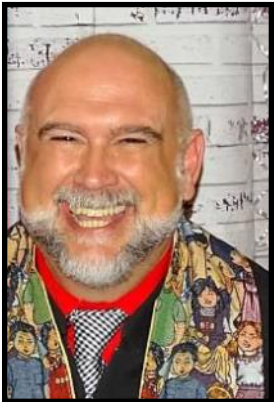


# December

## GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



Here we are! Right at the beginning of the liturgical year with the season of Advent. I've long believed that the value of Advent is so often overlooked in many Christian lives. A time of expectant waiting ahead of the Nativity of The Christ child, or Christmas as we most often call it.

Waiting, especially expectant waiting, is such a valuable thing to practice in our faith lives. Now, don't be mistaken, as much as there are preparations to be made before Christmas, and that's a part of Advent as well; I'm a big fan of those two words. Expectant waiting. We know what's coming, we are sure of it, and yet we wait.

Within a few weeks of reading this you will hopefully be experiencing the best of the joy of Christmas. As we should. It's not a "birthday" as you and I experience, celebrating another year of life. It is the celebration that God, as Christ, came to be with us as a baby, Jesus. Conceived and born in miraculous and mysterious ways. We remember the impact of this earthly birth event that has divine origins, and eternal consequence, for all creation.

You may see and say the word "Immanuel," or Emmanuel. A Hebrew name used as a prophecy of protection, "God is with us." Always with us. In our joy, in our despair, and in our waiting.

My friends, I don't want to at all diminish the joy of Christmas. Personally, I love it and I can't wait to be there. Yet, I must wait, just a bit longer.

I hope you join me in learning how that expectant waiting can take your relationship with God to deeper places. Sit a bit in silence. Let that morning coffee be savored a minute or two longer. Pray.

In between that, when you want to prepare and wait with others, be sure to join us at as many of our special gatherings as you can. You'll see them listed in our calendar. It's always better when you are here. God is with us! We want you to be as well!

Peace be with you!

Rev. Stump



There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
For the manger in Bethlehem cradles a King!

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" as the familiar song goes. Welcoming our savior, Jesus Christ into our hearts and homes at this time of year brings a sense of wonder and renewal. For many of us, the melodies and words woven together help us to tell the story of our dear savior's birth.

Advent and Christmas are truly special here at Oakland. Our Bell Choir and Chancel Choir are working hard to help make the music sparkle this season. Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> is going to be a very special day for music. Our annual Christmas Cantata this year is, "Appalachian Winter" by Joseph Martin. The Chancel Choir with additional singers will be presenting this at the 11:00AM worship service. We will also be presenting the Christmas Cantata at a FREE concert for the community at 4:00PM that same day. What a wonderful opportunity to invite your family, friends and neighbors to experience Christmas at Oakland!

Christmas Eve will be particularly special with the Harp music by Danielle Caldwell. Danielle is a music graduate of CNU and performs throughout the region. She will be performing as part of our lessons and carols Christmas Candlelight Service at 9:00PM.

What a wonderful time to be involved with the music program at Oakland!

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas Everyone!

Musically Yours,

Paul Putnam  
Minister of Music



# CHURCH HAPPENINGS



- DEC 1 Youth Group—Friday Friends - CLC 6:00pm
- Dec 2 Flower & Altar Committee - 9am - Hanging the inside greens.
- Dec 3 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday Schools (10am) Communion
- Dec 5 Loaves & Fishes Meeting Fellowship Hall (10am)
- Dec 8 Church Christmas Party - CLC (6:30pm)
- Dec 10 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday Schools (10am)
- Dec 13 Jewels Christmas Party - Sign up required @ Holland's (6pm)
- Dec 13 Men's Fellowship - Cazadore's Mexican Rest. 1701 N. Main St. (6pm)
- Dec 15 Fresh wreath making @ Kelly's Nursery (6pm)
- Dec 16 Hanging fresh wreaths outside (9am)
- Dec 17 Worship CANTATA (11am) & (4pm) Adult Sunday School (10am)
- Dec 24 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday Schools (10am)
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (9pm)
- Dec 25 Office Closed
- Dec 25 thru January 1 - Pastor Stump on vacation
- Dec 25 Deadline for News Letter Articles
- Dec 27 Council Meeting - Little Kitchen (6pm) Tentative

*Kelly Schaubach will be putting together our newsletter beginning 2024. All submissions for the monthly newsletter are to be sent to [finsec@oaklanducc.com](mailto:finsec@oaklanducc.com) with a copy to [office@oaklanducc.com](mailto:office@oaklanducc.com). This includes articles, announcements, pictures, etc. The deadline remains the 25th of each month. For the January newsletter, the due date is December 25th. Late submissions will not be able to be published."*



## DECEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

Ed Carter	1	Anne Hodgson	11
Helena Burgess	2	Margaret Tolly	13
Rob Rhodes	3	Mary Anne Riddick	13
Jason Stump	3	Bob Creely	14
Sam Howell	6	Jack Brennecke	14
Jean Jordan	6	John Gayle	15
Kendall Burgess	7	Sharon Ingold	21
Barbara Nelms	10	Kyle Arcand	30



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, December 13 @ 6pm  
Cazadore's Mexican Restaurant  
1701 N. Main St.

Please join us!

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



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP JEWELS

Wednesday, December 13 @ 6pm  
Sign up required

Annual Christmas Party  
Location Holland's  
100 Commerce Street

## Oakland Kids

Grades PK-6

Friday Friends  
Friday, December 1  
6:00pm to 8:15pm  
In the CLC

Please join us!





## *Poinsettias*

Purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one. We will fill the altar with poinsettias for our Christmas Cantata! Please fill out a form and return to the office in person/email give to Julie Johnson, or drop in the offering plate.

Forms are on the entrance table.

**Deadline to order: Sunday, December 3rd**



## *Church Christmas Party*

Friday, December 8 - 6:30 to 8pm  
Community Life Center  
Food, Games, and Fellowship

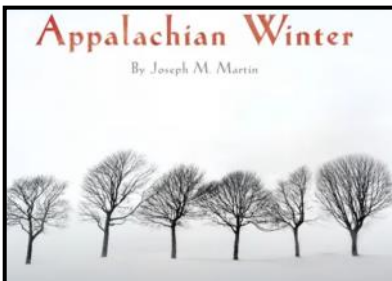


## *Making Fresh Christmas Wreaths*

Friday, December 15th - 6pm @ Kelly's Nursery  
Bring your yard gloves & hand clippers.

Contact Julie Johnson if you can help 757-647-1627

**These wreaths will be hung outside on the church the next day!**



## *Christmas Cantata Oakland Chancel Choir*

Sunday, December 17th @ 11am worship service  
Again @ 4pm - for the community

Encore For the Lake Prince Woods Retirement Community January 7th @ 4pm



## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

Sunday, December 24th - 9pm

Danielle Caldwell, Harpist will be providing special harp music for the service.

## Stewardship



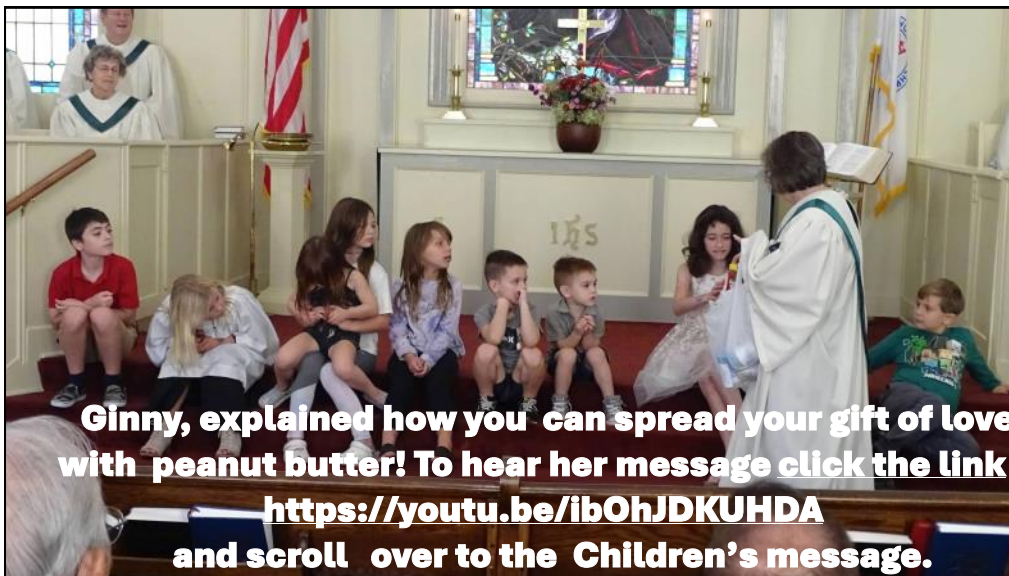
Our Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of you who returned your 2024 Commitment Cards and Time and Talent Surveys on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Paul's music brought members forward with joy and happiness as they put their pledges and surveys in the Commitment Box.

If you missed this Sunday, it is never too late! The Commitment Box will be in the Fellowship Hall for two more Sundays, or you may always put your pledges and/or surveys in the Offering Plate.

In planning a four-week Stewardship campaign, our committee tries to make each Sunday interesting and/or humorous, but hopefully, never exudes pressure that everyone must give of their Time, Talent and Treasure. One of the options we have on our financial pledge card is "I will give when I can and as much as I am able". This is all we ask.

Our Stewardship theme for 2024, "*Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives*", is appropriate for our members here at Oakland, who truly give generously of their Time, Talent and Treasures, as each is able.

Thanks again for your faithful contributions to Oakland Christian Church.



**Ginny, explained how you can spread your gift of love with peanut butter! To hear her message click the link <https://youtu.be/ibOhJDKUHDA> and scroll over to the Children's message.**



Special Note: "Please be sure any monetary tithes sent to the church on your behalf from a financial institution have your name associated with them, if you would like them attributed to you."

## Outreach Ministries

Dana Mitchell is our liaison for CAPS  
the Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk.



Being part of this ministry is a way to see outside yourself by helping those less fortunate. In 2012 CAPS became the Central Intake Center for Emergency Relief and formed relationships with area churches, private entities, and other nonprofit organizations in Suffolk. Oakland Christian supports CAPS and their ministry to assist the residence of Suffolk who need help.

Watch for CAPS updates in the future from Dana.  
Coming up is the Winter Shelter program



The community garden sign was installed in by volunteers.

The housing, which is identical to our new church sign, given to the church at no cost

because it wasn't made to properly fit the electronic message boards. The Church Council gave permission for it to be used at the community garden.



Doug Naismith, Samuel Brayboy, Rob Rhodes, Randy Rowell, Carl Lancaster, and John Matt



Thanks to the Oakland folks that helped with the Great Suffolk Clean Up!

Rob Rhodes,

Dori, John, Clare and Dana Mitchell

Jesse Burgess

# Your Building and Grounds Committee

We stay busy and our list is never finished!

Connie keeps adding to our honey due list!



Two new rear tires for the Church Bus—so we can keep on rolling and spreading the good news!



Rick Vroman -





**Your Building and Grounds Committee**  
**We stay busy and our list is never finished. . .**

**Connie keeps adding to our honey due list!**



Two new rear tires for the Church Bus—so we can keep on rolling and spreading the good news!



Tree and bush trimming



Pressure washing the doorways



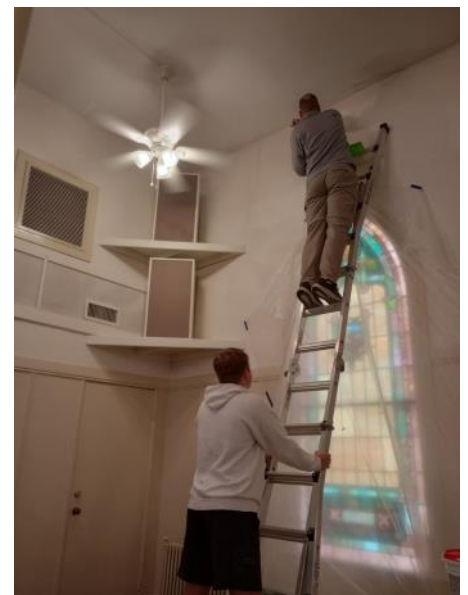
Finishing up the playground project!  
boarder, mulch, and additional posts



Relocating the Pepsi Frig

If you think you would like to be part of this group, please let me know and I will find a place and a project for you!

Connie Edwards  
Chairman B&G



Repairing and painting the Sanctuary Wall

## Building and Grounds continued . . .



Which way do I go!



Please look around and notice some of the new signage that will be helpful to all the guests that come to Oakland. Just in time for our Community Cantata.



Thank you to Kelly's Nursery for donating the fall and winter flowers.

Ronnie Kelly is a golden member of Oakland Christian and is a honorary member of Oakland's Building and Grounds.

Let's play!

The playground is finished....





It was Pastor Appreciation Month!

The Church celebrated Jason and let him know how grateful and thankful we are for his presence at Oakland Christian UCC.

You are loved!



The Family of Robert Smith,

Would like to thank Pastor Jason Stump, Oakland Christian Church Members, the Hospitality Team and Paul Putnam for all your hard work, caring support, attending Dad's service, and preparing a beautiful reception.

We send our love and thanks to each of you for all you did. Dad and Mom loved Oakland but at times in their life as they aged they could not attend. Dad was able to attend a little more this past year and he looked forward to Sundays.

Blessings and Many Thanks,  
*Cindy Cowan and Bill & Jeannette Smith*

From the Master Gardeners

Dear Oakland Church,

Thank you so much for your help for our plant sale. Please use donation where it is most needed.

Thank you again  
Suffolk Master Gardeners

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**

**December 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](mailto:Office@OaklandUCC.com)

**Website:** [www.OaklandUCC.org](http://www.OaklandUCC.org)

