

# Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

May 11 2025



*Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook  
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,  
May 11, 2025. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the  
message entitled "What Everybody is Saying."  
The Scripture is Revelation 7:9-17 [NRSV].*



**Darby Basnight – May 9**  
**Kenneth Long – May 11**  
**Matt Springer – May 12**  
**Rachel Friedel – May 14**  
**Lorraine Baker – May 16**



**Please remember the Blessing Box  
when you are out shopping! Rice and pasta  
will be our focus for the month of May.  
Please place your donations in the box in the  
narthex.**



**Welcome, and Happy Mother's Day! Today  
we remember that no matter the state of our  
human relations with parents, children and  
others, Jesus our Good Shepherd loves and  
cares for us without fail.**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

### Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

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

**The seeds of your good fruit are planted in us,  
loving God. Water us today so we sprout with  
patience, kindness, generosity, self-control and,  
above all, love (Galatians 5:22-23).**

### Calendar

#### Sunday, May 11, 2025

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook

#### Monday, May 12, 2025

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

7:00 pm HRM Band

#### Tuesday, May 13

#### Wednesday, May 14

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, May 15

8:30 am-3:00 pm HSOTB

10:00 am Bible Study

#### Friday, May 16

12:00-4:00 pm Outside group decorating

#### Saturday, May 17

1:00-4:00 pm Outside group

#### Sunday, May 18

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook  
Staff Support Sunday

12:00 pm Potluck Lunch



**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.**



**Why do you come to church? Why do you come to Oaklette?**

**The reason I come to church is to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I hope that's the reason that you come to church, too. I've been thinking in terms of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as I prepare to speak on Revelation 7:9-17 on May 11.**

**I'm about to turn 63, and as you may have heard me say, Bishop Will Willimon wrote in *Don't Look Back* three years ago that the median age in the United Methodist Church is 63. He also wrote that any institution whose median age is 63 is automatically in decline. I wonder if our median age reflects how well we help people form personal relationships with Jesus Christ.**

**I really didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ until I was past 30. I joined Baylake UMC a few years before then – around the time I was 27 or 28 – but I didn't really begin to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ until I heard these words: "We are all the beloved children of Jesus Christ whether we think about it or not." I heard that not at Baylake but at the chapel at Little Creek, where I returned for a visit one day in 1994, when I was 32. In the next two years or so at Little Creek, I came to see Jesus Christ as the one through whom I can ask forgiveness from God. It's**

that relationship that keeps me coming to church, and I wonder if one of the challenges I hope that challenge is addressed in the new United Methodist Church mission statement that reads, “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.” I like the phrase “forms disciples” because, to me, that implies helping one another form relationships with Jesus Christ. I think that we form such relationships when we love and serve and lead in local communities and through worldwide connections, all of which is empowered by the Holy Spirit, as our new mission statement says.

for the church is doing better in helping people have personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

Here are a couple of invitations: Please tell me about your relationship with Jesus Christ, please tell me why you come to church, and please tell me why you come to Oaklette. Please let me know, too, how you think we’re doing in helping others form relationships with Jesus Christ and how you think we can do better.

Thanks,

Ned



Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will.  
In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.