

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC MARCH 2024



In Ecclesiastes, wise King Solomon wrote: “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven....a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance”

I know some of you may be thinking of the song “Turn! Turn! Turn!” from the Byrds in 1965. It was a top ten song for the year, by the way.

Solomon’s father, David certainly lived and wrote about the ups and downs of life. He wrote songs of praise and joy. Yet, he suffered the death of two children. He danced for joy before the Lord when the ark was brought to Jerusalem. Life has it’s ups and downs. Living a life pursuing God’s heart does not exempt us from that experience.

I’ve experienced lately, and perhaps you have also, the challenge of having so much to celebrate at Oakland, and yet also being challenged by scripture and this liturgical season. While I wouldn’t consider the season of Lent a “downer” at all, it’s certainly one that has some tough themes to consider. Abstaining from some things as an act of growing closer to God, and following the seasonal mantra of “repent and believe” all while also having the celebrations of welcoming new members, and a church meeting/potluck combo....isn’t that awesome! In the midst of all this though, we mourn the deaths of loved ones, worry, comfort and pray about those who are ill, and contemplate our future. Sometimes to the point of exhaustion.

So, if it feels like a bit of a roller coaster at times, know you are not alone. Not only are we in this together, but Kings Solomon and David have felt it as well. Along with so many more, especially God Himself in Christ.

Friends, this is why we are so vital and why what we do is so needed in this world, and pleasing to God. Folks of all kinds experience the ups and downs of life. Being The Church lets us know we are not alone in it. We are together, and God is with us. That is so needed in today’s world.

Remember always, you are loved!

-Pastor Stump





From the Music Corner;

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wonderous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

This Appalachian Folk hymn has been with me since I first heard it years ago. It is set in a minor modal key and is a “haunting” kind of melody that makes you be still and listen. If you have never heard it, I encourage you to look it up and take a listen. As we move through this Lenten season, taking some time for stillness and listening seems to be in order. We are all busy doing this and that, but taking time to listen is truly a gift.

The Handbell Choir will be playing during the worship service on Sunday, March 10th. Their selections will be “Canon of Grace”, which is a blending of Pachelbel’s Canon in D Major with Amazing Grace, and an arrangement of “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”. Our bell ringers work hard coming together each week to learn their notes, rhythms, & dynamics to create an enjoyable musical experience for you. As you might imagine, they laugh and joke along the way which makes this group incredibly fun to be with.

The Chancel Choir continues to go above and beyond with their hard work and dedication! Each week, they spend time at rehearsals and several of them take their music and practice at home. What dedication amongst each other to be able to sing praises to God with a unified and harmonious voice!

Mark your calendar for Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. During the 11:00AM worship service the Chancel Choir will be presenting a Cantata for Pentecost written by Pepper Choplin. “Once Upon a Morning” tells the story from Easter to Pentecost. What a way to hear how the Easter story continues!

We ALWAYS have room in the choir loft! Come and sing with us!

Enjoying the Journey,

~Paul Putnam
Minister of Music



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

March 3 - Adult Sunday School (10am) Worship (11am) Communion

March 4-12 - Pastor Stump on Professional Retreat in Louisiana

March 5 - Loaves and Fishes Meeting - Fellowship hall (10am)

March 10 - Adult Sunday School (10am) Worship (11am) Guest Minister

March 17 - Adult Sunday School (10am) Worship (11am) New Members Joining

March 24 - Adult Sunday School (10am) Worship (11am) Palm Sunday
Egg Hunt immediately following Service

March 25 - Deadline for April Newsletter Articles

March 27 - Council Meeting 6 pm (Little Kitchen)

March 28 - Tenebrae Service - Maundy Thursday (6pm)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Kasie Wilson 1
Steve Wilson 3
Zoie Wise 6
Joe Barnes 9
Ann Johnson 11
Clayton Curliss 12
Nick Sarick 13
Roger Burton 15

John Mitchell 18
Frank Daniels 19
Cheryl Rudd 20
Samantha Fly 23
Denise Archer 24
Kathleen Stump 24
Darden Langston 27
Marie Marr 27
Dana Mitchell 29



OAKLAND GRADES PK-6

**Friday Friends Meet once a month
from 6:00 p.m until 8:15 p.m. in the CLC**

MARCH meeting date to be announced

JEWELS

(JOYFULLY ENJOYING WOMEN'S ENCOURAGEMENT AND LOVING SUPPORT)

Gathering the Third Tuesday of Each Month

All are Welcome!!! Please come and Join Us March 19th @ 6:00 p.m.

In the Oakland Christian Community Life Center

This Month's Hostesses are Ginny Fly and Cindy Cowan

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

March 19, 2024

**Location:
Lou Haddad's home
4950 Exeter Dr.
Suffolk**

All are welcome!!!

Any questions:

Contact Roger Burton
(757) 373-2817
Or
(757) 373-4080





PARKING

If you arrive early to worship, please consider parking in the unpaved parking areas on the sides of the building. While we don't have many designated handicapped parking spaces at this time, it truly does help our older folks to have closer spaces and it is also helpful to visitors who may be unfamiliar, or unsure of where else they can park. Your help is greatly appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2023 AND 2024



Anyone who has joined the church in the last year please stay after the service to have your picture taken.

OUR 2024 GLOBAL OUTREACH PROJECT



Our 5th Sunday change collection will begin on June 30th so start saving for this year's global project. The first 5th Sunday of 2024 falls on Easter and we are not collecting on Easter Sunday for this.

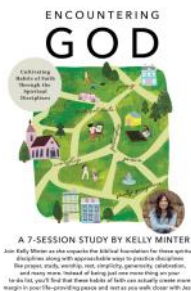
Our global project is for Friends of Barnabas. Their mission is to empower families of Honduras through healthcare and education.

EASTER EGG HUNT



On Palm Sunday
Immediately following Sunday Worship

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP



Starting Wednesday April 3RD
Godwin Sunday School Room at 9:45am to 11:15am

The name of the study is "Encountering God" by Kelly Minter. Study books will need to be ordered by March 25th (\$16.99 each) Call Julie Hase (757-373-4255) or Mary Anne Riddick (757-377-8353)

What's This I Hear?.....



Psst.....it's starting

Psst.....it's time to check your calendar

Psst.....it's time to sign up (sign up board in Fellowship Hall)

Psst.....it's time to sell (order forms in bulletin and online)

Psst.....time to post on your FB page and tell everyone you know

Psst.....time to buy

Psst.....time to work

Psst.....time for fellowship

Psst..... Proceeds help fund fall Rise Against Hunger event (more on that later)

Psst..... OAKLAND PIE TIME IS HERE!!!!!!

Psst.....WE NEED YOU!!!!



Praise the Lord for the abundance of new members welcomed in February!!!

Pictured from left to right: Diane Johnson, Judy Gardner, Robert and Theresa Beale, Katie Humphrey, Laurel Johnson, Sandra Johnston, Jane and Tommy Arthur, Dawn and Rusty Schneider.



MARDIS GRAS SUNDAY !!!





Your loving kindness, O Lord,
extends to the heavens, Your
faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Psalm 26:5

FRIDAY

FRIENDS

YOUTH

GROUP



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY MESSAGE

FROM REFEREE CHERI BABLER

It was a record breaking event - 8 soup teams, a full house, and \$1,167.00 in profits for the Becky Godwin Scholarship Fund! We can't forget the raffles. Great prizes and fun for all. A special thank you to all of the teams; Hokies capt. John, Nascar capt. Ginny, Giants co capt. Susie and Beth, Team Phillips capt. Alicia, Team Choir capt. Larry, Be Mine capt. Penny, Team Harmony capt. Paul and Zuppa Zappers capt. Connie. Congratulations to Team Harmony with sweet potato pumpkin chili taking "home" the First Place trophy. The People's Choice award went to Be Mine team's baked potato soup. All of the soups were delicious and enjoyed by all. Thanks also to our first time dessert team and anyone else who may have contributed. Jean Keeling, Suzanne Langston, Becky Brennecke and Denise Spady. (Thanks Dana for my personal favorite, mint brownies.) And I can't forget to thank our sweet tea maker extraordinaire- John Matt. Thanks to all those who donated items for the raffles.

As for Souper Bowl 2025, you may contact me anytime to sign up your team for the next year! Remember, don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today. Haha. I will be taking the first 8 teams to contact me (cell 757-371-6400). Thanks everyone!

Cheri Babler

(You may be happy to know, I got a new 'attention -getter' to replace my whistle for 2025.)





SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY YUMMY COMPETITION





Covered Dish
Lunch and
Church
Conference
“You had me
at fried
chicken!”



LEGACY ANGEL

One of our United States Presidents asked us to consider NOT what your country can do for you but what you CAN do for your country. Today, consider NOT what Oakland Christian can do for you but what you CAN do for Oakland. Please consider becoming part of Oakland's Legacy Program. Leaving something from your estate to Oakland helps to ensure our future. No funds are given now; no gift is too small. Our new electronic sign is one example of a dream made possible by a Legacy Gift. Become one who plans for today, tomorrow and always. Questions? Brochures are in the fellowship Hall or see a Committee member: Mary Jane Naismith, John Gayle, Parker Howell, Pam Saunders or Pastor Stump.

All submissions for the monthly newsletter are to be sent to Kelly Schaubach by email 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. Late submissions will not be able to be published. If you are submitting pictures, please include even 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

March 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

