



## The Oakletter, June 21, 2026

I think that the greatest lesson I learned at Oaklette came about a year and a half ago. We were studying Adam Hamilton's *Not a Silent Night* for Advent, in which Hamilton writes that Advent is the time when we look at the way that the world was before God sent Jesus into it. At the same time, I read in a commentary that Advent is the time when we look at the world the way that God wants it to be versus the way that it is. I think that, with his first words, Jesus asks us to consider the way that God wants the world to be.

"The time has come," Jesus says in Mark 1:15. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news." Could the kingdom of God be the way that God wants the world to be?

I think I've come to a new appreciation of the kingdom of God in the last five years. Maybe it comes from going to Djibouti, maybe it comes from the loss of my mother and my sister seven years ago, or maybe it comes from the Gospel and the way that I read and understand it. I think that the kingdom of God requires activity, that it requires engagement. I think that working for the kingdom of God means our going to places that we need to go in the name of Jesus Christ – places where Holy Spirit convicts us to go.

Ashley Boggan [above] talked about such conviction at Annual Conference. She said that churches tend to engage in selective discipline based on what brings us joy. She countered that holiness requires risk and that Methodists go where suffering exists.

Boggan said that this has been true of us since the days of John Wesley. She spoke and has written of early Methodists' advocacy for the well-being of prisoners, and at Annual Conference, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson also spoke of early Methodists' involvement in ending slavery in England. Ministries like these faced opposition, but is the mistreatment of prisoners the way that God wants the world to be? Is slavery the way that God wants the world to be?

Friday, we learned that the Conference has new plans for our work for the kingdom of God and for looking at the world the way it is versus the way that God wants it to be. Although you and I will soon work in different places, I look forward to our continuing to work together for the kingdom of God.

Thanks,

*Ned*

**Sunday's Psalm, Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17**

LORD, listen closely to me and answer me, because I am poor and in need. Guard my life because I am faithful. Save your servant who trusts in you – you! My God!

Have mercy on me, Lord, because I cry out to you all day long. Make your servant's life happy again because, my Lord, I offer my life to you, because, my Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of faithful love for all those who cry out to you.

Listen closely to my prayer, LORD; pay close attention to the sound of my requests for mercy. Whenever I am in trouble, I cry out to you, because you will answer me.

My Lord! There is no one like you among the gods! There is nothing that can compare to your works! All the nations that you've made will come and bow down before you, Lord; they will glorify your name, because you are awesome and a wonder-worker. You are God. Just you.

Come back to me! Have mercy on me! Give your servant your strength; save this child of your servant! Show me a sign of your goodness so that those who hate me will see it and be put to shame – show a sign that you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

**Our mission statement:** Oaklette United Methodist Church, through worship, education, and outreach, seeks to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ real as we minister to all people.

**Anniversaries:** Brian and Gewendolyn McDonald, June 23; John and Linda Tandy, June 25; Earl and Lorraine Baker, June 26

**Birthdays:** Kathy Howell Quinn and Diane Wilson, June 21; Drew Hincks, June 22; Alisa Gerald, June 23; Lida Maddrey-Ryno, June 24

**Mission of the month** [blessing box]: canned fruit

**This Week at Oaklette:**

Sunday, June 21: Sunday school and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship and children's church [**note: volunteers needed**] @ 11 a.m.

Monday, June 22: Food pantry @ 10 a.m. [H. Haluska/B. Swoope]; HRM Band @ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24: choir practice @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 25: Bible study @ 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 28: Sunday school class and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship and children's church @ 11 a.m. [**note: volunteers needed**]

**Our prayer list includes:** Pastor Tyrone Armstrong, Donna Baker, John Basnight, Preston Basnight, Barbara Bennett, Tanya & Steve Benton, Chris Carney, Sandy Carraway, Megan Carroll, Chesapeake Fire Dept., Coastal Va District & DS Givens, Kaylee Cuccorillo, Rylee Amelia Dimitry, Billy East, Jay Eckert, ForKids, Joyce Gaston, Freekind Virginia, Kaye Herndon, Ethel Hickman, Debbie Hodges, Home School Out of Box, Earl Jenkins, Teal Jenkins, Pat Johnson, Karon Hardy, Brian Lincoln, Dave Lorence

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