

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

April 7 2024



Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook Live at 11:00 am on Sunday, April 7, 2024.. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the message entitled "Dig In." The Scripture is John 20:19-31.



Daniel Castellow – April 7
Doug Riggan – April 7
Brenda Swoope – April 13

KITS FOR CONFERENCE

The United Women of Faith will be doing Kits for Conference again this year. They will do the Menstrual Kits and Hygiene Kits. Directions for the items needed for kits are on the table in the narthex. Kits must be turned in by June 1, 2024.



HOUSING NEEDED

Mary Lovell Swetnam, warden of St. Brides Episcopal Church, has asked if anyone at Oaklette has or knows of a garage apartment for rent this summer. Stuart King, a British priest, will pastor at St. Brides in June, July, and August and needs a place to stay. If you have or know of such a place, please contact the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS

<i>Tyrone Armstrong</i>	<i>Doris Wolfe Harlan</i> <i>(Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-law)</i>
<i>Hannah Bailey</i>	<i>Hope Hodges & Debbie</i>
<i>Barlow Family</i>	<i>MEF RELSUP</i>
<i>Don Branstetter (friend of Dr. Etheridge)</i>	<i>Amber Jenkins</i>
<i>Richard & Dawn Bray (friends of Bob Carter)</i>	<i>Earl Jenkins (Erica's dad)</i>
<i>Breakthrough Prayer Workshop</i>	<i>Pat Johnson</i>
<i>Kendall Brodie (8-yr old friend of Mrs. Hickman's grandson with cancer)</i>	<i>Brian Lincoln (friend of Ethel Hickman)</i>
<i>Cherry & Sebastian</i>	<i>Wayne Magner</i>
<i>Curtis & Renee Buchanan</i>	<i>Kristie Masters (friend of Ethel Hickman)</i>
<i>Chesapeake Police Dept. Coastal VA District & DS Brooks</i>	<i>Walter Nebrotskie</i>
<i>Sandy Carraway</i>	<i>Pat Newbern</i>
<i>Kent Carter</i>	<i>A. J. Panis (Ethel's friend's son)</i>
<i>Len Carter</i>	<i>Hosea Smith (friend of Monica)</i>
<i>Madeline Day</i>	<i>Loretta Smith (Amy's son's girlfriend's mother)</i>
<i>Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)</i>	<i>Tulsa & Sharon Sturges</i>
<i>ForKids</i>	<i>Darrel Taylor (Erica's coworker)</i>
<i>Freekind Virginia</i>	<i>The League of Advocates UMC General Conference April 23-May 3, 2024</i>
<i>Lydia Friedel. (Bremda granddaughter)</i>	<i>Virginia Conference & Bishop Sue</i>
<i>Girl Scout Troop 550</i>	<i>WesleyODU</i>
<i>Patricia Guthrie (Mildred Walling's sister-in-law)</i>	<i>Betty Whitehurst</i>
<i>Karon Hardy (Monica's Neighbor)</i>	<i>Monica Whitehurst</i>
<i>Doris Wolfe Harlan (Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-law)</i>	<i>Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe</i>
	<i>Tommy Womack</i>
	<i>Our Pastor</i>

Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

Billy East

Our Homebound

Virginia Hair, Mamie Whitehurst



Food including meat, and sundry items are needed for the blessing box. Cans do not need to be flip top! Anything is helpful. Please place your donations in the box in the coffee area, in the Blessing Box, or if you want Monica to shop

Calendar

Sunday, April 7

- 9:30 am Sunday School
(Children's Class Kindergarten & Older)
- 9:30 am SOTM
- 11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook Live
(Nursery: Randy Story & Barbara Bennett)

Monday, April 8

- 10:00 am Food Pantry
(Duane Johnstone & Emma Beggs)
- 7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, April 9

Wednesday, April 10

- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 11

- 10:00 am Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Model "A" Club

Friday, April 12

Saturday, April 13

- 9:00 am-4:00 pm Girl Scouts

Next Sunday, April 14

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am SOTM
- 11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook Live
- 12:00 pm Staff Support Meeting



SUPPORT OUR GIRL SCOUT TROOP

Girl Scout Troop 550, the troop that meets here at Oaklette, will be having a Pop-up Market On Saturday, April 6, 2024 From 12:00-3:00.



In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, "A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue."



From the
Pastor's Desk

The Second Sunday of Easter has been my favorite worship service for years. It started back in 2017, when I was at Lakehurst Naval Air Station for Annual Training with the reserves. Lakehurst conducts joint operations with Fort Dix and Maguire Air Force Base, and on the Second Sunday of Easter in 2017, I spoke at a chapel at Fort Dix. The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter is John 20:19-31, and I had my sermon ready to go. In this service, a layperson reads the scripture at the beginning. The lay reader that day was a member of the choir, and as she read the Gospel, I thought, “Why hadn’t I heard that before?” When the time came to preach, I took my sermon outline, placed it on a music stand, and walked away from it. I told the congregation that I wouldn’t be using my outline because I felt as if, starting with the reading of the Gospel, I was supposed to say something different. I don’t know what I said, but I shut my eyes and spoke, and kept them shut until I was done speaking. Ever since, I’ve always looked forward to the Second Sunday after Easter, as I am now, and as we prepare for worship based on John 20:19-31.

This text inspired the use of “doubting Thomas,” and that’s unfortunate, because Thomas is no more doubting than any believer after the resurrection, and also because this text is jam-packed with scripture that pertains to all of us. Verses 21-23 alone read, “Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’” Working with this text this week, I’ve wondered how the church has taught this and how we can study it. I’ve discussed this with other pastors and I look forward to getting your thoughts in Bible study Thursday and here on Sunday morning.

I’m also looking forward to our Breakthrough Prayer Initiative workshop, Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m.-noon. If you haven’t already gotten a copy of *Flood Gates* by Sue Nilson Kibbey, please contact the church and we will get one to you. We’ve ordered enough copies for everyone and are asking everyone to read the second chapter on Breakthrough Prayer before the workshop. Please make sure you get a copy of the book as soon as possible, and please plan on attending the workshop. The intent is to pray for God to do what only God can do at Oaklette, and my feeling is that this may well take us back to John 20:21-23.

Look and listen for more on this workshop on Facebook and from the Calling Post this week, and please be in prayer, asking God to do what only God can do at Oaklette.