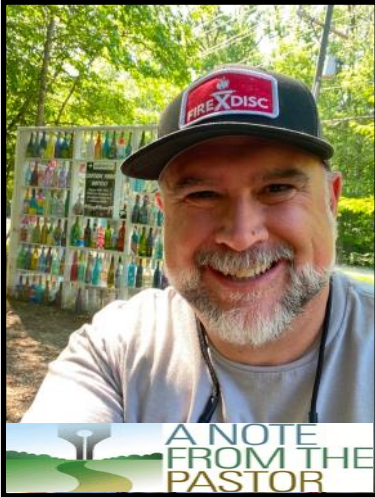


March

GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC



Hello Church!

March is here, and with it comes a shift in our worship life as we prepare to enter the sacred season of Lent. But before we do, we're going to celebrate in style with our tradition of Mardi Gras Sunday! On Sunday, March 2, we'll gather for a joyful time of music and worship featuring our special guests, the Olde James River Jazz Band. It will be a Sunday of celebration—of life, of faith, and of the goodness of God—before we step into the reflective journey of Lent.

Then, on Ash Wednesday, March 5, we pause. We will have Ashes to Go under the portico from 5:30-9:30 a.m. and again from 5-6 p.m. With the sign of the cross in ashes, we remember our mortality, our need for grace, and the call to turn our hearts more fully toward God. Lent is a season of preparation, not meant to burden us but to awaken us—to remind us who we are and whose we are. Whether through prayer, fasting, acts of service, or deep reflection, this season invites us to walk with Christ, drawing closer to the promise of resurrection.

So, let's begin with joy and journey forward with purpose. May this Lent be a time of renewal, transformation, and deepening faith for us all.

Grace and peace.

—Pastor Stump



From the Music Corner:

*This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.
This little light of mine, oh I'm going to let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, no, I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

How many of you just sang this wonderful gospel song in your head while reading the words? I know I sure did! This song and many other gospel favorites will be featured on Oakland's Mardi Gras at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 2. Many people who have been here at Oakland will perk right up when they find out it's Mardi Gras Sunday. The Olde James River Jazz Band comes and shares many upbeat spiritual selections with us that morning.

The choir prepares some extra special, toe-tapping music, including a gospel arrangement of "This Little Light of Mine" by Mark Hayes, as well as "Give Him Glory." This is NOT a Sunday morning to miss. Tell your friends, tell your family, and tell your neighbors that Oakland is the place TO BE on Sunday, March 2.

This year's Easter Cantata will be "God So Loved" by Pepper Choplin. Our Easter Cantata will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 13, during worship. Rehearsals begin at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, March 9, in the choir room and will continue until the Cantata. Want to sing with us? Ask any choir member or me and we will get you all set up!

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.

See you on March 2 with beads on!

Musically Yours,
—Paul Putnam, Minister of Music




CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Feb. 27-March 7 Tracy, Communications Assistant, on Vacation
- March 1 Pastor Stump's Book Party—CLC (2 to 4 p.m.)
- March 2 Mardi Gras Sunday—Worship Service (11 a.m.)
- March 4 Loaves & Fishes Meeting—Sanctuary Hall (10 a.m.)
- March 5 Ash Wednesday Ashes to Go—CLC Portico (5:30-9:30 a.m. and 5-6 p.m.)
- March 5 Women's Bible Study—CLC (9:45 a.m.)
- March 10-20 Pastor Jason on Retreat
- March 12 Women's Bible Study—CLC (9:45 a.m.)
- March 18 Jewels—CLC (6 p.m.) *Hostesses Leslie, Julie H., and Susan*
- March 18 Men's Fellowship—Mod Olive, 115 N. Main St. (6 p.m.)
- March 20 Loaves & Fishes Food Distribution—CLC Portico (11 a.m.)
- March 21 Friday Night Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation—CLC (6:30 p.m.)
- March 23 Church Covered Dish—CLC *Deacons Hosting* (following worship)
- March 25 Deadline for Newsletter Articles
- March 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.*



Kasie Wilson	1
Steve Wilson	3
Zoie Wise	6
Ann Johnson	11
Clayton Curliss	12
Roger Burton	15
John Mitchell	18
Frank Daniels	19
Cheryl Rudd	20
Samantha Fly	23
Danise Archer	24
Kathleen Stump	24
Darden Langston	27
Marie Marr	27
Dana Mitchell	29



Oakland Christian UCC

**Ash Wednesday
Ashes to Go
Schedule**

March 5th

Morning
5:30am– 9:30am

Evening
5pm–6pm

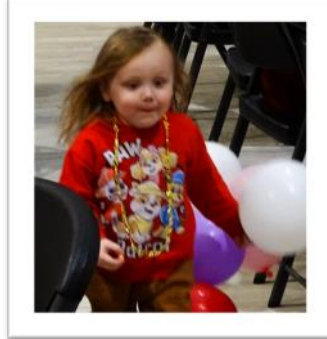
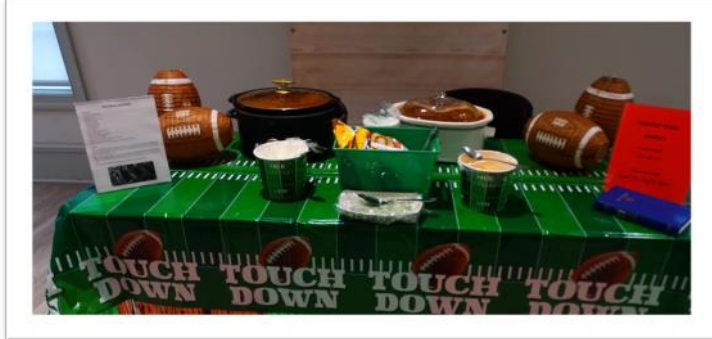
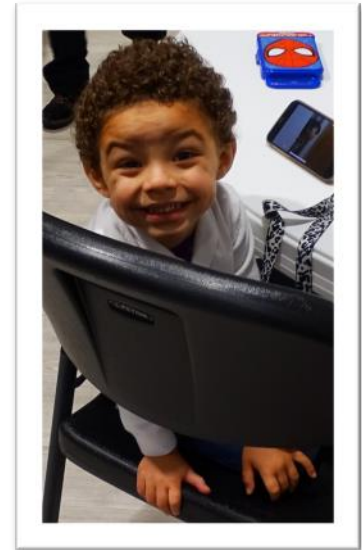
Under the portico at our
Community Life Center
5641 Godwin Blvd,
Suffolk

Souper Bowl Sunday

Oakland Christian UCC held its Souper Bowl on Feb. 2. Teams offered soups, including ham and lentil, chili, and “seafood harmony.”



A gift basket raffle was held, and the entire event brought in canned goods for Loaves and Fishes as well as donations for a worthy organization.





MARDI GRAS

Sunday

MARCH 2ND

Featuring

OLDE JAMES
RIVER JAZZ
BAND

OAKLAND
CHANCEL CHOIR

THE PARTY STARTS ABOUT 10AM.

WORSHIP BEGINS AT 11AM.

5641 Godwin Blvd

www.oaklanducc.org



Pam Saunders took some beautiful pictures of Oakland Christian UCC in the snow on Feb. 20.



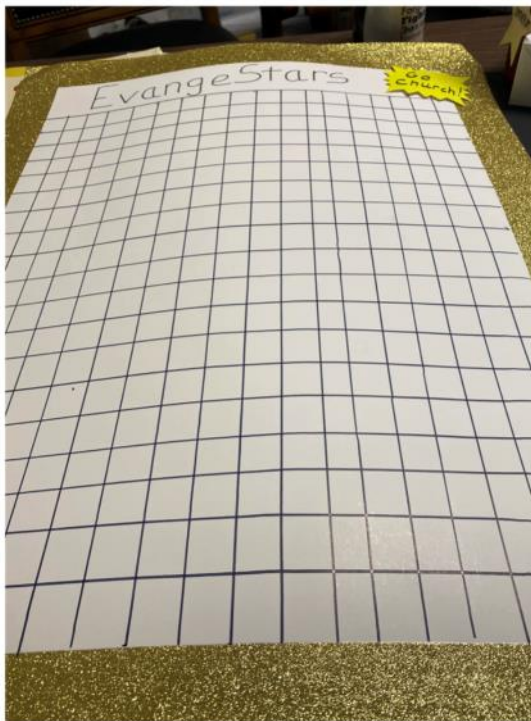
Scholarship applications available soon

Oakland's Becky Godwin Memorial Scholarship applications will be available beginning April 1, 2025, and can be requested by calling the church office at 757-255-4353 or by email request to

office@oaklanducc.com. Completed applications will be due back to the church office by May 1, 2025. Please note that these dates are earlier than in previous years.

Each recipient must be a member of Oakland Christian UCC.

Scholarship Sunday will be celebrated on June 1, 2025.



EvangeStars return

EvangeStars are back! As you may recall, Pastor Stump has once again challenged us to share the Good News of Jesus by inviting people to gather with us at Oakland Christian UCC.

Each time you invite someone, you can place a star-shaped sticker on the EvangeStars board. Once

the board is completely filled, the entire church will enjoy a pizza party!

It's just that simple. Invite folks, tell them why you are a part of Oakland, and whether they come or not, you get to fill a spot on the EvangeStar board.

Who thinks we can fill up this board before June 1?

Oakland Christian UCC

Friday Night Fellowship

**No Agenda.
Just Love.**

Go out and have a
true sense of unity in
our community



Friday
March **21**

5641 Godwin Blvd
Suffolk

Enjoy the evening with conversation, refreshment, and fun.

Check us out on Facebook and at oaklanducc.org

Give with ease by trying online giving

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Online giving makes supporting our church easy, secure, and convenient. Whether you're traveling, out

of town, or prefer a hassle-free way to give, electronic giving allows you to stay faithful in your generosity. Benefits include:

- **Consistency** – Set up recurring gifts to ensure your giving continues even when you're away.

- **Convenience** – Give anytime, anywhere through our website or mobile app.
- **Security** – Your donations are processed safely and securely.

Visit oaklanducc.org/give or contact the church office to set up online giving.



Women's Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study has 23 women signed up. They recently played the "pretzel game" to have some fun before learning together.



Kirsten Creely, Carole Matt, and John Matt make last-minute preparations for Sunday morning refreshments, "Holy Grounds," on a recent morning.



the GREAT
SUFFOLK
CLEANUP
MARCH 28-29, 2025

Groups, businesses, families, and individuals are encouraged to participate! Choose any spot in Suffolk to clean up! Cleanup supplies are provided for all registered participants.



**REGISTER
YOUR
CLEANUP
TODAY!**

suffolkva.us/cleanup



KEEP SUFFOLK
Beautiful

Deacon Installation



Oakland Christian UCC held a new deacon installation on Jan. 26. Four new deacons—Peggy Walker, Sharon Winslow, Leslie Peterfeso, and Beth Macklin—were installed.

Friday Night Fellowship



Oakland Christian UCC held its first Friday Night Fellowship on Feb. 7 with 18 people in attendance. Community members could come have fun and coffee with no agenda.



Thank you from the Schines

Dear Oakland Church Family,

Mike and I would like to thank everyone for their phone calls, texts, cards, and most of all, prayers, over the past six months while Mike has been undergoing chemotherapy and surgery for bladder cancer. He is home after his most recent surgery, and the doctors are very pleased

with his recovery and progress. While there remain a few hurdles ahead, the love and support that we have received has been essential in bolstering our resolve to move forward on this journey. Thank you all!

*Blessings to our Oakland Church Family,
Mike and Karen Schine*

Hockey Outing



Oakland Christian UCC took an outing to the Norfolk Admirals game on Feb. 23. The Maine Mariners won 3-2 over the Norfolk Admirals.



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

MARCH 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

