

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

January 26 2025



Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook Live at 11:00 am on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Debbie Rippard will present the message "Jesus' Purpose." The Scripture is Luke 4:14-24 [NIV].



Len Carter – January 26
Kathryn Woodhouse – January 27
Sandy Carraway – January 30



Please remember the Blessing Box when you are out shopping! Food and sundry supplies are needed. Please place your donations in the box in the coffee area, the Blessing Box, or if you would prefer that Monica shop for you, please see her.



PLEASE NOTE

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex and sign up for flowers, food basket, lay readers and prayer partners for the New Year – 2025.

PRAYER CONCERNS

<i>Tyrone Armstrong</i>	<i>Earl Jenkins (Ericka's dad)</i>
<i>Hannah and Bob Bailey</i>	<i>Pat Johnson</i>
<i>Barlow Family</i>	<i>Brian Lincoln (friend of Ethel Hickman)</i>
<i>Joyce Bell</i>	<i>Dave Lorence</i>
<i>Tanya & Steve Benton</i>	<i>Loving Neighbors</i>
<i>Kendall Brodie (8-yr old friend of Mrs. Hickman's grandson with cancer)</i>	<i>Mission Camp</i>
<i>Jack Bushanan</i>	<i>Rose Marie Madu</i>
<i>Megan Carroll</i>	<i>Wayne Magner</i>
<i>Judy Carter</i>	<i>Dennis Marks (Debbie's brother)</i>
<i>Cherry & Sebastian</i>	<i>Terry Martin</i>
<i>Chesapeake Police Dept.</i>	<i>Kristie Masters (friend of Ethel Hickman)</i>
<i>CNRMA ROC</i>	<i>Pat Newbern</i>
<i>Coastal VA District & DS Givens</i>	<i>AJ. Panis Ethel's friend's son</i>
<i>Sandy Carraway</i>	<i>Dana Quinn</i>
<i>Kent Carter</i>	<i>Hosea Smith (friend of Monica)</i>
<i>Len Carter</i>	<i>Loretta Smith (Amy's son's girlfriend's mother)</i>
<i>Alex Denton</i>	<i>The League of Advocates</i>
<i>Mary Lou Dory</i>	<i>Edward Thomas</i>
<i>Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)</i>	<i>Virginia Conference & Bishop Sue</i>
<i>ForKids</i>	<i>Mildred Walling</i>
<i>Freekind Virginia</i>	<i>Truman Weekly (Paige's Father)</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>Ethel Hickman</i>	<i>Tommy Womack</i>
<i>Hope Hodges & Debbie</i>	<i>Our Pastor</i>
<i>Home School Out of Box</i>	
<i>Amber Jenkins</i>	

Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

Billy East

Our Homebound

Virginia Hair

Sometimes my heart feels cold, like the snowy ground during a northern winter. Nurture seeds of growth deep inside me, Great Gardener, so I may soon bloom with love and faith.

Calendar

Sunday, January 26, 2025

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am SOTM
- 11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook
(Nursery: Lisa & Brooks Ryno)

Monday, January 27

- 10:00-12:00 pm Food Pantry
(Linda Gallop & Patricia Wilson)
- 7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, January 28

- 5:00-9:00 pm Chesapeake Master Gardeners

Wednesday, January 29

- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 30

- 10:00 am Bible Study

Friday, January 31

Saturday, February 1

- 8:30 am-3:30 pm Tidewater Quilt Guild

Sunday, February 2

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am SOTM
- 11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook



Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ’s tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone



Wow. Time flies. Two months ago, on Christ the King Sunday, I asked how Oaklette wants to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ real for all people through worship, outreach, and education in 2025. In the time since, I’ve shared some suggestions on Facebook and at an administrative team meeting and would like to share them here now.

In terms of education, I’ve said that I’d like to teach Amy-Jill Levine’s *Entering the Passion of Jesus* as a Lenten study. This study starts during Sunday school on March 2 and three people have signed up so far. I hope more will join us and I’ve asked that anyone interested in joining notify the church office by Feb. 3 so that we can order books.

That’s my suggestion for education in the first quarter of 2025. In the second quarter, I’d like for us to study *Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships* by Bob Farr, Doug Anderson, and Kay Kotan. This title was recommended by the Possibilities Report developed for Oaklette by the Coastal Virginia District in July 2022. The committee on nominations and lay leadership will work on planning this four-week study when it meets Feb. 11.

For the third quarter of 2025, I'd like to offer a study of the United Methodist Social Principles, since an updated version will be published on June 17. For the last quarter, I'd like to offer an Advent study, possibly Magrey deVega's *The Christmas Letters*, which looks at the Epistles and was published last year. All of these are just suggestions; I'm open to other ideas and would like to hear them.

In terms of outreach, I'd like to see us join in a community project for Martin Luther King Day next January. This has always been a goal of mine, and I look forward to finding out what our options are. Other ideas I have on the back burner are joining community events for Earth Day and possibly a couple of fourth-quarter events I joined last year, such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. The latter featured a team from the Indian River Y, which Oaklette supports with mission funds. A third-quarter option has just occurred to me: National Night Out, an annual event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. This usually takes place on the first Tuesday in August, which means Aug. 5 for 2025. I went to the National Night Out at Lakeside Park in 2023 and connected with ForKids there. I remember at least one church – maybe Great Bridge Baptist – had a display. Perhaps Oaklette can provide a witness and presence there this year.

Again, all of these are just suggestions and I'm open to other ideas and eager to hear them. Please let me know where you'd like to see Oaklette make the Gospel of Jesus Christ real for all people through worship, outreach, and education in 2025 and into 2026.

Thanks,
Ned



Exactly two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. preached his final sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, the civil-rights icon spoke about how he wanted to be remembered at his funeral. He preferred that people recall not his education or achievements but that he “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.”

Adapting a 1952 homily by J. Wallace Hamilton, King decried the “drum major instinct — a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade.” Humans often want to be great and first, as evidenced by the disciples James and John requesting prime seats in paradise. But King urged listeners to focus on the “reordered priorities” of Jesus, who wants us to “be first in love.”

As Jesus showed, “everybody can serve,” King said. Your background or status doesn’t matter, as long as you have “a heart full of grace” and “a soul generated by love.”