

2020

November

December

OAKWOOD / HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

The Messenger



One of the things that I've been kind of reluctant to think about this year is the combination of the Advent and Christmas seasons. This is not because I don't like them - I am happy to tell anyone who will listen why Christmas Eve is my favorite day

of the year. And it's not because it feels too early - although, at the time of this writing, we are just now in the second half of October. It's true that remote learning for my kids, my own schoolwork, and being knee-deep in charge conference paperwork has kept me occupied for a while now, but I don't feel too busy to think about my favorite time of the year. So what is it?

I think it's this: we've all had to figure out how to do life differently for quite a while now. We had to be open-minded about our summer plans, we had to adjust to a new school year that doesn't look like it usually does, and most, if not all, of us have dealt with some kind of loss or grief this year. And now we have to figure out the holidays too. No matter how much we love the holiday season, there is a looming extra layer this year; flexibility and creativity are needed the most at a time when we might feel like we're already scraping the bottom of the barrel. This may be true for you. It's definitely true for me. But if there's something I've learned over all of my years serving in various roles within the church, it's that we are often blessed in our service to others, and we often find what we didn't even know we needed when we look beyond ourselves.

It is my sincerest hope that, instead of caving in under the weight of unmet expectations and extra demands on our time and energy, we can make, and find, some meaning together in this upcoming Advent season. I pray that, in spite of the grief, isolation, frustration, or sorrow we feel, we will be able to locate and celebrate hope, love, joy, and peace as we worship our Lord. I have faith that, on the longest of longest nights, we will be able to find our comfort in Jesus as we rest in Him, hearing and believing His words: "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28-29 CEB)

Beloved church, it brings me so much joy to be your pastor. Even during this strange year, it has been my great honor to serve you in different ways. I'm proud of what we've done together. I'm grateful that we have found new ways of connecting with each other, and I'm heartened by the love and strength of this community. It is true that this year's Advent and Christmas observances and celebrations will be different from last year, but I do not expect them to be any less meaningful. And so I hope that you will be able to join us in preparing once again for our Lord in whatever way you can, whether you will be joining us in our sanctuaries or from afar. I will continue to create and post online worship services, including online options for all of the special things we do during Advent. We will continue to meet for worship on Sunday mornings for as long as we are able, and we will find creative ways to observe the Longest Night and Christmas Eve together.

As we sing in the Advent hymn, "People Look East" (United Methodist Hymnal, 202):

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Love is on the way, friends. Love is here. Prepare your hearts.
Peace and blessings to you all!

Pastor Jess

Did You Know?



Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

When I take time during Advent to remember in prayer and with gifts of money and time those who have less food than I do, those who are lonely, those without a home; when I pause to share love with a child or an elder, or gratitude for a healthcare worker, pastor or teacher; when I wait for justice to replace oppression but, while I wait, find ways to work for that result ... the Spirit's warmth fills my waiting heart.

I am ready to welcome Jesus.

—Heidi Mann



CONTACT information



Pastor Jessica LeCrone's Office Hours

VIRTUAL

Tuesday —Friday—10:00 am 1:00 pm

Oakwood Phone: 217-354-4950

P.O. 218, Oakwood, IL 61858

Cell Phone: 217-637-2557

Email: jessicamlecrone@gmail.com

Facebook: [Oakwood United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodUnitedMethodistChurch)

Website: ohumc.weebly.com

Special news

PANCAKE / SAUSAGE BREAKFAST UPDATE



The Breakfast was cancelled this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

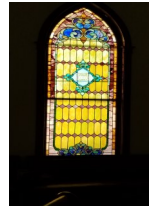
We all missed the delicious grilled sausage, pancakes, sausage gravy and biscuits, **BUT** 2021 will be a year to celebrate its return. So mark your calendars for October 23, 2021.

TURKEY TROT

Thursday, Nov. 19th to Nov. 26th

The Food Pantry is once again hosting a 5K run, but this year it will be virtual. It can be completed anytime and anywhere.

A registration form is attached with more details.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!!

We have paid off the restoration and preservation of our stained glass windows.....in a year.

A **BIG** thank you to all who supported our efforts to save these priceless windows.



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE!!

As you may know, the Oakwood Area Food Pantry has taken over the Backpack Program after Debbie Huddleson retired. Again, we thank her for getting this needed program started and seeing that these children had food over the weekends.

As a result, the food pantry is not only collecting monetary donations but will be asking for monthly items to be provided for this program. We are currently providing weekend food items for 11 families and 26 children.

Starting in January 2021 a list will be provided in the newsletter of the items needed.

The Food Pantry is also providing food items every week for 35-40 families, and over 70 individuals.

Your continued support for these programs is appreciated as the area churches continue to meet the needs in our community.

We are also providing Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets. Oakwood will be providing pie crust and cake frosting and Hebron will be providing egg noodles and marshmallows. Any monetary donations toward these purchases will be appreciated.

Youth News

COMETLAND YOUTH NEWS

Grades 7-12

Sunday 6:00 –7:15 pm

Stay in touch with Josh Hunsberger to learn about upcoming activities.

Cell: 814-969-1766

BIBLE'S COOL

ALAS! Bible's Cool has been put on hold.

With classes split during the week it became impossible to work out a schedule that would work at this time. If conditions change, we will once again see if it can start up again.

STAY TUNED>>>>>



BOOKS FOR PRE-K

We are still collecting books for Pre-K students at Oakwood Elementary School. We need at least 51 books. There is a basket on the round table where they can be left.



ASP 2020 Adults Complete, but not Finished **Philippines 1:6**

Five adults were planning a trip to Unicoi, TN. for their ASP mission trip this year. However, because of the rapidly increase in Covid 19 cases throughout the US and Tennessee, the trip was cancelled. They are all looking forward to making this trip next year, maybe in the Spring. If anyone is interested in making this trip, contact Deb.

ASP 2021 Youth

Thank you to John Wilson and family for the pumpkin fund raiser. It was a fantastic experience and I know that John was smiling down on us.

Three teams (junior high and high school) are registered for the week of June 12. If interested, contact Deb.

Upcoming events

ERIC Thanksgiving Worship Service

will be virtual this year.

Pastor Jess will be providing the message on line.

Details will be provided in the bulletin.



Join us for an Advent Bible study!

This 4-week study will meet in person at Oakwood UMC on Sundays from 5:15-6:15pm beginning Sunday, November 29.

Bring your Bible and learn what the Gospels can teach us about preparing our hearts for Jesus.

An online option for virtual participants will be made available upon request.

Please contact Pastor Jess if you are interested in participating.



*Sunday
November 1st*

We will be having a service of remembrance. If you have a loved one you would like included in the service, contact Pastor Jess.



Longest Night Service

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



As long as we are able to continue meeting for in-person worship, we plan on observing and celebrating as much of the Advent/Christmas seasons as we can! We are working out the details for each of these special services, so please keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for information as it becomes available.

Calendar



SUNDAY,
November 1
2:00 am



Let Nancy Tyler know if you need an annual giving statement for tax purposes. (354-4787)

November 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER

- 1st Sunday All Saints Sunday
Communion
- 8th Sunday Administrative Council
7:30 am (OUMC)
- 11th Wednesday Veterans Day
- 14th Saturday Charge Conference
- 24th Tuesday ERIC Thanksgiving Service
7:00 pm (Virtual)
- 26th Thursday **Thanksgiving**
- 29th Sunday Hanging of the Greens
Advent Begins

DECEMBER

- 21st Monday 1st Day of Winter
- 24th Thursday Christmas Eve Services
- 25th Friday **Christmas**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OAKWOOD

November

Birthdays:

- 2 Todd Lee
- 3 Chad Sprague
- 5 Mark Leverenz
- 7 Bob Linn
- 9 Katelyn Tellier
- 10 Carlos Stewart
- 14 Parker Lee
- 15 Caroline Culp
- 22 Jackson Dudley
- 23 Linda Cunningham
- 30 Nancy Linn

Anniversaries:

- 13 Wayne & Debi Cronin
- 19 David & Julie Calkins

December

Birthdays:

- 10 Heather Trask
- 12 Connor Smith
- 13 Debbie Clow
- 16 Ryan McFarland
- 21 Meredith Steffen Culp
- 23 Shane Meade
Linda Preston
- 25 Tracie Jones
- 26 Katie Lee
Dennis Westfall
- 27 Brett Wittig
- 28 Cameron Lee
- 30 Kendra Westfall

Anniversaries:

- 13 Tom & Melanie Goodwin
- 28 Bob & Nancy Linn



HEBRON

November

Birthdays:

- 3 Dean Grimes
- 9 Mike Pouilliard
- 26 Christopher Johnson
- 30 Allie Covington

Anniversaries:

- 23 Matt & Deanna Morton

December

Birthdays:

- 8 Katherine Huddleson
- 22 Pat Razatis

**Remember our Church
Family Living Away
from their Homes**

Laura Lomax
Pleasant Meadows Christian
Village
400 W. Washington Ave.
Chrisman, IL 61924
(217)269-2369

Joyce Okeli
2000 W. John Street. #309
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 403-0235

**Remember those
in the Military**

Capt. Toby Neil
Stationed—
somewhere in Germany

If you have any additions or corrections to the
Birthday/Anniversary list, please let me know.

melrodmae@gmail.com
Cell: (217) 474-3260

OAKWOOD/HEBRON U.M.C.

P.O. Box 218

Oakwood, IL 61858



WORSHIP TIMES

Oakwood —9:00 am

Hebron —10:30 am

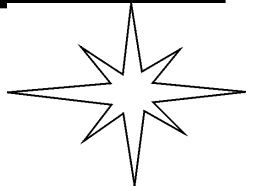
**Virtual: after 7:15am
on Sunday**

ohumc.weebly.com



Sunday, Nov. 1st

Christmas Ornaments



This year the Oakwood United Methodist Church will adorn the sanctuary Christmas tree with ornaments during the Advent and Christmas season. These ornaments can be purchased for a donation of \$6:00 in memory or honor of a loved one. We will display the ornaments during the holiday season, list the names in whose memory or honor they were purchased, and then you may take them home after our Christmas season services. Four out of every six dollars of your donation will support the Oakwood UMC Missions. If you would like an ornament in memory or honor of a loved one, please complete the form below and return it with \$6.00 for each angel to Wanda Plawer or Laura Wittig by Dec. 13th

Additional donations are welcome to support these projects.

In Memory Of (Please print)

1. _____
2. _____

In Honor Of (Please print)

1. _____
2. _____

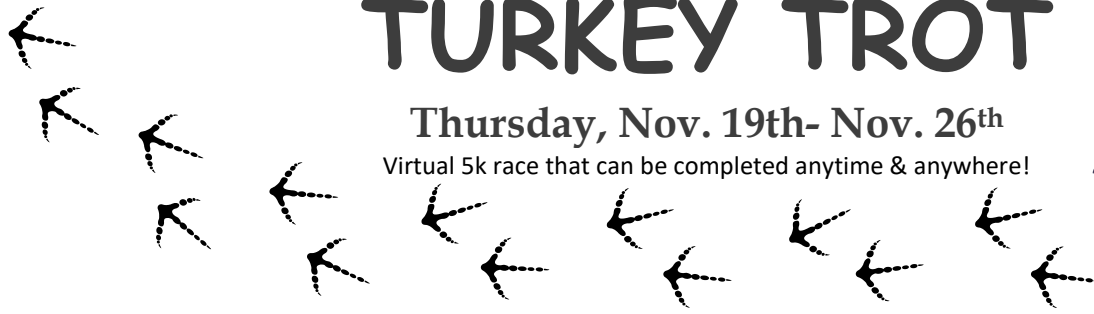
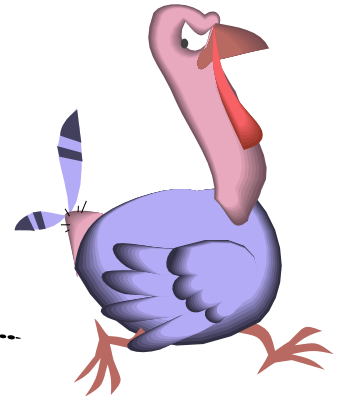
Given by (Please print)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Additional Amount: \$ _____

TURKEY TROT

Thursday, Nov. 19th- Nov. 26th

Virtual 5k race that can be completed anytime & anywhere!



The Oakwood Area Food Pantry would like to encourage your family to start a new tradition this Thanksgiving! How many times have you thought about doing something charitable or active before overindulging in a holiday meal? Now is your chance to do just that by participating in the **7th OAFP Turkey Trot**. It will be a virtual 5K race and participants can walk, run, bike or wobble anytime during the week leading up to Thanksgiving.

Race medals and t-shirts are guaranteed to all who register before Nov. 6th, 2020.

Post your race pictures and/or times to be entered into daily drawings featuring special prizes!

REGISTRATION IS AS EASY AS PIE!

- 1) Pay and register Online at www.feedoakwood.myevent.com OR
- 2) Mail the below registration form along with a check made payable to: **Oakwood Food Pantry PO Box 66 Oakwood, IL 61858**

Deadline is Nov. 6th, 2020 to receive a t-shirt & medal

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Adults \$25 / Children (under 15) \$15

T-Shirt Size

Registration Fee(s) : \$ _____ Total

(Register by November 6th to guarantee a T-Shirt.)

___ Adult S ___ Adult M ___ Adult L ___ Adult XL ___ Adult 2XL

___ Youth S ___ Youth M ___ Youth L

Mail to: Oakwood Food Pantry P.O. BOX 66 Oakwood, IL 61858