



The Oakletter, Dec. 21, 2025

I don't remember what I wanted for Christmas in 1985. Whatever it was, it wasn't *Inside Oscar: The Unofficial History of the Academy Awards*.

Whatever it was that I did want, I made a huge fuss about. I made sure that everyone knew what it was and knew that I had better get it.

My family used to draw names for gifts to exchange on Christmas Eve. That year, we went to the candlelight service, as usual, at the chapel at Little Creek, and when we got home, it was time to exchange gifts. My mother had drawn my name, and when she gave me my present, she said something to the effect of, "It isn't what you wanted, and you're not going to like it."

It wasn't what I wanted, and I could not believe how much I liked it. I'm not the movie buff that I used to be – it's been over five years since I've been to a theater and I'm not one to watch movies on my own – but this is book I read and re-read. What was it that I wanted that year? Who knows?

Whatever it is you want this year, I hope you get it. The best gift that I can think of is a deepening relationship with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, one that has us studying and living out his word.

Studying God's word is, to me, the best part of being a pastor. In the last month, I've visited friends from Cheriton and Franklin and had delightful conversations about Ordinary Time and Matthew, conversations I never would have had if I had not come to know Jesus Christ sometime after 1985.

Please let me know what you want and what you get for Christmas this year, and please let know how you see us growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ in 2026.

Thanks,

Ned



This week at Oaklette

Sunday, Dec. 21

9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am SOTM
11:00 am Fourth Sunday in Advent worship
3:00 p.m. Blue Christmas service
6:30 p.m. Evening study

Monday, Dec. 22

10 a.m. Food pantry [Helene Haluska and Judy Carter]

Wednesday, Dec. 24

3 p.m. Christmas Eve service

Thursday, Dec. 25, through Sunday, Jan. 4

Church office closed

Sunday, Dec. 28

9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am SOTM
11:00 am First Sunday after Christmas worship

[Please note that there has been no change to Oaklette's prayer list since it was last printed here three weeks ago.]

Birthdays

Kacy Bailey – December 21
Jerry Doughton – December 22
Todd Bennett – December 25

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 11:2-11

Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them. Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me."

When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it is written: 'Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Thanks from UMW

Oaklette's United Methodist Women wish to thank everyone for their donations to provide Salvation Army Christmas stockings.



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