

The Month of December

Sun, Dec 10	8:30 A	Worship/Chapel
	10:00 A	Sunday School/back of large hall
	11:00 A	Worship/Sanctuary
	12:00 P	Fellowship/Small Hall

Christmas Assistance Gifts are due back at the church

Mon, Dec 11	9:30-10:30 A	Sacred Space
Tues, Dec 12	9:30-10:30 A	Sacred Space
Wed, Dec 13	7:00 P	Christmas Carol Sing-a-long/chapel
Sat, Dec 16	6:30 P	YAF Christmas Fellowship

Sun, Dec 24	8:30 A	Worship/Chapel
	10:00 A	Sunday School/back of large hall
	11:00 A	Worship/Sanctuary
	3:00 P	Live Nativity
	5:00 P	Christmas Carols/sanctuary
	5:30 P	Children's Worship Service
	8:00 P	Candlelight and Communion Service
		Merry Christmas

Sun, Dec 31	10:00 A	Combined Worship Service
		Happy New Year

What will you do this Advent to prepare yourself for the Christ child? Breathe, be calm, open God's Word and do deeds of kindness – these four things are a great place to start. Our wish to you this month is that you do not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the commercialism of Christmas and that you have a genuine opportunity to be still and know Christ's Holy presence within you. For He is Emmanuel – God-with-us.



Oakton United Methodist Church

December 2017

Our Mission

*Know Jesus as Christ
Invite Others to Know Him
Develop Devoted Disciples
Serve those in Need*



**2951 Chain Bridge Road
Oakton, VA 22124**

703 – 938-1978

www.oaktonumc.org

Meet the Pastor

Rev. Dawn-Marie Singleton – Senior Pastor



Hello, My name is Dawn-Marie Singleton and I bring you tidings of great joy this December!

I am so glad that you are a part of Oakton UMC – whether you are a regular attender, a member or a first-time visitor, I am thrilled you have chosen to be a part of our church family this month. Tis’ the season to be jolly and full of joy!

December is the month we celebrate the birthday of the Christ child, Jesus – the Son of God. Let’s never forget that though Jesus is not physically with us, he lives within us. He came to be “Emmanuel – God-with-us” and that means he is always with us. Not just for a day, or the month of December, but always. We are never alone.

Christmas is a time of joy, but not everyone is full of joy and laughter. Sometimes this month is the hardest one ever. Perhaps you are one of those people that just want December to be over with, if so, then please know that God is with you – especially in these difficult days when everyone else seems to be happy. Breathe. Pray and know you, too, are loved in an extraordinary way!

I am here for you, whether you want to cry or share a joy. I invite you to connect with Oakton and to connect with me. Hit me on social media (Facebook.com – Dawn-Marie Singleton or you can use the church Facebook site - Oakton United Methodist Church) or simply pick up the phone and call. (540-560-6432)

oaktonumcpastor@gmail.com

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Throughout the month of December, Rev. Dawn-Marie will be preaching a sermon series based on the book Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph by Adam Hamilton.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Illness: Betty Justice (Sammye Justice’s mom - spinal surgery), Hugh Smith (auto accident); Charles Hanshaw (auto accident), Bill Doughten; Ruby Clendenin & Bernie Dworski (health issues, friends of Bill Kays), Sean Bryant, John Patterson (home), John Alfano, (stroke-friend of the Turners), Clary Ducos (friend of the Turners-illness), Leonard Deege (illness), Daynah Hogate, niece of Dannye Ivey, Bill Webb (brother of Doris Doughten), Jenelle (stroke-friend of the Riegel’s), Nancy & Jean Saylor, Baylee Adkins, friend of Bob & Martha Kackley; the Torres family (friends of the Fellows), Jennifer Hasty, step-daughter of Bruce Long; Amy Rice and Lalita Hanshaw (at home) Our Sympathy and prayers go out to Rick Fraser and family at the passing of his mother, Joan Fraser.

Shut-Ins: Ed Fults, Ted Lyons, Catherine Jones and Charlotte Wineland
Thanks: my thanks to the congregation for all of their thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. It is through those prayers that I am now on the road to recovery and will be back to my almost normal self soon. John Patterson

Other: Victims of the volcano eruption in Bali and for the victims of Idonesia’s Java Island’s flooding and landslides, Victims of the flooding in Iran/Iraq, Victims of the shooting in Texas, College students as they finish up their fall semester, victim of the flooding in Freetown in Sierra Leone West Africa, the VA Annual Conference as we do a “new thing”, all churches and pastors who are equipping their laity to build up God’s kingdom, Bishop Sharma Lewis, the Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and an openness of the Spirit’s work in and around our community, the children and devoted staff and mission teams of the Child Rescue Center and Mercy Hospital in Sierra Leone, all children and youth in and around our community as they learn and grow this school year, President Trump, Vice President Pence, all our nation’s leaders, the future of the United Methodist Church, the committee ON THE WAY FORWARD for the UMC, peace within our nation, and prayers for all those who serve in the military. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve

Regular worship services in the morning

8:30 am & 11:00 am

Live Nativity 3:00-5:00 PM



Come get a selfie with the camel! Sign up for a time to be one of the characters in the Live Nativity. Be a part of the experience! Just call the church office. 703 938-1234 or contact Wanda Kirkpatrick. **We need you to be a part of the Christmas story! Come be a part of**

this magical evening as we celebrate the birth through a “live” version of our Savior’s birth. (All ages needed!)

Christmas Caroling in the sanctuary 5:00 – 5:30

Children’s Worship Service with Holy Communion

5:30 PM In the sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion 8:00 PM

In the sanctuary

Sunday, December 31st

10:00 am

Please make a note that this is our annual combined worship service of hymns, carols and Scripture readings.

Sunday, January 7th – Epiphany

Blessing of the Toys

8:30 am and 11:00 am

Jan. 7th - Parsonage Christmas Open House

12:30-4:00

Come join Rev. Dawn-Marie, Sarah-Grace and Martha at the parsonage for some light-hearted conversation and lunch.

This is a great opportunity to come sit and relax after the stress of the holiday season.

Good News Regarding the Christmas Assistance Program. All of the 37 angels identifying gift wishes of needy children at Oakton Elementary and Mosby Woods Elementary Schools have been taken. If you wished to participate in the Christmas Assistance Program, but did not have an opportunity to claim an angel, you may still participate by purchasing grocery gift cards. Please place the gift cards in an envelope and notate “Christmas Assistance Program” on the envelope. The gift cards can be turned in at the church office. If we receive more gift cards than necessary for the families, the extra gift cards will be placed in the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund for future use.

Christmas gifts and gift cards need to be returned by 10 December 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Walton at joanwalton30@gmail.com. Thanks again for helping these families.

Come join us on Wednesday, December 13th from 7:00 – 8:30 PM for our Community Christmas Sing-A-Long in the Chapel

The Young Adult Founders Group will meet Saturday, Dec. 16th at the home of Jim and Danye Ivey at 6:30 p.m. (If you need the address, please call the church office) Be sure to wear your ‘ugly sweater’ and bring a gift for the white elephant exchange. This is always a great time!

LOVE OFFERING AT CHRISTMAS

As in past Christmases, we would like to give our thanks to Rev. Dawn-Marie and the staff at OUMC. One way to say thanks is by giving a special love offering that will be distributed among the staff as an expression of our appreciation for all of their hard work during this past year. Please note "Love at Christmas" on your envelope or check, made payable to OUMC. In order to distribute the gifts in a timely manner please remit your love offering by 24 December. Thank you ~ OUMC Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

GIVE HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS by donating to help the vulnerable children in Sierra Leone W. Africa.

Helping Children Worldwide's Alternative Giving is a wonderful opportunity for to bless those in need as well to bless loved ones at the same time.

1. A \$25 donation will provide life-saving medical care for a patient at Mercy Hospital
2. A \$50 donation will strengthen vulnerable families through counseling, parent training and microfinance
3. A \$100 donation will provide 6 months nutrition for a malnourished child to survive and thrive.

For each donation, you will receive a beautiful gift card and envelope to give to acknowledge the gift given in their honor.

Please see Lisa Lanser or Wayne Malick to get your card. Checks should be payable to OUMC with HCW in the Memo, so OUMC gets accounting of how much support we are providing to HCW/Child Rescue Center and Mercy Hospital. Thank you for your continued support for these dear children and their impoverished community. Helping Children Worldwide is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Tax ID 76-0729857 additional information can be found at <https://www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org/>

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son”
John 1:14, NIV*

Throughout the month of December, we will celebrate Advent.

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming” or “visit,” begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. [Liturgical -- from liturgy, which means the forms and functions of public worship.]

Come learn about the United Methodist Church! This year we invite any and all those who are interested to sign up for **UMC 101/Confirmation Class**. If you are in the 6th grade or above we invite you to sign up now for our 2018 class. **This year we are offering this class for adults as well in an effort to encourage us to be life-long learners.**

A sneak peek into our class...

Sunday Classes

All classes meet on Sunday from

2:00 – 4:00 PM.

(In case of inclement weather, there may be some days that we will have to put two sessions together. If so, it would be good if we could meet from 2:00 – 4:45 PM if possible)

January 28: Orientation
February 4: We are the Church
February 11: The Book of Books
February 18: The Father
February 25: The Son

March 4: The Holy Spirit
March 11: God’s Church Grows
March 18: We Worship God
March 25: **No Class (Spring Break)**

April 1: **No Class (Easter)**
April 8: The Church Celebrates
April 15: God’s Plan for our World
April 22: Faithful Disciples
April 29: We Live the Christian Life
May 6: Are You a Christian?

Parents will need to attend the end of this session to go over the logistics of Confirmation Sunday.

May 13: **No Class (Mother’s Day)**
May 20: **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

Sign up to be a part of this class: Call the church office 703 938-1234

Do you have some time to spare and need a short time project?

Rev. Dawn-Marie is looking for someone who will take all the bells off the All Saints Day Banner and place them back in their container. This won't take long, but needs to be done. If you are interested, please see Rev. Dawn-Marie or call the church office to let us know. Thanks.

Elevator Status - As most of us are aware the elevator had been experiencing some mechanical problems and has been out of service for the for couple of months. We are sorry to inform you that the elevator will be out of service through the holidays. We have had our current service company evaluate the situation, identify the problem and a solution. A "scope of work" has been developed and their final proposal will be forthcoming. We have decided to have this "scope of work" shared with other Elevator service companies for competing proposals. The extent of the problem was not anticipated; therefore, this process will take longer than originally anticipated. We will keep the congregation informed of our progress and thank you for your patience.

Articles for the Newsletter? Just e-mail them to our newsletter editor, Randy Butturini: randy_butturini@yahoo.com

January Sermon Series Rev. Dawn-Marie needs your help in determining which book of the Bible to teach for her January four week sermon series. Please fill out the insert included in the bulletin and return by December 10th. Thanks for your input.

Have you visited the newly opened **Museum of the Bible** in Washington DC? Please join Tracy Seymour and children for a fun family outing on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 9am-1pm.

Please contact Tracy (information below) if you are interested, with your preferred method of transportation (Driving or Metro). Museum of the Bible Cost will be \$22.00 per person and we will need a headcount to purchase tickets. We can also upgrade for an additional \$8 per person. Please RSVP to tracy.seymour@aus.com or [301/873-7366](tel:3018737366), we would like to lock in the attendees by 12/15.

There will be a special charge conference directly following the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, December 17th. This will not take long at all, but now that we have paid our apportionments, we need to vote on the clergy compensation form as well as the budget as a whole. Praise God for all who have been faithful to make sure our apportionments were paid this year!!

LUCIANO'S

We are hiring! We're looking for a great enthusiastic part time Cashier, one full time and one part time Server! If you love good food and enjoy serving the best customers in the world, we would love you to join our team. All you need is to be over 18, have a great attitude and a strong work ethic, we will teach you the rest. Hiring immediately. Please call 703 281-1748 or come in to see the manager.

*If we are going to serve the Lord, we should
do so wholeheartedly, and see what God will
do in response.*

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do with your might”
(Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Some Words of Thanks

Dawn-Marie and friends,

On behalf of all the teachers and staff at Mosby Woods, thank you so much for the delicious cookies you made for us. It was such a nice treat and such a thoughtful gesture. We are grateful to partner with your church to serve the many children in our community.

*Sincerely,
Mahri Aste,
Principal*

To the congregation of Oakton United Methodist and Pastor Dawn-Marie Singleton:

Several months ago, I was in despair! As a single mom, I had become unemployed and was struggling to pay the rent and utilities on my 2 bedroom apartment. Unemployment did not cover these expenses and food and medicine.

Through the kindness and generosity of your church members, I was blessed with some help. God works in many ways! My lease was up at the end of April and it is difficult to get a place to live without a job! A friend had a tenant who happened to give notice on March 30th. I was able to move in within my budget.

As Thanksgiving approached I have been taking stock of all the blessings that have been bestowed on me.

As a member of the Oakton community, I am truly thankful to have had the support from you and others.

As an update, I am gainfully employed and able to remain in the Oakton area. I couldn't have done it without you. I am truly blessed. Thank you.

*All the best –
Michele L.*

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Year End Gifts to Oakton United Methodist Church: Please remember that you can make a gift (of stock, mutual funds, etc.) to Oakton UMC and a) avoid all broker commissions / fees, b) avoid all capital gains taxes, c) take the full market value of the security as a 2017 tax donation (regardless of what you may have originally paid for it), d) possibly satisfy your 2017 Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you are over age 70½, and e) benefit Oakton UMC with the full market value of the security(s). You may also fulfill some/all of your 2018 pledge and record it as a 2017 deduction. For further information, contact **Ted Soto** at the Virginia United Methodist Foundation at [804-521-1122](tel:804-521-1122).

Ruth Ebert has been unable to attend church services the last few Sundays. In conversations with her, Ruth reported that she is unable to get out at all and expects it is unlikely she will be able to go to church in the future. We hope members of the church family will give Ruth a call, or send her a card or note. We know she will greatly appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness. Ruth's address and phone number are:

Mrs. Charles Ebert
212 Audrey's Ct. SE
Vienna, VA 22180
Tel: [703-281-3482](tel:703-281-3482)