

JOIN US ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY
CELEBRATING 150
YEARS
OUR ROOTS ARE
PLANTED FIRMLY
ON FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE
Est. 1872

MAY 2022
GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC
"Celebrating 150 years of Faith, Hope, and Love"
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM

Website: www.oaklanducc.org email: office@oaklanducc.com Ph # 757-255-4353

MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By: Ann Johnson, Oakland's Historian

Sunday School, Bible School, and Children's Church

Sunday School

When I was a little girl, we had Sunday school every Sunday. The Sunday school was the backbone of the church, because we had morning worship, "preaching", only two Sunday's a month. Sunday school started at 9:30 am. We met in the Fellowship Hall, had opening prayer, sang a hymn, and went upstairs to our classroom where we had a Bible lesson. At the end of the 35 minutes, a bell rang and we came back in the Fellowship Hall, heard attendance reports and announcements, had a prayer and sang a last hymn. That was the Sunday school of 1925, 1955, 1995. Until a few years ago, we had a very large Sunday school, so large that in 1954, we built the Children's Annex with 4 classrooms.

Bible School

In 1949, Mrs. Mildred Knight, with the help of the minister and his wife, organized the first Bible School. The third week of June, children came to Oakland where they met in the Fellowship Hall, sang a hymn, heard a Scripture read, and then went to a class for their age group. They had different kinds of activities in the classes—stories, learning Bible verse, and working on crafts. Then they went to the Music Class where they learned new songs, maybe with actions. Next there was play time, outside most often—tag, follow the leader, or dodge ball. When the bell sounded, they returned to the Fellowship Hall for closing exercises. Last Sunday you heard Miss Kimmy tell you that Oakland will be having Bible School this summer! It will be exciting and I hope you will come!

Children's Church

In 1988, Children's Church began for young ones between 3 and 10 years of age. After the Children's Message, you go upstairs to the Children's Department where there are two large rooms. One is the worship area: it has three little pews and a speaker's stand. What do you do? - I imagine you sing, pray, have a Bible Story and talk about the story. In the other room there are several tables pushed together with chairs. There I imagine you color pictures, work on crafts or build something. Then there is an open area in the room where you can play a game or just sit on the floor and roll your truck. At the end of church, your Mom or Dad pick you up and you say good bye to your teachers.

From the beginning we had a very active Sunday scroll for young and old; then came Bible School during the summer for children, then for the whole family; and there's Children's' Church just for you every Sunday morning.



1872



1925



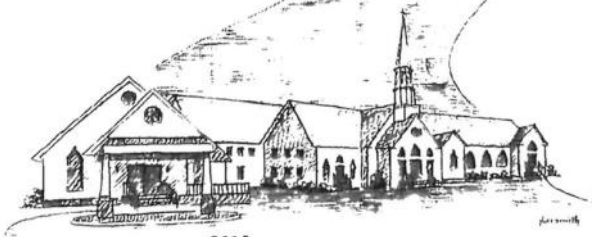
1953



1962



1987



2020

One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration

Please Join Us

Celebrating 150 years
of Faith, Hope, and Love

Oakland Christian

United Church of Christ

Sunday, the twenty-second of May
two thousand twenty two
Anniversary Worship Service
to begin at ten in the morning
Reception to Follow

5641 Godwin Boulevard
Suffolk, Virginia





Do you remember the last time you went to a Homecoming at a church or family gathering? If you are like me, you can still smell the coffee, the aroma of fried chicken, the taste of bean salad, deviled eggs, ham biscuits, homemade brownies, caramel cake, and banana pudding, still lingers in our memory from last homecoming we went to.

Yet, here we are again. We are almost at the door of our homecoming at Oakland Christian United Church of Christ to celebrate 150 years of worship and praise to God and ministry to each other and the community.

As always, we anticipate more of the same experiences of homecomings—sharing fellowship with each other, hear the wonderful sound of music and songs from our choir, and songs of faith from our congregation, and of course the music from our wonderful choir director and organist. We will hear the Sacred text read to encourage us along our journey. We will hear stories of faith from so many who have come through the doors of our church. They have encouraged us along our journey of faith. They have paved the way so that, we like them too, will be people of faith and witness to Christ in the world.

Because so many have come before us, we will rejoice and be glad to go into the community where faith is lived and witness to Christ proclaimed. And yes, after hearing a hopeful message from our Scripture and songs of faith, we will gather at the table. We will break bread together once more. We will savor and enjoy all the great tastes and smells of years past to enjoy and share fellowship once again.

Homecoming is always a very meaningful event for all of us, for we can travel back in time to a place that is special to us in our hearts and minds. No matter how long it has been or how far away we have gone, we are never far from home in our hearts.

Frederic Buchner wrote in his book, “A Crazy Holy Grace: The Healing Power of Pain and Memory,” these words: “When we leave home, we leave behind some scrap of our hearts. It is the same with a place we are going to, only we send a scrap of our hearts ahead.” That little scrap of your heart that you left behind is waiting for you with warm thoughts, and memories, and joy.

Come join us!

Shalom to you,

Pastor Eddie





Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

Music Corner

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

This has been one of my absolute favorite hymns since I was a child and with Oakland's 150th celebration this month it seems appropriate to use it in this writing. Henry Van Dyke penned these words in 1907 to be put with Ludwig Van Beethoven's famous "Ode to Joy" melody from his 9th symphony. What a glorious pairing of words and music!

As part of our 150th celebration on Sunday, May 22nd, we will have a FESTIVAL CHOIR which will share 2 selections during worship that morning. All are welcome to come to a rehearsal on Thursday, May 19th @ 7:30PM and/or join us on Sunday morning, the 22nd @ 9:15AM. The 2 selections are: "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" as arranged by Tom Fettke and "Look at the World" by John Rutter.

If you are interested in participating with the Festival Choir, please send an email to Paul Putnam (peputnam@yahoo.com) or call/text at 757-285-0431. Any current choir member would also be able to help you with any questions. Let's give our Glory and Praise to God as we celebrate Oakland's 150th Anniversary!

In Christ's Love,

~Paul



In August 1968, Mills and Katherine Godwin, much beloved church members, lost their only daughter Becky when she was struck by lightning while vacationing at Virginia Beach with her family. She was their only child and just thirteen years old. At the time, Mills Godwin was serving his second term as Governor of Virginia, with Katherine at his side. One of the immutable legacies of Mills Godwin to our state was making a higher education attainable for all citizens of Virginia. In memory of their beloved daughter, for their great love of children and in their conviction to help those that seek to further their college education, Mills and Katherine began the Becky Godwin Memorial Scholarship Fund at Oakland Christian Church.

- > Applications are available from the church office or by email from the church office.
office@oaklanducc.com Phone: 757-255-4353
- > Applications may be requested now and must be returned by May 29, 2022.
- > Recipient must be a member of Oakland Christian UCC.
- > Scholarships will be awarded during Sunday Worship Service on June 12, 2022.



Ukraine Emergency Appeal

On February 24, the Russian military attacked Ukraine. Millions of persons have already sought refuge outside of Ukraine. Others have remained in the country but are displaced from their homes. The humanitarian crisis is accelerating in Ukraine and in neighboring countries as the violence escalates and the number of people on the move multiplies.

The United Church of Christ is appealing for support for refugees who have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. As a member of the ACT Alliance, UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region.

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as citizens of more than 125 other countries living in Ukraine.

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for Ukraine Relief. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. **Please make your check payable to Oakland UCC and note UCC Ukraine Relief Fund in the memo section.** We will send one check from Oakland to the Ukraine Relief Fund.

Please consider supporting this effort.

We will collect offering until May 15.

OUTREACH



HELP needed

Saturday, May 14th at 8am

We need to paint the cemetery fence that runs across the front of the cemetery.

Just show up! Please bring a 3" paint brush and a rag. If you have a paint scrapper, bring it too!





Vacation Bible School!
07/18/2022 to 07/22/2022
5:15 - 5:55 PM (<-Dinner) 6:00- 8:20 PM (<- Activities)

You're invited to join us at Oakland Christian UCC
For
Knights of North Castle

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." (Ephesians 6:10)

Join the volunteer team as we begin the quest for the king's armor!

For more information or to find out how you can help, call or text
Kimberly Curliss at (757) 630-6575, email kimberlytcurliss@gmail.com,
or go to 2020.cokesburyvbs.com/oaklandchristianchurch.



Ralph Howell	2	Wayne Livesay	18
Brian Helms	5	Pat Branche	20
Jackie Saunders	5	Marguerite Butler	20
Rainell Rowell	7	Paul Putnam	22
Kelsey Blanks	8	Isabelle Langston	25
Karen Schine	9	Lorraine Gayle	26
Kirsten Creely	9	Gabe Hathaway	26
Michael McNerney	14	Nancy Spady	26
Charles Johnson	15	Erin Whitley	27
Hattie Jane Hardison	18	David Adams	29



~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~



17 | 7 PM
May | George's Steak House

George's Steak House
1260 Holland Road
Suffolk, VA 23434

Please Join Us!

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
May 17
7:00 pm

Hosted by Carole Matt and Kirsten Creely
1012 Cathedral Drive
Suffolk, VA 23434
Ph: 757-635-8661
Devotions: Ginny Fly

Yoga Classes are Back!

Starting June 23



Every Thursday Early Evening (times to be advised)
Classes will be in our Community Life Center
Chair Yoga, in person
Beginner Friendly Mat Class

Instructor: Brandy Robbins

Questions: Contact Brandy - 757-613-9364 - mobile



The flowers are
in full bloom
for
Mother's Day!



The major work on the parking lot
is complete.

There are some finishing touches
to be done by the end of May.

WITH
Gratitude 



JOIN US ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY

CELEBRATING 150
YEARS

OUR ROOTS ARE
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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

MAY 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

Office Hours: 10 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com



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