

The Month of July at OUMC

Sunday Mornings

8:30 a.m. Worship/Chapel

10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School class will continue during the summer.

Come and join us each Sunday morning as we discuss different topics

11:00 a.m. Worship/Sanctuary

OTHER EVENTS

The UM Men's Breakfast will Meet at Bob Evans in July and August:

All are welcome to join us at Bob Evans, July 21st and August 18th (Saturdays) at 8:00 a.m.

Camp Sunshine begins July 9th: learn more about this summer camp for kids at the Oakton Christian Preschool website:
www.oaktonchristianpreschool.com

Help Prepare Communion: We are in need to someone to help set-up the Communion elements on the first Sunday of each month. This is an easy task and very important! See Rev. Dawn-Marie or call Doris in the church office if you can help. Thank you.

Coming in August: Lifeline Screening will be at Oakton UMC Friday, August 31st all day. They offer various screening health tests. Learn more at www.lifelinescreening.com

As the date gets closer, check with Doris in the church office for reduced-price coupons.

Oakton United Methodist Church



July 2018

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 – 938-1234**

www.oaktonumc.org

Meet the Pastor

Rev. Dawn-Marie Singleton – Senior Pastor



Are we playing church or Being the church? That is the question! This is the question that we have been forced to consider throughout our present sermon series, "Are we playing church or Being the church?" It is essential for us to BE the church. We need to BE the church for our community, for the future church and because those who are lost need us. BE the church.

What does it mean to BE the church? I believe as United Methodist Christians, we are called to BE the church by being loyal to our vows. Once we officially become a member of a United Methodist Church, we vow to be loyal to the church (as a whole and to our local congregation) with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.

Being the church is not just about showing up and doing what is supposed to be done. It's more than just attending worship and throwing up a prayer or two. I believe, that BEing the church means our hearts are in it. In it to win it. That we are so dedicated to God and his Word that we want everyone to know His Word, His Love, His forgiveness and His peace.

Being the church is a call that each one of us has. It is a call that each of us must take seriously. It is a privilege, but also a responsibility. Friends, it is about making God our priority in life. Above all else - for every day and every moment. Let's do this - let's BE the church together.

I invite you to connect with Oakton and to connect with me. Hit me on social media (Facebook.com – Dawn-Marie Singleton, 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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Take a moment to send an encouraging word or pick up the phone to say hello to our shut ins, our older members, those who you haven't seen in a few weeks....it is amazing how a small act of kindness can make a HUGE difference in someone's life.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Illness: Kay Blocher (broken ankle), Merv Norton, Chas Mayernik, Martha Singleton, and Linda Fertal

Shut-Ins: Ed Fults, Ted Lyons, Catherine Jones and Charlotte Wineland

Sympathy: Geddis Kerr, on the loss of his wife Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's memorial service will take place at Oakton UMC on Saturday, July 14th at 1:00 p.m. There will be a visitation time at 12:30 p.m. and a reception after the service.

Other: The Child Rescue Center and Mercy Hospital in Sierra Leone, The United Methodist Church as a denomination – as we seek to hear God's will regarding the statements in the BOOK OF DISCIPLINE about human sexuality, all churches who are striving to make disciples of Jesus Christ, our own church as we continue to pray for God's will for us, Bishop Sharma Lewis, our District Superintendent, Cathy Abbott as she moves into her renewal leave, the children at Mosby Woods, Oakton, and Marshall Road Elementary school as we partner with these schools to strengthen them, the neighbors around us who seek to find peace and hope in the world, those who are homeless and hungry, victims of gun violence and their families, President Trump, Vice President Pence, all our nation's leaders, peace within our nation, and those who serve in the military. O Lord, we pray for your spirit to revive our souls and to give us boldness and courage to go out and share your love with others. May God bless the mission and vision of OUMC and all those who allow God's will to reign. Amen.

Articles for the Newsletter? Just e-mail them to our newsletter editor, Randy Butturini: randy_butturini@yahoo.com We would love for you to contribute a funny story, a blurb about what you found helpful or even share why you love OUMC. Contributions are appreciated.

Visit our website (www.oaktonumc.com) to listen to the previous week's sermon, see the worship bulletin for the coming Sunday (usually posted on Friday after 12 noon) and learn about the church. Comments about the site are always welcome. Contact Doris in the church office: oumc@oaktonumc.org or 703-938-1234. The church office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30-12:30 p.m.



Bluegrass Music: is happening each month on the third Tuesday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. join us in the chapel and hear some good-old bluegrass music. Bring an instrument and or your voice. All are welcome. Invite a friend or two.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES THIS SUMMER ...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is around the corner: We are partnering with Vale UMC this year but we need YOUR help to make it successful. We will be looking for youth as well as adults for station leaders and other volunteers. VBS will be at Vale UMC the week of **July 30 – August 3**. The theme is **SHIPWRECKED: Rescued by Jesus**. Please see Sammye Justice or Rev Dawn-Marie if you are interested or need more information.



MOSBY WOODS SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM: Mosby Woods Elementary School will be beginning a summer food program on Wednesdays afternoons from 2:00 – 3:00 PM. They need volunteers to assist the families that come to fill a bag of food. If you are available and interested, See Rev. Dawn-Marie or call the church office.

We continue to collect snack food items (no peanuts please) for the kids over the summer. They love getting these treats. Thank you.



YOUTH MEETING SNACKS/DINNERS Are you able to bake some treats or prepare/serve dinner on Thursday evenings for the youth group? If so, please see Aleta Rauch or Rev. Dawn-Marie.

All youth are invited to our meetings.

Come, bring a friend. We will not meet July 5th.

YOUTH MEETINGS Would you be interested in sharing your story, teaching a Bible Study or facilitating a discussion for our youth on **Thursday evenings? (6:30 – 8:15 PM)** Please see Aleta Rauch or Rev. Dawn-Marie.

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN is back. This is an opportunity to be hospitable to our new friends who have chosen to worship with us as well as greet those we see every week in worship. If you want to help with this mission, see Sammye Justice. This is a time to offer a cool beverage and provide an opportunity to say hello.



You don't want to miss our Church Outreach Picnic. Saturday, July 28th at the Yorkville Cooperative. **4:00 - 8:00 PM**

We will be helping this community with their **FAMILY DAY**. Come meet our neighbors, enjoy the food and fellowship. Are you interested in being in charge of a game or helping to come up with some fun relays? See Marge Javins or Rev. Dawn-Marie for more information or to volunteer. We will be asking everyone to be present and to bring a side dish. We will help to supply the hamburgers and hotdogs (all Kosher) as well as side dishes and drinks. **THIS** will be a great day and a great time for us to witness our faith. We are hoping to continue to do different kinds of outreach in this community. Many of the kids from the homework club at Mosby Woods live in this community.

They will be having a moon bounce, bouncy house, pony rides and a DJ. We will have other games as well as be leading some fun relays. If you have some ideas or are willing to help, let us know.

Yorkville Cooperative is on Draper Lane in Fairfax. (Turn left onto Blake Road off of 123, then a left on Kingsbridge. Go through the stop sign and Yorkville is on the left. A map is available to see where to park.

PLEASE make every effort to come, **this is our first community/church - wide outreach** and we want it to be a success.

Bishop Lewis has challenged us to read the Bible in a Year. This year we are reading it chronologically. If you want to participate check in at www.vaumc.org and go to the Bishop's Bible Challenge. Here are the readings for the month:

July Readings

July 1 Obadiah 1, Psalm 82-83 **July 2** 2 Kings 1-4 **July 3** 2 Kings 5-8
July 4 2 Kings 9-11 **July 5** 2 Kings 12-13, 2 Chronicles 24 **July 6** 2
Kings 14, 2 Chronicles 25 **July 7** Jonah 1-4 **July 8** 2 Kings 15, 2
Chronicles 26 **July 9** Isaiah 1-4 **July 10** Isaiah 5-8 **July 11** Amos 1-5
July 12 Amos 6-9 **July 13** 2 Chronicles 27, Isaiah 9-12 **July 14** Micah
1-7 **July 15** 2 Chronicles 28, 2 Kings 16-17 **July 16** Isaiah 13-17 **July**
17 Isaiah 18-22 **July 18** Isaiah 23-27 **July 19** 2 Kings 18:1-8, 2
Chronicles 29-31, Psalm 48 **July 20** Hosea 1-7 **July 21** Hosea 8-14
July 22 Isaiah 28-30 **July 23** Isaiah 31-34 **July 24** Isaiah 35-36 **July 25**
Isaiah 37-39, Psalm 76 **July 26** Isaiah 40-43 **July 27** Isaiah 44-48 **July**
28 2 Kings 18:9-19:37, Psalm 46, Psalm 80, Psalm 135 **July 29** Isaiah
49-53 **July 30** Isaiah 54-58 **July 31** Isaiah 59-63
July 31 Isaiah 59-63

One of the Christian disciplines that we should all be striving toward is to be in the WORD every day. Do you have some favorite devotionals? What about favorite verses to turn to? Where do you find strength and comfort when you have had a difficult day? We

hope you are turning to God in the Bible. We'd love to hear where you go to find peace and strength. Let us know. Drop a paragraph or two in the offering plate and we will share it in next month's newsletter. Perhaps you will encourage others to be in the Word too.

PRAYER WORKS



We invite you to continue praying for Oakton's path forward. Please set your alarm for **12:00 noon every day** and **pray our new prayer** through the month of July. Then, sit and listen to what God has to say.

Holy and Loving God,

You are the Alpha and Omega, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Master of

Everything. We trust you fully and know that you will work all things for good to your glory. For that we give you thanks and praise.

Allow us to take this moment to be still. Open our hearts and minds to simply hear your will for us. We pray that we can discern your will for us as individuals as well as a community of faith. (Pause for silence) We want to do your will, we want to do your work, O God. Show us how to be disciples who boldly go and do. Give us the courage to get out of our comfort zones and share your word. Show us your power and let us always trust in you.

We want to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We want to be doers who transform the world around us. Empower us to go forth with your good news and equip us with the words and the gifts we need to be Your witnesses in this community. Amen.

Remember, nothing gets done for God without PRAYER.

We need you to take an active part in this first and vital step of our revitalization. Thanks so much for making OAKTON UMC a priority.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

The theme for the 2018 Virginia Annual Conference, held June 15-17, 2018 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Va., was “Servant Leaders Making a Difference.” The conference theme was based on I Peter 4:10, “Each of you should

use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” Service was incorporated in the conference theme and lived out in The Great Day of Service, a three-hour period on Saturday, June 16 when the conference session was halted for conference attendees to participate in service.

The Rev. Ileana Rosario, pastor of Lower UMC, York River District, preached for **the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion** in which 63 conference clergy and laity who died since the last Annual Conference were remembered.

Harry Denman Awards The clergy Denman award went to the Rev. Larry Cochran, pastor of Belmont UMC, Richmond District. The Laity award went to Kevin and Judy Mooers, members of the Northumberland Charge, Rappahannock River District. The Youth award went to Justin Robins, member of Shady Grove UMC in Mechanicsville, Richmond District.

Conference Vision Bishop Lewis reviewed her vision on June 15 that she had introduced at last year’s Annual Conference: Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve. This is her vision for the Virginia Conference for the next four years.

She reminded those gathered that all Virginia United Methodist churches will have a process of intentionally-forming disciples by 2020. She clarified that each church will have to individually choose what this will look like for their context.

She suggested that each church begin in prayer, have a conversation about their potential mission fields to form disciples and to study three books that she recommended:

- *Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Congregations* by Junius B. Dotson
- *Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the People* by Junius B. Dotson
- *From Membership to Discipleship: Grow Maturing Disciples Who Make Disciples* by Philip Maynard

Virginia Conference presented awards from Global Mission

Connections: The Rev. Amy Valdez Barker, executive director for Global Mission Connections, presented six awards to the conference for categories based on the ranking with the U.S. annual conferences. These awards were: United States Disaster Response (#1), International Disaster Response (#3), Missionary Support (#1), Mission Initiatives (#4), In Mission Together (#2) and Health-related Programs (#4).

Conference Business

Eight churches were discontinued in five districts. Two new faith communities and one chartered church and their pastors were introduced.

The body discussed three of eight resolutions on Saturday, June 16. **Resolution 6- Gracious Accommodation Virginia Annual Conference.** The resolution had to do with the implications of possible irreconcilable theological differences between that of the local congregation and United Methodist polity and discipline particularly as it pertains to ministry to and with members of the LGBTQ community on local congregations’ buildings, assets and liabilities. The resolution was called out of order by Bishop Lewis as it called to ignore a part of the Discipline; it is improper as a matter of church law as only General Conference can enact changes in the Discipline.

Resolution 3 - Compassionate Support for Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and Their Families Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and Moral Injury. The committee recommended concurrence. The resolution was approved.

Resolution 1 - Affirm Unity in Christ. The committee recommended concurrence. It resolves that the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church urges the 2019 General Conference to affirm unity in Christ in the midst of our diversity, to challenge in love all that divides and to offer to all people God's saving grace through Jesus Christ that transforms the world. They urge and pray that the 2019 General Conference will resist schism and express openness to diverse perspectives in matters of sexual identity and practice. They urge all faithful United Methodists to pray for a way forward that nurtures an inclusive, evangelical, and faithful Church. The resolution was approved.

Two motions were made from the floor on Sunday, June 17:

The Rev. Jan Rivero brought a motion that the annual conference condemns the manipulation of Scripture to justify political policy that is contrary to the command of Jesus to love all people, especially children. She spoke to the motion about the history of children being separated from their parents and is now being done on the U.S. southern border. After speeches for and against the motion was adopted.

The full text of the Rivero Motion read:

I move that the Virginia Annual Conference, meeting in Hampton, VA, June 15-17, 2018:

- Condemns the manipulation of scripture to justify a political policy that is contrary to the command of Jesus to love one another, especially children;
- Calls upon all public figures to implement policies and actions that reflect the words of Romans 13:10 which reads, "Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."

- Calls upon the Department of Justice and appropriate agencies to release detained children, reunite families unjustly separated, and develop immigration reform that protects all children and families.
- And requests that a copy of this motion, be delivered to the Attorney General of the United States.

The Rev. *Tom Thomas* brought a motion from the floor about an exit path to be considered by General Conference for churches pertaining to the outcome of the plans from the Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops. The motion was tabled.

Clergy and lay members voted on the corrected proposed Constitutional Amendment 1 on Friday, June 15. General Conference Secretary Gary Graves, in an email to conference secretaries, said, "It is imperative that this vote occur during the very next session of your annual conference (2018 or prior to May, 2019)." Results will be announced after all annual conferences vote on the amendment.

Update from Commission on a Way Forward

The Rev. Tom Berlin, member of the Commission on a Way Forward, presented a report on the work of the commission prior to the start of the Clergy and Laity sessions on Friday, June 15. The commission is a 32-member group with representatives from nine countries and held their first meeting in January 2017.

Berlin shared that materials from the commission will be available in July.

During the presentation, Berlin spoke about the phrase in the Discipline that says "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" as well as the statement that "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" cannot be ordained.

"We have another issue where people are actually leaving the church over this," Berlin said. "It's the 'leaving of the church' that is one of the issues before us." Some people are leaving because some clergy are performing same-sex marriages. Some people are leaving because clergy cannot perform same-sex marriages.

"This has possibly been one of the most Christian exercises I've ever been through," Berlin said. All the meetings of the commission, he

stated, had been based in Bible study and prayer. Berlin admitted that he had hoped the commission could find the one solution to bring peace to the entire church.

"We are everywhere. We are in red and blue states. In African nations, homosexuality is illegal. In six of those nations, it can be punished with the death penalty." Berlin said this changes the conversation considerably. Eastern and Western Germany are different. It's ludicrous to suggest that "all younger people think alike, but Gallup polls show younger people are more progressive."

He also spoke to each of the three plans that came out of the commission's work. In February 2019 delegates will go to a four-day General Conference. More information about the work of the Commission on a Way Forward is available on the Virginia Conference website at <https://www.vaumc.org/WayForward>. Berlin's slides from the presentation can be accessed at:

<https://www.vaumc.org/pages/resources/2018-ac/2018acfridaymorning>. The video of Berlin's presentation can be found at: <https://livestream.com/VAUMC/AC2018/videos/176376355>.

Glory Sightings video series

After their introduction last year, the "Glory Sightings" video series continued again this year. These videos were shown throughout conference to highlight mission and ministry throughout the Virginia Conference. These videos covered an afterschool program at a church, a food pantry ministry, a medical supplies ministry and a video covering the events from Saturday's Great Day of Service. These videos can be accessed at: <https://vimeo.com/virginiaumc>.

Great Day of Service 2018

There were 1,637 people who participated in the Great Day of Service on Saturday, June 16 from 2- 5 p.m. This day of service allowed participants three options for service: the building of 3,000 UMCOR kits, participating in three social justice talks and eight locations around the Hampton area with service projects that included cleaning

historic cemeteries and alleyways. You can view the "Glory Sighting" video about the day at: <https://vimeo.com/275491965>.

A Service for the Ordering of Ministry

Nineteen people were ordained elders, two were ordained deacons, 11 were commissioned as provisional members, two were recognized for orders and 32 were licensed as local pastors in the Saturday evening Ordering of Ministry service.

Bishop B. Michael Watson, retired bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, delivered the sermon preached on the topic of "But, I Haven't Finished Yet."

"This is a remarkable service," he said. "I wish that all United Methodists could experience an ordination service. This is a defining time for individuals and the church. It is occasion of great challenge and great celebration."

He asked all the Christian ministers to stand and said it is all baptized Christians who are baptized into ministry.

"Jesus came to reconcile all people to God," Watson said. "This is the unique role of Christ and it is now the unique role of the people of the church." He said people must be brought into the presence of God. To those who are being recognized, Bishop Watson said, "I want you to hear this. Sometimes it is hard to know what to do. You are sent, you are called, and you wonder." Bishop Watson also shared that ministry can be frustrating but there are holy moments throughout ministry.

"What a holy, holy privilege. You will have that privilege. You will decide what you do with it."

Bishop Watson ended his sermon saying, "We say to you tonight with love and affection, 'Go. Go with God.' Amen." Following the ordering ceremony, Bishop Lewis asked people to pray and invited anyone who may have a stirring of call to come forward for prayer and a continued discernment about their call to ministry.

Closing Worship

Bishop Lewis based her sermon on the Annual Conference 2018 Scripture: I Peter 4:10. She shared that at her installation service in 2016 that she wanted the Virginia Conference 'to stir up the gifts' and felt that the Great Day of Service the day before showed that the conference could discover those gifts and employ them to serve others.

"As the body of Christ, we no longer experience the freedom of the Holy Spirit or operate in our spiritual gifts because we are too concerned with what we may look like to our fellow colleagues or parishioners or just too afraid—as United Methodists—that we will be labeled as charismatic. Beloved, I believe just like we experienced yesterday; that it's time for the body of Christ to discover your gifts; use your gifts and stir up gifts.

"When you use the gifts God has given you, you will discover that God will give you the power you need to operate in your gift," she said. "It is by grace we received the gift and it is by grace that we use the gift. My brothers and sisters, spiritual gifts enable the body of Christ to function as whole."

Bishop Lewis reminded those gather that once you have discovered your gift, you must do something with it.

"Just think about it: when someone gives you a gift, what do they expect you to do with it. They expect you to use it."

Wrap-up stats: Annual Conference members brought 44,774 disaster relief kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to Annual Conference. Kits included: 29,409 Hygiene kits; 13,367 School kits; 703 Birthing kits; 334 Layette kits; 840 Cleaning kits; 16 Bedding kits; 102 Sewing kits; and 3 miscellaneous kits.

At the Saturday morning retirement service, 44 pastors retired. Attendees of conference contributed almost 9,000 pounds of canned goods and boxed dry foods as part of the "4 Cans 4 Conference" drive.

Members approved a 2019 budget of \$31,615,000, down \$185,000 from the 2018 budget.

The Conference Treasurer reported that statistics show a decline but membership stood at 320,000. Worship attendance stood at 100,000. Engaged in small groups were at 95,000. Some 75,000 serve in mission reaching over 1 million in their communities and around the world. Financial resources are good. Virginia Conference church members tithed \$200 million. Church owned assets generated \$25 million. Eight hundred and eighty-one churches paid 100 percent of their apportionments, a 2.6 percent increase over 2016. The 2019 budget was approved or \$31,615,000, a reduction from the 2018 budget.

A conference offering of \$111,000 was collected. The offering was divided between the following: Cambodia, Brazil, Mozambique, Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams working with Native Americans, Haiti, Cuba recovery, Puerto Rico recovery and new this year, Moscow Seminary.