

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

Dec. 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm



A Thought to Ponder (*from the Social Justice Committee*)

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – Bob Hope

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Bob & Karen Gerdes

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: **We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

Light all five candles of the Advent wreath.

Hymn of Response "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verse 1)

133

Call to Worship

On this holiest of nights,

we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

On this most silent night,

we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

On this night of carols and candlelight,

we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

Let us worship God!

(Refrain):

**Go, tell it on the mountain, While shepherds kept their watching
over the hills and everywhere; o'er silent flocks by night,
go, tell it on the mountain behold, throughout the heavens
that Jesus Christ is born! there shone a holy light. (Refrain)**

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**The First Noel the angels did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

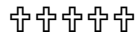
**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

***Benediction**

A Moment of Silence

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

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

Flute: **Enid Lang** | Marimba: **Caitlin Lucic;**

Candle Lighters: **Bob & Karen Gerdes** | Musicians: **Chancel Choir;**

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

Sound, Light, Video: **Gordon Goodwin, Randy Dop & Cece Klueh**

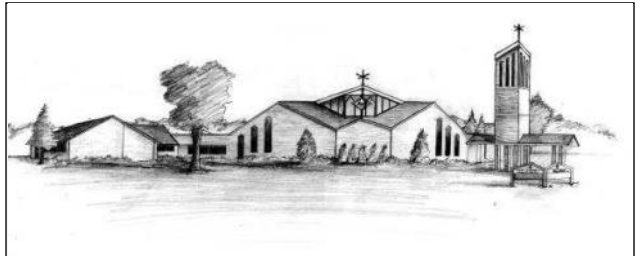
Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

**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.



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

Advent/Christmas at Oak Grove

Sunday, Dec. 31: First Sunday of Christmas Worship (10:30 am)

Sunday, Jan. 7: “The Work of Christmas Continues,”
a special music Sunday (10:30 am)

Year-End Giving: Just a friendly reminder, all donations for this calendar year need to be received at Oak Grove by Dec. 31. Please note, any items that arrive in the mail after that date will be recorded in next year’s contributions unless the postmark is Dec. 31 or earlier, then it can be included in your 2023 giving statement.

If you desire to **donate stocks**, please be sure your financial broker gets the stock transfer into our account by Dec. 31. We have instructions to facilitate this transaction. Any questions, please contact Laura Nemcek in the church office for the information your financial planner needs.

Women’s Retreat: Jan. 19–21, 2024

Please join us for the Oak Grove Presbyterian Women’s Retreat at Clearwater Forest. The theme is, “The Wisdom of Trees,” and what they can teach us about living lives of meaning and purpose.

We’ll be staying at Leaning Tree Lodge (2–3 to a room) with semi-private bathrooms. Bedding and towels are provided. The cost is \$120 but some scholarship funds are available. Please indicate if your attendance depends on this assistance. For more details and to register, visit <https://bit.ly/ogpc-womens-retreat24>. Questions? Contact Sue Greimel (612-805-2896 or sue.greimel@gmail.com).

Save the Dates! Oak Grove Men’s Retreat: Feb. 2–4, 2024

Please join us for the Oak Grove Presbyterian Men’s Retreat at Clearwater Forest. This is a great time of fellowship and recharging. Accommodations will be at Leaning Tree Lodge with Sat. breakfast, lunch & dinner, and Sun. breakfast provided. Cost will be determined by the number of attendees. If cost is a barrier, there are options to help cover for those who are in need. Questions? Contact Eric Duvall (952-567-4151) or Adam Wilkens (952-250-4877). Sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office (952-888-4621).

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



- Dec. 28 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)
- Dec. 28 | Antiracism Accountability (6:30–8:00 pm)
via Zoom (<https://bit.ly/3JQoN4I>)
Contact Kathy Howell (952-200-5129)
- Jan. 1 | Singles Fellowship (4:00 pm)
Join us for a potluck, games & fun!
Home of Jody Milton
Please RSVP (612-730-3962)
- Jan. 2 | Burgers 'n Brew Men's Fellowship (noon)
Contact Jim McCarl (952-948-2991)
Zeke's (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd)
- Jan. 2 | Evening Star Circle (3–5:00 pm)
Contact Connie Nesbitt (612-702-0684)
- Jan. 3 | Bill Cross Memorial Service (2:00 pm)
Visitation begins at 1:00 pm
<https://bit.ly/ogpc-bill-cross>

All events are at Oak Grove unless otherwise noted.

December Issue of *The Circle* Now Available

Free copies of the December issue of *The Circle*, News from a Native American perspective, are available in the narthex.

There are also a few copies left of the October and November issues. This is part of our ongoing commitment to inform the congregation about things happening in the Indigenous community.

Sunday, Dec. 31 Piano Duets

Judy and Nancy will play a 15-minute prelude of Christmas piano duets. Please join us at 10:15 am and enjoy the wonderful music!



Holiday Office Hours

- Monday, Dec. 25–Friday, Dec.29: the office will be closed for the holidays
- Monday, Jan. 1: the office will be closed in observance of New Year's Day

If there is an urgent matter, please contact Pastor Bart Roush at 210-551-1136.

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.