

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



Seeing beauty in the world is not easy, I'm sure, when your world or the world outside you seems to feel and appear so frightful and fearful and even painful. So start with the smallest beauty that is at arms length, something that is within your grasp, whatever it may be, wrap your arms around it, and hold it tight to your heart.

Someone said that “Beauty feeds our souls like food nourishes our bodies. Beauty points us to the transcendent, takes us beyond our finiteness and opens our hearts to that which is greater and larger than ourselves. There is something about great beauty that brings us into the awesome presence of the infinite and the eternal.”

We must never let the dread of life, its uncertainties choke the one seed of beauty that is always seeking to break forth from the crusty dryness of the soul into the brightness of the sunlight to bloom forth with its hope and strength for the moment, or the hour or the day. Leslie Weatherhed, who was a great preacher and thinker said: “Keep a place in life for beauty. He who keeps a little place in his life for beauty will find that it does something for him and in him, and that is a process that goes on when the beauty is no longer before his eyes and ears, like a seed growing secretly in the dark. God, by a secret ministry, can turn the sight of a snowflake into hope and the sight of the dawn into courage“

Stop. Claim the beauty around you. Let those who love you most, and those whom you love most, help the other find the beauty waiting for you to share its song of joy, love, awe, and wonderment of life. Let God use the beauty God has created to awaken in you the desire for more beauty and life and God.

Pastor, Eddie



SUNDAY - JULY 10th
Following Worship
NO waiting - we will eat right
after worship is over!

Church provides fried chicken and drinks.
Please bring a dish to share!



Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

The Servant Song

Music Corner

Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on the journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you, in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, yill we've seen this journey through.

The "Servant Song" is a newer hymn, but really speaks to the servant nature of Christ's church. Whenever I think about this hymn, I think about Oakland and the servant heart of the people here at Oakland UCC. What a wonderful gift to the community to be able to open our doors and share our time, treasure, & talents.

As we take some time here and there to recharge our batteries over the slower pace of summer-time, may we continue to move forward with a sense of gratitude for all that we have been given.

Do you have a favorite hymn that we haven't sung in awhile? Send Paul a note (peputnam@yahoo.com) or leave a note on the piano in the choir room.

Happy Summer!

~Paul



It has been 9 months since the Search Committee was formed. Thus far, we have received a total of 10 profiles. The volume of profiles has been less than we hoped for but we are confident that, though the process may not be quick, we will find the right fit for Oakland. We have reached out to four candidates and have been able to interview one candidate. The committee was impressed by the candidate we interviewed but are still in the process of receiving profiles and reviewing candidates before proceeding further in our process.

Our search has extended beyond the United Church of Christ and now includes denominations that share privilege of call with the UCC. We have also asked that our profile and job posting be shared at seminaries in surrounding states. We are hopeful that our process continues in a positive manner and that we are able to call Oakland's next Pastor in the near future. We do ask that the congregation continue to keep the committee and the church in your prayers as we navigate this process of discernment.

Thank you!

Dani

Committee: Rob Rhodes, Jesse Burgess, Suzanne Langston, Clare Mitchell, Mary Ann Riddick, Carole Matt, Robert Fly, and Dani Howell.

JULY CALENDAR

Friday, July 1

7:30 pm Patriotic Music Concert
for the community at Wesley Chapel

Sunday, July 3 Communion

9 am Sunday School
10 am Worship
After church - Vac. Bible School Mtg - CLC5

Monday, July 4

Office Closed

Tuesday, July 5

9:30 am to 12 pm Mah-jongg - CLC
10 am Loaves & Fishes - Small Kitchen

Wednesday, July 6

7 pm Pastoral Search Cmte. - Small Kitchen

Thursday, July 7

No choir practice
3:30 pm to 6 pm Yoga classes - CLC

Sunday, July 10

9 am Sunday School
10 am Worship
After Church - Pot Luck Lunch for all

Jul 11 Mon 5 pm Junto Pizza Party - CLC

Jul 12 Tue 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Mah-jongg - CLC

Jul 12 Tue 6 pm Beekeepers - CLC

Jul 14 Thur 3:30 pm 4:30 pm Chair Yoga - 5:00 pm to 6 pm Mat Yoga - CLC

Jul 16 Sat - Vacation Bible School setup - CLC

Jul 17 Sun 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship

Jul 18 Mon thru Friday 5:15 pm to 8:30 pm Vacation Bible School - CLC

Jul 18 Mon 6 pm Sister Cities - Choir Room

Jul 19 Tue 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Mah-jongg - CLC

Jul 21 Thur 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5 pm to 6 pm Mat Yoga - FH

Jul 21 Thur 10 am Loaves and Fishes prep - CLC

Jul 21 Thur 11 am Loaves and Fishes drive thru - CLC

Jul 23 Sat 9 am to 2 pm Junto District - CLC & Godwin room

Jul 24 Sun 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship

Jul 26 Tue 9:30 am to 2 pm Mah-jongg - CLC

Jul 28 Thur 4:30 pm—5:30 pm Chair Yoga 5 pm - 6 pm Mat Yoga - CLC

Jul 31 Sun 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship



The Greater Oakland & Chuckatuck Civic League thanks Oakland Christian for supporting this year's National Night Out!

Help Take a Bite Out of Crime and attend this year's event **August 2, 2022 6-9 pm**
Our community event will be at the Chuckatuck Fire Station.

BOCE Announcements

We are very excited to celebrate Vacation Bible School later this month. Please make sure you've registered your kids and invited some friends! July 18 thru July 22.

Calling all Sunday School teachers! We are looking for teachers for all ages. Please contact Dani Howell (757-651-9521 or dani.howell@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out.



Church Time Change

Beginning after Labor Day, our worship service will once again take place at 11am. This decision was made by Council at the request of the Board of Christian Education (BOCE). Prior changes to worship have been made by request of the Pastor and in consultation with the Council and Board of Deacon's.

The BOCE has tried for several years to accommodate a Sunday School program around the 10am worship time with little success. Currently, the schedule has one adult class meeting at 9am, younger youth meet during children's church, and an additional adult class occasionally meets following worship.

There were multiple patterns noted by the BOCE which led to our request to the Council. First, there is currently not a time when all members of the family are offered Sunday School at the same time. As a generational church, it is important that we can offer curriculum to the whole family. To meet in the morning before church, 9am was a constant struggle for families with little ones and school aged children to regularly attend. Additionally, meeting after church met with several obstacles. Most notably, the tendency to leave immediately following worship, as well as varied service lengths and post-worship socializing made a start time difficult to nail down.

Returning to the church's historical times appear to offer the most opportunity for success with the Sunday School program. Thus, the BOCE made the request. Council carefully considered and unanimously voted in favor of the change in worship time. Oakland's aim is to provide a spiritual home for all ages and promote multi-generational worship. We appreciate your willingness to help us reaffirm our Sunday School program and continue building our church family by accommodating this change.

Please join us on Sunday, September 11, 2022, for Rally Day activities at 10am including devotionals, introduction of the Sunday School classes, and churchwide Bible Trivia. The following Sunday, September 18, 2022, will mark the first Sunday of our new Sunday School program. The program will include separate classes for youth Pre-K-12th grade and two adult classes—continuing with a Lecture Based class, as well as, offering a revamped discussion based class. Please be on the lookout for more information on the Sunday School classes and opportunities to volunteer in the different programs.



JULY Birthdays

Harper Wilson	3	Braedon Harris	15
Justin Billings	5	Jameson Pantelides	16
Gary Butler	6	Jenna Langston	17
Cindy Cowan	6	Breanne Presson	17
John Johnson	6	Lisa Whitley	17
Susan Phillips	7	Pam Saunders	18
Brad Whitley	9	Betsy Wegman	20
Tessa Phillips	9	CF Jordan	22
Peggy Walker	10	Luke McCann	22
Robbie Arcand	11	Denise Spady	23
Ella Mae Winslow	11	Tamika Blanchette	23
Megan Harrell	12	James Saunders	26
Daniel Brower	14	William Brennecke	26

Oakland Christian United Church of Christ Called Conference Sunday, May 8, 2022

Attendance: 42 Call to order at 11:11 am by Dr. Ralph Howell (Moderator)

Agenda Discussion Item #1

Add the following responsibility to the Outreach Committee as outlined in the Bylaws:

“Incrementally increase church membership by evangelizing in the local community with an Emphasis on families”.

* Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously by members present.

Agenda Discussion Item #2

Proposed purchase of a new church sign to replace current sign. Questions answered about the size of the sign and capabilities of new signage. 8-foot-tall x 10 feet wide, 3-foot x 8 foot of this space would be a 5 line digital message board. It would be hardwired to the church network, church office and any other having the “password” would be able to change/update the information on the new sign. Church sign would “fit in” with the current architecture of the church building. Purchase price \$35,000 with funds to come from the Memorial Fund.

* Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously by members present.



Non-Agenda Discussion Item

Concern over parked vehicles on the grass by the portico (grass area in between the paved drive around – in front of the Community Life Center). Worry over a muddy mess, prevention of muddy mess. Discussion about placing signage in that area for No parking on that grass.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Minutes taken and submitted to church office - Ginny Fly

~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~



There will be no outing in July
We will meet again in August

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

~~ JEWELS ~~

Sisters in Christ

Third Tuesday of the month

No gathering in July

We will meet again in August

IN MEMORY OF MARIAN

We last met Tuesday, June 22nd at the home of Danna Vroman and enjoyed good fellowship. We were so fortunate to have taken a group picture at this gathering as little did we know that this

would be the last time Marian would be with us. That's Marian 2nd row, 2nd from the right. Marian was smiling and happy to enjoy an evening of good conversation, food, drink, and devotions.

Marian went to be with our Lord on Friday, June 24th.



SUMMER YOGA CLASSES



Every Thursday Early Evening

Summer Classes will be in our Community Life Center

Chair Yoga 3:30 to 4:30

Beginner Friendly Mat Yoga 5:00 to 6:00

Instructor: Brandy Robbins

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



OUTREACH



Some of the
Loaves and
Fishes
Volunteers!
If you would
like to help,
please contact
Pam Saunders

The third Thursday of the month food bags are assembled and distributed from Oakland Christian's Community Life Center. The following churches and groups are working together to keep this community need going, providing 30 to 35 healthy bags of food.

Little Bethel Church, Diamond Grove Church, Oakland Christian Church, Wesley Chapel, Chuckatuck Ruritans, Eastern Star, and Healthy Suffolk.



Samuel Brayboy, Doug Naismith, Rob Rhodes

Community Garden

If you would like to
help, please contact
Rob Rhodes or
Danna Vroman

Many hands make
the work easier!

Oakland Christian has partnered with Healthy Suffolk to establish a Community Garden at 5661 Godwin Blvd. This is property our church owns and we want to use it to help benefit our community. To encourage folks to eat healthy and help in these economically challenging times.

There have been several work sessions cleaning the property up; cutting down trees, removing undergrowth, brush, and cleaning out the shed. The plans are being developed and we hope to plant in the near future.

June Youth Group Sleep-Over was tons of fun!

Grades PK-6

Youth Event



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

JULY 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



Website:
www.OaklandUCC.org