



## The Oakletter, March 29, 2026

That's Shelby Waltman fourth from right in the photo. Shelby and everyone else pictured went to lunch at the Founders Inn after Bible study one Thursday last May.

Last week in Bible study, I asked when the last time was that Oaklette had a first-time visitor from the neighborhood on a Sunday morning. Monica Whitehurst responded, "Shelby."

Shelby first worshipped with us in 2024. She brought some family members to the Blue Christmas service that December. I checked and saw that I'd emailed her for the first time a month before that, sharing with her the text for our *Disciple Like Jesus* study.

If Shelby was our last first-time visitor from the neighborhood on a Sunday morning in 2024, that would mean that Oaklette has had no first-time visitors from the neighborhood in, at best, almost a year and a half. Is this a situation that we want to consider? Is this a situation that we should expect to correct itself?

I could say that this is the reason that I preach community involvement, but that would be inaccurate. It is accurate that to say that the Gospel preaches community involvement, as seen in Jesus' words from John 12, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant will also be"; from John 20, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"; and from Matthew 4, "Come, follow me, and you will fish for people." You've heard me repeat Christa Springstead's comment on Matthew 4: "When did it become about their coming to us rather than our going to them?"

Jesus' words make it clear that it's about our going to them rather than about their coming to us. Please join me in praying about how we as a congregation will fish for people.

*Thanks,  
Ned*

### **The Gospel for Palm Sunday, Matthew 21:1-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet; "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"  
The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

Sunday, March 29: Sunday school and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship for Palm/Passion Sunday @ 11 a.m.; children's church [S. Castellow/K. Hill]

Monday, March 30: Food pantry [A. Lee/J. Lee] @ 10 a.m.; HRM Band @ 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31: *The Last Supper* study concludes @ 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and at Oaklette

Thursday, April 2: HSOBX @ 8:30 a.m.; Bible study of John 20:1-18 @ 10 a.m.; choir practice at 6 p.m.; Holy Thursday worship service @ 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 5: Easter sunrise service @6:30 a.m. behind the church, followed by pancake breakfast;

Sunday school and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; Easter worship service and children's church @ 11 a.m. [***Note: volunteers needed for children's church***]

**Birthdays:** Clint Driscoll, March 29; Cheryl Walker. April 2

**Mission of the month for April:** rice and pasta

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