

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

MAY 2023



There is a lot of pain and hurt in life. Joy and celebration too...How does our faith speak to those tough times? The unexpected illnesses, the grief of death, family trauma, financial pressures, broken relationships? To be clear, God doesn't promise that being a Christian means everything will always work out fine, or we will avoid our hearts, or our bodies, being broken. Neither a pastor, an elder, a friend, or even a doctor, is going to be able to simply fix all that life can bring. Stuff happens.

To say that is not to imply that God is not present or making a difference. We should reflect on some of the ways our faith offers comfort and strength. Easter brings us the promise of resurrection. Of life forever with God. That doesn't take away the pain of losing a loved one, but it allows for confident hope in the midst of the grief. Death isn't the end... for that person, or for us. We have a future. That's a pretty big deal. Easter also announces God's love and forgiveness. We don't make perfect choices. We mess up, fail, and let down others. We sometimes cause hurt and pain. Too often we don't stand up for others, or give of ourselves. That doesn't stop God's acceptance and love for us. God's grace models and compels us to love and accept others. Pentecost assures us of God's continuing presence. The Holy Spirit thing- it is real. God is with us, inspiring us, guiding us, empowering us, gifting and gathering us. Helping us to live that love and acceptance. To live it out, not just to sit in a pew and hear about it. Real Holy Spirit power that makes a difference in our lives and cause us to make a difference in other lives.

PRAYER is an important part of this. We need that time to sit at God's feet and pour out our hearts. Especially when we are hurting, that time is so needed. Prayer is a time of sharing, and perhaps pleading, but also a time of listening. Try allowing silence to be its own prayer. Then, we can listen and be open while God acts. God doesn't promise to do what we want or when we want it. God doesn't promise to fix everything. But we pray to a God who can, and does, do the miraculous. I have experienced that. I have talked to others who have also experienced that. An unexpected healing, a timely word of comfort, an experience of care, or the assurance about a decision made. God works to bring good, even when the bad cannot be erased.

A cancer survivor often becomes a wonderful encourager and presence for someone else going through the same. Someone who loses a loved one, can be there to help someone else through their grief process. God doesn't send the pain and hurt. Yet, God certainly can work through it, and does. Each of those hurts could be something that would cause resentment, anger, or an inward focus. God's work is the opposite; to constantly bring health out of hurt, and wholeness from the brokenness of life. God is at work. Through me. Through you. Through the church. So be a church...a family. Keep celebrating with each other. Put aside the nastiness and rudeness. Keep caring for one another. And then reach out with that same compassion and love of Christ. There's a world out there that really needs to experience that.

~Pastor Stump



Music Corner

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it,
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

Keep singing! Keep singing! "Those who sing pray twice" is what I have always heard. It warms my heart to hear the congregation singing each response and each hymn. Do you know how fortunate we are at Oakland? Many churches have gone the way of a "Praise Team" which "leads" the songs in worship but it really becomes much more about their performance than the congregants sharing their own faith out loud in song. May we ALWAYS have congregational singing here at Oakland that helps the spirit to move among us!

Calling all men! It is time for the Oakland Men's Choir to sing for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14th. Any interested men should come to the choir room that Sunday morning @ 10:15AM to practice. You do not need to be in the choir regularly to join us!!

If you are interested in becoming part of Oakland's Music Ministry, please speak with any choir member or myself. You can also send an email to me at: peputnam@yahoo.com

Giving God all the Glory & Praise!

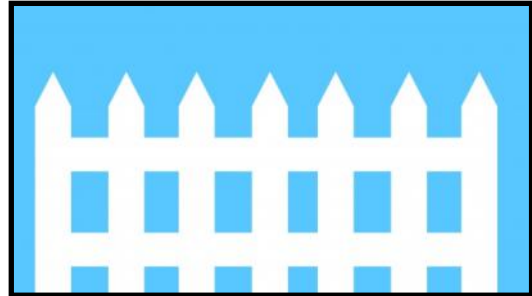
~Paul





Installing a fence around the Playground. Building and Grounds Committee could use a couple strong guys to help with digging holes. Text Connie Edwards 757-617-9256 if you can help.

Saturday, May 6, @ 8am.



Kelly Schaubach

We are excited to introduce our congregation to our new financial secretary, Kelly Schaubach.

Kelly's commitment to diligent work with a cheerful spirit is sure to be a great addition to our team.



Rev. Jason Wade Stump will be Installed Sunday April 30th as our 20th Settled Pastor.

He has certainly livened up the church. His enthusiasm and passion for this church and community is infectious!

Thank you for the videos, preaching, and teaching.

We are so very grateful for your leadership.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

May 2 Loaves and Fishes (10am) CLC

May 6 Bldg & Grounds - Install playground fence (8am)

May 16 Jewels hosts Danna Vroman and Mary Haddad (6pm) at Danna Vroman's.

May 16 Men's Fellowship - Restaurant to be advised (6pm)

Students will be taking EXAMS here at Oakland.

May 1 thru 5 and May 8 thru 11th

We have work arounds to enter the church buildings.

Call the office if there are any issues 757-255-4353



Ralph Howell	2	Wayne Livesay	18
Brian Helms	5	Pat Branche	20
Jackie Saunders	5	Marguerite Butler	20
Rainell Rowell	7	Paul Putnam	22
Kelsey Blanks	8	Isabelle Langston	25
Karen Schine	9	Lorraine Gayle	26
Kirsten Creely	9	Gabe Hathaway	26
Michael McNerney	14	Nancy Spady	26
Charles Johnson	15	Erin Whitley	27
Hattie Jane Hardison	18	David Adams	29



In August 1968, Mills and Katherine Godwin, much beloved church members, lost their only daughter Becky when she was struck by lightning while vacationing at Virginia Beach with her family. She was their only child and just thirteen years old. At the time, Mills Godwin was serving his second term as Governor of Virginia, with Katherine at his side. One of the immutable legacies of Mills Godwin to our state was making a higher education attainable for all citizens of Virginia. In memory of their beloved daughter, for their great love of children and in their conviction to help those that seek to further their college education, Mills and Katherine began the Becky Godwin Memorial Scholarship Fund at Oakland Christian Church.

- > Applications are available in the church office or by email from the church office. office@oaklanducc.com Phone: 757-255-4353
- > Applications are available on May 1, and must be returned by May 28, 2023.
- > Recipient must be a member of Oakland Christian UCC.
- > Scholarships will be awarded during Sunday Worship Service on June 11, 2023.



~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 pm

Men's Fellowship will meet at a local restaurant
Restaurant will be announced in the
weekly bulletin.

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 - Danna Vroman and Mary Haddad
May 16 at 6:00 pm at Danna's
2183 Joshua Lane
Suffolk, VA 23434

All are welcome please join us!

A Look Back at Our Walk Together in April

Easter Pie Fundraiser!



Thanks to all the
Pie Makers!



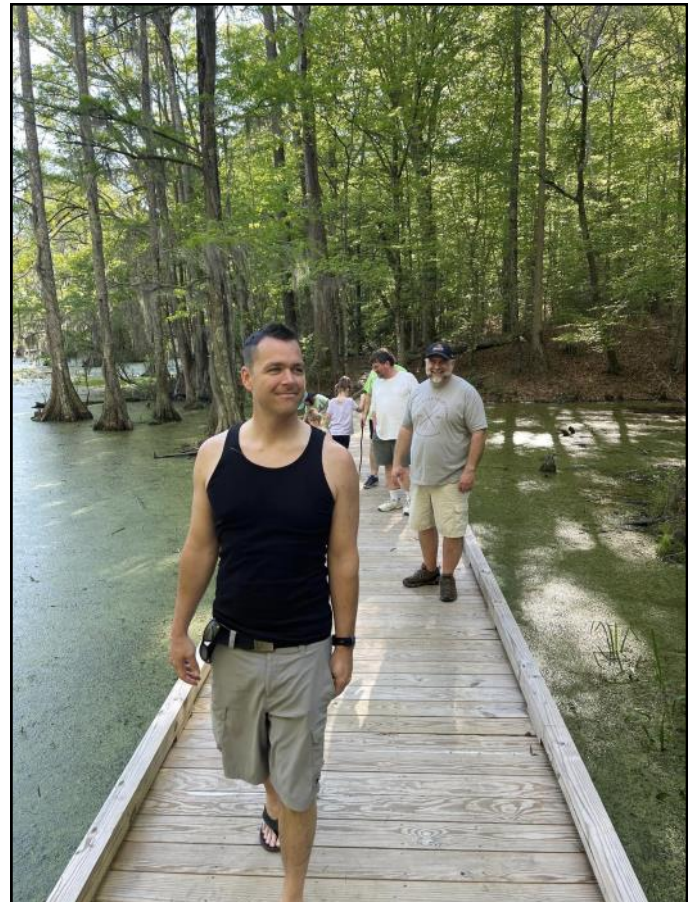
Youth and Family Activities



Youth Group Friday Friends Craft



Family Camping Trip



Palm Sunday



Maundy Thursday Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service



Easter Sunday ~ Alleluia! Alleluia! He has Risen!



Humor Sunday ~ Brought Lots of Joy and Laughter!



Why Did the Chicken?



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

MAY 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