodist Church. A service of remembrance and community meal follows the walk. Even if you are unable to participate in the walk, you are encouraged to attend the service.

During the service, a candle is lit as each person's name is read. It is a moving tribute to those who have died. In addition, marchers carry individual signs with the name, age, and hometown of every person being honored. The march originates from Simpson staff and volunteers seeking to remember a Vietnam vet named Eric who was found beaten to death. Shortly after he was found, Eric's family members gathered to honor his life, and the lives of a few other people they knew who had died that year. It was an important moment for all, including his family.

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) heard that Simpson had held the service and proposed that it become a larger event, including names of as many people as they could gather. In December, 1984, the first official Minnesota homeless memorial was held, launching the collaboration between Simpson and MCH that exists to this day.

Sign-up/carpool sheet is in the narthex or contact Ron Dubis (rojiti@aol.com; 612-868-9194) or simpsonhousing.org for more information.

*Trigger:
The Ripple Effect of
Gun Violence*



On **Saturday, January 19** at 2:00 pm, the Social Justice Committee will present the video **Trigger**, produced by PC(USA).

This is a documentary that frames gun violence as a disaster and public health issue by taking an in depth look at how one shooting impacts individuals, families and communities, while also giving voice to the questions and insights that arise from these conversations. In the documentary, all those scarred by gun violence eventually arrived at the same question: "Why...Why did this happen to us?" After looking at these in-depth experiences of gun violence, "Trigger turns its attention to the bigger question: "What can we do to prevent gun violence?" Following the film, we will have a discussion with award-winning director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance documentary, David Barnhart. David will be in town this weekend for this shared film series with Valley Community Church.

News from the September/October 2018 issue of *Sierra Magazine*.*The Discouraging:*

- The Antarctic Ice Sheet is melting nearly three times faster than it was in 2012. Since 1992, it has lost 3 trillion tons of ice.
- At a hearing of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, Alabama representative Mo Brooks suggests that global sea level rise is caused by rocks falling into the ocean.

The Encouraging:

- India will ban all single-use plastic products by 2022.
- The rate of premature births in California communities adjacent to coal-and oil-fired power plants drops significantly after those plants close, according to a study of more than 57,000 births.
- Starting in 2020, California will require almost all new homes to have solar panels.
- Mountain gorilla numbers rise from 480 in 2010 to 604 in June 2016. The mountain gorilla is the only wild great ape whose population is increasing.

(For sources, visit sierraclub.org/uptospeed)

submitted by the Green Committee



There are many ways to support families and individuals who have housing concerns. When more than 30% of income goes to housing there just is not enough money for food, medications, clothing, and basic household needs, let alone the extras of gifts. This holiday season the Supportive Housing Committee is helping VEAP and Oasis for Youth meet some of those basic needs.

VEAP has a continuing need for diapers of all sizes, baby wipes and toilet paper. Contributions in large quantities are repackaged into packages of a 4 to 5-day supply. They also need gift cards for \$20 to Target and Walmart .

For Oasis Youth who work very hard to survive in generally unstable conditions with very few resources to fall back on, we at Oak Grove can bring them some holiday cheer to brighten their load a bit. Some general gift suggestions are: warm clothing items like sweaters, sweat pants, small electronics like ear phones or ear buds, cell phone chargers, gift packs of hygiene supplies (soaps, lotions, bubble baths), jewelry, and Target gift cards for \$25-\$50.

More specific suggestions can be found on the Giving Tree display in the church lobby. Please take an ornament and return your gift to church by Sunday, December 16.

Thanks for all the generous gifts you make to strengthen our community!

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 (men are invited, too!).

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

A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.

Dec 1 at PCA (1st Saturday)	Mar 9 at OGPC(2nd Saturday)
Jan 12 at OGPC (No meeting)	Apr 13 at PCA(2nd Saturday)
Feb 9 at PCA (2nd Saturday)	May 11 at OGPC (2nd Saturday)

Christmas Joy Offering: Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering during this Advent and Christmas season. Half of the receipts provide financial assistance to retired and active church workers and their families. We want those church leaders and their families who are grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need. The other half of the fund provides opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian racially ethnic colleges and schools which helps these future leaders in the church and world. To give, use the Christmas Joy offering envelope in your envelope packet, or use one of the envelopes in the pew. Make checks payable to "Oak Grove Presbyterian Church" and with "Christmas Joy Offering" on the memo line. Or donate on-line at presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy. Thank you for your gift.

Adult Faith Formation

Sundays in December

December 2 – Mission Gift Fair between services. Shop for Christmas, enjoy conversation and fresh cinnamon rolls as we raise money for the Presbyterian Mission Board. A lovely way to begin Advent!

December 9 – Music Extravaganza – Organ dedication, musical offerings and carol sing.

December 16 – How Did Christmas Get to be This Way? (A History of Christmas) with Dr. Bruce David Forbes, author of several books including *Christmas: A Candid History*. He is Professor of Religious Studies, Morningside College (retired) and an Ordained United Methodist Minister, Dakota Conference, BA, Morningside College, MTh, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University and PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary

December 23: one service at 10:45 and December 30: one service at 9:30 – No Faith Formation these Sundays.

Wednesdays December 5 & 12 continue the Discipleship 101 series.



Helping make *Simple Meals* soup

Children and Youth Faith Formation in December

Sunday, Dec 2: **Preschool** meets in its regular room at 9:30 am.

Elementary children will join Sue, Erin and Carol in the kitchen to make cinnamon rolls and hot chocolate mix! Come anytime starting at 8 am.

Middle and High School meet in the social hall. Senior High will participate in their own fundraiser.

Sunday, Dec 9: **Preschool** meets in its regular room at 9:30 am.

Elementary meet in the Sharing Room with Chris Diller for story and science!

Middle and High School meet in the Sanctuary to learn about and hear the new organ!

Saturday, Dec 15: Children 3 yrs to 5th grade will meet at 9:30 am to select costumes and rehearse the pageant. The children will join the Deacons for crafts, lunch and a movie.

Sunday, Dec 16: **Preschool and Elementary** children meet in Fireside Room at 10:00 am. to prepare for the pageant.

From 9:30—10:30, **Middle School** meets with Pastor Bill to talk about money, sex and power; **High School** meets with Rory.

Third Graders will receive their Bibles during the 10:45 am service on December 16th! If you have a third grade student and have not heard from Mary, please let her know.

Whew! What a month! Looking ahead to 2019 ministries:

Saturday, Jan 12, 4:30 – 6:30 pm -- All Ages go to **Feed My Starving Children** in Eagan

Through Oct 31	2018		Act vs Budg	2017
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$639,628	\$612,080	\$27,548	\$545,086
Expense YTD	\$685,157	\$661,141	(\$24,016)	\$586,114
Income – Exp	(\$45,529)	(\$49,061)	\$3,532	(\$41,028)

October Income was \$9,300 under budget, while expenses were over by \$47,100. This was due to several Green Committee projects and Technology changes. The overall yearly deficit is \$45,500. This is \$3,500 better than expected.



End of Year Financial Info

submitted by Financial Secretary, Meghan Dooley

• **Final Year 2018 Offering:** must be postmarked or received by no later than **Dec 31** to be credited to the 2018 tax year. *Note: the office will close at Noon on Friday, Dec 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 a retirement account? Avoid taxes *and* extend the mission and ministry of Oak Grove 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 want 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.

Questions on any of this info? Contact Meg at 952-512-2052 or mdooley@oakgrv.org.

“**Per capita**” is what Oak Grove pays per member for the administrative expenses of the presbytery, synod and General Assembly. **In 2018 that is \$34.50 and for 2019, it is \$35.70.** This means that Oak Grove in total is required to pay about \$18,000 per year for these services. Some of you give a gift to cover your per capita on top of your general fund giving, about \$4000 total. Thank you! If you are able to cover your per capita, that would be fantastic. If everyone would do so we would have available an extra \$14,000 for mission giving! Blessings!

Bloomington-Richfield Grief Coalition 2019 Winter Series

Thursdays, Jan 3, 2019 – Feb 21, 2019, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Transfiguration Lutheran Church, 11000 France Ave S, 952-884-2364

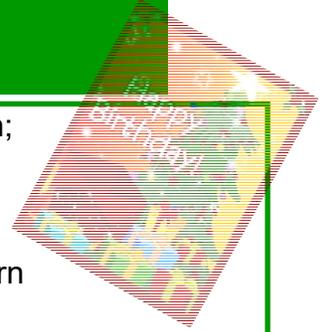
Date	Topic	Date	Topic
Jan 3	<i>Happy New Year</i>	Feb 7	<i>The Teeter Totter of Grief and Hope</i>
Jan 10	<i>What's Left</i>	Feb 14	<i>Grief and Intimacy</i>
Jan 17	<i>This Puzzle Called Grief</i>	Feb 21	<i>Strategies for Getting Unstuck</i>
Jan 24	<i>Wings for Widows</i>		
Jan 31	<i>Habits of Resilience for Grievers</i>		

December 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+)

1	Logan Henderson*20; Andrew Hess	15	Mary Bowen-Eggebraaten; Sarajane Myers
2	Catherine Dukelow*21	16	Ryan Knapp
3	Marisol Freeberg*16; Livia Knapp*2; Ken Freiborg; Nancy Lamberger	18	Amy Lefebvre
3	Carolyn Hamilton	19	Jake Krentz; Cathy Colborn
4	Debbie Dukelow	20	Dorothy Sorensen
5	Pdon Pinkham; Candy Alman	21	Mary Boateng
6	Mattie Hawley	22	Marge Noyes
8	Ev Gebhard	23	Andrew Sundal; Judy Olson
9	Hannah Ervin*15; Dianne Lawson	25	Susanne Knutson
10	Bill Chadwick; Bob Ulwelling; Darlene Thronson	26	Arlyn Grussing; Bev Carlson
11	Kris Jacobson; Nancy Bergwick	27	Katrin Wenz*11; Joey Oslund; Karen Diller
13	Cassidy Oslund*2; Nick Benz; Warren Christopherson; Terry Taylor; Warren DeMuth	28	Jill Dubis; Ron Nail
		29	Dexter Freiborg; Larry Pearson
		30	Amelia Kearney*6; Ignatius Esele
		31	Derek Flanagan*19



Oak Grovers help at Feed My Starving Children



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.

Thank You, Oak Grove

Friends in Christ, with a grateful heart, just want to extend a BIG thank you to our church family members who sent beautiful cards and caring, thoughtful text messages during my surgery recovery process. A special thanx to Pastors Bill & Mary for the hospital visits.

Candy (Kisses) Alman

A special thank you to our friends and staff at Oak Grove for prayers, cards, and kind words of encouragement during Gordon's knee replacement and rehab. Thanks too for all of your on-going Sunday morning check-ins.

Gordon and Jeanne

To our Oak Grove family, thank you all for your prayers, your gifts of time and money donated to us and NAMI. We gave \$2500 to NAMI, which was matched by a special NAMI grant and my work, to make it \$7500!

Ken, Amanda & Dexter Freiborg

A big thank you from the Oak Grove *Presbyterian Women* to all who brought items, bought items and donated money for our bake sale. We raised \$870 for our mission fund. We try to give to organizations involving women's issues. If anyone has suggestions for a needy organization, please contact Jody Milton (952-831-7325) or Connie Nesbitt (952-935-3810).

Condolences to family and friends of:

James Hamilton, Carolyn's husband, died October 19.

Ann, Jane Horn's sister, died November 19.

Richard Heise, Bob's brother, died November 20.

Jeanne Castle died November 23.

Lunch Bunch Fun



Congratulations!

Our very own **Sarajane Myers**, is part of the Senior Dance troupe that performs at some Timberwolves games. Watch for her when you attend a game on January 4 & April 5, 2019!

Our newest babies include:

Eleanor An Ping Crum, first grandchild to **Bob & Sandy Crum**, born November 6.

Frank Douglas Kelly, born November 7 to **Sean, Elise, Harriet & Nora Kelly**.

Aiden Jake Krentz, born November 9 to **Katie, Jake, Harper & Amelia**. Aiden will be baptized at the Christmas Pageant just as his sisters have been.

Mari Joy, born Monday November 19 to Kelly Nail and Jeff Foels. Proud grandparents are **Patty & Ron Nail**.

Hudson Robert Knapp, born on Thanksgiving Day, November 21 to **Julia, Ryan & Livia**.

From Pastor Bill . . .

Dear Friends —

Advent is upon us and we have wonderful worship to anticipate. This year the pastors and Worship and Music Committee have decided to move away from the traditional four words of Advent (Love, Joy, Hope and Peace) to Wait, Wonder, Witness, Worship and for Christmas Eve... Wow! (See the front page for info on our worship opportunities.)

The Pastors' Discretionary Fund (PDF) is used to help people with financial emergencies. Mary and I get requests for help perhaps 50-75 times per year. Most people we refer to VEAP. However, we use the PDF to help Oak Grove members or those referred by Oak Grovers, with a limit of \$1000/family or individual. More typical would be a few hundred dollars. The moneys for this fund come from you folks.

In the nine years I have been here as pastor I have never had to ask for contributions to replenish it. Every once in a while someone would make a donation and we have always had a few thousand dollars available. At the moment, however, we are getting low, and this is the time of year when requests increase. If you can help, please make your check to Oak Grove and put PDF on the memo line. Thanks so much!

I am happy to pass on to you that Nathan Hirsh reports that he is doing well. We celebrate that and continue to hold him in prayer. At the time of his resignation, I was remiss in educating you about separation ethics concerning church staff. We have not had an issue in this regard, and Nathan knows all this, but I want to make it clear to you all.

Friendships are holy and need not be severed, but all professional relationships end at the time of the departure. This is for the health of the congregation and the departing staff member. So it would not be appropriate for Nathan to continue to worship here or attend Oak Grove events, at least until a significant period of time has elapsed and he were invited back by the head of staff. It is not appropriate for people to ask Nathan for advice about things at Oak Grove or for him to comment on the ministry of Oak Grove. If you have any questions about any of this, please contact Pastor Mary or me.

Meanwhile, the session has moved ahead in deciding to advertise for a new Youth and Young Adult Ministries Coordinator, 20-30 hours per week. A search committee is being formed. Please pray for all involved.

Expectantly, Pastor Bill

OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN
2200 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431

Phone (952) 888-4621 **Fax** (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 - 3:00 pm

Oak Grove Staff

Ministers: **the 492 members**

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

Assoc. Pastor
Mary Koon
mkoon@oakgrv.org

Director of Music:
Judy Cooper
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Office Administrator:
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Financial Secretary:
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mdooley@oakgrv.org

Organist: **Nancy Hauser**

Treasurer: **Sue Greimel**
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Clerk of Session:
Connie Nesbitt
clerkofsession@oakgrv.org

Child Care Provider:
Lacey Jones

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

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Deb DeMeester
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2018 Per Capita is \$34.50
2019 Per Capita is \$35.70