

# Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist

August 31 2025



**Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook  
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,  
August 31. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the  
message entitled "When You Give a Banquet.."  
The Scripture is Luke 14:1, 7-14 NRSV.**



**Posey Brooks – August 31**



**Please remember the Blessing Box when you  
are out shopping! School supplies is our focus  
for the month of September Please place  
your donations in the box in the narthex.**



**The Obenchain family would like to express  
their sincere gratitude to our church family  
and friends for all the kindness and love  
shown during the past several weeks. We  
appreciate the flowers, food, prayers and all  
the other many ways you have supported us  
during this difficult time. We are blessed and  
lucky to have such a caring church family.  
Sincerely, The Obenchains**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

<b>Tyrone Armstrong</b>	<b>Pat Johnson</b>
<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>
<i>(friend of Mrs. Hickman's</i>	<b>Wayne Magner</b>
<i>grandson with cancer)</i>	<b>Terry Martin</b>
<b>Megan Carroll</b>	<b>Kristie Masters (friend of</b>
<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Ethel Hickman)</b>
<b>Cherry &amp; Sebastian</b>	<b>Karen McCarthy's</b>
<b>Chesapeake Police Dept.</b>	<b>daughter</b>
<b>CNRMA ROC</b>	<b>Pat Newbern</b>
<b>Coastal VA District &amp;</b>	<b>AJ. Panis (Ethel's</b>
<b>DS Givens</b>	<b>friend's son)</b>
<b>Sandy Carraway</b>	<b>Debbie Pope</b>
<b>Kent Carter</b>	<b>Dana Quinn</b>
<b>Kaylee Cuccorillo (Ericka's</b>	<b>Dakota Rebel</b>
<b>co-worker)</b>	<b>Ray &amp; Bob Rosales</b>
<b>Alex Denton</b>	<b>Rhonda Roughton (Stella's</b>
<b>Mary Lou Dory</b>	<b>Daughter)</b>
<b>Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)</b>	<b>Loretta Smith (Amy's</b>
<b>ForKids</b>	<b>son's girlfriend's</b>
<b>Freekind Virginia</b>	<b>mother)</b>
<b>Joyce Gaston</b>	<b>The League of Advocates</b>
<b>Patricia Guthrie (Mildred</b>	<b>Edward Thomas</b>
<b>Walling's sister-in-law)</b>	<b>Virginia Conference &amp;</b>
<b>Karon Hardy (Monica's</b>	<b>Bishop Sue</b>
<b>Neighbor)</b>	<b>Truman Weekly (Paige's</b>
<b>Doris Wolfe Harlan</b>	<b>Father)</b>
<b>(Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-</b>	<b>Wesley ODU</b>
<b>law)</b>	<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 (Ericks's dad)</b>	<b>Our Pastor</b>
<b>Brian Lincoln (friend of</b>	
<b>Ethel Hickman)</b>	

**Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents**  
**Billy East**

"The Bible is not only a book which I can  
understand; it is also a book which  
understands me."

—Emile Caillet

### Calendar

#### Sunday, August 31

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 pm Worship in person and Facebook

#### Monday, September 1

Labor Day – Office & Food Pantry Closed

7:00 pm HRM Band

#### Tuesday, September 2

#### Wednesday, September 3

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, September 4

9:00 am-3:00 pm Home School Out of the Box

10:00 am Bible Study

#### Friday, September 5

#### Saturday, September 6

#### Sunday, September 7

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook



### From Knowing to Becoming

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

—Ned Erickson



As often as I've cited statistics from the Possibilities Report Oaklette received in 2022, I was surprised Monday by one I had not noticed. Oaklette's average Sunday school attendance in 2008 was 130. By 2018, it was down to 45, and by 2020 and 2021, during and after COVID, that number was less than 30. I've had conversations with church members recently in which I've heard that there were once many children at Oaklette and that those children moved away when they went to grew up and got jobs. This may explain part of the decline in worship and Sunday school attendance at Oaklette in the last 15 to 20 years. The question remains: What do we do about this trajectory?

I'd like to suggest a two-fold response, starting with renewed focus on God's word. This is why I've mentioned starting a Sunday evening Bible study and also why I'm thinking of starting another Sunday school class. I've asked a couple of folks who do not attend Sunday school now if they'd be interested in a study of Adam Hamilton's *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith* starting next month. That decision is pending.

A decision was made Tuesday to start offering "The Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study" in January. This decision came from the committee on nominations and lay leadership development after a discussion of educational opportunities at an Aug. 26 meeting. I shared with the committee that I have two four-week Bible study lessons based on "The Beverly Hillbillies" from my days on the Eastern Shore. I plan to offer the study in-person and via Zoom with everyone watching episodes of the show together on YouTube. We've got plenty of time to plan and a busy fall pending [see the P.S. below], so we'll work out the schedule together.

Since I'm retiring from the naval reserves Jan. 1, I'll have more time free for studies. I'm hoping lessons such as these lead us into the second response I'd like to suggest: community involvement.

Grace and peace,  
Ned

P.S. Here are some dates for your calendar:

Sunday, Sept. 21, Trunk or Treat meeting, after church

Sunday, Oct. 5, Rise Against Hunger at Providence Presbyterian Church after worship

Saturday, Oct. 11, Blessing of the Animals, 2 p.m. [rain date, Oct. 25]

Thursday, Oct. 30, decorating for Trunk or Treat, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 31, Trunk or Treat, time TBA

Sunday, Nov. 23, decorating for Advent after worship

Sunday, Dec. 21, Blue Christmas service, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve service, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve service, 3 p.m.

Several of these dates were set by the worship team at a meeting last Sunday. Details to follow.



I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them.

Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.

—Martin Luther