

GOOD TIDINGS DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

"Whoever you are or wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

9 am Adult Sunday School

10:00am Worship Service ~ 10:15am Children's Church

11:15am Children, Teen, and Adult Sunday School



Poinsettias

Help decorate the church. Purchase a poinsettia in memory of or honor of someone. Call the office or fill out the form found in your Sunday Bulletin. \$10 each includes foil and bow and you can take the poinsettia home after the service to enjoy during the advent season. **Deadline to order: Sunday, December 8th.**



All Church Christmas Party

December 6 6 pm to 8:30 pm

In Fellowship Hall

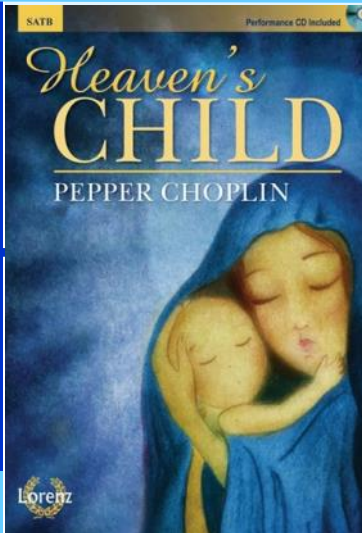
Dinner provided, Games, Christmas carols, and.....Santa Claus will make an appearance!



Children's Christmas Pageant -

Born in a Manager

Sunday, December 8 - During our 10am Worship Service



Oakland's Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 15th, 10am Worship Service

Heaven's CHILD

By: Oakland Chancel Choir

Caroling of the Bells

By: Oakland's Handbell Choir

Directed by: Paul Putnum

Reception immediately following the Cantata - please drop off some of your favorite sweets to share. You can drop them off to the kitchen anytime that week through Sunday morning and the Hospitality Committee will put them out.



Oakland's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday Night, December 24th @ 10pm

Guest Harpist: Mary Margaret Jones



Helena Burgess	2	Margaret Tolly	13
Rob Rhodes	3	Mary Ann Riddick	13
Sonora Curliss	4	Bob Creely	14
Wanda Roberts	4	Jack Brennecke	14
Jean Jordan	6	John Gayle	15
Kendal Burgess	7	Anna Whitley	18
Barbara Nelms	10	Sam Haddad	20
Evelyn Nix	10	Sharon Ingold	21
Anne Hodgson	11	Kyle Arcand	30
Bill Csisar	12		

If we missed posting your birthday or have the date incorrect, please let the office know. 255-4353

The Suffolk Clergy United - Hosting a Christmas Carol Sing

Caroling on the Lawn

December 22rd at 5:00 pm.

It will be held, weather permitting, on the grounds of
Suffolk Presbyterian Church, 410 N. Broad Street

All are invited to join the clergy of Suffolk
Hot chocolate, Cider, Cookies and Life Size Manager Scene



There are copies of the on line church directory at the front table in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick one up to take home with you.

If you notice any errors, please contact Connie Edwards, Church Secretary and she will make the corrections. Also, if you will email your picture to the office Connie will upload it to the directory. Or you can drop a photo of yourself by the office and we can upload that. If you have any questions call the office 255-4353.

Wednesday Bible Study



Please join us in the Godwin Room whether you are a biblical scholar or just curious about the greatest book ever written, come out for some fellowship and dialogue as we discuss the Gospel.

We meet every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Godwin Room for an hour. All are welcomed!



Beloved,

Secular preparations for Christmas seem to begin earlier each year as Christmas decorations start appearing in stores before Halloween. Yet despite this early start, Christmas is here and gone before we know it. Sometimes Christmas passes, and we don't see much difference. The pace of life may increase, but we still work and go about our everyday activities. It may be that the key to Christmas making a difference in our lives is for the Advent season to be different. The more we get out of our regular routine, the more different Advent and Christmas are, the better our celebration is, and the better the rest of the year becomes.

Advent is a tradition with much history and symbolism. While the few minutes available in a typical Sunday morning worship for Advent activities are hardly enough to plumb the depths of meaning, they do provide enough time to introduce us to the richness of meaning in Advent. It is my prayer for each of you that this time will whet your appetite for a more in-depth experience of the Advent season.

Advent is a time of preparation—four Sundays of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It coincides with the weeks of activities like buying and wrapping gifts, preparing cards, baking and decorating cookies (eating the rejects), putting up a tree, hearing and singing carols, and going to open houses.

It is a time of hopeful anticipation. But the presents under the Christmas tree are only the beginning. Anticipation at this level is just a prelude to the anticipation of the coming of Jesus, of his birth, and of his continually coming into our lives. It is this anticipation that we celebrate when we light the Advent candles in worship.

Four themes (hope, peace, love, and joy) help us focus on the qualities of life with Jesus. They remind us that the life of the disciple is different from what it would be otherwise. The coming of a new baby is a time of anticipation, hope, and joy. There is a joyful sense: "The baby is coming!" Advent is the same for Christians throughout the world. It is as if the birth of the Christ child is still a future event. It is still looked forward to.

Similarly, Advent holds the joyful sense that the adult Christ is still coming. The One who came over 2,000 years ago is still coming. He is always coming into our hearts and into our communities. Hence the Advent prayer: May we be ready. May we prepare the way for him to enter our hearts and our world.

Grace, peace and love,
Pastor Mary Anne

A printed copy of the Sunday sermon is available on Sunday morning to take home with you. Just ask an usher for a copy. Also on line at our website www.oaklanducc.org





Music Corner

Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
To open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.

I love the words and the accompanying melody of this Advent hymn. This is a season of hope and promise of great things to come!

Come and enjoy this years' Christmas Cantata, "Heaven's Child" by Pepper Choplin on Sunday, December 15th during the 10:0AM worship service. The liturgy and music paired together are very meaningful. Please invite family and friends to join us!

The Oakland Handbell Choir will also be playing for worship on Sunday, December 15th. You won't want to miss the ever popular, "Carol of the Bells".

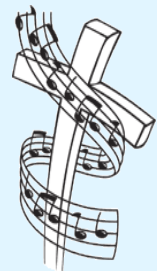
Christmas Eve worship will be special with the traditional harp music played by Mary Margaret Jones. We are so appreciative of this long-standing relationship.

As always, I am so grateful and appreciative of the many people that are part of the music ministry here at Oakland. Please share your appreciation with them also.

Enjoy the Advent and Christmas season at Oakland!

Musically Yours,

~Paul Putnam
peputnam@yahoo.com



21 members from Oakland's Chancel Choir will be participating in a premiere performance of "From the Tomb, to Pentecost" by Pepper Choplin at Lincoln Center, NY on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 @ 7pm.

What an opportunity for the faithful choir members of Oakland to have in front of them!

Come hear us! Individual tickets for this concert will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 11 AM ET via Lincoln Center..



JEWELS

Third Tuesday of every month 7pm Sisters in Christ - All Ages

We are a group of Oakland's Christian Women who seek to enrich our lives through strong spiritual and personal growth in a small group setting. It is a perfect opportunity to get to know each other. Everlasting bonds are formed at these monthly gatherings. Please join us!

December 17 - 6:00 pm - Christmas Dinner @ Hollands
100 North Commerce Street
Sign up required for this Dec gathering



Jewels starts at 6pm
for this Dec gathering!

Dress Festive!
We will take a
new group photo!



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Men's Fellowship Group ~~
Third Tuesday of every month 7pm
All Are Welcome - Just Show Up!

George's Steak House
1260 Holland Road
Questions: Contact Roger Burton
757-373-2817 or

Men's Fellowship starts at 6pm
for this Dec gathering!

Many local restaurants and businesses contributed greatly to the success of Oakland Christian Church's 2019 Silent Auction by donating either gift certificates or items. In gratitude of their support for us, we encourage you to support these businesses and restaurants listed below.



Suffolk

Restaurants

Amici's
Brighter Day Café
Casadores
George's Steak House
General Public
Harper's Table
Linwood's BBQ
Plaid Turnip
Ricky & Roy's
Sal's Pizza
Santa Fe Grill
Stillwater Tea Room
Suffolk BBQ
Sushi Aka

Businesses

Ann's Hallmark
Brandon House
CECELIA'S Dress Shop
Chuck.E.Cheese
Crown of Glory
Edible Arrangements
Fish Window Cleaning
Happy Nails
Johnson's Gardens
Lancaster Nursery
Mike Duman Auto
Pin Ups Salon
The Peanut Kids
UnCork'd Wine Shop



Smithfield

Restaurants

Bon Vivant
Cockeyed Rooster Café
Q Daddy BBQ
Smithfield Ice Cream Parlor
Smithfield Inn
Smithfield Station
Wharf Hill Brewing Co.

Businesses

American Laser Arts
Fleur De Fou
Perfectly Natural Soaps
Smithfield Flags
The Christmas Shop
Wharf Hill Antiques



North Suffolk

Restaurants

Taste
Vintage

Businesses

Bennett's Creak Nursery
Tavern Fireflies
Salon on Point



Windsor

Duck Florist
Fern's Auto Repair
True Value Hardware



Golf Country Clubs

Bay Creek Resort & Golf
CAPE CHARLES, VA

Cedar Point Golf Club
NORTH SUFFOLK

The Stewardship Committee is happy to report that \$195,891 has been pledged so far for 2020! The Time and Talent brochures and pledge cards will be available next to the locked box located in the fellowship hall during December for any who would like to be included in this stewardship campaign.



*Keeping our youth civic minded!
Thank you for participating in
Keeping Suffolk Beautiful Challenge!
Five bags of litter were collected.*

Karen Schine, Dorí, Dana, and

*Thank you to Pam Saunders and
Ann Johnson for gathering and
putting together the Cornucopia
for our Thanksgiving service.*

*A reminder of our bounty of
blessings! And a blessing for all
the children who were at the service to receive God's message.*



*Girl Scout Troop 5563 meets at Oakland
every Monday night and has been led by
Scout Master Kelly Prescott for years.
The girls put together their own bounty
of blessings. Two Thanksgiving baskets
for Oakland's Food Pantry, filled with
everything needed to prepare a
typical Thanksgiving meal. Gift
card included to buy a turkey!*

New Building Progress

Our contractor, Associated Contracting Services began construction on October 5, 2019 and the progress is amazing! Our new building will be a Fellowship Hall with a kitchen.



Joe Ketchum is the job superintendent



Matching Gift - 2 for 1 match

Please bear in mind that any new contributions outside of already pledge amounts will count double, if received before December 31st!



December 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 Communion 9am Confirmation 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School 11:15 Choir Reh</p>	<p>2 6pm Council (G) 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)</p>	<p>3 6:30 Cub Scts (G)</p>	<p>4 10am BbleStdy G 4pm NBldg Mtg 7pm BSA Dist (G)</p>	<p>5 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>6 All Church Christmas Party 6pm - 8:30 pm Santa's coming!</p>	<p>7 Ringing Kettle Bells Between Kroger & Belk's out front</p>
<p>8 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School 11:15 Choir Reh</p>	<p>9 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)</p>	<p>10 1pm Girl Scts (G) 6pm Bee Keepers (F, K) 6:30 Cub Scts (G)</p>	<p>11 10am BbleStdy G 6pm BSA OA (G) 7:30pm BSA (F)</p>	<p>12 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>13 Office Closed</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Cantata 9am Confirmation 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School</p>	<p>16 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)</p>	<p>17 6:30 Cub Scts (G) 6pm Jewels @ Holland's Rest. 100 N.Commerce 6pm Men's Fellow-ship @ George's Rest.</p>	<p>18 10am BbleStdy G</p>	<p>19 Connie - Vacation</p>	<p>20 Office Closed</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School</p>	<p>23 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)</p>	<p>24 1pm Girl Scts (G) 10PM Chirstmas Eve - Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 Christsmas Office Closed</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School</p>	<p>30 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)</p>	<p>31 6:30 Cub Scts (G)</p>		<p>Key: K-Kitchen F Fellowship G Godwin G2 Godwin 2nd floor</p>	<p>Office Hours 9am - 3pm Mon - Thur</p>	<p>8am - 3pm Every Tue, Thur, and Sat Chuckatuck Bicyclers use the parking lot</p>

JOIN US AT OAKLAND

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM
CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9AM ADULT
SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:15 CHILD, TEEN, ADULT,

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY 10AM

YOGA - EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY 5PM

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
SUNDAY, DEC 15TH, 10AM

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 10PM
PLEASE JOIN US

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE FOR DETAILS!
757-255-4353

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

DECEMBER 2019

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Mary Anne Biggs
Minster of Music: Paul E. Putnam
Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Connie Edwards
Financial Secretary - Janice Roberts
Nursery Attendant: Samantha Fly

Telephone: (757) 255-4353
Office Hours: 9 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com



Website:
www.OaklandUCC.org