

# FEBRUARY 2024

## GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



What a journey the last few months have been, and the foreseeable future looks like!

It feels like all the places we journeyed through in Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany have just sped by. We've arrived, almost to the doorstep of the beginning of our Lenten journey, but not before we have our celebration of Mardi Gras.

It's quite a roller coaster ride sometimes, the highs and low of it all. As it seems life can be, I imagine this was also familiar for early Christians. They grew the church, baptized, created disciples, and loved each other. All while getting ill, being persecuted, and having conflict.

Still, what the love that continue to grow their church and spirits was held together by the same glue that hold our love together. That bonded commitment of covenant.

Covenant is one of my favorite words in faith. It's such a powerful thing, and so unique to faith communities. Sadly, many churches and faith communities lack covenant and are almost afraid to mention it.

At Oakland, I hope when we forget to mention it, that it is because it is such a part of us.

My friends, if you didn't get a "Star Word" back on Epiphany, or are looking for another word to contemplate and incorporate this year, I encourage you to consider "Covenant."

It's a large part of what will hold us together through the highs of Mardi Grad, the reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday, the journey through Lent to the cross, the waving of palms, and the ultimate truth of the empty tomb of the resurrection.

I am thankful for our covenant together.

Peace be with you!

*Pastor Jason Stump*





Some glad morning when this life is over I'll fly away.  
To a home on God's celestial shore I'll fly away.  
I'll fly away, oh, Glory I'll fly away.  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by I'll fly away.

How many of you just sang this wonderful gospel song in your head while reading the words? I know I sure did! This song and many other gospel favorites will be featured on Oakland's Mardi Gras Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00AM. Many people who have been here at Oakland will perk right up when they find out it's Mardi Gras Sunday. The Olde James River Jazz Band comes and shares many upbeat spiritual selections with us that morning.

The choir prepares some extra special, toe-tapping music including a medley this year that includes, "I'll Fly Away". This is NOT a Sunday morning to miss. Tell your friends, tell your family, and tell your neighbors that Oakland is the place TO BE on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Have you been thinking about singing with the Chancel Choir? We are a group of people who love singing and sharing Christ's message through music. We all come to choir with different levels of singing ability, but the beauty is in how we work together. If you want to come and "try" us out without any judgment, please feel free. Want to know more? See me or send me an email to: [peputnam@yahoo.com](mailto:peputnam@yahoo.com)

See you on February 11<sup>th</sup> with beads on!!

Musically Yours,  
Paul E Putnam  
Minister of Music



A big thank you to Peggy Walker for filling in while Paul was away!



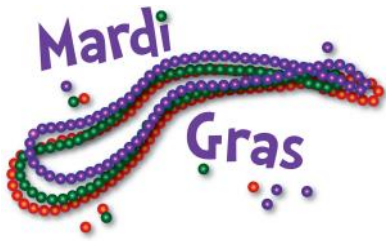
# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Devon Langston	2	Lucus Gup	16
Gene Arcand	3	Joshua Harrell	20
Tammy Howell	6	Amy Csisar	21
Troy Phillips	7	Rose Bowers	21
Kelly Schaubach	7	David Nelms	22
Shelley Helms	8	Lauren Billings	23
Lynn Knight	9	Bryn Blanchette	23
Tracia Howell	10	Grayson Blanchette	23
Roosevelt Jones	12	Eddie Walker	23
Dale Boyer	14	Randy Rowell	26
Doi Mitchell	14	Peyton Wise	28
Jesse Williams	15		

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Feb 3 CLC reserved for Souper Bowl Setup
- Feb 4 Worship(11am) Adult Sunday School(10am) Stories & Cereal- Little Kitchen (10am)
- Feb 4 Souper Bowl - Immediately following worship
- Feb 6 Loaves & Fishes Meeting - Fellowship Hall (10am)
- Feb 11 Worship (11am) Mardi Gras Adult Sunday School (10am)
- Feb 15 Loaves & Fishes drive-thru at the CLC Portico (11am)
- Feb 18 Worship (11am) Deacon Installation Adult Sunday School (10am)
- Feb 19 Office Closed for President's Day
- Feb 20 Jewels - Hosted by Pam Saunders & Ella Mae Winslow - CLC (6pm)
- Feb 20 Men's Fellowship - (6pm)
- Feb 21 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday School (10am)
- Feb 24 Council Meeting - Little Kitchen (6pm)
- Feb 25 Deadline for Newsletter articles
- Feb 25 Worship (11am) New Members Joining Adult Sunday School (10am)
- Feb 25 Covered Dish immediately after worship and the conference will be after we eat.
- Feb 28 Worship(11am) Adult Sunday School (10am)

We Welcome You



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

**MARDI GRAS SUNDAY**

Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors for this uplifting and fun service as we celebrate all of Christ's glory!

The Olde James River Jazz Band will be with us to share many upbeat spiritual selections.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH



New 2024 deacons will be installed and ordained



Youth Lenten Craft Activity 10 am



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH



Covered Dish Lunch in the CLC  
Immediately following worship  
The church will provide fried chicken & drinks  
Please bring a covered dish to share.



The church conference will begin after we eat.



As you can hear, the sound quality has really improved during worship. Recently, we had updates to our equipment.

We are so thankful that this work has been completed in honor of our beloved Rev. Wayne Gardner. A man whose voice we miss hearing, and we could always rely upon for love, comfort, and instruction. In your own way, we invite you to give thanks to God. It will surely please Wayne and God to know you have.



## Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee has been formed and will be asking for your initial input soon. The committee will provide the congregation with a copy of the current plan with the latest status by separate correspondence. Your input will be welcome anytime during the process which is estimated to last 6 months. Once the plan is drafted, we will circulate it to the congregation for additional input or questions. This is a very important document since it will chart a direction for Oakland Christian UCC for the next 3 years."

Rick Vroman – Chairman

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### CAPS Collation Against Poverty in Suffolk

*from Dana Mitchell*

If you missed out on our meals for the Suffolk Winter Shelter and would still like to “don an apron”...here’s how you could help.

Oakland is hosting the **CAPS community kitchen** on **Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** from 5-7pm at the **Suffolk Masonic Lodge** on Main St. for approximately 20 people.

Volunteers are needed to **Shop** for, **prepare** for, and **serve** the meal of bbq chicken, baked potatoes, baked beans, salad, and dessert as well as people to make lunch and breakfast bags that will distributed at the same time.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these tasks, please contact Dana Mitchell at 757-535-6793 or [coopmitch@yahoo.com](mailto:coopmitch@yahoo.com), who will share more details.

THANKS! Give me a call or text if you have any questions.



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### Oakland’s Shepherd Ministry

The purpose of the ministry is to create and sustain loving and caring relationships within our church family. To help us achieve this goal, each deacon is assigned several church families to shepherd. The deacon will pray for you and offer loving support.

If you have not received a letter from your deacon this year, you will shortly!

Our 2024 Deacons:

Sandy Butler, Betty Rhodes, Mary Anne Riddick, Rainell Rowell, Danna Vroman, Jesse Burgess, Otto Wegman, Kyle Arcand, Kirsten Creely, Deborah Harrell, Julie Hase, Cheryl Rowlands

Deacon Planning Meeting

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, February 20 @ 6pm  
II Paesano (formerly Sal's Pizza)  
2815 Godwin Blvd  
Please join us!

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

They guys meet the third Wednesday of the month  
at 6 pm. All are welcome.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP JEWELS

Wednesday, February 20 @ 6pm  
Hosted by: Ella Mae Winslow and Pam Saunders  
Location: Oakland's Community Life Center

Please join us!

We meet the third Wednesday of the month at  
At 6 pm. All are welcome.



Joyfully Enjoying Women's Encouragement and Loving Support

## Oakland Grades PK-6

Friday Friends  
Meet once a month  
6:00pm to 8:15pm  
In the CLC

February meeting date to be  
announced

Please join us!





CAPS Update *from Dana Mitchell*

In the first 7 days of 2024,

at least 28 volunteers from Oakland

spent roughly 45 manhours

Preparing 435 meals

for the Suffolk Winter Shelter.

Wow, friends! On the spur of the moment

You graciously and generously prayed,


volunteered, shopped, chopped, stirred,

cooked, packed, and delivered warmth and

nourishment to His children in need!

The sacrifices you made did not go unnoticed!

and from the hearts of those you touched, I

bring back their **many thanks!** 



*(Please note: all hands and hearts that were involved in this ministry are not pictured.)*



Those that attended our January 7th service received a Star Word.



Using your Star Word is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written on paper stars. These paper stars are then distributed at random.

Individuals are encouraged to place their star word somewhere they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.



An encore presentation of Oakland's Christmas Cantata was given to the residents of Lake Prince Woods Retirement Community in their chapel. Thank you to our wonderful Chancel Cantata Choir and our Minister of Music for sharing this gift with Lake Prince for over 20 years!!!

He says,

“I will declare your name to my  
brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises”

Hebrews 2:12



Congratulations go to Oakland's own Nursery Attendant, Rhonda Culpepper for her recent recognition as the District-Wide High School and City-Wide 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year.

Rhonda works hard with integrity and a passion for educating youth at the College and Career Academy of Pruden. We are so happy to see her hard work recognized and especially appreciative that she shares her expertise, passion and faith during her off hours here at Oakland Christian Church.

Thank you to ALL teachers wherever you are— you are appreciated very much.



Guest Minister Reverend Doctor Ann Watson Hill blessed us on December 31st with an edifying and inspirational message.

Self described as a teacher, preacher, chaplain, prayer warrior and child of the King the Reverend Doctor shared her message of the “Long Awaited Gift”.



*All submissions for the monthly newsletter are to be sent to Kelly Schaubach by email 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. Late submissions will not be able to be published. If you are submitting pictures, please include event information in the body of the email.*

**JOIN US ON LIFE'S  
JOURNEY**

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

**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**

**February 2024**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jason Stump  
**Minister of Music:** Paul E. Putnam  
**Secretary** Connie Edwards  
**Financial Secretary & Newsletter** 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)

