

July

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



Proverbs 22:6

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

Hello Campers!!I mean “Church.”

As you know, I recently spent a week at Johns River Valley Camp as weekly director. As I am writing this, we have one young person from our church family at Adventure Camp, and in two weeks we will have five more.

As former camp director, Rev. Curly Stump, and I recently discussed, Oakland Christian UCC has a long-standing relationship with JRVC.

Did you know that we once helped do very significant building improvements there? We’ve even had former campers turn into summer staff.

It is my hope that our connection to and support of Johns River Valley Camp is in a phase of renewal and rejuvenation. With a new camp director coming on board for 2025 and the evolving ways young people connect to their faith, I believe this may look differently than it has in the past. I’m actually hoping it does, because that will bring good things for us and JRVC.

Friends, having been a weekly director for 12 years now, I can tell you that my time and experience has itself evolved. In the earlier years, I was more physically active with the campers. Now, I’m very present with them, and still do many of the activities, but my role as more of a camp chaplain has increased. You might say I’ve moved from being the cool “youth guy” to being more of the older “sage” in the camp. Regardless of my role at camp, each year I have witnessed the profound impact the camp experience has on the lives of young people. To watch them play games in the pouring rain, finish a 17-mile bike trail, complete camp chores, contemplate in silence, be bold in safe spaces, and offer thoughts during Bible Study. It’s such a gift.

Our own programming for young people with Friday Friends and Vacation Bible School has similar benefits. I believe there will be new ways we’ve yet to discover to meet the spiritual needs of children and their families.

Your continued support of and involvement in these ministries is so very important; not just for the children, but also for your evolving spiritual life and growth. If you’d like to know more about how you can support and engage with our young folks, please let me know.

—Pastor Stump



From the Music Corner:

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia! O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam! O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Happy summer! As I think about hymns that have always touched my soul, “All Creatures of Our God and King” has always had a special place in my heart. I’m not sure if it was the pipe organ playing it when I was a kid growing up at N. Hadley, Massachusetts UCC, or at some other point, but this hymn always makes my heart sing. Do you have hymns that touch your soul? I would love to know which hymns touch YOU. Feel free to send your favorite hymn to my email at peputnam@yahoo.com. Maybe we can incorporate your favorite hymn into worship one Sunday!

As we move into summer, the Chancel Choir continues to sing on Sunday mornings through the month of July. We are a bit more casual without robes, but the spirit is still the same. If you are considering joining us in the fall, why not come now on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.? Summer Choir meets in the choir room behind the sanctuary. If you aren’t sure where that is, please ask someone and they will be happy to show you!

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there will be music, and there will certainly be music at Oakland!
Soli deo Gloria! (Glory to God Alone!)

Questions about Oakland’s Music Ministry? Feel free to reach out, to me at peputnam@yahoo.com.

In Christ’s Love,

—Paul



Godwin scholarships presented

The Becky Godwin Scholarship Fund was established to honor the memory of Becky Godwin, who died in 1968 as the result of a tragic accident when she was 14 years old. Becky was the daughter of Mills E. Godwin and Katherine B. Godwin, and she was a member of Oakland Christian Church. At the time of her death, the family suggested that in lieu of flowers, friends and acquaintances might send donations to Oakland Christian Church. Later, it was decided this sum would be added to the money the Godwins had set aside to start a scholarship program in their daughter's memory.

In 1972, a scholarship committee met with the pastor, Dr. Millard Stevens, and decided to send the first scholarship award of \$100 to the United Church Board for World Ministry Scholarship. This money was sent to a foreign mission school to assist a young girl.

When the committee met again in 1973, all members agreed that from that time on, the scholarship awards would be given to high school graduates who were members of Oakland Christian Church. In the years that have followed, \$300,900 has been awarded to 133 members of Oakland who have received one or more scholarships. In all, 86 Oakland families have had one or more family members receive a scholarship.

What a legacy the Godwin family left the church they loved! The members of Oakland have also continued to support this scholarship program with their generous donations to the Scholarship Fund.

The 2024 Becky Godwin Memorial Scholarships are presented to:

- William Brennecke — Texas A&M University
- Joshua Harrell — Virginia Tech
- Claire Mitchell — Virginia Tech
- Dori Mitchell — Virginia Tech
- Alex Shearin — Sentara College of Health Sciences
- Kathleen Stump — Kutztown University
- Peyton Wise — Longwood University
- Zane Wise — James Madison University



The Becky Godwin Memorial Scholarship was presented to recipients during the Sunday morning worship on June 9. From left are Pastor Jason Stump, recipient William Brennecke, recipient Claire Mitchell, Pam Saunders of the scholarship committee, and Alex Shearin. Not pictured are recipients Joshua Harrell, Dori Mitchell, Kathleen Stump, Peyton Wise and Zane Wise.



Pastor Jason Stump presents Ann Johnson with a hanging basket in recognition of her 25 years of service on the Becky Godwin Memorial Scholarship Committee.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- June 30 Welcome Committee Meeting - CLC (12 p.m.)
- July 2 Loaves & Fishes Meeting (Sanctuary Fellowship Hall)
- July 4 Office Closed
- July 7 Worship (11 a.m.) (kids leave for camp)
- July 14 Worship (11 a.m.)
- July 18 Loaves & Fishes Food Distribution Drive-thru - CLC (11 a.m.)
- July 21 Worship (11 a.m.)
- July 22-24 Vacation Bible School - CLC (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.)
- July 24 Council Meeting - Little Kitchen (6 p.m.)
- July 25 Deadline for newsletter articles; email to communications@oaklanducc.com
- July 28 Worship (11 a.m.) (VBS kids sing)
- July 28 Zoo outing for Youth Group following church service

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

**Minister of Music will communicate exceptions to practice*



Harper Wilson	3
Gary Butler	6
Cindy Cowan	6
John Johnson	6
Brad Whitley	9
Tessa Phillips	9
Peggy Walker	10
Jerry Babler	11
Ella Mae Winslow	11
Megan Harrell	12

Nancy Gill	12
Daniel Brower	14
Braedon Harris	15
Dawn Schneider	15
Jameson Pantelides	16
Cheryl Carter	16
Breanne Presson	17
Jenna Langston	17
Lisa Whitley	17
Pam Saunders	18
Betsy Wegman	20
C.F. Jordan	22
Robert Beale	22
Denise Spady	23
Tamika Blanchette	24
James Saunders	26
William Brennecke	26
Darrel Johnston	27

Wild About Jesus

Oakland Christian United Church of Christ
Vacation Bible School

July 22-24, 2024 • 6pm-8pm
Join us on the Safari!

**Registration
Now Open**



Oakland's Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and registration is now open! Join your little ones for fellowship and dinner before they jump into the safari where they'll play, sing, and learn to be

"Wild about Jesus" each night! We hope to see you there July 22-24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.!

Register by visiting tinyurl.com/OaklandVBS2024.

Sign up to help with Vacation Bible School or ask your questions by contacting Dani Howell at dani.howell@gmail.com.



Help Record 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.



The Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk is hiring!

The Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS), a network of churches and organizations working together for poverty alleviation and community development, is hiring two positions in the coming weeks.

The organization is seeking a **Church Night Shelter Facilitator** and a **Director** to continue

the mission of CAPS to address immediate crises as well as underlying causes of poverty in the community.

For more information on these jobs as well as **volunteer opportunities**, visit capsuffolk.org, click "Get Involved" and then click "Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities."

Memorial Sunday



Memorial Sunday was held at Oakland Christian UCC on June 2.



These members who have passed away in the last year were remembered: Wayne Gardner, Jimmye Hayes, Bill Saunders, Bob Smith, Barbara Bainbridge, Elenor Muche, Margaret Tolley, Wayne Livesay and Bill Felton.

A Note of Thanks

The Suffolk Master Gardeners borrowed tables from Oakland Christian Church to display plants for the group's April 20 plant sale. To express their appreciation, the Master Gardeners have now donated two six-foot tables to the church and sent this note:

*Dear Oakland Christian Church,
Thank you for allowing the Suffolk Master Gardeners to use tables for our plant sale. Having plants up off the ground for customers to view makes selling that much easier! We are very appreciative and have purchased these tables for the church. Thank you!* —Suffolk Master Gardeners



Farewell

Sunday, July 21 will be the last day that the Phillips family (Mike, Alicia, Tessa, Harvey, Hayden, and Troy) will worship with us before their move to New Jersey as Mike continues his service in the U.S. Coast Guard. A time of farewell and blessing will be featured in the worship service that day.

Patriotic Music Celebration



Wesley Chapel UMC, 220 Kings Highway, will host a patriotic music program honoring military and first responders at 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 7. An ice cream gathering will follow the program.

Notes from the Chuckatuck Community Garden

As the site manager for the Chuckatuck Community Garden, I've been busy working on preparing the garden beds so they will be ready for adoption and planting. We currently have ten beds, and I am happy to report that nine have been adopted! I have held back one of the larger beds in order to perform a complete overhaul. Two smaller garden cubes have been planted, perfect for a few different vegetables but easier to manage than one of the standard beds.

Two gardeners have already been busy with their garden beds! Meet Journey and Chloe. Journey was among the first gardeners during our inaugural season last year, and she has quite the "green thumb." She enjoyed gardening so much that her younger sister Chloe was encouraged to adopt a bed of her own!

The month of June has been full of activity at the garden. Gardeners have been working hard

in tending their beds, and their efforts are beginning to pay off. Herbs are being harvested, and most of the vegetable plants are starting to bear.

Our Little Free Garden Library has been rehabilitated and soon will be stocked with gardening books. And finally, our community garden has been recognized as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

This is a wonderful ministry and partnership between Oakland Christian UCC and Healthy Suffolk, and I'm grateful to be a part of it!



Chloe



Journey

—Rob Rhodes

New television donated to Oakland New television donated to Oakland



An 86" LG LED Smart TV was recently donated by R.W. Baker Funeral Home and installed professionally by Suffolk Radio & Television Services. Oakland Christian UCC would like to extend our personal thanks to Blake Baker for seeing the need and fulfilling it.

Oakland makes impacts at Johns River Valley Camp



Here's Harper Wilson and fellow campers at Pastor Stump spent a week at Johns River Valley Camp Adventure Week. This was after they completed exploring Worley's Cave. She also experienced hiking, waterfalls and white water rafting. In July, Oakland is sending five children to the Junior Camp.

Pastor Stump spent a week at Johns River Valley Camp as director of the Classic Camp for middle and high school students. Oakland's longstanding support and commitment to JRVC impacts our youth and lives of children we may never encounter.

**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**

JULY 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 Cooper

Telephone: (757) 255-4353
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