



The Oakletter, Feb. 8, 2026

I just posted the graphic above on our website. I was happy to do so. It comes from a Jan. 24 webinar that I enjoyed. This was the first of three webinars about the United Methodist Church's new vision statement, which was revealed last year. Additional webinars on Serving Joyfully and Leading Courageously are scheduled for Feb. 21 and March 21 and I will share links for those as soon as they become available.

I also added three links for other videos to the website this evening. One was for the latest episode of Wesleyan Ways from the Virginia Annual Conference. This one focuses on discipleship and I recommend it wholeheartedly. There's also a link to a video for the latest episode of The Recap, which focuses on UMC-wide stories, and one on the launch last year of the new vision statement.

Please check them out and please let me know how you'd answer a question I just asked in this evening's Breakthrough Prayer video: Do we really need the Oakletter? With all the work that I put into the website, is the Oakletter redundant? Can we email the congregation a link to the updated website each week rather than printing and emailing an Oakletter?

I welcome your thoughts. I must admit that I have wondered how much the congregation values the Oakletter since no one has volunteered to help with it until Eileen comes back. Would anyone miss the Oakletter if it were to go away?

Please let me know your thoughts, and if you'd like to help with the website or the Oakletter, please let me know that, too.

*Thanks,
Ned*



This week at Oaklette

Sun., Feb. 8
9:30 am Sunday
school/SOTM

11 am Fifth
Sunday After
the Epiphany
worship

6:30 pm
Beverly
Hillbillies Bible
study

Mon., Feb. 9
10 a.m. Food
pantry
[Webb/Swoope]

6:30 p.m.,
church council

7 p.m. HRM
Band

Tues. Feb. 3
6:30 p.m.,
nominations

Wed., Feb. 4
6:30 p.m.
choir practice

Thurs., Feb. 5
7:30 a.m. UM
Day at General
Assembly
[Richmond]

8:30 a.m.-3:30
p.m., HSOBX

10 a.m. Bible
study

7 p.m. Model A
Club

Sun., Feb. 15
9:30 am Sunday
school/SOTM

11 am
Transfiguration
Sunday worship

6:30 pm
Beverly
Hillbillies Bible
study

Birthdays: James Calvert, Feb. 12; Carl Gayle, Feb. 13; Sophia Carroll and Scott Poyner, Feb. 14

Anniversary: Rob and Shelly Castellow, Feb. 14

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

"Don't even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven't come to do away with them but to fulfill them. I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality. Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."



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