



## GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM

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Beloved,

It seems, we are always “living into” the next chapter of life. The past seven months have been fraught with change. We sorely miss our times of fellowship when we shared both meals and hugs. In times past (and in times to come!) this church would be abuzz with candy making and vegetable chopping for Fall Fest. Thanks to our wonderful Minister of Music, Paul Putnam, our worship is still filled with song, but we are tapping our feet when our souls long to sing along. I am so very, very proud of our church for the ways in which we have adapted. We were willing to hear the voice of God (as Isaiah proclaimed): “Behold I am about to do a new thing.” We have learned to hold our meetings by Zoom, and we have learned to hold each other closely. What we have relied upon during this time of pandemic is a bold faith that stares down our fears and frees us to live in God’s unfolding mystery. I close with a story about such incredible faith:

Early in my ministry I had to tell an older member of my congregation that her middle-age son had died in a car accident. It was devastating and I thought for sure Melba would die of a broken heart. Indeed, she stayed in a very dark place for over a year. And then (as spring would have it) . . . little by little, slowly but surely . . . Melba showed signs of resilience. First she smiled ever so slightly, and then she resumed some favorite activities (at age 85 returned to her card sending ministry). Eventually she laughed, and we recalled together the words of the Psalmist, “We may weep by night, but joy comes in the morning.”

One day while visiting Melba, I reflected on this remarkable transformation. How did you find the hope, muster the strength, to carry on? What made you look for morsels of goodness and moments of joy when others remain bitter and defeated? What’s your secret? She said simply, “My faith” . . . but it’s not just any faith (it’s particular faith). In fact (she grinned) I keep it up there in the spice rack! . . . “Really?” I said quizzically. Then Melba stood with her walker, made her way across the kitchen, opened the cupboard and pulled out a container (and shook it – seeds?) . . . Mustard Seed Faith! “Here – take one” she said, “You’ll need it when the day comes that your spirit is crushed, when the only hope you have is tiny possibility” . . . for this smallest of all seeds (when planted into the fertile ground of love, nourished by the waters of baptism and warmed by the light of Christ) will grow to be the largest shrub, giving shade and shelter to the birds.

“We live by faith, not by sight” she preached . . . and persuaded me . . . that day.

Mustard Seed Faith – it is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not yet seen!” Beloved, may God bless our church as we carry on this faithful ministry, and as we cling (not to the things of this world) but to the promise of “all things made new” through the power of the risen Christ!

Grace. peace and love,  
Pastor Mary Anne





# Music Corner

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

## How Can I Keep From Singing?

My life goes on in endless song  
Above earth's lamentations,  
I hear the real, though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear its music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest loudly roars,  
I hear the truth, it liveth.  
And though the darkness 'round me close,  
Songs in the night it giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
While to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is lord of heaven and earth  
How can I keep from singing?

These last 6 months have been rather trying for those of us who truly love to sing and sing with others! Being able to worship through music and song is a large part of our DNA! If you talk to any choir members here at church you know that they are "itching" to get back to "normal" and sing with one another again. I have done my best to bring music to each worship service that fits the text and context of the service as well as music that will touch your soul.

So, here begs the question, what can we do about singing in worship? Can we sing along with the hymns with our masks on? There is a yes and no kind of answer to this. This summer there was a scientific study done by Colorado State University about aerosol particles and singing/playing of instruments that was commissioned by several arts organizations. In short, here is what we can do based upon their recommendations.

- ◆ Sing with masks on for no more than 30 minutes, at which time the room should be vacated for a complete air exchange.
- ◆ Sing at a distance of 6 feet minimum from each other

In conclusion, yes, singing in worship can potentially contribute to the virus spread. Will it? There are no guarantees. In the meantime, I might suggest humming along with your favorite hymn tunes because it will keep your lips closed, and prevent larger aerosol droplets from being released.

As always, keep the songs in your heart alive!

~Paul Putnam



## CHOIR ROOM IS FINISHED! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! AMEN!



**The floor has been fixed and the room freshly painted!**

Thanks to Randy Rowell, John Matt, and Carl Lancaster for tearing up the old floor and putting in new floor joists and leveling it up.

Thanks to Mary Jane and Doug for donating the vinyl planking installed by Cherry Carpet.

Thank you to Jean Keeling for organizing the room and Paul Putnam for organizing and painting.

Although we are not open to outside groups inside the church we are utilizing our carport.



Come join us for yoga! Yoga is a great way to clear your mind while developing strength, flexibility and balance. It is widely approved by the medical profession. The instructor, Brandy Robbins, is certified, insured and offers classes that meet the needs of beginners as well as experienced yogis. Classes cost \$10 for a drop in visit or you can purchase a package of 8 classes at \$7 each (\$56) with no expiration date. Come experience one free class and I expect you will want to come back! Sanitized mats are available. Classes are Mondays from 4:15 - 5:15. We are currently meeting outside.



Thanks to Rob Rhodes for organizing a drive through voter registration last month.

Thanks to all our church members who helped with the registration.







# OCTOBER Birthdays

Parker Howell	5	Janet Harris	24
Donald Curliss	10	Harvey Saunders	24
Abby Nelms	11	Wayne Gardner	26
Doug Naismith	12	Sadie Boyer	27
Harvey Dole	13	Ann Marks Saunders	28
Elizabeth Nelms	16	Ben Hardison	28
Sharon Winslow	17	Donna Adams	29
Grace Haddad	21		

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



We are in the process of creating a new website. Kyle Arcand, Connie Burgess, Paul Putman and Pastor Mary Anne are working with Dye Cast to create the perfect, updated site for Oakland. If you have any high quality pictures of church activities from the last two years please forward them to Connie ---- [office@oaklanducc.com](mailto:office@oaklanducc.com) Be on the lookout!



A new filming system is being purchased and installed by Tequilla Sunrise. The system, which will be moved to the sanctuary at a later date, will help us produce a high quality video of our service which will then be posted on our website. The representative will train us on the use of the system. Upon receipt of the camera, which has been ordered, the system will be installed on a Saturday morning and training will be offered on the same Saturday after noon. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact the office. Council would love to have a trained team of volunteers so that many members can share the filming responsibility. We have been promised that the system will be user friendly. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your photography talent with our wider church community.



## Friends of Barnabas

Don't forget our mission for the children in Honduras.. Like the rest of the world, Honduras is struggling through the pandemic, which adds to the burden of their impoverishment.

But we can help! If you are able, please contribute to our collection box for the specific needs they have at this time.

Cloth Diapers & Diaper Pins ~ Baby Slings ~ Cloth Face Coverings ~ Sunglasses ~ Toothbrushes ~ Toddler Size Flip Flops (youth and adult sizes not needed at this time)

Thank you! You will be blessed to be a blessing!



# CHURCH CONFERENCE

The Council requests a Called Congregational Conference on October 18, 2020 to vote on the strategic plan.

We will hold a Question and Answer session after worship on October 11 to clarify and discuss the document.

(A thank you note from Oakland Elementary)

*Dear Members of Oakland Christian United Church of Christ,*

*Our school and staff would like to thank you for your kind donation. With the year starting off different for our school, staff, students, and community we will rely heavily on donations and support from our community. Your monetary church donation along with the school supplies will go a long way in supporting the needs of our school as they arise.*

*Community partners such as Oakland Christian United Church of Christ and its members are an important part of the success of our students and our school. We thank you for your continued support and generosity. OES would also like for you all to know we could not do this without you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Candace Myrick  
Principal*



Behind the mask - Suzanne, Jean, and Julie made the school supply delivery

(A thank you note from Sadie Boyer)

*Dear Oakland friends,*

*Think you so very, very much for the wonderful uplifting cards, texts, emails, calls, shopping, flowers, food, and most of all prayers during my surgery and other illness. As well as during these months of COVID shut-in. Your love and care has sustained Dale and I beyond words.*

*With Blessings and Love,  
Sadie Boyer*

# We are pleased to have celebrated two Baptisms in September



William Harrison Blanks

Son of:  
Mathew Spillman  
Kelsey Blanks

Grandparents:  
Kyle and Debbie Blanks



Charlotte Virginia Fly

Son of Robert and Samantha Fly

Grandparents: George and Ginny Fly

Godparents - Steve and Kasie Wilson





## COMING SOON!

It's almost time for our annual stewardship campaign. It kicks off October 18, when Pastor Mary Anne will talk about stewardship. The following weeks will include testimonials, and another of our ever-popular skits on giving, culminating with Stewardship Sunday on November 8.

Why do we do this? If you don't have a steady income to depend on, what happens when your car breaks down? Can you pay for repairs? Or can you afford a new car? Most of us know what to expect in income and expenses, so we have the tools we need to make the best decision. It's similar at Oakland. Perhaps we know we can pay our normal bills, but what about the unexpected? How about making future commitments? We took a leap of faith with our new Community Life Center. But your pledges gave us a degree of certainty that we could handle this large commitment. What about helping those in need - in Chuckatuck, in Suffolk, and beyond? Each week in our commissioning, we vow to strengthen the fainthearted, to support the weak, to help the afflicted...Your pledges give us the tools we need to plan appropriately, within our means.

You will soon receive a packet with your pledge card. Please prayerfully consider what you can give, from what God has already given to you. Do remember though that this is not a legal document. There is no risk involved. If your circumstances change, we won't come knocking on your door.

Many of you have embraced online giving, through your banks, or through Realm, which has simplified giving during these difficult times. No more hassle on Sunday mornings, getting your envelope ready, or forgetting to bring it to church. For those still worshipping from home, no more having to remember to mail it each week or each month. If you haven't tried online giving, you should consider doing so. We sent out videos on September 14, to help you set it up, using either your bank, or through Realm. If you aren't a computer user, your bank would be able to set it up for you. And the best part is – you set it up once and forget it (unless you need to make a change). As an old TV commercial said - TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT! (If you don't, it's just as easy to reverse it.)

Thank you for supporting Oakland through these many weeks and months, even when we couldn't meet in person.

And thank you in advance for your pledge to support the work of the church in 2021!

**Your Stewardship Committee**

The Church Council has scheduled elections for November 15<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship.

The Nominating Committee is currently working on the slate of nominees for open positions. The completed slate will be available at the upcoming called Conference on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor on the day of elections.

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.”*

*Absentee ballots will be available in the church office by request starting October 19<sup>th</sup>. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the church office by Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in order to be counted.*

## **Description of Terms and Responsibilities for Oakland Christian UCC Board and Committee Elected Positions**

### **Reference:**

**Constitution Oakland Christian UCC adopted December 2014**

**Bylaws adopted July 2019**

**Amendments to Constitution adopted October 2019**

### **The MODERATOR shall:**

*Be a member of the church elected annually by the Congregational Conference for a one year term.*

*Preside at all business meetings of the church.*

*Serve as Chair of Council.*

*See information on “Member-at-Large” and additional description of Council member duties below.*

*No person shall serve as Moderator for more than six consecutive years.*

### **The ASSISTANT MODERATOR shall:**

*Be a member of the church elected annually by the Congregational Conference for a one year term.*

*Be prepared to assume the duties of the Moderator in his/her absence.*

*See information on “Member-at-Large” and additional description of Council member duties below.*

*No person shall serve as Assistant Moderator for more than six consecutive years.*

### **The TREASURER shall:**

*Be a member of the church elected annually by the Congregational Conference for a one year term.*

*Receive and disburse all money contributed to causes represented in the church budget, and such other funds and contributions as the Congregational Conference or Council may determine.*

*Pay all accounts when properly authorized by the Congregational Conference, Council or Pastor.*

*Make a quarterly financial report available to the Council and the Congregational Conference.*

*Submit all accounts and records to the auditing committee annually and at such other times as the Council and Congregational Conference shall direct.*

*Perform other duties as requested by the Congregational Conference and Council.*

*There shall be no limit to the number of years that a member may serve as Treasurer.*

Continued.....



**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL shall:**

*Define, develop, and present the strategic plan of the church to the Congregational Conference for approval. Execute the approved strategic plan. Measure the progress in meeting the strategic plan and shall report to the Congregational Conference no less than annually on the progress and status of the plan.*

*Propose the annual budget for the church.*

*Provide oversight for all aspects of the daily business of the church.*

*May create such Committees and Task Groups as circumstances and good practice may dictate for the performance of its duties.*

*Shall provide oversight of the Boards enumerated in this constitution and of such Committees and Task Groups as may be established.*

*Establish a Nominating Committee which shall present a list of candidates for Officers, Council members, and Board members at the annual meeting of the Congregational Conference.*

*Study the constitution and by-laws, and make appropriate recommendations for amendments and modifications.*

*Be responsible for all delegated personnel matters related to the Pastor's employment, including supervision and evaluation.*

*Set interim policy and act on behalf of the Congregational Conference in situations that require prompt action.*

**Members –at-Large** shall be members of the church elected by the Congregational Conference annually on staggered three year terms.

No person may be elected to Council as the Deacon Representative, the Christian Education Representative, or as a Member-at-Large if their election would result in them serving more than six consecutive years on the Council.

**The BOARD OF DEACONS shall:**

*Meet at least quarterly and more often as necessary.*

*Cooperate with the Pastor in ministering to the spiritual interests of the church and community*

*Consult with the Pastor on the character of the religious services.*

*Assist the Pastor in helping the church to envision and achieve its spiritual possibilities and to fulfill its ministerial obligations.*

*Assist in the preparation and the administration of the Sacraments.*

*Provide a Shepherd Program which fosters spiritual care for the sick, shut-in, and those in need.*

*Provide a warm and welcoming spirit in the church.*

*Seek to enlist new members of the church.*

*Record and distribute copies of worship services to those who may be unable to attend.*

*Provide a supply for the pulpit in the absence of the Pastor.*

*Perform other duties as requested by the Congregational Conference, Council, and Pastor.*

Deacons shall serve a term of three years, with four new Deacons elected annually.

A Deacon may be elected for additional three year terms.

**The BOARD OF TRUSTEES shall:**

*Hold in trust all church property, both real and personal. But shall have no power to sell, buy, mortgage or transfer real property except by a two-thirds vote of the Congregational Conference authorizing same.*

*Have custody of all legal documents, such as deeds, mortgages, notes, insurance policies, etc.*

*(Chair) Give a report to the Council each January giving a list of the property owned and its condition, the amount of insurance carried, mortgage and bonded indebtedness, and such other information as may be requested by the Congregational Conference or Council. This report shall also be presented at the first meeting of the Congregational Conference each year.*

*Perform other duties as requested by the Congregational Conference or the Council.*

Consist of six members of the church, two of whom shall be elected annually to serve a term of three years. Trustees shall be elected by the Congregational Conference and registered with the Circuit Court, as required by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A Trustee may be elected to additional three year terms.

**The BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION shall:**

*Be responsible for the general direction of educational work of the church. In cooperation with the Pastor and Director of Christian Education, it shall coordinate the program of Christian Education, supervise the church school, and promote the development of Christian character in all organizations throughout the congregation.*

*Secure and train teachers and leaders for all Church School classes and youth groups.*

*Select and acquire curriculum and related materials for church school classes.*

*Inform teachers and leaders of the church school curriculum and the materials available to assist them.*

*Select, guide, and supervise directors and/or advisors when needed for Children's Church, Bible School, Youth Fellowship, Youth Camping, Youth Music Programs, and other programs as deemed necessary and appropriate.*

*Perform other duties as requested by Congregational Conference, Council and Pastor.*

*Shall consist of no fewer than five members of the church elected by the Congregational Conference. Members shall serve a two year term. No person shall serve on the Board of Christian Education for more than six consecutive years.*

**The PERSONNEL COMMITTEE shall:**

*The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to assure that the Church hires highly qualified persons for the respective positions; that the Church receives the highest quality service from its employees and independent contractors where appropriate, enjoys smooth and orderly operations, and maintains fair and equitable treatment of its employees and independent contractors. They shall be responsible to:*

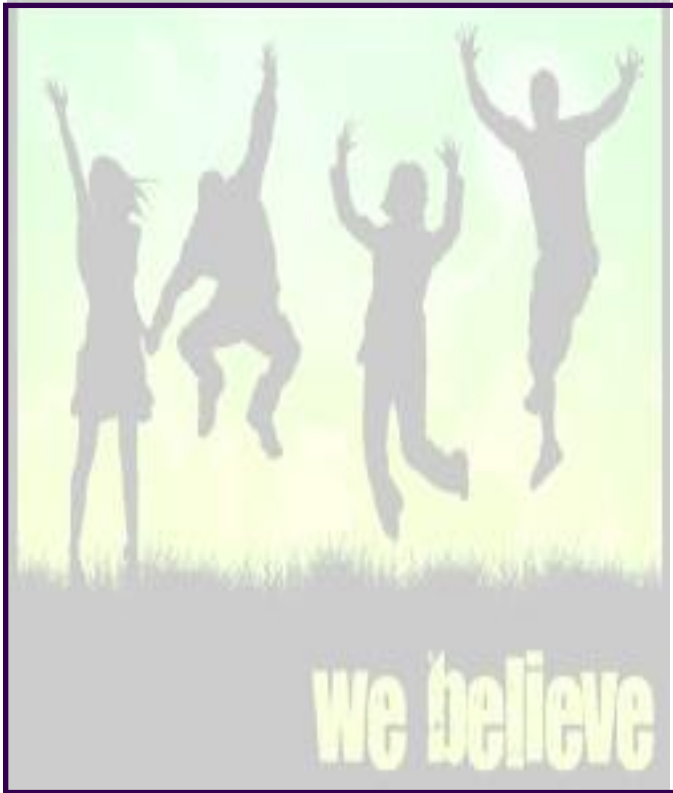
*Develop, administer, and maintain personnel policies including job descriptions, independent contractor duties, performance evaluation procedures, employee benefits, compensation, and other policies/procedures as needed.*

*Develop employment and independent contractor agreements.*

*This committee shall consist of five (5) members, one (1) of which is the Assistant Moderator. Four (4) members will be elected to serve a term of four (4) years, one of whom will be elected annually. These members shall be off the Committee for one (1) year before he/she may be nominated again. Members should have demonstrated experience in personnel management.*

**from page 12 CONSTITUTION Oakland Christian United Church of Christ October 2019 ARTICLE VII  
Elections**

- 1. Officers, Council Members, and Board Members designated in this constitution shall be elected by the Congregational Conference at a meeting in November of each year.**
- 2. Candidates for these elected positions shall be compiled by the Nominating Committee and presented to the Congregational Conference. Additional nominations for any position will also be accepted from the floor at the November meeting.**
- 3. Elections for all positions shall be by secret ballot. A secret ballot may be waived by a majority vote of the Congregational Conference where there is only one candidate for the office. If a secret ballot is waived, the vote will be by a show of hands.**
- 4. If a quorum is present for the election, candidates will be deemed to have been elected if they receive a majority of the votes for their position. Where there are multiple candidates seeking a position and a sufficient number of candidates fail to receive a majority of the votes on the first ballot, candidates who have received a majority will be removed and the balloting will continue with the remaining candidates until the position is filled. In the event no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be removed and the balloting will continue with the remaining candidates until the position is filled.**
- 5. Newly elected Officers, Council members, and Board members shall begin their terms on January 1 of the year following their election, with the exception of the first election after the adoption of this constitution when the candidates will take office immediately upon election.**
- 6. In the event an elected Officer, Council Member, or Board Member must be replaced prior to the expiration of their term, a Nominating Committee appointed by Council shall seek candidates and present them to a scheduled or called conference. Elections at such a conference shall be in accordance with sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Article, and any person elected shall begin to serve the remainder of the term of the person they replace immediately upon election.**



## 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**

**OCTOBER 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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