

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

May 18 2025



*Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,
May 18, 2025. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the
message entitled "Unhindered."
The Scripture is Acts 11:1-8 [NRSV]*



Joshua Miles – May 18
Wayne Springer – May 18
Ethel Hickman – May 20
Sonya Pacilio – May 22
Scott Moore – May 24



**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.**



Kelly & Daniel Castellow – May 21
Elizabeth & Kevin Reichling – May 24

**"In the darkest moments, bright flows the
river of God."**

-St. John of the Cross

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 Mission Camp
Claudia Calhoun (friend of Sonia)	Rose Marie Madu
Megan Carroll	Wayne Magner
Judy Carter	Terry Martin
Cherry & Sebastian	Kristie Masters (friend of Ethel Hickman)
Chesapeake Police Dept.	Karen McCarthy's daughter
CNRMA ROC	Walter Nebrotskie
Coastal VA District & DS Givens	Pat Newbern
Sandy Carraway	AJ. Panis Ethel's friend's son)
Kent Carter	Family & friends of Aldor "Chip" Payette
Len Carter	Dana Quinn
Kaylee Cuccorillo (Ericka's co-worker)	Ray & Bob Rosales
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
Family of 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

Potluck Sunday, May 18

**Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to
share. Chicken will be provided.**

Calendar

Sunday, May 18, 2025

9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Joint Worship with SOTM
12:00 pm Potluck

Monday, May 19, 2025

10:00-12:00 pm Food Pantry
(Shelley Castellow & Helen Haluska)
7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, May 20

Wednesday, May 21

10:30 am Funeral for Bill Henry
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 22

10:00 am Bible Study

Friday, May 23

Saturday, May 24

Sunday, May 25

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



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.



Once again last Sunday, I quoted a statistic cited by Bishop Will Willimon that the median age in the United Methodist Church is 63. I wonder how we got here.

Willimon wrote about this in his 2022 book *Don't Look Back*. He took the UMC to task, saying that we fulfill neither our mission statement at the time, "We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of world," nor our advertising slogan, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors." Maybe he's right: Maybe this accounts for our graying.

I wonder if our aging has something to do with what we taught younger folks when they came to us. As I also said last Sunday, I didn't go to Sunday school for about 15 years, from the time I was 12 until after I'd been out of college for some time. I don't know what the church taught in those 15 years, and I wonder if it somehow didn't inspire younger believers to stay in church.

It could be something else. Twenty-five years ago, we said that there were no young people on the Eastern Shore because young people had to move away to find jobs. That could be true, too. Maybe the young people churches used to reach have moved away.

I welcome your thoughts. Please let me know why you think the median age in the United Methodist Church is 63 and how you think we can best reach those we're not reaching now.

Thanks,
Ned