



# GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2021

### OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

### SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM



Telephone: (757) 255-4353  
Office Hours: 9 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday  
Email: [Office@OaklandUCC.com](mailto:Office@OaklandUCC.com)



Beloved,

Last year during Lent we made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship until such time as we felt it was safe to gather as one body. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that we would be repeating that sacrifice again this year. We were back together with some of you on Sunday mornings for seven months; however, the pandemic has once again forced a retreat, at least for now. But that is what we do as Christians, we make difficult choices for the sake of others.

During Lent and Holy Week, we remember that God gave the world Jesus, and Jesus gave us his life to show us how to live our own. While many people may think of Lent as a somber time to "give up" things, we might better see it as a time to give our hearts, our lives, and our gifts in response to God's own gracious generosity in our lives. Despite the pandemic, Lent gives us the opportunity to "reach out," rather than "give up" ... let us mindfully "reach out" to others who feel isolated and fearful during these troubling days. Just a phone call can make all the difference!

While the disciples fell silent on the way to the Cross, others became the 'shouting stones.'. *If these were silent, the stones would cry out!*" proclaims Jesus to the Pharisees as they demand his disciples cease their "Hosannas!" ~ Luke 19:37-40. These others ... non-disciples ... everyday folk ... are the ones who stand by Jesus in sometimes small but crucial ways and become the shouting stones of Lent.

Our Lenten theme in this sacred season is based on the following words of Teresa of Avila, a Christian Spanish mystic (1515–1582).

*Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

I pray that her words will be a constant reminder to us, not only in Lent, but every day of our lives that we have a role to play in bringing forward God's love, justice and compassion "on earth as it is in heaven."

Grace, peace and love,  
Pastor Mary Anne



## Music Corner

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

### The Gift of Love – Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire.  
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess.  
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed, by this we worship and we are freed.

Love, is something all of us needs more of in our lives. As the calendar turns to February, our thoughts might turn to the “holiday of the month” aka Valentine’s Day. We often associate Valentine’s Day with relationships to those whom we feel the closest. Shouldn’t we also celebrate the gift of God’s love as one of our closest relationships?

We are so fortunate to live in a time when we can outwardly express God’s love as an important part of our lives. Religious freedom, and the ability for us to gather around Christ’s table to share in the love that has been poured out for us is something none of us should take for granted. May we all be filled with gratitude for this precious gift.

May we continue to share Christ’s love with one another in this world. Because as the song goes, “What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It’s the only thing there’s just too little of”. Be the light to those around you and share the love.

I love you,

*~Paul*





Eugene Arcand	2	Dale Boyer	14	Amy Csisar	21
Tammy Howell	6	Dori Mitchell	14	Nicole Kelly	23
Shelley Helms	8	Kimmy Curliss	15	Lauren Billings	23
Kadie Bunch	9	Waylon Harris	15	Bryn Blanchette	23
Lynn Knight	9	Lucas Gup	16	Grayson Blanchette	23
Kirk Barrett	10	Jimmye Hayes	20	Randy Rowell	26
Roosevelt Jones	12	Joshua Harrell	20	Peyton Wise	28

It's hard to fathom - but the twins will be one year old this month and we have yet to be able to welcome them into the church. It's heartbreaking as we looked forward to having these babies in the nursery and to share our love with them.

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

### 2021 ELECTED BOARDS

#### Church Council

- Moderator ~ Kim Waller
- Vice Moderator ~ Pam Saunders
- Treasurer ~ John Mitchell
- Member-at-Large ~ CF Jordan
- Member-at-Large ~ Kyle Arcand
- Member-at-Large ~ Darden Langston
- Deacon Representative ~ Ralph Howell
- BOCE Representative ~ Dani Howell
- Ex officio ~ Pastor Mary Anne Biggs

#### BOCE

- Connie Burgess ~ Chair
- Dani Howell ~ Council Liaison
- Kimmy Curliss
- Dori Mitchell
- Sandy Butler
- Becky Brennecke

#### Board of Deacons

- Carole Matt - Chair
- Kyle Blanks
- Sharon Burton
- Brenda Hodgson
- Penny Hathaway
- Dana Mitchell
- John Gayle
- Danna Vromann
- Ella Mae Winslow
- Ralph Howell ~ Council Liaison
- Susie Eaton
- Sharon Winslow

#### Board of Trustees

- Paul Saunders ~ Chair
- John Gayle
- Leroy Howell
- Colen Hodgson
- Parker Howell
- Rob Rhodes

#### Personnel Conflict/Resoultion

- Karen Schine
- Sharon Burton
- Sharon Winslow
- Connie Burgess
- Pam Saunders - Council Liaison



**Knock - Knock**      Who's there?  
**Oakland**              Oakland Who?  
**Oakland Christian UCC! Don't forget us!**

Isolation due to the CoronaVirus has caused us to miss seeing one another, but our expenses are not in isolation –they must still be paid.

If you have not tried e-giving yet, this might be the time! Our videos are on Oakland's website showing how easy it is to give through your personal bank or through Oakland's Realm platform. Call Connie at the Church Office 255-4353 if you need help getting started.

If you still don't want to go that route, just write a check and drop it in the mail - or drop it off at the church office.

***“So let each give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. [2Cor 9:7]***

Your Stewardship Committee



If you have not received a letter from a Deacon of the church, please let the office know and we will follow up to make sure you have been assigned a Shepherd. 255-4353

#### 2021 Deacons

Danna Vroman, Dana Mitchell, John Gayle, Ella Mae Winslow, Susie Eaton, Carole Matt, Ralph Howell, Sharon Winslow, Kyle Blanks, Penny Hathaway, Brenda Hodgson, and Sharon Burton





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*Back in the early summer Oakland organized and delivered meals once a week over the course of a couple months and we felt it was again time to let our health care workers know how much they are appreciated.*

*Thank you Carole Matt and Pam Saunders for organizing and delivering this benevolence to Obici Hospital's emergency room staff.*

*We used local restaurant Pourfavor to prepare the meals.*





## 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**

**February 2021**

**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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