

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC
MAY 2024

Hello Church!

Well, we are soon to be on the precipice of Summer. It's definitely got a different feel to it than other seasons, and for good reasons.

More vacations, more time outside, until that gets unbearable and there is more time in the AC, and the sweet tea tastes even better for some reason in Summertime.

It's been a bit of a church custom in modern times to "slow down" during the Summer. As you may know, I understand why it used to happen, but I don't have much use for it these days. No doubt rest, relaxation, and restoration are important. We should take care as individuals, and as a community, to ensure those occur. However, the habitual seasonal Summertime slowdown is just the type of cyclical complacency that I believe many rightly criticize "The Church" for.

In truth, the world doesn't need less Jesus in the Summer. The poor, hungry, sick, imprisoned, unclothed, unsheltered, addicted, marginalized, and abused don't get a break just because school is out. You and I need it also.

Many years ago, when our most of our country was agrarian based, there was a need to slow some things down during that time. We simply aren't that society anymore, and truthfully, agriculture isn't remotely the same either.

So, in case I am not being direct enough, I hope you realize there is no Summer Break coming up. We've got Jesus' stuff to do, and I hope you know that it is always better when you are here for it.

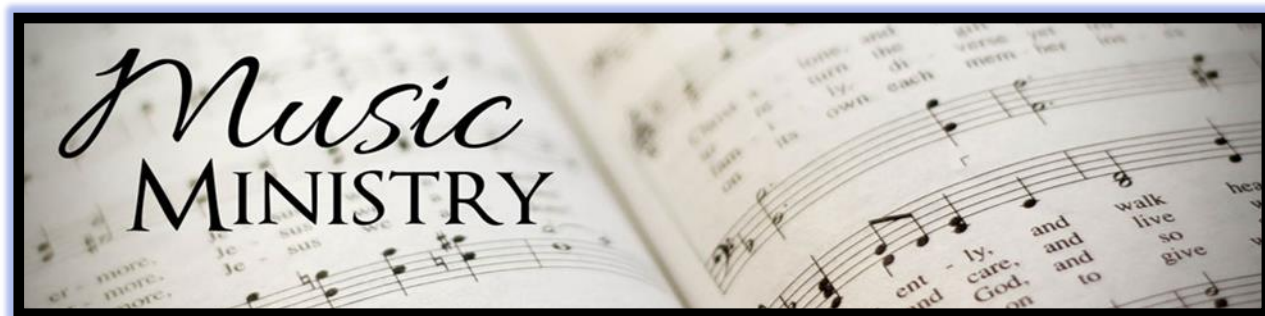
Friends, it is very apparent that God is doing things within and through our church, and there is more to come. While we will practice patience when needed, and called to do so, and we will also rest when needed; we are not entering this season to tarry.

God is near, let us stay close.



Matthew 24: 32-33:

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that help is near, at the very gates



From the Music Corner;

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.
You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep,
And over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”

“Spirit” is my all-time favorite hymn for Pentecost Sunday! I love the imagery of the spirit moving through us to better know our Lord, Jesus Christ. Pentecost Sunday comes on May 19th this year, and we are going to help celebrate with a special Musical Cantata, “Once Upon a Morning” by Pepper Choplin.

The Chancel Choir has been working hard this past month learning the music for “Once Upon a Morning” which will be presented, **Sunday, May 19th at the 11:00AM** worship service. This one is SPECIAL!! You won’t want to miss it and will certainly want to invite your friends and family to experience the story from the Resurrection to Pentecost. We will also be sharing it that afternoon at Lake Prince Woods at 4:00PM as well. Everyone is invited to either location!!

Are your ears ringing? Well, the Handbell Choir will be playing during the **Sunday, May 5th** worship service. This dedicated group of ringers really enjoys playing bells and making music together. Come and experience the magic!

Calling all MEN to sing for Mother’s Day, **Sunday, May 12th**. You do not need to be a “regular” in the Chancel Choir to come and join in the fun! We will meet on Thursday, May 8th from 7:00PM – 7:30PM and then on Sunday, May 12th at 10:30AM.

We are blessed with a dedicated group of people who work so hard to bring meaningful and worshipful music every single week. What a privilege to lead the Music Ministry here at Oakland!

In Christ’s Service,

~Paul



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

May 3 Youth Group - Friday Friends - Fellowship Hall (5:45pm - 8pm)
May 5 Worship (11am) Communion
May 7 Loaves & Fishes Meeting - Fellowship Hall (10am)
May 12 Worship (11am) Guest Minister
May 12 thru May 13 - Pastor Stump on vacation
May 16 Loaves & Fishes drive-thru food distribution - Portico (11am start)
May 19 Worship (11am) Pentecost Cantata
May 21 Jewels "Women's Fellowship"- at Julie Hase's - 4401 Winona Trail (6pm)
May 21 Men's Fellowship - at the Parsonage - 655 King's Hwy (6pm)
May 22 Council - Little Kitchen (6pm)
May 25 Newsletter Articles due.
May 26 Worship (11am)
May 27 Office Closed - Memorial Day
Every Thursday Bell practice (6:30pm) and Choir practice (7:30pm)

*Minister of Music will communicate exceptions to practice

MAY BIRTHDAYS

RALPH HOWELL	2	HARRIET HARDISON	18
BRIAN HELMS	5	PATRICIA BRANCHE	20
RAINELL ROWELL	7	MARGUERITE BUTLER	20
KELSEY BLANKS	8	MILLY NELMS	21
KAREN SCHINE	9	PAUL PUTNAM	22
KIRSTEN CREELY	9	JANE ARTHUR	22
CONNOR ZYDRON	9	ISABELLE LANGSTON	25
RHONDA CULPEPPER	13	LORRAINE GAYLE	26
MICHAEL MCNERNEY	14	GABRIEL HATHAWAY	26
CHARLES JOHNSON	15	NANCY SPADY	26
GARY MACKLIN	17	ERIN WHITLEY	27
		DAVID ADAMS	29



**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.**



Cantata for Pentecost

Sunday, May 19th

11am Worship

“Once Upon a Morning”

Performed by our Chancel Choir

Written by Pepper Choplin.

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





**Beautiful Handmade Quilt - by Judy Gardner
Queen-sized**

Quilt Raffle \$10 a ticket

Only 300 tickets will be sold

Drawing Mother's Day - May 12

Proceeds benefit the Geneive Shelter

Julie Johnson and the office have tickets for sale.



CHURCH FAMILY CAMPING!!

Merchants Mill Pond State Park Gates County, NC

May 17 thru May 19—Email Church office by 5/3 to sign up

Canoeing, hikes, outdoor cooking, games, and campfires

[Merchants Millpond State Park: Home | NC State Parks \(ncparks.gov\)](http://ncparks.gov)

The Golden Jewels celebrate
Betty Dickinson's **97th birthday**
At the Lake Prince Woods Bistro

**An
Inspiration
to all !!**



Happy

Birthday

Betty!!!



This year's softball season got off to an interesting start due to all the rain. Thanks to Oakland's CLC we were about to get creative and still have our girls practice. In turn 10 new families were invited to Oakland and have had several occasions to learn/see what we do. We even sold them pies! Our team has a range of active church goers to some children who had never stepped foot in a church before. What a great way to show them God's love in new and creative ways. Stepping back and listening to the girls talk about "how cool practice was" to their descriptions of the last supper (stemmed from a painting they saw on the wall) to how we can incorporate God and softball more was such a humbling experience.

If this thank you does nothing more than have each of us consider how we can minister in unique ways and how we can continue to use Oakland's physical building to be a resource to others then I'll consider my goal obtained! If this leaves you panic stricken at the thought of softballs flying around the CLC have no fear, only foam balls were used and everything was returned to its rightful spot unharmed :)

The girls, the coaches and the parents of the Suffolk Knightingales thank you so so much!

Love, Coach Kasie





EASTER SUNDAY

HE IS RISEN

INDEED!!!



03 31 2024



03 31 2024

EASTER

SUNRISE

SERVICE



IRA Charitable Rollovers (or Qualified Charitable Distributions)

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional IRA, you may give up to \$100,000 to a charitable organization. The gift can satisfy all or in part the annual Required Minimum Distribution (or RMD) without affecting your taxable income. This means the distribution will not affect your Medicare rates or tax rates. Furthermore, you will not need to account for a carry-forward of the deduction on your taxes as would normally happen with large gifts. It is wise to consult your own IRA custodian or financial planner to assist you.

We encourage you to consider an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (or QCD) to Oakland Christian UCC. You may make a direct charitable gift to our General Fund, or speak with church leadership about other funds and special projects that you may be interested in supporting through your gift.

Pie Sale

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

It is so wonderful to be part of a church family that is willing to help with a project the size of pies. There are so many jobs to be done and there were always willing hands in place. There were folks who created our sign-up sheet, kept a spreadsheet of orders, sold, bought pies and delivered pies, folded boxes, put labels on boxes, melted margarine, beat eggs chopped pecans, zested and juiced lemons, assembled the ingredients, baked pies, moved pies to cooling places, packaged pies, boxed pies, put pies on the truck, took pies off the truck, prepared orders **and** all jobs were done with smiling faces and willing hands. Pie money is still being turned in, so I don't have a report but feel we netted over \$5,000. This would not have been possible without YOU! Thanks seems an inadequate word, but it is heartfelt. Our Rise Against Hunger event will be divine. Your work will help feed others.

A huge thanks to Bo Russell who lent us the Holiday Ice truck. We would not be able to tackle this project without his truck. If you see him, please tell him thanks. He is Ella Mae Winslow's son-in-law.

Please be thinking about how you can help next year. We plan to have several leaders. We will need someone to buy ingredients, be in charge of all boxing jobs, manage putting orders together, and perhaps other jobs. It is a huge undertaking that has many components. Delegating will help everything run smoothly and keep anyone from feeling overwhelmed.

Paul and Pam Saunders



News From Your Council

John Mitchell informed Council that he will not be seeking reelection as Treasurer next year. We were saddened by this news and express our sincere appreciation for all the hours he has given as Oakland's Treasurer.

We are seeking a church member willing to be our future Treasurer. John reported that he generally spends ten hours a month, plus attendance at council meetings. End-of quarter activities add 5-8 hours, end of the year adds another 10 hours and budget preparation requires extra time.

He would like to have a replacement identified by August so that person can become familiar with all phases of the job including budgeting and year-end closeout. He will be available for consultation as needed after that. The candidate should know or be willing to learn Excel Spreadsheet and QuickBooks. If interested, you might talk to John about the various components of the job. **We are asking members to consider their skill set and let our Moderator, Dr. Ralph Howell, know of your interest no later than May 30.**

Please note the following job description of Treasurer from our Constitution:

1. The Treasurer shall:

A) Be a member of the church elected annually by the Congregational Conference for a one-year term at the November meeting.

B) Receive and disburse all money contributed to causes represented in the church budget, and such other funds and contributions as the Congregational Conference or Council may determine.

C) Pay all accounts when properly authorized by the Congregational Conference, Council, or Pastor.

D) Make a quarterly financial report available to the Council and Congregational Conference.

E) Submit all accounts and records to the auditing committee annually and at such other times as the Council and Congregational Conference shall direct..

F) Perform other duties as requested by the Congregational Conference and Council.

G) There shall be no limit to the number of years that a member may serve as the Treasurer.



Help Needed

John Mellon is often in need for rides to and from doctor appointments. One very loyal member has helped him a lot, but he needs a back up volunteer. The volunteer needs to be able to put John's wheelchair in and out of the trunk. If you are Able to help, please call John at (757)630-0239.



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 Connie Edwards by email to:

office@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

May 2024

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Jason Stump
Minister of Music: Paul E. Putnam
Secretary 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

Website: www.OaklandUCC.org

