

GOOD TIDINGS NOVEMBER 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



Suffolk Community THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 19 | 7 PM

"AT THE TABLE"

-2 Timothy 2:20-26

Hosted by East End Baptist Church

1056 Portsmouth Boulevard

Sponsored by Suffolk Clergy United

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Suffolk Clergy United is holding this service in the spirit of sharing, bridge-building, and gratitude. The service will feature a multi-church community choir, singing, prayer, preaching by Bishop Clarence V. Russell, III, the Senior Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Suffolk. For more information visit Suffolk Clergy United on Facebook or contact Bethlehem Christian Church at 539-4274.

An offering for the Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk's Winter Shelter Program will be received. Our offering goal is \$2000. You may bring cash or checks payable to CAPS.



ANGEL TREE GIFTS

Please consider picking up a tag from our Angel Tree and shopping for a child this Christmas.

Return unwrapped gifts by Monday, December 2nd in a holiday bag with your gift tag attached to the bag. Any questions please see Kasie Wilson



We will ring the bells for The Salvation Army

Saturday, December 7 from 2pm-8pm

Location between Kroger & Belk.

We need volunteers to sign up for hour shifts to ring bells

Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall

POINSETTIAS



Help decorate the church for our Christmas Cantata! Purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone. Call the office or fill out the form found in your Sunday Bulletins. \$10 each and you can take the poinsettia home after the service!

Includes foil and bow. Deadline to order: Monday, December 8th.



Flower & Altar Committee will make wreaths at Kelly's Greenhouse Wednesday, Dec 4 @ 6:30pm. If you would like to help make wreaths "it's a lot of fun!" - please meet us @ Kelly's Wednesday night. Used to decorate the church for the Advent Season.

Cedar, pine, and Nandina branches welcomed. Many hands make light work!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Creekmore	4	Emilee Eaton Pantelides	16
Susie Eaton	4	Kim Eaton Gup	16
Trudy Norfleet	4	Lou Haddad	16
Colen Hodgson	5	David Haddad	19
Blair Phillips Mason	6	Iola Saunders	19
Judy Gardner	6	Rick Vroman	19
Carole Matt	8	Julie Johnson	20
Parker Howell	12	Julie Doyle	21
Bernice Butler	13	Marion Campbell	21
Mary Williams	13	Penny Hathaway	22
David Marr	14	Ann Smith	30
Sandi Randle	14		

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



Christmas Pageant practice is Sunday, November 24th.
Practice will begin immediately following worship and will last about 2 1/2 hours
Please practice the first verse of Away in A Manager with your child.
Lunch is provided



All Church Christmas Party
December 6 - 6 pm to 8:30 pm
Dinner provided, Games, Christmas carols, and.....
Santa Claus will make an appearance!

LPW Bus will be available - pick up at 5:30

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!



New Advent Study 11:15 Sunday School Class!

Please join us after worship in the Godwin Room for an inspirational experience exploring how to find peace and joy at Christmas and throughout the year.

Let's cast a vision of living and giving like Jesus, beginning with the Christmas season and continuing throughout the year. This five-week study helps us see the traps and discontentment of consumerism and the call of God to live generously to fulfill God's mission in the world.

We're saving you a seat!

Elections for Nov 17th Immediately After Worship.

- Below is the current slate of nominees for open positions. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor on election day.
- The description of terms and responsibilities for Oakland Christian UCC Board and Committee elected positions are posted in the Fellowship Hall.
- In accordance with Article XII of the Bylaws approved July 2019, absentee ballots will be accepted.
- "All members who have been active during the current year via time, talent, or treasure may request an absentee ballot from the Chair of the Nominating Committee provided the member is going to be out of town or medically unable to attend church the day of voting. Ballots must be turned into the Chair of the Nominating Committee or the Church Secretary before Congregational voting occurs."

Council Moderator (1) Kim Waller

Asst. Council Moderator (1) Pam Saunders

Council Treasurer (1) John Mitchell

Council at Large (1) Kyle Arcand

Board of Deacons (4) John Gayle, Danna Vroman,
Ella Mae Winslow, Dana Mitchell

Board of Trustees (2) Colen Hodgson, Paul Saunders

Board of Christian Ed (5) Connie Burgess, Lisa Trombley, Pat Branche,
Rick Vroman, Dani Howell

Personnel Committee (1) Sharon Winslow

Nominating Committee 2019:

Karen Schine (Chair), Betty Rhodes and Brad Whitley



Beloved,

I never could have believed that we could top last year's Fall Fest, but sure enough, I was wrong again! There aren't enough words to adequately thank all of you who made it possible. I have to ask myself why you do all that work ... the countless hours in the kitchen, the miles traveled hither and yon to secure donations for the silent auction, the hours spent recording the sales, the effort to transform our fellowship hall into a Country Store and the effort to put it all back together again. But I think deep in my heart I know why you do it ... you do it because you love your church! And I also know deep in my heart that this is a church worth loving!

We all show our love for this church in a variety of ways. We serve on boards and committees, we sing in the choir, we teach Sunday School classes, we bake pies and make Brunswick Stew, we pledge our time and our talent .. and on Sunday, November 10th we pledged our treasure. Again, I think we did this because we love our church, but I'm writing today to tell you that I make a pledge every year for purely selfish reasons. Not selfish in the sense that your pledges contribute toward my salary (although that is true, so thank you very much!) I pledged because I want our church to exist ... and given your generosity ... to thrive ... because if it didn't there are so many things that I would miss terribly. I would miss Sunday mornings when we gather together to worship the holy and to hear the choir sing to God's glory. I would miss the community of saints that do so much ... and give and give so that others (whom they will never know) will be able to live in a more just and generous world. I would miss the opportunities we have shared in small group studies and Sunday School classes ... where every opinion is respected. I would miss working with the best of all possible staffs and those in leadership who are truly God's visual aids for selflessness. I would even miss those moments when we aren't all in agreement because they are proof that we really are a family and that we care deeply! I am sure that each of you would have your own list of things, events and people that you would miss if Oakland Christian UCC didn't exist.

Thank you to all of you who came forward to commit your time, your talent and your treasure. Your commitments reaffirmed that this is your church family and that it is an ultimate priority. It is where you receive spiritual nourishment. It is the place that challenges you to live beyond the voice of culture to the freer life of faith.

If you weren't able to be here last Sunday, there is always time to pledge now! You are a congregation of generous people. Thank you again for giving generously to the church's ministry and mission. May you receive the joy and the satisfaction of knowing what an important presence this church is in the 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.

**PASTOR MARY ANNE'S
SUNDAY SERMONS**

Sermons are also on the church's website at www.oaklanducc.org



Music Corner

Paul Putnam - Music Director

Greetings from the Music Corner!

From the Music Corner at Oakland

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

November – the month of gratitude and Thanksgiving. How many of you started singing the tune of “Give Thanks” when you started reading these words? The message in this song is so simple, and yet so profound as we apply it to our lives.

I continually give thanks to God for the best Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir that any Music Director could ask for! My heart is filled with gratitude that God has placed me at Oakland UCC to minister in music.

The Christmas Cantata will be here before we know it. The Chancel Choir will be presenting, “Heaven’s Child” by Pepper Choplin on Sunday, December 15th during the 10:00AM worship service. Please invite your family and friends! The Chancel Choir will also give an encore performance at Lake Prince Woods on Sunday, January 5th @ 4:00PM.

In Gratitude,
~Paul Putnam



Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets for the "CASH PRIZE RAFFLE" drawing held at Fall Fest and the net total was \$3,051. Congratulations to the winners:

Breanne Presson \$100
John Comer \$250
Amy Selby \$500

The choir is grateful for the church's continued support of this project! Donations are always accepted. Checks should be marked with a memo for "Choir NYC" so that they are credited in the correct account.

Oakland Chancel Choir



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!

November 19 - 7:00 pm
Diana-Marie Haddad - Hosting
2072 Queens Point Drive
Devotion - Dana Mitchell



Jewels has a Facebook page - JEWELS of Oakland UCC
click the button that says "Join" and someone from the group will accept the request.



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

Plaid Turnip
115 North Main Street
Suffolk, VA 23434

Questions: Contact Roger Burton
757-373-2817 or
757-373-4080

Eternal Conversation

By: Sharon Sandusky

March 2000

"Thank you God for this new day,"

I say as I begin to pray.

Then I stop unsure how to proceed.

What can I ask without seeming full of greed?

A hesitant blessing asked for friends, neighbors, kith and kin,

A request to forgive me of my sin.

Another pause where to now?

Fingers meshed tightly and head abow.

What more to say?

And how?

Then a fragment of a Bible verse passes through my mind,

(Perhaps 'twas the voice of God)

Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given;

Seek and ye will find."

So I ask His grace to mend my troubled heart,

And then I seek His peace within my soul to start.

I continue praying and just before I say "Amen"

I understand that prayer is conversation with an Eternal, loving Friend.

Behind the Altar

Ever thought about who changes the Altar cloths and candles?

Julie Johnson has loving taken care of these tasks for the last 8 years. She is also a member of the Bell Choir and helps on many committees.

She joined Oakland with her husband John in May of 2000. Thanks for all you do Julie!





We are so excited to welcome Tamika and Corey Blanchette as new members to the Oakland family. There is an extra surprise with these new members....they are expecting twins this spring and we can hardly wait!



Congratulations to Samantha and Robert Fly! They are expecting in early spring! Our Oakland family is growing!





Fall Fest 2019



Paul Saunders has a new apprentice this year! Teaching Sandy Butler the art of making Oakland's famous Brunswick Stew!

Barbara Nelms is teaching Mary Anne how to make Peanut Brittle.



Stew Prep and Candy Making



Thanks to all who helped make Fall Fest a success!

25 Years Strong!

Fall Fest 2019



**A Big Shout Out to Kelly's Nursery for the landscaping
at the Parsonage and Church.**



The church railing at the end of the Godwin Wing was salvaged prior to the start of the construction of the new building. A portion of the railing was refabricated and installed at the parsonage. A cross was added to the railing. Nice touch Jeff!



Jeff Edwards



Thank you Don Britt for lending a helping hand!

November 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Office Hours 9am - 3pm Mon - Thur	8am - 3pm Every Tue, Thur, and Sat Chuckatuck Bicyclers use the parking lot				1 FALL FEST PREP	2 FALL FEST
3 9am Confirmation 9am SudaY School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday Schl 11:15 Choir	4 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)	5 6:30 Cub Scts (G)	6 10am BbleStdy G 7pm BSA Dist (G)	7 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir	8 Office closed	9
10 9am SudaY School 10am Worship 11am Community Service Project 11:15 Choir	11 Veterans Day	12 9am EVA (F) 1pm Girl Scts (G) 6pm BeeKeepers 6:30 Cub Scts (G)	13 10am BbleStdy G 6pm BSA OA (G) 7:30pm BSA (F)	14 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir	15 Office closed 9 am Quick Books Free Seminar (G)	16 Pastor @ John's River
17 9am Confirmation 9am SudaY School 10am Worship 11:00 Qtryl Conf.	18 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)	19 7pm Jewels @ Diana Haddad's 2072 Queens Point Dr. 7 Men's Flwshp @ Plaid Turnip	20 10am BbleStdy G	21 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir	22 Office closed	23
24 9am SudaY School 10am Worship 11:15 Sunday Schl 11:15 Choir	25 5pm Yoga (F) 6:30 Girl Scouts (MLB -G2)	26 6:30 Cub Scts (G)	27 10am BbleStdy G Pastor - Vacation	28 Office Closed Thanksgiving	29 Office closed	30 Key: K-Kitchen F Fellowship G Godwin G2 Godwin 2nd floor

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

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

we believe

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**

NOVEMBER 2019

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Mary Anne Biggs
Director 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