## U.S.–Mexico Border Transformative Experience

Oak Grove's Public Witness Committee is planning a Border Encounter Trip, Feb. 8–12, 2027, through the Tres Rios Border Foundation, a partnership of Abara, Synod of the Sun, and Tres Rios Presbytery.

Reverend Marta Pumroy-Cordero, the Border Ministry Coordinator, a current Co-Moderator of our PC(USA) denomination, will be one of our leaders. Travel days are Monday and Friday and see below for the three-day sample schedule (Tues–Thurs).

Flights to El Paso, Texas will be booked by each participant, but we'll try to book on the same flight. Round-trip airfare is approximately $500.

The cost for the encounter (4 nights, 3 days inclusive of tour guides, meals, lodging, is $845 if we have more than 10 people and $895 for 6–10). The $845 will be payable to Oak Grove. Partial scholarships are available upon request.

We'll have two informational meetings to discuss this amazing opportunity: Sunday, Nov. 1 after worship, and Wednesday, Nov. 4 after WoW dinner. To express your interest or ask questions, please email Pastor Mary (mkoon@oakgrv.org) or Kathy Howell (kathyhowell@comcast.net).

### Sample Border Encounter Schedule

**Day 1: Understanding the Border**

- Orientation & Welcome
- Root Causes of Migration
- Border Realities
- Immigration Law 101
- Reflection & Discussion
- Dinner & Community

**Day 2: Crossing into Juárez**

- Dignified Storytelling
- Juárez Migration Realities
- Lunch with Local Residents
- Exploring Juárez
- Dinner in Juárez

**Day 3: Reflection & Action**

- Theology of Migration
- Healing & Resilience
- Border Perspectives
- The Future of Abara House
- Final Debrief & Closing Dinner

## Financials

*submitted by Sue Greimel, Treasurer*

| *through 8.31.2026* | 2026 YTD Actual | 2026 YTD Budget | Actual vs Budget Fav/(Unfav) | 2025 YTD Actuals |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income YTD** | $598,188 | $601,739 | ($3,551) | $593,148 |
| **Expenses YTD** | $620,557 | $621,677 | $1,120 | $604,593 |
| **Income – Exp** | ($22,369) | ($19,938) | ($2,430) | ($11,444) |

**Summary:** September income was $164 higher than budget, while expenses were over by $2K. The yearly deficit of $22.4K is $2.4K lower than expected but should be recoverable.

# Golden Spotlight: Sue LaPointe

Sue LaPointe was born in St. Paul on May 18, 1936, and yes, she is 90 years young! She was the youngest of three children; a brother, Chuck, who was 14 years her senior and a sister, Gretchen, who was 9 years older. Needless to say, there were rumors that Sue was the “spoiled one.” Her father had their house built in Highland Park in 1927 and that was where Sue spent her younger years as her dad’s employment was Farwell Ozman Kirk Company which kept them in the St. Paul area. Sue and I googled this company to determine that it was a wholesale company selling furniture and household goods, his area was stoves.

After high school Sue studied business for three years at Macalester College and that is where she and her husband Ron met. The choices in college for women in the 50’s were teaching, nursing, and business and Sue said she wasn’t crazy about any of those choices. She might have studied music as she came from a musical family. Her father played the violin, her brother was a classical pianist and composer, and both Sue and her sister played the piano and sang. Gretchen and Sue sang in Sweet Adelines until her sister’s passing at age 45.

Ron and Sue married in 1957. Ron finished school as an electrical engineer while Sue was working at the Disabled American Veterans office at Fort Snelling as a secretary. Taking notes was not as exciting as it sounded. After the birth of daughter, Pam in 1958, Sue worked a night shift as a nurse’s aide on the pediatric floor of St. John’s Hospital in St. Paul while Ron was working at Remington Rand and then Sperry Univac. After Lisa’s birth in 1962 Sue decided to take care of the girls and not work outside the home.

It was at this time, 1962, that one of Ron’s coworkers at Univac said he had bought some land in Bloomington and was building a house. Sue and Ron drove out to Bloomington and decided that was the place for them. They built their house at 10348 5th Avenue and loved the neighborhood where there were lots of families and many children for the girls to have as friends.

Ron and Sue joined Oak Grove in 1965 while Ed Knutson was the minister. Sue taught Sunday School, sang in the musicals, and met her dear friend, Lila Netten. She was also a member of the “Pew Crew” for many years and has been an office volunteer.

The family loved traveling and made car trips to the East and West coasts, Banff and Lake Louise, and the New England States. They also tent camped often with Harold and Janet Miller and their favorite places were on the North Shore. Sue gets a very peaceful look on her face when she reflects on time spent on the North Shore, it holds a special place in her heart. She and her daughters continue to take their yearly North Shore trips.

Sue is proud of her involvement in being an election judge for almost 70 elections. Whew, lots of gratitude for your service there, thank you Sue!

Sue loves people, shopping, antiques, playing cards, playing her piano, and continues to love to be on the go even though her mobility is not what she would wish for. She lives independently at The Arbors, a twin home community in Eagan. Daughter Lisa is close by and helps Sue with many tasks. She loves it there and is grateful that she and Ron moved there in 2015 before his death in 2016 after 59 years of marriage.

# Mission Corner: Kiva

***Oak Grove Presbyterian Church is in the top 1% of Kiva lenders this year!***

For 11 years, you've shown an incredible commitment to helping others on Kiva. We're so grateful for all the ways you show up for people and wanted to send you something special to celebrate.

A look back at your Kiva impact:

- Your first loan to Benkadi Group in Mali back in January 2016 was just the beginning.
- This year, you made it to the top 1% of people supporting food.
- Your largest loan ever helped Erina Wakoli in Uganda improve their life.
- You're making a difference as one of the top 1% of lenders supporting Uganda.
- Since your first loan, you've made 30 loans each year, on average. That's a lot of impact!

And all that impact deserves recognition. You've earned the *Champion for Change* badge, a special way to celebrate you as one of the most dedicated lenders on Kiva.

Congrats, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church! And thank you for helping people access the resources they need to pursue their goals.

***What is Kiva?*** There are over a billion unbanked people around the world. That's a billion people who don't have a credit card for emergencies, a debit card for easy access to their money, or a credit history to help them get a loan. Kiva is an international nonprofit that tackles this inequality. By connecting people through crowdfunded loans, Kiva puts the power of financial inclusion in all our hands.

To learn more about Kiva, visit www.kiva.org.

Kiva's all-time impact:

- 1 person supported every 90 seconds
- $2.4B in life-changing loans
- 6M people impacted
- 2.9M loans funded

A speciate thanks to Gar Nordin for managing the Kiva account for Oak Grove! ■

---

# Adult Faith Formation & Advent

"We listen to the evening news with its usual recital of shabbiness and horror, and God, if we believe in him at all, seems remote and powerless, a child's dream. But there are other times—often the most unexpected, unlikely times—when strong as life itself comes the sense that there is a holiness deeper than shabbiness and horror, and at the very heart… a light unutterable." Frederick Beuchner wrote these words over three decades ago, a reminder that we have long been a people who are waiting for justice to break through.

Adult Faith Formation is going to kick off Advent a little early this year. Sunday morning Adult education sessions (9–10:00 am) on Nov. 15, 22, 29, and Dec. 13 will prepare us to consider current justice issues through the lens of the Advent and Christmas narratives.

Instead of a book study, we've invited four speakers to join us and talk about an issue that's close to their heart, with a theme that connects with the story of Jesus coming into the world: Slats Toole on Incarnation and queerness; abby mohaupt on climate justice and hope (note that abby purposely does not capitalize her first or last name!); Bill Davnie on Palestine; and Marta Pumroy-Cordero on migration and border justice.

Join us for these sessions, which we hope will leave you with a sense that the Advent story is always happening, over and over again, bringing light and hope into the world in the most unexpected ways. ■

# Oak Grove Life Events

## November Birthdays

*Important (1–21) and significant (85+) birthdays are listed in parentheses.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2:** | Sonya Butler, Brian Enderlein, Bob Heise | **17:** | Diane Prosser, Shawn Wimberly |
| **3:** | Jackson Krey (9), Ginny Mitchell (88), Betsy Marvin | **18:** | Terrie Hall, Randy Johnson |
| **4:** | Cindy Reed | **19:** | Mary Hawes |
| **5:** | Marilyn Eidem (89),Carol Osweiler, Cassie Snyder, David Wilkens | **21:** | Mitzi Pickard (101) |
| **7:** | Frank Kelly (8) | **22:** | Leighton Douglas (1), Courtney Ramirez, Ella Snyder |
| **8:** | Dan Mitchell (88),Stasia Jueneman, Tom Juhnke | **23:** | Donna Lambrecht, Adam Wilkens |
| **9:** | Aiden Krentz (8), Carol Long | **25:** | Jean Helmick |
| **10:** | Evan Wilkens | **26:** | Gus Gillies (18) |
| **12:** | Kathy Hansen, Cody Hendricks, Erica Schemper | **28:** | LeRoy Horn (88), Nathaniel Myers (19) |
| **13:** | Karyn Arazi | **29:** | Jan Carter (87), Bob Hendricks |
| **14:** | Paige Ferguson, Elise Kelly | **30:** | Dick Fields (86), Jeanne Goodwin (88) |
| **16:** | Issy Ham (10), Julie Hart | | |

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

2200 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington MN 55431

952.888.4621
ogpc@oakgrv.org
www.oakgrv.org

**Sunday Worship:**
10:30 am

**Office Hours:**
9:00 am–3:00 pm (Monday–Thursday)

## Significant Anniversaries:

*1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30+*

Cece & Dan Nedrud (1 year on Nov. 1)
Ann & Bob Traeder (30 years on Nov. 2)
Idee & Jake Douglas (5 years on Nov. 6)
Bev & Bob Heise (61 years on Nov. 19)
Patty & Ron Nail (43 years on Nov. 25)
Larry & Priscilla Pearson (45 years on Nov. 28)
Jeanne & Rick Wahtera (46 years on Nov. 29)
Dave & Paula Johnson (41 years on Nov. 30)

## Condolences to family & friends of:

George Wasson (Oct. 24), at the age of 95 in Arizona.