

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

November 17 2024



Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook Live at 11:00 am on Sunday, November 17, 2024. Rev. Anne Kesner West will bring the message entitled "To Know God is to Grow in God." The Scripture is John 15:1-8, 16 [NRSV].



Dale Kauffman – November 18
Sheri Antoskow – November 19
William Blair – November 22
Jonathan Litten – November 22



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH
The United Women of Faith will be collecting money for the stockings given from the Salvation Army. Cost of each stocking is about \$20. Please make checks payable to United Women of Faith and give to Kay Hill by Sunday, December 1.



Sincere sympathy is extended to family and friends of Mamie Whitehurst who passed away October 24. Her service will be Friday, November 22, 2024, at 11:00 am at Woodlawn Cemetery. Visitation will be 5:00-7:00 pm at Graham Funeral Home.

PRAYER CONCERNS

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| <i>Tyrone Armstrong</i> | <i>Amber Jenkins</i> |
| <i>Hannah Bailey</i> | <i>Earl Jenkins (Ericka's dad)</i> |
| <i>Barlow Family</i> | <i>Pat Johnson</i> |
| <i>Tanya & Steve Benton</i> | <i>Brian Lincoln (friend of Ethel Hickman)</i> |
| <i>Kendall Brodie (8-yr old friend of Mrs. Hickman's grandson with cancer)</i> | <i>Loving Neighbors Mission Camp</i> |
| <i>Megan Carroll</i> | <i>Rose Marie Madu</i> |
| <i>Judy Carter</i> | <i>Wayne Magner</i> |
| <i>Cherry & Sebastian</i> | <i>Dennis Marks (Debbie's brother)</i> |
| <i>Curtis & Renee Buchanan</i> | <i>Terry Martin</i> |
| <i>Chesapeake Police Dept. CNRMA ROC</i> | <i>Kristie Masters (friend of Ethel Hickman)</i> |
| <i>Coastal VA District & DS Givens</i> | <i>Joann McClung</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>Dana Quinn</i> |
| <i>Alex Denton</i> | <i>Hosea Smith (friend of Monica)</i> |
| <i>Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)</i> | <i>Loretta Smith (Amy's son's girlfriend's mother)</i> |
| <i>ForKids</i> | <i>The League of Advocates</i> |
| <i>Freekind Virginia</i> | <i>Edward Thomas</i> |
| <i>Girl Scout Troop 550</i> | <i>Virginia Conference & Bishop Sue</i> |
| <i>Patricia Guthrie (Mildred Walling's sister-in-law)</i> | <i>Mildred Walling</i> |
| <i>Karon Hardy (Monica's Neighbor)</i> | <i>Truman Weekly (Paige's Father)</i> |
| <i>Doris Wolfe Harlan (Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-law)</i> | <i>WesleyODU</i> |
| <i>Ethel Hickman</i> | <i>Betty Whitehurst</i> |
| <i>Hope Hodges &Debbie</i> | <i>Monica Whitehurst</i> |
| <i>Home School Out of Box</i> | |

Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

Billy East

Our Homebound

Virginia Hair



Happy Anniversary
Hannah & Bob Bailey – November 29

Calendar

Sunday, November 17

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

Monday, November 18

- 10:00-12:00 pm Food Pantry
(Helen Haluska & Linda Gallop)
6:30 pm Charge Conference
7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, November 19

Wednesday, November 20

- 6:00 pm Friends of Indian River Board
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 21

- 9:00 am-3:30 pm HSOTB
10:00 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Friends of Indian River

Friday, November 22

Saturday, November 23

Sunday, November 24

- 9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am SOTM
11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook
12:00 pm Hanging of the Greens



PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain will be updated within the next few weeks. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, please let the office or Barbara Bennett know by November 28, 2024. You may choose to be contacted in the daytime or evening.



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.



I'm optimistic about the future of the church. My sense of optimism has been growing and was bolstered by the Level Up workshop I joined online last weekend. As I've said since, I was particularly struck by the last breakout session led Saturday morning by Roger Ross of Spiritual Leadership, Inc. Ross is a former Director of Congregational Excellence in the Missouri Conference and former pastor First UMC in Spring, Ill., that state's largest UM congregation.

Ross based much of teaching on *Anatomy of a Revived Church*, a slim volume from Thom Rainer that I got from Amazon this morning. Rainer is the author and co-author of several books including *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*, which I read while serving Epworth.

I look forward to reading *Anatomy* as an antidote to *Autopsy*. I picked up quickly on some common themes – i.e., churches that are inward-looking are those most at risk of closing. As Ross noted in his class Saturday, churches begin to fail when we focus more on our traditions than on our mission.

The chapters of Rainer's newer book are labelled "Anatomy Findings," and the findings include "Accepting Responsibility," "Overcoming the Traps of Traditions," and "Committing to Powerful Prayer." I look forward to sharing more with you in the weeks to come. I'm going to ask the committee on nominations and leadership development to explore what Ross and Rainer say. That committee has a reputation for only handling nominations, but the *Book of Discipline's* explanation of the committee's work says that it has a greater scope, including advising the church council on ministry in the local context. That sounds like a good place for a healthy dose of optimism.

Grace and peace,
Ned