

September

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



Hello Church!

As I reflect on the vibrant life of our church community, I am filled with immense joy and gratitude. You've heard me quote Psalm 30:5, which reminds us that "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." It's even on one of my coffee cups. This verse perfectly captures the spirit that is uplifting our congregation as we embrace a season of growth, energy, and new beginnings.

Together with previous pastoral leadership, you all sustained each other and this body of Christ through the Covid pandemic as best you could. No doubt, it was hard. I have no doubt that at times, it was fearful. Yet, you continue to rise!

Over the past few months, we continue to witness remarkable developments in our church life. Our ministries are flourishing, our congregation is growing, and the enthusiasm among us is palpable. It is clear that God is blessing us with renewed vigor and purpose. How pleasing it must be to God to see us using that renewal for His purposes.

As we look ahead, we are gearing up for a bustling and joyous fall season. Our calendar is packed with exciting events and opportunities for fellowship, service, and spiritual growth. We are already preparing for Advent and the Christmas season, knowing that these sacred times will bring us even closer together as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. It looks like our Christmas Cantata will be December 15. Put that on your calendar!

In this season of expansion and anticipation, I encourage each of you to remain engaged and connected. Your participation and enthusiasm are what fuel our collective joy. Let us continue to support one another, embrace new opportunities, and share the love and light of Christ in all that we do.

May we all carry the spirit of Psalm 30:5 in our hearts — embracing the joy that morning brings after the trials of the night. I am excited to journey through this season with you, and I am confident that together, we will experience a profound and lasting joy as we serve and grow as one body in Christ.

With a whole lot of joy!

—Pastor Stump



From the Music Corner:

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

What a gift we have been given to live in a world full of beauty created by God! I have always loved the words and music to this familiar hymn. When English composer John Rutter created a new melody for the same text, I heard the words in a fresh new way. Music is indeed God's gift to us as we can hear and feel words in a new way.

As we begin a new "season" in the church year, we look forward to the Chancel and Handbell Choirs coming together once again to learn and share meaningful music during worship. Have you thought about singing with the choir or ringing a bell? We always have a place for YOU. When people say all the seats are full, that is not true because we will always add a chair.

The Handbell Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the room next to the nursery at the front of the church. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 5. The Chancel Choir meets on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room in back of the sanctuary. We are beginning rehearsals on Thursday, August 29, but you are welcome to join in anytime!

The question of reading music always comes up. While it is indeed helpful to you if you read music, there are many members of either ensemble who will claim that they don't read music but have become good at following it. Why don't you try us out for a couple of weeks to see if you like it?

Should you have additional questions,
email Paul at peputnam@yahoo.com.
Let us all make a joyful noise to our God!

In Christ's Love,

—Paul Putnam
Minister of Music



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Sept. 1 Sunday Worship - Communion
- Sept. 2 Office closed for Labor Day
- Sept. 3 Loaves & Fishes Mtg. - Sanctuary Hall (10 a.m.)
- Sept. 8 Sunday Worship - New Members
- Sept. 8 Stewardship Seminar - CLC (5 p.m.)
- Sept. 12 Prison Angel Tree Meeting - CLC (6 p.m.)
- Sept. 15 Sunday Worship
- Sept. 16-28 Pastor Stump on vacation out of town
- Sept. 17 Jewels - CLC (6 p.m.) Hosted by Carole Matt and Sharon Winslow
- Sept. 17 Men's Fellowship - Cazadores Mexican Restaurant 1701 N. Main St. (6 p.m.)
- Sept. 18 Candy Making CLC Kitchen (9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) see Carole Matt
- Sept. 19 Loaves & Fishes food distribution drive-thru at Portico (11 a.m.)
- Sept. 22 Sunday Worship - Guest Minister, Rev. Ernest Hamliner
- Sept. 25 Deadline to submit articles for October Newsletter
- Sept. 25 Candy Making CLC Kitchen (9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) see Carole Matt
- Sept. 25 Council Meeting - Little Kitchen (6 p.m.)
- Sept. 28 Rise Against Hunger - CLC (10 a.m.)
- Sept. 29 Sunday Worship

Choir and Bell rehearsals resume in September.

Minister of Music will communicate exceptions to practice.



Lucas Bond	2
Ginny Fly	4
Paul Saunders	5
Emma Shearin	5
John Mellon	5
Cheryl Rowlands	5
Debbie Blanks	6
Lynne Johnston	10
John Matt	12

Charlotte Presson	13
Andy Brennecke	16
Leroy Howell	18
Linnie Jordan	19
Zane Wise	19
Carl Lancaster	19
Mary Haddad	21
Kim Waller	21
Ashley Banks	23
Clark Brennecke	23
Kyle Blanks	27
Matt Harrell	28
Jean Keeling	28
Ronnie Kelly	28
Caroline Blanks	29
Robert Gillette	30

Oakland Christian UCC served treats including cotton candy and snow cones at National Night Out on Aug. 6. This event at Oakland Elementary School helped build relationships and celebrate what makes our area special.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Rise[®]

AGAINST HUNGER

food • community • sustainability

Save the Date

Saturday, September 28

We will pack 10,000 meals here at Oakland.

Please plan on volunteering to pack meals,

and bring a friend! Sign up using the QR

code. Contact the church office at 757-255-

4353 or call Carole Matt at 412-855-2944 for more information.



*Tax Law and
Investments*



Your Stewardship Committee is offering a Tax Law and Investment
Seminar

Sunday, September 8th in Oakland's CLC

Financial Planner, Kyle Arcand, will explain Tax Law changes
and help us make good decisions regarding investments.

Time: 5:00 pm

Includes: Light Food and Fellowship

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Sept. 1 and Sept. 8th.
You may also call the church office Monday-Thursday at 757-255-4353.

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. See the next page for information on volunteering.

BARBECUE

FUNDRAISER

Be The Change for People in Need

“Be The Change” is a well used catchphrase we've all seen before. Perhaps it might be overused, or misused, in some places. That's not the case here at Oakland! As you enter our main sanctuary entrance, you will see a small jar labeled “Be The Change.” This is separate from our 5th Sunday Coin Collections, and you might even miss it, but it's still got a huge impact.

Recently, the change gathered from there was passed along to the Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk to buy 100 bus passes for those who use public transportation and need assistance in accessing it. That's doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy trips, job interviews, counseling meetings, and on and on.

Little by little, that small trickle of dropping some coins in a jar gathers into a much larger stream of love that directly meets the needs of many.



Begin the Confirmation Journey

On October 13, there will be an orientation offered for those wishing to begin the Confirmation journey. This journey is called “A New Path for an Ancient Journey.”

It is open to those who are 14 years old or older. Exceptions for 13-year-olds can be offered depending upon special circumstances.

There will be group work, classes, trips, and experiences offered to assist on this journey. However, it will be

more of an individual journey than in the past. More information on that will be offered on October 13.

Please reach out directly to Rev. Stump with any questions and to sign up for this orientation.

CAPS Needs Champions!

Many more volunteers are needed for CAPS' major fundraiser, Captain Bob's BBQ and Fried Chicken, on Sunday, September 15. They need more help to make this a smooth operation and help raise money for people in need.

The sign-up link is: <https://signup.com/go/tdMpJuG>.

Please share this link with all. If someone wants to sign up but has trouble with the link, have them email Sasha Gilson at sashagilson3@gmail.com.

BARBECUE



FUNDRAISER



Many thanks to Baker Funeral Home for gifting our Community Life Center with a large monitor and to our Building and Grounds Committee for selecting and having wonderful outside light reduction blinds installed.

Many local organizations use our CLC for educational events. Here, the Suffolk Master Gardeners receive training on Phenology from Dr. Lisa Wallace, a professor at Old Dominion University.



Your Welcoming Committee Needs Your Help!

Your Welcome Committee needs your help. We oversee "Wholly Grounds," which is our refreshment table. Refreshments are enjoyed by all, young and old alike, and are just, well, welcoming! There is a sign-up sheet for providing refreshments near the table, and we hope you will consider volunteering to provide refreshments every now and then.

Refreshments do not need to be homemade or elaborate. Some folks provide nuts, fruit, and a sweet of some kind. Some folks provide juice and fruit. Some folks bake everything. Some folks supply all store-bought items. The contents are up to the provider and appreciated by all. The coffee is fixed every Sunday morning, so you don't have to worry about that. Refreshments are usually in place by 10:15 a.m. or so. Cleanup is a must. We have some items on hand if no one has agreed to provide refreshments.

Your Welcome Committee receives the information from the red fellowship pads at the beginning of every week from Connie after she

enters the data in Realm. Visitor information is kept on a spreadsheet by a committee member. If an address or email address is given, notes expressing appreciation for the visit are sent. When someone has visited three times, pies are given. The Deacons do a great job of greeting new folks. However, the pleasure of greeting a visitor belongs to us all. Please chat with anyone you see visiting. Offer to sit with them. Offer to help them follow our Order of Worship. Ask them to complete the fellowship pad info. If you see someone who has visited three times, please make sure Carole Matt, Susie Eaton, Mary Jane Naismith, Leslie Peterfeso, or Pam Saunders knows. We will gladly present them with a pie. Leslie and Carole made coconut pies recently, and we are anxious to deplete our supply.

Questions? See a Welcome Committee member. As previously stated, they are Carole, Susie, Mary Jane, Leslie, and Pam. Many thanks to our fearless leader, Leslie.

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

SEPTEMBER 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

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