



Oak Hills United Methodist Church

The Oak Notes

November 2022



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A Message from Our Pastor

Friends,

It is with great joy that I write to notify you of our upcoming fall stewardship campaign.

Our theme for this year's campaign is "A Pleasing Aroma." It comes from Leviticus, where God tells his people they are to offer sacrifices to him as a "pleasing aroma to the Lord." Throughout this series (beginning on October 30th and culminating with our pledge Sunday on November 20th), we will explore each of the sacrifices in the book of Leviticus and what they tell us about the stewardship of all of life today.

For this year's campaign, we will use Herb Miller's *New Consecration Sunday*. *New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than the need of the church to receive. Churches that approach stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view money merely as a way to pay their bills, but as part of helping people grow in Christlikeness. As we already saw in our DiscipleWHAT? series in August, part of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to become generous with God as God was generous with us.

As a result, we will treat you like followers of Jesus who want to give unselfishly and generously to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. As such, we will encourage you toward regular, proportionate giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to invest as a pleasing aroma to the Lord this year?"

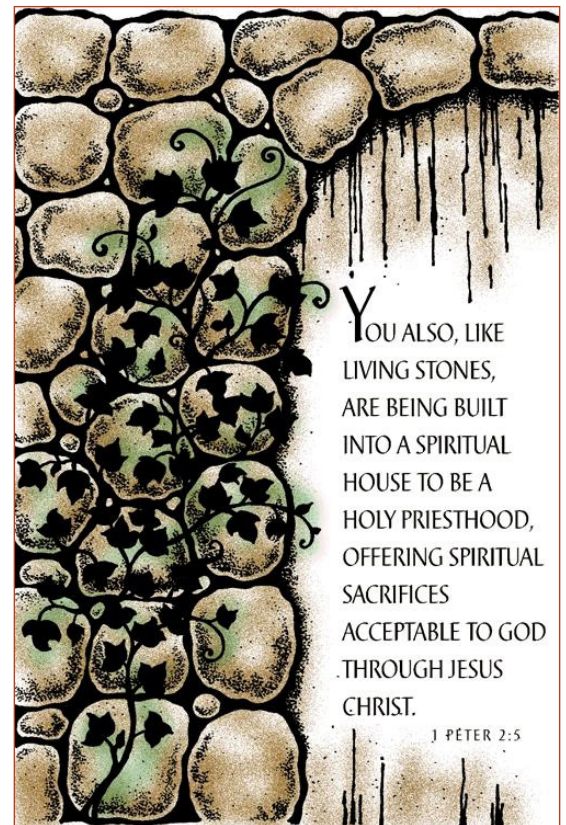
During worship I will lead us in a time of personal commitment as an act of worship before God. Every person who completes a giving card does so *voluntarily*. We urge you to come even if you feel strongly opposed to filling out a card. This process will be done in such a way that no one feels

compelled to do so. We will do no home solicitation

to ask you to complete a card, but we will send an estimate of giving card to anyone who is not able to be physically present with us on Sunday, November 20. A lunch celebration will follow worship that day, prepared by our friend, Chef Henry Warman.

Thanks for your enthusiastic and prayerful participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Pastor Justin



Advent Reader Opportunity

Advent is quickly approaching. If you would like to read and/or light candles during one of the Sundays in Advent (Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18) or on Christmas Eve please see Pastor Justin or sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050445AAAF29A5FE3-advent2>. You are also invited to help decorate the church for the Christmas season after worship on Sunday, Nov 27.

Welcome Vickie!

We are pleased to announce that we have hired **Vickie Ward** to be our new church secretary beginning Tuesday, November 1. Vickie is married and is the mother of four children. She has lived in the Bridgetown area for 54 years and enjoys time with family and friends, motorcycle riding, boating, hiking, bicycling, and enjoying the great outdoors. She comes to us from West Side Pediatrics and the Trihealth Network, where she served as a medical billing specialist for the past few years. She is looking forward to being able to serve God and his people through her role here at Oak Hills UMC. Vickie will be in the church office from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Monday through Friday. Please join me in welcoming Vickie to our church! Ω



Announcements

11/5 – Great Indoor Christmas Yard Sale, 9 am-1 pm

11/6 – Q&A on parsonage sale, after church

11/7 – Trustees, 7 pm

11/9 – UMW Lunch at Nick & Tom’s Restaurant, 5774 Bridgetown Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45248, at 12 pm noon (call Carol Reitzes at 513-319-4204 if you have questions or need a ride)

11/13 – Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes due back; Youth Shoebox packing party, 9:30 am

11/14 – Church Conference 6 pm; Board mtg. 7 pm

11/18 – Young at Heart, 7 pm

11/19 – Annual Conference: Special Session; work party at Ebenezer parsonage 9:45 am

11/20 – Consecration Sunday and catered lunch

11/24-25 – Office closed for Thanksgiving

11/27 – Hanging of the Greens after church

11/30 – Community Dinner, 6 pm

12/17 – Baseball Card Show, 9 am-3 pm

Worship – Sundays, 10:30 am

Zoom Prayer Meeting – Wednesdays 6-6:30 pm

Sissy’s Pantry – Wednesdays 6:30-8 pm

Bible Studies

Sunday School 9 am, upstairs classrooms

Women’s Bible Study, Mondays at 10 am (9:30 am on first Monday of the month) at church

Return of the Gods study, Mondays, 7 pm

Thursdays, 10:30 am, at church with John Wieman

TOGA (Thursdays on Green Acres), 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7pm @ 5609 Green Acres Ct., 45248

Church Conference

Our annual church conference will be held on **Monday, November 14 at 6 p.m.** During this time, we will vote on whether to move forward with the sale of the parsonage located at 2701 Ebenezer Road. Pastor Justin, upon receiving his appointment here, opted not to move into the parsonage and instead receives a housing allowance as a part of his compensation package. The administrative board wrestled with whether we should rent or sell, but ultimately opted for selling the parsonage. Renting does not appear to be a viable option at this time for at least two reasons: (1) the home needs extensive repairs which the church cannot afford, and (2) there isn’t anyone in our congregation who desires to serve as a landlord.

Selling makes more sense for several reasons: (1) The housing market is hot. (2) The price of homes in our zip code continues to rise. (3) The renovations needed to make the home marketable are not as great as they are for renting. (4) we anticipate that proceeds would likely generate between \$270,000 and \$300,000 in income that could be used to offset the cost of repairs and improvements that will be needed in the upcoming years of the church’s existence, among them a new church roof, the boiler, the windows, the parking lot, the HVAC system, lighting and the retaining wall. In the last month, we have learned the boiler is on its last leg and will need to be replaced in the next few months. Estimated cost is \$30,000. All official members of Oak Hills United Methodist Church have voice and vote in this matter. We invite you to pray, encourage you to ask any questions, and ask that you come prepared to act on this matter. There will be a Q and A session after church on Sunday, November 6.

Parsonage work party: The parsonage, whether it’s to be sold or rented, is in need of some sprucing up. A “work party” is planned for Saturday, Nov. 19 at 9:45am (weather permitting) to pretty up the exterior of the house. We’ll need folks to prune branches, rake leaves, clean siding, wipe down doorways, trim bushes, load garbage bags and more. Please let Bob Schloss know if you can join the fun by calling or texting him at 513-702-7118.

So Many Reasons for Us to Give Thanks!

by Diane Cordell

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

For Christians, thanksgiving is not a once a year occurrence, but a way of life. In her book, *The Power of Simple Prayer*, Joyce Meyer states, “genuine thanksgiving is a response to both who God is and what He has done, is doing, and will do. It is not only an acknowledgment of these things: it is a **grateful** acknowledgment.” (p. 96) “Thanksgiving is not a way of making God happy, but it means opening our hearts to be sensitive to God’s work in our everyday lives.” (p. 97)

Most of us have many reasons to be thankful—not just for current situations but for the past relationships and memories. As a congregation we have so many things to be thankful for at Oak Hill United Methodist Church. Let us lift up some of them in prayer!

- **Meeting as a community.** Being able to worship as a body, share community dinners, and host events like Trunk or Treat, and other celebrations is a gift we appreciate after our quarantine.
- **Our new pastor, Justin Fuhrmann.** We were ready for revitalization and new direction after Covid, and Pastor Justin arrived with enthusiasm, compassion, encouragement, and inspiring sermons.
- **The Fuhrmann family: Melissa, Ashlyn, and Jeffrey.** They’ve stepped in to help with music, puppets, Sunday School, etc., wherever needed.
- **The pantry and its volunteers.** The pantry has grown into the church space with good attendance and has proven to be our biggest outreach program, helping a large local community.
- **Lorna and Amit.** This family has encouraged our youth to grow in their faith and to be ready to serve others. They have also blessed our congregation with leadership in worship, music, and fellowship.
- **Faithful leadership and volunteers.** Music, communion, puppets, Sunday School, and Bible Study all depend on volunteers. Also, many leaders care for the building, the finances, and the daily chores. This work behind the scenes, enables us to be ready for ministry.

And let the
peace of Christ
rule in your hearts...
and
be thankful

Colossians 3:15



Lord, we thank you so much for the opportunity to be your church. Help us to be aware to the prodding of the Holy Spirit and open to what your Word would teach us. To you we give all thanks and praise. Amen Ω



November 2022

OHUMC Family Ministries

Psalm 28:7

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song, I give thanks to Him.

Upcoming Family Ministries Events:



Shoebox Party - Sunday, November 13th, from 9 am - 10:20 am

What: Packing shoeboxes and eating Christmas breakfast food - Join us!



Consecration Sunday Catered Potluck Dinner - Sunday, November 20th

What: A delicious catered meal by Kim Warman's family - respond to her with a number in attendance by *Sunday, November 6th*.



Jesus' Birthday Party - Sunday, December 18th

What: Birthday party for Jesus with games during Sunday School and more fun activities during JAM time - all kids bring a gift to share with another child in need.



Christmas Candlelight Family Service - December 24th from 7 pm - 8:30 pm

What: Family gathering led by Pastor Justin & a kids and youth Christmas presentation.

OHUMC Kids & Youth Update:

Sunday school is from 9-10:20 am every Sunday. Join for a Bible-based lesson with crafts and prizes you can take home! Then enjoy JAM (Jesus and Me) in the Sunday school hall during the main worship service. Puppets also visit the worship service multiple times a month, and that's always an exciting time!

The youth enjoy meeting weekly for group time on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for a fresh coffee bar and breakfast. We are enjoying learning about basic Christian principles for living that can be applied to various areas of our lives. Please join us if you're a youth member! Or adults and families, please join one of our family ministries' events. We'd love to see you there. :) Feel free to share any suggestions for Family Ministries with Amit Dutta at amitincincy@gmail.com.