

Oak Leaves

OCTOBER 2022

What's Next for Oak Grove: Save the Dates!

We continue the work of our intentional period of discernment to answer the following three questions: “*Who are we?*”, “*Who is our neighbor?*”, and, “*What is God calling us to be and do?*” to determine what is next for Oak Grove as we emerge from the pandemic, and we look forward to many years of meaningful worship, fellowship, mission, ministry, and justice work within and for the community.

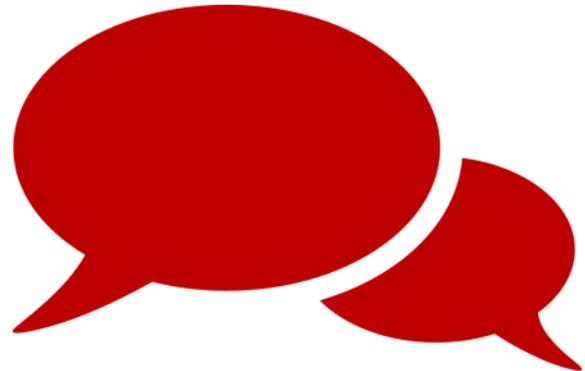
Please mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to attend as we continue this important work.

Sunday, Oct. 9 (11:30 am–12:30 pm): Congregational Conversation

Exploring the purpose and meaning of church and what that means for Oak Grove. This is a rescheduling of the conversation originally planned for Sept. 18.

Sunday, Nov. 6 (12–1:30 pm): Congregational Conversation

“*Who We Are*” and “*Who Our Neighbors Are.*” We will share initial impressions with the congregation based on the data gathered about the community surrounding Oak Grove, as well as from the stories shared in individual interviews and small group meetings. Lunch will be provided by the youth for a small suggested donation. Childcare will also be available.



Saturday, Dec. 3 (9:00 am–12:30 pm): Dream Day

This is an important day, and we hope as many people as possible will attend. This is a time for the congregation to gather to process what we have learned and begin to answer the questions: What does it look like for our future if we move toward the reality of where God is leading us? What hopes and dreams do we have for the future? What are our values? What ministries, mission, partnerships are we being called to start, expand, or stop? During this phase we will engage in theological and prayerful consideration of what God's future for OGPC looks like.

Our hope is that as many people as possible will continue to be involved in this important work. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to anyone on the Discernment Leadership Team. They are: Jason Chimchirian, Cathy Colborn, Julie Flanagan, Nancy Kachel, Anne Klueh, Eugene Orr, Larry Pearson, Bill Pomroy, Jane Propsom, Vaughn Sheff, and Pastor Bart.

OAK LEAVES

Official publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church is published monthly.

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2022 Per Capita is \$36.50

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LOVING GOD... CHANGING LIVES!

OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN

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Website: www.oakgrv.org

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday (8:30 am–4:00 pm)

Friday (8:30 am–3:00 pm)

Fellowship Opportunities

Here at Oak Grove, there are lots of ways to engage with fellow members on a regular, monthly basis.

Singles Fellowship: Oct. 10 **Second Monday at 5:00 pm**

Singles Fellowship is a group of single adults who get together at Zeke's Place (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd) for socialization and support. No need to RSVP. Questions? Contact Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068).

Men's Fellowship: Oct. 11 **First Tuesday at Noon** *(Note date change for October!)*

Join us for "*Burgers 'n' Brew*" at Zeke's Place (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd). This event pairs young(er) and old(er) men for a time of fellowship while enjoying lunch. Pick up someone who needs a ride and develop new friendships. Questions? Contact Jim McCarl (952-948-2991).

Men's Mentor Group: Oct. 20 **Third Thursday at 8:00 pm**

Join other men of Oak Grove as we discuss topics of interest, share joys and concerns, and explore and encourage one another in our faith. The group is open to all, no RSVP is needed. Questions? Contact Pastor Bart.

Adult Bible Study: **Every Thursday (12–1:00 pm)**

Beginning Sept. 15, join Pastor Bart and/or Pastor Mary each week via Zoom to look at the scripture that will be the basis for the sermon the following Sunday. We will read the scripture together and then dive in!

Soul Sisters: Oct. 10 **Second Monday at 7:00 pm**

Soul Sisters will meet at church for a time to check in and share fellowship and support. All women are invited, no RSVP is needed. Questions? Contact Pastor Mary.

Ladies Who Lunch: Oct. 19 **Third Wednesday at Noon**

We will meet in the community room at Founder's Ridge East (6610 Auto Club Rd), to discuss the book "*Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*" by Katherine May. A light lunch will be provided. Questions? Contact Pastor Mary.

Men's Prayer Breakfast **Every Thursday at 7:30 am**

Join other Oak Grove men for a time of fellowship while enjoying breakfast. The group meets weekly at Denny's (4209 American Blvd W, Bloomington 55437). Questions? Contact Bob Gerdes (612-219-2134).

Pledging for 2023

We are grateful for every member and friend of Oak Grove who has walked beside us and helped us to be a thriving and vital presence in our community as a witness of Christ. Our theme for this year's stewardship campaign is from Hebrews 13:8 "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*" As you consider your 2023 pledge, we ask that you:

REMEMBER THE PAST. Oak Grove continues to be one of the most generous churches in the Twin Cities Presbytery. Even in uncertain times, Oak Grovers give generously to our church, our community, and beyond.

ENGAGE IN THE PRESENT. Because of you, Oak Grove is an evolving, living, and vital witness of Christ in our community and world. We are grateful for every member and friend of Oak Grove.

EMBRACE THE FUTURE. We ask for your support and financial pledge to help us continue to make a difference. Our financial generosity allows Oak Grove to be leaders in carrying out God's work and our mission.

Oak Grove is a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith seeking to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with God. Please respond to our call to make a pledge for 2023. You can pledge online (www.oakgrv.org/pledge) or to return your pledge card by **Commitment Sunday, Oct. 23.**

Yours in Christ,

Karen Alonzi, Mary Bowen-Eggebraaten, Bill Pomroy, Bart Roush – 2022 Gifts & Gratitude Committee



Remember the **Past**. Engage in the **Present**. Embrace the **Future**.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington Public Schools Referendum 2022

On the ballot this November is a proposal by the Bloomington Public School District requesting a renewal of an expiring capital projects levy approved in 2013 to continue to fund School Safety & Security. It will better prepare for, protect against and respond to school emergencies and threats, and support and maintain Education Technology for students and staff.

The capital projects (technology and school safety) levy referendum question will be on the Tuesday, Nov. 8 ballot.

Voters approved the current capital projects levy in 2013 which provided 5.858% times the district's net tax capacity for 10 years (\$6 Million in the first year) for school safety and technology. That referendum is set to expire in 2024.

If the renewal is approved, the levy authorization (5.9% times the district's net tax capacity) will fund approximately \$9.8 million the first year, and is renewed for 10 years, from 2025 to 2034.



Approval will result in a no tax increase on property owners as a whole, unless property values increase in the future. If the renewal is not approved by voters, it will result in the loss of \$9.8 million each year on technology and school safety spending.

For more information and answers to many questions, visit: <https://bit.ly/3dRvOXJ>.

Presbyterian Women

Annual Bake Sale

The Oak Grove Presbyterian Women's "Annual" Bake Sale was suspended due to the COVID pandemic. After some discussion, we decided that it would be best to delay the launching of the next bake sale to 2023. Recognizing that this is a transition year in many ways for Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and some aspects of selling baked goods would be limited, it seems best to start again with this fundraiser next year.

Donation Request

One of the casualties in our basement flood was the Christmas tree that Presbyterian Women use every year to collect winter hats, scarves and gloves. If anyone has a tree (6 feet tall or a bit shorter) that they would be willing to donate, please call Maureen Switzer at 952-948-2414. Thank you!

Augsburg Centennial Singers Concert at Oak Grove



The Augsburg Centennial Singers, a 45-member men's chorus under the direction of Richard (Dick) Duncan, will be performing a concert at Oak Grove Presbyterian on Sunday, Oct. 30 at 4:00 pm. A free-will offering will be received.

After graduating from Augsburg College, Dick earned a master's degree in sacred music from Union Theological Seminary. He is the fourth director of the chorus, and he also serves as organist for Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church.

These "Men of Faith Passing on the Faith Through Songs of Praise" come from various

walks of life drawn together by their love of singing. The group was formed in 1993 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first gospel quartet from Augsburg College to sing in Norway. The Singers, throughout history, have traveled to present concerts in Norway, Florida, and the Southwestern United States.

Music for the concert includes familiar hymns, songs of praise, gospel selections and patriotic music. Come and enjoy an afternoon of stimulating music!

Oak Rovers Planning Meeting: Saturday, Oct. 15 (5:30 pm)

We will gather at the home of Don Wagner (Applewood Pointe, 8341 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington) for a catered dinner (lasagna, salad, breadstick & dessert) to plan upcoming events and there will be a surprise activity. The cost for dinner is \$12. Sign up and pay in church Oct. 2 or 9. Questions? Contact Don Wagner at 952-831-4460.

Supportive Housing

On Aug. 17, some Oak Grove members met in Gideon Pond “C” to assemble pictures in picture frames for Aeon, one of Oak Grove’s partner affordable housing non-profits. Aeon has contracted with native artist Marlena Myles (Spirit Lake Dakota, Mohegan, Muscogee) to combine her native map of the Twin Cities with a native land acknowledgement statement for Aeon. Each framed artwork, along with the acknowledgement statement, will be placed in the office/entryway of each of their affordable housing properties.

Living in St. Paul, Marlena Myles is recognized as being one of the few Dakota women creating digital art to bring modernity to Indigenous history, language and oral traditions. Growing up on her traditional Dakota homelands here in the Twin Cities, she enjoys using her artwork to teach Minnesotans of all backgrounds the indigenous history of this place we call home.

The Supportive Housing Committee (Azad, Carol, Joey, Lisa, Nancy and Sue) want to thank all of you who stopped by our table at the Mission Fair on Sept. 11. In an effort to share information about our new affordable

housing partner, Urban Homeworks, we invited Paul Vleim, the Community Development Director to be with us at our table. Urban Homeworks is doing exciting work in North Minneapolis in an effort to house those in need of an affordable apartment and are also building homes for those who have never before been given the opportunity to be a homeowner. During the upcoming year we plan to give the entire congregation an opportunity to learn more about the amazing work they do. In the meantime, you can help Urban Homeworks now.

Contribute to a **“Welcome Basket”** for new residents in the Urban Homeworks program by purchasing item(s) listed on the “Wish List” that can be found on the Supportive Housing display in the narthex or by [clicking here](#). Cash donations are also welcome, and we will shop for you. If you prefer to pay by check, make it out to “Oak Grove Church” and include on the memo line “Supportive Housing.”

The last Sunday to drop off donations is Oct. 2. **Thank you for caring!**



Financial\$

Submitted by Sue Greimel, Treasurer

Through August 31, 2022	2022		Actual vs Budget	2021
	Actuals	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)	Actuals
Income YTD	\$502,598	\$504,059	(\$1,461)	\$515,847
Expense YTD	\$479,160	\$529,338	\$50,178	\$499,229
Income – Exp	\$23,438	(\$25,279)	\$48,717	\$16,618

Financial Summary: August income was \$1.9K lower than budget, however, \$1.3K of that was a July pre-pay correction. Expenses were under by \$7.4K (Building & Ops \$4.1K, Personnel \$2.5K, Technology \$1K). The yearly surplus of \$23.4K is \$48.7K better than expected.

Budget & Finance Tips: Giving Online

Giving via credit card is very common and convenient these days but it didn't used to be that way. Historically, churches discouraged credit card giving because a) credit card payments come with high processing fees and b) it's technically a loan. No church pastor wants to learn that a member donated themselves into debt, especially if that debt comes with a high interest rate.

Next time you go to pay online, consider making an ACH payment from your Bank Account instead. The Automated Clearing House, or ACH, is a network used to electronically move money between bank accounts. Making an ACH donation is like paying with a virtual check in that the bank transfers money directly from your bank account to Oak Grove. If there is not enough money in your account to cover the transaction, the bank will usually reject the payment request. Best of all, the processing fees are significantly lower than credit cards.

You can also sign up to automate your ACH payments and schedule the withdrawal dates. Download the Direct Deposit form on our website (www.oakgrv.org/donate) and submit your completed form to Laura Nemcek in the church office.

SESSION UPDATE

At its September meeting, the Session approved the following items:

- Approved membership for 10 people. They will be welcomed into the Congregation at the Oct. 9 Worship Service.
- Approved a motion from the Social Justice Committee to send \$30,000 to Liberty Church, which will be taken from the Special Projects Fund.

Condolences to Family and Friends of:

Barb Ritter (former member, husband is Dean) passed away Aug. 25 at the age of 84.

Duane Sudman (former member) passed away Aug. 31 at the age of 89.

Jan Grobe (former member) passed away Sept. 2 at the age of 79.

Cathy Colborn's uncle, Albert Tyson, passed away Sept. 14 at the age of 95 in Greenville, S.C.



October Birthdays

If you don't see your birthday, we either don't have that information or you requested that your name not appear. Important (1–21) and significant (85+) birthdays are listed in parentheses.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1: Christy Thorson-Ankoviak | 21: Julian Wenz (18), Tim Dubis |
| 2: Karen Rysavy, Amy Pittenger | 22: Bea Sorenson (90), Ulysses Thomas (7), Chris Diller |
| 3: Mac Davis | 23: Penelope Johnson (2), Bev Chadwick |
| 5: Peggy Harsh | 24: Ty Flanagan |
| 7: Julia Knapp | 25: Catherine Myers (12), Tom Lucic |
| 8: Brooks Enderlein (3) | 26: Evelyn Melum (103), Patricia Knapp, Judy Moynihan |
| 9: Doris Ebeling (36) | 27: Doodee Backstrom (88), Henry Koon |
| 10: Pam Williams | 28: Helen Christensen (90), Samuel Lagani (3), Milo Sundal (6), Chrystal Winkelman, Bev Noble |
| 12: Harper Krentz (9), Nuella Parker (14), Mike Arazi | 29: Henry Barron (10), Luca Chimchirian (3) |
| 16: Paul Sowers | 31: Howard Baumgartner (95), Kent Schrad |
| 18: Jeff Olson, Marleen Singhrai | |
| 19: Carol McCarthy (90), Ngadhe Philip (15) | |
| 20: Kathy Scotting, Candy Williamson | |

Adult *Faith* Formation

SUNDAYS

Please join us before worship (9–10:00 am) in the social hall for interesting and informative presentations designed to expand our minds and grow our faith.

Oct. 2: Abul Sharah, Director of International Village Clinic (IVC), will be with us to provide an update of what has been happening over the past few years during the Covid pandemic and where the clinic is headed now. IVC is an Oak Grove Mission supported organization.

Oct. 9: Our Oak Grove Youth will teach us about the importance of gender pronouns. What does cisgender mean? Why do we offer pronoun stickers for nametags at our welcome desk? Come and learn from our wise and wonderful youth!

Oct. 16: Who Are Our Neighbors? Pastor Bart will talk about the demographics around our church. This is a fascinating look at who lives, works and goes to school in our neighborhood.

Oct. 23: Jan Favorite, a member of House of Hope, will share her story of hope and resilience in raising a son with Prader Willi Syndrome.

Oct. 30: Oak Grove Legacy giving

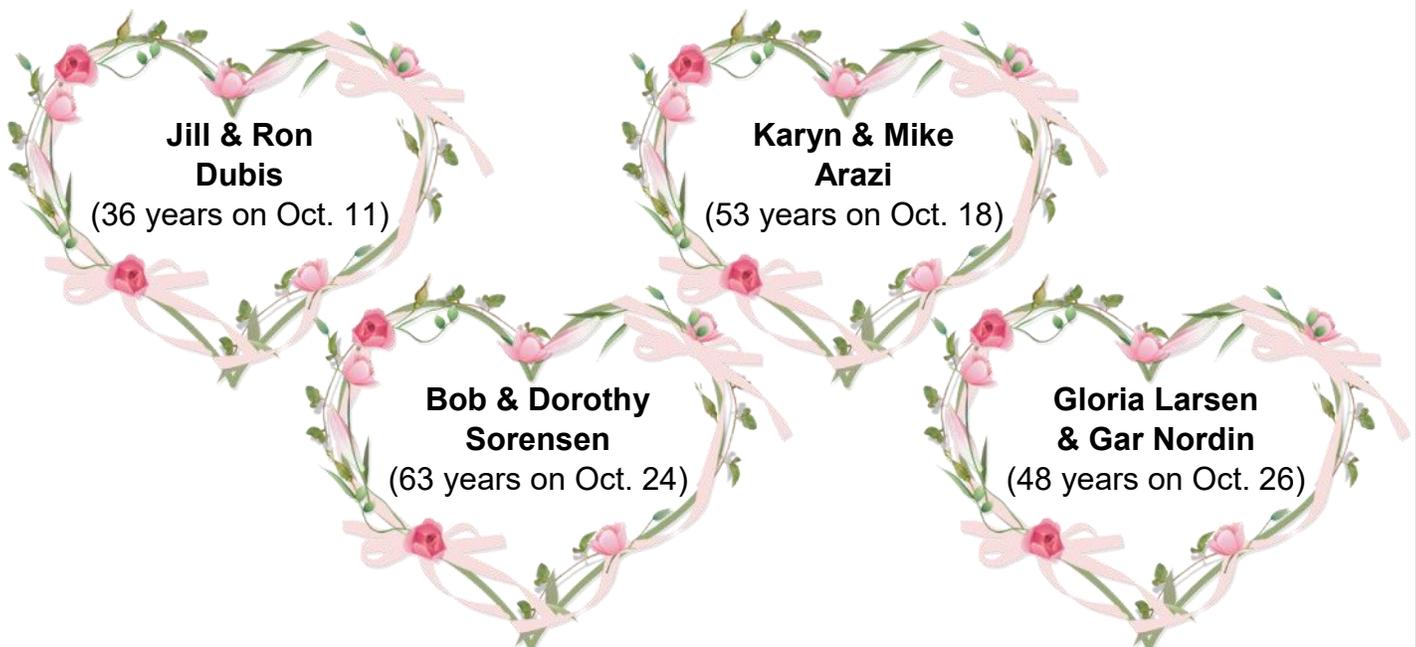
WEDNESDAYS

Please join us 6:15–7:15 pm in the Fireside Room at church for a discussion on Diana Butler Bass' book, *Freeing Jesus*. This book explores the names we use for Jesus through a new lens.

Mary Pol will kick off our six-week study (note: we take a break on Oct. 19 for MEA Weekend) and suggested the book after participating in a Synod School class on the book this summer.

Freeing Jesus is available for purchase online. Please contact the church if you would prefer to order through us. There are a few copies available at the Hennepin County Library, too.

Significant Anniversaries: 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30+ years





Children will meet Sunday mornings (9:15–10:15 am) with each other and their teachers at church. Please join us for prayer, fellowship and activities. Meeting together is an important way to continue to nurture the faith of our children and promote relationships in the church.

- Preschool (3–5-year-olds) meet with Karen Gerdes, Linda Johnson & Alicia Chimchirian
- Kindergarten–2nd graders meet with Laura Orr & Lizanne Ham
- 3rd–5th graders meet with Sue Greimel and Stephen Jones

We were delighted to begin Sunday School and WoW Wednesdays in September! Rally Day got us off to a great start. Older children and some youth made cinnamon rolls in the kitchen with leader Sue, younger children sorted crayons with Laura, and Cece painted faces! We look forward to the children singing in worship on Oct. 9!

Please mark your calendars for **Trunk or Treat** on Saturday, Oct. 29, at 10:30 am in the parking lot! Please plan to decorate your vehicle and bring a treat to share with Oak Grove families and neighbors! Please plan to arrive by 10:15 am to set up.

We are grateful for the many leaders and teachers who share their time, faith and care so lovingly with our children.

Thank You, Good Neighbor!

The Friendship Committee invites you to help us celebrate those who work hard to make our community safe, welcoming, and loving! On behalf of Oak Grove, we hope to recognize and encourage those who put extra effort into our community.

Nominate an organization by filling out an online Google form (<https://bit.ly/3omlRUo>). For more information, please contact Kathy Howell.

For the month of October, 'Good Neighbor' cards, certificates, and treats will be shared with our literal neighbor at Washburn-McReavy (Bloomington Chapel) to the south and the businesses to our north at 2120 W Old Shakopee Road, for the cooperative relationship we have enjoyed with each other over the years including hospitality in allowing parking on Sunday mornings, when needed.



Golden Harvest Celebration: Sunday, Oct. 16

Please join us following worship (11:30 am) in Gideon Pond Hall for the annual Golden Harvest Celebration! All members who are 80 years or older, and any friend-to-friends, are invited.

We'll enjoy a delicious meal, entertainment, and each other's company. We can help with transportation to lunch if needed, just let us know when you RSVP.

Invitations have been sent and we can't wait to see all of you in person! RSVP by calling the church office at 952-888-4621 or emailing ogpc@oakgrv.org.

If you would like to volunteer for the Golden Harvest dinner, please let us know by calling or emailing the church office.



Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Coping with death can result in stressful changes. Attempts to deny the pain and confusion of grief promote despair and loneliness. Gaining an understanding of the grief process in a caring and supportive atmosphere increases coping skills and leads to personal growth.

Churches in the Bloomington-Richfield area are working together to provide free support and education for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. You can start any series at any time. There is no commitment on attendance and no cost, just show up! Group meetings are held on Thursdays, 4:30–6:00 pm at Nativity of Mary Catholic Church (9900 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington). See <https://brgriefcoalition.com> for more details.

Oct. 6: The Puzzle Called Grief
Donna Mathiowetz

Oct. 13: Where is God in My Grief?
Stuart Walker

Oct. 20: How to Work Through Trauma and Grief
Brittany Squillace

Oct. 27: Fresh Start for Your Family Estate Plan After a Death
Bill Peterson