



# OAK GROVE

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## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Lenten Offering GOAL: \$24,000 for Missions



*For I was hungry and you gave me food . . .*  
— Matthew 25:35

Central to Oak Grove's Missions are ministries that feed others. Food insecurity and hunger are very real issues for many, and the need has only grown with rising food prices.

We need your help to continue these much needed feeding ministries! Our costs to provide food for others have

risen between 15% and 20% in the past year while donations have declined.

To continue our current levels of food assistance along with all of Oak Grove's other mission ministries, we have set an ambitious goal for the 2023 Lenten offering of \$24,000. This amount will allow us to continue feeding and serving without significant cuts to the amount of food provided.

### Here are a few examples of what your gifts could provide\*:

- \$29** 5 lunches for people who are unhoused  
*Our Mobile Soup Mission shares 50 meals weekly.*
- \$54** 10 weekend food bags for school children  
*We send 130 Blessing Bags weekly to Montclair Elementary.*
- \$150** 100 hot meals at Toco Hills Community Alliance  
*THCA serves over 300 hot meals weekly.*
- \$780** 100 Smart Lunch, Smart Kid food bags  
*Each bag includes food for 2 days; we packed 2,000 bags in 2022.*

*\*These are examples of what your gifts can do. Donations are spread according to need across the mission ministries of Oak Grove.*

**Donate** online at [ogumc.org/donate](http://ogumc.org/donate) (choose "Lenten Offering" as the fund). Make checks payable to Oak Grove UMC with "Lenten Offering" on the memo line.



## Connect with Oak Grove

*Thank you for participating in worship today. We're glad you're here.*

Open your camera app and scan the QR code to visit [ogumc.org/connect](http://ogumc.org/connect) to

- register your attendance • ask to speak to a pastor
- sign up for congregational emails • request to join the church • or give online.

### 8:30 AND 11 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP

*March 19, 2023*

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Gathering Music Solemn Prelude C Callahan

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Amy Morgan

Introit Emma's Theme  
Youth Bells H Morris

\*Call to Worship (8:30) Dr. Joseph McBrayer  
(11:00) Dr. Morgan

The Lord created us to be in relationship.

**And yet we break faith with one another.**

May the Lord help us rebuild our relationships,

**With one another and with God.**

\*Hymn **Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy** **UMH 340**

*(At the 11:00 a.m. service, children in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade are invited to leave for Children's Church during the last stanza of this Hymn. Children will return to the service on the final hymn. **If you are new to Oak Grove, please come with your child to the gathering area at the front and someone will assist you in getting your child checked in.**)*

\*Affirmation of Faith from 1 Corinthians and Colossians (8:30) Dr. McBrayer  
(11:00) Dr. Morgan

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed one of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

A Morning Prayer and The Lord's Prayer Dr. Morgan

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Anthem (11:00) My Shepherd Will Supply My Need V Thompson  
Chancel Choir

*My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his Name. In pastures fresh He makes me feed Beside the living stream. He brings my wand'ring spirit back When I forsake his ways. He leads me for his mercy's sake In paths of truth and grace. When I walk through the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay. One word of thy supporting breath Drives all my fears away. Thy hand, in sight of foes, Doth still my table spread. My cup with blessings overflows, Thine oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God Attend me all my days. O may thy house be my abode And all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, While others go and come. No more a stranger or a guest, But like a child at home.*

Psalter Lesson Psalm 23 Bob Unger

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn **Come and Find the Quiet Center** **TFWS 2128**

Offertory Prayer

Dr. Morgan

**Bless the gifts we offer, O God. Help us to share what we have with grateful hearts. Guide us to use your gifts as you would have us use them. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offertory Anthem

What Shall I Render

A Lovelace

Youth Choir

*What shall I render to my God for all His mercy's store? I'll take the gifts He hath bestowed and humbly ask for more. The sacred cup of saving grace I will with thanks receive, and all His promises embrace and to His glory live. My vows I will to His great name before His people pay, and all I have, and all I am, upon His altar lay. Thy lawful servant, Lord, I owe to Thee whate'er is mine. Born in Thy family below, and by redemption Thine. Thy hands created me, Thy hands from sin have set me free, the mercy that hath loosed my bands hath bound me fast to Thee. Praise Him, ye saints, the God of love who hath thy sings forgiven, till gathered to the church above, we sing the songs of heaven.*

\*Doxology

Hamburg (Tune: UMH 298)

**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.**

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)

Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts

Robert Moore Davison, *child of Marjorie and Matthew Davison*

Dr. Morgan

**Congregational Pledge**

**With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Robert, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

**God Claims You**

TFWS 2249

**Robert, Robert, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.  
We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be.  
Robert, Robert, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.**

\*Gospel Lesson

John 9:1-41

Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

**Building Relationships:  
Resist Judgment**

Dr. LaRocca-Pitts

Sermon Response

Dr. Morgan

\*Hymn

**In the Midst of New Dimensions**

TFWS 2238

*(Those who wish to join the church are invited to come forward.)*

\*Benediction

Dr. LaRocca-Pitts

\*Postlude

Turn Us Back to You, O Lord

C Harmon

### MUSIC NOTES BY JOHN COWDEN

This morning's worship service takes us on something of a journey as we seek to build relationships with those around us. The Gospel lesson this morning calls us to humility – to acknowledge our own blindness and limitations, and so that is where we begin our journey. We rely on God as the sheep rely on the Good Shepherd.

The middle hymn first claims our place with God, this place, and then calls us to be open to others in the same spirit (Spirit?) of humility. We are called to recognize each other's pain with grace rather than judgment, ever mindful of our own sin.

The youth choir offertory explores the same themes, expressing gratitude for God's healing and committing to give freely of ourselves in response.

Finally, we claim our call to go into the world in this spirit (Spirit!), becoming catalysts for peace and love, acknowledging our own brokenness and the brokenness of those we meet while holding fast to God's promise to us and through us.

\*Congregation stand as able.

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

**Children's Worship bags** available at the front of the sanctuary to the right.

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

## 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://facebook.com/ogumc.org)

**YouTube:** [youtube.com/ogumc](https://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 – *Director of Youth Ministries* ext. 202

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.

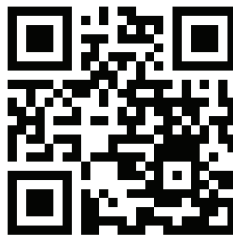
**Send items to [oakgrovenews@ogumc.org](mailto:oakgrovenews@ogumc.org).** Articles will run TWO times and may be edited for space. Indicate the two editions you prefer when the article is submitted. Thank you!

## 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)



YouTube