

JANUARY 2023
GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC
“Celebrating 150 years of Faith, Hope, and Love”
SUNDAY WORSHIP 11AM



Time goes by so quickly. It feels like only yesterday that we began our journey together. We have shared our joys, our sorrows, our gifts, our talents, our laughter, our hopes, and our worship and praise together.

I have been so blessed and so grateful to have been your interim pastor at Oakland Christian UCC. Peggy and I have found a wonderful church home to share our faith, to make dear friends, and to do all the wonderful things we do together—even sometimes getting flour all over myself when making candy for our fall festival!

Yes, it has been a privilege, an honor, and a calling to have been your pastor, for I truly believe that our paths crossed at the right time, in God’s time, to be servants to each other and our church. We are all a part of God’s calling to proclaim the good news of Christ to our community and to the world.

We have now called a new pastor to carry on the ministry, to lead us in worship, to preach the Good News, and to guide us in our ministry. Let us join together to welcome Jason and his family. Let us assure him that we will support him in his ministry to us and to the community, and that we will be there for him in his joys, his sorrows, and his celebrations.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the opportunity that I have had to be your pastor, but mostly, your friend. I will always seek to greet the Christ in you as you seek to greet the Christ in me. Now, may God be with all of us in this new year and adventure, and in the ministry that lies ahead.

Shalom,
Eddie





Music Corner

Arise, shine for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

What a glorious Advent and Christmas season it has been here at Oakland UCC! We have been blessed to be able to share the season with so many. The highlight for me was not just the presentation of the Christmas Cantata, "Joy Has Dawned" by Lloyd Larson, but in the weeks of preparation and the time spent as a choir learning the music. So much of the "joy" is in the process and the time spent in fellowship with one another.

"Joy Has Dawned" on Sunday, December 18th was definitely a highlight for me. It had been 3 years since we had put together and presented a Cantata for worship. The Lord blessed us from the choosing of the "right" cantata, to bringing the choir together so that we could share in Christ's message of joy and light. Come and join the choir at Lake Prince Woods, Sunday, January 8th @ 4:00PM. FREE and open to the public!

The Oakland Handbell Choir worked incredibly hard to present our two beautiful Christmas pieces, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" & "Carol of the Bells". I continue to be so proud of the music this group learns and performs. What a Joy!

In the new year, would you like to be part of Oakland's Music Ministry? There is ALWAYS room for you. It is much more fun to figure out how to incorporate more singers and ringers into our program than to feel like we don't have enough. Come and try it out! We have a mix of music readers and non-music readers who learn to follow real well. We can help you!! Interested? Ask a choir member or speak to me after worship or email: peputnam@yahoo.com

As we enter the Epiphany season of light, may we continue to follow our light of the world, Jesus Christ. He was and is the reason for the season.

May blessings abound for you in the new year!

~Paul



Ways you can SERVE

Sunday, January 15, will be yet another special day at Oakland. After worship, all are invited to a light "sandwich and chips" lunch in the Community Life Center (CLC). There will be sign-up sheets for Opportunities to Serve. It is Council's hope that all will stay and sign up for the committees and/or task groups that are responsible for doing much of the work of the church. Unsure of what committees and task groups are in place? Visit our website (oaklanducc.org) and click on the Leadership tab. Scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see a copy of our current Bylaws. Article IX lists the standing committees and their responsibilities. Article XI lists the standing task groups and their responsibilities. Please find committees and/or task groups that match your talents and sign up to help! You might even consider stepping outside of your comfort zone and sign up to help in an area that is not your expertise. There will be sign-up sheets on tables in the CLC. Council members will soon meet with each committee/task group to elect chairpersons and get the groups up and running.

Serving on committees or task groups is one of the best ways to become involved in the life of the church. Even better, it is a way to make new friends as we all work to make Oakland an even better community of faith, hope and love. Oakland needs you!

Questions? Contact Pam Saunders (pmsaunders@aol.com or 757-635-8125).



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 among us.

The table is located along the left side of our Fellowship Hall and we need folks to sign up to provide a light snack and drink. Some sweets or fruit (be they home made or bought), and juice are all that are needed. The coffee is already set up. There is a sign up sheet at the table.



Altar Flowers

The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is posted on the front bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you have a special Sunday you would like to provide altar flowers, please sign up.



Calling all interested acolytes to sign up! See Ms. Eaton after church.

Thank you



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!



Invitation from St. John's to Oakland Christian

Friends,

We will be undertaking a study of the books of Ruth and Esther during Epiphany this year. The study will take place Wednesdays from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in St.

John's Parish Hall.

We plan to read both Ruth and Esther between the Epiphany (January 6) and Shrove Tuesday (February 21)

It will be helpful to know who plans on attending. There is plenty of room around the table so please invite friends to join us. If there are questions, please do not hesitate to call or email

Rev. Leslie Ferguson

Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church

828 Kings Hwy

Suffolk VA 23432-1112

(757) 255-4168

<http://StJohnsEpiscopal-Suffolk.org>



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
Chris Hase	20		
Gavin Billings	21		

Loaves and Fishes program was featured in the Suffolk News Herald.
To see the full article you can go to Suffolk News Herald on-line published Dec. 21, 2022.



Lake Prince Woods is home to our oldest living member, Judith Cobb, she is 104 and a member of Oakland Christian Church for 28 years.

In December they featured Judith on their Facebook page. She wanted to go horseback riding and wondered if she was too old for that. The staff at Lake Prince did the next best thing for Judith and arranged to have a gentle horse to come by to visit her.

To read about the full encounter, visit Lake Prince Woods' Facebook page.



Congratulations!

William Brennecke received the rank of Eagle Scout in December!

Eagle Scout is the highest rank of the Scouts BSA

This prestigious milestone is recognized across the country and the world..



It takes a Village!

Making the Wreaths



John



Paul and Larry



Pam, Carole, and Kathy

Setting out the Poinsettias



Jean and Danna

Hanging the Wreaths



Andy and Clark



Lighting of the
Second Advent
Candle

~ Peace ~

Julie and Chris Hase



Lighting of the
Third Advent
Candle

~ Joy ~

Connie, Helena,
Jesse, and Kendall
Burgess



Lighting of the
Fourth Advent
Candle

~ Love ~

Alicia, Mike, Havey,
Haydn, Tessa, and
Troy Phillips

Christmas Party

Susie, Judy



Lee, Charle, Darden, Isabelle



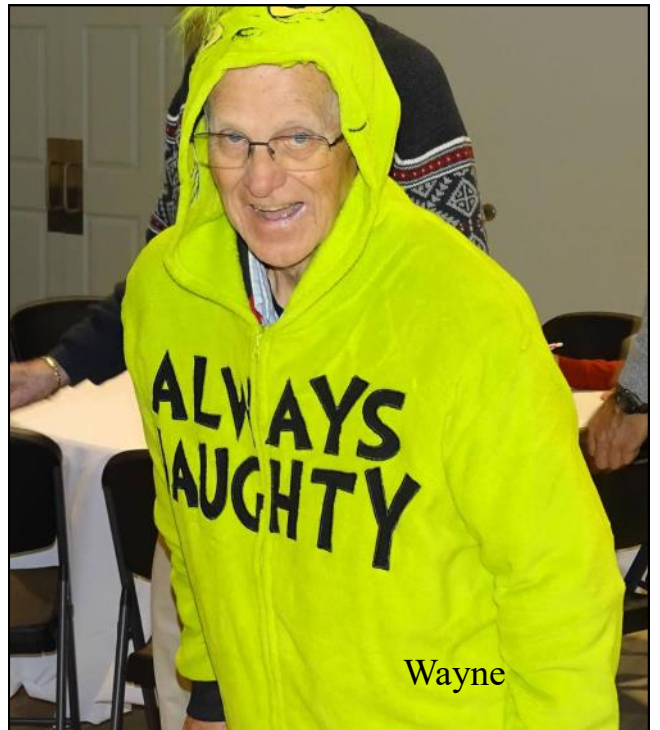
Lou, Kirsten



Christmas Party



Riley, Gavin, Dani



Wayne



Hydn, Tesa, Harvey



Clark, William, Jack



Gabe, Penny, Chris

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 2023

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: Arianna Gregory

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