

GOOD TIDINGS JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

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



Beloved,

One of my most striking memories of time spent with my father as a child was when he taught me to ride a two-wheel bicycle. My first “grown-up” bike was a shiny pink Schwinn with training wheels. He instructed me to begin riding after school up and down the sidewalk in front of our home until he came home from the office.

When he came home, he took me and the bike across the street to a big open field and then took the training wheels off. He walked and then ran beside me, being my steady support for what seemed like hours. He never left my side.

We had a system and we worked it. Then one warm Spring day, my father and I were going about our after-school, after-work ritual in the big field, and he was running beside me while I pedaled my bike. At least I thought he was running beside me. I looked around, and he was standing behind me several yards, with a big smile on his face, watching me from a distance as I rode my bike on my own. He shouted, “Good job! Keep pedaling, Mary Anne keep pedaling!” He was not only my father; he was a leader, my teacher, my mentor.

Making a new start or just starting all over, sometimes we need someone who has the vision, the experience, the strength, the faith to guide, to help, to mentor, to lead us from knowledge and experience. The Church needs leaders – people who have lived through the Church’s traditions and learned its values, who envision the Church’s possibilities and encourage the Church to realize its potential, and who teach and model the joy which comes from being authentically and fully Christ’s Church.

We are in the midst of such a time, a time of starting over, and I am deeply grateful to the leadership of this church. Kim Waller, our Moderator, and Pam Saunders, our Vice Moderator, along with the entire Church Council, have deliberately, thoughtfully and prayerfully considered every aspect of starting over with corporate worship, strictly following our Governor’s protocol for Phase One.

So, this Sunday, June 7th, we are taking off the training wheels to begin a new journey in worship. Gathering together those who feel safe in doing so, we will meet to celebrate Trinity Sunday in our new Community Life Center to give glory to God; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. No matter how unfamiliar it may seem, the message remains the same: we will continue to preach and teach the Good News, accept and give forgiveness, work for justice and wholeness for this world and its people, which God made and loves. As we reinvent ourselves, we will continue to live out what Jesus calls us to be and to do!

I pray that each of you are safe and well, and I truly appreciate your patience and your prayers.

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Mary Anne



Music Corner

Paul Putnam - Minister of Music
peputnam@yahoo.com

“Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.
You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep,
And over the eons you called to each thing,
Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wing.”

This is one of my favorite songs to sing for Pentecost Sunday. I love the image of the Holy Spirit waking us up and encouraging our souls to soar with the eagles. During this time of quarantine and self-isolation it can be pretty hard to feel like soaring with the eagles. God gives us that lift just when we need it when we quiet our hearts and listen. Have you felt the lift of God's spirit?

I would like to thank Joseph Brown who came and sang with me during worship the 3rd Sunday in May. Joseph has recently completed his Masters in Arts with Teaching in Music Education from Christopher Newport University. He is currently looking for a chorus teaching position for the fall.

As we return to worship at Oakland this week, it breaks my heart that you, the congregation will not yet be able to sing with me. I long to hear your voices while I play the hymns. I long to hear the sweet voices of our Chancel Choir praising God's name in beautiful harmony. I will continue to do my best to play and sing in a way that feels worshipful for you. Fortunately, our God hears our prayers and knows that you are singing along and praising his glorious name!

As we move towards warmer weather, enjoy the breezes as they come, and praise God for the breath of His Spirit.

With a Musical Heart,
~Paul



Are you a “friend” of Oakland UCC on Facebook? If you are, have you been seeing the daily scripture or inspirational verses? If you are, TERRIFIC! If not, take a moment to visit the Oakland Facebook page and scroll through some of the posts and click, “like”. Once you do this a few times it will help to re-activate the church's Facebook page on your daily news feed.

We have had a rather large increase in people following our Facebook page and checking in for our weekly worship services that are not “regular” parishioners at Oakland. In January we had about 365 followers and it is now up to 417. This is a huge increase! This is FANTASTIC that we are reaching beyond our walls and community. The more you “like” and “share” a post on the Oakland page, the more you are evangelizing and helping to spread the “Good News”. Keep encouraging others to be involved with Oakland UCC whether near or from afar!



Emma Kaye Shearin
Windsor High

Emma has been accepted at
Virginia Commonwealth University

Congratulations

2020

Graduates



Zane Michael Wise
Kings Fork High

Zane has been accepted at
James Madison University

Oakland Christian's YouTube Channel - As part of our practice during the COVID-19 Social Distancing time we created a YouTube Channel so that we can stay connected and worship together. We release our Sunday Service on Sunday mornings at 9am. Last week we added Friendship Sunday School Class lesson and Storytime with Pastor Mary Anne for the kids. Emails are sent out every Sunday morning with the link to open the service. You may also subscribe and have your friends subscribe to our YouTube channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsbwCeC9_TTwOUjb3bCYqcw?view_as=subscriber

By visiting our channel on your mobile app, computer or smart TV you can watch any of our recorded services at anytime. Please call the office 757-255-4353 if you have any questions.

From the Southern Conference United Church of Christ:

Grace, Mercy and Peace! I pray that your church family and community are well and at peace during this season of uncertainty.

I am writing this note to thank you for your continued support to the Southern Conference. Your contribution enables us to fulfil its work in the local church ministries as well as the wider church.

Again, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation for your continued support in these trying times. May God continue to bless your ministry and I will continue to hold you up in prayer.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis

Southern Conference Minister

These past few months have been difficult for all of us as the coronavirus took over and changed our normal lives and schedules. Our families, workplaces, even our churches, suddenly changed. We found ourselves staying-at-home, practicing social distancing, and wearing masks to help prevent spreading this highly contagious worldwide disease. Workplaces, schools, retail businesses and restaurants – even our beloved church, Oakland – were closed. Your Stewardship Committee went silent as giving to the church paled in comparison to the other needs so many were experiencing.

However, many of our members did continue their contributions to Oakland and the Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of you who have managed to keep up your donations throughout this time. Obviously, operating expenses have continued during this time. The generosity of our congregation continues to surpass all expectations.

As Oakland begins to reopen, many of us, especially our more vulnerable congregants, will still opt to worship online for the time being, rather than attend live services.

For those who attend services at church, the collection plate will not be passed. Instead, there will be a basket set up for you to give as you enter or exit. For others, this is a good time to consider making your donations online through Realm, or through the mail. If you need help with Realm, please contact Connie in the office for guidance.

We look forward to the time when life returns at least close to normal and when we can all love, laugh and worship together with our Oakland friends.

Your Stewardship Committee



Samantha Bond	7
Laura Arcand	10
Mildred King	13
John Biggs	19
Marti Putnam	23
Jeff Edwards	23
Peggy Griffin	25
Anne Barden Spady	26
Frances Pierce	28
Bill Saunders	29
Bobby Winslow	29
Donna Lancaster	29

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



*We are Ready
Church Reopens
June 7th - 10 am*



Worship will be in the New Building where we can distance and remain safe.
At least we will be together!



Individual Communion Cups are ready along with masks and hand sanitizer.



Communion will look a little different



Penny made and donated some beautiful religious themed masks for those that need one this Sunday. As well we have disposal masks.



We've been cleaning & painting



Jean Keeling and Julie Johnson

Scrubbing up our tables was apparently a lot of fun! Thanks to all who helped.
Not pictured: The Burtons, The Riddicks, Danna Vroman, Carole & Pam!



The Mitchell Girls



Pam & Carole - cleaning up the flower pedestals.



Jesse Burgess and Luke McCann

Thanks to Jesse Burgess - Luke McCann, Connie and Jeff Edwards and John Matt for putting a fresh coat of paint on the Godwin Wing.



John Matt

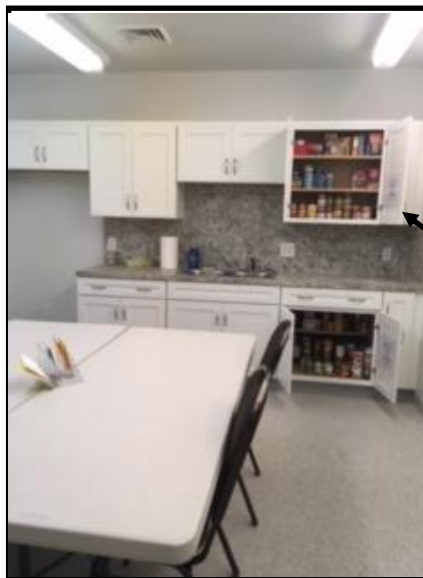
Connie Edwards



Ladies Bathroom was enlarged - It looks great!

The old kitchen was dismantled and walls removed so that the women's bathroom could be enlarged and a Multi-Purpose Room was created.

The Multi-purpose room has our Food Pantry for the needy and our communion prep supplies, along with a meeting room table, small frig and microwave.



Food
Pantry
For
The
Needy

Multi Purpose Room.

Thank you
Penny Hathaway - Colen
and Anne Hodgson for
donating the microwave
for the Multi-Purpose
Room!





The back of the church has needed repairs for quite some time and we are finally getting there! Rotting windows - torn off gutters - blown off siding - the old masonry chimney was falling apart - the choir room floor was falling in from water damage seeping in through the walls. Not to mention the back of the church was an eye sore during funerals in the cemetery. All these repairs are in progress now and things are starting to shape up!



Memorial Sunday



Candles of Rememberance

Ramona Raye Crocker Keays
Janet Mabry Winslow
Simon (Sammy) W. Cowan
Lauren Lee Horton
Juanita Kelly Pond
Blake Sterling Barrett
Albert Wayne Bainbridge
Margaret Hollowell Sarick

Golden Members

1939

Barbara Nelms
Dorothy Kennedy

1940

Charles Johnson

1943

Leroy Howell

1946

Ann Johnson

1948

John Gayle
Iola Saunders
Frank Staylor
Celia Coughlin

1949

Marguerite Butler

1951

Addie Austin
Jack Knight

1954

Mildred King

1955

Patxy Gayle

1957

Faye Daniels

1958

Trudy Norfleet

1959

Bernice Butler

1960

Gary Butler
Mary Jernigan

1961

Ann Marks Saunders

1962

Paul Saunders

1964

Sandra Butler
Larry Bounds
Cleve Johnson

1965

Ella Mae Winslow

1966

Parker Howell, III

1967

Larry Butler

1968

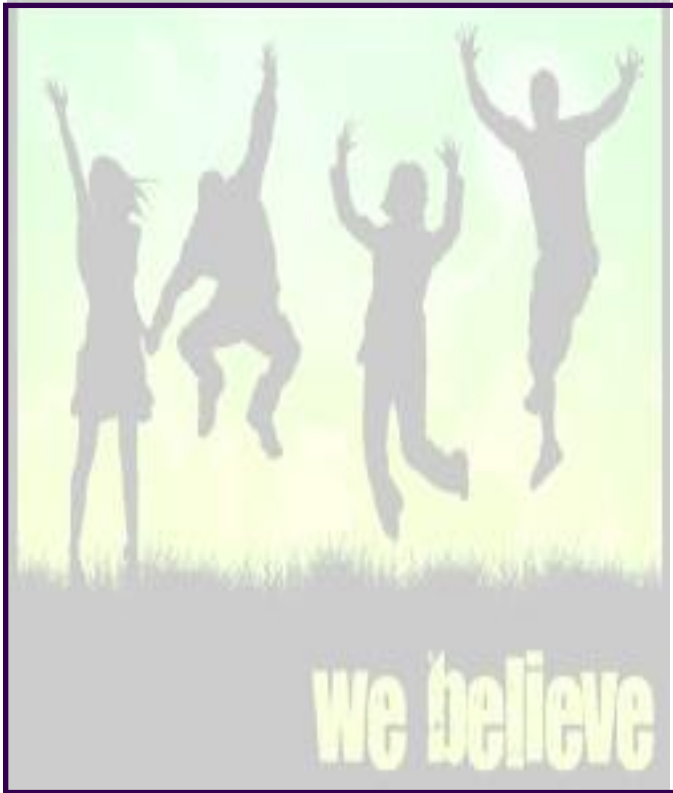
Shirley Upton
Larry Upton

1969

Cheryl Johnson
Bill Saunders

1970

Ronnie Kelly
Bobby Nelms
Johnny Doyle



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

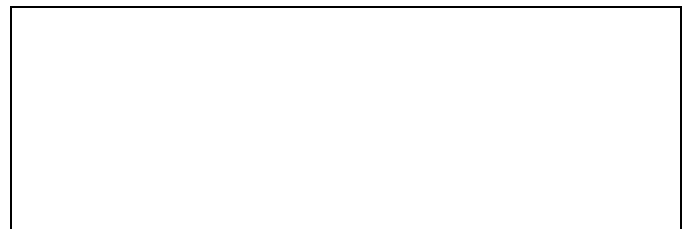
To share God's love with all people,
To serve the Lord with humility and kindness,
To grow with the Lord in wisdom and strength.

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

JUNE 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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www.OaklandUCC.org