

October

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

From
the
Pastor's
Heart

Today is my second day back in the office from vacation. I spent a week in Vermont which focused around visiting my alma mater, Norwich University, The Military College of Vermont. The highlight of that was Homecoming weekend.

I could talk for days and never be able to explain to you fully what this trip meant to me. From seeing friends, many of whom I haven't seen in 25 years, to leading prayer in White Chapel, to bicycle rides in the Vermont countryside. Meeting current cadets, thanking old mentors, and on and on. From peaceful mornings from the deck of a cabin, to late night laughter with friends, it was a wellspring of life for me.

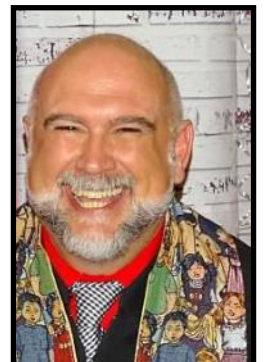
I don't think I realized it until the trip back, but I truly was floating on air. To be associated with these folks is a great honor of my life. One particular day I spent mostly with just a handful of friends and I could not have felt more comfortable, loved, safe, and joyful. We should all be able to be healed by that kind of day.

In the past I have encouraged the act of "finding joy." Not just finding it, but recognizing it and sharing with others. One thing I've found, it can be very contagious. A friend of mine, who I was a "Rook" with in military college, is a great example of this. COL Mark Denton commands an Army brigade in Italy. I shared with him this past weekend that for all his awards, achievements, and rank; the thing that I'm most proud of him for is the manner in which he leads soldiers, and inspires people even beyond his brigade. Mark is constantly setting the example in many ways, including sharing the joy of his leadership. He does this consistently, especially on social media. From successes of his soldiers, to his children in school, to collaboration with foreign counterparts, etc. Sure, I'm certain he has extremely tough days, and he deals with them appropriately. However, his constant reminder of his mantra "Too Easy" only breeds more success for himself, his unit, and many others.

I'm certain COL Denton, and many others I spent time with, have learned from life lessons what is written in James 1: 2-3 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

My friends, find joy, share when you are happy, help others find joy. This lifts others. "A rising tide lifts all ships." This is a part of the commandment of Jesus to "love your neighbor." In the end, no matter how much we complicate this Christian life, it really is "Too Easy!" I hope you all report back to me with what brings you joy in the coming days!

Peace! -- Rev. Jason Stump





You are welcome to join us this fall for:

Adult Handbell Choir – meets on Thursdays at 6:30PM

Adult Chancel Choir – meets on Thursdays at 7:30PM

Questions? Feel free to contact Paul Putnam or any choir member!!

peputnam@yahoo.com or 757-285-0431

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness:
come before his presence with singing.”

-from Psalm 100



Save the date December 17th - Christmas Cantata!

Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

CHURCH HAPPENINGS



- Oct 1 Sunday Morning Cereal & Stories (10am)
Adult Sunday School (10am) Worship (11am)
- Oct 3 Loaves & Fishes - Fellowship Hall (10am)
Candy Making - CLC Kitchen (10am)
Time and Talent Committee Meeting - Godwin Meeting Room (1pm)
- Oct 4 Building and Grounds Meeting - CLC (6:30pm)
- Oct 8 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday Schools (10am)
- Oct 9 Office Closed - Columbus Day
Stewardship - Godwin Meeting Room (6pm)
- Oct 10 Candy Making - CLC Kitchen (10am)
- Oct 15 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday School (10am)
- Oct 16 Board of Christian Education "BOCE" Meeting - Little Kitchen (6:30pm)
- Oct 17 Jewels, Hostesses Julie Johnson and Sharon Winslow - CLC (6pm)
Men's Fellowship - Restaurant to be announced
- Oct 20 Youth Group Friday Friends - Halloween Fun!!
- Oct 22 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday Schools (10am)
Church Picnic following worship @ the Haddad's
- Oct 25 Council Mtg - Little Kitchen (6pm)
- Oct 26 Deadline for Newsletter Articles
- Oct 28 Fall Fest! (9am - 2pm)
- Oct 29 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday Schools (10am)

OCTOBER

Birthdays

Lincoln Wilson	8		
Debbie Howard	9		
Donald Curliss	10	Janet Harris	24
Gayle Nelms	11	Harvey Saunders	24
Bill Csisar	12	Kylee Langston	25
Doug Naismith	12	Sadie Boyer	27
Harvey Doyle	13	Charlie Langston	27
Sharon Winslow	17	Ann Saunders	28
Grace Haddad	21	Benjamin Hardison	28
Otto Wegman	22	Donna Adams	29



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

October 17th @ 6:00 pm

Sal's Pizza
2815 Godwin Blvd.
Please join us!

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



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP JEWELS

October 17th @ 6:00 pm

We will gather in the CLC

Hosted by: Julie Johnson and Sharon Winslow
Devotions: Cindy Cowan

*All are welcome
Please join us!*



FRIDAY FRIENDS YOUTH GROUP

October 28

5:45 pm to 8 pm

Halloween Theme

Where your costume





OAKLAND'S ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, October 22nd

(Immediately following Worship Service)

At the home of Mary & Lou Haddad

4950 Exeter Drive.



Church provides hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks, condiments,

Bring a side dish to share and a lawn chair if you can.

[There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall](#)





**Saturday, October 28, 2023
from 9am-2pm**

It is time for our annual Fall Fest which will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 9am-2pm in our Community Life Center. The week leading up to Fall Fest is busy! If you can help in any capacity it would be most appreciated! Please see the sign-up board in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to help in person, monetary donations are welcome to off-set costs which may be accomplished several ways: In Realm or by cash or check. Please make a note that your donation should go toward Fall Fest expenses.

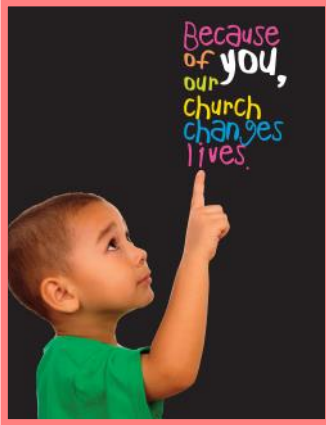
There are important changes this year for our pre-orders! The cut-off for pre-orders will be Friday, October 20, 2023 at Noon. There will be no exceptions made.

Items that may be pre-ordered are:

Brunswick Stew
Oakland Acorns
Chicken Salad
Pimento Cheese
Pies (Chocolate Chess, Coconut and Pecan)

If you have questions, please see Pam Saunders, Denise Spady, Suzanne Langston or Jean Keeling. As always, we look forward to a wonderful day of fellowship, good eats, and tired bodies by the end of the day! Call the office to place a pre-order 757-255-4353 or fill out a form and turn it in.

Blessings,
Fall Fest Committee



Stewardship Campaign

2024

“Because of You, our Church
Changes Lives”

Your Stewardship Committee will be using the UCC 2024 Stewardship Campaign slogan above, as we believe it is especially appropriate for our church this year. Now that our Community Life Center debt has been paid off, next year we will be in a good position to use more of our funds in ways that will help those in need, both near and far.

Our four - Sunday campaign will begin on Sunday, October 22nd and end on November 12th, when we will celebrate our 2024 commitments of our Time, Talents & Treasures pledges, both to our God and to our church. You will be receiving a letter this month with your 2024 Commitment Card where you will have two giving options:

- 1) Give Weekly, Monthly or Other
- 2) Give When you Can as Much As You Are Able

As in the past, we hope you will look forward to these Sundays! They just might include a Stewardship sermon, a skit, information about our Legacy program, an e-giving seminar, and showing where much of our money has gone this year.

Once again, we all thank you for your generosity in giving of your Time, Talents and Treasures to Oakland this past year! You make our job easy, and allow us to plan four different Stewardship Sundays that include no begging, and even some that are fun.

Your Stewardship Committee Members:

Mary Jane Naismith, Chair, Kyle Arcand, Sandy Barton, Susie Eaton, Ginny Fly, Lynn Knight, Mary Anne Riddick, Paul Saunders, Betsy and Otto Wegman and Ella Mae Winslow

EXPLORING OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC WEBSITE:

From your computer Search Oakland Christian Church Suffolk and choose what pops up to get to our website.

OR use this link [Oakland Christian UCC \(oaklanducc.org\)](http://Oakland Christian UCC (oaklanducc.org))

If you want to read our Constitution or By-Laws you can find that information under the category **About**. Use the drop down and choose Leadership; scroll to the bottom and click on the information to open the document.



From your phone the view is a little different and unfortunately the option to view our Constitution and By-Laws is not available. We are working on that.

However, there are so many ways to explore and see Oakland Christian UCC from the website. You can choose Facebook (without having a personal Facebook page) by just clicking the FB icon or you can go to Oakland's You-Tube channel and watch past sermons. There's lots of information and videos available on our website, so take a look and explore. We will welcome comments!

Questions: Call the office and Connie will help you. 757-255-4353

Thank you

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to my Oakland Church family for the thoughtful prayers, cards, food and kind gestures given to my family during Bill's passing. My heart was truly touched and I am forever thankful. The Hospitality Committee is to be praised for such a splendid reception following the service. Our entire family felt well taken care of and it was not only beautiful, but delicious. Again, thank you so very much.

With much love,
Diane and the family of Bill Saunders

Thank you

Thank you all so much for the love & delicious meals. It has been such a relief to not worry about dinner after a long day of taxi cabbing the kids, working and all the other things that come with being a busy wife/mom/nurse! We are so lucky to have each of you as part of our tribe! Steve will be non-weight bearing for several more weeks while his tendons/ligaments heal, it's also his driving foot so he's stuck at home. Feel free to swing by for a visit because I'm sure by the end of it he will be going stir crazy!

Kasie Wilson

OUTREACH



The BBQ Fundraiser to support Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk was well supported by Oakland Christian. We sold a record number of tickets! Great job Church!

Special thanks to Dana Mitchell for coordinating this and to the Mitchells and the Vroman's for volunteering at the fundraiser .



The next Great Suffolk Cleanup will be November 17/18, 2023.

Oakland Christian is Participating. Please save the date to represent Oakland Christian. More details are on their way.

Question: See Rob Rhodes

JOIN US ON LIFE'S JOURNEY

OUR ROOTS ARE
PLANTED FIRMLY
ON FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE

Est. 1872

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

October 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Jason Stump
Minister of Music: Paul E. Putnam
Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Connie Edwards
Financial Secretary: Kelly Schaubach
Nursery Attendant: Rhonda Culpepper

Telephone: (757) 255-4353
Office Hours: 10 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com

Website: www.OaklandUCC.org

