

# Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

July 21 2024



Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook  
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,  
July 21, 2024. Don Moody will bring the message  
entitled "Let's Make a Deal." The Scripture is  
Genesis 9:8-17.



Jimmy Lee – July 21  
Pamela Templeton – July 22  
Valerie Carroll – July 23  
Brian Stephens – July 23  
Beth Holcomb – July 23  
Adelyn Nebrotskie – July 25  
Bobby Phillips – July 25  
Billye Larson – July 26  
Mark Earley – July 26  
Beth Blanchard – July 27



"O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber  
waves of grain" (Katherine Lee Bates). God,  
thank you for bright summer skies, crops  
growing to feed the world and your countless  
other gifts.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Tyrone Armstrong  
Hannah Bailey  
Barlow Family  
Don Branstetter (friend  
of Dr. Etheridge)  
Kendall Brodie (8-yr old  
friend of Mrs. Hickman's  
grandson with cancer)  
Cherry & Sebastian  
Curtis & Renee  
Buchanan  
Chesapeake Police Dept.  
CNRMA ROC  
Coastal VA District &  
DS Givens  
Sandy Carraway  
Kent Carter  
Len Carter  
Alex Denton  
Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)  
ForKids  
Freekind Virginia  
Girl Scout Troop 550  
Patricia Guthrie (Mildred  
Walling's sister-in-law)  
Karon Hardy (Monica's  
Neighbor)  
Doris Wolfe Harlan  
(Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-  
law)

Hope Hodges & Debbie  
Amber Jenkins  
Earl Jenkins (Ericka's dad)  
Pat Johnson  
Brian Lincoln (friend of  
Ethel Hickman)  
Loving Neighbors  
Mission Camp  
Wayne Magner  
Terry Martin  
Kristie Masters (friend of  
Ethel Hickman)  
Phyllis Nebrotskie  
Pat Newbern  
A.J. Panis Ethel's  
friend's son)  
Hosea Smith (friend of  
Monica)  
Loretta Smith (Amy's  
son's girlfriend's  
mother)  
The League of Advocates  
Virginia Conference &  
Bishop Sue  
WesleyODU  
Betty Whitehurst  
Monica Whitehurst  
Patti & Amber Wilson  
Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe  
Tommy Womack

### 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  
for you, please see her.

### Calendar

#### Sunday, July 21

- 9:30 am Sunday School  
(Children's Class Kindergarten & Older)  
9:30 am SOTM  
11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook  
(Nursery: Nancy Helsel & Lisa Ryno)

#### Monday, July 22

- 10:00-12:00 pm Food Pantry  
(Nancy Helsel & Stella Price)  
7:00 pm HRM Band

#### Tuesday, July 23

#### Wednesday July 24

- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, July 25

- 10:00 am Bible Study

#### Friday, July 26

#### Saturday, July 27

#### Next Sunday, July 28

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

### REDEEMING 'WASTED' TIME

In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items we've lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: "What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! Where are my keys?" But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer. Simple phrases such as 'Thank you, Father,' 'Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,' 'You are my resting place, Jesus' can turn a commute into a pilgrimage," he writes. "You needn't leave your office or kneel in your kitchen, just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts." When we do this, "the common becomes uncommon," Lucado adds. What's more, "wasted" time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost – your time, if not also your keys – is redeemed.



I told Joanne Rooks that my portable microphone died during last Sunday's worship service. I said that, as I looked, the light on the mic went from red to off, so I took that mic off before I preached, relying on the pulpit and Facebook mics for the sermon. Joanne said that she still couldn't hear what I said at the end.

Joanne didn't miss much, in my estimation. I made the mistake I sometimes make in preaching: I stopped following my notes. It went well, I felt, as I talked about David and Michal and the return of the ark to Jerusalem, but I stumbled as I moved to the close of the sermon, at the point when I twice said, "How does our worship seem?"

I'd said that everything seemed fine when David brought the ark back to Jerusalem – that everything seemed fine until it didn't. Since we began a series on worship last Sunday, I wanted to ask how our worship seems in light of things that I'd said about Michal and David. I asked if David might have expected to receive better or special or preferential treatment from God since he was a man and was king. I went on to ask if David let privilege stand in the way of his relationship with God and if Michal had let her resentment of David stand in the way of her relationship with God. I said that we all have the presence of God and that, with God, there is no better or special or preferential treatment. I then asked if we make sure that, in the name of God, there is no better or special or preferential treatment in this community.

Since the first theme of the series was gathering, I also asked if we need to step up our welcome in any ways and how we can try to make sure that we're not like Michal, staying inside of windows and missing celebrations of God.

That's what I wanted to say but I'm not sure if that's what I said or what Joanne heard. I fear that I didn't say anything worth hearing, and I wish that I had stopped and corrected myself.

I told Joanne that if something like that ever happens again, tell me on the spot. My preaching instructor, Carol Woods, said that if something isn't working for us, it's probably not working for anyone else, so it's best to stop and start again and I wish that I had done that Sunday.

I hope that you still got something about gathering and welcome from the service. I'm happy to have found a worship series on worship at the Discipleship Ministries website, a resource that I check every week. The series runs through Aug. 25 and here are all seven themes and corresponding scriptures:

July 14, Gathering, 2 Samuel 6:1-15, 12b-19

July 21, Call to Worship, 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

July 28, Call to Confession, 2 Samuel 11:1-15

Aug. 4, the Weight of the Word, 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Aug. 11, Prayers of the People, 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Aug. 18, Benediction, 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

Aug. 25, Sent Out to Live, 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43

The scriptures focus on David and Solomon. For example, the scripture for July 28 tells of David and Bathsheba while the scripture for Aug. 4 tells of David and Nathan. The series looks at elements common to worship services. For example, we don't use a call to worship here, but we have in the past and may again in the future.

I have reserves Sunday and will use 2 Kings 7:1-14a in preaching at NAS Oceana. Perhaps I'll talk about that service and scripture in this column next week.

Please keep Don Moody in prayer as he leads Oaklette in worship Sunday and me as I preach at Oceana for the first time since January 2022.

Thanks,

Ned

