

GOOD TIDINGS JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



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



Beloved,

I can't begin to tell you how thrilled I am to be gathered once more for worship as the Body of Christ. To see your smiling eyes (above your masks) fills me with inordinate joy, though I feel an ache in my heart that we cannot yet be all together. However, the most important concern we have is for the safety and welfare of everyone and I applaud those of you who are watching our YouTube services for making that responsible choice.

This unusual (to say the least!) year has been an eye-opener for me. It has assured me that we are a flexible, nimble and extraordinarily responsive church.

We have found creative ways to stay in touch with one another and we have embraced technology in ways I never could have imagined. Our Council and Committees have continued to do the work of the church and have met by Zoom until it was acceptable to meet in person. Our Deacons have been reaching out to their Flocks by the tried and true methods of telephone calls and the mail. Extensive repairs were made to the back side of the church, and we are all overwhelmed by the beauty and functionality of our new Community Life Center.

We have not been alone in this struggle. The UCC has been offering support and recommendations through webinars and teleconferencing. I truly appreciated a recent one that looked past our immediate concerns and focused on our future. Our General President outlined the Core Values of the UCC (Continuing Testament, Extravagant Welcome and Changing Lives) and told us that in the next ten to thirty years we will focus on **THE BIGs**. (You can just imagine how much I loved that name...even if it is missing a "G!") **THE BIGs** are **BOLD, INSPIRATIONAL GOALS** that are written in the present tense, with the understanding that they **WILL** be accomplished. They are stated as follows:

The UCC is a bold, widely-known and respected public voice of Christianity in the service of God's ever-unfolding mission.

There is a welcoming UCC community of faith that is accessible to all – no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

Every UCC member is well-equipped to be growing in faith, to be theologically conversant, and to be active in the global mission of the church.

The UCC has a wealth of prepared, excellent leaders that reflect the diversity of God's beloved community.

Sometimes I think we forget that we are part of a richly diverse, united and uniting denomination. The overarching creed of the UCC is love. Love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets. **We are a people of possibility**. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking!

May we always yearn to hear God's still speaking voice together!

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Mary Anne



Music Corner

Paul Putnam - Minister of Music
peputnam@yahoo.com

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
 from this time on and forevermore.

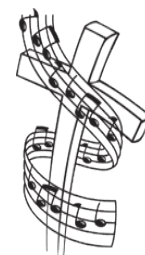
Psalm 121 has always been one of my favorite Psalms from the time I was a teenager and sang an arrangement of the anthem "Psalm 121 by John Ness Beck. These words are profound and have such deep meaning. As we continue to do all those things we need to do for our safety and others during this time of Covid-19, I am reminded of these words and the comfort that they bring. I share them with you so that you might find comfort also.

It has been wonderful to be sharing worship "live" on Sunday mornings again with those that have felt comfortable to come out to worship in the new Community Life Center. It is a beautiful space with great sound acoustics that seems to be a wonderful option for worship right now. It is a time for new things to spring from the old, and the community center is a perfect example.

As much as Rev. Mary Anne and I would like nothing better than to have the choir assemble and sing for worship, at this time we just can't take the risk. It is also stated that we should not have congregational singing at this time either. The national music organizations have commissioned a study through Colorado State University to study the transmission of this virus specifically as it pertains to singing and instrument playing. Preliminary results are expected to be published by the end of July. Until we have any further word as published by scientific study, we are going to keep to the guidelines of no congregational or choir singing at this time. It is certainly a sad time for all of us for whom singing and music-making is an integral part of our lives. In the meantime, I am working to still make worship a musical and meaningful experience for all of us gathered in person or streaming on YouTube.

Keep your head up and lift your eyes unto the hills!

“With a Musical Heart,
 ~Paul





JULY Birthdays

Graham Shearin	3	Braedon Harris	15
Harper Wilson	3	Jameson Pantelides	16
Kendra Gup	3	Jenna Langston	17
Gary Butler	6	Brenna Presson	17
Cindy Cowan	6	Lisa Whitley	17
John Johnson	6	Pam Saunders	18
Victoria Schroeder	6	CF Jordan	22
Susan Phillips	7	Luke McCann	22
Brad Whitley	9	Denise Spady	23
Jerry Babler	11	Tamika Blanchette	24
Ella Mae Winslow	11	Brenda Hodgson	25
Megan Harrell	12	William Brennecke	26
Daniel Brower	14		

If we missed your Birthday or have it incorrect, please call the office 255-4353 and let us know.



September 10th - 11th - 12th

PHOTOGRAPHY EVENT

BY

Lifetouch.



We are updating our Church Directory

**Please set aside the date for you
and your family's photo shoot here
at Oakland..**

**You will be contacted soon with details for setting up your
Family photo...**

We expanded our footprint and delivered goodies and meals to Lake Prince Woods Staff to thank them for the awesome job they are doing to protect our seniors and to the Suffolk Police and Sheriff Department for all they do to keep us all safe!



Dear Oakland Christian,

Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects." Dalai Lama.

Thank you so much for your in-kind contribution of baked goods for Lake Prince Woods staff. We are grateful for your considerate donation to the United Church Homes and Services

On behalf of UCHS Foundation, please accept our sincere appreciation!

Kindest Regards,

Nancy Beard, CFRE - President, United Church Homs & Services Foundation.

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of meals and treats to Sentara Obici Hospital during the COVID-19. Your contribution is so very meaningful and appreciated throughout the hospital. Your generosity will go a long way towards brightening someone else's day.

Once again, thank you for giving so selflessly at this time and thank you for your blessings. We are so fortunate to have you in our community.

Sincerely,

Coleen Santa Ana, President - Sentara Obici Hospital



Our Sunday Worship during COVID-19 Pandemic



Worship is temporarily in Community Life Center where we can distance and remain safe.



A big thank you to Linnie Jordan for dropping by and bringing some fun books to read to the kids!

We hope you enjoyed them on Oakland's U-Tube Channel.

Thank you Miss Linnie!



Wahoo! The Choir Room floor is being Repaired!

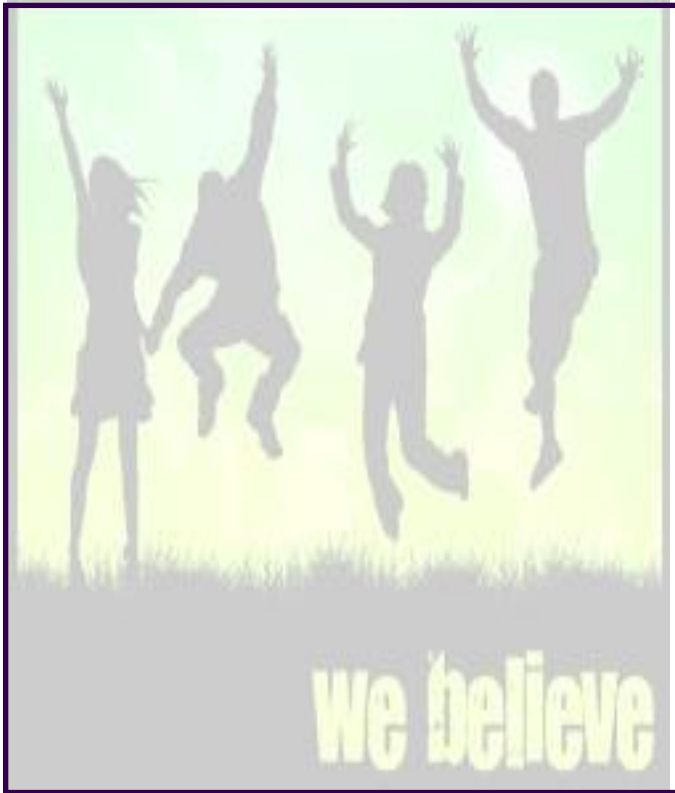
Paul, Jean and CF cleaned out the room so our three amigos Randy Rowell, Carl Lancaster and John Matt can use their expert skills to put a new floor in.

Look out Choir members! Prepared to be amazed when you get back to rehearsals.

I can't wait to post pictures of the refurbished room. You are going to love it Choir! You so deserve!

We miss you!





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

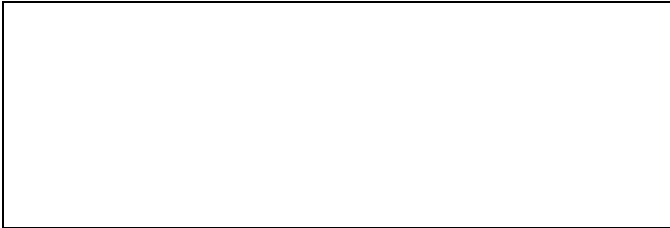
To share God's love with all people,
To serve the Lord with humility and kindness,
To grow with the Lord in wisdom and strength.

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

JULY 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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