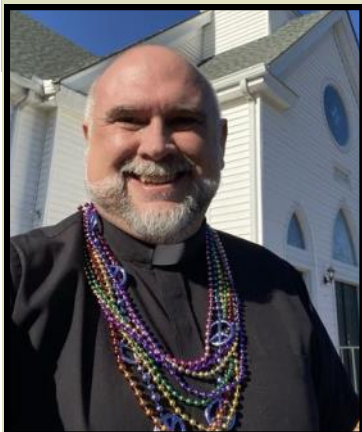


# GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC MARCH 2023



Hello Church!

Well, by the time you are reading this, I've got a full month in as pastor of Oakland Christian UCC. I'm writing this just a little over 3 weeks into this ministry. All I can say is, "wow!"

Wow! What a wonderful welcome. Wow! How great it has been to worship with you all. Wow! This is a busy place. Wow! I didn't expect the wonderful response from the community for "Ashes to Go." There's more Wow! Wow! Wow! Let's not neglect, Wow! There's much more to do.

This energy is wonderful, let's let it hang around awhile with us. Yet, as any shepherd knows, along with the wisest of sheep; when we rush forward too fast we might not see some pitfalls, and valleys, ahead. We've got to be able to change course, when necessary, check our coordinates of where we are, and remember what it is we are truly moving towards.

Lent offers us an opportunity to do this. It's a time to reflect on our journeys, acknowledge wrong, repent, and redirect ourselves. As much as many people hesitate to do this, I find it a real opportunity for growth and I have seen those Christians and churches who take it seriously benefit tremendously.

I believe one of the most basic practices we can do along our journey we can do is simply read The Holy Bible. Now, of course, I think without appropriate study, understanding, interpretation, and so on; that can also be dangerous at times. Still, the starting point is reading it.

So, I want to challenge us as a church to each read the entire Gospel of Matthew this month. Simply do that. Just read it. Pray whatever you like before, and after, each time you read. Then just let it all be with God.

If we can get even 50 folks in our community to read The Gospel of Matthew in March...well, there's another "Wow!"

I'll come up with a way to keep track of acknowledging when someone finishes. If we meet that goal, I promise one thing that all churches love.....a cake!

Be well Church!

~Pastor Stump

[pastorstump@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstump@gmail.com)





**How Can I Keep from Singing?**

My life goes on in endless song above earth's lamentations,  
I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul. how can I keep from singing?

Twenty years!! Twenty years?? How can that be?? What a journey this has been being an integral part of the worship and life at Oakland Christian UCC. What started as a "help wanted" ad in the Virginian Pilot that appeared in December 2002 has become an incredible ministry here at Oakland. My life and my family's life has been richly blessed over these past 20 years.

I could not think of a better way to celebrate than to celebrate with a concert of our beloved Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir. These are the folks who have been such an important part of the life and ministry here at Oakland. For anyone that has been a part of either Oakland Choir, you would understand what a close family the choir is. Please join me, the Choirs and The Olde James River Jazz Band on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00PM. This is going to be special, and I know you won't want to miss it!

Peace and Love,  
*Paul*



**FREE CONCERT**

**Songs of Celebration, Inspiration,  
and Praise!**

**Featuring the Oakland UCC Handbell and  
Chancel Choirs in concert**

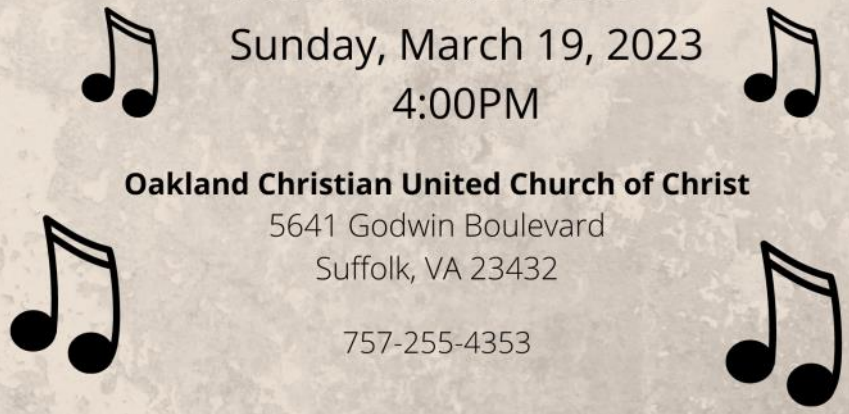
Paul Putnam, Director

Sunday, March 19, 2023  
4:00PM

**Oakland Christian United Church of Christ**

5641 Godwin Boulevard  
Suffolk, VA 23432

757-255-4353



## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- March 5 Covered dish luncheon after worship  
March 7 10 am Loves & Fishes committee meeting in Fellowship Hall  
\*March 12 New Member Sunday  
March 16 Loaves & Fishes Drive-Thru - distributing food bags to the needy  
March 19 Free Praise Concert at 4 pm in the Sanctuary  
March 21 Jewels - Ladies Fellowship in the Community Life Center (6 pm)  
Hosts: Ginny Fly and Cindy Cowan  
March 21 Men's Fellowship at a local restaurant to be announced (6 pm)  
Mar 29-31 Church Fundraiser - Baking Pies for Easter (8 am)  
April 3-5 Pie Baking continued.... (8 am)

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\*Anyone wishing to become a member of Oakland Christian UCC  
Please contact Pastor Stump. 757-630-6577

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### Attention all Pie Bakers!

After a three-year hiatus, Oakland will be back in the Easter Pie Baking business once again! We will make coconut, pecan, chocolate and lemon chess pies and sell them for \$12 each.

A sign-up trifold will be in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday. We need box folders, lemon zesters, ingredient mixers, bakers, boxers, order takers, deliverers and whatever other jobs that will pop up along the way. Many thanks to Bo Russell (Ella Mae's son-in-law) for providing a Holiday Ice freezer truck and Randy Rowell for ingredient procurement.

We will begin baking Wednesday, March 29.

Pies will be ready for pick-up and/or delivery April 6 and 7.

We are planning on making at least 600 pies.

Mark your calendar and plan on joining the fun! The work is sometimes hard, but the fellowship is magnificent. WE NEED YOU!



CAPS Night Stay Assistance – There has been a call to support Night Stay while they are at the Salvation Army building. They need volunteers to assist overnight and serving meals. If you can assist please contact Jan Pruden at the CAPS Office. Jan Pruden (757) 286-9126.

*Thank you*

The fire of November 13 at my residence may have taken many “things,” but my faith was only shaken, not extinguished!

Dear Friends,

Due to the generosity of your church and caring members of your congregation, I am becoming, once again, hopeful, happy and whole!

With much gratitude!

*Denise Nicholas*

To My Church Family,

Yes, our hearts are heavy at the loss of our son, Cheryl's brother and CC's father. Then, again our hearts have been filled with the outpouring of love from so many of you and community friends.

One never really knows how many lives a family torches.

Thank you for being there with us,

*Ann Johnson*





<i>Kasie Wilson</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>John Mitchell</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Steve Wilson</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Frank Daniels</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Zoie Wise</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Cheryl Rudd</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Joe Barnes</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Samantha Fly</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Ann Johnson</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Darden Langston</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Clayton Curliss</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Marie Marr</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Nick Sarick</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Robert Smith</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Roger Burton</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Dana Mitchell</i>	<i>29</i>



Celebrating Jimmyme's Birthday at Lake Prince Woods

February 20.





## ~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00 pm

*George's Steak House  
1260 Holland Road*

*If you have any questions please contact:*

*Roger Burton 757-373-2817 or 757-373-4080*

*All are welcome please join us!*

## *Come hang out with us at Jewels!*



### **“JEWELS”**

Joyfully Enjoying Women's  
Encouragement and Loving Support

Third Tuesday of every month

This month's hosts - Ginny Fly & Cindy Cowan  
March 21 at 6:00 pm in the CLC

*All are welcome please join us!*

# Team Photos from Our Souper Bowl Party Last Month

Sunday, February 19



Thank you to all the teams and especially to:  
Referee Cheri Babler



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

March 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](mailto:Office@OaklandUCC.com)



Website:  
[www.OaklandUCC.org](http://www.OaklandUCC.org)