



# GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

**JUNE 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,

I once had the opportunity to worship with members of the Vision Church of Chicago. They are an independent Korean church seeking to join the UCC. They had about 25 members in church on that Sunday and the entire service was in Korean. Despite not understanding a single word, as I sat there I got a "feel" for the sense and spirit of worship. It was an interesting experience because even though there were only a small number in a large sanctuary, the people who came to worship sang like they were a 100 member choir. They sang with gusto ... they sang out ... they sang with spirit and feeling; and as I listened to the singing I felt there was a real desire to be there ... to sing praise to God ... to join with other Christians to worship God. Even though I couldn't understand what was being said or sung, I could "feel" the spirit and pulse of worship, and it was good, lively, spirited and uplifting. It makes me wonder if people came to our church and didn't know a word of English, what would they "feel?" People who visit our church may make a decision on whether or not they return based (in part) on what they feel, sense and experience from being with us. What would they sense or take away from their time worshipping with us?

Does our church have SPIRIT? I believe that we do, and this summer is the time to let it shine. We will joyfully return to our beloved sanctuary on June 6<sup>th</sup>. While we have been more than fortunate to have had the wonderful Family Life Center available to us during this past year, I know that many of you are as anxious as I am to be back in the pews. We have been blessed in recent months with a number of visitors, and we may have more as we have been the only UCC church in our Association to be worshipping in person. I believe that folks are anxious to get back to worship. Let's make sure they feel like they are charter members of our church each time they walk in the door. Let's all try our best to be intentional about keeping our SPIRIT of hospitality alive this summer as we invite, receive and care for those who are strangers. Let us offer to all a spiritual home so that they can discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ. Let us always be mindful to *"not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."* (Hebrews 13:2)

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Mary Anne



**We are moving our Sunday Worship Service  
back to the sanctuary on  
June 6th!**



**Please stay Sunday, June 13th  
for the Church Conference  
immediately following worship.**



# Music Corner

Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

He is exalted the King is exalted on high  
I will praise Him  
He is exalted forever exalted  
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord  
Forever His truth shall reign Heaven and Earth  
Rejoice in His holy name  
He is exalted the King is exalted on high

“He is Exalted” by Twila Paris is one of my all-time favorite praise songs. The words, the uplifting music, and the energy that goes into this song helps to make such a strong statement of praise to our God! I continue to praise God for the highs and the lows of life because as we know life is a journey and sometimes a bumpy one at that.

I can’t begin to tell you how wonderful it feels to be able to share the music making with others during worship! It has been a great joy this month to have both a men’s and women’s ensemble sing during worship. This is all part of the warm-up to welcome back the Chancel Choir to our sanctuary and worship on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>!

As we move into the rhythm of summertime and family vacations and activities, we look forward to worshiping and singing together once again in our beloved sanctuary. It will be a great thrill to bring back the organ as a part of our worship service! What hymns have you missed singing during worship? Send me an email ([peputnam@yahoo.com](mailto:peputnam@yahoo.com)) and I will be happy to work them in throughout the summer. □

I will have some vacation time this summer where Marti & I will travel to our little cottage in Willimantic, CT. We did not make it there last summer and are anxious to get back and see our family and friends in New England. While we are away, I am so grateful that Peggy Muse will ably step in and play the piano and lead the musical part of our worship. How fortunate we are!

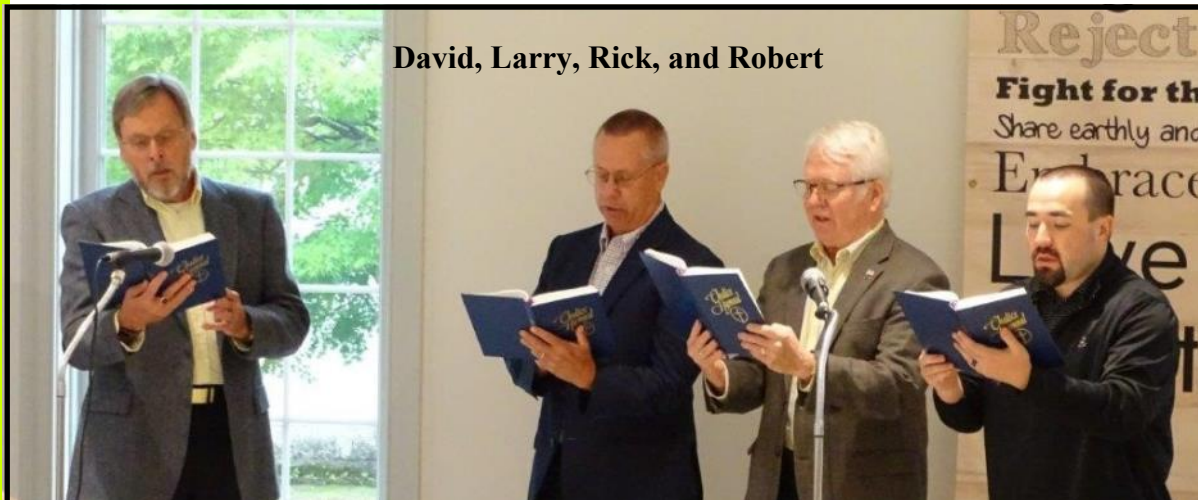
As we begin to move out of this terrible pandemic, may we continue to Rejoice in His Holy Name!

Peace & Blessings,

~Paul



Peggy, Pat, Rainell, Katthy, Suzanne, Danna, and Kirsten



David, Larry, Rick, and Robert

## ***Holy Grounds is Back!***

We will begin worshipping in our beautiful sanctuary June 6, and Holy Grounds will be back! We will begin with a soft start, offering prepared snacks and bottled drinks. Hopefully we will be back to our usual homemade items and coffee in a month or two. June Sundays are taken care of, but sign up sheets will begin in July. We hope you will be willing to take a turn preparing light refreshments to be enjoyed before and/or after worship.

## ***Children's Church Is Available***

During Sunday Worship Pastor Mary Anne invites the youth to the Chancel for a short story of Faith, Hope, and Love. Following the story they are invited to exit the sanctuary with a Church team member and proceed to the classroom. Youth can be picked up after worship.

## ***Nursery Is Available***

During the Worship service, we provide Nursery and Childcare for infants and toddlers.

You will see a familiar face! Ann Spady is back as the Nursery attendant for the summer!

If you wish to stay for the 11 am Adult Sunday School Class the Nursery attendant will stay for you to attend Sunday School.



## **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 all are welcomed!**

**June 15th - 7:00 pm to 8:30pm**  
**Kirsten Creely and Carole Matt - Hosting**  
**1012 Cathedral Drive, Suffolk, VA**  
**Carole Matt - Presenting the Devotion**

## ***SAVE THE DATE!***

Fall Fest is back! Our annual Fall Fest will be October 30, 2021. Please think about ways you can serve! Details will be coming. Many traditional item such as Brunswick Stew, Pimento Cheese, Chicken Salad, Silent Auction, Candy, Jam and Jellies will be part of the event. Who knows what other creative ideas might materialize? The sky will be the limit as we hold our first Community Life Center Fall Fest. We will need all thinking caps and hands on deck!

Questions? Contact Denise Spady or Pam Saunders





## ***9:00 AM Adult Sunday School Class Friendship Class***

Announcing that our Friendship Sunday School class will resume meeting in-person Sunday mornings in the Godwin Room. There is plenty of room at the table in this Sunday School as we begin our summer series. Please come be a part of this wonderful group of Christians.

June 6th ~ Freed from Worry  
 June 13th ~ Delivered from Fear  
 June 20th ~ Healed by Faith  
 June 27th ~ Rescued from Doubt



## ***11:00 AM Adult Sunday School Class***

I am joyfully announcing that our Adult Sunday School class that has been meeting on Zoom on Wednesday evenings is returning to gathering in-person at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Godwin Room on **June 6<sup>th</sup>**.

We are reviewing a side-by-side comparison of the events recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. We will make our own assessments of how the three Gospels agree with, complement, and/or differ from each other.

The book we will be using is Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels by Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr. You can order this book on either Amazon or ebay and if you are unable to find a copy, I will be happy to help you. In fact, for our first meeting we will be talking about the Gospels in general so don't worry if you don't have the book. **I hope you will come and join us!**

Blessings,  
 Pastor Mary Anne

## ***10 am Bible Study***



***Wednesday Bible Study resumed in-person June 2nd and what a joyous reunion it was! We had a good restart and hope to see everyone next week.***

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

***All are welcomed!***





Samantha Bond	7	Peggy Griffin	25
Laura Arcand	10	Ann Spady	26
Mildred King	13	Frances Pierce	28
John Biggs	19	Bill Saunders	29
Marti Putnam	23	Bobby Winslow	29
Jeff Edwards	23	Donna Lancaster	29
Eppi Amoroso	24		

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



*Bill Saunders, Paul Saunders, Leroy Howell, Larry Bounds  
Ann Saunders, Ann Johnson, Ella Mae Winslow, Sandra Butler,*

### Members Not Pictured

Barbara Nelms	Trudy Norfleet
Dorothy Kennedy	Bernice Butler
Charles Johnson	Gary Butler
Leroy Howell	Cleve Johnson
John Gayle	Parker Howell
Iola Saunde	Larry Butler
Frank Staylor	Larry Upton
Marguerite Butler	Shirley Upton
Celia Coughlin	Cheryl Johnson
Addie Austin	Ronnie Kelly
Mildred King	Bobby Nelms
Faye Daniels	Debbie Blanks

*Ann*



Ed Berdick  
Craig Randle  
Heather Burns  
Beverly Whitley  
Jack Knight  
Michael Barrett  
Rev. Harry Shirley  
Patsy Gayle  
Buddy Creekmore  
Sidney Buffkin  
Max Koser  
Sharon Sandusky  
Delmar White

# THANKS

MERCII!

GRACIAS!

Thank  
You!



THANK YOU!

THANKYOU

THANK YOU!



We just want you to know how much we appreciate your faithful giving!  
**Your Stewardship Committee**

Dear Oakland Family,

Words cannot express enough heartfelt gratitude for all that you have done for Paul and me during my recent back surgery recovery. Yours prayers, calls, cards, meals and visits have made us feel loved and cared for. A caring church family is a beautiful gift, and you all exemplify caring for others in the most imaginably comprehensive way ever. We love each and every one of you.

Blessings to all,

Pam and Paul Saunders



Dear Loving Oakland Family-

The outpouring of love and support that my family and I received from all of you after my Mother's (Sharon Sandusky) passing was so touching. The beautiful cards, ham biscuits and prayers have served to hold us up in this challenging time. Most of you never had the opportunity to meet my Mother. She was a well-read and educated woman who welcomed conversation on a broad variety of topics. She was a strong advocate for senior citizen programs and services in Montclair, NJ and hosted a local cable channel talk show for several years to raise awareness. She was the 'story and joke teller' of our family. Her greatest pleasures in life were educating others, making them laugh or cooking for them! Two days before she passed, the hospice nurse came to admit her. What was supposed to be a 1 ½ hour visit turned into 3 ½ hours because my Mother, who was bedridden and in considerable discomfort, had the young hospice nurse in stitches with jokes and family stories from her youth!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and May God Bless-  
 Karen and Mike Schine and Family







## 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**

**JUNE 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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