



We Are Oak Lawn

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Update From The Pastor

Throughout history, the Church has marked time with its own calendar. Every year we celebrate six holy seasons including Pentecost, Easter, Lent, Epiphany, and Christmas, but the Christian year begins with the season of Advent. Advent means to “come near.” It is during this season we prepare for the coming near of our God through the birth of Jesus Christ.

Like Lent, Advent is a season of spiritual longing as we make our hearts ready to receive God’s greatest gift to the world, the gift of Jesus.



I was raised in a parsonage as the daughter of a pastor and one of the ways we made our hearts ready was in the traditions of hosting of a Christmas open house for the congregation. This was a way for us, the Pastor's family, to show our gratitude for the congregation and to celebrate the joy of Christmas together as a church family. It was so much fun to decorate and help pull out all the nice dishes in preparation for hosting. Most of all, I remember how fun it was to get to know people outside of the only context I had known them in, the pew. I always loved the night we had the whole church over to celebrate.

Parsonage is a somewhat old-fashioned term for the housing a church provides to its clergy. While Oak Lawn UMC doesn't own a house for the pastor to live in, they do provide a living allowance for me as your pastor so each year I take great joy in an opportunity to invite you into the "parsonage" to celebrate Christmas as a church family. My family is a little unconventional in that I do have a husband and four children but we are often going in different directions as my husband serves as a pastor too. Because of this, you may not have had the chance to meet all of my family. As a family, we are excited to host Oak Lawn UMC. Mike and the kids are helping to decorate and prepare for your visit. This is one of the ways we are getting our hearts ready this season on Advent.

I hope you will join us for a Parsonage Open House on Saturday, December 21st and celebrate and ready your hearts for the birth of Christ.



Pastor Rachel

Coming Up at Oak Lawn

December:

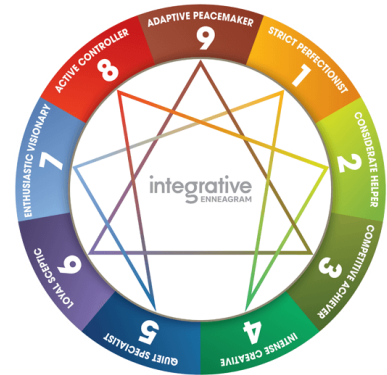
- **December 14th:** A Christmas Carol at Dallas Theater Center
- **December 21st:** All Church Christmas party at the Baughman's
- **December 22nd:** Holiday Community Meal
- **December 24th:** Christmas Eve services
 - Combined with Gracia Viva at 7:00 PM
 - Prayer service at 11:00 PM

Oak Lawn All Church Holiday Potluck

HOST: RACHEL BAUGHMAN

WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 6:00 PM

WHERE: THE BAUGHMAN'S HOUSE
494 N. COLLINS RD SUNNYVALE, TEXAS 75182



January:

- Stay Tuned (more info in the next issue) for our next Enneagram class starting in 2020!

Bento Box Moment

When God tells us to love our neighbors, he doesn't just mean the rich ones. One of the best ways you can show love to a group of underserved neighbors this holiday season (and the following seasons!) is by volunteering at the warming shelter. There you have the privilege of getting to know some of our lovely friends in the congregation and Oak Lawn community.



We volunteered on a chilly night and had the opportunity to lend a hand to those who needed it and were greeted with nothing but gratitude. Being able to provide our neighbors with necessities like food and a roof over their heads was a way for us to live out the word of God. It was extremely impactful to see that treating someone with human decency, love, and kindness was transformative for their lives. Even if it was just in that moment. It extended to being just as transformative in our lives. Take a breath and let down barriers that might be stopping you from this calling. Extend kindness to your neighbors today and through the rest of the season by signing up for shifts at the warming center.



Honoring a Season of Waiting

by Sammantha Bennett



It's been said that "waiting time is not wasted time." There have been moments in my life when I have been less inclined to believe that; more than I care to admit. More often than not, I want it now: the promotion, the answer, the goal. I want to know that the end is here, or at least near. Our culture is no help in this matter. We live in a world where rushing is revered. Get it done now, and then do the next thing, and then the next, and so on and so forth until all the things are complete. There is little time for journey; that takes too long.

As we approach Christmas, it can be easy to get muddled in the forward thought of Christmas Day. The shopping, the food, the giving, the arrival. Hustle and bustle can make us lose sight of

what's in front of us. In the weeks leading up to Christmas Day, we enter into a time we call "Advent". It is a season of preparation, a season that allows us to ready our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" meaning "coming". In this time, we pause, slow down, take a deep breath, because something great is on the way. But we don't sit idle.

There are a couple ways to honor the season of Advent. We can anticipate and we can prepare. In anticipation, we gather toward us the virtue of hope. Hope, like love, is one of the few theological fruits that can both be possessed and be acted upon. You can hold onto hope like a lifesaver, and you can hope for your lifesaver. To anticipate means that we're actively waiting for something, something that we know is coming. Advent creates space for us to look at where we are and what's to come, to remember that we have the "evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1b).

Waiting is the favorite activity of almost no one. We are blessed in knowing there is a sacredness in waiting, a holiness in anticipation. Hannah and Sarah and Elizabeth waited for babies, and in their patience, God answered their prayers. Job waited for providence, and in his pain, God renewed his



life. And Joseph of Arimathea was “waiting for the kingdom of God”, and in his faithfulness, God used him for grace (Mark 15:33). They waited on their answer and their God, and every single time, God showed up. Though waiting is often painful, “we glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (Romans 5:3-4)

As we spend the weeks leading up to Christmas, let us remember why we hope. This season is the perfect time to reflect on what our life was like before we had the hope of Christ, when we were lost and aimless. And to remember that light for our darkness, peace for our fear is on its way. To remember that God is going to show up.

The second way we can spend our time of waiting is to prepare. When we are readying for any guest, we clean the sheets and the bathroom, make sure there are no cobwebs or cluttered spaces, and we cook and clean until we are satisfied with what we are prepared to offer our visitor. In much the same way we ought to prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of the ultimate guest, Jesus. In Irish culture, it is customary to place a lighted candle in the window of your house on Christmas Eve to symbolize that there is room in your “inn”, so to speak. The house has been scrubbed, the food has been cooked, and everyone is in their best. We would be remiss if our hearts were not in their best. Preparation takes hope to the next level: faith in action.

With each week of preparation, we are given an opportunity to act. With hope, we expose our wounds to God through our lament, trusting that God will come through. In joy, we revel in God’s promises fulfilled. As an act of love we say “yes” to our service to God. And in silence, we are met with the peace that God brings through the birth of Christ. In the final Advent celebration, we light the Christ candle, for our waiting is over. Each of these action items requires faith in God’s hand, in his faithfulness.

Without both of these paths, it is so easy to lose sight of the majesty of Christmas. When we focus on the day alone, we turn our waiting time into wasted time. My favorite Christmas hymn is “O Holy Night”. It truly captures the beauty in waiting and the reverence of the coming of the Christ-child. Consider these words: “Long lay the world in sin and error pining; Til He appears and the Soul felt its worth; A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices; For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.”



Christ is on the horizon, hope is barely risen, and already an exhausted world is singing “Hallelujah!” Our heavy hearts that are longing for light are relieved with the arrival of the Messiah, the long-awaited One. Without waiting, we couldn’t fully experience the joy of arrival. Without pining, how dull would fulfillment be? If we rush through this season, we run great risk of missing out on the glory and holiness for which preparation makes space. Allow this time of pause to remind you of how beautiful the reward is: the arrival of our Savior.

With the lighting of each candle of Advent, one for every week, remember the light that radiates in our lives. We have the unearned delight in knowing that Christ has come for us, a weary world. And as we anticipate what is coming for us and prepare for what will come after, remember that the world is still weary. There are hearts that live without the peace of the Prince. Do not waste this time; remember your own long-suffering and have mercy on theirs. As image bearers of God, bring with you this season that “unspeakable gift” of Christ to those pining until those souls “feel their worth”. With the lighting of the final Christ candle, and with all the anticipation and preparation in the weeks leading up, be encouraged that hope has arrived and shines within each of us.



La Posadas

by Pastor Isabel Marquez

Dreaming of a white Christmas? For Hispanics, forget it! The closest you'll come to frosty is sipping an icy margarita or ponche (hot fruit drink mix with alcohol or not). Hispanics experience the Advent season with gatherings, songs, and food: lots of food!



This is a Christmas festivity. Las Posadas are nine consecutive days of candlelit processions and lively parties starting December 16 ending on December 24.

Each day begins with recreating Joseph and Mary in their journey for lodging in Bethlehem. They are followed by other children representing angels, pastores y pastoras (shepherds and shepherdesses), all usually decorated in colorful

handmade costumes and carrying brightly decorated Cayado (walking staffs) or faroles (paper lanterns).

The Santos Peregrinos (Holy Pilgrims) stop at the first designated house to sing a traditional litany; it can be in one house only if there is no more in the same block.

Outside Singers

In the name of Heaven
I beg you for lodging,
for she cannot walk
my beloved wife.

Don't be inhuman;
Have mercy on us.
The God of the heavens
will reward you for it.

Inside Response

This is not an inn
so keep going
I cannot open
you may be a rogue.

You can go on now
and don't bother us,
because if I become annoyed
I'll give you a trashing.

In the song, the Holy Family requests shelter for the night and those waiting behind the closed door turn them away. They proceed to a second house and continue singing the litany;

We are worn out
coming from Nazareth.
I am a carpenter,
Joseph by name.

I'm asking you for lodging
dear man of the house
Just for one night
for the Queen of Heaven.

I don't care about your name:
Let me sleep,
because I already told you
we shall not open up.

Well, if it's a queen
who solicits it,
why is it at night
that she travels so alone?

At the third stop the pilgrims are told that while there is no room in the posada (inn), they are welcome to take refuge in the stable.

My wife is Mary
She's the Queen of Heaven
and she's going to be the mother
of the Divine Word.

May God pay, gentle folks,
your charity,
and thus heaven heap
happiness upon you.

Are you Joseph?
Your wife is Mary?
Enter, pilgrims;
I did not recognize you.

Blessed is the house
that shelters this day
the pure Virgin,
the beautiful Mary.

The doors are flung open and all are invited to enter and, full of joy, sing:

Entren, Santos //Peregrinos//
reciban este rincón,
que aunque es pobre
//la morada//,
os la doy de corazón.

Enter, holy
//pilgrims//,
receive this corner,
for though this dwelling //is poor//,
I offer it with all my heart.

This is a vigorous way of teaching children the story of the Nativity. But the chief attraction is the merrymaking that follows, and, above all, the chance to engage in the ruthless smashing of piñatas and a mad scramble for the shower of fruits, sugar cane, peanuts, and candies released from within.

Nativity scene, or El Nacimiento

The focal point at Christmas is el Nacimiento (Nativity scene). Usually, it is a stable where figurines of the Holy Family are sheltered. In the scene you can also find: an angel; Los Reyes Magos (the wise men); the ox, shepherds, and their flocks; and many assorted people and livestock. It is unusual, but you can also find the forces of evil represented by a serpent and a grotesque Lucifer waiting in the shadows. This will be completed until Christmas Eve when the newborn Baby Jesus is finally laid in the manger bed.

The Three Kings: Los Reyes Magos

The Christmas season continues unceasing through Epiphany (January 6), which is called Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day). Echoing the arrival in Bethlehem of Wise Men bringing gifts to baby Jesus, in some regions, children leave shoes outside the room where treasures may be deposited by the visiting Wise Men. It is like Christmas for many. Also, a special treat served on this day is the Rosca de Reyes, a crown-shaped sweet bread decorated with jewel-like candied fruits. Tiny figures of babies are hidden in the dough before baking. The excitement grows as each partaker cuts his or her own slice, for whoever gets a piece containing a baby is obliged to host another party on or before Candlemas, February 2, when finally, the holiday season comes to an end.

Las Posadas Canto

Español		English	
Cantores Afuera	Cantores Responden	Outside Singers	Inside Response
En el nombre del cielo os pido posada pues no puede andar mi esposa amada.	Aquí no es mesón, sigan adelante Yo no debo abrir, no sea algún tunante.	In the name of Heaven I beg you for lodging, for she cannot walk my beloved wife.	This is not an inn so keep going I cannot open you may be a rogue.
No seas inhumano, tennos caridad, que el Dios de los cielos te lo premiará.	Ya se pueden ir y no molestar porque si me enfado os voy a apalear.	Don't be inhuman; Have mercy on us. The God of the heavens will reward you for it.	You can go on now and don't bother us, because if I become annoyed I'll give you a trashing.
Venimos rendidos desde Nazaret, yo soy carpintero de nombre José.	No me importa el nombre, déjenme dormir, pues que yo les digo que nos hemos de abrir.	We are worn out coming from Nazareth. I am a carpenter, Joseph by name.	I don't care about your name: Let me sleep, because I already told you we shall not open up.
Posada te pide, amado casero, por sólo una noche la Reina del Cielo.	Pues si es una reina quien lo solicita, ¿cómo es que de noche anda tan solita?	I'm asking you for lodging dear man of the house Just for one night for the Queen of Heaven.	Well, if it's a queen who solicits it, why is it at night that she travels so alone?
Mi esposa es María, es Reina del Cielo y madre va a ser del Divino Verbo.	¿Eres ú José? ¿Tu esposa es María? Entren, peregrinos, no los conocía.	My wife is Mary She's the Queen of Heaven and she's going to be the mother of the Divine Word.	Are you Joseph? Your wife is Mary? Enter, pilgrims; I did not recognize you.

Dios pague, señores,
vuestra caridad,
y que os colme el cielo
de felicidad.

¡Dichosa la casa
que alberga este
día
a la Virgen pura.
la hermosa María!

May God pay, gentle
folks,
your charity,
and thus heaven heap
happiness upon you.

Blessed is the
house
that shelters this
day
the pure Virgin,
the beautiful Mary.

Upon opening the doors at the final stop, the tune changes, the pilgrims enter, and all sing these final verses in unison:

Entren, Santos
//Peregrinos//
reciban este
rincón,
que aunque es
pobre
//la morada//,
os la doy de
corazón.

Enter, holy
//pilgrims//,
receive this corner,
for though this
dwelling
//is poor//,
I offer it with all
my heart.

Union
Coffee on The Corner



Thanksgiving Market: Mission Forward

Interview with Scott Bryan
Piece by Sammantha Bennett

It's a chilly, overcast morning when I arrive at Union. Already the parking lot is full and the peaks of tents can be seen on the fenced lawn. As I make my way toward the building,

I hear the steady rhythm of music, the hum of the food truck, and the roar of Southwest planes descending into Love Field. I can see people milling about, clutching their hot drinks in cold hands. It seems the fun has already begun.

Scott Bryan and I sit on the deck at one of Union's picnic table. I have my coat zipped to the top and my legs bouncing to fight the cold. But Union's General Manager is completely at ease in his vest, and in himself. He eagerly tells me about the market, its inception, and plans for the future. "We want to engage the community, the arts community, as well as local and independent entrepreneurs." The tagline under their name on the sign outside reads, "Coffee. Community. Cause." And this Thanksgiving market is a perfect example of that anthem.

Scott took the lead on this project when early conversations of an idea moved towards reality. Oak Lawn United Methodist Church used to have a large flea market when they owned the property across Welborn. Union's new space on Cedar Springs (opened at the end of June this year) affords the opportunity to expand on that legacy, and on their goal of bringing the community together. About a month ago, Union started their campaign to collect vendors and artists. Instagram produced the largest results with a call for their followers to spread the word about the "first ever Oak Lawn Neighborhood Market, Thanksgiving edition," with Scott's email address listed for those interested. Most markets require a fee of \$50-\$100 for a vendor spot, but Union went lower. They offered booths for \$20 as a way to encourage those artists who may be new to the game. Every booth owner is local to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and each one has a story to tell.

Biri Ordoñez has her tent set up in the southeast corner of the lawn. Bright colors swarm my sight as I make my way towards bags, scrunchies, wall hangings, and other home decor items. Her chalkboard sign bears her shop name: M&B Tiny Shop. She tells me she named it for her husband, Manny, and herself. Most of her products come from Guanajuato, Mexico, and Guatemala City, Guatemala, where Manny's and Biri's parents are from, respectively.



Her goal was to bring their heritage and culture to Texas, and add some Dallas flair with her own woodworking projects.

Biri is energetic as she tells me about how she got into the trade shop world. Mrs. Ordoñez is a middle school ESL science teacher in Denton, TX. In addition, she works with Denton G.O.A.L, a non-profit whose website says they work with students who are “second-language learning and at-risk.” Biri tells me that the goal is to inspire kids to become productive citizens who help and are part of their community. It was her students who pushed her to bring her idea of a small business to life. They encouraged her to get her tax ID, start setting up her booth places, and, in turn, inspired her to fulfill her wish. Biri says it's important for her students to “remember where you come from”. By next year, she hopes to be doing this full-time. Five percent of her proceeds go back to Denton G.O.A.L.

Vendors who give back is something Union knows quite well. Ten percent of their coffee-related sales are poured back into local non-profits. From hunger to childhood literacy to disaster relief, Union takes their giving very seriously. Capes 4 Kids, an idea brought to life by some Union regulars, turns cancer-fighting kids into the superheroes they are by making and delivering capes to pediatric units across Dallas. Bed Start provides furniture for families in transition. And a partnership with Cafe Momentum has assisted in the cause of helping incarcerated and released youth. These are just a smattering of the pies Union has its hand in. So it makes sense that they would draw a crowd with hearts of gold.

Next to the patio is Keely Brown. A long-time Union regular, she is well acquainted with the goals of her favorite coffee spot. Her table isn't laden with handicrafts or candles, though; she has nothing to sell except a mission. Strung across the front of her table is a small banner reading "ULMAN". It's a Baltimore-based foundation that works with young adults, and their families, going through cancer treatment and recovery. Money they bring in provides for services we recognize, such as housing and educational scholarships, and some lesser thought-of issues like social engagements and fertility preservation.

Keely tells me about the jars with bills in them sitting on her table. She is running a cross-country relay race in June of 2020. From Baltimore to San Francisco, this 4000+ mile run will take place over the course of 49 days. During their time, they will stop in various cities and do work with community outreach and volunteer with cancer centers and hospitals. She says that running has helped her with her struggles in life, including dealing with her mom and grandfather's cancer diagnoses. So she kept running. See more about her goals at give.ulmanfoundation.org.

Over near the corner of Cedar Springs and Welborn are sisters Chelsea Green and Jessica Tresp with their pop-up bookstore Bibliobar. Having done their subscription box for four years, they are in the process of converting a bus into a mobile bookshop, as well as looking for their first storefront. They tell me that they're completely self-funded and intentionally curate a selection that is inclusive; they avoid the traps of singular niches into which many stores fall. They look for first-time and local authors and proudly tell me that they are the official booksellers for Arlington-based Julie Murphy, author of *Dumplin'* (which has been made into a Netflix Original Movie with Jennifer Anniston). They were also the official booksellers for LeakyCon Dallas, the Harry Potter-themed convention held here in August.

Today, 20% of their profits went to the Stay Gold Fund. Part of the Stonewall Community Foundation, Tobly McSmith started the fund to help with the transition for trans and gender non-conforming individuals. McSmith worked with Chelsea at HarperCollins Publishing, and is the author of the upcoming novel *Stay Gold*, a story about a transgender boy here in Texas. Chelsea and Jessica chat excitedly about contributing to a cause they care about, a trait that perfectly befits Union.

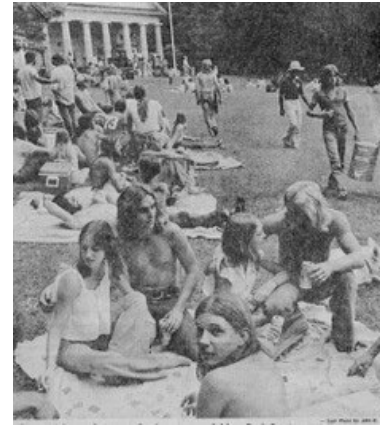
From my spot chatting with Scott, I had seen a table full of animated paintings that I was dying to see. I grab a chai from Union's patio order-window and head over towards a large portrait of Maya Angelou. Surrounding the great poet are ornaments and small canvases with Mr. Magoo, Cindy Lou Who, Lucy from the Peanuts, and a Twinkie dressed as a cowboy. Younger Dayes is the brand new shop from Oak Lawn UMC's very own Hayes Austell. A junior at Texas Women's University studying early education, Hayes is beaming as he tells me that he is doing much better



than expected. It is his very first time selling his work, which he says is inspired by “old toys and shows”. He wants to teach kindergarten and first-graders, and his style would be welcome in any place children, and adults, can appreciate it. I notice that Frida Kahlo, Barack Obama, and Ruth Bader Ginsberg had already been claimed, and as I am chatting, someone comes and grabs Twinkie the Kid. In addition to these nostalgic renderings, Hayes' sign encourages shoppers to inquire about custom pieces.

Oak Lawn and Union have long been in partnership. Many Union regulars make their way to OLUMC for volunteering or services. And with the market set to recur quarterly, there will be even more opportunities to bring people to our campus. We share a heart for our city, our neighbors, and each other. Our connection makes us stronger, and seeing Oak Lawn members and attendees at Union is encouraging for everyone. So keep an eye out for Union events (displayed in their app!) because there is always something going on that moves us all forward.

Something Fun



A Message from the Turtles of Turtle Creek Park

We, the Turtles, have finally found the right moment to come out of our shell and into cyberspace. But with anything Turtles do, we do it slowly, deliberately, and with careful planning. We bring love, peace, and a quest for authenticity.

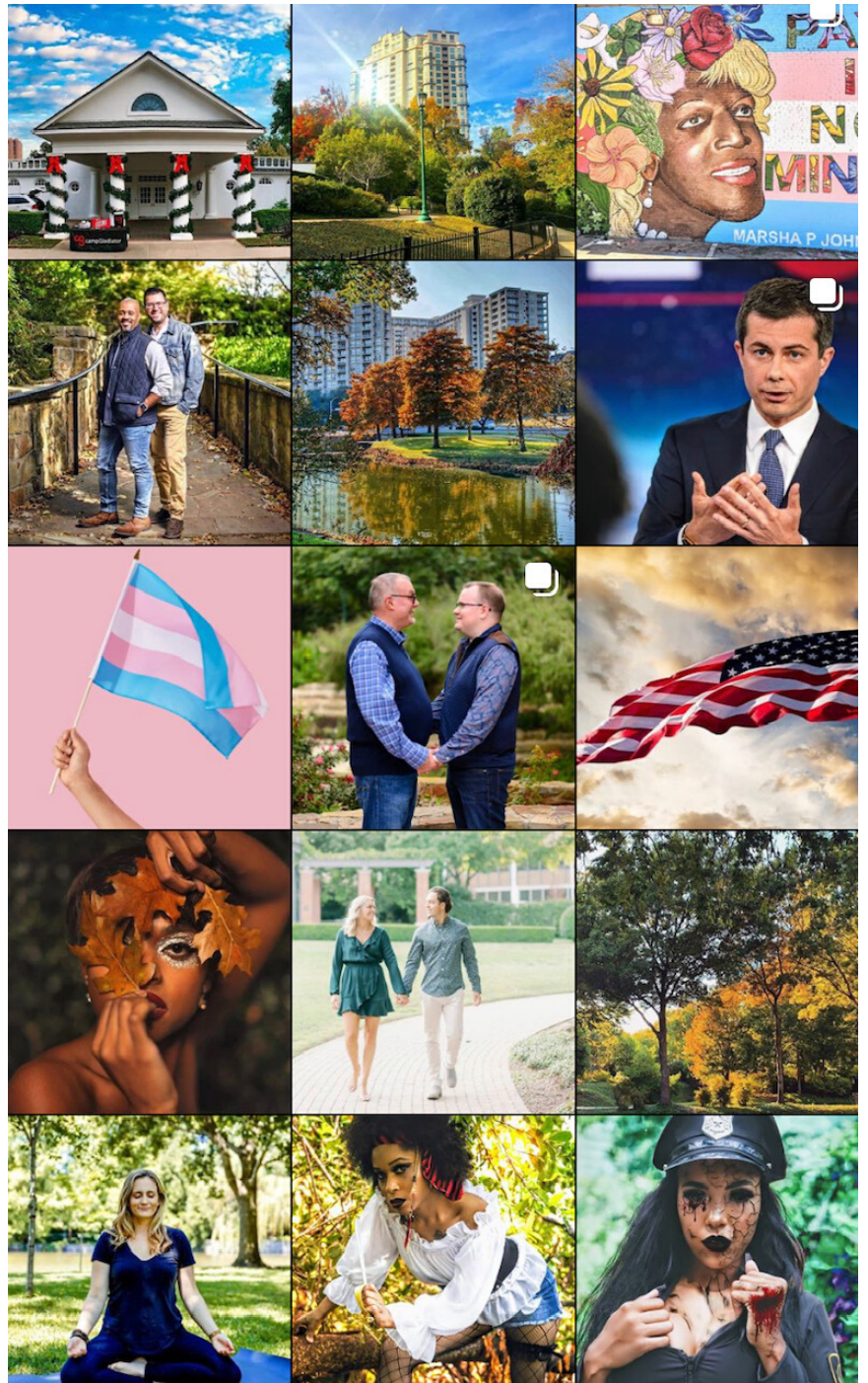
Oak Lawn celebrates what makes us unique. It's about being able to hold hands with a same-gender partner, to wear clothes or present a body that challenges social norms, to be visible and authentic. It's about the freedom to do and be what might not be socially acceptable or safe in most parts of Texas. It is truly a privilege for those who are otherwise oppressed or repressed.

Lee Park (as it is still commonly known by the elder Turtles) has been a gathering spot for Oak Lawn's counterculture, Pride celebrations, concerts from the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Pooch Parade, LifeWalk, and more. It can comfortably host thousands for events the historic Strip on Cedar Springs cannot safely contain.

In 2017, when the City of Dallas removed the Confederate Monument, the name reverted from (Robert E.) Lee Park back to the original, Oak Lawn Park. In April of this year, under pressure from various interests, the City of Dallas renamed our home Turtle Creek Park and mandated that this name remain for the next 60 years.



Thanks to our fledgling marketing campaign, the Turtle Creek Conservancy appears to have publicly acknowledged Juneteenth for the first time in its history. We recognize this is a huge step and we are very proud of them. Our campaign seeks to change the dynamics in the Park to make it a safer space to recognize diversity and progressive thought. The Park itself has been a safe space for LGBTQ+ community for decades, but the marketing material promoting Arlington Hall has only ever shown straight, white couples. We want to create a more authentic representation of Park. As we take larger steps with new projects on the horizon, we are looking for more creative support from the Oak Lawn community. That means you!



Follow and tag @turtlecreekpark on Instragram, Facebook, and Twitter to see what'scoming next or e-mail help@turtlecreekpark.org to tell us how you'd like to participate.We are looking for painters (for murals), sculptors, photographers, models, on-camera talent, graphic and web designers / developers, and more.





And don't forget to follow
TurtleWeather.com - automated,
extreme weather alerts
fabulously delivered through
Twitter in real-time!

Won't you join us and help tell a
different story for the next 60
years?



OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Morning Grow Study 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

Mañanas de Domingos de Adoración 12:30 P.M.

Wednesday Communion 12:00 P.M.

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OLUMC.ORG

Oak Lawn UMC exists to be a hub of transformative Christian community that is inclusive, expansive, and entrepreneurial.

We are inclusive

Welcoming and caring for all, particularly those on the margins.

We are expansive

Connecting with new people beyond the walls of our church.

We are entrepreneurial

Willing to be courageous and take risks in faithfulness to God's call.

Union




Gracia Viva
¡Viva la Gracia!

OAK LAWN
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

