

August

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



Hello Church! Holy Wow! What a Summer!

Amid all that is happening in your personal lives, workplaces, and other activities, there have been typical but definitely exaggerated weather, wild times in the news, and our own ups and downs as a community of faith.

We've had the joys of EvangeStars, EvangeSmiles, Vacation Bible School, Johns River Valley Camp, Christmas in July, Fifth Sunday Coin Collection, lots of lovely new folks gathering, and increasing visions for our future.

We've also had the concerns and grief of saying goodbye to beloved church members, hospitalizations, the passing of loved ones, and those concerns left unspoken.

This is why we covenant together. We know life is going to bring us joys and concerns no matter what. We also know that having a community to share them with, and even a communal experience of them, is so very valuable. It assures us of God's presence. It reminds us of Jesus' commandments. We feel safer, more secure, and even uplifted by one another.

As we begin to think about how we will move into the next season of the calendar and church life, be assured, God is with us. Know that you are loved, and allow yourself to be loved by others.

The ebbs and flows, peaks and valleys, joys and concerns, will all continue to come along our way. Through it all, our God will never go away.

As the Psalmist wrote, and we heard several times this summer:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

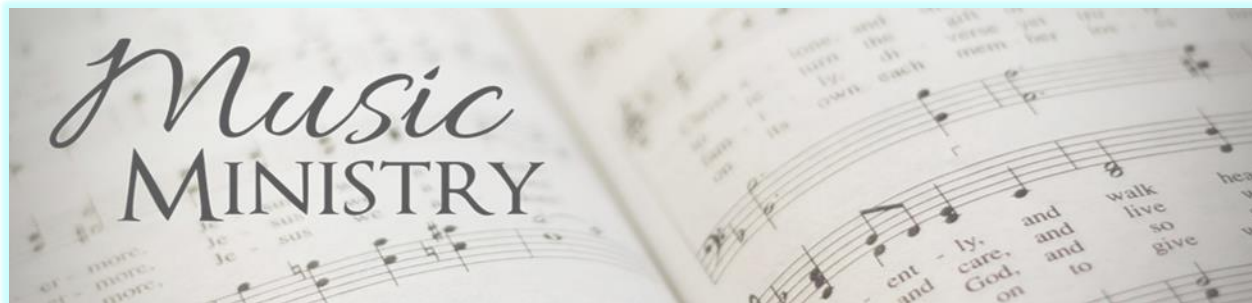
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Be well and know that you are loved!

—Pastor Stump



From the Music Corner:

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Jesus calls us in, sends us out, bearing fruit in a world of doubt.
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Refrain

Jesus lives again; Earth can breathe again; pass the word around, loaves abound!

A number of years ago, I heard this upbeat, syncopated communion hymn and fell in love with it! I loved the JOY felt in this hymn as we were sharing in Christ's communion together. I have learned never to underestimate the power of love and joy in our lives as Christ's community. The Chancel Choir has continued to bless worship during the month of July with moving and uplifting anthems. The choir really enjoys summertime when they can sit in the congregation without choir robes. This allows choir members to sit with family and friends as well as to be able to see Rev. Jason from the front delivering his message.

As we look towards September, now is a great time to be thinking about joining the Chancel Choir. Many of our members read music at varying levels, and there are some that "follow" the music, but don't consider themselves music "readers." The wonderful part about our choir is that we all lift each other up! The Chancel Choir is really a family within the Oakland Church family. Won't you come and join us? Speak to Paul or send an email to peputnam@yahoo.com if you have questions or you may be interested!

We strive for the music at Oakland to be a blessing each Sunday! Thank you for your constant support of our music ministry.

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

In Christ's Love,

—Paul
Minister of Music



Building and Grounds Update

Building and Grounds stays busy keeping the church and parsonage in good shape with the many large and small projects.

Our 2024 Committee: Chair Connie Edwards, Co-Chair John Mitchell, Larry Bounds, John Matt, Carl Lancaster, Jeff Edwards, Ronnie Kelly, Jesse Burgess, Rick Vroman, C.F. Jordan, Rusty Schneider, Jason Stump ex officio



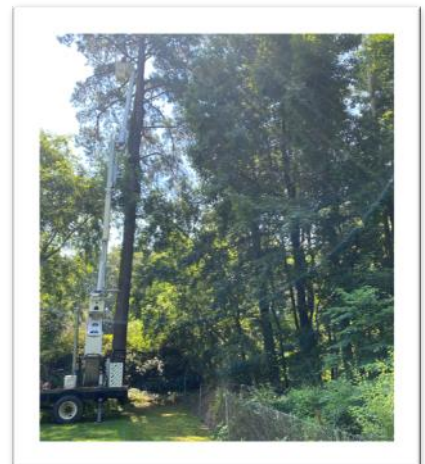
I am sure by now you have noticed the hundreds of begonias in the church flower beds. Please thank Ronnie Kelly owner of Kelly's Nursery for donating and planting them.

Ronnie is a Golden member of Oakland Christian and helps with our landscaping.

Thanks, Ronnie!

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

On June 3, a large pine tree was struck by lightning at the parsonage and needed to be removed. While we were at it, there were two other trees on the property that needed to be removed. One was dead, and one was a massive pine that had hollowed out from the bottom up about 15 feet and posed a serious safety issue; this tree had also been hit by lightning a couple decades ago and now became quite tricky to remove. Thanks to Rice Tree Removal for a great job!



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Aug. 1 Stewardship meeting - CLC (6 p.m.)
- Aug. 4 Worship (11 a.m.)
- Aug. 6 Loaves & Fishes meeting - Sanctuary Hall (10 a.m.)
- Aug. 11 Worship (11 a.m.)
- Aug. 15 Loaves & Fishes food distribution drive-thru - CLC portico (11 a.m.)
- Aug. 18 Worship (11 a.m.)
- Aug. 25 Worship (11 a.m.)
- Aug. 25 Deadline for submitting newsletter articles
- Aug. 25 Worship (11 a.m.)

NEW MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

We will have an informal and informational gathering after worship on Aug. 11 and 25 for all those interested in learning more about joining Oakland Christian UCC in the covenant of membership. Pastor Stump and several lay leaders will be available to provide information and answer questions. If you are unable to attend but are still interested in learning more, please let Pastor Stump know by emailing him at pastorstump@gmail.com. We are planning to receive new members through "The Order for New Members" Sunday, Sept. 8, during worship.



| | |
|------------------|----|
| Jonathan Putnam | 1 |
| Kathy Bounds | 5 |
| Chris Hathaway | 5 |
| Suzanne Langston | 7 |
| Sharon Burton | 10 |
| Diane Saunders | 10 |
| June Felton | 11 |
| Theresa Beale | 11 |
| Connie Burgess | 13 |
| Corey Blanchette | 13 |
| Clare Mitchell | 17 |

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Sandy Butler | 20 |
| Faye Daniels | 20 |
| JD Presson | 20 |
| Mary Anne Biggs | 20 |
| Cheri Babler | 21 |
| Frank Spady | 23 |
| Larry Bounds | 23 |
| Betty Rhodes | 23 |
| Addie Zydron | 23 |
| Sandy Barton | 25 |
| Larry Riddick | 28 |
| Alicia Phillips | 29 |

Wild About Jesus

We are so grateful to all the volunteers who made our "Wild About Jesus" Vacation Bible School from July 22-24 so special. All of the activities and lessons, the food, the fellowship, and the fun were made possible by you! Thank you!





Save the Date

Saturday, September 28

We will pack 10,000 meals here at Oakland.

Please plan on volunteering to pack meals.

Contact the church office at 757-255-4353 for more information.



The Brennecke family gave the church bus a much-needed cleaning. Thank you!

Loaves and Fishes

Many thanks go out to our members and friends who supported the Loaves and Fishes Christmas in July toiletries and cleaning supplies giveaway. The number and variety of items sent was amazing. It is wonderful to know the whole church is supportive of this community ministry. July marked our three-year anniversary of Loaves and Fishes.

The church received this note of gratitude after our most recent Loaves and Fishes giveaway:

Maybe this will help a little.

Hope so.

This church does a good job helping people in need.

That is what we are supposed to do, pass it forward.

Keep up the good work.

—Friend in Christ

The Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk will have a **BBQ fundraiser** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 15. The cost is \$16 per plate, which includes barbecue, fried chicken, slaw, green beans and hushpuppies. Take out only; pick up at Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church, 3488 Godwin Blvd. Contact Dana Mitchell for tickets at coopmitch@yahoo.com or 757-535-6793.



From the Stewardship Committee

The magic of 10-10-80 budgeting

When my twenty-something daughter recently got her first real job — one that paid good money and benefits — she asked me how to handle her finances.

It's a good question, a responsible question, and depending on your appetite for detail and complexity, one that could have dozens of answers. And certainly, there are lots of financial advisors and services that can provide help (often for a fee).

But my advice was simple: Follow the 10-10-80 formula. When you craft a budget (and you DO craft a budget, right?) spend it in this way:

- Save 10 percent
- Give away 10 percent
- Live on 80 percent

Following the formula takes discipline, but don't all worthwhile endeavors — reading the Bible, daily prayer, losing weight, or learning a language?

And like any good effort, getting into the formula is best accomplished gradually. Think long term. First, analyze your finances to find out the percentage that you save, give away, and live on. Then set goals and adjust your finances accordingly.

For instance, if your current spending is 1 percent giving, 2 percent savings, 97 percent living, set a goal to increase savings and giving over time until you reach 10-10-80. One or two percentage points a year will get you there in just a few years.

When you're living the formula, you're in the sweet spot of financial freedom. You have enough to pay your bills, save for the future, and be generous.

—Rob Blezard

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Examples of Stewardship

When you hear “stewardship,” what does that mean to you? You probably think, “Oh no, they’re going to ask for money again.” But stewardship is so much more than just money! Stewardship is serving God through giving of your Time, Talent, and Treasures, and this congregation excels in giving of all of these.

TIME — Did you enjoy your Easter pies or Brunswick stew? They were made possible through many people giving of their TIME.

TALENT — Are you blessed by the Sunday anthems? They are the result of Paul and many choir members sharing their TALENT.

TREASURES — Have you enjoyed food and fellowship in our new Community Life Center? We only have the CLC due to your generosity in sharing your TREASURES.

These are just a few great examples of stewardship, and we are so thankful for how each of you share your Time, Talent, and Treasures.

—Your Stewardship Committee

National Night Out

For many years, we've supported our community National Night Out event in hopes of building relationships, making our neighborhood safe, and keeping the Greater Oakland/Chuckatuck area special.

This year, we are hoping to take it up a notch! Please join our community, no matter where you live, on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Oakland Elementary School. We are looking for volunteers to sign up to help make snow cones and cotton candy. We will also need help spreading some joy through smiles and warm greetings.

To sign up, please contact Pam Saunders or the church office. If you aren't able to sign up, please stop in and enjoy the evening!



Our church said a fond farewell to the Philips family (Mike, Alicia, Tessa, Harvey, Hayden, and Troy) before their move to New Jersey as Mike continues service in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Vote for Pastor Stump as 'Best Pastor'!

You might recall that Pastor Stump has been nominated for "Best Pastor" in the Suffolk News-Herald's Locals Choice contest. Suffolk is blessed with around 180 churches, and many wonderful pastors doing God's work with their congregations. There's no way to measure who is "the best," and certainly there is no real competition among our congregations and our siblings in Christ. Still, this is a great opportunity to celebrate and share the good news occurring within our community of faith. Let's support this nomination by voting for Oakland Christian Church for "Best Pastor." You can vote once a day, every day, until the end of Aug. 4.

Simply go to the Suffolk News-Herald's website at www.suffolknewsherald.com. Then select the Locals Choice contest.



- 1) Scroll down and select the "Around Town" Category
- 2) Then scroll down and select the "Best Pastor" Subcategory
- 3) Select "Oakland Christian Church"
You may have to enter some information to verify your vote.
- 4) Remember.....You are loved!

**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**

AUGUST 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
Office Hours: 10 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

Email: Office@OaklandUCC.com

Website: www.OaklandUCC.org

