

# November

## GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



Hello Church!

Wow! Are we really into it now, or what?! As I am writing this, the church is a busy hive of workers preparing for Fall Fest. By the time you read it, I'm hopeful you will all be rested after working so hard at another successful year of Fall Fest. We are also getting ready to kick off our Stewardship Campaign. There will soon be a congregational conference with budget approval, strategic plan approval, policy adaptations, and election of lay leaders.

Before we know it, Advent will begin. Angel Trees will be managed, candles lit, liturgy read, and the expectant waiting will guide our spiritual growth through that season.

In the midst of it all, we will each have our personal lives, work concerns, families to love, and all that comes with each day.

It's a lot!

While I've not yet written my sermon for Oct. 27 titled, "Take Heart!" I do want to remind you to do just that.

Take heart, my friends! The Holy One is close, even closer than we know. Present in the pie-making, the laughter, the confusion, the hugs, the stew, and the watchful eyes of little ones.

Whatever journeys your spirits go on and we take together, know that God is near to us.

With the approaching holiday of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for that knowledge, and for each of you.

Thank you for being the blessings that you are. Much Love.

—Pastor Stump



From the Music Corner:

*Gratitude changes everything. A grateful heart makes all things new.  
I give thanks in all things, knowing my good comes from You.  
I am grateful for each new day of life.  
I am grateful that I can sing.  
I am grateful for friends and family, for every living thing.  
I am grateful for the kiss of the wind on my cheek, for the sunlight on my face.  
I am grateful to know how it feels to be loved, and God's amazing grace.  
I am changed, I am changed.*

These thought-provoking words and music by Mark Hayes are put together in an anthem the Chancel Choir will be sharing on Sunday, Nov. 17. I know sometimes we are caught up in the moment of enjoying the music, and we lose out on the meaning of some of the words. Read these words several times and feel your heart lighten!

In case you have been missing the Handbell Choir, make a note to be in church on Nov. 17 when they play during worship.

During this season of gratitude, I am so grateful for each and every one of you who not only participate in the music ministry at Oakland but also support the Handbell and Chancel choirs with your kind words and applause as appropriate. The act of thanking a choir member does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated!

Please make sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, Dec. 15, to be at Oakland for this year's Christmas Cantata. You will be captivated by the story and music in Mark Hayes' "Child of Hope."

And remember, Gratitude Changes Everything.

In Christ's Love,  
—Paul Putnam



# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Nov. 5 Community Meals—Wesley Chapel Breakfast (6 a.m. to 9 a.m.)  
Oakland Christian Dinner (5 p.m. to 7 p.m.)
- Nov. 5 Loaves & Fishes Committee Meeting—Sanctuary Hall (10 a.m.)
- Nov. 7 Prison Angel Tree Committee—CLC (6 p.m.)
- Nov. 10 Potluck Lunch and Church Conference—CLC (noon)
- Nov. 11 Office Closed for Veterans Day
- Nov. 19 Jewels—CLC (6 p.m.) *Hostesses Mary Ann Riddick and Lynn Knight*
- Nov. 19 Men's Fellowship—Home of Paul Saunders, 5500 Everets Road
- Nov. 21 Loaves & Fishes Food Distribution Drive—CLC (11 a.m. to noon)
- Nov. 24 Making Thanksgiving pies—CLC (following church service)
- Nov. 25 Making Thanksgiving pies—CLC (3 to 8 p.m.)
- Nov. 25 Deadline for Newsletter  
Articles
- Nov. 27 Council Meeting—Little  
Kitchen (6 p.m.)
- Nov. 30 Hanging of the Greens Inside  
(9 a.m.)



**SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 10**

Immediately following our service, we will gather in the CLC for a potluck lunch and Church Conference.

Bring a covered dish to share!  
The church will provide fried chicken and drinks.



Sharon Creekmore	4	Mary Williams	13
Susie Eaton	4	David Marr	14
Trudy Norfleet	4	Emilee Pantelides	16
Colen Hodgson	5	Kimberly Gup	16
Jenni Langston	5	Lou Haddad	16
Julie Hase	5	Iola Saunders	19
Judy Gardner	6	Rick Vroman	19
Carole Matt	8	Julie Johnson	20
Parker Howell	12	Susan Bunch	20
		Julia Doyle	21
		Penny Hathaway	22

# Fall Fest Volunteers

A very heartfelt thank you to our Oakland Family for your gifts of time and talent that were poured into Fall Fest! Every workday was full of helping hands and cheerful hearts. Each item that was donated, whether it be to Silent Auction, Brunswick Stew, Country Store, Bake Sale, or setting up and taking down, was what made the day a huge success! As you may know, the proceeds from Fall Fest go back into our community, which is a wonderful gift of caring from our church.

We deem Fall Fest 2024 a huge success, which could not have been possible without our supportive Oakland Family.

Thank you for your generous support!

## Fall Fest Committee

Pam Saunders, Co-Chair  
Denise Spady, Co-Chair/Vendor Chair  
Pam & Paul Saunders, Stew Chairs  
Suzanne Langston, Silent Auction Chair  
Carole Matt, Candy Chair  
Jean Keeling, Pre-Order Chair

*A donation of \$500 was made in honor of all those who helped with Fall Fest preparations by Elizabeth and Bo Russell.*



# Fall Fest 2024





The Buildings and Grounds Committee worked hard replacing the back steps recently.

# Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing



## Church Conference set for Nov. 10

The Church Council has scheduled 2025 elections for Nov. 10 immediately after worship.

The Description of Terms and Responsibilities for Oakland Christian UCC Board and Committee Elected Positions is posted in the Fellowship Hall. The information is also available on the Oakland Christian UCC website in the posted Church Constitution and Bylaws under “About Us – Leadership” at the top of the Home Page.

In accordance with Article XII of the Bylaws approved July 2019, absentee ballots will be accepted: “All members who have been active during the current year via time, talent, or treasure may request an absentee ballot from



the Chair of the Nominating Committee provided the member is going to be out of town or medically unable to attend church the day of voting. Ballots must be turned into the Chair of the Nominating Committee or the Church Secretary before Congregational voting occurs.”

The nominating committee for 2025 is Betty Rhodes and Karen Schine. Contact Connie in the church office for an absentee ballot.

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## Help spread Christmas joy with Salvation Army



We will soon be receiving 20 tags for children and 10 for seniors (in nursing homes) for our Salvation Army Angel Tree.

Grab a tag from the “Angel Tree” in the fellowship hall. Each tag will display the age and clothing size of the child or senior that you will shop for. Gifts should be returned by Sunday, Dec. 8. There will be one gift bag per individual you’ve shopped for containing unwrapped gifts (no food).

You can also help the Salvation Army this Christmas season by signing up to ring the bell on Saturday, Dec. 7. We will ring in front of the Belk on North Main Street in Suffolk from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be on the board in the fellowship hall.

## Help the Flower & Altar Committee decorate for Advent

### 1. Hanging the greens

**(artificial):** Meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, in the fellowship hall to hang greens throughout the building.

### 2. Making 12 live wreaths:

Gather at Kelly's Nursery at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, to make live wreaths. If you have cedar, pine, or nandina, please bring them.

### 3. Hanging live wreaths:

Meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, in the fellowship hall to hang the wreaths, with bows.

### 4. Decorating with poinsettias:

Honor or remember a loved one or just help decorate the sanctuary with red poinsettias. Order forms will be in the bulletin during November for red poinsettias, in foil, for \$11 each. Please give order forms with payment to Julie Johnson,

or you may place the form with payment in the offering plate. They will be displayed in church on Sunday, Dec. 15. The deadline to return order forms is Sunday, Dec. 1.



## IMAGINE TOGETHER

### STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

IMAGINE TOGETHER a world where each person has all that they need! Everyone has clean water, and there is no lack of food or other necessities.

“Stewardship” is not just “giving money.” It’s about using our resources (time, talent, and treasures) wisely. God has given us such a beautiful world, and He wants us to take care of it. He has blessed each of us, and He asks that we share with those in need. So let’s IMAGINE TOGETHER what a difference we can make, as we prayerfully consider what we can give for the coming year.

With your donations, of course we pay salaries, utility bills, and all the expenses of any building. But, thanks to your generosity, your donations to Oakland Christian UCC go so much further! During worship this month, we will try to show all the ways we give to our community and beyond.

### \*\* Commitment Sunday is November 17 \*\*

Let’s be joyous stewards as we thank God for all our blessings and generously give back to Him. You will be receiving a mailing with Pastor Jason’s Stewardship Letter and a 2025 Commitment Card. Here at Oakland, you may pledge to give a specific amount next year or to give as much as you can, when you are able. We can’t change the whole world, but as

we come forward with our pledges on Commitment Sunday, let’s IMAGINE TOGETHER how our gift can make a difference to many of those around us.



*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (1 Peter 4:10)*



# Community Meals

November 5, 2024

6 AM - 9 AM  
BAGGED BREAKFAST  
TO GO  
WESLEY CHAPEL  
5 PM - 7 PM  
BBQ PLATES  
SIT & EAT  
AT  
OAKLAND  
CHRISTIAN

## Vote, Eat, Love

For those who live, work, and worship in the Greater  
Chuckatuck/Oakland Community

No Politics. Just loving our neighbors.

Sponsored by Loaves & Fishes Ecumenical Outreach





Diapers, trash bags, dog food, and more were among the generous donations from the Oakland UCC community toward disaster relief efforts in western North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

## CAPS Update — from Dana Mitchell

First of all, THANK YOU for supporting the CAPS annual BBQ fundraiser on Sept. 15. With your volunteer contributions, ticket purchases, and donations, you helped CAPS raise over \$10,914 to help those less fortunate in Suffolk.

Second, the CAPS Night Shelter program will begin shortly in November, after a year “off.” I have offered for us to partner with a host church to provide meals. Our dates have not yet been assigned, so stay tuned! In addition, if you would like to assist with transportation and chaperoning at a host church, they have an online signup which I will share.

Lastly, I recently shadowed a CAPS volunteer on a Monday afternoon. In a few short hours, I observed these needs:

- Someone getting out of jail requesting rent for a halfway/boarding house
- Someone who lost a job requesting help for meals (who received Food Lion gift cards)
- Someone needing bus passes to visit the Social Security office and his doctor’s office (who received them thanks to Oakland’s “Be the Change” collection)
- A survivor of domestic violence asking for advice
- Multiple individuals checking on the status of their requests for financial aid with utilities and rent

What I observed was that their budget of \$6,000 per month could easily be spent

fulfilling applications they receive from clients in only one afternoon and that honestly, they need us!

If you feel led to volunteer in their downtown office to field calls, please call 757-934-9457 or email [info@capsuffolk.org](mailto:info@capsuffolk.org).

If you’d like to keep helping our Suffolk neighbors in need with a recurring donation, see below:

*Be a Part of the*  
**CAPS Family of Support**

CAPS is seeking to increase their donations to our mission of preventing evictions and stabilizing households as well as ministering to those individuals and families who are unhoused.

Would you consider...

\$7/month  
\$10/month  
\$25/month  
\$50/month  
\$100/month

Sign up here for recurring donations to  
Wherever Needed Most!  
<https://capsuffolk.networkforgood.com/projects>

## 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.

## Men's Fellowship



*Please join us!*

The men meet the third Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. The November meeting will take place at the home of Paul Saunders, 5500 Everets Road. All are welcome. Any questions, contact Roger Burton at 757-373-2817 or 757-373-4080.

## JEWELS



*Please join us!*

The women meet the third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in Oakland's Community Life Center. The November meeting will be hosted by Mary Ann Riddick and Lynn Knight. All are welcome. *"Joyfully Enjoying Women's Encouragement and Loving Support"*



**Oakland UCC recently met its EvangeSmiles goal, meaning members and visitors enjoyed getting to know one another in response to Pastor Jason's challenge. The church celebrated with cake.**

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

**NOVEMBER 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](mailto:Office@OaklandUCC.com)

**Website:** [www.OaklandUCC.org](http://www.OaklandUCC.org)

