



OAK GROVE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH


March 3, 2024


Third Sunday in Lent

SHARE LOVE


You are invited this year, through a gift to Oak Grove's Lenten offering, to be a part of this congregation's on-going commitment to sharing Jesus' love through service. One way we do this is by providing help to people facing food insecurity. Each time we engage in and support ministries that help provide for people's daily needs, we open the door to building relationships and sharing help, healing, and hope.

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

\$40  enables Toco Hills Community Alliance to provide one week of groceries to 10 families who are experiencing food insecurity.

\$150  provides a week's groceries for a mother and child who reside at Breakthru House, a residential recovery program that aids women working to overcome addictions.

\$275  allows our Mobile Soup Kitchen to share meals each week with 50 individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

\$695  ensures that 130 students who attend Montclair Elementary have food for weekends during the school year.

\$993  assists Smart Lunch, Smart Kid in packing 150 of the 2000 shelf-stable meal kits that help provide students with food during the summer months.

2024 LENTEN OFFERING

GOAL \$25,000

Oak Grove's vision is "To build inclusive, life-changing communities and experience transformation in Jesus Christ." We do this by connecting with each other, growing in faith, and living out our faith in the world.

100% of the gifts received through the Lenten offering support the mission ministries of Oak Grove. You can take part by:

- writing a check to Oak Grove UMC and putting "Lenten Offering" in the memo line
- going to ogumc.org/donate and choosing Lenten Offering as the fund

Old Testament Lesson Exodus 20:1-17 Bob Unger

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn Hymn of Promise UMH 707

Offertory Prayer Dr. McBrayer

Our God, there is nothing we can give you to equal the sacrifice of your only Son our Lord. Therefore receive whatever we may give out of our poverty of spirit, to the glory and honor of His name. Amen.

Offertory Anthem Regal Celebration C Dobrinski
Youth Bells

*Doxology Hamburg

**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. McBrayer

Barrett Thomas Frey, *child of Janet and Adam Frey*

Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts

With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Barrett, 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

Barrett, Barrett, 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.

Barrett, Barrett, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

New Testament Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Now is the Time Dr. LaRocca-Pitts

...To Believe the Unbelievable

Holy Communion Insert

*Hymn Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom UMH 508

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

*Benediction Dr. LaRocca-Pitts

*Postlude Lenten Recessional on *Llangloffan* F Ashdown

MUSIC NOTES BY JOHN COWDEN

This morning we continue our "Now is the time" series with "believe the unbelievable." Much of our music rotates around the idea that in difficult circumstance, we can believe that God wastes nothing: all will be used for good. The text for the anthem is based on an inscription left on a cellar in Cologne, Germany, where Jews were hiding. My mind went straight there when Beth said, "believe the unbelievable," because if someone in that circumstance can believe in hope...so can we.

*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.

Communion Liturgy for Lent

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and established an everlasting covenant with every living creature upon the earth. When you delivered us from slavery and made us your covenant people, you led Moses to your mountain for forty days and forty nights and gave us your teachings. You led us through the wilderness for forty years and brought us to the promised land.

When we forsook your covenant, you led your prophet Elijah to your mountain where, as he fasted forty days and forty nights, he heard your still small voice. When you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sins, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand, that we might be raised as the people of your new covenant, from sin and death to everlasting life. And now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of your Son's death and resurrection, you lead us to repentance for our sins and the cleansing of our hearts that during these forty days of Lent we may become prepared to renew our covenant with you. Therefore, with your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise, singing, ...

(continued on back)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 come in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Truly holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. On the night his disciples betrayed and deserted him, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, which we offer in union with Christ's sacrifice for us as a living and holy surrender of ourselves as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine we may know the presence of the living Christ; be one body in him, cleansed by his blood; faithfully serve him in the world and look forward to his coming in final victory. Through him with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

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

YouTube: 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 Connection and Digital Ministry* 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

CJ 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

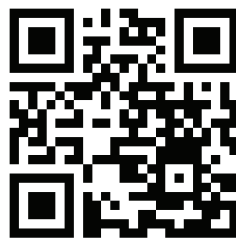
Our Schools

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 pm 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.

VISIT the Oak Grove website: ogumc.org and pull down "FORMS". **Fill out your information.** 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

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 or 404-636-7558 ext.221)



YouTube

