



GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC FEBRUARY 2023

Hello Church!

How good it is to be writing this to you all! I've been patiently (well, kind of patiently) awaiting the chance to connect with you in this way. There will be much to do as together we begin a new chapter in the journey of Oakland Christian UCC's ministries. In the short term, I'll be going about all the typical new pastor things I need to be doing; and I will look to you all for help. I'll have questions, I'll be listening, and I'll be taking lots of notes...I've already got them started.

Later this month, we begin the season of Lent. As much as we will be enjoying the newness of this time, we certainly don't want to miss out on the ancient traditions of this season and all the gifts it provides.

The purpose of Lent is the preparation for Easter through prayer, repentance of sins, almsgiving, simply living, and self-denial. In Lent, many Christians commit to various types of fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries. This is done in remembrance of Christ's sacrifices during his 40 days in the desert. Many Christians also add a spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional, praying in a disciplined way, or extra commitment to mission work. All of this, whatever one chooses, should be done with the intention of drawing nearer to God.

I suspect that while I will be incorporating Lenten practices, and the work of a new ministry into my daily life, drawing nearer to God will be a sure thing. Being with good people like you ensures that. I'd like to encourage you to use this unique time in a similar way. I certainly want to provide a listening ear to you all so that I can learn about your families, your hopes, your visions, and your concerns. Additionally, I hope you do that for each other. "Talk amongst yourselves" as is often said. Not to be occupied and distracted, but to stay connected. Share your Lenten practices, ask others if they'd like to join you in them, share your hopes in this time. I promise, you will grow closer to God by doing so.

While Lent can be a heavy season, it is a beautiful and meaningful way to prepare ourselves spiritually for the events of Holy Week. Remain the special wonderful community that you are, and simply welcome me into your midst. It is a special time in my ministry and the life of Oakland Christian UCC, let's enjoy it.

Finally, we will also be learning the intricacies of how to communicate with one another.. That can sometimes be very challenging until we get to know our boundaries, comfort zones, preferred methods, etc. I can help by offering you two things:

First, my email address: pastorstump@gmail.com. Second, my cell phone number: [757-630-6577](tel:757-630-6577). I've found it best to text me if you can, but certainly call if you cannot or feel it is more appropriate to call. If I am unavailable, please leave a message. Also, I found a suggested boundary several years ago that helped everyone. If it is not an emergency, please hold off on calling between the hours of 8pm and 8am. Of course, please, always get in touch with me in an emergency. I'll also begin using the church Facebook page and you are invited to "like" and "follow" my page Pastor Jason Stump. Now, since that is out of the way, I want to say again how very grateful I am to receive this call from God and Oakland Christian UCC. We have much to do together! Let's get started!

~Rev. Stump



Moving in day at the parsonage



Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Alleluia! and Amen! we are part of the body of Christ at Oakland Christian UCC. What an exciting time to be a part of our church as we welcome Rev. Jason Stump and walk with him as partners in ministry.

MARDI GRAS SUNDAY is coming up on Sunday, February 19th.

INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS to come and worship with us that day. The Olde James River Jazz Band will once again be with us to enrich and enliven our worship with uplifting music. Come and be lifted up!!

FREE CONCERT!!

Save the date: Sunday, March 19th at 4:00PM the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir will be presenting a special concert in celebration of my 20 years of music ministry at Oakland!

Thinking about singing with the choir or ringing bells? Talk to a current choir member or see Paul at church or email: peputnam@yahoo.com

Blessings through Music,

~Paul

Special Music we enjoyed in January



Peggy Walker and family.....
Johelen Walker, Abby and Natalie Courliss

Robert Fly, Solo
"Mary Did You Know?"





~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 pm
 Anna's Ristorante
 1810 S. Church Street
 Smithfield, VA

All are welcome please join us!

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



“JEWELS” Joyfully Enjoying Women's Encouragement and Loving Support

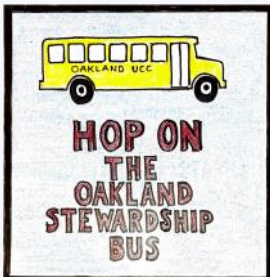
Third Tuesday of every month

February 21 at 6:00 pm
 In the CLC

Hosted by - Ella Mae Winslow and
 Pam Saunders

Devotions - Ginny Fly

All are welcome please join us!



THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO ‘ROUND, ‘ROUND, ‘ROUND...

The Oakland Stewardship Bus is off to a great start for 2023!
 It made many stops in January, where you could sign up to serve on
 numerous committees.

(If you missed the bus, you can still sign up in the Fellowship Hall.)

We applaud your wonderful support! And a huge

THANK YOU

for sharing your time and talents, as well as your treasures.

Your Stewardship Committee



Devon Langston	2	Lucas Gup	16
Gene Arcand	3	Joshua Harrell	20
Tammy Howell	6	Jimmye Hayes	20
Troy Phillips	7	Amy Csisar	21
Shelley Helms	8	Rose Bowers	21
Lynn Knight	9	David Nelms	22
Roosevelt Jones	12	Lauren Billings	23
Dale Boyer	14	Bryn Blanchette	23
Dori Mitchell	14	Greyson Blanchette	23
Kimmy Curliss	15	Eddie Walker	23
Waylon Harris	15	Randy Rowell	26
Jesse Williams	15	Peyton Wise	28



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 5

TAILGATE LUNCH IN THE COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER

Souper Bowl Sunday is an Oakland tradition for teams young and old to set up a booth and compete for the coveted Oakland Souper Bowl trophies!

There are 8 "teams" serving their soup and dessert.

Tickets are \$10 each and a maximum of \$40 for an immediate family of 5 or more

~ Fans "that's you" will go from booth to booth and get small bowls of soup and deserts to enjoy~

There will be a "People's Choice Award" and an award by two impartial Judges.

We promise there will be plenty of soup for all.



OLD CELL PHONES WANTED



Junto Woman's Club is collecting old cell phones for "Secure the Call." Phones are swiped clean of all data and then converted to 911 phones for distribution among seniors, abuse shelters, police and fire departments, and hospitals. If data cannot be completely cleaned, the phones will be recycled. A collection box is in the Fellowship Hall.

Questions: See Jean Keeling or MaryAnne Riddick



CARE FOR TROOPS

Clare Mitchell is collecting items to donate to her "Care For Troops" club in order to assemble care packages to gift to active military members. You can place your items in the purple tote located in Fellowship Hall.

Items include, but are not limited to, sunscreen, trail mix/beef jerky, non-melting candy, powdered drink mixes, socks, Chapstick, unscented wipes, travel-size toiletries, gum, writing materials, Advil/Motrin, old books, and cookies. Anything is helpful!



Please meet our new Nursery Attendant Arianna Gregory

Arianna is a senior at Nansemond Suffolk Academy and will take care of the nursery on Sundays until she leaves for college.

We are grateful and blessed to have Arianna for this time.

Children's Church is led by Clare Mitchell and Dori helps when she is home from college.

We are grateful and blessed to have the Mitchell girls!



Lesson on Abraham and Lot (Genesis 13)

Abraham (Isabelle) and Lot (Helena) both had lots of riches (colored markers), so many that their families (feet) and their riches could not both fit on the one piece of land (paper); they were overflowing/outgrowing their space.

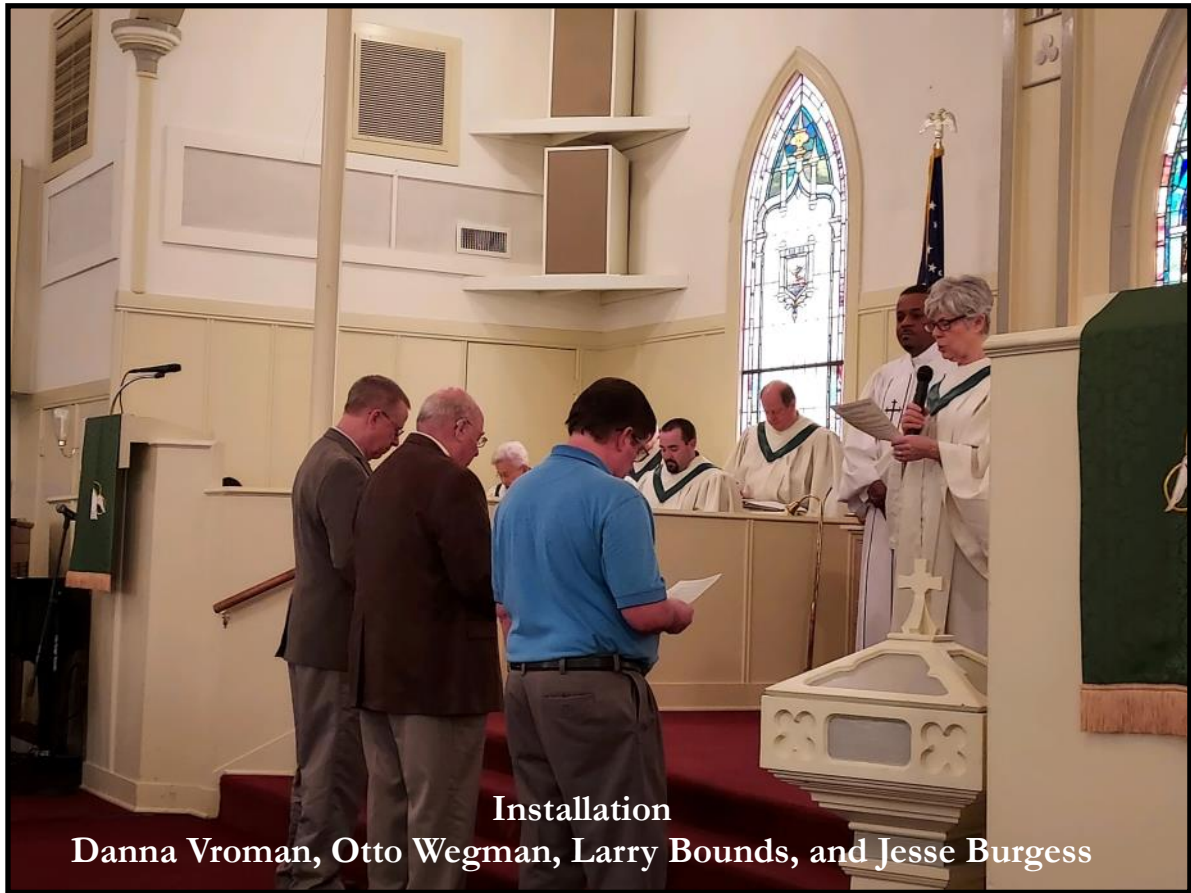
In order to fit the land, Abraham, as a peace-maker, gave Lot the first choice of land. This way, they both had enough land to hold their riches without any harsh conflict.

In the end, Abraham sacrificed and took the less desirable land, but both had what they needed through God's peace and provision.



Deacon Installation and Ordination

Sunday, January 29, 2023



Installation
Danna Vroman, Otto Wegman, Larry Bounds, and Jesse Burgess



Ordination of Jesse Burgess ~ Laying of Hands

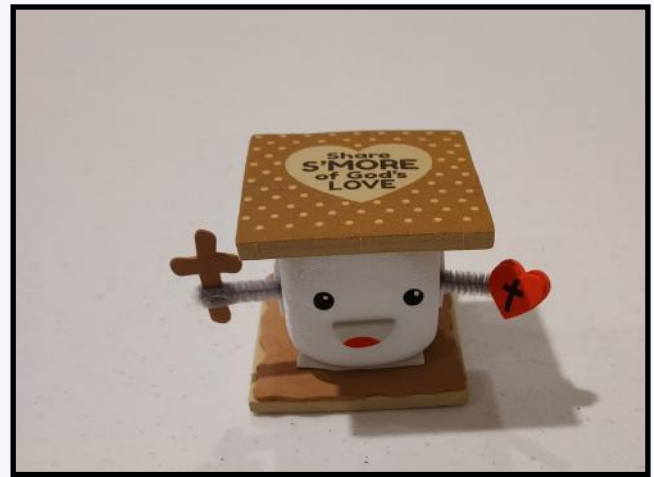


OCC FRIDAY FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP!

We gather once a month
For food, fun crafts, and a movie!

We hope you will join us in February!
Our Friday February date
will be
announced

Pictures from January's fun!



JOIN US ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY

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

February 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Jason Stump
Minister of Music: Paul E. Putnam
Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Connie Edwards
Financial Secretary: Janice Roberts
Nursery Attendant: Arianna Gregory

Telephone: (757) 255-4353
Office Hours: 10 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com



Website:
www.OaklandUCC.org

