

Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

September 28, 2025



**Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,
September 28. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the
message entitled "Rich At This Time.."
The Scripture is 1 Timothy 6:6-19 CEB.**



**Sydney McDonald – September 28
Dudley Miles III – September 30
Paige Weifert – October 1
Choley Reichling – October 2
Annette Johnson-Young – October 3
Dana Moody – October 3**

The mess of mercy

The reformer Martin Luther once dreamed that he saw Jesus approaching his door. Luther panicked, seeing that his home was an absolute disaster inside. "How am I going to let the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ, come into a mess like this?" he wondered.

Luther raced to clean up, but the mess only increased. As Jesus knocked, Luther was resigned. "Come on in, if you think you can come into a place like this," he told Jesus ... only to turn around and see that everything was now in order. All Luther had to do was let Jesus enter. "Mercy is always a messy business," writes pastor Daniel Emery Price at 1517.org. That's true of the Reformation, just as it was when Jesus cleared moneychangers out of the temple. "There will always be those who condemn the mercy because of the mess," notes Price. "Reformation is always about clearing the path to God's radical grace."

PRAYER CONCERNS

Tyrone Armstrong	Pat Johnson
Donna Baker	Loving Neighbors
Tanya & Steve Benton	Mission Camp
Kendall Brodie	Rose Marie Madu
<i>(friend of Mrs. Hickman's</i>	Wayne Magner
<i>grandson with cancer)</i>	Terry Martin
Megan Carroll	Kristie Masters (friend of
Judy Carter	Ethel Hickman)
Cherry & Sebastian	Karen McCarthy's
Chesapeake Police Dept.	daughter
CNRMA ROC	Pat Newbern
Coastal VA District &	AJ. Panis (Ethel's
DS Givens	friend's son)
Sandy Carraway	Debbie Pope
Kent Carter	Dana Quinn
Kaylee Cuccorillo (Ericka's	Dakota Rebel
co-worker)	Ray & Bob Rosales
Alex Denton	Rhonda Roughton (Stella's
Mary Lou Dory	Daughter)
Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)	Loretta Smith (Amy's
ForKids	son's girlfriend's
Freekind Virginia	mother)
Joyce Gaston	The League of Advocates
Patricia Guthrie (Mildred	Edward Thomas
Walling's sister-in-law)	Virginia Conference &
Karon Hardy (Monica's	Bishop Sue
Neighbor)	Truman Weekly (Paige's
Doris Wolfe Harlan	Father)
<i>(Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-</i>	Wesley ODU
<i>law)</i>	Betty Whitehurst
Kay Herndon	Monica Whitehurst
Ethel Hickman	Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe
Hope Hodges & Debbie	Tommy Womack
Home School Out of Box	Country & Troops
Earl Jenkins (Ericks's dad)	Our Pastor
Brian Lincoln (friend of	
Ethel Hickman)	

Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents
Billy East



**Please remember the Blessing Box when you
are out shopping! Our focus for October is
lunchbox snacks. Please place your donations
in the box in the narthex.**

Calendar

Sunday, September 28

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person and Facebook

Monday, September 29

10:00 am-12:00 pm Food Pantry
(Linda Gallop & Paige Weifert)

10:00 AM Green Thumb

7:00 pm HRM Band

Tuesday, September 30

Wednesday, October 1

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 2

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

10:00 am Bible Study

Friday, October 3

Saturday, October 4

8:30 am-3:00 pm Tidewater Quilt Guild

Sunday, October 5

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am SOTM

11:00 am Worship in person & Facebook

6:30 pm Bible Study "Wrestling with Faith" in
person & Zoom



AN AUTUMN POEM

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.



As I said in the Tuesday Breakthrough Prayer video I posted on Facebook a few minutes ago, I thought that I'd be at the Spirit of Truth men's group meeting this evening. I thought that that group met the fourth Tuesday of the month. Turns out that they meet the last Tuesday of the month, so rather than meeting Sept. 23, they're meeting Sept. 30, and I plan to be there at 7 p.m. Gentlemen, please join me if you'd like.

That's not the only thing that didn't go right today. I'm part of a clergy coaching group that was supposed to meet this morning, but our coach was in the hospital. I hope he's doing better. His assistant says we'll add another session later.

With that cancelled, I turned my attention to preparing for clergy ethics training Oct. 7 and for my annual meeting with the DS Oct. 8. I had online files to complete for both and the ethics course made me think of something I want to address: My parents showed me, by example, that an uninvited guest is an uninvited guest, even when they're from the church. That said, I like visiting church members but only if we set a time in advance. If you'd like for me to visit you at home, or to meet for coffee, lunch, dinner, or breakfast, please let me know. I hope to hear from you about this.

Thanks,
Ned

INSIDE Trunk or Treat

FRIDAY, 10/31/2025

6-8 pm

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 1, Start bringing candy

October 30, 3:30 pm-Pull out Trunk or Treat items, start decorating, start bringing candy

October 31, a.m. decorating (if needed), 5 pm-Setup

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donate candy or \$\$\$ (to cover the costs of Bibles, gift cards, food, etc)

VOLUNTEER: Food Prep, Setup/breakdown, Decorate a door, Candy Wranglers, Prayer Room, Game Coordinators, etc

SEE SIGNUP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD

QUESTIONS? DEBBIE RIPPARD, (757)536-0886