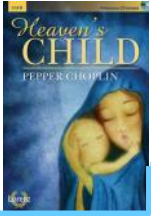


GOOD TIDINGS JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

9 am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Worship Service ~ 10:15am Children's Church
11:15am Children, Teen, and Adult Sunday School



Encore Christmas Cantata at Lake Prince Woods

Sunday, January 5th - 4pm

All are welcome to come and experience the Christmas story one more time.

Choir Fundraising Concert

The Chancel Choir will be having a fundraising concert on **Sunday, January 26th @ 3:00PM** in the Sanctuary. Proceeds will benefit the choirs' trip to New York City in May.

Come and enjoy some beautiful music and support our awesome choir! Concert is FREE, but a ticket donation of \$10 per person is encouraged.



Cheri Babler

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

TAILGATE LUNCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd

Souper Bowl Sunday is an Oakland tradition for teams young and old to set up a booth and compete for the coveted Oakland Souper Bowl trophies.

We will need 8 "teams" to make a soup and dessert enough for the fans to eat. Please get your team together and sign up as soon as possible. The fun starts shortly after worship.

Sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall or Contact Cheri Babler - 757-371-6400

Tickets: \$8 per person or \$32 for immediate family of 5 You will not leave hungry.

Proceeds go to the Becky Godwin Memorial Scholarship Fund



Winners from 2018



Winners from 2019



Jesse Williams	6	William Fly	21
Alex Shearin	14	Lisa Arcand	25
Aubri Wilson	14	Erin Babler	25
Jackie Pierce	15	Connie Edwards	27
George Fly	16	Jesse Burgess	27
Mary Jane Naismith	18	Becky Brennecke	27
Cate Jordan	18	Mary Hunter Hardison	30
Kevin Kennedy	19	Wilma Roth	31
Robert Fly	21	Chris Bryan	31

If we missed posting your birthday or have the date incorrect, please let the office know.
757- 255-4353



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 a picture of yourself to the office Connie will upload it to the directory. Or you can drop a picture of yourself by the office and she can upload the photo. If you have any questions, please call the office 255-4353.



The Man Behind the Camera! **Darden Langston**

Many thanks to Darden for taking the pictures with Santa this year! For years Darden has taken pictures at our events and worship service and we are most appreciative of his time and talent.

Darden is our steadfast head usher and that's where you will find him most Sunday mornings - passing out our bulletins, counting heads, taking up the offering, and keeping a



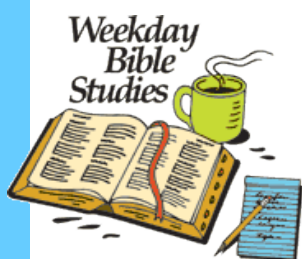
watchful eye on things that need attention.

Over the years Darden has served and continues to serve on many committees and elected boards. Prayers of Thanks Darden Langston!

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!



Opportunities to Serve



In November, many of you turned in your Time and Talent Brochure along with your pledge. If you have not already done so, it is not too late. There are copies on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall that may be completed and turned in anytime. The purpose of letting your church know of your willingness is to pair your talents and/or interests with service related needs within our church.

January 19 will be Opportunities to Serve Sunday at Oakland. After worship, there will be signup tables, lists of committees and task forces with their responsibilities, and a representative from each group to answer any questions you might have. If you have completed a brochure, you will be asked to serve on the appropriate committee/task force. There are many ways to serve and we hope that you will agree to serve on multiple committees/task forces that day. We have an active church and we are always in need of helping hands. Please be present that day to enjoy the festivities and to ensure that you are helping our church complete its work. The fellowship gained from serving on a committee/task force often cements long lasting friendships within our church family. Don't be shy! Consider challenging yourself by stepping out of your comfort zone. Where might we be today if Moses, Jeremiah or Joseph had said, "No, to God?"

"Serve the LORD with gladness..." Psalm 100





Beloved,

It's that time of year again, isn't it? It's the time of year when we make all sorts of promises to ourselves. We call them resolutions. Our government even has a website to help us. USA.gov suggests the following resolutions for us to follow: Drink Less Alcohol, Get a Better Education, Get a Better Job, Get Fit, Lose Weight, Manage Debt, Manage Stress, Quit Smoking Now, Save Money, Take a Trip, and Volunteer to Help Others. I can't possibly disagree with any of those ... they are all great ideas, but I felt a certain amount of stress just reading the list.

So, I am making a different resolution this year ... I am resolving to be more kind.

USA.gov didn't have any suggestions about kindness, but plenty of other people did and I would like to share some of my favorites with you:

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." The Dalai Lama

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle." Philo of Alexandria

"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it." Madeleine L'Engle

"When you carry out acts of kindness you get a wonderful feeling inside. It is as though something inside your body responds and says, yes, this is how I ought to feel." Rabbi Harold Kushner

"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love." Lao-Tzu

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile."

Mother Teresa

And what better teacher do we have than Jesus: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

May you each be filled with grace, peace, love and kindness in this New Year!

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Mary Anne

Dearest Church Family,

Words alone cannot possibly express my deep appreciation to all of you for your kindness after my Mother's passing. We were flooded with cards, memorial donations, gifts of food and tender messages and we will always be grateful for your abiding love.

It occurred to me the other day that I am an orphan. What a strange thought to have at such an advanced age. But that thought was not followed by any feelings of anxiety, for I will never feel alone because of this amazing church family. Throughout our time together you have adopted John and me as your brother and sister in Christ, in the household of God. We couldn't feel more privileged.

Blessings+

Pastor Mary Anne



Music Corner

Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

peputnam@yahoo.com

How Brightly Beams the Morning Star!

How brightly beams the Morning Star!
What sudden radiance from afar
Doth glad us with its shining,
Brightness of God that breaks our night
And fills the darken'd souls with light
Who long for truth were pining!
Thy Word, Jesu, only feeds us,
Rightly leads us,
Life bestowing;
Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing.

Happy Epiphany to all of you!

At this time of year, I always think about the old hymn tune, "How Brightly Beams the Morning Star". How bright that star in Bethlehem must have been over 2000 years ago when Jesus was born. In this year, 2020 may we clearly see the light of Jesus in all of our hearts and share it with those around us.

The Christmas Cantata, "Heaven's Child" was so beautiful and meaningful for this Christmas season. There is one final opportunity to experience it. **Sunday, January 5th at 4:00PM** the Chancel Choir will present an encore performance of "Heaven's Child" at Lake Prince Woods. All are welcome to come and experience the Christmas story one more time.

The Chancel Choir will be having a fundraising concert on **Sunday, January 26th @ 3:00PM** in the Sanctuary. Proceeds will benefit the choirs' trip to New York City in May. Come and enjoy some beautiful music and support our awesome choir! Concert is FREE, but a ticket donation of \$10 per person is encouraged.

If you are thinking about singing with the choir, now is a GREAT time to join us as we begin a new set of post-holiday music. Choir rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:30PM – 8:45PM in the choir room. Please contact Paul Putnam, Minister of Music with any further questions at peputnam@yahoo.com. Experience is a plus, but certainly not necessary if the heart and mind are willing!

Peace and Blessings to all of you in the New Year!

~Paul





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!



Next Jewels Gathering

January 21 - 7 pm
Dana Mitchell - Hosting
808 General Pickett Drive
Ginny Fly - Devotions

Jewels has a Facebook page - Jewels of Oakland UCC -
Click the button that says "join" and we will accept your request.
Joining Facebook is not a requirement to come to Jewels - please come to our next gathering and let us get to know each other better.



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

January 21 -7:00 pm
Meeting at the Plaid Turnip
115 N. Main Street - Suffolk, VA

If you have any questions please contact:
Roger Burton 757-373-2817 or 757-373-4080

New Building Progress



Shingles delivered and they are on! Our Contractor is moving right along!!



Janet and Braedon Harris

Thank you to all our Kettle Bell Ringers
Not pictured - The Mitchell's - Pam & Paul
Brenda Hodgson - The Shearin's



Blessings!

Thank you to everyone who took a tag off the Angel Tree and spent time shopping for presents.

Thank you Kacie Wilson for organizing this with the Salvation Army and delivering the presents!



Thank you Cate Jordan for stopping in during the holiday and helping out around the church!

Born in a Manager

Children's Christmas Pageant



January 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Key: K-Kitchen F Fellowship G Godwin G2 Godwin 2nd floor	<i>Office Hours</i> 9am - 3pm Mon - Thur	8am - 3pm Every Tue, Thur, and Sat Chuckatuck Bicyclers use the parking lot	1 <i>Office Closed</i> 7pm BSA Dist (G)	2 <i>Bells and Choir</i> 5pm Yoga (F)	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4
5 Communion 9am Confirmation 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School 4pm Encore Christ- mas Cantata LPW	6 5pm Yoga (G) 6pm Ruritans (F, K) 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)	7 6:30 Cub Scts (G)	8 10am BbleStdy G 6pm BSA-OA (G) 7:30pm BSA (F)	9 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 5pm Yoga (F)	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11
12 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School <i>Deacon Installation</i>	13 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)	14 1pm Girl Scts (G) 6pm Bee Keepers (F, K) 6:30 Cub Scts (G)	15 10am BbleStdy G	16 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 5pm Yoga (F)	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18 Fellowship & Kitchen Reserved Baby Shower Tamika & Corey
19 9am Confirmation 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School OTS Sunday	20 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)	21 6:30 Scts (G) 7pm Jewels @ Dana Mitchell 808 General Picket Drive 7 Men's Fellow- ship @ Plaid Tur- nip	22 10am BbleStdy G 6pm Council (G)	23 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 5pm Yoga (F)	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25 BeeKeepers 8am to 5pm Seminar
26 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday School 3pm Concert by our Chancel Choir	27 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)	28 6:30 Cub Scts (G)	29 10am BbleStdy G	30 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 5pm Yoga (F)	31 <i>Office Closed</i>	

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

ENCORE CHRISTMAS CANTATA
SUNDAY, JAN 5 , 4PM
AT LAKE PRINCE WOODS COMMUNITY

MUSIC CONCERT - FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, JAN 26, 3PM - FREE

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR INFORMATION
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

JANUARY 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

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

Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com



Website:
www.OaklandUCC.org