

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

April 20 2025



*Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,
April 20, 2025. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the
message entitled "Remember His Words.". The
Scripture is Luke 24:1-12 [NLT].*



Scott Weifert – April 22
Charles Enlow – April 25
Joyce Gaston – April 25
Carolyn Williams – April 26



**Please remember the Blessing Box
when you are out shopping! Beans will be our
focus for the month of April, either dried or
canned. Please place your donations in the
box in the narthex.**



**The United Women of Faith will be
collecting Kits for Conference. We will
provide Hygiene Kits, Menstrual
Hygiene Kits and Cleaning Kits.
Instruction sheets are on the table in the
narthex. Kits need to be turned in by
May 31.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

Billy East
Our Homebound
Virginia Hair

**I'm grateful for the mix of doubt and faith the
disciples exhibited; it puts me in good
company. Jesus, bless me with increased belief,
even when I cannot see you in person.**

Calendar

Sunday, April 20, 2025

6:30 am Sunrise Service & breakfast
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am SOTM
11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook
(Nursery: Debbie & David Rippard)

Monday, April 21, 2025

10:00-12:00 pm Food Pantry
(Brenda Swoope & Dana Sanford)
7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, April 22

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 24

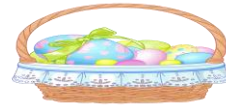
8:30 am-3:00 pm HSOTB
10:00 am Bible Study
6:00-7:00 pm Girl Scout sign-up

Friday, April 25

Saturday, April 26

Sunday, April 27

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



Easter insights

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness. The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.



I'm grateful for what I learned from our Sunday school classes for Lent and Advent. As I've shared here before, I learned from our Advent study, Adam Hamilton's *Not a Silent Night*, that Advent can be seen as a time when we look at the world as it was before Jesus was born. I appreciated another definition that I learned at the same time, and that's that Advent allows us to compare the way the world is with God's intentions for the world.

Our Lenten study, Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, changed my definition of Lent as well. I thought that my long-held definition, that Lent is the time when we examine our relationship with God and cast out anything that stands in the way, was shallow. Levine helped me see that Lent is a time for us to evaluate not just our relationship with God but also our relationships with God's creation and God's kingdom. This means considering all of our relationships and how we address these with our discipleship.

Both these studies were offered during Sunday school, and I've heard that that's not the best time for additional classes since the James Flannigan and Seekers Sunday school classes like to stick together. Knowing that, I propose that we consider having evening studies in the fall. I've heard that the Mayberry class that was offered on Sunday nights was successful, and I wonder if that's a good time for additional classes. Would Sunday evenings be a good time for studies such as one on the new edition of the United Methodist Social Principles that will be published in June or for an Advent study? I taught a class on the Social Principles years ago in Cheriton and everyone seemed to enjoy that. A lot has changed since then, as we could discuss in a new study.

Please let me know if evening Bible studies appeal to you, and please remember the option of joining online. Education is one way of making the Gospel of Jesus Christ real for all people, as our mission statement says. Please let me know how we can best do this.

Thanks,
Ned