

January 2, 2022

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John Finn

\*Responsive Reading Cindy Mykrantz, Liturgist
(Gospel of John)
One: In the beginning was the Word,
All: And the Word was with God and the Word was God.
One: He was God in the beginning,
All: And through Him all things were made.
One: His light shines in the depths of darkness,
All: And the darkness shall never overcome it.

\*Hymn "Blessed Be the God of Israel" No. 209

\*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance
Father, as we embark upon a new day in a new year, we seek your guidance and your wisdom to make this one different from all the rest. Be with us as we surrender to you and commit to being reverent and obedient to your commands. Inspire us and empower us as we gather to do your will, grow your church, spread your good news, and make disciples of your people. This we pray in covenant with you. Amen!

\*Unison Prayer
The darkness of the past despair has given way to the light of future hope. We heartily proclaim the Good News of the Gospel as we endeavor to live holy and adherent lives, and to reach out to others so that they may also see, hear, and believe from this day forward. Amen!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
O Holy and Merciful God, we freely admit that we have not always obeyed your commandments. Despite our best efforts, the presence of evil and the power of temptation have brought us down. Still, we are not without hope because you sent your Son to save your people, and so we gratefully acknowledge your compassion as we confess our sins before you. Cleanse and purify us so that we may enter your kingdom when our time in this world ends and our life hereafter begins. This we pray with solemn admiration and appreciation. Amen!

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 43:18-19 CEB
New Testament Reading II Corinthians 5:17-21 CEB

Response One: Let us Rejoice in God's Holy Word!
All: For His Word brings us Light, Hope, and Joy.

\*Gloria Patri No. 70

\*Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" No.221

Message "Starting Over" Pastor John

The Sacrament of Holy Communion No. 15

Jesus is the host at the Communion table.
At Oak Chapel, anyone who loves Jesus is welcome at the table.

Our Morning Prayer

As we gather today as a fellowship of believers, let us lift up our prayers and petitions at this time.
Pastoral Prayer

Presentation to God of Our Gifts

\*Doxology No. 95

\*Hymn "Christ for the World We Sing" No. 568

\*Benediction and Postlude

\*= please stand in body or spirit

We welcome Gene and Joyce Varns as new members of Oak Chapel by Letter of Transfer.

From the Pastor's Desk: A Look Ahead to 2022

As we look back on 2021 and forward to 2022, we are reminded just how many things are out of our control. We entered 2020 with great enthusiasm and optimism, only to be undercut by the pandemic just two months into the year. The following year was not much better with unrest and violence in our nation's capital in the first month and then devastating natural disasters in our country and abroad in the final month. Unfortunately, there was also plenty of turmoil and tragedy in between.

So, how shall we enter the new year? Well, I can state boldly and confidently that Oak Chapel will develop a plan for the coming year, and I invite all of you to be involved. Despite the trials and tribulations of the past two years, you have remained undaunted.

We made significant strides in a number of areas, including the establishment of a food pantry; the renovation of a room that can serve as a "Gathering Grounds" for our youth and any other group; and, of course, the construction of our Serenity Garden, which serves as quiet place for silent reflection where anyone can go to seek peace, comfort, and assurance.

Thanks to all of you, many other great things have happened at Oak Chapel during the past few years, including the continuation of a number of the church's storied traditions.

So, where do we go from here? Well, let's explore that question at our next Fellowship Dinner following our worship service on Jan. 16. Bring your creative ideas, or send them to me ahead of time. We'll put our heads together and develop a plan for future growth, and remember we do not have to do it on our own.

We can take refuge in Scripture, including this passage from I Timothy 1:7-8, which states that "God fills us with the Holy Spirit, who is bold and courageous. We do not have to muster courage and strength on our own. We simply submit to the Spirit of God that is within us."

I'm onboard with that, and I hope you are, too, as we move boldly forward in 2022. May the Peace of Christ continue to lift and inspire you the new year.



### Our Prayer List

Our neighbors and our community  
Those serving in the armed forces  
Our country, its leaders

#### Our church family

Jennifer Adair	Elsie Mykrantz
Betsy Bower	Christy Rickard
Bill Feldman	Elaine Sprinkle
Esther Franks	Sandy Treece
Ewing Giffin	Jen Moser
Mark Ritchey	Jim and Patti Pfander
Ann Kahrig	Cameron Boyer

#### Our Friends, Family and Neighbors

All who are suffering with COVID  
Broc and Katy Derr and their unborn twins  
Jay's wife, who broke her shoulder  
Pat Rickard's mother  
The Family of Patti Scripts  
Miriam's cousin those in the Philippines impacted by the typhoon

#### Today's Prayer Concerns

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Names will be removed from this list after three weeks unless otherwise requested.

#### Opportunities for Ministry This Week

Sunday 1/2	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship	10:30 am
Monday 1/3	Retirees' Breakfast	8:00 am
	Art & Soul	7:00 pm
Tuesday 1/4	Days for Girls	1:00 pm
Thursday 1/6	<b>Epiphany</b>	
Saturday 1/8	UMM Breakfast	7:30 am
	UMW Meeting	9:30 am

#### Looking Ahead

Sunday 1/9	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship	10:30 am
	Young Adult Class	11:30 am
Monday 1/10	Bible Study	9:30 am
Tuesday 1/11	Outreach	9:30 am
Saturday 1/15	Acorn Deadline	

#### Tornado Relief

UMCOR is responding to the deadly tornadoes. As the massive storm cleanup continues across the country, we ask for your immediate response in prayer and financial support. Please **be there** for survivors by supporting UMCOR US Disaster Response with a gift today. To give by check, please send checks payable to Advance GCFA and mail to:

Global Ministries | UMCOR  
GPO  
P.O. BOX 9068  
NEW YORK, NY 10087-9068

#### United Methodist Women, January 8, 2022

We will start with breakfast at 9:30. We have voted to support Operation Christmas Child in 2022. A woman who has supported this project will attend our meeting to give an explanation of this program and how we can best serve the children. Please attend the meeting to hear our speaker who has a great passion for this project. Phyllis Weaver and Sandy Hower have helped her and asked us to help pack 50 boxes back in October. You will be amazed at the things these children need in their everyday lives. Please join us to learn how we can begin to gather items all year around.

# Oak Chapel United Methodist Church January 2, 2022



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John Finn, *Pastor*

*Serving God and Community  
through Love, Compassion,  
Fellowship and Caring*