



The Oakletter, April 12, 2026

We're ahead of the curve. We're starting an "Embracing an Adverbial Faith" Sunday school class April 12. We're ahead of the curve because the Virginia Annual Conference announced Wednesday that this material will be part of a Conference-wide campaign starting Sept. 6, so they'll need a few months to catch up with us. In the meantime, we'll be looking at lessons to strengthen our theological understanding for up to the next six weeks.

The adverbs in question are those found in the United Methodist vision statement introduced last year that reads, "Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Listen Courageously." I chose this class over others after reading of its focus in discipleship. "Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ" is the title for the first class, which looks at three scriptures: Psalm 119:1-8, Ephesians 4:11-16, and Luke 5:11. The class starts with these questions:

"What are two or three things a disciple does?"

"If you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus, when do you think you first started following him?"

Please consider joining this class for the next few weeks. No texts are required other than a Bible. We'll meet at 9:30 in the John Teter room and also on Zoom; please see last Monday's Facebook post for a link for the latter.

With Kacy Bailey starting a confirmation class April 12, this may be a good time for us to focus on discipleship together. This is, again, why I'm inviting everyone to sit in a different place in worship to illustrate the fact that discipleship is dynamic and that it means choosing commission and commandments over comfort.

Kacy's confirmation class includes youth from both Community and Salem UMCs and meetings will alternate among all three churches through May 31. The plan is to confirm Kacy and the other students in worship in their congregations June 7.

Please keep both confirmation and the new Sunday school class in your prayers as we focus on discipleship in the coming weeks.

*Thanks,,
Ned*

Sunday's Gospel, 20:19-31, New International Version

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This Week at Oaklette:

Sunday, April 12: new Sunday school class and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship service and children's church @ 11 a.m. [J. Perry/J. Rooks]; confirmation class @ 5 p.m. at Community UMC

Monday, April 13: Food pantry [T. Webb & Helene Haluska] @ 10 a.m.; HRM Band @ 7

Tuesday, April 14: nominations and lay leadership development meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15: choir practice @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 16: Bible study @ 10 a.m.

Saturday, April 18: soupline on Salter Street @ 7 a.m.

Sunday, April 19: Sunday school and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship service and children's church [C. Gallop/L. Gallop] @ 11 a.m.; confirmation class @ 5 p.m. at Community UMC

New to the prayer list: Walter Nebrotskie; also please pray for Pastor Tyrone Armstrong, Donna Baker, Preston Basnight, Tanya & Steve Benton, Sandy Carraway, Megan Carroll, Chesapeake Fire Dept., Coastal Va District & DS Givens, Kaylee Cuccorillo, Rylee Amelia Dimitry, Bille East, Jay Eckert, ForKids, Joyce Gaston, Freekind Virginia, Bill Gilliam, Kaye Herndon, Ethel Hickman, Debbie Hodges, Home School Out of Box, Earl Jenkins, Teal Jenkins, Pat Johnson, Karon Hardy, Brian Lincoln, Dave Lorence, Rose Marie Madu, Wayne Magner, Pat Newbern, Dakota Rebel, Ray & Bob Rosales, Rhonda Roughton, Loretta Smith, the League of Advocates, Virginia Conference & Bishop Sue, John Tandy, Marilyn Washington, Monica Whitehurst, Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe, Our Country & Military, Our Pastor

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