



DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 27, No 1 January 2017 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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Worship Service Time:

10:00 Worship

11:00 Koinonia



December 18, in spite of freezing temperatures, the Sunday school Christmas Program went on as scheduled.

"We seek to grow in Christ and to share our love of God in Word and Deed."



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

It is time to burst forth “should old acquaintances be forgot and never brought to mind.”

Ring out the old and ring in the new as we say good bye to 2016 and hello to 2017. We get to leave yesterday's pessimism for tomorrow's optimism. It is a time when we get to draw an imaginary line between midnight December 31 and 12:01 A.M. on January 1, 2017 and proclaim a redo.

One of the ways we leave the not so good behind and not take it with us into the new year is through a resolution. Now I have been told that the average New Year's resolutions lasts only till about mid-February. I don't know how they got that figure but I do know that would explain my four-hundred-pound weight loss. Every year I tell myself that I want to lose twenty pounds and for the last twenty years I have lost that twenty pounds only to gain it back. So for twenty years at twenty pounds that means I lost four hundred pounds. Of course it means I gained four hundred pounds, too!

Needless to say, there is a necessity for change as there is a need to grow and prosper. As Jesus said, “a single grain must die before it bears much fruit.” Funny thing about this world it keeps moving on and changing whether we like it or not. I believe God has a lot to do with that as God continues to create and recreate this world into the Creation that God intended it to be in the beginning. On the seventh day God rested but on the eighth day God continued God's work of creating.

I remember an old classmate of mine who thought he had invented the perpetual motion machine. He got a lot of prestigious professors and people of science to come and look at his machine, but nobody bought into his invention. At the time of his death he still had not conquered gravity and friction with his perpetual motion machine.

Sometimes people think they are perpetual motion machines and since churches are made up of people we think our churches are perpetual motion machines. We will all stay the same for ever and ever! I remember the forty something man who told me that he was the same today as he was twenty years ago. I asked him had he sinned in the last twenty years and he replied “yes.” Then I asked him if he had asked God for forgiveness of

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those sins and he said “yes.” Then I asked him do you still sin in the same way after asking God to forgive and he said “no.” Then I said you have changed.

On January 22nd we have a chance to engage in a conversation about the future of our church. The Oakland UMC today is doing some fantastic stuff and bearing witness to our love in Jesus Christ through some great mission work. Some of the needs we fill through our missions will never go away as Jesus has told us “the poor will always be with us.” But what are the new challenges for our community, nation and the world around us?

No matter what question you ask the big question always is, “what is God calling us to be as a community of faith?” We know our strengths and our gifts and talents. We know what we like to do and do it very well, but is this what God is calling us to be?

Between now and January 22nd I ask you all to pray about what it is God is calling us to be. I also ask you to think about what the church may look like in the next 5, 10 or 20 years from now? What have been our strengths and our weaknesses? What does the community of Oakland say who we are and if we closed our doors what service or mission would the town miss? Another key question is what is our vision and where are we going and how are we going to get there?

So many questions! Never enough answers, but it is something to think about before we come together to have a conversation about our faith community and where we are going and what is God calling us to be. We may not know the answers to the questions or we may not know the question to ask, but what we do know is we have started out on a journey to continue Oakland UMC as a viable place where our God is very active and people's lives are being transformed for the good.

After church on January 22nd we will share a meal and discuss our identity now and what God is calling us to be as children of God. So, come join us! Everybody is welcome!

See you Sunday,
Rev. Dennis Hopes

GODLY HUMOR

NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

A middle aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she has a near death experience. During that experience she sees God and asks if this is it.

God says no and explains that she has another 30 years to live. Upon her recovery she decides to just stay in the hospital and have a face lift, liposuction, breast augmentation, tummy tuck, etc.

She even has someone come in and change her hair color. She figures since she's got another 30 years she might as well make the most of it. She walks out of the hospital after the last operation and is killed by an ambulance.

She arrives in front of God and complains: "I thought you said I had another 30 years!!"

God replies, "Sorry, I didn't recognize you."
From Reader's Digest

Confessions of a Store Santa

While I was working as a store Santa, a boy asked me for an electric train set. "If you get your train," I told him, "your dad is going to want to play with it too. Is that all right?"

The boy became very quiet. So, moving the conversation along, I asked, "What else would you like Santa to bring you?"

He promptly replied, "Another train."

---From guy-sports.com

Better Luck Next Year

I once bought my kid a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying "Toys not included." -- Bernard Manning

Scrooge, Junior Grade

Four-year-old to her two-year-old sister: "Let's play Christmas. I'll be Santa Claus and you can be a present and I'll give you away."

—Contributed by Mrs. Kenneth Labaugh

Part-Time Work

Scene: A man applying for credit at a department store.

Clerk: What do you do for a living?

Man: I'm a tree trimmer.

Clerk: What do you do after Christmas?

Ruth Sadeckas, Joelton, Tennessee

Reindeer Lessons

Did you hear that Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer never went to school?

That's right—he was elf taught.

No Umbrellas at the North Pole?

Q: Why are Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen always wet?

A: Because they are rain deer.

Green Thumb?

Q: Why does Santa have three garden plots up at the North Pole?

A: That way he can hoe, hoe, hoe!

Oh, iGet It

Q: What do you get when you combine a Christmas tree with an iPad?

A: A pineapple.

What Does December Have...

What does December have that other months don't have?

The letter D.

Kids Say the Darnedest Things

Q: Why did the children call St. Nick "Santa Caus"?

A: Because there was Noël.

Gift Exchange

My friend reviewed her young son's fill-in-the-blank homework. One line: "At Christmas, we exchange gifts with ____."

His response: "Receipts."



Community Meal

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

Come join us for a light meal.

Bring a friend

January 31st

5:30—6:30 p.m.

Last Tuesday of the month



Getting to Know You



Daily Bible Readings for January



- 1 John 1:1-18
- 2 John 1:19-34
- 3 John 1:35-51
- 4 Matthew 1:1-17
- 5 Matthew 1:18-25 Epiphany
- 6 Matthew 2:1-12
- 7 Matthew 2:13-23
- 8 Matthew 3:1-17
- 9 Matthew 8:1-17
- 10 Matthew 8:18-34
- 11 Matthew 9:1-17
- 12 Matthew 9:18-38
- 13 Matthew 10:1-15
- 14 Matthew 10:16-31
- 15 Matthew 10:32-42
- 16 Matthew 11:1-19
- 17 Matthew 11:20-30
- 18 Matthew 16:13-28
- 19 Matthew 17:1-23
- 20 Matthew 18:1-14
- 21 Matthew 19:13-30
- 22 John 17:1-26
- 23 Matthew 20:1-19
- 24 Matthew 20:20-34
- 25 Acts 9:1-25
- 26 Acts 9:26-43
- 27 Acts 10:1-33
- 28 Acts 10:34-48
- 29 John 10:1-21
- 30 John 10:22-42
- 31 John 14:1-14

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January Birthdays

- 2 Ashley Way
- 3 Emily Johnson
- 4 Kristy Bane
- 5 Jamie Ewalt
- 5 Brent Applegate
- 8 Gerald Wilson
- 9 LaVinna Blanch
- 11 Cale Roller
- 12 Evan Gleaves
- 13 Larry Danker
- 14 Brad Cleaveland
- 15 Marv Thompson
- 15 Claire Harris
- 15 Jessie Shiffer
- 15 Dave Woodward
- 15 Kim Gambiana
- 17 Greg Bentley
- 17 Ethan Vlcek
- 19 Eric Duhachek
- 19 Ryan Danker
- 20 Fred G. Henry
- 21 Craig Hummel
- 21 Jacob Schwarte
- 23 Rachel Allensworth
- 24 Isabella Gute
- 24 Jerry Pierce
- 25 Justine Cleaveland
- 27 Brody Kinnison
- 27 Claire Palmer
- 28 Lindsay Bentley
- 28 Judie Danker
- 30 Don Hildebrand
- 31 Tammy Forrester
- 31 Dick Cleaveland
- 31 Jady Price

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Oakland United Methodist Church

General Fund Expenses -- 2017 BUDGET

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits

Pastor's Salary	49,780
Pastor's Continuing Education	500
Pastor's Health Insurance	14,784
Pastor's Pension	9,334
Pastor's Travel Reimbursement	1,500
Annual Conference Expense	400
Pastor's Miscellaneous Expenses	300

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits 76,598

Staff Compensation and Benefits

Custodian Salary	7,725
Admin Assistant Salary	7,725
Organist Salary	3,789
FICA Medicare	1,190
Workman's Compensation	1,000

Staff Compensation and Benefits 21,429

United Methodist Conference Apportionments

General Church Apportionments	5,436
Conference Ministries	15,135
Conference Missions	5,375
District Asking	1,452

Conference Apportionments 27,398

Utilities

Electricity & Gas	7,000
City Utilities (Water, Trash & Sewage)	500
Telephone/Internet	3,500

Utilities 11,000

Property & Building Expense

Parsonage Maintenance	2,500
Church Building Maintenance	2,500
Church Equipment & Maintenance	1,000
Custodial Supplies	750
Custodial Equipment	250
Snow Removal	750
Yard Care	1,000
Insurance	6,000

Property & Building Expense 14,750

Administrative Expense

Postage	1,200
Office Supplies	1,200
Office Machine Maintenance	5,000
Continuing Education Administrative Assistant	200
Bank Fees (Safe Deposit Box)	32

Administrative Expense 7,632

Christian Education/Fellowship & Worship Expense

Sunday School	800
Youth Ministry	250
Vacation Bible School	1,500
Common Cupboard	400
Worship	300
Stewardship	250
Music	300
Media	900
Adult Education	250

Christian Education/Fellowship & Worship Exp.

4,950

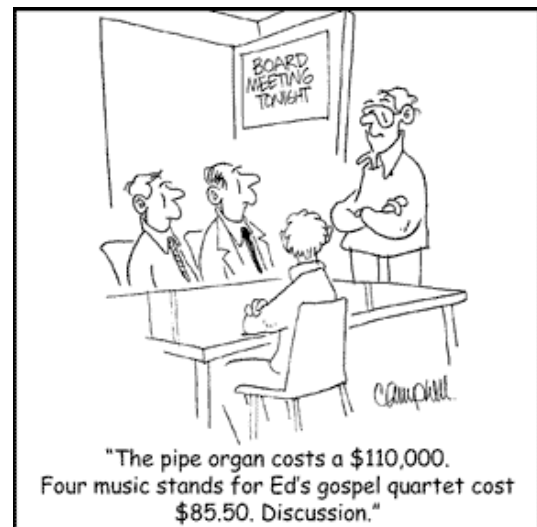
Miscellaneous Expense

Lay Member to Annual Conference	400
Mission Project Committee	3,000
Miscellaneous	250

Miscellaneous Expense 3,650

Total Program Expenses

167,407



Remember those in Nursing Homes with cards and visits.

Oakland Manor

Margaret Alff
Lucille Bentley
Erma Cleaveland



Oakland Heights

Janice Harris
Neuonia Timberman
Anita Killion



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*



Pray for

Our Military Family

Kristie Copenhaver, John & Mary Lou Copenhaver's daughter; **Jared Myers**, son of Robert Myers and Sid & Tami Skank; **Sonja Husz**, Niece of Butch & Velda Husz; **Lucas Smith**, Addie Mae's grandson; **Brian Thornton** from Avoca; **Tyler Clark**, Marvin & Carolyn Clark's grandson; **Brad Grosvenor**, Cathey Grosvenor's son stateside, and other area service men and women. **Landen Pedersen**, son of Tab and Lorie Pederson; Bryan Santiago, Carol Kroft's son-in-law.

If you have a loved one in the service and wish to have them listed on our prayer list, please contact the church office.

January Calendar

Sun, 1st	10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/A&A 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Wed, 4th	6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
Sun, 8th	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship/Un-decorate the church 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Wed, 11th	6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
Sat, 14th	7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sun, 15th	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship/3rd Sunday/Human Relations Sunday Offering/Children's Choir 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Wed, 18th	6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
Thu, 19th	7:00 p.m. Ad Board Meeting
Sun, 22nd	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Koinonia 1:00 p.m. Lunch & Planning Session
Jan 23 -	Pastor Dennis on vacation
Wed, 25th	6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
Sun, 29th	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Tue, 31st	5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tasty Tuesday

Please keep Diana Hopes in your prayers. Later in January, (the 24th) Diana will be having knee revision replacement surgery. At that time Pastor Dennis will be taking some time off to be with her.

Please keep both Pastor Dennis and Diana in your prayers.

Annual Coat Drive

There is a receptacle for coat collection in the entry of the church.

Please donate your clean, slightly used coats for all ages. If your family has outgrown their coats, they can keep someone else warm this winter.



See the church web page for the college ministry articles. www.oaklandiaumc.org

See us at: Web page:

www.oaklandiaumc.org

[Facebook.com/oakiamethchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oakiamethchurch)

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Address Service Requested

"We invite all persons to be a part of our Community of Faith by participating in worship, education, fellowship and Christian service."

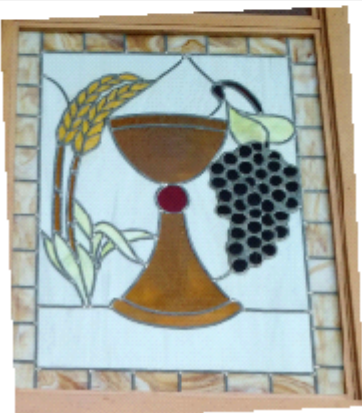
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**STAIN GLASS
WINDOWS
THE MEANING OF THE
SYMBOLS**

**THE WORK OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR
LIVES**

Stain Glass

The Lord's Supper - grapes,
wine, wheat



Our 3 Wise Men and an Angel

Grant Bane, Cole Jeppesen,
Kort Rieken, Meg Haines