

# Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

July 7 2024



*Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook  
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,  
July 7, 2024. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the  
message entitled "Starting Point." The Scripture is  
Mark 6:1-13 [CEB].*

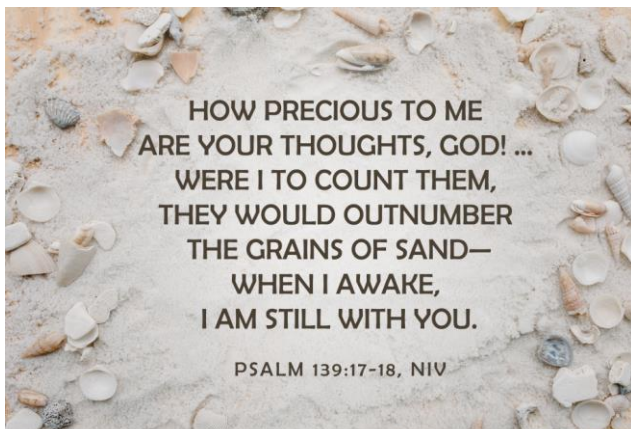


**Karen Howell – July 8**  
**Joanne Rooks – July 8**  
**Jacob Carroll – July 9**  
**Scott Jones – July 9**

## Where we live

[Christians] do not live in themselves but in Christ and their neighbor, or else they are not Christian. They live in Christ through faith and in the neighbor through love. Through faith they are caught up beyond themselves into God; likewise, through love they fall down beneath themselves into the neighbor — remaining nevertheless always in God and God's love.

**-Martin Luther, The Freedom of a Christian**



HOW PRECIOUS TO ME  
ARE YOUR THOUGHTS, GOD! ...  
WERE I TO COUNT THEM,  
THEY WOULD OUTNUMBER  
THE GRAINS OF SAND—  
WHEN I AWAKE,  
I AM STILL WITH YOU.

PSALM 139:17-18, NIV

## 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 Brooks*  
*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*  
*AJ. 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*  
*Family of Merrill Vinson  
(Virginia Hair's brother)*  
*WesleyODU*  
*Betty Whitehurst*  
*Monica Whitehurst*  
*Patti & Amber Wilson*

## 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 7**

9:30 am Sunday School  
(Children's Class Kindergarten & Older)

11:00 am Joint Worship w/SOTM  
(Nursery: Amy Weber & Donna Baker)

12:00 pm Everybody's Birthday Party

**Monday, July 8**

10:00-12:00 pm Food Pantry  
(Duane Johnstone & Emma Beggs)

7:00 pm HRM Band

**Tuesday, July 9**

**Wednesday July 10**

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, July 11**

10:00 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Model "A" Club

**Friday, July 12**

**Saturday, July 13**

**Next Sunday, July 14**

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook



**Everybody's Birthday Party!**

**Please plan to stay after church on Sunday, July 7, 2024, when Oaklette UMC and Spirit of Truth Ministries will join in a potluck to celebrate EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY!**

**Please bring extra food as First Responders have been invited to join us. We will need 12 volunteers/groups to decorate a table for a specific month. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex near the door. Cakes will be furnished.**



I've just changed my password, again, to volunteer with the Foodbank of South Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. It's never fun resetting passwords, and I thought I had chosen the "keep me signed in" option last time, but must not have. I'm volunteering with the Foodbank twice this month: Tuesday, July 16, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at 701 S. Main in Berkley, and Thursday, July 25, 3-6 p.m., at New Genesis Baptist Church on McDonald Road, just blocks from Oaklette. I've posted from both sites on Facebook, noting that at New Genesis, I enjoyed putting watermelons in people's trunks as I had in the past at drive-through distributions at Southampton Meadows trailer park near Franklin. Please consider joining me in these ministries.

As you may remember, we left off last week with my question to the "Who is My Neighbor?" panelists at a Lunch Lab at Annual Conference last month. My question was, "If Bishop Will Willimon is right and the median age in the United Methodist Church is 63 and if our Bishop Sue is right that too many churches in our conference have become private chapels and social clubs, how does this effect our expectations of ministry and how do we engage congregations that may be elderly and reluctant to go into the community?"

My question met with murmurs agreement from attendees and with a brief silence from the panelists. Eventually, Jenelle Watson, director of Embrace, an ecumenical outreach ministry hosted by the congregations of the Staunton District United Methodist Church, answered me by asking if anyone at Oaklette was really interested in engaging the community. I met this with a brief silence and then said, “Me.” Janelle replied, “Go.” She told me to go into the community and added that, eventually, someone else from the church will go with me.

Please prove Janelle correct. I’ve just shared my Foodbank dates for the month and will add this: I’m volunteering with vacation Bible school at Community UMC in Virginia Beach, Monday-Friday, July 22-26, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please consider joining me there. I’ll share details as I get them.

Lastly, I hope you’ve seen the Breakthrough Prayer posts that I’ve started putting on Facebook each morning and evening. Please join me in this initiative, and that’s something that I was reminded of when I looked back at the Possibilities Report prepared by and for Oaklette in 2022: that Breakthrough Prayer is an initiative. We’ve completed the first two recommendations from the Possibilities report, holding a Blue Christmas service last December to remember those we lost to COVID and starting our Breakthrough Prayer Initiative last April. What’s the next recommendation? We’ll discuss that next week. In the meantime, please join me in continuing to pray for God to do what only God can do at Oaklette, and that our branches embrace those around us in this community.

Thanks,

Ned

