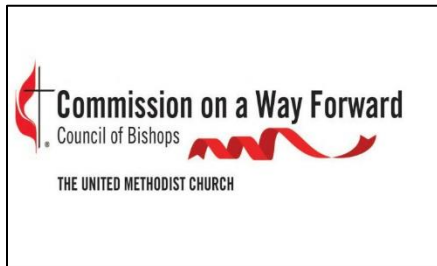


**TIM TALK**  
**“A Way Forward”**

As many of you may already know the Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23–26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32–member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.



February is not that far away. In less than a year the geography of the United Methodist Church as we have known could be forever changed. The Cabinet (that is, the Bishop and the District Superintendents) have been encouraging every pastor within the Virginia Annual Conference to have a conversation with their congregations concerning the Way Forward

prior to end of this year.

For some within the life of the church the discussion over human sexuality especially within the church's ministry to the LGBT community has become a very contentious and hot-button issue. I realize that as a pastor it remains in my best interest to remain quiet about these issues because that is what I have been taught the pastor does. However, when I have been directly approached in a one-to-one conversation or within a Bible Study I have made comments. Whether you agree with me or not does not ultimately matter. What matters however is the unloving uncompromising stance churches often take towards anyone who is different from them. Stances such as these are pharisaic in nature; that is; they come across sounding self-righteous and hypocritical in their approach without concern for the welfare of the people they target.

I believe the church was never intended to be a moral compass; it was instead a means by which God's gracious love and mercy would be distributed to the world. For the most part the church fulfills that purpose; however, on issues such as human sexuality churches have become notoriously known as hypocritical. Instead of displaying signs of God's peace and mercy, we instead have lifted up voices in angry protest showing nothing but loathing and hatred.



Our bishop, Sharma D. Lewis, has prophesied that regardless of the General Conference's decision, there will be people who will be happy with the outcome and those who won't. Regardless, there will be change.

That is why it is so important for the conversation to begin now; so that when change does occur, we won't be caught off guard. Also I believe it is important that as a church we enter this conversation to see where we need to grow as Christ-followers in displaying our love and grace even when our teachings might not match up with that of the culture.

During the month of October I am committing three of my Sunday Morning Messages to what I am calling "Messy Grace." [SEE SERMONS FOR OCTOBER FOR DETAILS.] Throughout those three Sunday Worship experiences we will explore the messiness that comes from being the church that offers God's grace and love to all regardless



of who they are. As my backdrop I am going to be using two sources. The first will be the three proposals The Way Forward Commission has offered to the Council of Bishops as well as the commission's proposal that the Council of Bishops is recommending. The other source is what I would call a very conservative but timely book on ministry to the LGBT community entitled *Messy Grace*. I have chosen this source not because I agree with it (in fact, at points, I disagree); I have chosen it because I want to better understand their arguments so that I can all the more faithfully live a life that I believe best exemplifies the love and mercy of my Savior. Again, let me reiterate; I know how difficult this discussion is for people on both sides of the discussion. None of us owns a hold on the corner of the market when it comes to God's grace. God's grace, simply put, is God's grace.

On Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> the Rev. Tom Berlin pastor of Floris UMC in northern Virginia and a member of the Commission for A Way Forward will be on the Elizabeth River District to further share with us the work of the commission in preparation for February's General Conference. He will be speaking to laity at Heritage UMC (next to Virginia Wesleyan University on Baker Road) at 7:00 PM. Beside having a willing and open heart to join with me in worship during the month of October I would greatly encourage you to attend this important event with Rev. Berlin as well.

In Christ,

*Tim*

Dr. Timothy D. Hazlett



## 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE

What is the called General Conference in 2019 about? What is in the Commission on the Way Forward's report?

On Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> the Rev. Tom Berlin, pastor of Floris UMC in northern Virginia and a member of the Commission for A Way Forward, will be on the Elizabeth River District to further share with us the work of the commission in preparation for February's General Conference. He will be speaking to laity at Heritage UMC (next to Virginia Wesleyan University on Baker Road) at 7:00 PM.

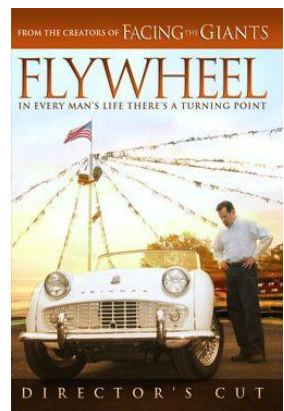
### BREAKFAST AT DENNY'S

Oaklette is encouraging you and your friends to gather for a 'social breakfast' at the Battlefield Blvd. Denny's located in front of the Home Depot on the second Friday of every month. In October that's Friday, the 12th! This is an opportunity for the good folk of Oaklette to "get outside of the castle" and into the neighborhood of which we are a part. No reservations are necessary! Just show up and eat breakfast (or a snack). Breakfast is on you. Debbie Rippard will be there to greet you at 9:00AM!



### FREE MOVIE NIGHT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018 7:00 – 9:00 pm – PAVILION “Flywheel”

The movie depicts the unexpected pitfalls that a used car dealer experiences as he suddenly decides to end his shady business practices and become a Christian.  
**(If weather is inclement or too hot movies will be shown in the Fellowship Hall.)**



SERMONS FOR OCTOBER 2018

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2018  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The ABC’s of the Faith”  
Hebrews 1:1–4, 2:5–12 (NRSV)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018  
FALL SERMON SERIES: Messy Grace  
“Saying Yes to the Mess”  
John 8:1–11 (MSG)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018  
FALL SERMON SERIES: Messy Grace  
“Popping Our Safe Little Bubbles”  
Luke 18:9–14 (MSG)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018  
FALL SERMON SERIES: Messy Grace  
“A New ID”  
Ephesians 4:17–32 (MSG)



WORSHIP FOR OUR CURRENT TIMES

“Come to the river where you will thirst no more.”  
Sundays at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall!



MAYBERRY CHURCH

*Sunday at 7:00PM - Fellowship Hall*

Come and join this exciting gathering of believers growing in their journey with Christ. Using the Bible and classic episodes of “The Andy Griffith Show” Oaklette is offering this unique and award-winning opportunity for South Hampton Roads.

Our worship themes and episodes are as follows:

- **October 7 – Episode: “Miss Farmerette”** – After being crowned Miss Farmerette at the county fair Millie is discovered by a down-on-his-luck former Hollywood talent agent who is tired of booking dog shows at the county fair. Theme: A Prayer Life that Does not Seek the Spotlight. Scripture: Matthew 6:1 (MSG) – *“Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don’t make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won’t be applauding.”*
- **October 14 – Episode: “Sam and the Teenager”** – A high school journalism student after interviewing Sam develops a crush on him. Theme: Dangerous Attractions. Scripture: Proverbs 6:30 (MSG) – *“Hunger is no excuse for a thief to steal.”*
- **October 21 – Episode: “New Couple in Town”** – Mayberry’s Literary Society is a buzz when news spreads that a published author and his wife have recently moved to town. The only fly in the ointment, is that like Goober, the published author is into Monsters from Mars comic books. Theme: Taking Down the Monsters Among Us. Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:28 (MSG) – *“You stick by people who stick with you, you’re straight with people who’re straight with you, You’re good to good people, you shrewdly work around the bad ones. You take the side of the down-and-out, but the stuck-up you take down a peg.”*
- **October 28 – Episode: “Aunt Bee’s Cruise”** – After a conversation with Mike, Aunt Bee realizes it is time for the Caribbean cruise she's always wanted. All of Mayberry gets wrapped up in her preparations and sees it as a chance for her to land a man. The only challenge: it would seem the only eligible bachelor aboard ship is the ship’s captain. Theme: The Love Boat. Scripture: Song of Solomon 2:3 (MSG) – *“As an apricot tree stands out in the forest, my lover stands above the young men in town.”*

### TRUNK OR TREAT

Oaklette please start stocking up on Halloween candy now for our annual Trunk or Treat in the parking lot on Halloween night (October 31<sup>st</sup> is fast approaching!) We also need many volunteers to supervise games for the kids, hand out Bibles, cook hot dogs, welcome the community into our building, and much...much more! This year Ericka and Chuck Litten will be coordinating our outreach into the community.





**ALL SAINTS DAY REMEMBRANCE CELEBRATION**

As a part of our All Saint's Sunday Worship Celebration on November 4<sup>th</sup>; we will be remembering our loved ones who have died since November 6, 2017. Families of church members who have died in this time period will be invited to be a part of this special celebration. If you would like to remember a loved one who has died in the past year (and was not a member of Oaklette), you may call the church office by no later than the morning of October 29<sup>th</sup>. We will need to know the name of the deceased and the date of death. If possible, we would also ask that you submit a photograph of the one you are remembering so that it can be used during the celebration.

**FANNIE WHITEHURST SUNDAY**

This year as we celebrate our founding as the Oaklette United Methodist Church, both Oaklette and Spirit of Truth Ministries will worship and share in fellowship together during the 11:00 AM worship service. Our special guest preacher will be the Rev. Ellen Comstock. Rev. Comstock is a retired pastor living in Portsmouth. She was recently commissioned as an Earthkeeper by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. Earthkeepers work with congregations and communities to have a theological base for Caring for Creation. They work with different ministries/projects such as: landscaping with native plants; creating community gardens in urban "food deserts," instituting recycling; advocating for renewable energy policies, or working for environmental justice by cleaning up rivers, landscapes and toxic waste sites near their communities. Before her retirement she served the Messiah United Methodist Church here in Chesapeake. A Pot-Luck Dinner will follow the 11:00 AM worship in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to pass (i.e.; salads, casseroles, desserts) Chicken will be provided by the church. The History Team will be hosting this event.

**Make it Count!**

This is our time on the history line of God. This is it. What will we do with the one deep exhale of God on this earth? For we are but a vapor and we have to make it count. We're on. Direct us, Lord, and get us on our feet.

- Beth Moore

**Pray for our Military** (In order to protect the safety of our Troops and their families, we will no longer list their whereabouts or their branches of service.)

**Micah Beasley** – (Nephew of Verna Carroll)

**Jordan Carter** – (Grandson of Len & Carole Carter)

**Justin Castellow** – (Son of Buzz and Shellene Castellow)

**Troy Hudgins** – (Nephew of Jenny & Tommy Obenchain)

**Jared Meharg** (Son-in-law of Dana & Don Moody)

**Brian Miller** – (Grandson-in-law of Adel Denson)

**Major Matt Springer** – (Son of Wayne & Sharon Springer)

**Scott W. Weifert**

**Capt. Paul Leon Wolfe III** - (Grandson of Barbara & Jack Buchanan)



**Remember our Shut-ins with Cards, Calls, Visits, & Prayers**

**Billy East**

2701 Border Rd  
Chesapeake, VA 23324

**Mildred Hair**

Chesapeake Place  
1508 Volvo Parkway  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**Adel Denson**

Chesapeake Place  
1508 Volvo Parkway  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**Jackie Munden**

3009 Mattox Dr.  
Chesapeake, VA 23325

**Marjorie Harrison**

Chesapeake Place  
1508 Volvo Parkway  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**Thelma Peele**

Lake Taylor  
1309 Kempsville Rd  
Norfolk, VA 23502

**Pat Grover**

1726 Harvest Bend Ct.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

**Sally Phillips**

3031 Yakima Rd.  
Chesapeake, VA 23325

**Mamie Whitehurst**

1033 Hobb Road.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

**Howard Combs**

Autumn Care  
Room 302  
715 Argyll Street  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**Ann Earley 2A #36**

Va Bch Health & Rehab Ctr  
1801 Camelot Dr  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

**Fleda Humphries**

Kempsville Health/Rehab  
5520 Indian River Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

**Mable Lowrimore**

1104 Nolan Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23435

### Financial Security

We tend to think a lot about financial security, assuming that the more money we save, the more secure our future will be. What if God sees security differently? Solomon tells us, *"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full"*. (Proverbs 19:17) **When we give generously to help those in need, we lend our money to God to use as God sees fit.** You can give generously and confidently to empower those in need because you know the God who owns it all will repay you – guaranteed. Today, let us invest in God's work with true security, knowing that together we can do more.

Debbie Rippard  
Church Treasurer



**A Well Shaken Tree**

For several years I have read the Bible through twice in 12 months. It is a great and powerful tree, each word of which is a mighty branch. Each of these branches have I well shaken, so desirous was I to know what each one bore and what it would give me. And the shaking of them has never disappointed me.

- Martin Luther



### Servant Leadership

From Christ's perspective, a true leader is a servant, committed to the success of each individual in the group. Jesus did not criticize his disciples' desire to lead; he just showed them how to do it by washing their feet. The essence of spiritual leadership, therefore, is following Jesus and serving people. People rebel against controlling leaders, but it is impossible to rebel against a servant.



**October**

-7-  
Barbara Buchanan  
-14-  
Jan Whitzel  
-21-  
Stella Price  
-28-  
Michelle Nimmo

**Food Basket**

-7-  
Jerome Dickinson  
-14-  
  
-16-  
  
-21-  
  
-28-

Please sign up for altar flowers and Food Basket. There are many, many blank lines to fill!

**October Food Pantry Workers**

-1-  
Duane Johnstone  
&  
Emma Beggs  
-4-  
Barbara Malloy  
&  
Jane Basnight  
-8-  
Brenda Hodsdon  
&  
Janice LoBello  
-11-  
Peggy Johnson  
&  
Doris Doughten  
-15-  
Paige Weifert  
&  
Truman Weekley  
-18-  
Connie & Richard Tucker  
-22-  
Paige Weifert  
&  
Truman Weekley  
-25-  
Ann & Jimmy Lee  
-29-  
Nancy Helsel  
&  
Mildred Walling

Volunteers are needed to work the Food Pantry on Mondays and Thursdays. It is only for two hours per shift and



usually only one shift per several months. Please contact Barbara Bennett if you are interested.

**October**

-7-  
Jessica Weifert  
-14-  
Jerome Dickinson  
-21-  
Barbara Bennett  
-28-  
Jessica Weifert



Please use the following email address when communicating with the church:  
[oaklette@oakletteumc.org](mailto:oaklette@oakletteumc.org)

Wi-fi is available throughout the building. The password is blessing4u.

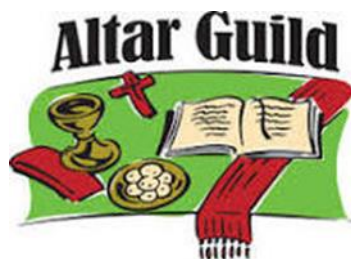


-6-

Sharon & Wayne  
Springer

-9-

Linda & Calvin Gallop IV  
Barbara & John  
Buchanan

October

Ericka Litten  
&  
Sonya Jenkins



Thank You

Thank you for the many cards  
for my birthday, and for the  
comments in regards to  
support for my sister and my  
son. Both of them seem to be  
accepting what they are  
having to do and are moving  
forward with their treatments.  
Barbara Bennett



-1-

Paige Weifert

-3-

Annette Johnson-Young  
Dana Moody  
Sean Mulrooney  
Irene Simmons

-6-

Sarah Sharpley

-7-

Carole Carter

-8-

Chris Kasmark

-9-

Steven Garcia

-10-

Sarah Robertson

-11-

Chris Carroll

-13-

Pat Grover  
Jan Whitzel

-15-

Debbie Rippard  
Don Moody

-16-

Monica Whitehurst

-17-

John Tandy, Jr.

-18-

Bill Henry  
Jason Rippard

-19-

Martha Meinhardt

-21-

Justin Castellow

-23-

Kelly Rippard

-30-

Mary Buck  
Harold Dickerson  
Scott Myers  
Paige Armstrong



### Finding Our Range


While visiting a church, Robert Neff learned a lesson about the body of Christ. As he listened to a tenor's faltering voice, he noticed worshipers pulling out hymnals to locate the soloist's song.

"By the second verse, the congregation had joined the soloist in the hymn," Neff says. "By the third verse, the tenor was beginning to find the range. By the fourth verse, it was beautiful. And on the fifth verse, the congregation was absolutely silent, and the tenor sang the most beautiful solo of his life."

Neff concludes: "This is life in the body of Christ, enabling one another to sing the tune

Christ has given us."

- From *Witnesses of a Third Way*



## From the heart

We all need people who share godly wisdom with us.

*Directions: First, unscramble the bold letters to spell another word for "pal." Write that word in the first empty row. Then move the words under each bold letter to that letter's new column. The result will be Proverbs 27:9, NIV.*

D	E	F	I	R	N
<b>F</b>					
to	bring	Perfume	incense	and	joy
Perfume					
of	the	the	and	heart,	pleasantness
the					
advice.	their	a friend	from	springs	heartfelt
a friend					

Answer: FRIEND; Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, NIV

### Bible Quiz



Though daughters weren't allowed to inherit property, some young women whose father had died appealed to the community's leaders to change the law in their favor – and it was done! Who were these women?

- A. Mary and Martha
- B. The daughters of Zelophehad
- C. Nympha, Sapphira, Claudia, Tabitha and Lydia
- D. Joanna, Susanna and Salome

Answer on Page 12



### Fortunate FRIENDS



Make this fun "gratitude gift" for a friend.

#### What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

#### What you do:

1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.



**In honor of Clergy Appreciation Month, use these alphabetical reminders of how to treat your pastor:**

**A**ccept them as people.

**B**uild them up. Say "thank you."

**C**ommunicate with them.

**D**efend them when someone tries to run them down.

**E**ntertain them. They like to have fun, too!

**F**amily. Allow them to have a family life.

**G**enuine. Be honest with them. Be yourself around them.

**H**onor them. Don't put them on a pedestal, but respect them.

**I**ncome. Pay them enough so money isn't a concern.

**J**udge not! Avoid being critical.

**K**ind. Treat pastors as you want to be treated.

**L**ove. See 1 Corinthians 13.

**M**aintain. Their families have the same needs as other families.

**N**urture. Help them grow in grace.

**O**ffer to help. The list of things you can do is endless.

**P**ray for them. Lift up their names to God daily.

**Q**uelch not. Encourage instead!

**R**ejoice in and with them.

**S**urprise them – in little and big ways.

**T**rust them. Believe in them.

**U**nderstand them. Put yourself in their place.

**V**acation. They need time away.

**W**elcome them into your home. Don't wait for an invitation.

**eX**pend yourself, not them.

**Y**oke. Help them bear their burdens with grace and dignity.

**Z**ap all gossip!

Answer to Bible Quiz:

B. (See Numbers 27:1-11)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10 AM Food Pantry 10:30 AM Golden Girls 6 PM Strategic Planning 6:30 PM SOTM Youth Heritage 7 PM Church Council 7 PM HRM Band	2 Bulletin Articles Due 6:30 PM Circle of Joy 7 PM SOTM Men's Ministry 7 PM SOTM Women's Ministry 7 PM NA	3 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study @ Barnes & Noble 7 PM Choir Practice	4 10 AM Food Pantry 10 AM Thursdays w/Tim 7 PM SOTM Bible Study	5	6 6:30 PM SOTM Children's Worship & Dance Group
7 8:30 AM The River 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM-2 PM SOTM 11 AM Worship 7 PM Mayberry Church 7 PM AA	8 10 AM Food Pantry 6:30:PM SOTM Youth Heritage 6:30 PM Lookout Challenge Leadership Training 7 PM HRM Band	9 Bulletin Articles Due 7 PM NA	10 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study Barnes & Noble 7 PM Choir Practice	11 10 AM Food Pantry 10 AM Thursday w/Tim 7 PM SOTM Bible Study 7 PM Model A Club	12 9 AM Breakfast at Denny's	13 2-3:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM SOTM Children's Worship & Dance Group 7 PM Family Movie
14 8:30 AM The River 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM-2 PM SOTM 11 AM Worship & Royal Kids 5 PM History Team 7 PM Mayberry Church 7 PM AA	15 10 AM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Lookout Challenge Leadership Training 6 PM SOTM Youth Heritage 7 PM HRM Band	16 Bulletin Articles Due Newsletter Articles Due 7 PM NA 7 PM SOTM Men's Ministry 7 PM SOTM Women's Ministry	17 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study @ Barnes & Noble 7 PM Choir Practice	18 10 AM Food Pantry 10 AM Thursdays w/Tim 7 PM SOTM Bible Study 7 PM Friends of Indian River	19	20 6:30 PM SOTM Children's Worship & Dance Group
21 8:30 AM The River 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM-2 PM SOTM 11 AM Worship & Royal Kids 7 PM Mayberry Church 7 PM AA	22 10 AM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Administrative Team Meeting 6:30 PM SOTM Youth Heritage 7 PM HRM Band	23 Bulletin Articles Due 8:30 AM Newsletter Assembly 7 PM NA	24 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study @ Barnes & Noble 6 PM United Methodist Men 7 PM Choir Practice	25 10 AM Food Pantry 10 AM Thursday w/Tim 7 PM SOTM Bible Study	26	27 2-3:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 pm SOTM Children's Praise Worship & Dance Group
28 8:30 AM The River 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM-2 PM SOTM 11 AM Worship & Royal Kids 7 PM Mayberry Church 7 PM AA	29 10 AM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Lookout Challenge Leadership Training 6:30 PM SOTM Youth Heritage 7 PM HRM Band	30 Bulletin Articles Due 7 PM NA	31 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study @ Barnes & Noble 5 PM Trunk or Treat			



**Oaklette United Methodist Church**  
520 Oaklette Drive  
Chesapeake, VA 23325

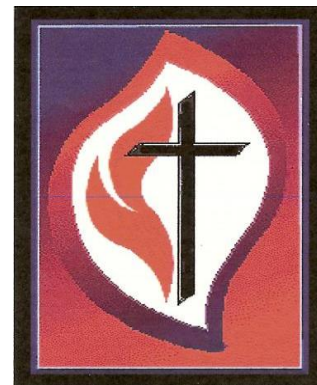
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**Oaklette's Mission Statement:**  
"God's Body in this Community"

"Oaklette United Methodist Church through worship, education, and outreach, seeks to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ real, as we minister to all people.



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