

**GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC
MARCH 2024**

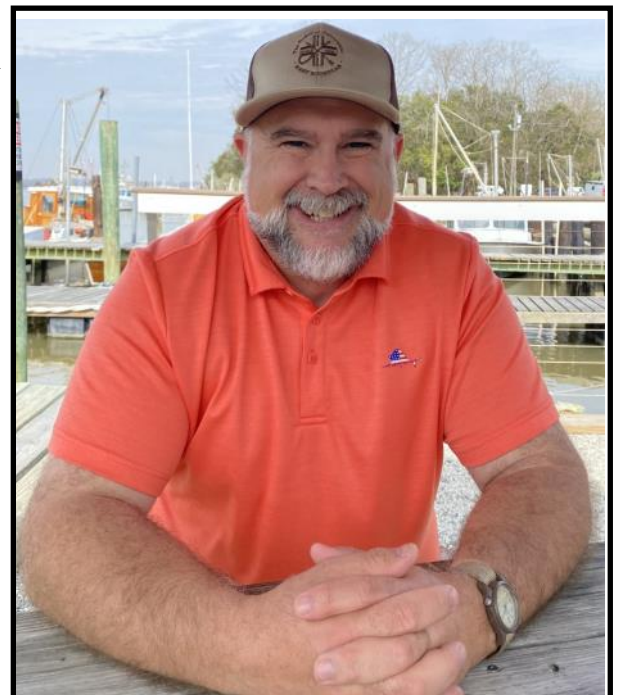
Hello Church!

I'm sharing with you a poem written by Malcom Guite in 2020 as he contemplated what it would be like that Easter to not be inside a church building. In words to describe the poem, Malcom wrote, "But, like so many, I am deeply distressed at not being able to gather in church this morning, and to receive communion in community, to meet Christ 'risen in bread, and reveling in wine', as I put it in a sonnet long ago. But this Easter, he calls me to discern him in new ways and in different places. He is risen indeed, and if I cannot go to church then where am I to find him? That is the question my new poem seeks to address, and if it is a question you ask yourselves too, then I hope you will find this poem helpful. "

While difficult, I think it's good to remember those days of pandemic times, and all that we contemplated in our homes, workplaces, communities and The Church. As difficult as those times were, I do believe many of us learned a lot during them. About ourselves, others, and our relationships with God. Both personal and communal.

I'd ask you to read his poem this Easter season and contemplate it both by remembering what 2020 was like, and what it is like for those today who, for a variety of reasons, cannot go to church; or cannot seem to find Christ inside a church building.

I know that it is hard for many of us to understand, but a large portion of our neighbors have not found Christ when looking at Christianity. How might we show them in ways we have not yet considered?



EASTER 2020

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse,; he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces

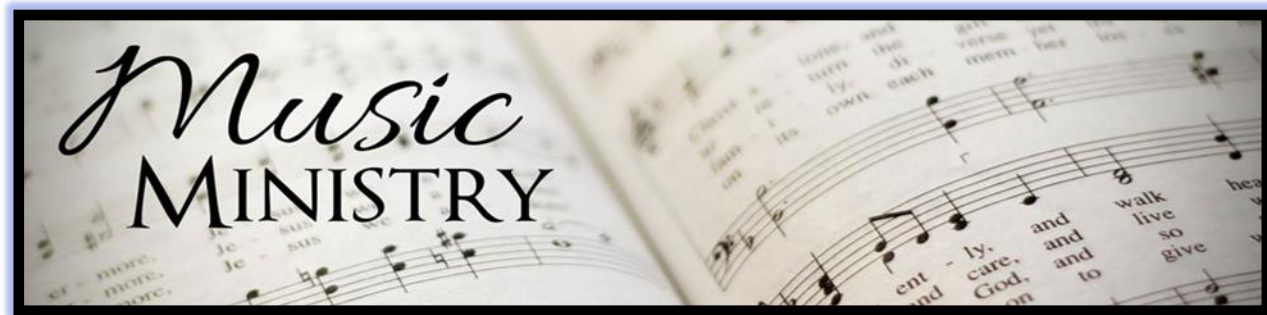
Of that corona which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places

Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them

That they might share his Easter in their need,

Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.





From the Music Corner;

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,

Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away.

Kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,

Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

I have always loved the regalness of this Easter hymn! The music was composed by George Frederic Handel for his oratorio, Judas Maccabeus in 1748. Edmond L Budry penned the hymn text we sing in 1904. One of the best parts of our more traditional church is that we embrace the music and words of the past as we also incorporate music of today into our worship to almighty God.

The Handbell Choir will next be playing during the worship service on Sunday, May 5th! If you enjoy listening and watching the bell choir, make sure to mark your calendar!

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! Want to sing in our Pentecost Cantata? We will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings beginning on Sunday, April 5th @ 9:45AM in the choir room.

And finally, the Virginia Choral Society will be presenting a performance of Maurice Durufle's Requiem with Virginia Wesleyan University Choir and Orchestra the weekend of April 20th & 21st. Pastor Jason will be driving the church bus for the Sunday afternoon concert which is at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg @ 4:00PM. Group tickets are \$13.00 and can be ordered through Paul Putnam.

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

Alleluia! He is Risen!

~Paul Putnam



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

April 2	Loaves and Fishes Meeting—Fellowship Hall (10am)
April 3	Council Meeting - Little Kitchen (6pm)
April 7	Adult Sunday School (10am) Worship Communion Sunday (11am)
April 14	Adult Sunday School (10am) Worship Communion Sunday (11am)
April 14	Deacon Luncheon for Congregation - CLC - (following Worship)
April 16	Jewels - Hosts - Dana Mitchell and Sandra Johnston - CLC (6pm)
April 16	Men's Fellowship - Mod Olive 115 N. Main St. (6pm)
April 18	Loaves & Fishes Food Distribution drive-thru - CLC Portico (11am)
April 21	Adult Sunday School (10am) - Worship (11am) New member Sunday.
April 24	Council - Little Kitchen (6pm)
April 25	Deadline for April News Articles
April 28	Adult Sunday School (10am) - Worship (11am)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

TERI HOWELL	3	SANDRA JOHNSTON	17
DANI HOWELL	4	DEBORAH HARRELL	20
LISA SHEARIN	10	DANNA VROMAN	20
CHARLOTTE FLY	10	HARVEY PHILLIPS	21
JAY SAUNDERS	15	RUSTY SCHNEIDER	21
RILEY BILLINGS	16	RAY BUNCH	24
BETY DICKINSON	17	SAMMY COPELAND	26
LESLIE PETERFESO	17	LEE LANGSTON	26



OAKLAND'S BECKY GODWIN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024 AND CAN BE REQUESTED BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE (757-255-4353) OR BY EMAIL REQUEST TO:

OFFICE@OAKLANDUCC.COM

RECIPIENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC— DEADLINE IS MAY 26TH

OUR 2024 GLOBAL OUTREACH PROJECT

Our 5th Sunday change collection will begin on June 30th so start saving for this years global project.

The first 5th Sunday of 2024 falls on Easter and we are not collecting on Easter Sunday for this.

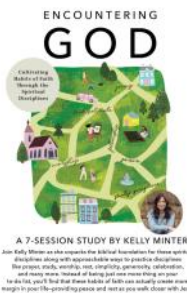


Our global project is for Friends of Barnabas. Their mission is to empower families of Honduras through healthcare and education.

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)

A UCC SUMMER CAMP

Camps are limited to 30 campers. Sign up early at the below link:
Website: <https://www.jrvs.org/summer-camps>.

Please let Pastor Jason know if you are attending camp this summer.

If you or your parents are members of Oakland, the church will pay Half of the camp fee.

Grades 7-12 Classic Camp June 10-21 Adventure Camp June 23-28
Grades 3-6 Classic Camp July 7-12





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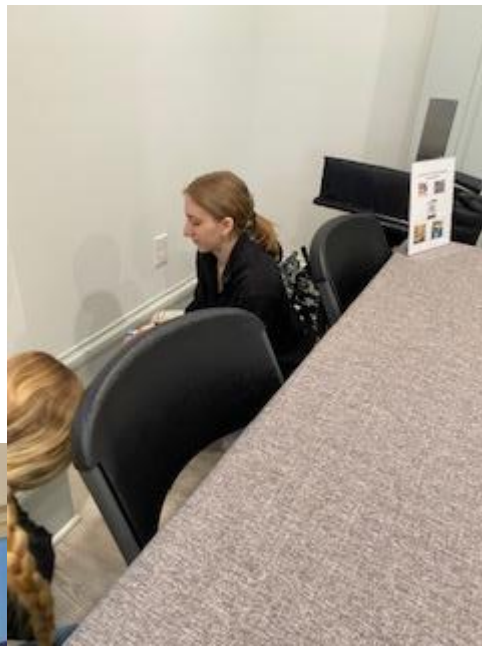
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“Once Upon a Morning”

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King’s Fork Highschool Beta Club students performed many tasks at Oakland last week to meet their service hour requirements. They folded pie boxes, buffed pews, and cleaned the baseboards, door handles and light switches in the CLC. All jobs were done with smiling faces and willing hearts AND, they want to come back!!! Many thanks to Jean Keeling for organizing such a heart-warming service project for Oakland and for such wonderful students!



**IT'S MORE
THAN JUST
PIES**



IT'S TEAMWORK



**IT'S JOY
MULTIPLIED !!!**



IT'S A LABOR OF LOVE



LUCAS BOND'S BAPTISM



Praise God from whom all blessings flow.....

Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these....."

Luke 18:16-17





Palm Sunday

And Easter Egg Hunt

Hallelujah for the abundant life He brings!!!





CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk) Update:

Thanks to all who helped with the CAPS community kitchen on Friday, February 16th at the Suffolk Masonic Lodge. They want us back!....On Friday, April 26h from 5-7 pm

*Shoppers, cooks, and servers are needed (as well as people to pack lunch and breakfast Bags)

* Invite anyone, particularly our newest members, to join in this rewarding experience!

On a separate note—Thanks to a very generous family in our congregation, CAPS was able to help a single mom and her 3 children have a place to relax! If you would also like to retire “gently-used” furniture to a “new home away from home”, please let me know. THANKS!!! Dana Michell 757-535-6793 or coopmitch@yahoo.com to volunteer or get more info.



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**

April 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

