

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

April 6 2025



*Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,
April 6, 2025. Rev. Ned Alderman will present the
message "Really Look for Jesus." The Scripture is
Psalm 31:9-16 TANAKH.*



**Daniel Castellow – April 7
Doug Riggan – April 7**



**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

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

Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

Billy East
Our Homebound
Virginia Hair

God makes paths through the sea and rivers in
the desert (Isaiah 43:16, 19). Whatever obstacle
you face, God will open the way of life for you.

Calendar

Sunday, April 6, 2025

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook
(Nursery: Barbara Bennett & Joanne Rooks)

Monday, April 7, 2025

10:00-12:00 pm Food Pantry

(Ann & Jimmy Lee)

6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, April 8

6:30 pm Lay Leadership & Nominations Mtg.

Wednesday, April 8, 2025

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 10

8:30 am-3:00 pm HSOTB

10:00 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Model "A" Club

Friday, April 11

Saturday, April 12

Sunday, April 6

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook

KNOW WHO (AND WHOSE) YOU ARE

Actor Kirk Douglas once picked up a hitchhiker. After the man got settled in Douglas's car, he turned to look more closely at the driver. Surprised to recognize the famous man at the wheel, the hitchhiker exclaimed, "Do you know who you are?!"

We would do well to ask ourselves and each other the same thing. Often, we seem to forget — or perhaps we never knew.

Through much of life, we behave as if our identity depends on our occupation, wealth, family line, daily accomplishments or good deeds. But none of these — not even the last one — determines the core of who we are. All that matters is our Creator's opinion, and God loves us with abundant, unconditional love.

Do you know who you are? You are God's beloved child! And so is everyone else. May we live out that knowledge, treating one another as such.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Joel Coleman asked for prayers for a zipline. If that sounds unusual, consider this: Joel is Camp Director for Occohannock on the Bay. I wrote about Camp Occohannock in this space last week and said that I was waiting to talk to Joel before writing more. Joel and I had a nice conversation this morning.

In addition to saying that poles needed to be driven today for the camp's zipline, a task made difficult by excess rainfall, Joel told me about the camp's ministry with youth. What may have impressed me most was that Joel said that, at the camp, they try to establish ongoing relationships by connecting campers to local churches. Joel said that some of their campers don't have a church, and since he and his staff want all of their campers to have a great relationship with the Lord, they find out where the campers live and recommend churches nearby. Joel also said that some campers have been hurt by churches and that the camp tries to heal such wounds by focusing on God's grace.

Joel told me more than I can reprint here, and he may tell us the rest in person one day. I've invited Joel to be in worship with us May 18, on staff-support Sunday, and to stay for the potluck after and get to know folks from Oaklette. I've also invited him to speak here sometime next fall.

As I mentioned last week, Oaklette's district apportionment for Camp Occohannock is \$336. We've sent \$56 from our offering to Camp Occohannock so far this year so we're 1/6th of the way there. Our district apportionments for 2025 are \$3,828 with the largest portion, \$2,856, earmarked for district administration. The remainder goes to district mission/church extension [\$372], the Wesley Foundation at ODU [\$132], Wesley Community Center [\$132], and Camp Occohannock. I was surprised to learn that district apportionments support the Wesley Center at ODU but not the one at Norfolk State. I put a bug about this in someone's ear last weekend.

Please join me in praying for Joel, his family, his ministry, and his zipline, and please keep the ministry of Camp Occohannock in your prayers as we continue in mission together.

Thanks,
Ned

P.S. Let me share with you the contents of an email that Mary Lovell Swetnam of St. Brides Episcopal Church got from Steve Beggerly, our contact at the Catholic Worker: "Friends, if you have a stash of plastic grocery bags that is gathering dust, please consider bringing them with you to the soupline." The soupline is the ministry Mary Lovell, Dana Sanford, and I support the third Sunday of the month on Salter Street in Norfolk. Mary Lovell and I meet at St. Brides and pick Dana up on the way as we give out sandwiches, crackers, oranges, hard-boiled eggs, grits, oatmeal, etc., 7-8 a.m. It's great ministry, it goes fast, and it gives us a chance to meet people and to learn their names. Please consider joining us April 19 or at a later date and please donate plastic bags if you have them, and thanks to Jane Basnight and Linda Gallop for the bags they brought in Monday when they volunteered for the food pantry. Half of those went to the food pantry and half are going to the soupline.



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.