

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. 31, 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

10:30 am



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

“Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable.”

– Mary Oliver, American Poet

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Piano Duets

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: "What Are the Signs" *by Alfred Burt*

Call to Worship

Sylvia Moore

Wonder of wonders! Christ is born!

The child of God has come to dwell with us.

The Divine is with us and among us – Emmanuel.

Earth is blessed!

All life is holy!

Let us worship with awe, love, and wonder. Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn

"Joy to the World"

134

***Prayer of Confession**

Sylvia Moore

God of grace and truth, long ago your prophets spoke of your promises, promises of restoration and salvation. We confess that we have not believed your promises, but have preferred brokenness rather than restoration. We have lived with dis-ease rather than choosing salvation. We have remained steadfast in the ease of the status-quo, not wanting to face the hard work of repentance and change. Forgive our stubbornness, soften our hearts. Give us the courage and strength to receive the Christ into our lives so that we can live into your promise of a changed world...

***Assurance of Grace**

Sylvia Moore

God is good. God's promises are sure. Our ability to sin is tiny compared to God's ability to forgive. This is good news! In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven, free to begin again!

Thanks be to God.

***Passing of the Peace**

Sylvia Moore

Let us greet one another as God's beloved children. 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 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" 119

Scripture Luke 2: 22–40 (NT: p. 59 | LPNT: p. 71)

Message Mary Pol

Carol Sing

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory “Some Children See Him”

by Alfred Burt

***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**

Loving God, you provide for our every need. You open our lips to sing your praise, and strengthen our hands to respond to your call to serve. With hearts and hands renewed by your Spirit, we place before you our commitments of time, talent and treasure. Use our gifts and our lives to further your kin-dom on earth! In Christ’s name we pray, 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**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

136

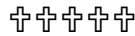
***Benediction**

“The Christmas Spirit”

by Ann Weems

The Christmas Spirit is that hope which tenaciously clings to the hearts of the faithful and announces in the face of any Herod, the world can produce and all the inn doors slammed in our faces and all the dark nights of our souls that with God all things are possible, that even now unto us a Child is born!

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

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

Liturgist: **Sylvia Moore** | Soloist: **Becky Dop;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Gordon Goodwin, Randy Dop & Ruth Dukelow**



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

Office Hours: The Oak Grove Church office will be closed Monday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. If there is an urgent matter, please contact Pastor Bart Roush at 210-551-1136.

Adult Faith Formation: Sunday, Jan. 7:

We welcome Bill Davnie to help us understand the war in Israel and Palestine. Bill is the former Clerk of the Presbytery, has a Master of Divinity, and is an International Affairs professional.

Then join us for a special music Sunday entitled, "The Work of Christmas Continues," during worship.

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



- 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>
- Jan. 4 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)
- Jan. 4 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)
- Jan. 4 | Grief Support Coalition (4:30–6:00 pm)
Topic: Resilience
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(1701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington)
- Jan. 8 | Singles Fellowship (5–6:00 pm)
Contact Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068)
Zeke's (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd)
- Jan. 8 | Soul Sisters (7–8:30 pm)
Contact Pastor Mary
- Jan. 9 | Lunch Bunch (11am–2:00 pm)
Contact Pastor Mary

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.

2024 Chancel Flower Sign-ups

All are invited to contribute flowers to beautify the sanctuary and enrich our worship each week.

Your contribution of \$30 for each bouquet can be made in honor or memory of someone, in celebration and/or thanksgiving of loved ones. Each dedication will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin.

Contact Sharon Fields at 952-831-0504 or urbanfields8@gmail.com or to sign up and reserve your special date.

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.