



Oak Hills Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Rachael Huntley

Beloved Family,

It is human nature to want to jump ahead to the good things in life, without enduring the bad. We look forward to graduation ceremonies, not to exams. We look forward to a newborn baby, not to labor pains. We look forward to an exotic vacation, not to the hours of travel. Similarly, we often look forward to Easter, while wanting to avoid the pain of the crucifixion.

Alas, you cannot have a diploma without exams, and you cannot have a risen Christ without a crucified Christ. Fortunately for us, Jesus lets us know that wanting to avoid pain and struggle is normal. It is not something to be ashamed about. We know this because in three of the four gospels he begs God to take away his suffering. “Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me—nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42).

It is good and right to petition God for our desires. We can ask God to take away our suffering. Yet, like Jesus, we cannot stop there; we must also recognize that it is God’s will that must be done, not our own. We must pray fervently, but then surrender. The surrendering is the hardest part. We must ask ourselves: what am I not willing to surrender to God these days? What am I trying to desperately stay in control of? Let us finish our Lenten journey by contemplating where in our lives we most need to say “not my will, but Yours, be done.”

Then, because ours is a God of grace and mercy, Easter will surely arrive. And Easter is not just one day! In the church calendar, the Easter season is a full seven weeks (50 days, to be exact). That’s even longer than Lent! More than seven weeks to celebrate the resurrection. More than seven weeks to look for ways that God’s will is being done. Can we do that together? Can we spend the remainder of Lent praying that God’s will be done, and then spend the following 7 weeks joyfully finding all the ways that it is being done?

And I’ll let you in on a little secret: the best way to see God’s will be done is to do some of it ourselves. God has not called us to be mere bystanders. We are called to action. So for the remainder of Lent, let us ask God to help us discern how we can be a blessing to others. Then let us spend the 50 days of Easter spreading grace and mercy and blessings as far and as wide as we can.

With love,

*Pastor Rachael*



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## Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Listed below are Lectionary passages to reflect upon as we prepare our hearts and minds to embrace the gift of Easter.

### April 2: Palm/Passion Sunday; Sixth Sunday in Lent

#### Liturgy of the Palms:

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29

#### Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 126

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey; the people shout: Hosanna!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?  
When the Lord restored our fortunes, we shouted with joy.  
Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.  
After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried and crucified.



### April 6: Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Before the Exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.  
What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation.  
Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lord's supper.  
Jesus washes the disciples' feet and gives a new commandment.



### April 7: Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1—19:42

The innocent servant suffers; surely he has borne our sin.  
A desperate prayer of lament turns to thanksgiving and praise.  
Jesus opens the sanctuary for us; trust in him, for he is faithful.  
In Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness.  
Jesus is arrested, put on trial, crucified, and buried.



### April 9: Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

or Jeremiah 31:1-6

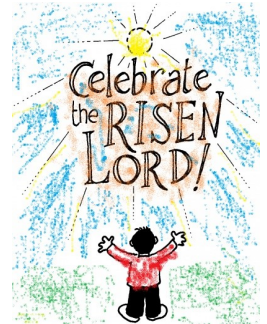
Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

or Matthew 28:1-10

Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all.  
The prophet proclaims God's everlasting love and faithfulness.  
I will not die, I will live; this is the day that the Lord has made.  
If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above.  
At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene.  
Women find Jesus' tomb empty; he has been raised from the dead.



### April 16: Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Peter addresses the people: Jesus is risen, and we are witnesses.  
You protect me from death, O God, and show me the path of life.  
We have new birth into a living hope through Jesus' resurrection.  
Jesus shares the Holy Spirit; a week later, he appears to Thomas.



### April 23: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Peter continues: Repent and be baptized; receive the Holy Spirit.  
Death encompassed me, but God delivered me; praise the Lord!  
You were saved by the blood of Christ; you have been born anew.  
On the road to Emmaus, two disciples meet the risen Lord.

### April 30: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

The believers share all things, worshipping and eating together.  
The Lord is my shepherd, leading, protecting, and feeding me.  
Like sheep, we go astray; but Christ is the shepherd of our souls.  
Jesus says: I am the gate for the sheep; enter by me and be saved.





**Maundy Thursday  
Service**  
April 6 in the library  
Meal at 6 PM  
Service at 6:45 PM

Our celebration will begin with a **potluck supper**, followed by worship. We will focus on opening our hearts to Christ's redeeming love and discuss how the disciples' experience at the Last Supper can inspire our lives. Please join us as we celebrate the mystery and wonder of God's love.



## Easter Lilies

*It is time to order the beautiful lilies that light up the sanctuary on the day we celebrate Christ's resurrection.*

Order forms are available in church and may be ordered through April 2. Please make your check payable to *OHPC* and notate *Lilies* in the memo line. The plants are \$12 each.

Lilies may be taken home after the Easter service. Remaining plants will be donated.

Let's celebrate  
our risen Lord as  
a church family!  
Bring a breakfast  
dish (or not) to

Easter  
Breakfast



Fellowship Hall for a 9:15-10:00 breakfast.  
Please call Robert Stull @ 210-344-3752 or  
the church office @ 210-342-0271 if you  
wish to provide a casserole or side dish.

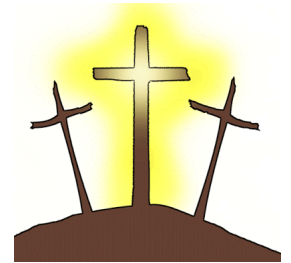


**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

**Good Friday  
Service**

April 7 at 12 noon

Our Good Friday service will be a combination of music, visual art, scripture, and silent reflection that will guide us as we trace Jesus' final hours from Gethsemane to the tomb.



## WE NEED CANDY!

The Membership and Christian Ed committees will be stuffing eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. We are asking the congregation to donate wrapped candy—no chocolate (it melts!) Drop off your donations at the church office by April 1.

## Calling all Kids!

*Come one, come all to the parking lot on Saturday, April 8. There will be games, crafts, snacks—and an egg hunt of course!*

10-11:30 AM



***So that we may celebrate Easter with our families, Session has been moved to April 16.***

## SESSION NOTES

- Accepted Esther and Roger Hughes as members by letter of transfer.
- Approved funds for painting the steeple
- Approved reinstating a 5th Sunday capital improvement drive, beginning in April
- Set April 30 for a congregational meeting to approve a nominating committee
- Next meeting moved to April 16

**Donna Amonett, Clerk of Session**



## FINANCIAL NEWS\$

Due to an unexpected air conditioner problem and previous water leaks, Buildings and Grounds has already expended its budget for the year. Because of the age of our building, we have constant maintenance issues that are depleting our resources. If you are able and wish to contribute to the cost of the repairs, we would be most grateful.

We greatly appreciate your diligence in keeping your pledges current!



**P. Jack Henson, Treasurer**

## PAINT THE STEEPLE!



Our steeple is badly in need of painting. You can help with this unbudgeted expense during our Capital Improvement Drive on April 30. Mark your check "Capital Improvement" and the money will be used for this and other projects necessary to maintain an aging building.

**THANK YOU!**



We need a nominating committee to compile a list of congregational members willing to serve on Session for three years. (Committee members cannot be nominated for Session.) If you are willing to serve on the committee, contact Pastor Rachael by April 20.

*The congregational meeting to elect new Session members will be held after worship on April 30.*

## Opportunities for Study and Fellowship

### We Love good books!

Join us on the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM.

On **April 20** we will be discussing *Cleo McDougal Regrets Nothing*, by Allison Winn Scotch. As Senator Cleo McDougal contemplates a presidential run, a girlhood friend publishes some nasty remembrances of her past. All hell breaks loose as Cleo seeks to set right this issue and some of her past regrets.

**May 18:** *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple



### Who is Jesus?

#### BIBLE STUDY

During the month of April we will be exploring the assurance issued in Hebrews as the people struggle with their decision to follow Christ before examining the views of Jesus presented in some of the non-canonical gospels.



April 13 and 20  
6 PM in the library or by Zoom

Contact Donna Amonett for study materials.

**All are welcome!**

## Home Dedication

The Presbyterian Cluster's 28th Habitat home is almost complete!



Through Christ's death and resurrection, we have been blessed with God's great love. In turn, we can help to further His kingdom on earth by sharing our blessings with those around us. Through your gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS), you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression. This offering will be dedicated on Easter Sunday. If you would like to make a

donation, mark OGHS in the memo line of your check made out to Oak Hills Presbyterian Church. There will also be a designation on the website for online donations.



## Remembering our Music Teachers

At a recent choir practice I reminisced on the music teachers I had over a dozen years when I learned my keyboard skills. Just the memory of music teachers brought an animated discussion, with various choir members recalling their teachers, both good and bad. We remember music teachers more so than classroom teachers because they taught us for more than a year.

My first piano teacher was Miss Joan O'Donnell, who began offering lessons in September 1964. This was back in the day when the teacher came to the pupil's home to provide a half-hour private lesson. Miss O'Donnell was not particularly reliable and missed the weekly lesson from time to time. Turns out she would binge drink, then drop out of sight. My mother fired her the following year. Later, we found out her "problem" was well known in music circles, with one colleague remarking "*Joan's favorite score was Beethoven's Fifth.*"

The second teacher was Mrs. Elizabeth Draheim, who operated a piano studio in her home. She was a nurturing and dedicated instructor and truly a class act. Every week, a succession of 30 students came to the studio, which had a black baby grand piano and two ubiquitous cats. She taught me for a few years, then closed the studio. My third teacher was Miss Vivian Gladieux, a young woman who worked out of a music store. I only took lessons from her for a year, then switched to organ lessons in May 1969.

My fourth teacher was a noted Toledo organist named Donald Gwinner, a colorful, portly organist, choir director, and tenor. He played daily Mass at a large Catholic Church, sang in the Toledo Opera Chorus, and gave lessons to as many as 40 students, visiting each pupil in his battered, rusty 1965 Chrysler New Yorker. He was a strong personality who never minced words, explaining his teaching methods sometimes were

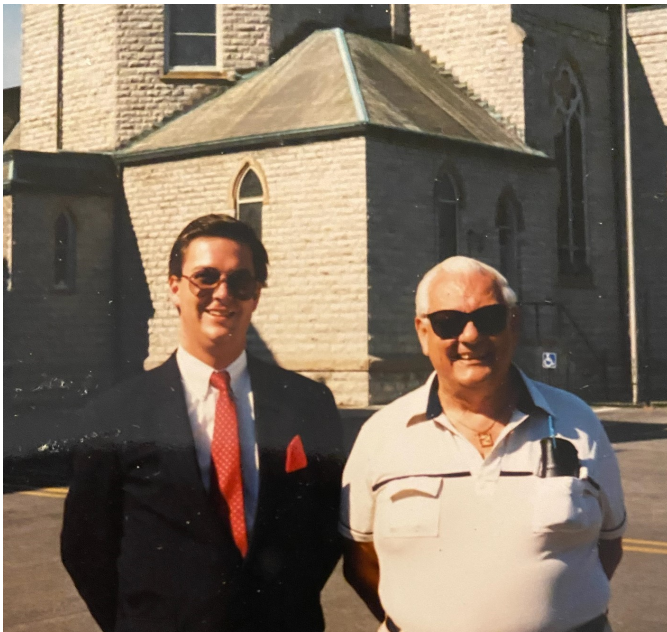


Greg, age 8, at Mrs. Draheim's studio

strident. "*Oh, that was perfectly dreadful,*" lamented Mr. Gwinner, if I played something poorly. Or, "*Seems like you landed on the wrong keys today,*" shaking his head, and "*Watch your footsies – your pedal technique is not Fred Astaire.*" Even with the acid comments, Mr. Gwinner was a great mentor and the primary guide to shaping me into a church musician. I remember when I nervously played my first Mass on the St. Agnes pipe organ. "*Don't worry,*" whispered Mr. Gwinner as we strode the balcony steps, "*Once you do this a couple thousand times it'll come to you easily.*"

Mr. Gwinner taught me through junior year of high school, eventually "resigning" as my teacher. "*I've taken you as far as I can. You can either pursue self-study, or I will refer you to a more advanced instructor.*"

Mr. Gwinner and I remained good friends until his death in 2006 at age 75. He was a remarkable character, and I will never forget him.



Gregory A. Nussel  
Organist and Music Director  
March 23, 2023

One of OHPC's newest members is Judy Grant.

Judy has been attending our church for a couple of years. Initially she listened to our services during the pandemic and after we began meeting in person, she continued to worship with us.

Judy is a retired licensed psychologist. She worked at the Medical School here in SA and at the Children's Cancer Center, focusing on children with chronic illnesses. She was also an administrator at UTSA, overseeing human subject research.

She was born in a small town in Louisiana, although she reports growing up in Houston. Judy has one sister. She attended UT Austin for her undergraduate work and Duke for her graduate studies. Judy has lived in San Antonio since 1976.

She had a solid Christian upbringing and education, attending a Baptist Church each Sunday morning with her mother and great grandmother. On Sunday evenings she attended a Methodist Church with her grandmother. Judy was ordained as an Elder at another local Presbyterian Church.

When asked what drew her to Oak Hills, she said she was invited to visit by her friend, Peggy Hudson. Judy has already become an active member. She has joined the Music and Worship Committee and is participating in our current Bible Study.

Judy enjoys knitting and has made a number of hats which Michael Jenson has distributed through the Under the Bridge Ministry. She loves reading, gardening, and walking. She has 2 pet cats.

Welcome to OHPC, Judy!



## **Ron and Idalia Harmon Memorial Scholarship**

*"Our Christian youth are always a pleasure in our lives. Our educated Christian youth must be the future of America." - Idalia A. Harmon 1928-2008*

OHPC will again be offering scholarships to degree-seeking college students, as well as students enrolled in vocational or technical programs. The scholarship is not age specific, and young adults as well as mid-career or older adults are encouraged to apply. Church staff, members and their families are eligible to apply, and the awards will vary in size based on various considerations such as available funds, number of applicants, degree or certificate sought, etc. The Christian Education Committee administers the program and anyone may contribute to this fund. For more information regarding the *Ron and Idalia Harmon Memorial Scholarship Fund*, please see Heather Ebert or contact the church office.

**Applications will be available April 17 in the church office and online.**

**Deadline for applications is June 16, 2023.**

**Both scholarship accounts are dwindling. If you would like to donate, mark your check "Harmon Scholarship" or "Markey Youth Foundation."**

*Summer camp is a great opportunity for young people to meet with other youth and grow in their Christian Faith.*

**John Knox Ranch** has camps for students in second through ninth grade. See <https://www.johnknoxranch.org/summer-camp> for dates and additional information.



**Mo Ranch** has camps available for students age 8-15. Dates and additional information are available at <https://www.moranch.org/mo-ranch-summer-camp> Limited scholarships are available through Mo Ranch, but applications must be received by April 15.

*The OHPC Christian Education Committee will be able to provide limited scholarship assistance. Contact Heather Ebert for more information.*



International School  
of San Antonio

In February, ISSA students celebrated the Tapati de Rapanui Festival with a special welcome for all parents. The island of Rapa Nui, better known as Easter Island, in Chile, is recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO for its rich culture! (The school director is from Chile and was delighted to share this special event.)



The children also learned about oral hygiene through a visit from a student in the UT Health Dental Hygiene program.



In March, the honorable Madam Baraban (third from left), the General Consul of France, paid a visit to the school. What an honor that was!

The children will celebrate French culture on March 25 with their Francofun Festival. There will be a variety of family-friendly activities devoted to French language, cultures, and food.



ISSA is accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year. Visit their website at [www.issatx.org](http://www.issatx.org).












A women's prayer group (not pictured) meets in the sanctuary on Friday evenings as well.

On Saturday mornings, a group from the Zomi First Baptist congregation meets for prayer and fasting.





# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  1-3 pm Girl Scouts
2 10:30 AM Worship  4-6 PM Guide Dogs	3	4	5  7 PM Choir 7:00 PM AA	6 6:00 PM Potluck dinner 6:45 PM Service 	7 12 noon  <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	8 Egg Hunt 10-11:30 
9 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session 	10	11	12  7 PM Choir 7 pm AA	13  6 PM Bible study	14	15 1-3 pm Girl Scouts  <b>GIRL SCOUTS</b>
16 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session  4-6 PM Guide Dogs	17	18	19  7 PM Choir 7 pm AA	20 11 AM Book club  6 PM Bible study	21	22
23 10:30 AM Worship	24	25	26  7 PM Choir 7 pm AA	27	28	29
30 10:30 AM Worship Capital Improvement Drive 						

## Happy Birthday!

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4/6 Anne Speights     | 4/24 Donna Amonett   |
| 4/12 Jack Henson      | 4/24 Mary Kay Reed   |
| 4/13 Judith Penington | 4/25 Amy Clifton     |
| 4/13 Henry Hernandez  | 4/27 Susy Hallquist  |
| 4/16 Placide Mabo     | 4/29 Francisco Lopez |
| 4/17 Asoh Mabo        |                      |
| 4/17 Jonas Njifouota  |                      |
| 4/20 Jim Clifton      |                      |
| 4/21 Delilah Huntley  |                      |



## Happy Anniversary!

- |                            |
|----------------------------|
| 4/6 Shantal & Maurice Moto |
| 4/11 Ed & Bette Kleitches  |
| 4/13 Clara & Lesley Brown  |

**Oak Hills Presbyterian Church**

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Return Service Requested

*Oak Branch April 2023*

