

# June

## GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



1 Corinthians 3:7

“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

Hello Church!

You may have heard me tell the story recently about a gentleman asking me how our church is dealing with declining numbers. Knowing that he has expressed the decline of his church, I was unprepared to answer him compassionately with the honest truth that we are actually in a period of possibly unprecedented growth. I did the best I could.

Friends, what is going on here is special. While we are not alone, it is also not at all common. We are certainly being blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. God is entrusting us, and the expectations are high, but I'm absolutely certain we can rise to meet, and even exceed them, as we move forward.

Fortunately, for a church of our type, we've been blessed all along. Our numbers of worship gathering attendance, and church activity engagement, have never really been to alarmingly low levels. I'm grateful to clergy predecessors, previous lay leaders, and many of you for that.

However, at present, the Holy Spirit is clearly moving through and among you all, in historically noteworthy levels. The reality that you are aware of this, and are engaging in this Spirit work through you is so vital. It is the type of thing that heals a hurting world, and brings hope to people who are losing it.

Did you know that our worship attendance alone has increased 40% in the last two years? Research shows that a healthy church increases by about 5% each year and is only considered in decline when it is decreasing by 5%. To be fair, I've seen many churches whose numbers are in decline, and yet their ministry and missions grow.

Friends, this is exciting! Yet, it comes with a responsibility that will have God's accountability. As Summer approaches, please, do not let the "Summer lull" steal the joys of our spiritual and physical growth. Enjoy your vacations, travel to see family, relax, and refresh. You need this. However, please be sure to stay engaged and connected with your Church and all that is happening here in person and online.

I thank God for you and I know you are thankful to God!

-Pastor Stump



From the Music Corner:

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

“Here I am, Lord” is such a powerful hymn based on the journey of faith in Jesus Christ. It has been on my “top 10” list for a good long while. When I play or sing it, there is something truly comforting and fulfilling in the words and music. I hope you feel the same!

WOW!! What a beautiful and meaningful Pentecost Cantata, “Once Upon a Morning” by Pepper Choplin the Chancel Choir shared on May 19<sup>th</sup>. It was worth all the extra hours in preparation to be able to share such a powerful story from resurrection to Pentecost. The songs were composed with all new music. Many times, when composers put together music for a Christmas or Easter Cantata they rely on familiar melodies to weave in, but Pepper Choplin only used one familiar tune and the rest was all brand new. What an experience for the choir and congregation on May 19<sup>th</sup>!!

As Chancel Choir moves into “summer mode” this is a wonderful opportunity for anyone wanting to “check out” the choir to come and join us. Beginning June 2<sup>nd</sup>, all of our rehearsals will be Sunday mornings beginning at 10:15AM in the choir room. We are always welcoming new members into our fellowship. You are welcome!!

Questions about Oakland’s Music Ministry?  
Feel free to reach out,  
[peputnam@yahoo.com](mailto:peputnam@yahoo.com)

In Christ’s Service,

~Paul



# Welcome our New Staff

We have great news to share with you. We have hired a new Financial Secretary to replace Kelly. As we were sorry to see Kelly go we are fortunate to welcome Deandra Parks.

Deandra is a Suffolk resident, and the proud mother of son, Jahad and daughter, Dyviah. She's excited to work with us and will continue learning the ropes over the coming weeks. Deandra also works for the Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS). With CAPS, she is a wonderful presence helping folks connect their needs to available resources. She has a reputation for being diligent and compassionate. Yet, also having high expectations and accountability for herself, her clients, and her co-workers.



Deandra

May we be a gift of support to her as our church continues to grow, and find our future, while enjoying the joys of today.

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## We introduce to you our first ever Communications Assistant!

Tracy Agnew Cooper has been hired to help our church improve and expand our communication efforts within our congregation and beyond.

She will be working very part time, and often from beyond our walls. Her initial priorities will be to learn about and manage our digital sign and to be the editor of our monthly newsletter. We've got plans for her from there as we hope to expand this position as our growth and evolution continues.

Tracy attended James River Christian Academy through high school. She has a BA in English from Longwood University and an MA in Professional Writing from Old Dominion University. With her almost 20 years in journalism and editing experience, including with our hometown Suffolk News-Herald, we are beyond blessed once again to add a high-quality staff person.

Tracy lives in Suffolk with her husband, Troy. She loves reading, traveling, being with friends, and has an appreciation for gerbils as pets.

While she has worshipped with us in the past, and will do so on occasion in the future, she is a regular gatherer for worship at New Life Church Kempsville in Virginia Beach.



Tracy

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- June 01 Tides Baseball Game - (6:30pm)
- June 02 BOCE VBS Meeting - CLC (12pm)
- June 03 Scholarship Committee Meeting - Godwin Mtg Room (3:30pm)
- June 04 Loaves & Fishes Meeting - Fellowship Hall (10am)
- June 09 Worship (11am) - BGMS presented
- June 09 Pizza Party for All - CLC (12pm)
- June 16 Worship (11am)
- June 16 thru June 21 - Pastor Stump at JRVC as Camp Counselor
- June 18 Jewels - Donna Lancaster & Rainell Rowell - CLC (6pm)
- June 18 Men's Fellowship - Mod Olive - 115 Main Street (6pm)
- June 19 Office Closed - Juneteenth
- June 20 Loaves & Fishes drive thru food distribution CLC (11am)
- June 23 Worship (11am)
- June 25 Deadline for July Newsletter
- June 26 Council Meeting - Little Kitchen (6pm)
- June 30 Worship (11am)
- June 30 Welcome Committee Meeting - CLC (12pm)

Beginning Sunday, June 2nd Choir practice will meet only on Sunday mornings at 10:15AM through the month of July.

*\*Minister of Music will communicate exceptions to practice*



**Margarite Butler with her daughter Lynn Cross celebrating her 100th birthday on May 20th. Margarite is a Golden Member, which means she has been a member of Oakland Christian for 50+ years, Margarite joined 9/16/1949.**



Samantha Bond	7
Laura Arcand	10
Mildred King	13
Beth Macklin	14
John Biggs	19
Marti Putnam	23
Jeff Edwards	23
Katie Humphrey	24
Linda Lowers	24
Anne Spady	26
Bobby Winslow	29
Donna Lancaster	29



Sunday, June 9th  
12pm to 1:30pm  
In the CLC  
Lets All Celebrate !

Oakland Congregation

**Oakland Christian  
UCC EvangeStars  
Pizza Party**



## OUR 2024 GLOBAL OUTREACH PROJECT

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

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

## Recording Our Sunday Morning Services



Would you like to help people stay connected to our Church, or learn more about us? Does the thought of having over 100 people each week be reached by our church without walking in our doors sound interesting to you?

If so, you can be a part of a very valuable ministry here at Oakland without giving up any money or time beyond worship on a Sunday.

We are in need of a few more folks to help record our worship on a Sunday morning for our YouTube channel. If you can make a pot of coffee, use a smartphone, or handle the settings on your washer and dryer; you have the ability to learn to do this.

Please reach out to Dr. Ralph Howell, Rob Rhodes, or the church office if you'd like to participate in this highly effective and relevant ministry.



Sandra Johnston won the drawing for the butterfly quilt made and donated by Judy Gardner. The proceeds were \$1,740 which are going to the Genieve Shelter in Suffolk.

The Genieve Shelter provides a safe refuge & supportive environment for victims of domestic violence.



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

June 18th @ 6:00 pm

Mod Olive  
115 N. Main Street in Suffolk  
*Please join us!*

The Mod Olive was chosen because of the response received from many for their good food.

*Questions: Roger Burton*

*757-373-2817 or 757-373-4080*



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP JEWELS

June 18th @ 6:00 pm  
We will gather in the CLC

Hosted by:  
Rainell Rowell and Donna Lancaster  
*All are welcome*  
*Please join us!*



## FRIDAY FRIENDS Grades PK-6

Youth meet once a month on Friday

Join us in June for  
Friday Friends

Date to be announced

Watch church announcements and plan on  
joining in!



## Together We Grow

For all those interested in growing together with us and learning more about joining Oakland Christian UCC in the covenant of membership, please see Pastor Stump to let him know.

*Whoever you are or wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

**Ashley and Matt Zydron joined April 21st  
Connor, Aurora, and Addie**

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**Leslie Peterfeso with the  
latest pie recipient!**

## Pies for Visitors!

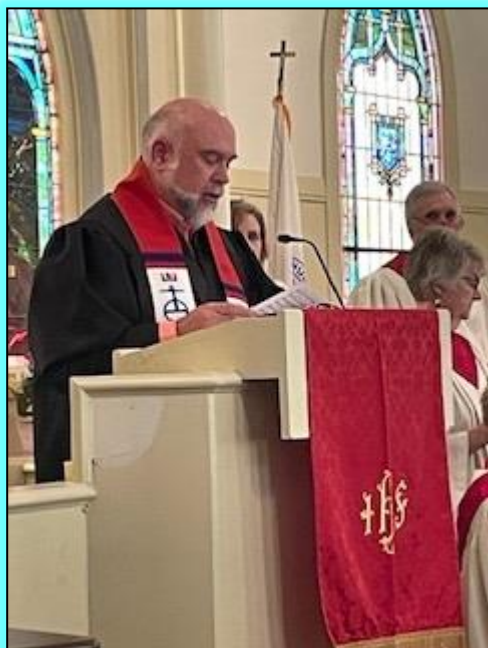
If you have made three visits to our Oakland Sunday Service and the Welcoming Committee will present you with pie on your 3rd visit.

How special is that!



The Chancel Choir Presented  
A Pentecost Cantata  
Once Upon a Morning, From Resurrection to Pentecost

**Narrators: Rev. Jason Stump & Cheri Babler**





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

**JUNE 2024**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jason Stump  
**Minister of Music:** Paul E. Putnam  
**Secretary:** Connie Edwards  
**Financial Secretary:** Deandra Parks  
**Nursery Attendant:** Rhonda Culpepper  
**Communications Assistant:** Tracy Agnew

**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)

