

JANUARY 2022

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

"Celebrating 150 years of Faith, Hope, and Love"

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM



Website: www.oaklanducc.org

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Ph # 757-255-4353



The year 2021 has come to a close. By this time most of the 2021 resolutions have already been broken or renegotiated. The fact of the matter though, is we are into a new year. What the new year will be like or end like, no one knows.

For many of us, we will do the same things we did the year before. It's called routine. For some of us there will be some changes, some of our own making, and others made for us.

What we have before us at this moment, like every new year, as every day, is the challenge to live it as fully as we are able. To meet its uncertainty with courage, its changes with resiliency, its opportunities with excitement and adventure. And most of all to meet the new year with confidence and faith in God as each new path is traveled and each new event encountered.

I don't know what 2022 will bring. I have some hopes, some dreams, some goals; but I don't really know. Whatever it brings, if I can receive and give that human touch which keeps us going both during moments of triumph and tragedy, then none of us will be held ransom by the unseen and unexpected.

Too, if I can just end 2022 with the important pieces of life in tack, deeper faith in Christ, and continuing fellowship and enjoyment of my children, my wife, my brothers, Peggy's family, my church family and my friends, then God will truly have blessed me, no matter what else may come.

Happy New Year and blessings upon you and your household.

Eddie



Jesse Williams	6	William Fly	21
Alex Shearin	14	Robert Fly	21
Aubri Wilson	14	Lisa Arcand	25
Jackie Pierce	15	Connie Edwards	27
George Fly	16	Jesse Burgess	27
Mary Jane Naismith	18	Becky Brennecke	27
Kevin Kennedy	19	Wilma Roth	31
Gavin Billings	21	Chris Bryan	31



Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

Music Corner

Behold the star! Behold the star up yonder!

Behold the star! It is the star of Bethlehem

There was no room found in the inn, for Him who was born free from sin.

The wise men came from the East, to worship Him, the "Prince of Peace".

A song broke forth upon the night. Peace on earth, good-will to all.

It is the star of Bethlehem.

Happy New Year 2022! What a beautiful advent and Christmas journey we have been on as we all seek the Star of Bethlehem. This hymn, "Behold the Star" helps to remind us that we need to stop and think about what the Star of Bethlehem means to us now in 2022. We are so fortunate to have Jesus in our lives.

Oakland Christian UCC continues to beam bright. I continue to be filled with gratitude for everyone who helps make our music ministry come alive not just during the holiday season, but each week throughout the year. May 2022 be a year where we begin to see and feel that we are heading towards a new sense of normalcy. May the star continue to guide us!

Peace and Blessings,

Paul

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The search committee is continuing to receive and review profiles for our new minister. Following a lull due to the holiday season, we have refreshed and polished our church profile in order to attract a new crop of interested profiles. As we find suitable candidates, we begin the interviewing process.



We appreciate everyone's continued support and prayers as we work towards selecting the best fit for Oakland's future.

Dani Howell
Chair

Rob Rhodes, Jesse Burgess, Suzanne Langston, Clare Mitchell, Mary Ann Riddick, Carole Matt, and Robert Fly

Kids

FRIDAY FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP! AT OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

14
JAN

Grades PK-5
6:00-8:00 pm

EVENT COMPONENTS

DINNER: LITTLE CEASAR'S CHEESE AND PEPPERONI PIZZA!

PLAY TIME & GAMES

CRAFT TIME

STORY TIME

VIDEO TIME

SNACK TIME

PLEASE RSVP TO CONNIE BURGESS
jesseandconnieburgess@gmail.com, or 757-635-8710
BEFORE 9:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, January 12, 2022

Suffolk Winter Shelter for the Homeless



Due to the ongoing pandemic, the CDC recommendations are that individuals should not be in a congregate shelter and The Suffolk Winter Shelter received a federal and local CARES Act grant to provide refuge in hotels like they did last year. This is restricted to literally homeless adults who would otherwise be sleeping outside. The homeless still need food and that is where local area churches like us, can help with this vital community need.

Oakland signed up to assist in providing meals for four days February 17th thru the 20th.

This will be a “no contact” daily delivery. We will prepare the meals and assemble them here at the church and make one daily delivery.

Dana Mitchell is the lead on this project and more information and sign up sheets will be out in a few weeks.



*“Good News”
from
the Legacy Committee*

The church has received an additional gift representing the final distribution from the estate of David Sawyer. He had stipulated that the remainder of his estate be bequeathed to Oakland. As before, his desire was that the money be used where most needed, so no restrictions are placed on the donation.

David and Marty were active, vital members of Oakland for many years. Marty was the church secretary when Rev. Mark Burns was pastor here and David was our photographer and videographer. The Legacy Committee will recommend to council that the money be used for technology.



The 2022 Stewardship Campaign is over and the committee would like to thank Pastor Eddie for his four enlightening sermons on Stewardship, the cast for their humorous parts in the “Collection Plate” skit, Connie for the bulletin inserts each Sunday and the Commitment packages each of you re-

ceived in the mail.

This year church members were given two Options on their commitment cards: 1) Specify a fixed amount per week, month, quarterly, etc. or 2) Give as much as you can as often as you can. Our Financial Secretary, Janice Roberts, reported that to date 46 Commitment Cards have been turned in for a total of:

- ⇒ \$178,340 that has been pledged
- ⇒ Over 21% committed to Give What You Can

It is also never too late to send in your commitment card!

Once again, the generosity of our congregation is truly outstanding!



Thanks to Kyle Arcand for the helpful advice he gave at Stewardship’s “Tax Help” Seminar held on Dec. 5th. We now know how to save more money on our taxes and will be looking for how tax changes in 2022 can affect us!!

Our committee is happy to welcome Otto Wegman as a new member on this committee and looks forward to the wisdom and experience he will bring to our group.

Your Stewardship Committee



~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

7:00 pm on January 18th

The guys will meet at Wharf Hill Brewing Co.
25 Main Street, Smithfield

Please Join Them!

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



JEWELS

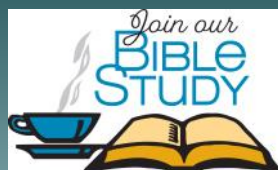
Third Tuesday of every month 7pm

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
January 18th—7:00 pm

Hosted by Mary Anne Riddick and Sharon Burton
at Church in the Community Life Center



Every
Tuesday
10 am

Studying The Old Testament
with Pastor Eddie
is a very interesting and a fun class

All are welcomed!



Holy Grounds—Sunday Welcome Table



Do you enjoy a cup of coffee and a snack or two before or after church? Well, lots of folks do and the Holy Grounds table is a great way of providing a light snack, welcoming new people to our church, and encouraging fellowship.

The table is located along the left side of our Fellowship Hall and we need folks to sign up to provide food and drink items. Some sweets (be they home made or bought), fruit and juice are all that are needed. If course, any light food you prefer to make is welcome. There is a sign up sheet at the table. Coffee grounds are in the kitchen for anyone's use.

PLEASE sign up to help! Remember, many hands make light work!

Oakland Outreach

There is a tremendous amount of growth in our community and we need to find ways to let our new (and old) neighbors know about our wonderful church. If you would like to join a group of folks whose purpose is to brainstorm ideas and help implement plans, please call Pam Saunders. There is work to be done and we are looking for interested folks to create an Outreach Team!

OUTREACH



Sign up for a team or committee during January!
Sign up table in Fellowship Hall
It's the best way to get to know your church family

December in Pictures



Started off with the
Hanging of the Greens!

Church
Advent
Activity



And the delivery of
our Angel Tree Gifts



Kettle Bell Ringers



THE VROMANS



THE MITCHELLS AND FRIEND



THE PHILLIPS



THE BURTONS



THE SISTERS!



THE SAUNDERS



THE JORDANS



The
Bell
Choir



The
Chancel
Choir

Giving The Children's Message



All About
the
Beginning of
Advent

All
About
Joy



All About
Love
and the
Christmas
Tree

The Lighting of the Advent Candles



The Candles of :

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

And the Christ Candle

May all these things
be with you

Gods Love for Us

Rev. Dr. Eddie Walker



JOIN US ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY

CELEBRATING 150
YEARS

OUR ROOTS ARE
PLANTED FIRMLY
ON FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE

Est. 1872

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

JANUARY 2022

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Interim Pastor: Rev. Eddie Walker
Minister of Music: Paul E. Putnam
Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Connie Edwards
Financial Secretary: Janice Roberts
Nursery Attendant: Kimberly Curliss

Telephone: (757) 255-4353
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www.OaklandUCC.org