

*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](http://www.oakgrv.org)

**Jan. 28, 2024**

**4th Sunday after Epiphany**

**10:30 am**



**A Thought to Ponder**

"A different world cannot be built by indifferent people."– Unknown

# 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

Cassie Acker

We gather in this sacred space and online,  
**to offer our thanks to God with all our hearts.**

We gather with this community of faith,  
**to follow Jesus, who longs to lead us into life.**

We gather in these moments,  
**to learn all we can of grace from the Holy Spirit. Let us worship God!**

## \*Opening Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

450

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

Cassie Acker

**Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus, Steadfast God. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure that we do not need to share your grace with them.**

**Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, Compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near, brought by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

## **\*Assurance of Grace**

Cassie Acker

We know who God is – the One who comes to love us, to forgive us, and to save us.

**Thanks be to God. We will spread this good news, and share this grace and hope, with everyone we meet. Amen.**

## **\*Passing of the Peace**

Cassie Acker

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**      “God Welcomes All” (*sung several times*)      399  
*During hymn, children 3, 4, & 5 years old may leave for Children's Church*

**Scripture**                      1 Corinthians 8:1–13 (NT: p. 171 | LPNT: p. 208)

**Message**

## **Presentation of Tithes & Offerings**

### **Call to Offering**

**Anthem/Offertory** “Et in Terra Pax” (*Peace on Earth*) by Victor C. Johnson

### **\*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**

**Gather our gifts, our hearts, our very lives, Loving God, and use them in your work of reconciliation, grace, and hope for all your children. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer**

(<sup>^</sup> *Father, Mother or Creator*)

**Our God<sup>^</sup> 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**

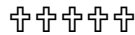
“Help Us Accept Each Other”

754

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*



*Participants in worship today include:*

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

Liturgist: **Cassie Acker** | Musicians: **Chancel Choir;**

Piano/Organ: **Nancy Jensen** | Director of Music: **Judy Cooper;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Chris Diller, Pierce Flanagan & Randy Dop**

Chancel flowers are given today by

**Bob Ritter**, in *memory* of

***Grand Uncle Walter & Grand Aunt Ette Conover.***



## 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](mailto:ogpc@oakgrv.org)

952-888-4621

# OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

## 2023 Contribution Statements

Statements were sent out via email the week of Jan. 22. We invite you to review your statement for accuracy. If we don't have a current email on file, a hard copy was mailed instead. Feel free to contact Laura Nemcek with any questions (952-512-2052 or [LNemcek@oakgrv.org](mailto:LNemcek@oakgrv.org)). **THANK YOU!**

## Oak Grove Town Hall: Sunday, Jan. 28 (following worship)

Join us after worship today for the Town Hall meeting and lunch. This is your chance to ask questions, share your input, and help chart the course of Oak Grove's future. We hope to see you there!

## Oak Rovers: Monday, Jan. 29 (5:00 pm)

Join us at Willy McCoys (10700 France Ave S, Bloomington 55431) for dinner. Sign up at church. Questions? Contact Patsy Fisk ([pafisk1947@gmail.com](mailto:pafisk1947@gmail.com) or 952-977-9900). We hope to see you there!

## Adult Faith Formation: Sunday, Feb. 4 (9–10:00 am)

Deb DeMeester will introduce us to Synod School, what it is and why it's so amazing. If you've ever thought about attending this week-long week of learning, worship, creativity, and joy, you won't want to miss this presentation .

## WoW! Wednesday, Feb. 7 (6:30–7:30 pm) North STAR Act

Adults will hear from Bloomington resident and activist Karen Willis. The North STAR Act of 2024 is a bill in the Minnesota state legislature to protect immigrants and their children from the threat of devastating consequences when police report or detain people for minor civil infractions to ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement).

## Join us at a Timberwolves game! Sunday, March 3 (2:30 pm)

Join fellow Oak Grovers to see the Western Conference leading Timberwolves when Karl-Anthony Towns, Anthony Edwards and Rudy Gobert take on the Los Angeles Clippers. Tickets are \$40 and are in section 218. We will also participate in the "fan tunnel" greeting the players as they go out for warm-ups. If you have questions, call Ron Dubis at 612-868-9194. Sign up at: [www.oakgrv.org/game/](http://www.oakgrv.org/game/); **the deadline is Sunday, Feb. 18**. We hope to see you there!

# OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



- Jan.31 | WoW! Dinner & Programs (5:45 pm)  
Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup  
(\$7 adults, \$4 kids, \$20 family)
- Feb. 1 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)  
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)  
*Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)*
- Feb. 1 | Bible Study (12–1:00 pm) via Zoom  
Contact Pastor Bart or Pastor Mary
- Feb. 1 | Grief Support Coalition (4:30–6:00 pm)  
Topic: Loss in the Time of Covid  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
(1701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington)
- Feb. 6 | Burgers 'n Brew Men's Fellowship (noon)  
Contact Jim McCarl (952-948-2991)  
*Zeke's (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd)*
- Feb. 6 | Evening Star Circle (3–5:00 pm)  
Contact Connie Nesbitt (612-702-0684)
- All events are at Oak Grove unless otherwise noted.*

## **Intergenerational Retreat (March 1–3)**

Join us at Clearwater Forest for a weekend of relaxation, recreation and fellowship with friends of all ages. We welcome families, couples and singles.

Lodging will be in Leaning Tree Lodge. Enjoy the outdoor winter recreation opportunities as well as pleasant indoor games, resting and relaxing.

The event will begin Friday evening and end on Sunday morning. We do our own meal preparations to lower the cost.

Sign-ups will begin in February. Questions? Contact Larry Pearson (952-835-9480 or pear3408@aol.com).

## **New Members Inquiry Lunch/Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 11 (after worship)**

If you are interested in learning more about Oak Grove, and/or interested in joining the church, please join us for lunch following worship at 10:30 am.

We'll have a time of introductions, learn about Oak Grove, it's ministries and values, and the Presbyterian Church USA. Those who wish will be offered a tour of the building. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sandy Crum (952-715-1252 or crumsandy@gmail.com).

## **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](http://www.oakgrv.org).