

# Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

July 27 2025



*Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook  
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,  
July 30. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the message  
entitled "Ask, to be Brash."  
The Scripture is Luke 11:1-13 CEB.*



**Beth Blanchard – July 27**  
**Dixie Brooks – July 27**  
**Matthew Swoope – July 28**  
**Charles Walton – July 29**  
**Jane Basnight – July 30**  
**Chuck Walton – July 31**



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



Like a kind parent, dear God, you take us in your arms, lift us to your cheek, teach us to walk, heal our injuries and bend down to feed us (Hosea 11:1, 3-4). Thank you for showering us with your love.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

### Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

**Billy East**  
**Our Homebound**  
**Virginia Hair**

Scripture urges us: "Turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 30:10). Let us indeed turn to God, in love and worship, petition and trust.

## Calendar

### Sunday, July 27

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 pm Worship in person and Facebook

### Monday, July 28

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

7:00 pm HRM Band

### Tuesday, July 29

### Wednesday, June July 30

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, July 31

10:00 am Bible Study

### Friday, August 1

### Saturday, August 2

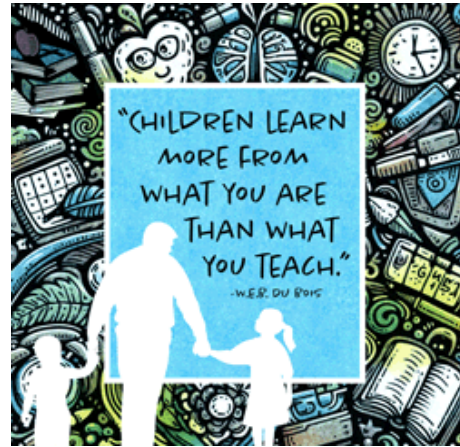
8:30 am-3:00 pm Tidewater Quilt Guild

### Sunday, August 3

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook



The greatest thing that we can do is to help somebody know that they're loved and capable of loving."  
—Fred Rogers



With its question of the week, Discipleship Ministries asks, How have you encountered God in the fullness of who you are – body, mind, and spirit – in this church community? “Body” might be a little hard to answer. Yes, we pass the peace, stand when we sing, and come forward to receive communion. We also have folks who sing and play music, light candles, and help with the food pantry and blessing box, and who count offering and project slides, but how do we and how can we use our bodies in this church community? Here's a past example that came to mind.

We saw a lot of people walking dogs around Epworth UMC in downtown Norfolk. That made sense, since we were surrounded by apartments and condos on three sides. Retirees and young couples seemed to occupy a lot of those condos and apartments, and, given that setting, they seemed more likely to have dogs than children.

It seemed to make sense to us to try and get to know those people and their dogs in the name of Jesus Christ, so ministries developed over time, from giving out dog biscuits to pet owners on the sidewalk to serving coffee and doughnuts on that same sidewalk and eventually to having monthly worship services for people and their pets. If this brought people to worship, great, and if it just gave us the opportunity to connect with our neighbors in Jesus' name, great. It gave us a chance to encounter God in the fullness of who we are.

That's how I met Patty and Maxine. Those of us who know of the Andrews Sisters would ask Patty, “Where's Laverne?” Patty looked at us quizzically. We couldn't ask Maxine because she was a bulldog.

I think bulldogs are beautiful, and Maxine was so beautiful that she was featured in a magazine story about the dogs of downtown Norfolk. I was always happy to see Patty and Maxine. One morning, Patty and I had a long conversation, largely because Maxine had rolled over onto her back as I scratched her stomach. Patty eventually looked at Maxine and said, “She doesn't want to leave you.” I said, “That's fine. She can stay.”

A mutual friend just got word to me from Patty that Maxine had died. I was sorry to hear that. At the same time, I was amazed that someone I hadn't seen in years had asked someone to tell me about her dog. I'm sure that this was all just a chance meeting, but Patty still remembered our ministry at Epworth and wanted to let me know about Maxine because of this.

Please let me know what kind of ministry can reach our neighbors at Oaklette. It may well be the kind of ministry that allows us to encounter God in the fullness of who we are – mind, body, and spirit. I pray that such ministries allow us to build relationships in Jesus' name

As you consider the fullness of this, please read Colossians 2:6-19. That's the Epistle that corresponds to the question of the week.

Thanks,  
Ned



Because Jesus came to do such serious work, we often imagine him straight-faced. Yet Jesus also enjoyed fun times, such as the wedding celebration at Cana. When the wine ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more.

Jesus also warmly welcomed children. Picture him lifting an infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.

Summer usually allows more time for fun and play. So use these months to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came so our “joy may be complete” (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are part of living and loving as faithful disciples.