

February

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



Hello Church!

I'm writing this on a Monday, fresh off another wonderful Sunday together in worship, fellowship, spiritual formation, and even a few meetings at Oakland Christian UCC.

What I recall so freshly about yesterday is something that might not seem like the thing that would stick out.

Still, it's the announcements from the beginning of worship.

I remember attending Boy Scout camp in the summers, and every day at one of the meal times, somebody would loudly proclaim, "Announcements! Announcements! Annooooouunnncements!" and then list off the things we all needed to know for the rest of the day.

You might not realize the debates that often occur around how long announcements in a church should be, when they should be made, how often, etc. Let's just say, it's a thing.

So, for all that is to be discussed about announcements and church, I want to simply express gratitude:

- For all that we have to announce.
- For those who make announcements.
- For those who read and understand announcements the first time, or the third.
- For those who never come to understand but keep asking questions.

Sometimes announcements don't land with me as the blessings they are. I'm grateful that yesterday, God shed a new light on announcements for me.

Still, keep it short, use the mic, check your emails, and read your bulletins.

We have a lot to be grateful for.

—Pastor Stump



From the Music Corner:

*Some glad morning when this life is over, I'll fly away.
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.
I'll fly away, oh, Glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.*

How many of you just sang this wonderful gospel song in your head while reading the words? I know I sure did! The choir will be singing the “Fly Away Medley” on Feb, 16. This toe-tapping favorite features songs like “Fly Away,” “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder,” “When the Saints Go Marching In,” and others.

Looking ahead to Sunday, March 2, we will be celebrating “Mardi Gras Sunday” with the Olde James River Jazz Band. This is a wonderful jazz celebration on the Sunday before the beginning of Lent. Please invite family and friends to join us, as this is a celebration to be shared!

Have you been thinking about singing with the Chancel Choir? We are a group of people who love singing and sharing Christ’s message through music. We all come to choir with different levels of singing ability, but the beauty is in how we work together. If you want to come and “try” us out without any judgment, please feel free. Want to know more? See me or send me an email to peputnam@yahoo.com

Don’t forget to put Sunday, March 2 on your calendar!

Musically Yours,
—Paul Putnam, Minister of Music



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

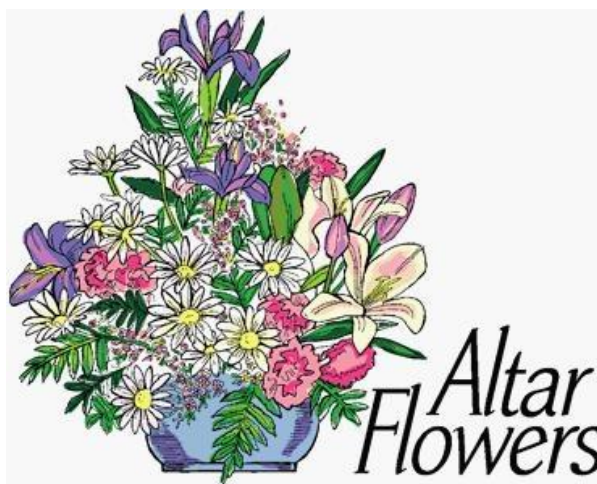
- Feb. 2 Souper Bowl Sunday—CLC (12 p.m.)
- Feb. 4 Loaves & Fishes meeting—Sanctuary Hall (10 a.m.)
- Feb. 5 Women’s Bible Study—CLC (9:45 a.m.)
- Feb. 7 Friday Night Fellowship—CLC (6:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 9 Church Conference—CLC (following worship) *lunch served*
- Feb. 12 Women’s Bible Study—CLC (9:45 a.m.)
- Feb. 16 Orientation for new members—CLC (following worship)
- Feb. 18 Jewels—CLC (6 p.m.) *Hostesses Sadie, Kirsten, and Carole*
- Feb. 18 Men’s Fellowship—location to be advised (6 p.m.)
- Feb. 19 Women’s Bible Study—CLC (9:45 a.m.)
- Feb. 20 Loaves & Fishes Drive-Through Food Distribution—CLC (11 a.m.)
- Feb. 21 Deadline for newsletter articles—note new date this month!**
- Feb. 23 Church Outing—Norfolk Admirals Hockey Game (3 p.m.)
- Feb. 26 Women’s Bible Study—CLC (9:45 a.m.)
- Feb. 26 Council Meeting—Little Kitchen (6 p.m.)

Choir & Bell rehearsals take place Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

Minister of Music will communicate exceptions to practice.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

Devon Langston	2
Gene Arcand	3
Tammy Howell	6
Shelley Helms	8
Lynn Knight	9
Tracia Howell	10
Roosevelt Jones	12
Dale Boyer	14
Dori Mitchell	14
Kimmy Curliss	15
Waylon Harris	15
Jesse Williams	15
Lucus Gup	16
Josh Harrell	20
Amy Csisar	21
Rose Bowers	21
Lauren Billings	23
Bryn Blanchette	23
Grayson Blanchette	23
Eddie Walker	23
Randy Rowell	26
Peyton Wise	28
Cynthia West	28



THE 2025 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of someone, please sign up on the Flower Chart located on the bulletin board by the steps in the Sanctuary Hall.

The office will contact you to find out what you want written in the Sunday bulletin.

Winter Shelter Meals

Thanks to all who helped prepare and pack meals for the Suffolk Winter Shelter guests from Dec. 29 to Jan. 5. We were able to pack and deliver approximately 112 breakfast and

lunch bags and 112 hot meals to 16 guests during their second week in the shelter organized by the Beacon of Hope.



OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC

FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

GATHER 'ROUND

THE TABLES

GOOD COFFEE

HOT COCOA

COLD DRINKS

FEBRUARY 7TH

6:30 PM

NO AGENDA

NO PROGRAM



Enjoy refreshment and conversation
Be in Community!

WWW.OAKLANDUCC.ORG

Welcome New Members

If you'd like to join the church in the covenant of membership, please reach out to Pastor Stump or the church office. We will have two orientation sessions on Feb. 16 and March 9 after worship.

The next New Member Sunday will be held on Palm Sunday, April 13, during worship. What a celebration it will be!



Oakland Christian UCC held a committee kickoff with lunch on Jan. 12 after church. Members reviewed important church documents and the strategic plan.

Loose Change Collection



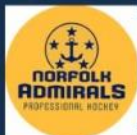
Children of the church collected loose change for Friends of Barnabas on the fifth Sunday of December. Friends of Barnabas empowers families in Honduras through healthcare and education.



Oakland UCC BOCE

HOCKEY

★ GAME ★



ADMIRALS

VS

MARINERS



Ticket \$17 | Feb 23 @ 3pm

201 E Brambleton Ave, Norfolk, VA 23510

Gear up for an exhilarating experience at our Hockey Game Event! Whether you're a die-hard fan or just looking for a day of high-energy entertainment, the event promises thrilling moments and on-ice excitement



Sign up online!
<https://forms.gle/DD3ChKBKSuqLYuJw5>



For More Information
757-685-6647



Thank you for your loving contributions

Beloved,

We truly cannot find the words to adequately express our gratitude for your astounding generosity and kindness. We were absolutely overwhelmed by your loving and amazing gift. We wish we could be there to personally thank you, not only for this but also for the many cards and prayers offered on our behalf. You can never know how much they meant to us, and we are completely convinced that they greatly contributed to my healing. We will always cherish your love and support.

It will be a long road to a full recovery, but we are sure that we will one day be able to walk down the aisle at Oakland and give each and every one of you a big hug. We look forward to that day with joy and eagerness!



Thank you again and again for all that you are ... and all that you have done for us!

*Lovingly,
Mary Anne and John*

Church,

What an amazing group of people who attend Oakland Christian United Church of Christ! You give so much of your Time, Talents, and Treasures to Oakland, and to others.

Not long after our annual Stewardship campaign, where you made very generous commitments to the church

for 2025, you were asked to give a “love offering” for our former pastor, Rev. Mary Anne Biggs, and her husband John.

She has had health issues over the past few months. When she returned home from the hospital, she had to have caretakers, which was not covered by insurance. We all imagined ourselves in their shoes, being overwhelmed with debt. And even knowing that this was not a tax-deductible year-end donation, you reached into your resources and again gave generously of your Treasures to help during their time of need. We know this gift has been such a help to them, and so appreciated!

We are so proud to be part of such an amazing and loving congregation!

— *Your Stewardship
Committee*

Help Record Our Sunday Morning Services

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.

Please reach out to Dr. Ralph Howell, Rob Rhodes, or the office to sign up.





JRVC 2025 CAMPS



Junior Age (4th-6th)




Arts and Crafts
June 22nd - 28th

Cooking
July 6th - 12th

Middle High (6th-8th)

Climbing
June 29th - July 5th

Paddling
(combined with Sr High)
July 13th-19th



Senior High (9th-12th)



Adventure
July 6th - 12th

Paddling
(combined with Sr High)
July 13th-19th

Beginners (3rd)

Rising 3rd Graders
July 13th - 16th



Family Camp

Fun for the whole family!
July 23rd - 26th



REGISTER NOW!

All grades are considered "rising."
Go to <https://www.jrvc.org> to register and for more
information about each camp

Now through March 1st save \$30 on registration!





The first service of 2025 featured a children's message and Communion.



The Jan. 12 service featured Star Words for the congregation, giving them an area of focus for the new year.

Loose Change Sundays to support Project Safe House

At Oakland Christian United Church of Christ, the months with a fifth Sunday are extra special. During these Sundays, our congregation gathers loose change and donations for a chosen cause, and the children joyfully lead the way by collecting donations during the Children's Message. This year, we are proud to dedicate these offerings to support Project Safe House.

Project Safe House is an incredible organization committed to combating

human trafficking. They work tirelessly to educate communities, provide safe housing, and offer ongoing support to survivors. By addressing the root causes and effects of human trafficking, Project Safe House brings hope and healing to countless individuals.

When you bring your spare change, and other donations, on fifth Sundays, you are helping to create a world where every person can live in safety and dignity. Your contributions

make a direct impact on the lives of those who need it most. Let's come together as a church family to shine a light in the darkness and support this vital ministry.

The next Loose Change Sunday will occur on March 30. Mark your calendars, bring your change, and join us in making a difference!



**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**

FEBRUARY 2025

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

