

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist

August 17 2025



*Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,
August 17. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the
message entitled "The Good Part."
The Scripture is Luke 10:38-42 [CEB]*



Judy Carter – August 18
Jim Herndon – August 19
Kelly Castellow – August 23
Tamara Moomjian – August 23



**Please remember the Blessing Box when you
are out shopping! Cereal is our focus for the
month of August. Please place your
donations in the box in the narthex.**



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

**Sincere sympathy is extended to family and
friends of Virginia Hair who passed away on
August 13, 2025. Arrangements are pending.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Tyrone Armstrong	Loving Neighbors
Donna Baker	Mission Camp
Tanya & Steve Benton	Rose Marie Madu
Kendall Brodie	Wayne Magner
<i>(friend of Mrs. Hickman's grandson with cancer)</i>	Terry Martin
Megan Carroll	Kristie Masters (friend of Ethel Hickman)
Judy Carter	Karen McCarthy's daughter
Cherry & Sebastian	Pat Newbern
Chesapeake Police Dept.	Family & Friends of Greg Obenchain
CNRMA ROC	AJ. Panis (Ethel's friend's son)
Coastal VA District & DS Givens	Debbie Pope
Sandy Carraway	Dana Quinn
Kent Carter	Dakota Rebel
Kaylee Cuccorillo (Ericka's co-worker)	Ray & Bob Rosales
Alex Denton	Rhonda Roughton (Stella's daughter)
Mary Lou Dory	Loretta Smith (Amy's son's girlfriend's mother)
Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)	The League of Advocates
ForKids	Edward Thomas
Freekind Virginia	Virginia Conference & Bishop Sue
Joyce Gaston	Truman Weekly (Paige's father)
Patricia Guthrie (Mildred Walling's sister-in-law)	Wesley ODU
Karon Hardy (Monica's neighbor)	Betty Whitehurst
Doris Wolfe Harlan	Monica Whitehurst
<i>(Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in- law)</i>	Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe
Kay Herndon	Tommy Womack
Ethel Hickman	Country & Troops
Hope Hodges & Debbie	Our Pastor
Home School Out of Box	
Earl Jenkins (Ericks's dad)	
Brian Lincoln (friend of Ethel Hickman)	
Pat Johnson	

Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents
Billy East



Wanda & Chuck Walton – August 19

Calendar

Sunday, August 17

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 pm Worship in person and Facebook

Monday, August 18

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

7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, August 19

6:30 pm Nominations & Lay Leadership Meeting

Wednesday, August 20

Thursday, August 21

10:00 am Bible Study

1:00-5:00 pm HSOTB Open House

Friday, August 22

Saturday, August 23

11:00 am Celebration of Life for Greg Obenchain

Sunday, August 24

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook

WHY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS KEY

Jesus' followers aren't meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that's impossible!

A family and *the body* signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- experience our Savior's presence, living and incarnate;
- unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn — through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship;
- and lovingly serve together as Jesus' hands and feet.



I wrote the following for the Sept. 15, 2024, Oakletter: "Oaklette's average weekly worship attendance decreased from 135 in 2013 to 85 in 2019, before COVID. After COVID, weekly attendance decreased to 48 in 2022. That's an overall decrease of almost 65 percent in less than 10 years. Weekly attendance rebounded slightly to 51 in 2023." Our average weekly attendance in 2024 was down to 45, one-third of what it was in 2013.

Is there anything we want to do in light of these numbers? We can't ignore them, and, with charge conference coming up Nov. 6, now may be the time to consider how to respond. A good way to respond is by deepening our knowledge of God's word. That's why I suggested a Sunday evening Bible study starting next month.

All of this will be discussed at the next nominations and lay leadership development meeting and I welcome input from everyone before then. Please pray about how we can respond as a congregation.

Thanks,

Ned