



**OAKLAND**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROOTED IN CHRIST

### Returning to In Person Worship

At their September meeting, the Session voted to return to in person worship effective Sunday, October 4. Here are some details about what to expect:

- Worship will only be held at 11:00 am (no 8:45 am service yet)
- The 11:00 am service will continue to be available at [oaklandpres.org/worship](http://oaklandpres.org/worship) for those who wish to continue worshipping from home
- We will wear masks at all times (covering both the mouth and the nose)
- Some pews will be blocked off to allow for socially-distanced seating
- The congregation can sing hymns from a seated position (while wearing masks)
- We are only resuming in person worship at this time. Sunday School classes and Fellowship Half Hour will continue to meet virtually via Zoom
- Attendance will be taken to provide for contact tracing if it is needed

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### World Communion Sunday is October 4

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. We will participate in this global celebration by receiving the Lord’s Supper together on October 4.

#### Calendar highlights

- Oct. 4 - return to in person worship
- Oct. 4 - Communion
- Oct. 11 - Blessing of the Animals
- Oct. 11 - deadline for CAT survey
- Oct. 15 - Session meeting
- Oct. 19 - Deacon meeting



**August 2020  
Contributions:**  
\$25,569

**August 2020  
Expenses:**  
\$28,879

**Balance:**  
(\$3,310)

**2020 Jan.-Aug.  
Contributions:**  
\$276,266

**2020 Jan.-Aug.  
Expenses:**  
\$303,614

**Balance:**  
(\$27,348)

## Virtual Fellowship and Sunday School

We offer four Sunday School classes. Contact information for each class listed below is available in our church directory.

- Children - Sunday mornings, 9:30 am via Zoom  
Contact Tiffany Goggans
- Band of Brothers - Sunday mornings, 9:30 am via Zoom  
Contact Dennis Salmon
- The Forum Class - Sunday mornings, 9:30 am via Zoom  
Contact Al Passwater
- Women of Faith - Sunday evenings, 7:00 pm via Zoom  
Contact Sylvia Barto

We are also meeting every Sunday at 12:30 pm for a half hour of virtual fellowship. The link for each week's meeting can be found on our church calendar at [oaklandpres.org/calendar](http://oaklandpres.org/calendar)

## Blessing of the Animals

All of our church family pets are invited to the second annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 11, at 4:00 pm. This brief community service will take place in the front parking lot this year due to COVID-19 safety measures. All participants will remain in their vehicles. The service is open to the public, and all creatures of our God and King are invited. We will even bless your plush animal friends!



## From the Pastor

I am so glad we are returning to in person worship on Oct. 4. I look forward to seeing more of you on a regular basis here at church. Please remember we will have one service at 11 AM and that we will ask everyone to have a temperature check at the door and bring a mask to wear in worship. We will have congregational singing, behind our masks to keep from spreading any virus germs we don't know we have to share.



As I think back on the month behind us and look at the church calendar, I realize that we have entered a busy time in the church year. You have elected the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and they are at work! Some of you have been gracious to say you wish I could stay. That is flattering, but I know that God has someone wonderful in mind to come join you here in ministry. I hope that you are regularly joining me in prayer for your PNC and for the pastor God is preparing to join you here.

I hope you are doing more than praying, too. I hope you are thinking about ways you can help the PNC with their work of calling the next pastor. Normally a part of that process would be for the congregation to have meetings to reflect together and share what people love about the church and what they think needs to be strengthened for effective witness in the future. In the midst of pandemic, face to face meetings of two to three hours are not practical and the session has chosen instead to use a company which has provided help to churches in planning for the future for many years as an alternative so that the PNC can get your input and move ahead with its work.

The Congregational Assessment Tool has been sent out. If you received one, I hope you have already completed it. The PNC is counting on input from the congregation as they write the description of this church and what it needs in its next pastor. That description will be the basis for letting pastors who are open to a call know about you. The survey asks about the church's relationship with its former installed pastor to discover what qualities in him people loved to help the PNC know what qualities are important to you in your next pastor. Please feed that CAT soon if you have not done it yet. *We want to have all responses in by October 11!*

I hope your pledge is in for next year to help your session build a realistic budget for 2021. Whether your pledge can be more than this year's or needs to be less, your session is counting on you to help them know how to plan.

We count on all of you and on your love of Oakland Presbyterian Church to keep this a place of warm welcome and witness in this community and beyond just as it has been since 1887.

Blessings to you this day and every day,

Paige



## October Sermon Series

Join us for worship in October for the following messages in the series *Lives Transformed*:

**October 4:**  
John 4:4-42  
*The Samaritan Woman*

**October 11:**  
Mark 10:13-16  
*Children*

**October 18:**  
John 9:1-33  
*The Blind Beggar*

**October 25:**  
Exodus 2:11-22; 3:1-12  
*Moses*

## From Preschool Director Laurie Templin



### Loved for Who We Are

“When I was a child, my parents loved me not because I was good but because I was ... their child. I loved them, and I wanted to please them, but their love of me did not have to be earned.

Neither does the love of God. We are loved because we are his children, because we are. If we feel that we ought to be loved because it is our due, because we deserve it, the less we will truly feel the need of God’s love; the less implicit will be our trust; the less we will cry out, *Abba!*”

- Madeline L’Engle,  
*Walking on Water*

Our October looks a bit different this year, as so much has changed during this time of pandemic. We are very blessed to have fifty students enrolled in the Preschool, all healthy, happy, and well!

We are planning our Halloween celebration a bit differently this year. Utilizing our wonderful driveway space and picnic pavilion, we will be having an outdoor Halloween event for our students, including themed treat stops manned by costumed teachers and a photo booth showcasing the great talents of our favorite photographer, Mr. Cecil Ramsey. Change is fun and refreshing, and pushes us all to try new ideas!

We wish everyone a very happy October. “Autumn is a time to play! Let’s thank God for every day!”

- Laurie Templin



### VPK Openings!

We still have openings in our VPK program. If you know of any four-year-olds who would benefit from social engagement and preparation for kindergarten, please recommend Oakland Presbyterian Preschool to the parents.

preschool registration



## Faith-Based Conversation Starters for Families

Any time your family gathers together is a great time to have faith-based conversations together. Here is a list of conversation starters you can use as a family. Simply print out the following questions, glue them on some popsicle sticks, and place your popsicle sticks in a jar or a basket. Keep them at the dinner table, in your car, or in another place your family gathers. When you're together, invite a family member to pick a popsicle stick and ask the question for everyone to discuss.

- What's the most surprising thing you've learned at church?
  - What's one question you would like to ask Jesus?
  - What's your favorite time of day to pray?
  - When you're outside, what's something that reminds you of God?
  - Who is one of your role models and why?
  - What's your favorite service activity?
  - What's something you want to learn more about?
  - If you could help anyone, who would you help?
  - What is the first word that comes to mind when you think about church?
  - Who is a woman in the Bible you'd like to learn more about?
  - Who could you invite to church?
  - What is your favorite part of worship?
  - If you could change one thing about your church, what would it be?
  - What is something you'd like to pray for?
  - How can you use your hands to share God's love?
  - What is a job at church you'd like to do?
  - Who do you ask when you have a question about the Bible?
  - Where is your favorite place to worship?
- 

## Youth News

The Youth Group will continue meeting from 6:00 - 7:30 pm every Wednesday evening. We will meet at the pavilion area by the playground but will move indoors to the CLC if the weather is not agreeable. Masks are required and we will also do a temperature check before we begin. Andy and Rebekah are having a lot of fun getting to know our church youth.

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## Children's Choir Update

Children's choir has begun virtual choir lessons with instructional videos prepared by Ms. Bonnie. Children's Choir is open to children ages three through fifth grade. Students do not have to be members of OPC to participate.

**Registration is continuous online. For program details and to register, click [HERE](#).**

*"Bonnie, thank you so much for these videos. We are so grateful and enjoy practicing our lessons!"*  
-parent feedback

## Thursday Theology Class

Join Paige every Thursday at 6:30 pm for Theology on Thursdays. Right now we are discussing and studying The Belhar Confession. The link to join the Zoom meeting can be found on our church calendar at [oaklandpres.org/calendar](http://oaklandpres.org/calendar)

## Mother's Day Basket Update

At their last meeting, the Mission Committee voted to suspend collections for the Mother's Day basket mission project until some time next year. They hope to be able to offer the ministry again in 2021, but they will wait to accepting donations.



## Service of Lament & Healing

Join Port Orange Presbyterian for a presbytery-wide Service of Lament and Healing. This reflective worship time will be filled with scripture, silence, and an opportunity to lift up our prayers of lament and hope. **The service will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 6:30 pm.** The livestream is available [HERE](#) on their Facebook page.

## Session News

Here are the actions taken by the Session at their last two meetings on August 27 and September 17, 2020.

- Heard the Treasurer's reports for July and August. July was a net positive month, but overall we have a net loss of (\$27,348) for the year-to-date.
- Reviewed the Disaster Plan prepared by the Property Committee. Also reviewed questions and some proposed clarifications from church staff and other committee members. Agreed that the Property Committee would review the questions and recommendations.
- Approved resuming Handbell Choir rehearsals based on the proposed procedures presented by Music Director Michael Shortal.
- Reviewed the plan for Stewardship season presented by the Administrative/Stewardship Committee.
- Approved hiring Holy Cow Consulting to work with the church to create a survey to assist the Pastor Nominating Committee in their work.
- Reviewed reports from the Board of Deacons.
- Agreed to review plans from the Scouts regarding moving their meetings indoors. Asked them to provide information regarding safeguards and protocols to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19.
- Approved a car wash fundraiser for the Boy Scouts to be held on September 19
- Approved the PW Ladies' Tea to be held on March 13, 2021, pending and assuming the reopening of the church has occurred prior to their event.
- Approved the reception of new members Joe and Stacey Gillespie, and the baptism of their three younger children, Logan, Noah, and Owen - all to take place during worship on Sept. 27.
- Examined the newly elected Elders and Deacons and voted to ordain and install the new officers on Sept. 20 during worship.
- Learned that the PILP loan request that was previously approved by Session for the purchase and installation of solar panels has been put on hold given the ongoing impacts from COVID-19. The Property Committee requested that the loan be put on hold and PILP agreed.
- Heard that the Worship Committee will be purchasing poinsettias for this year's Advent/Christmas display.
- Reviewed the Mission Committee report that included information on the church's donation of \$17,500 to the work of Dan and Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar with the FJKM Church.
- Learned that the Preschool so far has not had any issues related to COVID-19.
- Voted to change the Communion date in October. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday, October 4.
- Had prayer for many members of our church and community.

## Looking Ahead to November

- Nov. 1 - All Saints Day
- Nov. 1 - Daylight Saving Time Ends (fall back)
- Nov. 3 - Election Day - Preschool is closed
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
- Nov. 16 - Deacon meeting
- Nov. 19 - Session meeting
- Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent



*“Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.*

*-Henry Ward Beecher*

The Oakleaf is the monthly newsletter of Oakland Presbyterian Church. We welcome all visitors to worship on Sundays!

Early Service: 8:45 am \* Traditional Service: 11:00 am

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Reverend Dr. Paige M. McRight. - *Interim Pastor*

Derek Blakeslee - *Treasurer*

Diane Flagler - *Organist/Pianist*

Stacey Gillespie - *Office Administrator*

Tiffany Goggans - *Director of Christian Education*

Jim Gordon - *Property Manager*

Bonnie Litteral - *Director of Children's Choirs*

Michael Shortal - *Director of Music*

Alecia Spence - *Business Manager*

Laurie Templin - *Preschool Director*