

# GOOD TIDINGS APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

## OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

The Church Office remains open - please call if you need anything



Beloved,

When we were celebrating our beautiful Christmas service together it never occurred to me, in my wildest imagination, that we would be worshiping apart during Holy Week. There is much we do not know, but this we do know, the pandemic has interrupted our lives in profound ways. Our brave health care workers and first responders are overwhelmed and overworked. People are losing their jobs and are frightened for the financial security of their families.

Governor Northam has issued a statewide Stay at Home order that will remain in place until June 10, 2020. This has been hard for all of us, and I pray unceasingly that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy.

But through all of this I have witnessed acts of amazing kindness and creative ingenuity that remind us of the better angels within us. We are watching our Church prove itself to be incredibly adaptable as orders to stay at home have not ended our collective need, especially in times like these, to give our thanks to God. On Sunday mornings we are gathering in a digital community and experiencing something profound and meaningful. We have heard stories of families and distant friends, spread across the country, being able to gather together for the same worship service via digital broadcast. We are making phone calls to one another and sending words of encouragement, and we are doing what we can to help those in greatest need. I can't begin to express my appreciation to so many of you for everything you are doing to keep us together while we are apart.

I grieve deeply with you the losses that we are all living with; but I also celebrate a body of Christ that can adapt quickly to meet our emerging needs. It is my hope and prayer that what we are learning about ourselves – about our capacity for grace, for hope, for change, for love beyond our walls – will enrich us long after this pandemic ends.

Remember always that we are a Christmas people, and that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another.

Remember always that we are an Easter people, and we know that God can reach us beyond all the barriers the world can create.

Remember always that we are a Pentecost people, who know that the Holy Spirit can revive us and will be our strength in times of great distress.

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Mary Anne



## Music Corner

**Paul Putnam - Minister of Music**  
[peputnam@yahoo.com](mailto:peputnam@yahoo.com)

From the "Hymn of Promise"

In the bulb there is a flower;  
In the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
There's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season,  
Something God alone can see.

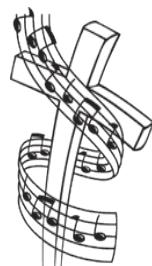
HOPE....it is what God's grace gives to us right now in such a turbulent time in our world. Who knew that at the beginning of March, we would be creating an "online" worship experience to be posted and promoted through Youtube, Facebook, & email! Through it all, we see God's grace given to us through his son, Jesus Christ. We need to experience the deep valley, so we can truly see the resurrection as a mountain-top experience.

As we continue to work over the next several weeks to bring you "virtual worship" to your living rooms, please reach out and let me know if there is a favorite song or hymn you would like me to play and/or sing. I have heard from several people at how comforting it has been to have some very well-known songs as part of our worship service. Music speaks to and through us in ways that the spoken word doesn't. Each complements the other, but music in and of itself is a truly a gift.

I will close with these words from this song, "Because He Lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, Just because He Lives!!

Happy Resurrection!

~Paul



# On Line Church Service Behind the Scences



Videographer - Connie Edwards  
Check out my make shift camera stand. I used the Narthex flower pedestal with a Lazy Susan and picture frame on top to move and hold the iPad steady.  
And that's how it's done.



Ralph Howell - Sound

**PRAYERS**  
**OF**  
**Thanks**





Sharon Curliss	4
Dani Howell	4
Mindy McCann	8
Ed Lilley	9
Wanda Gerard	10
Lisa Shearin	10
Niels Karstensen	12
Riley Billings	16
Betty Dickinson	17
Deborah Harrell	20
Nathan Winslow	20
Danna Vroman	20
Melanie Kelly	21
Christian Taylor	21
Bobby Richardson	24
Tim Griffin	25
Sam Copeland	26
Wendell Sodergren	27

If we missed your Birthday or need the date corrected, please call the office and let Connie know 255-4353



# New Building Progress



Thanks to Paul Saunders, John Matt, and John Mitchell

The women's bathroom is being enlarged, and we were able to salvage the partitions and put them in the men's room, being the ladies partitions were in better shape.



We found 3 good homes for our old kitchen cabinets.



All the kitchen supplies are being stored in the Godwin Room as we wait for the new kitchen to be finished.



Knocking down the wall between the women's bathroom and old kitchen and constructing a new one.





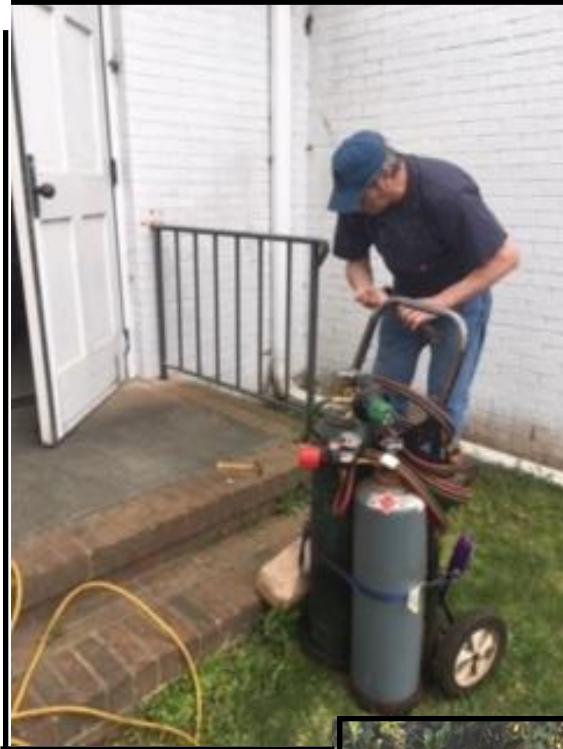
New Office Door Entrance  
The doorbell that was at the kitchen door has been moved to the doors just outside the nursery.



Thank you to Thornton Electric Services for coming out on short notice and moving the doorbell.

Anyone remember Willie Watts? He now works for TES and was the electrician who showed up!

Willie attended church here as a youth. He took a look at the Sanctuary and said, "It looked bigger when I was a kid"



## Some Needed Maintenance



Thanks Jeff Edwards for fixing the loose railings on the back of the church and making a new stand for the spotlight out front.



Thanks Larry Bounds for weeding the flower beds and pruning the bushes. Larry tries to sneak in and do chores early in the morning without anyone seeing him, but I caught him.



## We Welcome You

If you believe that God is calling you to be a member of this congregation, please let us know with a call to our church office. We can help you join by baptism or profession of faith, as a transfer, or by reinstatement.

*It would be wonderful to have you in our Church Family!*

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**To share** God's love with all people,  
**To serve** the Lord with humility and kindness,  
**To grow** with the Lord in wisdom and strength.

**Oakland Christian United Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 2008  
Suffolk, VA 23432**

**APRIL 2020**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Pastor:** Rev. Mary Anne Biggs  
**Minister of Music:** Paul E. Putnam  
**Secretary & Newsletter Editor:** Connie Edwards  
**Financial Secretary:** Janice Roberts  
**Nursery Attendant:** Kimmy Curliss

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