



GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM

Telephone: (757) 255-4353

Office Hours: 9 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com



Beloved,

I have been reading a book by Rudolf Meyer entitled The Wisdom of Fairy Tales. It touts that the fairy tale, with all its archetypal images, lives on through all the changes and upheavals in the church. I have recognized so many of you in these classic stories. We have "Little Red Hens", who -- even if no one else wants to work -- they will get the job done. Our "Jacks" (from the Beanstalk) help our church climb to new heights. And our "Alices" take us on adventures to discover the wonder of reaching all for Christ.

Our Church Council is made up of all these characters, and they put their very best efforts toward making our church soar. But do you know why else we're going to soar? Because not one person on our Council is "Goldilocks"... that hard-to-please... never-satisfied Goldilocks. "It's too hot. It's too cold. It's too hard. It's too soft." You know Goldilocks, the chronic whiner... rarely -- if ever -- happy. Well, we're all very grateful that she's not one of us, but I have to admit that there have been times in my life that I could have been called Goldilocks. Here are some of the "fine whines" that I have uncorked, and what I have discovered to be their cures:

Whine #1: "It's impossible!" We often feel like we're hitting a brick wall. On some days, nothing works, and there seems to be no way out of our problems. **The Cure: "Anything's possible!"** Think about these words: "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). It's time that we Christians take a bold stand for God. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). Dream the impossible, and then ask God for it. All things are possible! Only believe!

Whine #2: "We've never done it that way before!" The sign at the fork in the dirt road reads, "Pick your rut carefully because you'll be in it for the next 40 miles!" The church often gets stuck in ruts because humans, for some reason, distrust change. **The Cure: "We have the opportunity to be the first!"** After Peter visited the home of the Gentile Cornelius, he was actually confronted by the church board! The early church had never done ministry this way before. Peter responded by saying in Acts 11:16-17, "Then I remembered what the Lord had said... [and] who was I to think that I could oppose God?" When God leads us to new ventures or creative alternatives, we need to step out with the confidence that we're accomplishing God's will. What an exciting adventure we can have when God asks us to take the road less traveled -- or even more exhilarating, to blaze the trail for the first time!

Whine #3: "No one wants to do it!" Defeatist attitudes lead to fatal public relations. If we aren't enthusiastic about ministry opportunities, why in the world would anyone else be? **The Cure: "We can do it!"** We need to passionately believe that being involved in ministry is the most essential tool for the health of a Christian's spiritual life, for satisfaction with church, and for passion about God. We'll never convince people to serve by being negative. We should never apologize for asking them to get involved in ministry. Let's enthusiastically offer the gift of service because we know that service will bless them.

Here are my final words of wisdom: "fine whines" don't improve with age...they just leave a sour taste in our mouths and in our hearts. So "consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4).

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Mary Anne



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



June 13th immediately
Following worship.



Music Corner

Paul Putnam - Minister of Music
peputnam@yahoo.com

Within these walls, we assemble. Within these walls, we gather in Your name.
As we join our hearts in a holy union, we come to find communion in Your holiness again.
As your children, let us love each other as sisters and as brothers united by Your Love.
We are the branches, You are the Vine. We are the vessels and You are the Wine.
We are the body, You are the Head. For every hunger, You are the Bread.
Within these walls, let us listen. Within these walls, let us pray.

These words and music bring so much meaning together by the inspired composer, Pepper Choplin. We have shared so much of his music in worship because his combination of words and music together are an incredible combination. We do need to listen to the voice of God as we pray. How can we improve the lives of those around us? We can pray for our neighbors, our friends, and the people we don't know. The world will be a much better place if we approached people we didn't know or understand by first praying for them.

As I write these words, there is a feeling of great hope that we are beginning to see the beginnings of a "sense of normalcy" return to our daily lives. As more and more people are fully vaccinated, the more comfortable all of us will be that the pandemic will be in the rear view mirror. I am anxiously awaiting new information and guidance for group singing indoors. Currently, the guidance requires those singing in a "group" to be 6 ft. apart and masked (even if vaccinated).

Spring is a time of hope in Christ. Let us continue to be hopeful in His name!

Musically Yours,
~Paul



Eagle Scout Project Update

Big thanks to all for your support of my Eagle Scout project. Thanks to the generous support I have received, I have enough funding to complete the foot bridge. I just recently received final approval on my plan from the Boy Scouts and should be able to start building soon!

Thanks again,
William Brennecke





Ralph Howell	02	Kirsten Creely	09	Molly Nelms	21
Brian Helms	05	Michael McNerney	14	Paul Putnam	22
Jackie Saunders	05	Charles Johnson	15	Lorraine Gayle	26
Rainell Rowell	07	Lisa Trombley	19	Gabe Hathaway	26
Kelsey Blanks	08	Pat Branche	20	Nancy Spady	26
Karen Schine	08	Marguerite Butler	20	David Adams	29

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



Clayton James Curliss

Baptized April 4, 2021

Mother - Sonora Curliss

Grandmothers - Sharon Curliss and Toya Nash

Godparents Beth and Tristan Burke



Maundy Thursday Service The Service of Tenebrae

- 1st reading: Shadow of betrayal ~ Carole Matt
- 2nd reading: Shadow of desertion ~ Sharon Burton
- 3rd reading: Agony of the soul ~ Danna Vroman
- 4th reading: Unshared vigil ~ Ralph Howell
- 5th reading: Father, the hour is come ~ Susie Eaton
- 6th reading: That they may all be one ~ Dana Mitchell
- 7th reading: Arrest in the garden ~ Penny Hathaway
- 8th reading: The Word was God ~ Kyle Blanks
- 9th reading: The Word was man ~ Sharon Winslow



*Christ
is
Risen!*



Easter Sunday Morning 2021!



*Thank you
Peggy Muse for
The musical
accompaniment.*

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to
putting The Flowering Cross Up!*



*Susie, Kathy, Aubri, Pam, Connie, Pat & Rainell
Not pictured - Larry, Jeff and Yoda*



*Annual Picture at
The Flowering Cross
Harper, Aubri, Lincoln and Kasie*

April's Youth Event - Thank You to the BOCE.



Harper, Olivia, Aubri, Kendall, Helena, Emma, Nicole, Kayla,
Thank you Clare and Dori, Jesse and Connie for working with these young youth.



We had some visitors!
Jeff and Connie Edwards'
grandchildren.

Women's Bible Study Interest Form

Hello, women of Oakland! The Board of Christian Education is looking at setting up a women's Bible study program, and we'd like to hear from you about the type of programming you'd be interested in, if any. We'd really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey below, and return it by mailing it to the church office, emailing a picture or the document to **OaklandBOCE@gmail.com**, or dropping it off in the collection basket on Sundays. Thank you for your time and input! And, men of Oakland, please do not feel left out! We are starting with the ladies, but we will be asking for your opinion soon!

1. Are you interested in participating in a women's Bible study program in the near future? (please circle one) YES NO

2. Please note how interested you are in each type of study listed below.

1 = not at all, 2 = very little interest, 3 = I could go either way, 4 = pretty interested, 5 = very interested

_____ Biblical Text – examines books, verses, or chapters of the Bible.

_____ Topical – examines topics that apply to your life such as marriage, child rearing, finances, etc.

_____ Biographical – examines the life and role of a specific person/group in the Bible.

_____ Book Club – examines Christian-based fiction & non-fiction texts covering various topics

_____ Couples Class – join other couples from Oakland to explore and learn teachings from the Bible

3. **Which format do you prefer for programming? (please rank 1st, 2nd, 3rd)**

_____ video-based _____ workbook-based _____ teacher-driven

4. **Which format do you prefer for program delivery? (choose all that would work for you)**

_____ In-person at church _____ In-person in someone's home

_____ Via Zoom or other online video conferencing platform

5. **Thinking about your schedule, when would be the best time to hold these meetings? (choose all that would work for you)**

_____ During a week day _____ Sundays before church

_____ An evening during the week _____ Sundays after church

6. Would having available childcare help you be able to attend? (please circle one) YES NO

7. Would you be interested in facilitating a futures women's Bible study program? (please circle one)
YES NO

Name (optional): _____

Lake Prince Woods members are happy to be back at church!

They wore
their
masks.
They took
them off
to get a
quick
picture!

We are
blessed!



Thank you
John Matt for driving!

Thank you
Jeff Edwards for
getting the bus
in shape!



OUTREACH

Oakland's Food Pantry: there is good news and better news! As the Mission Outreach Committee was working on developing a more robust food pantry for our community, we learned that Healthy Suffolk was looking to partner with us in this endeavor! They have lots of experience and funding as well as excitement for this project. Oakland has lots of passionate and generous volunteers as well as a history of being a good neighbor in Chuckatuck. So, our original plans as mentioned in the last newsletter are being to revised and expanded with our new partner! We look forward to having something concrete to share in the June Tidings. It's going to be delicious!

Kim Waller
Moderator



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

MAY 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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