

January 22, 2023

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John

*Responsive Reading (Psalm 40:8-10) Cindy Mykrantz

One: I desire to do your will, my God;

All: Your law is within my heart.

One: I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;

All: I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know.

One: I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;

All: I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.

*Hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have" No. 413

*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance Cindy Mykrantz

Lord Jesus, we come before you with a variety of concerns, fears, and burdens because we know that we can find peace, comfort, and hope through you. Hear our voices as we cry out, and give us the assurance that you will be there to guide us out of the darkness and into the light. This we pray with great confidence in your invincible name. Amen!

Prayer of Reflection Pastor John

Prayer of Illumination Cindy Mykrantz

Lord in Heaven, it is your light that we seek, and your light that we pledge to follow. Direct us on the pathway of righteousness, so that in all that we say and do we will honor you, and help to guide others to seek, find, and follow you. In your Gracious Name, we pray. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession Pastor John
Gracious God, we know the truth, but we often fall short in our efforts to honor your commandments. Forgive us for our sins and strengthen our resolve as we continue in our quest to be devout, devoted, and dedicated disciples. In your Sacred Name we pray. Amen!

Prayer of Preparation for God's Holy Word Pastor John

Scriptures Readings
II Corinthians 4:8 Cindy Mykrantz
Romans 8:28 Pastor John
I Peter 5:10 Cindy Mykrantz
Galatians 6:9 Pastor John
Philippians 4:12-13 Cindy Mykrantz
James 1:12 Pastor John

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 "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought" No. 128

Message "Spiritual Strength in the Face of Life's Struggles"

Our Morning Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

Presentation to God of Our Gifts

*Doxology No. 95

*Hymn "We Are God's People" Insert

*Benediction and Postlude

**= please stand in body or spirit*

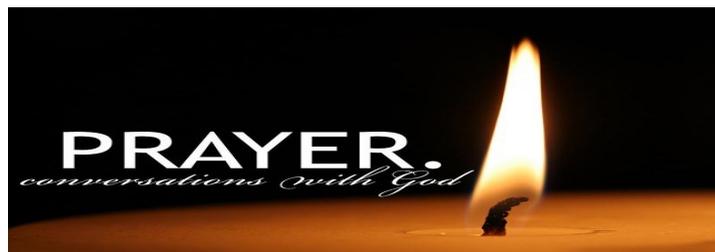
Moving Forward...

We are just three weeks into the New Year, and Oak Chapel is already off to a roaring start with ambitious plans for the next 11 months. Much of our focus will be on Evangelism — sharing the Good News and growing our congregation.

Our first project is a joint venture with Church of the Cross, Orrville Trinity, and Smithville Methodist. We will partner with these three churches to host Vacation Bible School. Oak Chapel has been planning for a return of VBS for several years, but for a variety of reasons, we have not been able to see it through, so we have decided on a brief (two-day) joint venture, which will be hosted by Church of the Cross — the most centrally located of the four churches. As we know, our churches are desperately seeking to increase the involvement of children, and we cannot afford to lose another generation, so please spread the word, encourage the parents of the young people you know, and consider volunteering as well. The dates have yet to be confirmed, but it will likely take place in early June, just after school lets out for the year. In the meantime, let us all pray for a successful venture.

Our second project is the development of a colorful church brochure that will make Oak Chapel attractive to others. The full-color brochure is being put together as we speak. We will be sure to show a proof to all of you and seek your input before printing a final version in the next month or so. It is our hope that you will use these brochures to reach out to others and let them know about all that Oak Chapel has to offer.

Our third endeavor is a partnership with MCTV to possibly have our services air on local cable. There are still some things that have to be worked out, including costs and licensing issues, but we believe that this undertaking will increase our exposure in the community and perhaps attract those who are looking for a church to visit Oak Chapel.



Lord God Almighty, as we work our way through the doldrums of winter, we turn to you to lift us up and inspire us so that we may remain faithful and attentive to your Sacred Word. At the same time, we turn our thoughts to the needs of others as we lift up the following praises and prayers before you...

Praises

For Avi and Laura, who have recovered from Covid
 For Zoe Ring, who is continuing to recover

Prayers

For Nancy Miller, who has an infection in her leg
 For Gene Varns who is dealing with vision issues
 For Connie Garg's brother, Bob
 For Alison Flanagan's sister-in-law's friend, Cindy

Upcoming Worship Services	
Jan. 29.....	Coming Clean
Feb 5.....	Changing Lanes
Feb 12...	Don't Take Your Love for Granted
Feb 19.....	Sealed in Trust
Feb. 26.....	Brick-by-Brick
Mar. 5.....	Mixed Bag

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week

Sunday 1/22	Sunday School Classes	9:30 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	Young Adult Bible Study	11:30 am
Monday 1/23	Revelation Bible Study	9:30 am
	Prayer Shawl	6:00 pm
Tuesday 1/24	Eastbrook Mission Barn	

Looking Ahead

Sunday 1/29	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
Monday 1/30	Revelation Bible Study	9:30 am
Tuesday 1/31	Days for Girls	1:00 pm



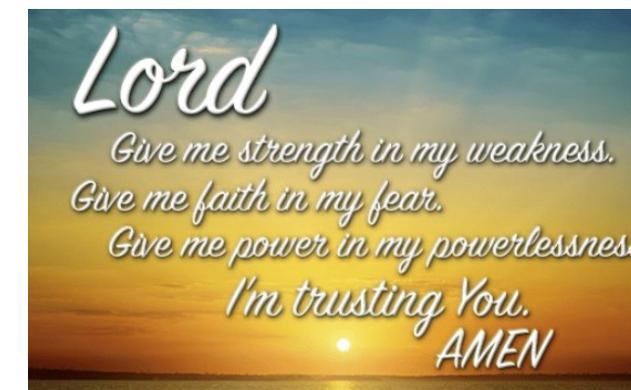
Financial News:

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (December 2022): \$2,130
 Received last month:

12/04.....	\$1,644.05
12/11.....	\$1,372.00
12/18.....	\$5,447.00
12/25.....	\$2,850.00

As of 12/31/2022, we received about 133% of our budgeted income for the month of December and 92% YTD. We are behind last year at this time, which was 197% and 95%, respectively. The weather during Christmas impacted this some. The Food Pantry is in the black. We're still making a difference. Thank you Oak Chapel!

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church January 22, 2023



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 John Finn, *Pastor*

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

Today's Message...
**'Spiritual Strength
 in the Face of Life's Struggles'**