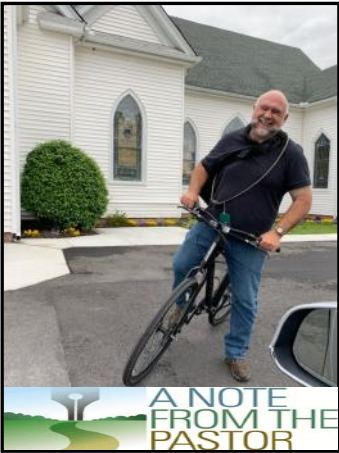


GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

JUNE 2023



Hello Church!

By now you've hopefully heard about our upcoming celebration on July 9th in which we will have a congregational conference meeting to share the good news of our committee reports, and.....drum roll please.....we will "burn the note" on our debt for the building costs of the Community Life Center.. Let me say these words again, "Holy Smokes!" I hope you realize how BIG a deal this is. To invest in our congregational and community life the way you have is absolutely amazing. Thank you to everyone who prayed for, planned, contributed to, cared for, and continues to maintain this special space. It is used by so many!

Personally, I'm excited to envision with you all, and others, new ways we can continue to evolve in the use and stewardship of this space.

As big as this is, and it is really big; I believe there is something bigger going on here within our church and that can expand beyond our walls. Yes, even bigger than completely paying for a nearly \$1 million dollar building project in a short time. I hope you feel it and notice it the way I do. If not, that's okay. Your experience at this time is equally valid and helpful.

In our particular type of church, we don't often talk like this, but it is so very real and tangible right now. The Holy Spirit is moving about, within, and among us. For real! Now, I need to be clear, that alone will not get it all done. Whatever we are about to undertake, all the potential we have, and we have a ton; it will not be done without our individual and communal decisions and hard work. As is said, you can't pray a hole to be dug, you have to pick up a shovel and dig.

Being just after Pentecost, it's relevant to mention the symbolism that has been building now for quite some time. Before I came here to be your pastor, several folks among you and outside of this church essentially told me, "Oakland is just full of energy and ready to go. They just need the spark."; like there was this smoldering fire ready to come forth. Friends, I don't know if I'm that spark, or not. I accept that either way. What I do know is that we are right on the edge of doing so much, and yet, as fires can do, we could self-consume and burn ourselves out. We will have to go forth with moments of "bringing the heat" with unbridled and abundant love and energy (big flames full of light, and color). At times, we will have to take a moment to rest (breathe, add some air). We will have to contribute our resources of time, talent, and treasure (fuel); and even invite others to do so. And yes, we will acknowledge and discern that special reaction that brings them all together.....The Holy Spirit!

I'll leave you with this information I took from a website of The University of South Carolina. You can contemplate it as you wish. Oh, and my final words....Holy Smokes!

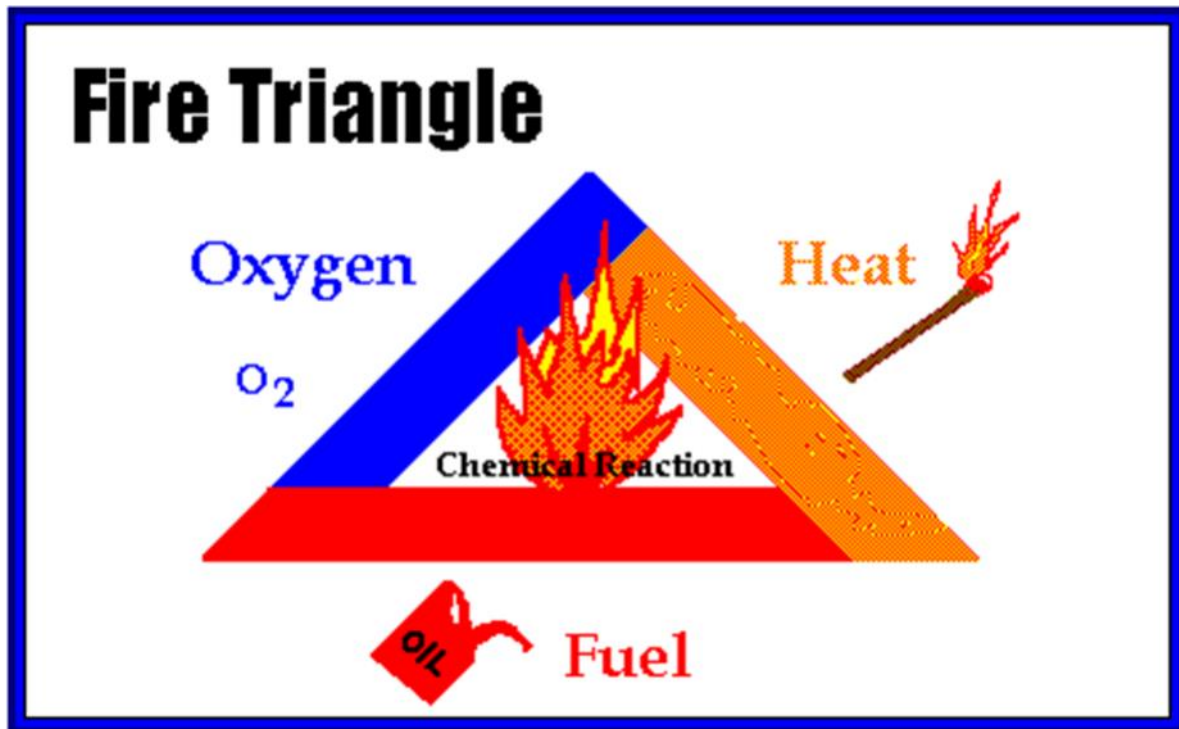
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The Fire Triangle

Four things must be present at the same time in order to produce fire:

- Enough **oxygen** to sustain combustion,
- Enough **heat** to raise the material to its ignition temperature,
- Some sort of **fuel or combustible material**, and
- The chemical, exothermic **reaction** that is fire.

Take a look at the following diagram, called the "Fire Triangle"



Oxygen, heat, and fuel are frequently referred to as the "fire triangle." Add in the fourth element, the chemical reaction, and you actually have a fire "tetrahedron." The important thing to remember is: take any of these four things away, and you will not have a fire or the fire will be extinguished.



Music Corner

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

From the time I was a kid, there was something about this hymn that always “struck a chord” with me. Singing, “Holy, Holy, Holy” in the congregation at my church with the pipe organ playing made me want to stand taller and sing louder. Now, I really enjoy playing this hymn for you, the congregation to sing out loud and proud. What a wonderful statement, “God in three persons, Blessed Trinity”.

On Sunday, June 11th, the Oakland Handbell Choir will be playing in worship. Come, listen and enjoy the beauty of the bells.

The Oakland Women’s Choir will be singing during worship on Sunday, June 18th for Father’s Day. Any women wanting to sing that Sunday, should come to the choir room that morning around 10:15AM to practice.

If you or someone you know would like to offer special music any Sunday during the summer months, please reach out to me at: peputnam@yahoo.com or 757-285-0431.

Be Blessed!

~Paul



Pentecost Sunday



HALLELUJAH! What a day of rejoicing we will have... on ...

July 9, when we burn the note on our new Community Life Center!

You all (*y'all*) have been so amazing! Let's summarize:

Our Community Life Center (CLC) cost approximately \$800,000.

We held a pledge campaign in early 2018, asking for a five-year commitment toward the new building.

The response was overwhelming, and we were able to begin the process immediately – making plans, getting permits, etc. Pledges began to roll in, and work began. The building was completed in May 2020.

Due to the pandemic, we had been worshiping only online for many months, but we were able to resume in-person services on March 7, 2021, because of having the CLC, which allowed for proper social distancing.

Now, with the completion of this five-year period, we owe just over \$61,000 on the building, which is awesome. Council has determined that we can pay off the balance, and we will burn the note on July 9! This would still put quite a dent in our General Fund, so we are asking for you to chip in, once again. If each family gives a little extra, it would help to pay off this note without digging too deeply into the General Fund.

You can give in any of the usual ways – by cash or check, e-giving, through your bank or Realm, etc. Be sure to designate “New Building Fund” so it goes to the proper account.

We know you always respond generously, so we thank you in advance for helping us to wipe out this debt!

HOLY SMOKES!!



Your Stewardship Committee



**The Outreach Committee is meeting
June 15th at 6:30pm - Godwin Meeting Room.**

There are exciting opportunities coming up to advance God's kingdom through the Outreach Committee's purpose of "ensuring that the Christian mandate to serve others is always in the forefront at Oakland Christian UCC....". Please come and see how you can help execute projects that have tremendous impact in our community and beyond. We will be discussing debt relief at this upcoming meeting! How exciting!

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- June 6 Loaves and Fishes meeting in Fellowship Hall (10am)
- June 9 Youth Group "Friday Friends" CLC (5:45pm - 8 pm)
- June 11 Sunday Worship - Recognizing our High School and College Graduates.
- June 15 Loaves & Fishes - Drive thru food give away (11am)
- June 15 Outreach Committee - Godwin Meeting Room (6:30pm)
- June 18 Sunday Worship (11am) recognizing our Acolytes
- June 20 Jewels - Hosts Mary Jane & Rainell Rowell in the CLC (6pm)
- June 20 Mens Fellowship - Sals Pizza - 2815 Godwin Blvd. (6pm)
- June 25 Worship Guest Minister Rev. Gary Newsome (11am)
- June 28 Council Meeting in Godwin Meeting Room (6pm)



Pastor Stump will be out of town June 23rd thru June 30th. He will be attending The UCC Southern Conference for 2 days and will be at John's River Valley Camp, as a camp counselor for the rest of the week.



Samantha Bond	7
Laura Arcand	10
Mildred King	13
John Biggs	19
Marti Putnam	23
Jeff Edwards	23
Anne Barden Spady	26
Bill Saunders	29
Bobby Winslow	29
Donna Lancaster	29

Ways to Serve!

Have you wondered lately how you might serve Oakland and/or our community/world? Please consider these opportunities:)

1. Sign up to put flowers on the altar. The calendar is just inside the front door on the bulletin board to the right. We welcome flowers from your yard, potted plants, baskets of plants, or any kind of floral arrangements. We have many vacancies for the rest of the year.
2. While signing up for flowers, notice the Welcome Table. It usually features snacks, juice and coffee. We are in need of folks to prepare the table. There is a sign up sheet on a clipboard at the table.

Thanks for your consideration. No offer of time, talent or treasure is too small. Just know that you are needed!



Our July Loaves and Fishes bags will feature an additional bag that includes cleaning and/or paper supplies. We are in need of the following items by July 16th:

Bleach (liquid or spray), bathroom or kitchen cleanser, sponges, dish soap, laundry soap, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, plastic wrap, foil, baggies, tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo, conditioner, etc.

A bin will soon be placed in the Fellowship Hall for





***Men's Fellowship will meet at
Sal's Pizza, 2815 Godwin Blvd., in Suffolk
Tuesday, June 20 at 6 PM***

If you have any questions please contact:

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

All are welcome please join us!

***Women's Fellowship
Come hang out with us at Jewels!***



JEWELS

***"Joyfully Enjoying
Women's Encouragement and Loving Support"***

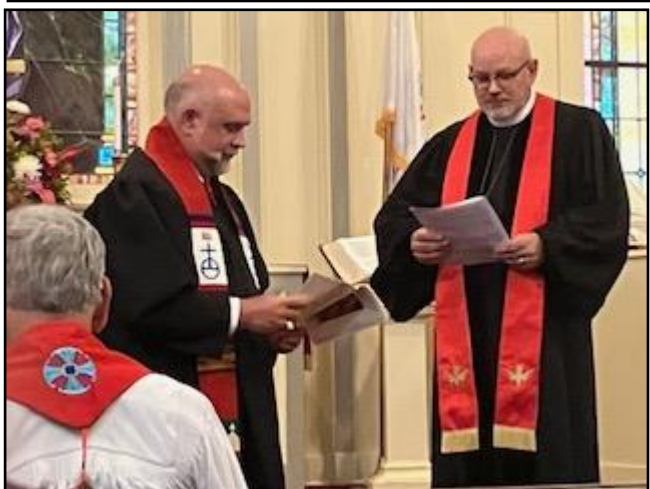
Third Tuesday of every month

*This month's hosts - Mary Jane Naismith and Rainell Rowell
Tuesday, June 20th at 6PM
In our Community Life Center*

All are welcome please join us!

Together We Grow

Service of Installation for Reverend Jason Wade Stump April 30th



Order of Reception for New Members If you see them, please give them a warm welcome!

Kathleen Stump Joined March 12th



Center from left to right: Debbie Howard, Susan and Ray Bunch, Beth and Gary Macklin. Joined May 28th.

Building and Grounds Activities



The playground fence was installed!
Thank you: Jesse, Andy, Jack, John, Helena, Connie, John, Carl and Kendall! Kendall's taking the picture....AND thank you Jason for fixing us lunch!

We still have some leveling to do and rubber mulch to spread, but we will get this project finished soon!

And just a note: We always celebrate with food (always!) If you would like to join this group, let someone on the committee know. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!

Building and Grounds activities continued . . .

Our freezer and refrigerators gave us all they had for many years and we were grateful they lasted so long, but we had to retire them and get new ones.



Thank you Randy and Carl for hauling them away and making room for the new ones!

And . . . Thank you to the Kitchen Committee for picking out the new ones.



If you wonder who is keeping the flower beds maintained, please thank Larry Bounds. It is hard to catch him in the act as he is an earlier riser! I think he had Cathy up here on her day off helping him this week but I'm not sure.



And . . . while Building and Grounds were busy, we found Susie and Otto preparing communion and of course they were invited to eat with us.

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

JUNE 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