



# OAK GROVE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 20, 2022

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## VISION PROCESS UPDATE

Thank you to all in the congregation who participated in the Visioning process. Between the church-wide visioning sessions on October 5 and November 6, the survey, and listening sessions with children, youth, and adult Sunday School classes, we have gathered almost 400 responses which is a robust amount of feedback from our congregation. The Visioning Team has also gathered feedback from community partners such as organizations served through our mission initiatives and other community partners such as the families of The Christian School. The work of the Visioning Team now turns to the

significant task of organizing, coding, and analyzing the hundreds of data points that we have collected. To do this, we will sort the responses and begin to identify the ideas that surface as of greatest importance to the most people. Once this compilation is finished and an overall picture of what people care most about is determined, the team will use this data to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to our church and ultimately formulate a strategic plan. This plan will identify between three and five areas of focus for our work together over next five years and will be presented to the Board of Stewards for acceptance and suggestions for implementation. The vision committee will take the month of December off, but once the new year begins, we will return to the work of sorting and synthesizing the data so that before Easter comes, we can present our proposals for how to move OGUMC into the future as we seek to transform lives through Jesus Christ. If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to contact one of us.

Jonathan Merrill  
*Chair of the Vision Committee*

Beth LaRocca-Pitts  
*Senior Pastor*



Psalter Lesson	Psalm 126	James Trotti
	The Word of God for the people of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>	
*Hymn	<b>We Gather Together</b>	<b>UMH 131</b>
Offertory Prayer		Ms. Biegel
	<b>Take Lord, receive, all we are and possess. Dispose of it wholly according to your will. Give us only your love and your grace. That is enough for us. Amen.</b>	
Offertory Anthem	For the Beauty of the Earth Youth Choir	J Rutter
	<i>For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts, and mild, Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise.</i>	
*Doxology		<b>UMH 95</b>
	<b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.</b>	
*Gospel Lesson	John 6:25-35	Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts
	The Word of God for the people of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>	
Sermon	<b>This Holy Mystery: God's Provision</b>	Dr. LaRocca-Pitts
Holy Communion		See Insert
*Hymn	<b>Now Thank We All Our God</b> <i>(Those who wish to join the church are invited to come forward.)</i>	<b>UMH 102</b>
*Benediction		Dr. LaRocca-Pitts
*Postlude	Rejoice the Lord Is King	J Payne

#### MUSIC NOTES BY JOHN COWDEN

Thanksgiving! This morning's service is about God's provision for us and our appropriate response for that provision. Each hymn and anthem this morning is a song of thanksgiving to God for all that we have.

\*Congregation stand as able.

**UMH: United Methodist Hymnal / TFWS: The Faith We Sing**

**Children's Worship bags** available at Parlor side door.

**Nursery care** available for children ages 3 and under in all worship services.

# Communion Liturgy

## Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## Confession and Pardon

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, in the beginning was darkness, mystery, and You. By your own Word, you shattered the darkness with light. You set in the sky radiant beams of sunlight and punctured the night sky with sparkling jewels. You forever changed our darkness. Holy God, though there are shadows and worries, you have placed your word in us to be a lamp for our feet. You have given your Spirit like a bright guiding star. You fill us with your love as glorious as the sun. You place your truth like a crescent moon. Every darkness is overcome with light. And every light contains shafts of your eternal light. God of the sun and stars, we praise you, and with all the creatures of earth and all the company of heaven we join the unending hymn:

The musical score is written on five staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - - - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ever-persistent and ever-loving God, you placed a star in the sky to guide people from far and near to your child. Jesus became the light of the world, drawing the lost and forgotten, the hurt and the wounded, the oppressed and depressed to the wellsprings of life. He changed water into wine, called unheralded workers to be disciples, preached good news to the poor, healed the sick and beckoned people to love their neighbor. By his baptism, suffering, death, and resurrection, he revealed the depths of your love and the power of light over darkness.

On the night he gave himself up, Jesus gathered with his friends, He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his followers, saying, “Take, eat, this is my life broken for you.” Likewise, he took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Drink from this, all of you, for this is my life poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.” Therefore, Holy God, grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, and that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that through Christ’s presence we may become a beacon of holy light, a source of joy, a witness for peace. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, one with seekers far and near, and one in ministry to all the world until we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever,

A - men. A - men. A - men. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

#### Prayer After Receiving

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Worship Times and Locations

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.: Traditional (Sanctuary)  
10:45: Modern (Fellowship Hall)

**ONLINE:** 10:45 a.m. – Modern Worship  
**ONLINE:** 11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship.  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/ogumc.org](https://www.facebook.com/ogumc.org)  
**YouTube:** [youtube.com/ogumc](https://www.youtube.com/ogumc)

## Our Pastors

Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts – *Senior Pastor* ext. 211  
Dr. Amy Morgan – *Pastor of Service and Nurture* ext. 210  
Dr. Joseph McBrayer – *Pastor of Invitation and Discipleship* ext. 212  
Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster – *Bishop in Residence*

## Our Program Staff

Dale Smith – *Executive Director* ext. 225  
Rachel Fullerton – *Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor* ext. 220  
Pam Reynolds – *Director of Finance* ext. 224  
Atticus Hicks – *Director of Modern Worship* ext. 208  
Elizabeth Loughran – *Director of Children's Ministry* ext. 218  
C.J. Lord – *Co-Director of Youth Ministries* ext. 202  
Megan Biegel – *Co-Director of Youth Ministries* ext. 201  
John Cowden – *Director of Traditional Music Ministry* ext. 226  
Kara Johnson – *Director of Senior Adult Ministries* ext. 236  
Leanne Herrmann – *Organist*

## Our Church Information

**Church Office** 404-636-7558  
Office Hours 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. M–F  
Emergency Contact After Hours ext. 9  
Address 1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur, GA 30033  
Website [www.ogumc.org](http://www.ogumc.org)

## Our Schools

Oak Grove Christian School 404-636-5476  
YCS (Young Children's School) 404-636-7951

## Submitting Articles to the Oak Grove News:

Please be reminded that **Thursday 12 p.m. is the deadline** for information that you would like to add to the *Oak Grove News*. This will enable your article to appear in the following week's bulletin.

**Send items to [oakgrovenews@ogumc.org](mailto:oakgrovenews@ogumc.org).** Articles will run TWO times and may be edited for space. Indicate the two editions you prefer when the article is submitted. Thank you!

## Connect With Us

**Check the Oak Grove website for up-to-the-minute news on all events:** [www.ogumc.org/news](http://www.ogumc.org/news)

### Make Sure You Stay in Constant Contact

Information on our ministries, news, and upcoming events is shared through our ConstantContact weekly congregational email. If your email address changes during the year, please contact Diane O'Steen, Membership/Database Admin., ([dosteen@ogumc.org](mailto:dosteen@ogumc.org) or 404-636-7558 ext.221)

