

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

March 23 2025



*Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,
March 23, 2025. Rev. Ned Alderman will present
the message "Life at Present" The Scripture is
Isaiah 55:1-9 [TANAKH]*



**Jeannie Simpson – March 23
Tim LoBello – March 24
Clint Driskill – March 29**



**Please remember the Blessing Box
when you are out shopping! Fruit will be our
focus for the month of March. It can either
be canned fruit or the small individual
servings, i.e., applesauce, fruit cocktail, etc.**

Vibrant belief

**The disciples did not bother to try to
understand the resurrection body. They
doubted, and then they believed. They believed
something so wonderful that it changed this
broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group
of men and women in a moment from
depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new
life, vibrant and unafraid.**

—Madeleine L'Engle, *The Rock That Is Higher*

PRAYER CONCERNS

<i>Tyrone Armstrong</i>	<i>Earl Jenkins (Ericka's dad)</i>
<i>Family of Bob Bailey</i>	<i>Pat Johnson</i>
<i>Barlow Family</i>	<i>Brian Lincoln (friend of</i>
<i>Joyce Bell</i>	<i>Ethel Hickman)</i>
<i>Tanya & Steve Benton</i>	<i>Loving Neighbors</i>
<i>Kendall Brodie</i>	<i>Mission Camp</i>
<i>(friend of Mrs. Hickman's</i>	<i>Rose Marie Madu</i>
<i>grandson with cancer)</i>	<i>Wayne Magner</i>
<i>Claudia Calhoun (friend of</i>	<i>Dennis Marks (Debbie's</i>
<i>Sonia)</i>	<i>brother)</i>
<i>Megan Carroll</i>	<i>Terry Martin</i>
<i>Judy Carter</i>	<i>Kristie Masters (friend of</i>
<i>Cherry & Sebastian</i>	<i>Ethel Hickman)</i>
<i>Chesapeake Police Dept.</i>	<i>Walter Nebrotskie</i>
<i>CNRMA ROC</i>	<i>Pat Newbern</i>
<i>Coastal VA District &</i>	<i>AJ. Panis Ethel's</i>
<i>DS Givens</i>	<i>friend's son)</i>
<i>Sandy Carraway</i>	<i>Dana Quinn</i>
<i>Kent Carter</i>	<i>Ray & Bob Rosales</i>
<i>Len Carter</i>	<i>Hosea Smith (friend of</i>
<i>Kaylee Cuccorillo (Ericka's</i>	<i>Monica)</i>
<i>co-worker)</i>	<i>Loretta Smith (Amy's</i>
<i>Alex Denton</i>	<i>son's girlfriend's</i>
<i>Mary Lou Dory</i>	<i>mother)</i>
<i>Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)</i>	<i>The League of Advocates</i>
<i>ForKids</i>	<i>Edward Thomas</i>
<i>Freekind Virginia</i>	<i>Virginia Conference &</i>
<i>Patricia Guthrie (Mildred</i>	<i>Bishop Sue</i>
<i>Walling's sister-in-law)</i>	<i>Mildred Walling</i>
<i>Karon Hardy (Monica's</i>	<i>Truman Weekly (Paige's</i>
<i>Neighbor)</i>	<i>Father)</i>
<i>Doris Wolfe Harlan</i>	<i>Wesley ODU</i>
<i>(Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-</i>	<i>Betty Whitehurst</i>
<i>law)</i>	<i>Monica Whitehurst</i>
<i>Ethel Hickman</i>	<i>Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe</i>
<i>Hope Hodges & Debbie</i>	<i>Tommy Womack</i>
<i>Home School Out of Box</i>	<i>Our Pastor</i>
<i>Amber Jenkins</i>	

Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

Billy East

Our Homebound

Virginia Hair

**Jesus, Good Shepherd, as you lead, help me
know your voice better each day and eagerly
follow you.**

Calendar

Sunday, March 23, 2025

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook
(Nursery: Lisa & Brooks Ryno)

Monday, March 24, 2025

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

7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

5:00-9:00 pm Chesapeake Master Gardeners

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 27

8:30 am-3:00 pm HSOTB

10:00 am Bible Study

Friday, March 28

Saturday, March 29

Sunday, March 30

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook

ON THE PATH TO VICTORY

After moving to a college town, Pastor Kendra Thompson learned about the athletic phenomenon known as March Madness. And after a nondenominational upbringing, as a young adult she learned about Lenten traditions.

Lent and the NCAA college basketball tournament, which usually coincide, both point to the divine, Thompson argues. “In Lent, with each day we are drawn closer to the crushing reality that we’ve crucified our God. And yet we are also faced with an impossible victory: that death did not win, that our God is raised in Jesus Christ,” she writes. “Likewise, watching college basketball invites us into a season of hoping in unlikely possibilities, marveling at upsets, and giving thanks to God for the connection we find as his people.”

Like fans swept up in high-stakes games, Jesus’ disciples abandon everything to follow him. Lent might be “holy madness,” Thompson muses. It’s “an opportunity to ‘feel’ our religion, not just in our heads but with our skin, our voices, even in the anxieties of our prayers.”



“And now with golden memories and deepest gratitude for these 95 years of consecrated service as the Lexington Conference, with tender hearts and high hopes for the future, we say our last, ‘God be with you ‘til we meet again’ as a Lexington Conference.

“FAREWELL! FAREWELL! FAREWELL!”

That’s beautiful, isn’t it? That’s how the former Lexington Annual Conference of the Methodist Church closed its last meeting in 1964, four years before the merger that formed the United Methodist Church.

Lexington was one of 13 African-American Annual Conferences organized in the Methodist Church between 1868 and 1927. It encompassed parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, and Michigan. I used these closing words as a benediction when I left Travis Chapel and Cheriton United Methodist churches in 2004 to go on active duty with the Navy. I dissolved into tears after the second “FAREWELL!” at Cheriton.

Upon its dissolution in 1964, the Lexington Conference was merged into the North Central Jurisdiction. The 13 African-American Annual Conferences were gathered into the Central Conference in 1939 and were all merged into geographic conferences of the United Methodist Church by 1973.

I knew that there was some connection between the dissolution of the Central Conference and the formation of the Black College Fund. I did a little bit of research and found the following through www.resourceumc.org:

“Following the Civil War, the former Methodist Episcopal Church organized the Freedmen’s Aid Society to help educate African-Americans who could not read or write. In 1972, The United Methodist Church established the Black College Fund to provide reliable support for UM-related historically Black colleges and offer a chance to everyone with a dream and a commitment to excel – regardless of race, class, gender, or ethnic heritage. Many of these students, often the first in their family to go to college, would fall through the cracks and never earn a college degree though they have the intellectual capacity to do so. The United Methodist Church supports the largest number of fully accredited historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.

“This fund is managed through the office of Black College Fund at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.”

United Methodist Churches support the Black College Fund through apportionments. Oaklette’s 2025 apportionment for the Black College Fund is \$336.

I don’t say much about apportionments and intend to say more as I continue on the theme of mission that I started here last week. Kirk Culpeper of Portlock UMC says that talking about why the UMC supports specific ministries with apportionments has increased giving there. I hope to do the same here.

I touched on the subject of apportionments in a Breakthrough Prayer video last month when I said that I was paying Oaklette’s \$84 apportionment for Africa University after the loss of USAID funding cut into tuberculosis and malaria research there. I shared then that I had to take anti-malaria medicine for nine months while in Djibouti and for two weeks after getting home in 2021. That connection increased my appreciation of apportionments. I’d like to further such connections.

I’m glad to be in mission with you,
Ned

RESTING IN JESUS



An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.

Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.

I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger. Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

- Heidi Hyland Mann