

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC APRIL 2023



As we approach Holy Week beginning on April 2nd, Palm Sunday; I am preparing myself for the journey we are about to embark on.

The triumphant, though humble, entry into Jerusalem of Palm Sunday. Then the beginning of events as the week unfolds. Remember, soon after the events we celebrate on Palm Sunday, Jesus is turning over temple furniture. In short order, during a time of fellowship with his closest friends, it all really begins to turn. Now, not only are those outside his “circle” criticizing him; but even those once “at the table” will begin to deny and betray him.

The horrific events of the process of torture in a crucifixion occur. Brutal, grotesque, inhumane, and savage. It’s really quite disgusting to know that humans do this to others, especially one such as Jesus the Christ. There will be His final breath just after his final words, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (Luke 23).

And then....the sacred silence of Holy Saturday. Many churches have a practice that absolutely nothing occur at a church on that day; and many Christians spend much of the day in contemplative activities.

Of course, all of this culminates with the pinnacle of Christian moments. The glory of the resurrection celebrated on Easter morning.

It’s really quite a journey, all in one week. Yet, isn’t life always? My friends, we will each as individuals, and together, experience our trials and tribulations. In those times, please, remember to stop and breathe (as we talked about in worship on March 26th); wave some palms...”like you just don’t care!”; commend things to God.....and mostly importantly rise from our tombs.

We are an Easter people! It is our story. We believe in a God that comes out of tombs. A God that conquers death. We rise as well. It’s hard, we may not always do it when others expect us to, and sometimes we need help.

When life continues after Easter Sunday, let us not crawl back inside our tombs, and let us help others from going into their own. This is what Easter people do.

May it be so.

~Pastor Stump



Palm Sunday 11am with Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday 6pm in our Community Life Center w/Holy Communion
Good Friday 6pm at Wesley Chapel UMC
Sunrise Easter Sunday 6:45am at St. John’s Episcopal
Easter Worship 11am at Oakland

Music Corner



Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks 'cause he has given Jesus Christ his son.

My heart is overflowing with thanks and gratitude for the outpouring of love and support for my 20th anniversary celebration here as Minister of Music. From the Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Megan on the flute, and the Olde James River Jazz Band the concert was just “perfect”. The reception afterwards in the CLC was filled with love, decorations, and plenty of food for a blessed time of fellowship. What a celebration for which I give thanks!!

As our minds and hearts turn towards Holy Week, we think of the great sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May the music continue to touch your soul as you go on the journey.

Looking ahead, we will have a Men’s Choir for Mother’s Day, May 14th. **CALLING ALL MEN!!** Let’s represent and be a gift to the ladies. J

Thinking about becoming part of the Chancel Choir? Come check us out!! You are welcome to come and visit our rehearsals to see if it is a place where you will feel comfortable. Questions about choir? See any choir member and they will help you out!

May you and yours have a Blessed Easter Because He Lives!

~Paul



Thank you Paul for 20 years of service to Oakland Christian UCC, as our Minister of Music!



Easter

EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 9

Join us for an Easter
Egg Hunt during
Children's Church

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- April 2 Palm Sunday - Lenten Activity
- April 3-5 Pie Baking . . . In the CLC (8 am) HELP NEEDED
- April 4 Loaves & Fishes Meeting (10 am) Fellowship Hall
- April 5-6 Pie pickup and delivery (9 am till noon)
- April 6 **Maundy Thursday service in the CLC (6 pm)**
- April 8 RSVP Deadline for OCC Family & Youth Camping Trip
- April 9 Easter Sunday - Easter Egg Hunt during Children's Church
- April 14-16 Camping Family & Youth Camping Trip
- April 18 Jewels (6 pm) Kirsten and Carole and Men's Fellowship (6 pm)
- April 20 Loaves & Fishes (11am) driver thru at the CLC portico
- April 26 Council Mtg (6 pm)

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



| | | | |
|------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Terri Howell | 3 | Betty Dickinson | 17 |
| Dani Howell | 4 | Deborah Harrell | 20 |
| Lisa Shearin | 10 | Danna Vroman | 20 |
| Charlotte Fly | 10 | Harvey Phillips | 21 |
| Riley Billings | 16 | Lee Langston | 26 |
| Leslie Peterfeso | 17 | | |



"Coffee & Company" discussion group is coming! Join Pastor Stump on Sundays at 10am for a 30 min discussion of the book, **"Searching for Sunday"** by New York Times bestselling author, Rachel Held Evans.

It is "a heartfelt ode to the past and a hopeful gaze into the future of what it means to be a part of the modern church."
The group will begin meeting on April 23rd. Books are available on Amazon, and at most bookstores, or for \$18 the office can order one for you.

Thank you

Dear Oakland Family,
Words cannot begin to cover the gratitude that Bill and I have for your generosity of cards, prayers and certainly

the delicious meals prepared for us. You were so gracious and thoughtful and we will always remember the outpouring of support shown to us. This past month has been a dark one, but God's love has been shining brightly through each of your kind gestures. A million thanks will never be enough.

Thank you, again,
Bill and Diane Saunders



Oakland's Becky Godwin Memorial applications will be available beginning May 1, 2023 and can be requested by calling the office 757-255-4353 or by Email request to office@oaklanduuc.com

Recipient must be a member of Oakland Christian UCC.

**SIGN UP EARLY
CAMPS ARE LIMITED TO 30 CAMPERS**



6211 Hwy 90, Collettsville,

S U M M E R C A M P S



**CLASSIC: MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH
Grades 7th-12th
June 25-30**

This week, campers will hike to Harper Falls, Bike the Virginia Creeper Trail, Kayak the Johns River and more!

Directed by Rev. Jason Stump.



**ADVENTURE: MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH
Grades 7th-12th
July 16-21**

Campers will stay on the Main Site and participate in adventure activities including off site rock wall climbing and caving.

Directed by Staff.



**CLASSIC: JUNIOR AGE
Grades 3rd-6th
July 9-14**

This week, campers will enjoy aquatics, hikes, games, campfires and more.

Directed by Rev. Randy Orwig.



To Sign up go to this website: <https://www.jrvc.org/summer-camps>

Please let Pastor Jason know if you are going to attend camp this summer. If you or your parents are members of Oakland, the church will pay half the camp fee.



JOIN US THIS YEAR



~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

Tuesday, April 18th at 6:00 pm

Sal's Pizza
2815 Godwin Blvd

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 - Kirsten Creely and Carole Matt
April 18 at 6:00 pm in the CLC

All are welcome please join us!

A Look Back of March Events

Honoring Mr. Roosevelt Jones, Servant of God

Roosevelt Jones was recognized for his forty years of service to Oakland Christian Church. He and his beloved wife Katherine began in 1983 taking care of the church and Roosevelt remains the Sexton of Oakland Christian Church today.

Roosevelt was also recognized as a friend and a pillar of the community.



Shepherd's Meal Hosted by our Deacon's



Thank you to our Deacon's for hosting a wonderful covered dish luncheon and to all those who brought covered dishes to share.

Deacons - Susie Eaton, Carole Matt, Sadie Boyer, Sharon Winslow, Sandy Butler, Betty Rhodes, Mary Anne Riddick, Rainell Rowell, Danna Vroman, Jesse Burgess, Otto Wegman, and Larry Bounds.



Sunday March 19, 2023 - Paul Putnam for 20 years of service



Reception for Paul Putnam—March 19, 2023—Sunday Afternoon



Bowling was great fun!



Thank you to Oakland folks who helped with the Great Suffolk Clean Up!



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

APRIL 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Jason Stump
Minister of Music: Paul E. Putnam
Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Connie Edwards
Financial Secretary: Position Available
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