

Fear Not.



Fear is a funny thing. I mean, not literally. There's really nothing funny about fear at all. What is funny is the push-pull reaction that it incites within us. Even the most risk-averse and fearful among us would admit that there is something exhilarating about the rollercoaster or the scary movie or playing hide-and-seek in the dark. And yet, when we talk about "living in fear" the word that comes to mind is usually "debilitating," not "exhilarating."

The prophet Isaiah speaks God's word to us and it's as relevant today as when he first spoke it in the 8th c. BC. What did God say through Isaiah? To summarize in my own words, he said, "Look, the whole world is in a tizzy. There is panic, anxiety, fear, and the great unknown. But you, My people, My church, you ought to know better. Think of all we've been through. I'm not leaving you. I'm calling you to shake-off your fear – in fact, it's a command! You've gotta learn to trust Me and My plan for your life. You've gotta stay united together and encourage each other to feel My presence in your community. Don't worry, don't fear, cast your anxiety on Me – yes, you don't know the future – but I've got a firm grip on you as we walk into that future hand-in-hand."

If we can wrap our minds around it and open our hearts to it, we can begin to embrace it. We might even feel the power and exhilaration in our souls when we hear that command from Isaiah 41 that we're using as the title for our fall sermon series: FEAR NOT! Friends, let us hold fast the words of Jesus in John 16:33: "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (ESV). Amen and Amen.

By Pastor Lane



fearnot.

Sermon Series Starts in September



CALLING ALL SAINTS

AN AFTERNOON OF PRAYER



"THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE" - JAMES 5:16

COME PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH, OUR MINISTRIES AND OUR COMMUNITY

SATURDAY SEPT. 18TH
3PM-4:30PM



1
Volunteers pick up a shopping list from the church (starting Sept 22)



2
Go shopping!



3
Drop off shopping at the church at your convenience, by October 5th.



4
Submit receipts to Dawn for reimbursement*



5
On October 6th client packages are assembled, combining shopping, used clothing, perishables, toys/household goods.



7
Client packages delivered in our community



6
Volunteer drivers arrive at the church, at scheduled times to maintain social distancing.

**F O O D
B A N K
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· 6 T H ·**



Staffing Changes

It's my privilege to update you on a few staff changes around Oak Park:

- Dawn Driediger has returned from her sabbatical and has jumped right back into her role of all things administration and Community Pastor. It is wonderful to have Dawn back and to see her refreshed and energized with some new ideas for reaching our community.
- Sara Egely has returned to her role as Family Ministries Pastor after her 9-month Parental Leave. She will also assume a secondary role on staff as the Digital Media and Technology Coordinator. This role will take some time to be fully defined, but things such as the online service, social media, website, and video projects will fall under her purview and leadership.
- As Sara's hours will not be increasing with the addition of the Digital Media role, we have invited Mitch and Ray-Ann Bradley to continue in their role as our Youth Pastors. The job they have done in the less-than-ideal circumstances of COVID has been remarkable and they will continue forming a team of volunteers to build a strong youth group within our church and community.
- A huge thank you to Bryan Galbraith for stepping into a very difficult role at a tricky time and coordinating KidsPark for us. We must not have burned him out too much, because Bryan is sticking around as a KidsPark teacher which we all are very excited about (especially my kids).
- Finally, Victoir Moise returns this fall to complete his Alberta Bible College internship and will work in various areas from AV, to KidsPark teacher/helper, and Youth Group leader. We are excited to have Victoir with us on staff until December 2021.

It has been such a joy to have our full staff team back together. Already the energy is different in the building and the collaborative approach to ministry that we all love has been evident! Thank you to all the volunteers for their extra effort and hours during the past nine months. Thank you to all of those who extended a bit of extra grace and understanding to us as a staff as we tried to manage short-handed and with pinch-hitters.

By Pastor Lane



Men's Retreat

September 24-26, 2021

Register at pinelakechristiancamp.com

\$100 per person

\$80 seniors 65+

A poster for a Men's Prayer Breakfast event. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface. In the top right corner, there is a logo for Oak Park Church of Christ, featuring a stylized tree icon above the text "oak park" and "CHURCH OF CHRIST". The main title "MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST" is written in large, bold, light blue capital letters. Below the title, the text "Wednesday's @ Oak Park" is followed by "6:30-7:30am" and "Coffee & Muffins Provided". On the right side of the poster, there is a close-up image of a dark-colored coffee mug filled with coffee.


oak park
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Wednesday's @ Oak Park
6:30-7:30am
Coffee & Muffins Provided

A poster for a Drama Ministry. The background is a stage with purple curtains and several laptops on a table. In the top left corner, there is a logo for Oak Park Church of Christ, featuring a stylized tree icon above the text "oak park" and "CHURCH OF CHRIST". The main title "Drama Ministry!" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title, there are three questions: "Do you love theatre?", "Do you love telling the stories of the Bible?", and "Do you love being creative?". At the bottom, there is a call to action: "We are looking for people to be a part of a Drama Ministry". At the very bottom, there is a list of roles: "Actors • Set/Prop Designers & Builders • Costume Creators • Tech Help".


oak park
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Drama Ministry!

Do you love theatre?
Do you love telling the stories of the Bible?
Do you love being creative?

We are looking for people to be a part of a Drama Ministry

Actors • Set/Prop Designers & Builders • Costume Creators • Tech Help



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JUST DO IT!

Oak Park Women! Gather to pray & worship the Lord!

10:00 - 11:30am

September 25th

Please Register: www.oakpark.ca

Bring your own water bottle, tea or coffee, Bible, journal, etc.

Contact the church office for more information.



Eat Well. Spend Less.



2021

Any one can order one or more Good Food Boxes.

Boxes must be pre-ordered and paid for in cash (exact change) on or before the order by date. You can pre-purchase your next box when you pick up your order. Boxes must be picked up, before 6pm. (Note: Boxes not picked up will be donated - no refunds will be given.)

Good Food Boxes come in the following sizes:

LARGE	40 lbs	\$35.00
MEDIUM	30 lbs	\$30.00
SMALL	20 lbs	\$25.00

ORDER BY

DELIVERY DATE

January 18	January 27
February 15	February 24
March 8	March 17
April 12	April 21
May 3	May 12
May 31	June 9
September 6	September 15
September 27	October 6
October 25	November 3
November 29	December 8

For information call Oak Park Church office at (403) 251-5150 or email office@oakpark.ca



Join us for the Re-launch of our Luncheon Gatherings!

Monday, September 20th, 2021

12:00 noon at

OAK PARK CHURCH

11263 OAKFIELD DRIVE SW

All are welcome!

"Bridge of Hope is a ministry of Oak Park Church of Christ in partnership with the Tsuut'ina Nation 'Our House' Shelter."

Long Range Planning Team Update

By now you have likely become very accustomed to a regular update from Doug Walker, the Chair of our Long-Range Planning team. The absence of Doug's voice from this issue of the Park Bench is not cause for any alarm, it is simply an opportunity for me (Lane) to say a big thank you to Doug for his incredible work serving and leading the LRP team over a 6-year period! Doug's attention to detail, his ability to distill and hone-in on what needed to be done at any given time, and his determination to continue moving things forward has been a gift not simply to our staff and leadership, but to us as an entire congregation. Doug is not going anywhere and will continue to be integrally involved in our work, but I wanted to take this opportunity to say a public thank you to him for his service on the LRP team over these years.

This summer has seen a tremendous amount of work and preparation. One of the things I have so appreciated about the process the LRP team has helped guide us through is the insistence on full transparency. It's with that in mind that I'd like to provide my own succinct update on where things are at with our potential expansion and renovation project.

The LRP team has officially disbanded as of the end of August, as its work is complete. It has, however, given birth to two other teams that will carry different parts of the previous mantle. In all, there are three things you need to be aware of at this time:

1. The LRP team's dissolution will give rise to a smaller and more intentional industry-specific Construction Team. This team has three mandates: liaise with Kelly Seminoff of Bloom Architects on construction drawings and consultants; determine the best path forward if we proceed with construction as to choosing either a Construction Management company or an independent Project Manager; and finally, be in contact with our lender (Church of Christ Development Company) to secure a construction loan. If you or anyone you know is interested in being a part of this team, please contact me.
2. Alongside the formation of a Construction Team we have also begun to form a Campaign Cabinet or Leadership Team for our potential Capital Campaign that will kick-off later this fall. I am very excited to announce that Michael and Julie Kerr along with Rob Beingessner have agreed to co-Chair this team and have already begun preliminary work by meeting with and even soliciting some early donation pledges from our leadership.

3. These teams are already busy with preparation work and ensuring that we can pull together the most accurate information for you. Our goal is to have that information to you in early October so you can be praying about this opportunity and challenge that God has put in front of us. And then, since we felt that you weren't being asked to vote for enough things this fall (municipal and federal elections are upon us in case you weren't aware), we plan to have a congregational vote on whether or not to move forward with this project on a date TBD, likely in later October. We will give you as much notice as we possibly can. Be looking for an email information package from us soon. We want to be in this together as a united congregation!

Let me close by reminding you of something you likely already feel – this is BIG. It's a huge moment in the life of our congregation. Prayer cannot be understated and I am imploring you to please pray often about this and how you can be a part of the work to be done. Over and over again in God's word we are reminded of those who are rewarded for taking a step (or leap) of faith and how a risky thing can turn out to not be that risky when God shows up. Friends, we need God to show up here without a doubt and I, for one, cannot wait to feel my faith stretched and walk together with you on this journey. Please know that my door is always open for questions and I'm happy to talk to you further about any of this.

By Pastor Lane



OAK PARK YOUTH GROUP



Friday Nights
7-9 pm



OAK PARK CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose: To help pay tuition for Biblical post-secondary education

Candidates: Any Oak Park Church of Christ Member

Application Deadline: September 30, 2021

Application Process: Write a letter (1-2 pages) answering the following:

- Why are you choosing to attend Bible College?
- What do you hope to gain from your education?
- What do you hope to gain from this experience?
- Where is your relationship with God right now?
- Do you have any long term goals that stem from your education? (ie: future ministry desires)
- Please outline your financial need

Submission: Email your letter to the Oak Park Church Board at: office@oakpark.ca



**Tuesday Afternoons starting Sept 7th
12:30 - 3:00pm**

Contact Elena Hiebert or the office for more information.

INCREDI-BOWL

Fun Games Family Time

Saturday, October 2, 2021 @ 2 pm

BOWLING BALL

Oak Park District

Words

Scissors...taken to the wet stone of your mind to be sharpened.

A paper doll in the hands of a child.

A word, a phrase, my heart begins to crack.

Funny...I never hear the blades approaching.

The snipping is but a whisper, an echo heard behind me.

Tell me...who will buy the Elmer's glue

And stick together the scrap paper you've made of my life?

-by Julie Kerr





Oak Park Church

FREE RACK CLOTHING

New Day

Available every Thursday
from
9am - 12 Noon

**Please come and select items for yourself,
your family and friends. All are welcome!**

*We take donations of clean, gently used clothing, coats,
gloves, scarves, and footwear for men, women and children.*



Your Giving Matters!

September Financial Update



In September we will be emailing your Year-To-Date giving update. Watch your inbox for that email. Thank you so much for blessing our church with your giving.



Get Connected

If you would like to be included in any of these, please contact the church office:

- phone directory
- prayer chain
- eNews



Did you know Oak Park has an app? Download to your smartphone to access online sermons & event information. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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 **oak park**
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