

# GOOD TIDINGS MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

## OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

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



Beloved,

Our sheltering in place is exhausting. For many of us the losses of human contact, the drudgery of unchanging surroundings, our inability to frequent places that brought joy to our lives (and color to our hair!), and the call to adapt overnight to overwhelming change are taking a toll.

But we are also witnessing in this time heart-warming acts of human kindness and solidarity that speak to the angels among us. We are not only making great sacrifices; we are doing so in a collective effort to protect and care for the most vulnerable among us. The courage, stamina, endurance, compassion and empathy being practiced among us remind us that we do not grieve as those who have no hope. The power of a faith enriched by Easter joy and resurrection hope is not diminished by anything. *Neither death nor life, not angels or demons, not power and principalities, not height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God* (Romans 8:38-39).

Just take a look at the photos we have compiled for this newsletter ... meals being taken to Obici Hospital from area restaurants to enliven the spirits of those dedicated health care workers and to keep the cash registers ringing in our community ... a beautiful flower cross erected to welcome Easter morn and to give hope to all who passed our way ... angels working to ready our new kitchen and deep clean our sanctuary (of course practicing social distancing!) ... Communion services celebrated at home with tender loving care ... Easter bags prepared and distributed to our precious children ... literally hundreds upon hundreds of masks sewn by dedicated seamstresses and donated to areas hospitals ... and the very epitome of hope, three new babies born into our church family!

Seeing all of this fills me with a profound hope in humanity, in the Body of Christ, and in the promises of a God whose only begotten child came that we might have life and have it to the full.

You are all in my prayers ... and I covet your prayers as well, to help us find our pathway through this – a pathway we share in partnership with each other, and with the Holy Spirit of the living God and the risen Christ.

May the power of the love that created us, the love that redeemed us from the grave, and the power of the Holy Spirit rest upon you on this journey. Lift up your eyes to the hills, from whence comes our help. The Creator of us all keeps watch. “All shall be well, and all shall be well; and all manner of thing shall be well.” (Julian of Norwich).

Grace, peace and love,  
*Pastor Mary Anne*



## Music Corner

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

From the pen of Isaac Watts in 1719 and set to the tune,  
SOUTHERN HARMONY

My Shepherd, you supply my need, most holy is your name;  
In pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.  
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways;  
You lead me, for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

This paraphrase of Psalm 23 was penned just over 300 years ago and is still as relevant today as it was back then. Thank goodness for the mercy and grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

As we continue to bring worship to you the congregation via YouTube, we (Pastor Mary Anne and I) truly express our gratitude for your willingness to watch, listen and participate with us each week as we work to bring you the message through word and music. We have received some very positive responses from some of you which is very helpful!! I do long for the day when the choirs can get back to ringing and singing together, and we can share in the praise of God as a community here in Chuckatuck. What a reunion it will be!!

I know many of you are wondering what is going on with the Choirs' performance at Lincoln Center in NYC. As you might imagine all performances at Lincoln Center have been canceled through July (along with Broadway and Carnegie Hall) for everyone's safety and working to limit the spread of Covid-19. Fortunately, our Cantata performance with Pepper Choplin, conducting has been transferred to Memorial Day weekend 2021. This is a wonderful solution to a terrible situation. In despair.....HOPE!!

In the meantime, let us continue to pray for each other, our community, nation and world that we can seek and find the good in these days. I am always happy to accept song and hymn requests from any of you to: [peputnam@yahoo.com](mailto:peputnam@yahoo.com)

Peace, Love, & Music Always,  
~Paul



From the Board of Deacons

On behalf of the Board of Deacons and the Oakland Church Council we would like to thank our Pastor Mary Anne Biggs and our Music Director Paul Putman for putting on such wonderful services while we are all in social distancing forms of isolation. We would also like to thank Connie Edwards for serving as videographer. In addition to those three, thank you to all the readers and singers who have also offered their time and talents in order to bring some of what it is that makes the Oakland family special. While we can not meet in person; we are incredibly grateful for your continuing efforts.

Ralph Howell  
Chairman, Board of Deacons

## 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 very Sunday morning with the link to open the service. You may also subscribe and have your friends subscribe to our channel at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsbwCeC9\\_TIwOUjb3bCYqcw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsbwCeC9_TIwOUjb3bCYqcw?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.



### Storytime with Pastor Mary Anne

This is awesome! It has been my first opportunity of quiet time to catch up on some things and I am so glad I did. I know this message is intended for the kids and the format and storytelling is perfect but it also spoke to me, in many ways, not just the story but also the act of preparing and sharing the story with everyone. A big thank you to everyone who continues their daily work to bring Light and Hope to all of us, especially during this different and unknown time in our world....and my world

♥ Julie Doyle

## Becky Godwin Scholarships

We will take applications this year for the BGMS and they will be given out sometime this summer.

Scholarships are for those High School Seniors and College students of Oakland who are furthering their education beyond high school.

Applications may be requested after May 1, 2020 and returned by May 31, 2020 to the office. Eligible students may request application on line or from the office.

Applicants will write a one-page essay on one of the following topics:

1. What does Oakland Christian UCC mean to you?
2. How has your college experience broadened your outlook?
3. In what ways has the Coronavirus Pandemic impacted you?
4. What has given you hope during this unprecedented time?

### Becky Godwin Scholarship Fund

Due to our economic situation, we do not have as much money to give in scholarships as we have in the past. If you would like to help augment our available scholarship money, please send a check to the church office for less than \$100 noting the use of money on your donation. Additionally, you may contribute using Realm. According to the founding guide laws, any money received over \$100 must go to the principal and we only use interest money for scholarships. Thanks for your consideration.

Becky Godwin Scholarship Committee

BOCE sent out college gift bags for our youth that are finishing up their finals on line. Hang in there!





Ralph Howell	2
Brian Helms	5
Jackie Saunders	5
Rainell Rowell	7
Kelsey Blanks	8
Karen Schine	9
Kirsten Creely	9
William Arcand	15
Charles Johnson	15
Haddie Jane Hardison	18
Lisa Trombley	19
Pat Branch	20
Marguerite Butler	20
Molly Nelms	21
Paul Putnam	22
Lorraine Gayle	26
Gabe Hathaway	26
Nancy Spady	26
Erin Whitley	27
David Adams	29

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



**The Stain Glass Windows are in!**



# New Building Progress



Appliances have been installed  
Double commercial refrigerator, single freezer & frig  
Large triple sink, ice maker, 2 stoves, dish washer,  
and hand sink



Metal Shelving in the Pantry



The Kitchen Angels have been busy fluttering around putting all the kitchen gadgets, pots, pans, dishes, supplies, and beyond in their new home.





Hello Oakland UCC!

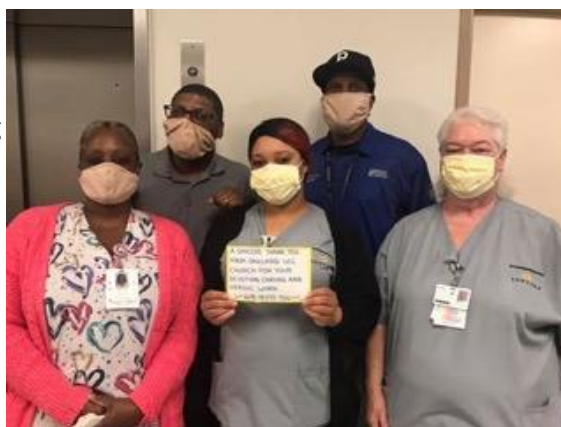
My name is Tom DeLucia and I work here in the Lab at Sentara Obici Hospital. I just wanted to say thanks for the lunch today and that we all appreciate you thinking of us! We are doing our best to keep our patients safe and produce the highest quality lab results needed for accurate diagnosis. You may not be aware, but this week is Lab Week, when Medical laboratory Scientists are recognized nationwide for our part in the Healthcare system so your lunch today was perfect timing for our celebration!

Again, thanks for lunch and God bless!

Tom Delucia, MA, MT (ASCP)

Senior Medical Technologist, Microbiology & UA

Sentara Obici Hospital Laboratory Department



Sentara Obici ESD Department would like to thank Oakland UCC Church for our lunch on Friday! Thank you for thinking of us!

Thank you all for the delicious sandwiches you all delivered to the Respiratory Dept. at Obici today. We all enjoyed it so much!! It's so greatly appreciated! You all stay safe!

Oakland church members are organizing and delivering meals once a week to different departments at Obici Hospital to staff, utilizing the services of local restaurants. You have been generous with contributions to these meals with approximately \$2,500 in donations from our congregation! We have made the following deliveries for the past 5 weeks. Amazing!

ER Dept - from Hollands Catering  
Respiratory Dept - from Harpers Table  
Environmental Dept - from Owens  
Laboratory Dept - from Suffolk BBQ  
COVID & Inpatient Physical Therapy  
Depts - from Nansemond River Club.

## Making Masks



Judy Gardner and Penny Hathaway have been busy with their generosity making hundreds of masks for Obici Hospital, and various local doctor's offices.





**Let us in our many places receive the gift of God,  
the Bread of Heaven  
and the Cup of Blessing**



Creely - Wise  
Communion Table



Sandra Barton's Communion Table



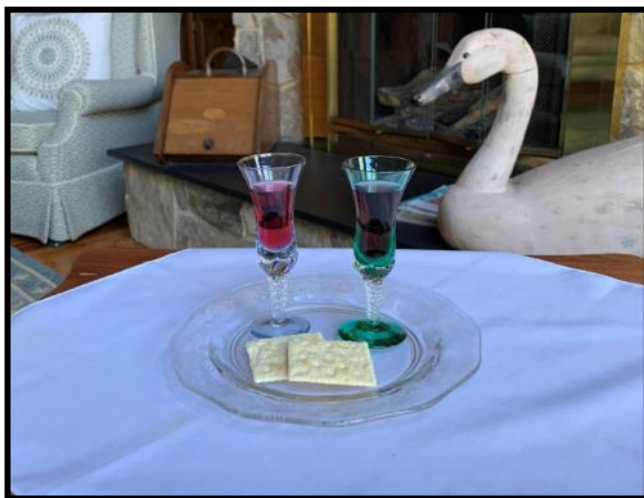
Matt's Communion Table  
Carole & John

# At Home Communion - Take on special meanings



The Palm cross on this home Communion table is 19 years old. When Betty and Rob Rhodes were in Puerto Rico (19 years ago) she received word on Palm Sunday that her father had suffered a major heart attack. They were unable to make a reservation home until the next day. They passed by a church holding Palm Sunday services and were given this cross made of palm fronds. It has been a very special remembrance for them all these years.

They arrived safely home and Betty's father did survive the heart attack. It goes without saying that this cross is very special to them.



Communion at the Saunders (Pam & Paul)  
Granny Saunders napkin and plate  
Aunt Ruby's cordials.



Susie Eaton's Communion



Communion at Johnson's (Julie & John)



Colen and Ann Hodgson's Communion





Kirsten Creely



Lisa Shearin



Suzanne Langston

Thank you to the  
Activities & Events Committee  
for putting together Easter Bags  
and delivering to our youth!



Not pictured - Jean Keeling

Sandy Butler and Connie Burgess



# Easter Bag Decorating Contest



Grades K-2 - Winner  
Helena Burgess



Grades 3-6 Winner  
Jack Brennecke



Grade 7-12 - Winner  
William Brennecke



Honorable Mention

## 1st Easter - Our 3 new additions to our Church Family



Charlotte Fly



Bryne and Grayson Blanchette





Susie Eaton joined Oakland December 1987.

She has been a Sunday School Teacher, Deacon, Choir member and has served on many committees. For more years than I can remember she has ensured that all the paper and cleaning products for our countless meals, picnics and gatherings are ordered and organized. She gets by church at least once a week to organize, straighten, freshen up, or do a bit of extra cleaning to various areas that need extra love.

If you need a helping hand you can count on Susie.

PRAYERS  
OF Thanks



Susie with her sidekick,  
The Rainbow Vacuum.



Thank you .....  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
for putting the  
Flowering Cross up  
for Easter!







## 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

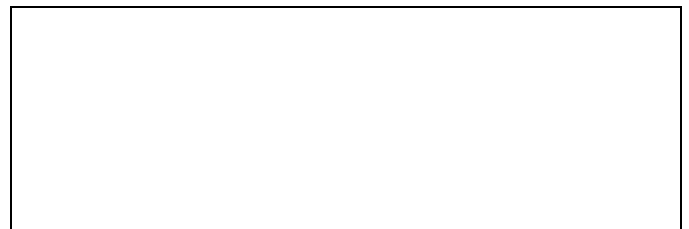
*To share* God's love with all people,  
*To serve* the Lord with humility and kindness,  
*To grow* with the Lord in wisdom and strength.

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

**MAY 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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**Website:**  
[www.OaklandUCC.org](http://www.OaklandUCC.org)