



From Pastor Mary . . .

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Deadline for the April 2019 Oak Leaves is **March 15** - Articles may be edited for space and/or content

March 2019

May the God of HOPE Go with You!

Spring is coming! Lent begins on March 6th, the mornings are getting lighter and the days are lasting longer. However, it's still cold and snowy! If you love winter, this is the year for you! For those of you who struggle with cold and dark, I feel your pain!

One of the most important ways I care for myself in every season is through yoga. You may remember that I practiced yoga for eight years before stopping in 2017. During my sabbatical last summer, I started practicing again. Leaving class a couple of weeks ago, it occurred to me that my yoga practice gives me hope. Somehow, the couple of times I spend breathing, moving, and being in a class lightens my spirit. It started me thinking about other ways hope is finding me.

So, I thought I'd write and ask you -- What is giving you hope this season?

Once I realized the powerful effect yoga was having on my soul, I started looking for things that were giving me hope right here and now. Here's my list:

- Family Night at Oak Grove – what a joy to have so many young, vibrant families at Oak Grove!
- Ukuleles!!! Did you know that Judy and Brandon are teaching the children to play the ukulele this winter? The children are having so much fun and learning a lot, too. We're raising a whole generation of musicians!
- Beanies for Nat (Mattie's niece who is battling osteosarcoma) -- children and youth created tiny beanies and wrote notes of encouragement to Nat, joining with other people to create 34,000 tiny hats. Wow. Our noisy offering will go to Children's Cancer Research, a tangible, jingling symbol of hope for children.
- Valentines for our MN legislature. The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area joined Out Front MN to support a bill banning harmful conversion therapy for LGBTQ youth. Out Front invited churches to send Valentines to congress urging them to vote "yes" to this bill. Oak Grove helped send 238 pink and red reminders of God's love for ALL people.
- Worship! Being with you each Sunday brings me hope that God is present now and will lead us into the future. Uplifting music, thoughtful prayers, kind words, hearts joining.

God's grace enfolds us, surrounds us, and uplifts us – even (especially) in difficult times. The simple act of taking a moment to give thanks for signs of hope and sharing those with someone can make a difference.

May you be filled with hope!
Pastor Mary

During the first five Sundays of Lent, worship will center on the **Fruit of the Spirit** (*Galatians 5:22-23*). Participate by crafting pieces of the liturgy. Each week we'll focus on the fruits and we hope you will help by creating some artwork, taking photos, or writing a poem or a prayer for that week's theme. Themes and deadlines are:

March 3: Love/Joy/Peace

March 10: Patience

March 17: Kindness/Goodness

March 24: Faithfulness

March 31: Gentleness/Self-Control

Please send them to Beth at ogpc@oakgrv.org or bring them into the church office by the dates above. We're excited to see how this works! Thanks for participating.

Upcoming Adult Group Events

- >**Monday, Mar 4, 1:30 pm, Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** — be a part of planning events with the Presbyterian Women. All women members are invited!
- >**Tuesday, Mar 5, Noon, Burger 'n' Brew Retired Men's Fellowship** at Zeke's. Young(er) men bring old(er) men to share in fellowship with others. No need to RSVP!
- >**Thursday, Mar 7, 11:00 am, Caregiver Support and Respite Care** — for all caregivers and their loved one(s) to share experiences and have a small time of respite.
- >**Monday, Mar 11, 5:00 pm, Singles** (*and anyone who would like the fellowship*) will meet at Zeke's for fun, fellowship and dinner. No reservations needed!
- >**Friday, Mar 15, 7:00 pm, Rainbow Fellowship "Cookies, Carrot Cake & Closet Cleaning"** gathering at Susan and Karen's in Prior Lake. Watch your email for details! Contact is Susan Skovran, 952-237-5444.
- >**Monday, Mar 18, 6:30 pm, Men's Mentor Group** at Northstar Tavern (formerly Famous Dave's) and then at the church at 8:00 pm. Men ages 25 - 35, come and share your ideas.
- >**Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 pm, Oak Rovers** are going to the Old Log Theatre to see "Tenderly," a musical based on the life of Rosemary Clooney. Cost is \$25. Sign up between services on Sunday, March 17 and Sunday, March 24. Make checks payable to Mary Jones. We will carpool from the church. Call Mary with questions, 952-831-7655 or 612-741-8287.



A Request about Keys to the Church Building

We have a lot of keys assigned to members of the church (for various reasons). If you have a set of keys and no longer have a reason to use them regularly, please return them to Beth's mailbox or office (please be sure to label them!). This will help us know who is using the access to our building and to have keys available for others who may need them. Contact Beth if you have questions (ogpc@oakgrv.org or 952-888-4621).



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, Mar 5 at 7 pm at the church; and **Goodrich-Nord Circle** (contact Margaret Koch, 952-881-2582) meets Wednesday, Mar 13 at 9 am at the church for Bible study. All women of the church are welcome to join a circle.

The next **Coordinating Team** meeting is Monday, March 4, 1:30 pm at the church. We encourage all women members to attend.

Inquirer's Classes, March 3, 10 & 17

Interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of Oak Grove? There will be an Inquirer's Class held on three successive Sundays: March 3, from noon to 2 PM, lunch and childcare provided. March 10 from 9:30-10:15 and March 17 from 9:30 -10:15, with you joining that day in the second service. *(To be clear, we ask you to participate in all three classes.)* Questions? Contact Sandy Crum (crumsandy@gmail.com), Jane Propsom (janepropsom@msn.com) or Pastor Bill (bchadwick@oakgrv.org).



Save the date for annual Spring cleaning! Saturday, April 27.

We need your help to spruce up our gardens and yard. Put the date on your calendar and show up for fun and fellowship while your rake and pull weeds! We'll have morning treats and coffee available. Contact Bob Heise with questions (wheise@comcast.net).



Plan ahead for Defibrillator Class/AED Training, Saturday, Oct 12, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

This class is open to all. If you are interested, contact Holly Mae Dredge at 952-831-5854. Signing up now will reserve your space.

2019 Men's Retreat



Help Support Oak Grove! When shopping on Amazon, regardless of the time of the year, Amazon will make a donation to Oak Grove Presbyterian Church (or any non-profit organization of your choosing) when you shop. Sign up by going to <https://smile.amazon.com>. There is a link to select the organization you wish to support available under the Amazon Search area or by going to "Accounts & Lists," when signed in to your Amazon account, and selecting the Charity link under "Shopping programs and rentals." This is a great way to support Oak Grove and doesn't cost you any extra money as Amazon donates a portion of the sale to charity. Please contact Gene Dodge at uno12@aol.com or 952-881-4015 if you have any questions.

March is Foodshare month! In March, Middle School Youth are sponsoring a Birthday Bag Drive for VEAP. We want to fill bags with cake mix, frosting, candles and all the fixings for families to provide children with a happy birthday. We'll collect the items listed below from March 3 – 16. The youth will fill the bags during WoW! on March 20. Look for the big birthday present in the hallway outside the sanctuary to deposit the goodies! We are collecting:

Cake mix	Gift bag (to hold all the contents)
Frosting	<i>Optional items:</i>
Candles	Toys/Books
Plates, Napkins (approx. 8 for each bag)	Favors

If you prefer to donate to VEAP financially, please make a check out to Oak Grove and put VEAP on the memo line. Thank you for helping make local children's birthdays special.

Kiva Microloan Lending

Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 and based in San Francisco, with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Kiva supports people looking to create a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. The Kiva funding model is simple... choose a borrower, make a loan, get repaid, repeat... a constant roll-it-forward model!

A few years ago, the Mission Committee established an account with Kiva. Monies that go into Oak Grove's Kiva account are from donations by individuals and not from the Mission Committee's budget. The Mission Committee administers Oak Grove's Kiva account each month where current loans are reviewed and new loans are made. 100% of contributions to Kiva go to borrowers. Kiva is ranked as 4 Stars – Charity Navigator's highest award rating.

As of January 31, 2019, Oak Grove's Kiva account has made **101 loans** totaling **\$21,725** in **38 countries** around the world! 75% of the loans are made to women to help build their businesses and support their livelihoods in areas such as agriculture, food markets, clothing, construction, arts, transportation, health and many others.

We thank all of you who have made contributions to Oak Grove's Kiva account. To learn more about Kiva, go to www.kiva.org, or talk to any member of Oak Grove's Mission Committee. Together, we are changing lives. Dreams are universal, opportunity is not.

21st Century Academy

submitted by Social Justice Committee

To address the school-to-prison pipeline, Oak Grove has contributed to Kwanzaa 21st Century Academy for the past two years. The 21st Century Academy, in North Minneapolis, provides a comprehensive academic environment that prepares children for success in college. It continues in summer months, providing employment and helps students who struggle with Achievement Gap issues at lower levels than other students. There is a correlation between depression and poor academic achievement and the Academy gives them supportive hope. The Achievement Gap is the everyday reality for these students.

Jermaine Ross Allam, our former associate pastor, and North Minneapolis Liberty's pastor, Alika Galloway created the Academy. Academy students march in an annual Path to College Walk and their neighbors come out to cheer them on. Hundreds of yard signs appear on lawns across north Minneapolis: Future College Grads Live Here. You support their future planning and learning coping skills to get them through the fears and frustrations of the present. Thank you Oak Grove!

Supportive Housing Corner

Here is an opportunity to advocate for the homeless and help secure affordable housing in Minnesota. Several of the Supportive Housing Committee members will be attending:

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

MARCH 13, 2019
8am - 3pm

HOMELESS DAY ON THE HILL



The day begins with registration at 8:00 at Central Presbyterian Church at 500 Cedar St. in St. Paul where there will be advocacy training and motivational speakers. From there the group walks to the Capitol where you will meet with your state legislators.

You can register at www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/advocate/ or contact one of the Supportive Housing Committee members for more information or to register as a group. Committee members include Sue Powers, Nancy Hauser, Rod Myers, Carol Long, Carol Osweiler, Joey Oslund and Lisa Pomroy.

Simpson House Volunteers Needed

Providing a hot breakfast to overnight residents of Simpson House in South Minneapolis has been an Oak Grove mission since 2013. We prepare and serve breakfast six or seven times annually at this homeless shelter. Through February 2019 we have served over 1,700 meals to those who seek temporary overnight temporary overnight shelter at Simpson House. We are looking for volunteers four (4) hours a year to either prepare or serve a hot breakfast to those less fortunate than we.

If you can help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at church.

Adult Faith Formation

Sundays in March

Mar 3 Mental Health— Barbara Peterson and Merrie J. Kaas will each give overviews of the statistics of mental health concerns in pediatrics/young adults and geriatrics and some special considerations for diagnosis and treatment in each group. We will spend the rest of the hour in a large group discussion.

Mar 10 End of Life, Funeral planning with Bill Chadwick & Judy Cooper.

Mar 17 End of Life, Oak Grove's Legacy Gift Giving with member, Rod Myers.

Mar 24 End of Life, Philosophy and Values of Hospice presented by Rev. Chris Wheatley, Director of Christian Programming for Presbyterian Homes.

Mar 31 Transgender Day of Visibility with member, Morgen Gray leading the hour.

Wednesdays, March 13 & 20, Video Learning with a variety of enlightening videos.

Many thanks to **Milissa Carter** for organizing a fun and thought-provoking intergenerational faith formation experience! We enjoyed listening to C.S. Lewis' classic tale, *The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe*, planting flower seeds, making "courage stones," a "truth wheel" and light sticks. The morning gave different ages an opportunity for meaningful conversation and learning.



Save the Date! VBS, June 10 – 13, 9 am – Noon. "God Sightings!" God's love is everywhere – in acts of service, in others, in unexpected places and in ourselves. Come, explore and experience God's love during VBS! Sign-ups coming soon.

Upcoming Children's Events

Friday, March 22, 6 - 9 pm, Children 1st - 5th grades are invited to our third annual **Gaga Ball Lock-in!** Join with friends for food and fun. Please email Mary (mkoon@oakgrv.org) to sign up.

Sunday, April 28, Messy Church is coming! Children 3 years - 5th grade are invited to take part in this "spring recital." We welcome dancers, readers, singers and artists! Rehearsals will take place on Wednesday evenings and some Sunday mornings. Please contact Mary (mkoon@oakgrv.org) or just show up on Wednesdays for supper and singing!

Current Financials

Through Jan 31	2019		Act vs Budg	2018
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$124,616	\$137,154	(\$12,538)	\$60,835
Expense YTD	\$50,834	\$67,339	\$16,505	\$55,397
Income – Exp	\$73,782	(\$69,815)	\$3,967	\$5,438

Westminster Town Hall Forum Tuesday March 19, Noon, Putting the USA over the NRA with **David Hogg**, a survivor of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and co-founder of March for Our Lives. He is an advocate for ending gun violence in America and increasing voter participation and civic engagement.

The Westminster Town Hall Forum is held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, located on Nicollet Mall and 12th Street in downtown Minneapolis. Forums are one hour in length with a speaker presentation and Q&A. Music precedes each forum a half hour in advance, and a public reception follows. Convenient parking is available in nearby ramps.

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 (PCA) or Yvonne Dodge yvonesdodge@hotmail.com (Oak Grove).

A partnership activity between PCA and OGPC.

Mar 9 at OGPC(2nd Saturday)

May 11 at OGPC (2nd Saturday)

Apr 13 at PCA(2nd Saturday)

**Oak Grove Singles
help VEAP at
“Donate & Do”**



March 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+)



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| 1 Rosalie Johnson | 20 Patsy Fisk |
| 2 Dave Johnson | 21 Meg Robles |
| 5 Eman Boateng; Stephen Tolvstad;
Arnie Erickson**92 | 22 Alexander Johnson*7 |
| 6 Margaret Comstock**91 | 23 Christie Rossow; Lynette Severson;
Art Fisk |
| 7 Jane Propsom; Ruth Dukelow | 24 James Robles*13 |
| 9 Maddie Rossow*9; Nana Yaw Kwarteng
Tutuwaa*19; Emma Wasko; Anne Byers | 25 Rich Price; John Kim |
| 10 Jack Wenz*17 | 27 Maren Karow; Kathy Howell;
Bob Nesbitt; Austin Ritterspach;
Svea Kanne**98 |
| 12 Heidi Schuchman | 28 Michelle Minea; Sue Powers; Enid
Lang; Fran Muller**85 |
| 14 Seth Thomas | 29 Jim Goodermont |
| 15 Marian Schwartz**89 | 30 Chuck Mikkelson; Phyllis Pettit**97 |
| 16 Cara Scotting**87 | |
| 17 Laura Orr; Connie Nesbitt; Jim Lignell | |
| 19 Myles Johnson*5; Allison Wruck; Greg Wenz;
Nancy Hauser | |

Condolences to family and friends of:

Ralph James, former member of Oak Grove, died Jan 25.

Thank You, Oak Grove

Thank you for the prayers and concern for my son-in-law, Mason Linscott. He has completed treatment for esophageal cancer, is now cancer free and has returned to work. *Lou Traeder*

We are most grateful for the prayers, cards and kind words after the passing of my mother, Edna Himrich. We thank you for your thoughtfulness. *Linda & Virg Brandner*

Congratulations!

Eleanor Ruth Holweger was born to Katie Anderson & Ryan Holweger. Proud big sister is Ingrid and grandparents are **John & Jeri Anderson**.



From the Green Committee

GET YOUR YARD READY FOR 2019 AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Free Sustainable Residential Landscaping Class

Saturday, April 13 from 1 - 2:30 pm

At Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point <https://www.ninemilecreek.org>
12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie, 55346

Sponsored by The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

&

The Green Committee of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington

Find out the latest in designing your home landscape for water quality, pollinators, and ecological improvement. Learn why urban landscapes, including our own yards, negatively impact local lakes and creeks, and how you can make a difference. See examples of projects large and small with inspirations from nature including proven planting strategies. Leave with local resources for professional assistance and materials for your project. Get inspired for the spring!

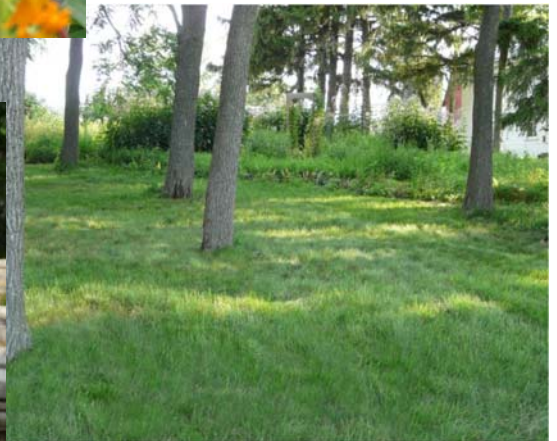
Presented by Matthew Kumka, a landscape architect who specializes in sustainable site development and green infrastructure, including regenerative design, storm water best management practices, and native plant community restoration. He has served as lead designer and project manager on numerous landscape projects related to storm water quality improvement and ecologically-appropriate place-making. For the last ten years he has worked with many of the Twin Cities Watershed Districts and Cities to develop landscaping to improve water quality.

Pollinator friendly options

Native plants

Low maintenance lawns

Learn what to plant and local sources.



From Pastor Bill

Dear Friends:

I haven't shared with you what I've been reading for quite some time. That's mostly because I haven't carved out much time for reading until the past few weeks. But I'm excited to share with you a few books that I have encountered lately.

Ann Lamott's latest work, *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*, was recommended to me by two of the most important people in my life, Kris Jacobson and Mary Koon. Mary used some of the book for her piece of the Women's Retreat. Of course, I love all of Lamott's nonfiction work, so I didn't need much encouragement. We all need hope these days, and Lamott gives us much sound encouragement and wraps it in laugh-out-loud metaphors. I read a library copy, but am going to buy my own so I can highlight these gems.

Kris also thought I might enjoy *The Secret Keeper*, by Kate Morton, which one of Kris's book clubs was reading. During a picnic at her family's farm in the English countryside, sixteen-year-old Laurel Nicolson witnesses a shocking crime, a crime that challenges everything she knows about her adored mother, Dorothy. Now, fifty years later, Laurel and her sisters are meeting at the farm to celebrate Dorothy's ninetieth birthday. Realizing that this is her last chance to discover the truth about that long-ago day, Laurel searches for answers that can only be found in Dorothy's past. It's a really fun read, with plot twists around every corner.

I first encountered Dan O'Brien as my teacher at a writing workshop nearly twenty years ago. He is a South Dakota buffalo rancher, environmentalist, falconer, and author (frequent guest teacher at Carleton College). He is not a great novelist, but his memoirs are fascinating. The first book of his that I read was *Buffalo for the Broken Heart: Restoring Life to a Black Hills Ranch* (2002). It is a fascinating account of his entry into buffalo ranching and the science behind the symbiotic relationship between bison and the prairie. He argues compellingly that the health of the prairie and the health of Americans requires replacing beef cattle with bison. But this isn't a dry textbook; it's full of humor, romance and pathos. His later memoir, *Wild Idea: Buffalo & Family in a Difficult Land* (2014) is the one I just read, and it was equally absorbing. South Dakota native Tom Brokaw writes, "With this book, Dan secures his place as our modern prairie muse." (One can order bison meat — lower in cholesterol, fat and calories than chicken or fish — and recipes through his company website: wildideabuffalo.com)

Happy reading!

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
jcooper@oakgrv.org

Office Administrator:
Beth Angerhofer
bangerhofer@oakgrv.org

Organist: **Nancy Hauser**

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

Clerk of Session:
Connie Nesbitt
clerkofsession@oakgrv.org

Child Care Provider:
Lacey Jones

Assistant Child Care Provider:
Shannon Murray

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

Parish Associates

Deb DeMeester
DeMeesterD@aol.com

Bruce Ervin
bruervin@aol.com

Denise Dunbar-Perkins
chaplain0406@gmail.com

Mary Pol
marynpol@aol.com

Umo Udo
umo.udo@leaderoptions.com

Janet Shannon
janshannon1@comcast.net

2019 Per Capita is \$35.70