

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. 22, 2023

Commitment Sunday

10:30 am



A Thought to Ponder (from the Social Justice Committee)

“Money is like water; it’s a precious, life-giving resource. Money should be a tool of love that facilitates relationships and helps us thrive rather than something that hurts and divides us. If we use it for sacred, life-giving, restorative purposes, it can be medicine.”— Edgar Villanueva, American activist and author of "Decolonizing Wealth"

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

“Blessed”

Meerboer

“I Love You, Lord”

arr. Pethel

“Give Thanks”

arr. Pethel

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 (*based on Psalm 96*)

Grace Thomas

We come in reverent awe before the Lord our God — for great is the Lord!

We come, to join with all creation in singing new songs to the Lord our God.

We come in worship and praise — for the Lord God is worthy of our praise!

We come, to share together the news of our God's saving deeds.

We come with songs and prayers — to give well-deserved glory to the Lord!

We come, to bring our offerings of worship and praise to the Lord our God—whose holy splendor, honor and majesty shines forth from God's presence. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“Great God of Every Blessing”

694

***Prayer of Confession**

Grace Thomas

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Grace Thomas

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**

Grace Thomas

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

#Hymn of Response

“We Lift Our Voices”

710

Scripture

Matthew 22:15–22 (NT: p. 24 | LPNT: p. 30)

Message

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering & Receiving of 2024 Pledges

Anthem/Offertory

“We Arise This Day”

Tony Ward

*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 for Our 2024 Pledges

Loving God, you have given us life and freedom. Everything we have and everything that we are is a gift from you. You call us to be stewards of the gifts you give us. May these pledges be used to make sure all are welcome here; bring relief to the suffering; feed the hungry; clothe the poor; give shelter to those who need it; and bring justice to the oppressed.

Loving God, we are saying yes to following you. As we look forward to the coming year open our eyes to what is possible in your sight. May we be part of the adventure that comes from serving you with our whole heart and being. May we continue to do justice, love mercifully, and walk humbly with you, our God. 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 "Christ Be Beside Me"

702

*Benediction

From where we are to where you need us,
Jesus, now lead on.

From the security of what we know to the adventure of what you will reveal,
Jesus, now lead on. *(continued next page)*

To refashion the fabric of this world until it resembles the shape of your kin-dom,

Jesus, now lead on.

Because good things have been prepared for those who love God,

Jesus, now lead on.

***Sending Song**

“Hevenu Shalom Aleichem” (Israeli folk song) *arr. Edwards*
May Peace Be Upon You

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

#During hymn, children 3, 4, & 5 years old may leave for Children’s Church



Participants in worship today include:

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

Flute: **Mattie Hawley, Cece Klueh, Enid Lang & Nancy Scott;**

Violin: **Emily Lassiter** | Saxophone: **Dale Copeland;**

Trumpet: **Kris Knutsen & Arnie Ness;**

French Horn: **Becky Dop & Linda Johnson;**

Trombone: **Gordon Barry & Sam Radtke;**

Accordion: **Pamara Ritter** | Liturgist: **Grace Thomas;**

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

Greeter: **Connie Nesbitt;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Randy Dop & Ruth Dukelow**

Chancel flowers are given today by the **Greimels**,
in *memory* of **Sue’s dad, Skip Mooney**, and by **Doodee Backstrom**,
in *memory* of **husband, Don**.

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

Adult Faith Formation: Sunday, Oct. 29 (9–10:00 am)

Melanie Hazelip, from the Secretary of State's office, will present on voting 101. How can we vote keeping our neighbors' needs in mind?

Golden Harvest Dinner: Sunday, Oct. 29 (11:30 am)

Please join us 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 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 Fall Clean-Up Day: Saturday, Nov. 4 (9am to 2 pm)

We will be cleaning up the church grounds to get them ready for the winter season. We will be raking and bagging leaves, trimming bushes, and doing some window cleaning. Please bring a rake, a pair of mittens and other trimming tools. Snacks and liberal breaks will be provided. Come for all or part of the day, whatever your schedule allows. Your help is greatly appreciated by the Building & Operations Committee.

All Saints Sunday: Nov. 5

On All Saints' Sunday, we celebrate the promise of everlasting life. We will be reciting the names and ringing the bell during worship for each Oak Grove member who has joined the Church Triumphant in the past year (Nov. 1, 2022–Oct. 31, 2023). If someone close to you, whom you want listed, has died in the past year, please send the name of the person, birth and death dates, relationship to you and a photo, if possible, to ogpc@oakgrv.org by Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Following worship, join us in the social hall for a ***Pastor 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.

Save the Date! Women's Retreat: Jan. 19–21, 2024

Join us at Clearwater Forest. Women of every age are invited, look for more information and registration soon.

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



Oct. 24 | Prayer Shawl Ministry (10a–Noon)
Contact Nancy Kachel (952-884-1895)

Oct. 25 | WoW! Dinner & Programs (5:45 pm)
Sloppy Joes with Macaroni & Cheese
(\$7 adults, \$4 kids, \$20 family)

Oct. 26 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)

Oct. 26 | Bible Study (12–1:00 pm)
In-person or via Zoom
Bring a lunch if you like
Contact Pastor Bart of Mary

Oct. 26 | Grief Support Coalition (4:30–6:00 pm)
Topic: The Puzzle Called Grief
Christ the King Lutheran Church
(8600 Fremont Ave S, Bloomington)

Oct. 26 | Antiracism Accountability (6:30–8 pm)
via Zoom (<https://bit.ly/3JQoN4I>)
Contact Kathy Howell (952-200-5129)

Nov. 1 | WoW! Dinner & Programs (5:45 pm)
Chili & Baked Potato Bar
(\$7 adults, \$4 kids, \$20 family)

All events are at Oak Grove unless otherwise noted.

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 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, cars we'll continue into the lower lot. We hope to see you there!

Gold Name Tags

Are you wondering why some worshippers have gold-colored name tags? They are worn by people who are not yet members of Oak Grove. We do this so that people can warmly greet those with the different name tags. Please welcome them by introducing yourself.

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!

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.