



The Guiding Light

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.

Office hours: Mon. & Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (please call to verify)
508-882-5537 * OakhamCC@verizon.net www.OakhamChurch.org
Rev. Timothy Hanley, Pastor

Message from Rev. Tim

"A long and rich tradition

First-century Christians were branded as lawbreakers for refusing to bow to the Roman emperor. Martin Luther broke ecclesiastical laws of the Catholic Church. American abolitionists broke laws to bring about racial equality. During the tyranny of Nazi Germany, Corrie ten Boom's family protected Jews, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Niemoller resisted Hitler's regime. Anabaptists, Quakers, Mennonites, and Brethren communities refused to engage in war. Christians smuggled Bibles into the Soviet Union and other Soviet Bloc nations, and some are still doing that today in places such as North Korea, China, and Iran." (Sojourners article by Shane Claiborne)

Last March I joined in the March for Our Lives held in Worcester where response to the school shooting in Parkland, FL and the arising consciousness of students, teachers, parents, and citizens everywhere with regard to gun violence in America. I heard speeches from our Worcester area students and I was very impressed. They spoke their fears and concerns well. The questions they posed to all people were intelligent and balanced. They spoke of continual political inaction in the face of very many tragedies just like the one in a Florida high school. Their goal was clear: as for this aspect of American life, they wanted to end business as usual. I pray we can be relentless in ending this scourge on America and our students. What kind of people are we if we settle for the status quo—business as usual. Thankfully, there are signs here and there that things are changing for the good of us all.

The paragraph which begins this article is

an important reminder to us that the primary goal of Christianity is NOT to be nice, avoiding all conflict, and simply offering cans of non-perishables when we are reminded of those who are hungry. We are meant to be the people who hunger and thirst after righteousness (also meaning justice) just as did our ancestors in the faith.

The disciples were much an unruly bunch. "These people (disciples) are out to destroy the world, and now they've shown up on our doorstep, attacking everything we hold dear!...[saying] Jesus is King and Caesar is nothing!" See book of Acts 17:6-7. That phrase "everything we hold dear" is really loaded. Some TV commentators that have maligned Parkland School student leaders, have suddenly found advertisers dropping sponsorship. That hits in that everything-we-hold-dear realm because money or celebrity are often at the root of close mindedness and failure to act for the good of many.

St. Augustine, one of the great teachers of Christian faith said, "An unjust law is no law at all". Therefore, throwing ourselves on the mantra of supporting law and order becomes a problem in also proclaiming that Christ is Lord.

Some would tell us that these marches and protests divide people even more and so just add to our cultural woes. But Jesus said, "Love your enemies". And behind that command follows a lifetime of learning to listen to, and talk with others of opposing viewpoints. This is very hard for any of us to do, but seems to me is crucial if we are to do what Jesus asked us to do. It takes work to learn this way of being. I don't see much of this kind of blessed work being done at present in America.

Church folks must resist when we see evil being visited on people. Gandhi said, "Noncooperation with evil is as much a duty as cooperation with good." The apostle Paul said, "Do not conform yourself to this world, but let God transform you by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12

That transformation is a lifetime job. It takes willingness to confront "business as usual" when that business is hurting God's people.

So, I like a good protest, march or picket line. Those marching or picketing are not always right or fair. If they are non-violent, however, they stand in



Inside this issue:

Vacation Bible School	2
Calendars	3
Food Pantry	4
Outreach Board	4
Membership Info	4
UFO Group	4

the long line of history struggling to bring greater understanding, fairer treatment, and cooperative action to make society a place where the values Christ taught are appreciated and experienced.

Claiborne said in his article, "I prefer to think of non-violent civil obedience as divine obedience." I agree. God help us in our struggles.

Rev. Tim

Adult Education

Beginning April 24, 7-8 p.m.

"The World Was Never The Same": Events that changed history.

(a video supported course)

From Moses and Monotheism, through the Jesus story and teachings of Muhammad to Columbus, Luther, the Battle of Lexington, Darwin and the last one hundred years we take a look at the events that shook our world. We will hold this history up to the history our faith and the movement of God in our lives.



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The Oakham Congregational Church will once again this year hold a Vacation Bible School (VBS). This year's dates are August 13-17 . The program will run Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Each day children will be taught a Bible story, learn new songs, make craft projects, play games, and be provided with a snack. The program is open to any child from preschool through grade 5. Any youth grade 6 and older are welcome to participate in the program as helpers. The program is ecumenical in nature, so any child is welcome regardless of their religious affiliation. A modest registration fee is asked, but certainly can be waived if necessary. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Heather Stewart at 508-867-2710. The registration form below can be filled out and sent to the church.

VBS is open to everyone.

Vacation Bible School

Aug. 13—17, 9:00 a.m.—12 noon, daily

Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade in September _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

In case of emergency contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Does your child have:

Any physical restrictions: _____ Food allergies: _____

Any other allergies we should be aware of: _____

Please mail this registration form with \$20.00, first child, (additional family members \$15.00) to cover the cost of the program to: **VBS, 4 Coldbrook Road, Unit 12, Oakham, MA 01068**. For any questions, concerns or for scholarship assistance, please call Heather Stewart at 508-867-2710 or the church office at 508-882-5537.

Opportunity Fund Applications

The Opportunity Fund is accepting applications. The purpose of the Opportunity Fund is to provide financial assistance to individuals in the town of Oakham or within the Oakham Congregational Church Community to support an endeavor that provides spiritual, personal and/or vocational advancement for the applicant. The Outreach Committee acts as the Opportunity Fund Committee. Proceeds from the Annual Bob Tyck Memorial Golf Tournament support the Opportunity Fund. For applications call Linda at 508-882-5222.

UFO Group


The UFO Group meets in Fellowship Hall from 9:30—11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. They have started working on the quilt to be raffled at the annual fair in November. They will also be working on a new project every month, which will be posted on the table in Fellowship Hall. For further information contact Cheryl Habink 508-282-6220 or Edna Holloway 508-882-3619.

Church Membership

The Oakham Congregational Church is a community of faith comprised of many members and friends. One need not be an official member of the church to participate in many of its activities or to worship. However, one does need to be a member to vote on matters concerning the church. If you are not an official member of the Oakham Congregational Church and would like to be one, please contact Rev. Tim or one of the Deacons.

2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.	9 Knit, OCC 10:00 a.m. Dismas Dinner 6:00 p.m.	10	11	12 Sewing Group 1:00 p.m.
13 	14	15 Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.	16 UFO Group 9:30 a.m.	17	18	19
20 Pentecost Sunday	21	22 Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.	23	24 Knit, Library 6:30 p.m.	25	26
27	28 	29 Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.	30	31		

2018



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24	25	26 Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.	27	28 Knit, Library 6:30 p.m.	29	30 

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Oakham Congregational Church
4 Coldbrook Road—Unit 12
Oakham, MA 01068

Local Postal Customer

OAKHAM, MA 01068

Food Pantry

We donate to the Barre Food Pantry and the Rutland Food Pantry. All contributions of food are graciously welcomed and can be dropped off here at the church. Monetary contributions can be made directly to the Barre Food Pantry by mailing them to: Barre Congregational Church, P.O.Box 936, Barre, MA 01005 or the Rutland Congregational Church, P.O. Box 484, Rutland, MA 01543

We are also continually in need of replenishing the stock of our local food pantry here at the church. These items are available to local folks who are in need. Please consider canned meats and non-perishable boxed milk along with your other donations. Checks to support this ministry can be made payable to the Oakham Congregational Church with a note in the memo stating: Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Dismas Family Farm Dinners

On the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m., the church prepares a dinner for the Dismas Family Farm on Lincoln Road. If you would like to help with a meal, please contact the church at 508-882-5537.

Have a safe and fun summer!



Vacation Bible School
Aug. 13-17
9:00 a.m.—noon



Open to all!

24th Bob Tyck Memorial Golf Tournament

Proceeds to Benefit:
Bob Tyck Memorial Fund, Oakham Opportunity Fund,
Camp Putnam, OCC Outreach Program, Oakham Fire Dept.
Barre/Rutland/Oakham Food Bank, Quabbin Pro Musica

Sponsored by: Oakham Congregational Church

Quail Hollow Golf & Country Club
Old Turnpike Road
Oakham, MA

Friday, August 3rd, 2018
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

For more information contact:

Art Gray 508-882-5557 Bill Macha 508-882-5284
George Paradis 508-882-3068 Gretchen Nahkala 508-341-7094
Brett Oumette 413-668-6440 Brian Laramie 413-265-5289