

Oak Grove is a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith seeking to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Loving God... Changing Lives!



OAK GROVE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington Minn. 55431
952-888-4621 | www.oakgrv.org

Oct. 15, 2023

20th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am



A Thought to Ponder (from the Social Justice Committee)

“Recent research shows that many children who do not have enough to eat wind up with diminished capacity to understand and learn. Children don’t have to be starving for this to happen. Even mild undernutrition – the kind most common among poor people in America – can do it.”

– Carl Sagan, American astronomer, author and professor

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Words

The earth and everything in it was created by God: the world and all who live in it.

We recognize the Dakota people as the traditional stewards of the land where we now worship. We acknowledge the historic and on-going harm done to Indigenous people.

We are called as a people of faith to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with God.

Therefore, we commit to repair relationships through action, honesty, listening, truth-telling, repentance, and restoration.

Centering Time/Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Karen Alonzi

We have gathered here this morning to worship God.

We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and hope.

We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

We have come to offer our prayers, our songs, our hearts.

Let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

"O God in Who All Life Begins"

308

*Prayer of Confession

Karen Alonzi

Wise and wondrous God, guide and inspire us. Empower us to be more able bearers of hope, more dedicated doers of your Word, more resourceful justice makers, and more open channels of faith.

(continued next page)

Forgive us for the times our lives are more cluttered than committed, have mercy upon us when we are too busy to heed your call to compassion and understanding. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ... (*silent confession*).

***Assurance of Grace**

Karen Alonzi

With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God relentlessly seeks us out. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***Passing of the Peace**

Karen Alonzi

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

Children's Choir

"These are the Days of Elijah" & "I'll Do My Best for You"

Prayer for Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 22:1–14 (NT: p. 24 | LPNT: p. 29)

Message

Faith Talk

Stephen Jones

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory "Jesus Calls Us"

Daniel Kallman

*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, we offer these gifts to you, to be used in service to the world you love. Bless and multiply this treasure, that the hungry may be fed, the naked clothed, and all find hope. Nurture our generosity, and in all things, make us instruments of your peace. AMEN.

Prayer's 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

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

726

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

†††††

Participants in worship today include:

Presiding Pastor: **Mary Koon;**

Liturgist: **Karen Alonzi** | Faith Speaker: **Stephen Jones;**

Soloist: **Emma Wasko** | Soprano Sax: **Dale Copeland;**

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

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Pierce Flanagan & Ruth Dukelow**

Chancel flowers are given today by **Sue Cavanaugh**,
in *memory* of **husband Ron**, and by **Linda & Greg Johnson**,
in *memory* of **our parents**.

Golden Harvest Dinner

Please join us for the annual Golden Harvest Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 11:30 am! 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 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.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

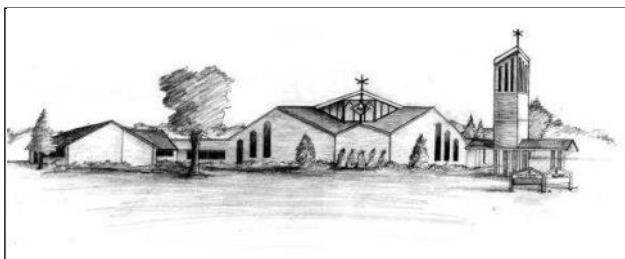
**Welcome, Oak Grove
members and visitors, we're
glad you're here!**

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: **Bob & Bev Heise**



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

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

Contributions & Pledge Statements

Statements were sent out this past week – via either email or USPS – covering all donations from January 1 through September 30. We invite you to review your statement for accuracy. Feel free to contact Laura Nemcek with any questions at 952-512-2052 or LNemcek@oakgrv.org. THANK YOU!

Ladies Who Lunch: Wednesday, Oct. 18 (noon)

All women are invited to participate in friendship and great book conversation over lunch. Please join us at the home of Iris Karow to discuss the book, “Firekeeper’s Daughter,” by Angeline Boulley. Please bring your own bag lunch, beverages will be provided. Questions? Contact Pastor Mary.

Adult Faith Formation: Sunday, Oct. 22 (9–10:00 am)

Jess Nelson, Executive Director of Oasis, and Jasmyn Green, Program Director of Oasis will share what’s happening with our closest neighbors... right downstairs and how they are serving young neighbors in Bloomington and beyond.

Pastor Appreciation Reception: Sunday, Nov. 5

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Join us in the social hall following worship service for an appreciation reception. Come and show your support with your presence, verbally and/or with cards or notes. If unable to attend, please reach out to Pastors Bart and Mary anytime.

October is Pledge Month

Pledging helps each of us align our financial support with our values, and it helps Oak Grove with budgeting and program planning. Pledge cards can be filled out and mailed to the church office or hold on to it and present it during worship on Oct. 22. You may also make your pledge online at www.oakgrv.org/pledge/.

Even if you use an automatic withdrawal service for your giving, please fill out a pledge card for 2024. Some services require us to update our paperwork each year to prove your on-going withdrawals are authorized. It's easier for our staff if everyone turns in a new pledge card each year, even if your gift amount remains the same. Thank you.

Following worship on Sunday, Oct. 22, please join us in the social hall for a reception and Oak Grove trivia!

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



- Oct. 17 | Tea for Caregivers (10:30 am)
Contact Pastor Mary
- Oct. 19 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)
- Oct. 19 | Bible Study (12–1:00 pm)
In-person or via Zoom
Bring a lunch if you like
Contact Pastor Bart of Mary
- Oct. 19 | Grief Support Coalition (4:30–6:00 pm)
Topic: Grief & Resiliency
Christ the King Lutheran Church
(8600 Fremont Ave S, Bloomington)
- Oct. 24 | Prayer Shawl Ministry (10a–Noon)
Contact Nancy Kachel (952-884-1895)
- Oct. 26 | Antiracism Accountability (6:30–8 pm)
via Zoom (<https://bit.ly/3JQoN4I>)
Contact Kathy Howell (952-200-5129)

All events are at Oak Grove unless otherwise noted.

Intergenerational Orchestra Opportunity: Sunday, Oct. 22

We'll be playing the prelude and hymns. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday Oct. 21 at 10:00 am. If you are interested in joining us, please let Judy Cooper (jcooper@oakgrv.org or 952-250-9226) know so a folder can be ready for you!

Trunk or Treat! Saturday, Oct. 28 (10:30 am)

Come one, come all! Wear a costume, pull up your car and provide treats for excited trick-or-treaters! We are excited to be back this year and know we'll have a great time! Please plan to arrive by 10:15 am to set up in the upper parking lot. If we have more, we'll continue into the lower lot!

WoW! Dinner & Programs Join us Wednesday evenings for a time of fellowship. No reservations are needed. Dinner begins at 5:45 pm and each meal includes salad and dessert (Oct. 18: No WoW | Oct. 25: Sloppy Joes with Macaroni & Cheese). The suggested meal donation is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children and a max of \$20 per family. Faith Formation begins at 6:15 pm.

Oak Grove's Purpose

Oak Grove is a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith seeking to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Values

Beyond our faith in God, our example in Jesus, and guidance from the Holy Spirit, our congregational values are the underlying ethic by which we define our community.

Authenticity

Celebratory Joyfulness

Compassion

Deep Relationships

Humble Curiosity

Inclusivity

Justice

Statement of Land Acknowledgement

We collectively acknowledge that Oak Grove Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional and ancestral lands of Indigenous people. We reside on land that holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for the Dakota, Native Nations and Indigenous people of the region. The land was ceded by the Dakota to the U.S. Government through treaties created and upheld with racist underpinnings.

By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm tribal sovereignty and will work to hold Oak Grove Presbyterian Church accountable to Indigenous people and Nations. We recognize, and continually seek to support and advocate for the sovereignty of the Native Nations in this territory and beyond.

For more information, please visit our website www.oakgrv.org.