

*We are a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith
seeking to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with our God.*

Loving God... Changing Lives!



OAK GROVE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington Minn. 55431

952-888-4621 | www.oakgrv.org

Feb. 12, 2023

6th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am



A Thought to Ponder (from the Social Justice Committee)

"Love has no gender, compassion has no religion, character has no race."

– Abhijit Naskar, Neuroscientist and Author

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"Prayer"

Richard Gipson

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time/Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Dave Johnson

Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.

Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in grace.

God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.

Come to the One who keeps promises.

We rejoice with God who is with us always. Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

"Here in This Place" (vss 1–2, 4)

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***Prayer of Confession**

Dave Johnson

Eternal Love, when the world fails us, and we fail others, we know you do not. When the world tosses us out of its nets, you catch us, and call us good, and love us and care for us. When the world rejects us, or when we reject others, you embrace all. We don't fit in, we sometimes feel we don't belong, but we belong to you. You call us precious. You seek us from the shadowy corners of the world and bring us into your light, your warmth, your love.

Remind us of how precious we are, O God, and how much we are needed, when the world brings us down. Forgive us when we do not see your image in others and when we bring others down. Help us to go and see others as you see them, that we may share your love and light with all. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Dave Johnson

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

If God is for us, who is against us? Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

***Passing of the Peace**

Dave Johnson

Let us greet one another as new beings, reconciled to God and one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. (*Exchange the peace with those around you.*)

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young & Young at Heart

Anthem

"A Little Prayer"

Evelyn Glennie

Scripture

Romans 8:28–35, 37–39 (NT: p. 158 | LPNT: p. 192)

Message

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory

"The Greatest Gift is Love"

Mark Hayes

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. AMEN

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have shown us what it means to love. And you call us to follow your example— to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Continue to write your law of love on our hearts. Give us an unwavering passion for justice, and a tenacious faith that will not rest until the hungry are fed, the oppressed find relief, and the outsider finds a welcome. May these, and all our gifts, be used in your service. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

(^ Father, Mother or Creator)

Our God^ in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

We Go Forth in God's Name

***Closing Hymn**

"Sacred the Body"

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***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

Presiding Pastors: **Bart Roush & Mary Koon;**

Liturgist: **Dave Johnson** | Vocalists: **Chancel Choir;**

Musicians: **Lydia Traeder** (marimba) & **Emily Lassiter** (violin);

Organist/Pianist: **Nancy Jensen** | Director of Music: **Judy Cooper;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Pierce Flanagan, Randy Dop & Ruth Dukelow;**

Chancel flowers are given by **Anne & Larry Klueh** and **Jill & Ron Dubis**,
in *memory* of *mother Audrey St. Martin*, and
Evelyn & Al Gebhard, in *memory* of *son Michael*.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

**Welcome, Oak Grove
members and visitors, we're
glad you're here!**

We are proud to be a Matthew 25, Green Care and More Light Congregation.

The congregation of Oak Grove values its roots that go back more than 150 years, even as we follow the movement of the Spirit into new ways of being and doing.

We always welcome your suggestions.

Greeters: **Sarah & Finn Elbert**



Prayer Requests

Please contact the church office to let us know when you have new requests or updates for family and friends, or when a death occurs so we can support and care for you or your loved one.

ogpc@oakgrv.org

952-888-4621

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Super Bowl Sub Sandwiches

Thanks to everyone who ordered a sub sandwich! Subs will be ready for pick up after worship today in the social hall.

Sunday Parking at Oak Grove

If you have excellent mobility, please consider parking at the Old Town Hall or funeral home across Penn Ave and walking over. This way, we can care for our members and visitors who need to park close to the building. Thank you for your compassion and help!

WoW! Dinner & Programs: Wednesdays

This mid-week gathering is a time of fellowship. Join the church family; no reservations are needed. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and each meal includes salad and dessert. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Faith Formation begins at 6:15 pm and choir will rehearse at 7:15 pm.

Feb. 15: Turkey, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Feb. 22: Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese (no faith formation or choir practice)

WoW! for Adults Wednesdays (6:15 pm)

Pastors Bart Roush, Mary Koon and Mary Pol will conclude the series, "*Being Presbyterian: Foundations of Presbyterian Discipleship*," from the PCUSA's Theoacademy.

Feb. 15: Blessed to be a Blessing

Adult Faith Formation

Please join us before worship on Sundays, 9–10:00 am for interesting and informative speakers and topics designed to expand our minds and grow our faith. If you have an idea or speaker you'd like to see, please let us know.

Feb. 19: Social hour! No speaker – please come and enjoy one another's company.

Feb 26: We'll be reading and discussing the book, *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach* by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. This five week class will be led by pastors and our Adult Faith Formation team.

Singles Fellowship: Monday, Feb. 13 (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 at 612-267-9068.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Soul Sisters: Monday, Feb. 13 (7:00 pm)

We will gather at church for friendship, support, and conversation. This group is open to all women and no RSVP is needed. Questions? Contact Pastor Mary.

Ladies Who Lunch: Wednesday, Feb. 15 (noon)

All women are invited to participate in friendship and great book conversation over lunch. Please join us at the home of Joyce Reinke to discuss the book *Iron Lake* by William Kent Krueger. Questions? Contact Pastor Mary.

Men's Mentor Group: Thursday, Feb. 16 (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 meets the third Thursday of the month at church and is open to all; no need to RSVP. Questions? Contact Pastor Bart.

Family Sledding Party: Saturday, Feb. 18 (10:30 am)

Join us at Brookside Park (Along Abbott Ave). Dress warmly and bring your sled! We'll have a blast in this winter wonderland!

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 26 (11:30 am)

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. We will hear from the pastors, consider updates to church bylaws, have opportunities to ask questions of committees, review finances, and approve the pastors' terms of call. We encourage all to join us either in-person or virtually.

Chili Cook-Off: Sunday, Feb. 26 (following the Annual Meeting)

This will be our first time back since 2020 and we are super excited! Please sign up to bring a crock pot of your favorite chili; feel free to give it a fancy name, too! The youth will provide cheese, sour cream, crackers, and a beverage. They will also determine the categories for judging and YOU are the judges. A free will offering will be received to help our youth head to Washington D.C. this June!

Men's Prayer Breakfast: Thursdays

Join other Oak Grove men for a time of fellowship while enjoying breakfast. The group meets weekly on Thursdays (7:30 am) at Denny's (4209 American Blvd W, Bloomington 55437). Questions? Contact Jack Kley at 952-831-4138.

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

Adult Bible Study: Thursdays

Join Pastor Bart and/or Pastor Mary each week on Thursdays (noon–1:00 pm) via Zoom to look at the scripture that will be the basis for the sermon the following Sunday. No pre-reading is needed. We will read the scripture together and then dive in!

Intergenerational Weekend: March 3–5

Join us for a weekend of relaxation, recreation and fellowship with friends of all ages at Clearwater Forest. We welcome individuals, couples and families in all forms to this event.

The cost is \$160 per room (double bed & single bed) for the weekend plus \$20 per person for food (\$10/child, infants under 2 are free). Sign-up will begin Feb. 12. Questions? Contact Larry Pearson at 952-835-9480.

February 'Per Capita' Challenge

Our per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help our wider Presbyterian family to work together.

Oak Grove will remit \$37.50 for each of our 487 members in 2023, for a total sum of \$18,262.50. A donation of any size helps Oak Grove pay this balance.

If you wish to contribute towards Per Capita, just send a check with Per Capita in the memo or donate via our website at: <https://bit.ly/3jsp3i2>.

From the Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice team is already hard at work for 2023, and we want you to know that our focus areas this year are:

- Indigenous: Land Reclamation, Culture and Legislation and
- Gun Reform: Legislation and Education

Watch the Oak Leaves newsletter and weekly bulletins for activities and education opportunities throughout the year. Also, if anyone has suggestions for speakers or events taking place, please let Pastor Mary know.

The Deacons' Bench

Please come to the Deacons Bench located just outside the social hall. Need to send a card? We have plenty! If the recipient is a member of Oak Grove, simply put their name on the envelope and we will address it and mail it for you. If the recipient is a non-member, please write their name and full address on the card. Leave cards ready to be mailed in the basket on the bench. We hope that you will participate in this important ministry of care.