



GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM



America the Beautiful

“When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them...do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth.” (Deuteronomy 8:12, 18)

Happy Birthday, America!

Back in 1976, as part of our bi-centennial celebration, Tom Phillips, who was Chairman of the Raytheon Corporation, suggested there is a historical cycle in the rise and fall of nations. He said, “Bondage leads to faith. Faith produces courage. Courage leads to freedom. Freedom produces abundance. Abundance leads to selfishness. Selfishness produces complacency. Complacency leads to apathy. Apathy produces fear. Fear leads to dependency. And dependency produces bondage.”

And he asked, “Where in the cycle are we?” As we approach our nation’s 245th birthday it’s a question worth pondering again. On the one hand, there is so very much to be thankful for, so much to be proud of in our remarkable history. And yet every day we are confronted with the reality that we still have a long way to go if we are to be that “more perfect union” our Founders dreamed of.

I hope that, as we celebrate this Fourth of July, you will join me in giving thanks for the natural majesty and beauty of this land, for the rich resources of our nation, for the men and women who have made this country strong, for the torch of liberty that has been lit here that draws people from every nation to our shores, for the faith we have inherited in all its richness.

And let us ask the Lord to help us finish the good work here begun, to strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, to abolish poverty and crime, and to hasten the day when all our people, with many voices united in one great chorus will glorify God’s holy Name.



As an ancient prayer put it: “Grant that we may not rest until all people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Mary Anne



Thy Word

Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear, as long as you are near
Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

I will not forget, your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering;
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to your side
I will love you to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Are you a person who enjoys the extra daylight in summer? I know I do! The earlier sunrise and the later sunset seem to be good for my mental well-being. Sometimes when we are in the dark days of winter, it can be harder to embrace the light.

We are so blessed because God's light is constant and is always there for us to tap into. Whether we are feeling up or feeling down, Jesus is always there for us. The song, "Thy Word" is one of my favorite Contemporary Christian songs from the 1980's. The words speak to this so well. The Choir will be singing this song on Sunday, July 11th so be sure to come and "re-charge" your light.

As we begin to look ahead to September, our choirs will once again come together for rehearsals on Thursday evenings. We have a Handbell Choir (plays in worship 3-4 times/year) and an Adult Chancel Choir (grades 7+) that all are welcome to come and be a part of. As we have gone through the pandemic, we have all realized just how important the connection to each other is. These 2 musical groups within our church are not just about making music, but are wonderful fellowship opportunities as well.

If you have any questions about the music program or would like to request a special hymn, please send me a note to: peputnam@yahoo.com

Enjoy the extra light and let it help you recharge your batteries!

Stay Cool!

~Paul



We were blessed to have Peggy Muse fill our Sanctuary with beautiful music while Paul was on vacation! Thank you Peggy!

WELCOME TABLE

We hope you will be willing to take a turn preparing light refreshments to be enjoyed before and after worship. Sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table.



JEWELS Third Tuesday of every month 7pm Sisters in Christ

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!

Next Jewels Gathering

July 20th - 7:00 pm

Hosted by Mary Haddad -4950 Exeter Drive

Devotions - Ginny Fly

~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~ Third Tuesday of every month 7pm

Please Join Us!

July 20th - 7:00 pm

Cazadores Restaurant, located at
1701 N. Main Street in Suffolk.

If you have any questions please contact:
Roger Burton 757-373-2817 or 757-373-4080

YOU ARE INVITED

Your Oakland Church Family and your Shepherds are inviting you to a Shepherd Covered Dish Lunch after church on Sunday, **July 18th.**

We ask that you bring either a vegetable, starch, salad or desert and we will provide the chicken and drink.

Please put the date on your calendar and *R.S.V.P.* to your Shepherd, or the Church Office to let us know if you are coming.

Don't miss getting to meet and know more of our Church Family and enjoy our first meal together in our new building The Community Life Center!



"9:00 AM Adult "Friendship Class" 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School Class

There is plenty of room at the table in these Sunday School Classes
Please come be a part of this wonderful group of Christians.



10 am Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study
We meet every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am in the Godwin Room for an hour.

All are welcomed!



OUTREACH

Oakland's Global Mission

These basic homes are being constructed in Honduras to replace those lost in last years' hurricanes and mudslides. The homes are 20' x 20' and cost about \$2,500. They include indoor plumbing and an oven, amenities that most Hondurans have never had before. Each family is helping construct its own home and is responsible for finishing its walls. The Outreach Committee and Council has agreed to help fund one home. We have an anonymous donor who has offered to pay for half a home.

Please consider making a donation! Make checks payable to Oakland Christian Church and write "Amigos de Honduras" in the memo. You can also pay through Realm and choose the fund Amigos de Honduras.

Thanks for any help you might lend.





Graham Shearin	3	Ella Mae Winslow	11	Betsy Wegman	20
Harper Wilson	3	Megan Harrell	12	CF Jordan	22
Kendra Gup	5	Daniel Brower	14	Luke McCann	22
Gary Butler	6	Braedon Harris	15	Denise Spady	23
Cindy Cowan	6	Jenna Langston	17	Tamika Blanchette	24
John Johnson	6	Breanne Presson	17	Brenda Hodgson	25
Brad Whitley	9	Lisa Whitley	17	William Brennecke	26
		Pam Saunders	18		

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



Farewell Reception for Pastor Mary ANNE

Sunday, August 15th

After church Community Life Center

Please plan to stay and wish John and Mary Anne the very best!



2021 Congratulations Alex Shearin Windsor High School Graduate

Alex will be attending Tidewater Community College

Congratulations to
Ginny & George Fly
on the birth of
their granddaughter

Ruby Fly
Parents William and Angela



YOGA



Instructor: Brandy Robbins

Yoga Classes are Back!

Thursdays, Beginning July 22

Chair Yoga, in person or Zoom
4:00 - 4:45

Beginner Friendly Mat Class
5:15 - 6:00
\$7/class

Questions: Contact Pam Saunders - 757-635-8125

Summertime

"Summertime and the living is easy." That's what the favorite old song says. The **living** may be easy, but often the **giving** is not. Summer collections often drop significantly because of vacation travel, sports schedules and other activities that cause members to miss church. We know many of our families are planning to get away for some summer fun and relaxation in the next couple of months, and we pray your vacation time will be safe and a source of many happy memories.



If you find that you tend to forget your envelope more often during the less structured weeks of summer, then please consider our electronic giving program. Go to Oakland Christian UCC's website *and just click on the online giving link. Videos provide the "How To" for the two options we have – Realm or On-line Banking.* It's simple! It's safe! And it keeps God at the top of your giving list even when you are away!

Have fun! We look forward to seeing you when you return!

From Your Stewardship Committee



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

JULY 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: Anne Spady

Telephone: (757) 255-4353
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Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com



Website:
www.OaklandUCC.org