



## The Oakletter, April 5, 2026

Do you remember the episode of “All in the Family” where Edith Bunker is going through menopause? Archie tries to be patient, but his patience soon runs out, and he tells Edith, “If you’re gonna have this change of life, you gotta do it right now. I’m gonna give you just 30 seconds. Now c’mon and change.”

Change isn’t always quick, but I am going to ask for a change next Sunday, April 12. As I said a few weeks ago, I’m inviting everyone to sit in a different place in worship for the rest of April. I said I was doing this because Kacy Bailey is starting confirmation class April 12. It’s a joint class with students from Community and Salem UMCs.

I want us to show Kacy that discipleship is dynamic. It’s not about staying in the same place and doing the same things. I said that I wasn’t going to compel anyone to move and I’m not, so please consider this as an invitation to demonstrate discipleship by sitting somewhere different in worship for a few weeks.

Also through April, Oaklette’s United Methodist Women are collecting items for Kits for Annual Conference. Judy Litten has all the details, and while items may be donated for hygiene, cleaning, and menstrual kits, donations for each of these kits may be made as well. The conference website says that contributions for each kit are as follows: cleaning kits, \$75; hygiene kits, \$12; menstrual kits, \$24.

Again, please see Judy for details, and thanks for considering support of this ministry.

*Gratefully,  
Ned*

### **The Gospel for Easter John 20:1-18, Contemporary English Bible**

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him."

Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

### **This Week at Oaklette:**

Sunday, April 5: Easter sunrise service @ 6:30 a.m., followed by pancake breakfast; Sunday school and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; Easter worship service @ 11 a.m. [**Note: no children's church; no volunteers**]

Monday, April 6: Food pantry [J. Basnight/L. Gallop] @ 10 a.m.; church council meeting @ 6 p.m.; HRM Band @ 7

Tuesday, April 7: food distribution at the Community Feed at Berkley, 10 a.m.-noon

Wednesday, April 8: choir practice @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 9: Bible study of John 20:19-31 @ 10 a.m.; Model A Club @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 12: new Sunday school class and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship service and children's church @ 11 a.m. [**Note: volunteers needed for children's church**]; confirmation class @ 5 p.m. at Community UMC

**Birthdays:** Daniel Castellow and Doug Riggan, April 7

**New to the prayer list:** Rylee Amelia Dimitry (Edna's great granddaughter born with heart defect/surgery)

**Mission for April [Blessing Box]:** pasta and rice

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