

SEPTEMBER
NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022
GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC
"Celebrating 150 years of Faith, Hope, and Love"
SUNDAY WORSHIP 11AM



Green is a color that we associate with many things, grass, tress, the color of money, moss, trucks, cars, and outbuildings.

Once, I helped Peggy's father, Rev. Bill Grissom do a little touch up work on some of his outbuildings in his backyard, a barn, shed, and ice house.

These buildings had been painted green, barnyard green. The first task was to scrape the old paint off so to get a fresh new coat smoothly painted on. I don't know if anyone else has ever scraped paint, but it's a job, and almost impossible to scrape all of it off. The paint gets into the grain of the wood and there it stays. You can scrape, and scrape, but the green paint won't go away.

While scraping away old paint, I had some thinking and reflection time. I thought about how life experiences become ingrained in us that will remain with us forever. Some which bring warm, pleasant, and happy thoughts. Others, which bring recollection of painful, sorrowful, and tearful periods; it is these that we would like to scrape away, but we can not because they are so ingrained in the fiber of our soul. So, we live with them as they are; or we turn the scraping over to God who in His infinite grace can go far deeper into the grains of our souls than we shall ever do by our efforts.

There is a story of a person who was preparing an old painted wall inside an old building for refinishing. All the old paint was removed except for one small section where the paint had become so ingrained, nothing could get it out. A friend who was an artist painter saw the problem and offered a solution. He could not get the flaw out, so he began where the ingrained spot was and worked from there. When he finished, he had painted a beautiful picture of a deer by using the flawed spot as part of the deer's beautiful head and antlers.

I once more was reminded as I was scraping away the old green paint on those old but worth outbuildings that though there are experiences of life deeply ingrained in my soul. God like the artist painter can make something beautiful of one's life. I also thought again as I mad the final preparation to cover those old buildings with a new coat of green paint, that the good news of Jesus Christ is about getting down to the grain of one's soul and scrapping out what can be cleaned out, taking what is left and making one's life worth to be used for service in the kingdom. Something none of us can do for ourselves.

Eddie



Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

Music Corner

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that refuge clinging
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I learned this hymn when I went to Star Island Conference Center as the Music Director in 1988 and it was one of the hymns chosen to be sung each week during chapel time. "How can I keep from Singing?" has been a consistent theme in my life. No matter the situation, there is always something to sing about.

As we think about new beginnings for a new school year, the choir year begins also. It is a time to begin anew with a re-commitment to our music program at Oakland. Have you thought about ringing bells or singing with the choir? Now is a perfect time to step up and join us. Although music reading is helpful, it is not required. Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord! You are always welcome to come and be a part of the music ministry here at Oakland.

We begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 8th. The Adult Handbell Choir will meet in the bell room from 6:30PM – 7:25PM. The Adult Chancel Choir meets in the choir room from 7:30PM – 8:30PM. Both groups offer a wonderful time of music and fellowship. Won't you think about joining us?

Please feel free to reach out to me at: peputnam@yahoo.com or 757-285-0431
And remember, "How Can I Keep From Singing?"

~Paul



Global Outreach

An anonymous donor sent 8 sewing machines, carrying cases and related attachments to Honduras in honor of Reverend and Mrs. Wayne Gardner. Many thanks to that special someone! The machines will be used in many villages to teach sewing skills to young folks. Hopefully some careers and new businesses will be established as folks learn to sew. Teachers are already in place.

Be on the lookout for a list of items we can gather to help with sewing. We will fill 8 sewing baskets with sewing essentials to add to this wonderful gift.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 4, Sunday 9 am Sunday School , 10 am Worship
 September 5, Monday Office Closed—Labor Day
 September 6, Tuesday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Mah-jongg - CLC
 September 6, Tuesday 10 am Loaves & Fishes Meeting - Fellowship Hall
 September 8, Thursday 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5 pm - 6 pm Mat Yoga - CLC
 September 8, Thursday 6:30 pm Bell Choir - Bell Room, 7:30 pm Choir - Choir Room
 September 8, Thursday 7 pm BSA Troop 25 - CLC
 September 9, Friday 2 pm - 5 pm Memorial Service & Reception Sanctuary - CLC
 September 9, Friday 6 pm - Movie and Game Night—Older Youth - Middle & High School
 September 11, Sunday 10 am Rally Day Sunday Schools, 11 am Worship - 12 pm Potluck Lunch
 September 12, Monday 6 pm Chuckatuck Ruritans - CLC
 September 13, Tuesday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Mah-jongg - CLC
 September 13, Tuesday 6 pm Beekeepers - CLC
 September 14, Wed 7 pm BSA OA - Fellowship Hall - 7:30 pm BSA District - CLC
 September 15, Thurs 10 am Setup Loaves & Fishes 11 am drive thru food distribution
 September 15, Thurs 12 pm to 3 pm Junto Set-up
 September 15, Thurs 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5 pm - 6 pm Mat Yoga - CLC
 September 15, Thurs 6 pm Building & Grounds - Little Kitchen
 September 15, Thurs 6:30 pm Bell Choir - Bell Room, 7:30 pm Choir - Choir Room
 September 16, Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm Junto Game Day—CLC
 September 18, Sunday 10 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
 September 19, Monday 6 pm Sister Cities - CLC
 September 19, Monday 10 am 3:30 pm Junto,
 September 20, Tuesday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Mah-jongg
 September 20, Tuesday 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm Book Club
 September 20, Tuesday 6 pm Jewels - CLC
 September 20, Tuesday 6 pm Men's Fellowship - Casadores Mexican Restaurant
 September 22, Thurs 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5 pm - 6 pm Mat Yoga - CLC
 September 22, Thurs 6:30 pm Bells, 7:30pm Choir
 September 23, Fri 6 pm to 8:30 pm - Tentatively reserve for Youth Group - Fellowship Hall
 September 25, Sunday 10 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
 September 27, Tuesday 9:30 am to 2pm Mah-jongg,
 September 27, Tuesday 3pm - 4pm Everyday Foundation (aka United Church Homes) - Sanctuary
 September 28, Wed 6 pm Council - Small Kitchen
 September 29, Thur 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5 pm - 6 pm Mat Yoga - CLC
 September 29, Thur 6:30 pm Bells, 7:30pm Choir



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|---------------|---|-----------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Lucas Bond | 2 | John Mellon | 5 | Linnie Jordan | 19 | Clark Brennecke | 23 |
| Ginny Fly | 4 | Cheryl Rowlands | 5 | Elenor Muche | 19 | Kyle Blanks | 27 |
| Paul Saunders | 5 | Debbie Blanks | 6 | Zane Wise | 19 | Matt Harrell | 28 |
| Emma Shearin | 5 | Diana Haddad | 8 | Carl Lancaster | 19 | Jean Keeling | 28 |
| | | John Matt | 12 | Mary Haddad | 21 | Ronnie Kelly | 28 |
| | | Janice Roberts | 15 | Kim Waller | 21 | Caroline Blanks | 29 |
| | | Andy Brennecke | 16 | Judith Cobb | 22 | 103 years old! | |
| | | Leroy Howell | 18 | Cleve Johnson | 23 | Robert Gillette | 30 |

Board of Christian Education Announcements

September 11

We look forward to welcoming everyone at Rally Day on September 11th. Our bible trivia will feature two exciting events: a Bible Verse Scavenger Hunt for the youth and a rousing round of Bible Jeopardy for the adults. We hope to see you there at 10am!

In addition to Rally Day, the BOCE has selected dates for several events throughout the remainder of the year. Please mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more details in the coming months.

September 9th- Movie and Game Night for the Older Youth (Middle and HS)

October 22- Oakland Trunk or Treat

November Date TBD- Family Camping Trip

December 2nd- Church Christmas Party

December 11th- Advent Workshop

The Board of Christian Education and Activities Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, September 20th and all interested in helping are invited to attend!





WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP???

You probably think about donating money to your church.
Yes --- but Stewardship is so much more than that!

You may remember our “Time, Talents, and Treasures” pamphlet from previous years. Yes, we are to be good stewards of our time and talents, as well as our treasures. We should give freely of our time and talents to further God’s kingdom.

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Pet 4:10

What are your talents? The obvious one that comes to mind is music, and singing in the choir. But there are many other talents among us.

If your passion is cooking, then you could participate in a meal train for someone who needs a helping hand, or help with many events in the church kitchen, from making candy or pies, to serving one of our many dinners. If you have good organizational skills, perhaps those skills would be helpful to one of our committees. A handyman might use that talent around the church, or to do a project for a widow. If you have the “gift of gab”, maybe you could visit the sick and shut-ins, and bring them some cheer.

These are just a couple examples. Find your special talent and figure out how to use it to glorify God.

As you give of your talents, you would also be giving your time in those endeavors. But it’s also important to spend time with God each day, as you read your Bible and say your prayers. Don’t neglect these important aspects of the Christian life. God loves each one of us, and wants us to spend time with Him, so let’s all make that a priority.

Your Stewardship Committee

Pastoral Search Committee Update

Thank you all for your continued prayers and patience as we have spent the past 11 months searching through candidates. The committee is overjoyed to report that we have a candidate we are excited to move through the process of discernment with—we have completed a careful profile review, interviewed via zoom, and have moved to schedule a neutral pulpit visit. The search committee will be attending the neutral pulpit on Sunday, September 25th and hope to be able to present a candidate to the congregation soon.

We appreciate your continued prayerful support as we continue through this process. The committee has been diligently working to select the right candidate for this Church and are hopeful in what is to come.

Thank you,
Dani Howell

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





~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

Tuesday September 20 at 6:00 pm

At Cazadores Mexican Restaurant

1701 N. Main St.

Suffolk, VA 23434

All are welcome please join us!

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



~~ JEWELS ~~

Sisters in Christ

Third Tuesday of every month

September 20 at 6:00 pm

We will have our fellowship in the CLC

Hosted by - to be advised

*All are welcome
please join us!*



The school supplies for
Oakland Elementary
were delivered

Thank you



OCC FRIDAY FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP!

We made our pizzas!

We hope you will join us next time.



Tides Baseball Game

Even though our team lost!

We had a great time of fellowship!



**Community Garden
We are making progress!
Thanks to Jeff Paxton owner of Paxton Contractors Corporation
for donating the driveway**



**Metal Raised Bed Boxes
assembled and filled with dirt last weekend.**

**Thanks to Ronnie Kelly for bringing down
your tractor and filling the boxes with dirt!
That was a huge help!**

**Box Assembly Crew:
CF Jordan, Gary Butler, Samuel Brayboy,
Doug Naismith, Rob Rhodes, Jeff Edwards,
and Connie Edwards**



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

September 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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Website:
www.OaklandUCC.org