

JANUARY 2024

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



January is often overlooked as being considered a month of significance in Christian life, and living practices. Sandwiched between Advent and Lent, we often forget that the Christmas Season always goes into January. We also have the celebration of Epiphany, also too often overlooked as a significant event on our church calendar.

In some churches the manifestation of Christ to the magi (Gentiles) is celebrated on January 6th, and in others the baptism of Jesus himself is celebrated. Many churches have a “remember your baptism” service. I hope to do that here in the future.

As God is revealed in Christ to the Gentiles when The Magi (Three Kings) meet him, we know that it took a journey for them to arrive there. They followed the star, as we all know.

This year on Epiphany Sunday (January 7th), we will use a growing practice in many churches called “Star Words” to begin our own journey this year. Each person will be randomly given a star with a word on it. We will then learn about ways you can use that word in various practices to grow closer to Christ over the next year.

I highly encourage you to come to this worship, and to commit to this practice. It’s simple, easy, and meaningful. It will bring you closer to Jesus.

There’s much to be said about beginning a new calendar year, and all that we have to look forward to as we continue our journey as a Christian community. While that all is important, I feel compelled to write simply an invitation to join together in this worship service, and in using each of your individual “Star Words” to journey towards Christ. There’s nothing more important than that work as a pastor. I assure you, if you use your “Star Word” in the ways suggested, or in other ways you discover, you will grow close to Christ.

May your journey as a congregation, and as individual disciples of Christ, always lead you closer to Christ.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Stump



From the Music Corner;

How Brightly Beams the Morning Star

How brightly beams the morning star!
What sudden radiance from afar doth glad us with its shining?
Newly, truly, God's word feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, oh praise such love o'er flowing.

Merry Christmas to you and yours! What a beautiful Advent and Christmas season here at Oakland!! All of the gatherings and preparation for Christ's birth were just so heartwarming. The Bell Choir and Chancel Cantata Choir really outdid themselves with a splendid performance fit for a King on December 17th. I hope you were able to be here in our sanctuary that day to experience the Christmas story in word and music.

There will be an encore performance of this year's Christmas Cantata at Lake Prince Woods retirement community on Sunday, January 7th @ 4:00PM. This performance is FREE and open to the public. We have enjoyed this partnership at Lake Prince Woods now for over 20 years. The residents and community look forward to this event each year!

Have you been inspired by all the music to come and be a part of it? Chancel Choir is open to all and we rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30PM – 8:45PM in the choir room behind the sanctuary. Want to learn more? Ask a choir member or speak with Paul on Sunday mornings. You can also reach me at my email: peputnam@yahoo.com

Have a blessed Epiphany!

~Paul Putnam
Minister of Music



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Dec 31 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday School (10am) Guest Minister Rev. Hill
Jan 1 Office Closed
Jan 2 Loaves and Fishes Meeting - Fellowship Hall (10am)
Jan 7 Worship (11am) Adult Sunday School (10am) Communion
Jan 7 Encore Christmas Cantata @ Lake Prince 4pm
Jan 10 Board of Christian Education Meeting - Little Kitchen (6:30pm)
Jan 14 Deacon's Meeting following worship (CLC) (~ 12pm)
Jan 15 Office Closed
Jan 16 Jewels - Carole Matt & Sharon Burton (6pm) CLC
Jan 16 Men's Fellowship - Hosted at Doug Naismith - 4949 Exeter Dr. (6pm)
Jan 24 Council Meeting - (6pm) Little Kitchen
Feb 4 Souper Bowl Sunday - See Cheri Babler for team sign up



Jesse Williams	6	Robert Fly	21
Alex Shearin	14	William Fly	21
Aubri Wilson	14	Gavin Billings	21
Jackie Pierce	15	Lisa Arcand	25
George Fly	16	Erin Babler	25
Mary Jane Naismith	18	Connie Edwards	27
Kevin Kennedy	19	Jesse Burgess	27
Chris Hase	20	Becky Brennecke	27
William Blanks	20	Wilma Roth	31



Church Christmas Party!





Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you..... Isaiah 60:1-6 ESV



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





Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Ministry



A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Matthew 5:14-16



FEBRUARY 4 TAILGATE LUNCH IN THE COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER

Tickets are \$12 each

Immediate family of 5 or more Total cost is \$48

Ticket sales start January 14

Get yours early we sold out last year!

Contact Cheri Babler if you are interested in setting up
your Souper Bowl Team 8 team slots available

Dear Oakland Church Family,

If one were to look up “Church Family” in the dictionary, Paul and I are quite certain there would be a picture of Oakland Christian Church. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, care and concern that has been sent our way before, during and after my surgery. We always felt showered by prayers, thoughts, phone calls, texts, visits and cards. The Meal Train was such a help. The meals were all varied and delicious. They were especially helpful when James was here helping out for several days. We are blessed beyond measure by each and everyone of you. The simple word “thanks” seems grossly inadequate, but it is said in love and appreciation for all of you. We’re not sure how anyone lives without a church family, but we know we are grateful for ours! We pray that we may be a blessing to you as you have been to us. Prayers for a healthy, pain free and Happy New Year to each of you!

With much love, Pam and Paul

Every April Oakland lends tables to the Suffolk Master Gardeners for its annual plant sale. Proceeds from the sale are used to create gardens all over the city to support educational programs in the schools, and to offer raised gardening opportunities at local nursing homes.

We have 11 small gardens in Lone Star Park and there are multiple gardens all over the city.

Oakland was recently presented with a platter of homemade Christmas cookies from the Suffolk Master Gardeners to show their appreciation. Thanks for the many “behind the scenes” opportunities Oakland supplies our community!





Your Stewardship Committee is busy compiling the data from our 2024 Time and Talent Survey that have been turned in during and after our fall Stewardship Campaign. From the many options you have chosen to participate in here at Oakland for 2024, the data will show the from our Time and Talent Survey.

Thanks to everyone who has completed the Time and Talent Survey. If you would still like to volunteer but haven't had time to respond to the survey, you can pick one up in the church office. These responses should enable our church to begin the new year ready and able to accomplish its goals.

Your Stewardship Committee



The church staff enjoyed some time together savoring the local hospitality and beautiful scenery for a Christmas repast. The conversation was light hearted and full of Christmas cheer! We missed those who could not be with us but look forward to more opportunities for us all to get together another time. May the Lord continue to unite us in His good work and may the fruit of our actions be evident others and for His glory.

Join us for the beginning of a spiritual journey.

Celebrate Epiphany with us!

Gather at Oakland Christian UCC for Epiphany! Join in the celebration of light and revelation!



Come get your Star Word for 2024!

Sunday, Jan 7th @11am

SCAN



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

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

January 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

Website: www.OaklandUCC.org

