



GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2021
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM



Beloved,

As the time draws near for my retirement, I am keenly aware of a sweet sorrow inhabiting my heart. It is sweet because of this time of ministry I have shared with you. It is sorrow because I now say goodbye.

There are not enough words to thank you for the love, kindness and support you have shown to me during these years. Through our shared worship and ministry, I have been privileged to witness the love of God, and the presence of the Risen Christ in our midst. I have seen the Holy Spirit made manifest as we have prayed together, studied together and have been blessed to be able to baptize new Christians, marry those who have come to commit themselves before God to each other, and to bury those we have loved. For those opportunities I give God thanks and praise, and I thank you for ministering alongside me, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful to all of you who have sent me notes, cards, and e-mails thanking me and affirming my ministry and offering your love to John and me. Your expressions of kindness have buoyed my spirit and strengthened my faith. Your gestures of love mean more to me than you can ever know. Please know that I love you, will always love this good church and will miss you terribly.

As we now separate, one from the other, I want to ask your forgiveness for any mistakes I have made that may have done any harm or caused you any heartache. I will always remain grateful for the ways my ministry among you has been received and as I leave I will forever carry with me all that I have learned and experienced, all of the love I have received, which in the end, is what should most be remembered anyway.

I know in my heart that Oakland Christian UCC will continue to be a beacon of hope for the least, the last, the lost and the lonely. Therefore, be strong and of good courage, do not lose heart, remember that God is with you, be the church, love one another, serve the Lord.

In our parting, I can think of no better words to share with you than these penned by the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi. "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1. 3-6).

Now let us step into the future in peace, and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Grace, peace, and love,
Pastor Mary Anne



FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR MARY ANNE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH
AFTER CHURCH IN THE
COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER

PLEASE PLAN TO STAY AND WISH
JOHN AND MARY ANNE THE BEST



Thank
You

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for your tremendous hospitality shown in so many ways, from food, to visits, phone calls, and continued prayers during my health challenge. It has been quite a challenge for me.

I am healing and hope to be back at one hundred percent before too many weeks. Many Thanks for being there for us and supporting us through this journey.

Warmest Regards,
Wayne A. Gardner

MANY THANKS TO THE DEACONS FOR HOSTING OUR FIRST CHURCH LUNCHEON
IN OUR COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER!



Announcing a called Church Conference on August 22nd,
immediately following worship,
to approve the Pastoral Search Committee.

The appointees are: Jesse Burgess, Suzanne Langston, Clare Mitchell,
Mary Ann Riddick, Carole Matt, Robert Fly,




Music Corner

Paul Putnam - Minister of Mu-

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Fanny Crosby

To God be the Glory, great things he hath done:
 So loved he the world that he gave us his son,
 Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
 and opened the life gate that all may go in

REFRAIN

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
 And give him the glory, great things he hath done.

Fanny Crosby wrote this hymn in 1870 and its words speak just as true today as they did over 150 years ago. Crosby was a prolific hymn writer in the 1800's with thousands of songs and hymns attributed to her. Her other most well known hymn is, "Blessed Assurance". Crosby understood and shared the words of the Christian faith so eloquently that they have lived on in the hearts and minds of Christians around the world.

"Praise the Lord" for the ministry of Rev. Mary Anne Biggs over the past 3 years. After more than 30 years in music ministry, I can truly say that I will miss Rev. Mary Anne and the true partnership we have had leading worship at Oakland. Week after week, planning and leading worship together has been a tremendous joy. We have been blessed to have Rev. Mary Anne with us!

As we look towards September, we are planning to resume a regular schedule of Handbell Choir rehearsals & Chancel Choir Rehearsals on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30PM & 7:30PM respectively. If you have any interest in being part of either of these 2 music ensemble groups, please let me or another choir member know. You are welcome!! Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 9th.

"To God Be the Glory" for the music ministry at Oakland, and all of those who contribute to make it a beautiful worship experience each Sunday.

Musically Yours,
 ~ Paul



Jonathan Putnam	1	Clare Mitchell	17
Barbara Bainbridge	4	Sandy Butler	20
Kathy Bounds	5	Faye Daniels	20
Chris Hathaway	5	Mary Anne Biggs	20
Suzanne Langston	5	Cheri Babler	21
Sharon Burton	10	Frank Spady	23
Diane Saunders	10	Larry Bounds	23
Bill Felton	10	Betty Rhodes	23
June Felton	11	Sandy Barton	25
Connie Burgess	13	Larry Riddick	28
Corey Blanchette	13	Chanel Eaton	30

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



Fall Fest is back!

SAVE THE DATE

October 30, 2021

Please think about ways you can serve! Details will be coming. Many traditional items 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? Please contact Denise Spady or Pam Saunders

Back To School



Oakland Elementary School

Wish List 2021-2022

**Please drop off supplies in the Fellowship Hall
by Monday, August 23rd**

Student Wish List

- Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils
- Index Cards, Glue Sticks,
- Notebook Paper, Spiral notebooks
- Composition Notebooks, Scissors

Teacher Wish List

- Dry Erase Markers
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tissue, Pens and Sharpies
- Clipboards

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

August 17th - 7:00 pm

Hosted by Sharon Creekmore - 1259 Murphy's Mill Road
Devotions - Ginny Fly



~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

Third Tuesday of every month 7pm

Please Join Us!

August 17th - 7:00 pm

Sapporo Steak House & Sushi Bar

729 N Main St, Suffolk, VA 23434 757-539-9968

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

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

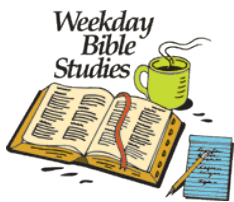
\$7/class

Questions: Contact Pam Saunders - 757-635-8125



***"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

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

All are welcomed!



We are not meeting in August but we will pick back up in September!



We need a shot in the arm. Our numbers aren't looking good. Can you help us?

No – we're not talking about a vaccine!

If you look at the numbers in our weekly bulletin, you'll see that our expenses have now outpaced our giving.

Throughout the pandemic, we have stayed ahead of the bills. Let's get back to that position! If each family gives just a little extra, we'll soon be ahead of the game again.

Thanks for your help!

And in thanking for your help, the Stewardship Committee would like to thank Pastor Mary Anne for all her help and support to this committee in so many ways. We wish her many happy years together with John, but this committee will miss her immensely.

God Speed in Your New Life,

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

August 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
Office Hours: 9 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com



Website:
www.OaklandUCC.org

