

Oak Lawn UMC to Toll Bell 600 Times and Host Prayer Vigil for Justice

Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m. | *“Every Life is Sacred”*

DALLAS, TX, UNITED STATES, May 6, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- On Thursday, May 14, 2026, Oak Lawn United Methodist Church will toll its bell 600 times beginning at 6:00 p.m., marking a solemn milestone in Texas history and calling the community into remembrance, prayer, and action. Following the bell tolling, the church will host a Service of Prayer and Justice at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, open to all.



Oak Lawn UMC Dallas

This public witness comes as Texas reaches approximately 600 executions

since the reinstatement of capital punishment, more than any other state in the modern era. “Each bell toll is a life remembered,” said Rev. Rachel Griffin-Allison of Oak Lawn UMC. “We gather not only to mourn, but to proclaim what our faith teaches clearly: every person bears the image of God, and every life is sacred.”

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*Rev Rachel Griffin-Allison,
Senior Pastor*

A Moment of Witness in a Changing Landscape

Texas has long led the nation in executions, though recent years have seen a decline in new death sentences and executions compared to historic peaks. At the same time, concerns about wrongful convictions persist; nationally, for every eight people executed, one person on death row has been exonerated, raising profound moral and legal questions. The May 14 vigil also coincides with a scheduled execution in Texas, underscoring the urgency and immediacy of the issue for communities of faith and conscience.

A United Methodist Witness
The United Methodist Church's Social Principles affirm the sacred worth of all persons and call for the rejection of the death penalty, emphasizing the possibility of redemption, the fallibility of human justice systems, and the call to restorative rather than retributive justice.

Grounded in this tradition, Oak Lawn UMC's vigil will include prayer, silence, scripture, and communal lament—holding together grief for victims of violence, compassion for those executed, and a call to transform systems that perpetuate harm.

Event Details

Bell Tolling
6:00 p.m. (600 tolls)

Prayer Service
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Location:
Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
3014 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, TX

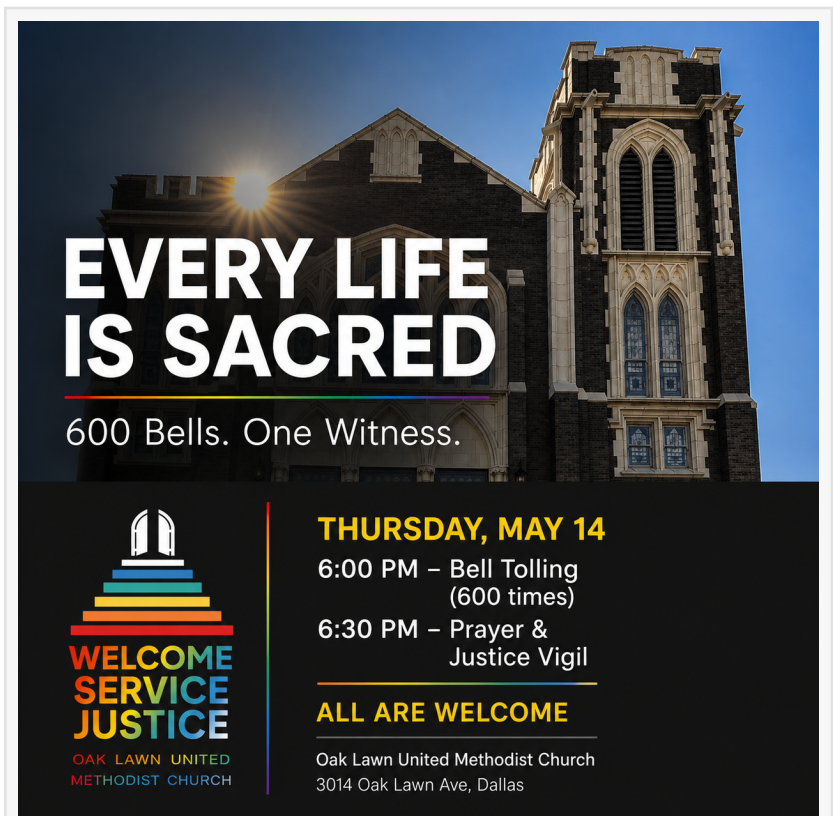
A brief time for quiet reflection will follow the tolling of the bells before the service begins.

"All are welcome," Rev. Griffin-Allison added. "This is a space for grief, for prayer, and for hope—hope that love will be stronger than violence."

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About Oak Lawn United Methodist Church

Oak Lawn United Methodist Church is a diverse, justice-seeking congregation in Dallas, Texas, committed to amplifying God's love through radical hospitality, service to neighbors, and standing up for justice. Known for its inclusive and bilingual ministry, the church serves a wide



EVERY LIFE IS SACRED
600 Bells. One Witness.

THURSDAY, MAY 14
6:00 PM – Bell Tolling (600 times)
6:30 PM – Prayer & Justice Vigil

ALL ARE WELCOME

Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
3014 Oak Lawn Ave, Dallas

WELCOME SERVICE JUSTICE
OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Event Info



OAK LAWN
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Oak Lawn UMC, Dallas TX

community, including LGBTQ+ persons, migrants, unsheltered neighbors, and those seeking spiritual connection and healing. Through worship, outreach, and advocacy, Oak Lawn UMC embodies its mission: Welcome. Service. Justice.

Rev. Ryan Wager

Oak Lawn United Methodist Church

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