

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

JULY 2023



Hello Church! I'm writing this article as I sit in Shuford Lodge at Johns River Valley Camp. Winding down from a busy day with youth and camp leadership on the Virginia Creeper Trail; well, I'm tired. Yet, my heart is full.

This past week campers have learned about the Creation Story in new ways each day. Reflecting on the gifts of things like light, water, and earth. They've also learned what it's like to consider those left out, what it's like to be a "light" in this world, and follow Jesus' light, and the symbolic and literal gifts of the earth and planting good seeds of love.

I've seen children kayak, and shoot archery for the first time. They've hiked to waterfall, painted watercolors, wrote prayers, and believe it or not...even sang church camp songs on the camp bus. I've even seen these young teens entertain themselves with nothing but a ball in a field. I've not seen one act of aggression towards a fellow camper, not one incident of bullying, and no child has complained about not having cell phone reception. Yes, we do let them keep their "phones" if they'd like because we want them taking pictures of these precious memories and good times.

Not many carry them, they are just too busy.

I've worked with most of these campers for several years now. Four of the boys are brand new to camp. Some having never spent the night away from home. They are loving it! There's so much more I could write, and I hope to share with you. For now, I just want to say "thank you!" Thank you for supporting Johns River Valley Camp. Thank you for having a long history of sending staff to participate in this wider ministry of the church. Thank you for sending and supporting campers from our church, and from other places. My friends, good stuff....really good stuff, happens here. Ask me about it, I'd love to share more!

For now, on to our Camp Oakland VBS! Please offer your prayers and support for a successful year!

~Jason



Rev. Gary Newsome was our guest minister July 2,
while Pastor Jason was at Camp.

Gary sent Oakland a note to be shared with the congregation:

Such an honor to share at Oakland on Sunday. Thank you for the Welcome, hospitality, and the joy you all bring.

Amanda and I are truly grateful for the precious people at Oakland.

Music Corner



Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked Your mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to Your purpose every gift which You impart.

This hymn was written in 1961 and presented to the Hymn Society of America as a new hymn to recognize social welfare consciousness. Serving others using our gifts and talents in the name of Jesus Christ is a great way for us to explain being a Christian to other non-believers. Fortunately at Oakland we understand firsthand how to be the hands and feet of Christ living our everyday lives. I have loved this hymn from the moment it was introduced to me years ago and I hope it is one of your favorite's also.

Summertime is a wonderful time to let things move a little bit slower so that we can just enjoy our time with family & friends. Several people will take vacations and travel many miles while others may stay close to home. The Bell and Chancel Choirs are also taking a bit more of a relaxing pace these days. Handbells are on vacation until September. The Chancel Choir will continue meeting and singing on Sunday mornings through the month of July. During August, there will be special music each Sunday.

Enjoy summertime and the more relaxed pace it brings!

In Christ's Name,

~Paul

Father's Day The
Women's Choir
honored Fathers.





The excitement is building...
We will be celebrating on July 9, as we burn the note!

You all are so amazing! A month ago the balance was over \$61,000. You dug a little deeper, and that figure is down to about \$55,000, as of June 18 (June 25 donations not yet counted). AND... you can still give to “New Building Fund” on July 2 and July 9, to lower the amount needing to come from our General Fund to pay off the note.

Our Community Life Center is a blessing to so many – within our church, and throughout our community. Lots of great things are happening there.

Come to the party on July 9, and help us burn the note and make some Holy Smoke!
Lunch will follow!

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN

Your Stewardship Committee



**HOLY SMOKES - WE ARE BURNING THE NOTE
LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER
SUNDAY, JULY 9TH!**

Immediately following worship we will have a brief conference, covered dish, and ceremonial burning of the CLC note. Fired chicken, BBQ, & beverages will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share if you are able.



“Give the Thirsty Something to Drink” – Matthew 25: 31-46

As Summer begins to come upon us with hotter days, we all might find a drink of cool, clean water even more refreshing than the rest of the year. We also might take for granted just how convenient it is to access that drink and quench our thirst.

In our modern age there are many who still live without this basic necessity, and many of them who once had access to clean water now don't due to pollution, deteriorated infrastructure, and many other problems.

Church World Service works through several programs to provide clean water for drinking, hygiene, and other household needs to people around the world. As part of Christ's instruction to provide drink to those who are thirsty, we are going to be supporting the efforts of CWS.

For the foreseeable future, every time there is a “5th Sunday” in a month we will have the children walk through the sanctuary during worship and collect loose change in containers they've already decorated in preparation for this ministry. This will also nicely fit as a continuation of one of the daily themes from Vacation Bible School.

These dates for 2023 will be July 30th, October 29th, and December 31st. If you think your change won't go far, think again! As an example, just \$30 buys a household water filter for a family in Cambodia.



ALL PROFITS WILL BENEFIT THE
COALITION AGAINST POVERTY IN
SUFFOLK

Save the Date!
Sunday, September 17

11am - 2pm

**BBQ
Fundraiser**

with
Captain Bob's

**BBQ - FRIED CHICKEN - SLAW
HUSH PUPPIES - GREEN BEANS**

WESTMINSTER REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Coalition Against Poverty “CAPS”
BBQ Fundraiser
September 17, 11am 2 pm
drive thru @ Westminster Church

See Oakland's Church Secretary, Connie for tickets.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- July 2 Worship (11 am)
- July 4 Office closed
- July 6 Loaves & Fishes Meeting in Fellowship Hall (10am)
- July 9 Worship (11 am)
- July 9 Brief Church Conference, covered dish & ceremonial burning of the CLC note. 12pm
- July 10-12 Camp Oakland Vacation Bible School - Register by July 5, 6pm-8:30pm
- July 18 Jewels - Hosted by Dana Mitchell at her home - 808 General Pickett Dr.
Please, also park in the driveway next door at #806 (her mom's house). (6pm)
- July 18 Men's Fellowship — restaurant to be announced (6pm)
- July 20 Loaves & Fishes food distribution - drive thru CLC (11am)
- July 24 Stewardship Meeting in Godwin Mtg. room (6pm)
- July 25 Newsletter articles due to office@oaklanducc.com
- July 26 Council Meeting in the Little Kitchen (6pm)
- July 30 Worship (11am)

JULY Birthdays

Harper Wilson	3	Jameson Pantelides	16
Justin Billings	5	Jenna Langston	17
Gary Butler	6	Breanne Presson	17
Cindy Cowan	6	Lisa Whitley	17
John Johnson	6	Pam Saunders	18
Susan Phillips	7	Betsy Wegman	20
Brad Whitley	9	CF Jordan	22
Tessa Phillips	9	Denise Spady	23
Peggy Walker	10	Tamika Blanchette	23
Ella Mae Winslow	11	James Saunders	26
Megan Harrell	12	William Brennecke	26
Daniel Brower	14		

Oakland Christian UCC
Vacation Bible School
July 10-12, 2023
6pm-8:30pm



Oakland Friends and Family
Vacation Bible School
Registration is Now Open!

Join us for fun and fellowship
 at Camp Oakland!

We are looking forward to welcoming you July 10-12 from 6pm-8:30pm
 for an evening of story time, games, crafts, and your favorite camp songs!

Register Online Now using the QR code.





***Men's Fellowship will meet at
CAZADERO'S JULY 18 6PM
1701 N. MAIN ST.***

*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"

This month's hosts - Dana Mitchell

Tuesday, July 18, 6PM

808 General Pickett Dr.

**Please, also park in the driveway next door at #806 (her mom's house).
*All are welcome please join us!***

The Electronic Sign is Up and Working!
A huge thank you for all the effort and time Doug Naismith put into navigating this project!



Please go to our Facebook page to read the Suffolk News Herald Article on Pastor Stump and Oakland Christian United Church of Christ. This was in the paper on June 28.

OR click on this link to carry you to the article. [Journey brings Stump to Oakland Christian Church of Christ - The Suffolk News-Herald | The Suffolk News-Herald \(suffolknewsherald.com\)](https://www.suffolknewsherald.com/story/news/local/2023/06/28/pastor-stump-oakland-christian-church-of-christ-suffolk-news-herald/7048244002)



Thank you Rob Rhodes for attending with
Pastor Stump the General Synod for the
Southern Conference United Church of Christ



FRIDAY FRIENDS

Our Youth Group - enjoys their fellowship—held once a month on a Friday night.
For information, please contact Connie Burgess jesseandconnieburgess@gmail.com



Thank you for your Service!

ACOLYTE RECOGNITION

Kylee Langston, Devon Langston, Harper Wilson,
Helena Burgess, Isabelle Langston, Kendall Burgess



My name is Eddie and you are my friends!

We honored Rev. Eddie Walker with a special surprise. for sticking with us as our interim minister for so much longer than he had planned. We knew he was anxious to start retirement but he helped us through.

Eddie had mentioned he missed his Weeping Willow tree that he left behind when he moved to Smithfield. We bought him a Weeping Willow Tree and it will be planted at his home in Smithfield.

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

JULY 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