



APRIL – MAY 2026

What are some of your favorite signs of the incoming season? What messages are conveyed through the signs we see along the highways and byways of life?

If you look around, you'll see all sorts of signs that point to the changing of the seasons. Spring has sprung, and nature is awakening. I've seen several butterflies floating by, and lots of little buds popping up out of the ground – these are welcome signs of new life. Of course, the greatest sign of Spring's arrival is the upcoming celebration of Easter. Soon, the dogwoods will be blooming, and their lovely petals will open up to remind us of Jesus Christ's loving sacrifice. Whenever you see a dogwood in full blossom, I hope that you too will rejoice in the good news that Jesus gave everything for you.

Speaking of signs, I wonder if you've ever heard "Signs" by The Five Man Electrical Band (also covered by Tesla in 1990). It's best known for its familiar hook, "Sign, sign, everywhere a sign; blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind. Do this, don't do that, can't you read the signs?!"

The song lifts up the unfortunate truth that many signs are posted to prohibit certain behaviors or limit accessibility. Not surprisingly, many of us don't appreciate the signs that attempt to restrict our self-expression and limit our liberties. Even the signs posted with the best of intentions can do harm. Rather than "No Dogs Allowed" or "No skateboards, bicycles, or skates", I'd rather see encouraging phrases like "Have a Nice Day", "Oak Hill UMC, A Great Place to Turn Around", or "Jesus Love You, and There's Nothing You Can Do About It!"

Whether you realize it or not, our church sign requires a lot of attention, and a little bit of discernment as phrases are selected for encouragement rather than rebuke. I frequently receive comments from folks who say that they actually look forward to our sign – and they appreciate the messages we post. I'm also grateful to those who take on the sign as an outreach ministry and evangelism tool. If you had to change the letters on the sign, what would you say?

Blessings...Pastor Adam

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2 - Maundy Thursday Meal, 5:15, and Service, 6:00, MPAC	For weekly, recurring meetings, activities, and ALL church events, please go to the Main Church Calendar on our website - www.ohumc.com
April 3 - Good Friday, Tenebrae Service, 7:00, Linville UMC	
April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt, 2:00-4:00, Fellowship Hall	
April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service, 7:00, MPAC Parking Lot - Easter Worship, 10:30, Sanctuary	
April 7 - New Book Study begins, 6:00, Wade Aldridge Classroom	
April 26 - Women's Sunday, 10:30, Covered Dish Luncheon to Follow	
May 10 - Mother's Day, 10:30, Sanctuary, Presentation of Flowers	



NEWS 

The Green Team met on Monday, March 23rd to prepare a pollinator garden site at the edge of the woods surrounding the field near the MPAC building. The site was chosen for its proximity to the beehive and because it is out of the way of helicopter landings.



Members weed-eated and raked the area, tilled the soil, removed tree roots, and direct-sowed seeds. David Henson will transplant black-eyed Susans from his home garden. If all goes well, beautiful flowers will bloom by summer.

Many thanks to Green Team members for their efforts to care for creation!



Congratulations to our congregation for recycling **58.85 pounds** of clean plastic, as of March 22, 2026.

The plastic collection containers fill up about every 2 weeks!

Helpful tip: Please look for these symbols on food pouches. Some pouches containing nuts, cheese, and oats use a material which looks like plastic but is actually a different, non-recyclable material. Check your pouches for one of these symbols before recycling. Pouches with these symbols are acceptable for recycling in our plastic recycling program. Thank you to everyone! Keep up the good work!

OHUMC Food Pantry: Q1 2026 Update

Through the Grace of God and the loving generosity of our congregation, the OHUMC Food Pantry continues to be a robust outreach ministry. Each Wednesday, our small team of volunteers serves 30–50 families, providing boxes with 2–3 meals to our neighbors in need. Numbers are only one chapter of our story, but they reflect the success of this ministry:

- 390 families served in Q1.
- 6,207 lbs of food distributed (averaging 16 lbs per family).
- 669 lbs of food and \$2,205 in financial gifts received from our church.

By partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank Metrolina, we turn your donations into abundance. We purchase meat and dry goods for just 18 cents per pound and receive fresh produce at no cost. Recently, we secured 459 lbs of groceries for \$45.57—that's over 10lbs/\$1! We thank God for the opportunity to serve. You can continue to sustain this work by:

- Praying for our volunteers and neighbors.
- Donating shelf-stable foods (beans, rice, cereals, canned goods).
- Giving financially to help us supplement our stores via local purchases.
- Volunteering to drive, pick up food, or help organize and distribute boxes.

Oak Hill's United Women in Faith (UWiF)
is busy working on items within our church
as well as in our world!



United
Women
in Faith

Do Your Own Thing is working on spring cleaning the middle room in the MPAC Building.
Book Review is preparing for the Maundy Thursday meal featuring baked potatoes (Irish & Sweet) and salad. We are expecting folks from Oak Hill, Mountain Grove, and Linville churches.
Knit Whits has restarted. We plan prayer shawls as well as other projects (NICU hats, toboggins for Chemo patients, baby items for the Pregnancy Care Center and Dry Bottoms). The spelling is a nod to Frances Whisnant, an original member and a voracious knitter. We need members to complete our plans; come knit, crochet, quilt, or learn these skills on Wednesdays at 6:00.
Women's Sunday is scheduled for April 26. Our own, Jennifer Hampton, will be the featured speaker. Lunch will follow in the MPAC. Please plan to bring a dish and join the fellowship.
We are not a sedate group of women. Besides all of the above, we are planning for the breakfast/bazaar/bake sale on November 21. We invite all in the church and community to join us in above events as well as the small groups. We are mainly of Methodist faith, but open to other Christian members of the community. Our purpose is to be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

– Anita Fox



Let's join in prayer for one another so we all may remain in Christ's peace, grace, and the gift of health:

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Patrick Henson (military), Jay Fox, Donna Shoun, Linda Silver, Leon Norman, Hazel Davis, Barb Farrell, Dottie Whisenant, Mason Searcy (military), Ruby Searcy, Carolyn Barlow, Betty Watkins, Peg Leadbetter, Helen Winters, Donna & Ann Peeler, Barb Trout, Dennis Turman, Ruth Curfman, Jody Clark, and John Chapman, Kevin Colwell

Extended Family and Friends

Barbara Vance; Linda Wiseman (Henry Parker's sister) – health; **Miguel Betts** (grandson of Sharon Butler's friend, Cathy – liver cancer); **Carolyn Teseneer; Brian Duckworth; Lori Barlow** (Carolyn Barlow's daughter); **Pat Wheeler** (Maureen Colwell's aunt); **Peggy Basinger** (Maureen Colwell's sister-in-law – fighting cancer); **Sam DePew** (Dianna DePew's father-leukemia)



If you have a prayer concern or know someone in need, please inform Pastor Adam or the church office, especially if a member is ill, hospitalized, or has passed away. This will help us all better care for, pray for, and offer support to our church family. Adam: 704-618-4629; Office: 828-433-5308; ohumc.morganton@gmail.com

Finance: Q1 2026 Update

Our church newsletter is an excellent venue to have a church family, around-the-kitchen-table, discussion on our finances. Our promise of transparency in our finances is a chance to celebrate and also share concerns. God is good all the time, and all the time God is good. He sometimes gives us the opportunity to show our faithfulness both in His promise to provide and in our promise to respond. January was one of those opportunities for OHUMC. As we caught our collective breath from the year-end holidays and stayed warm at home during two weekend winter storms, we didn't physically meet together, and our giving to the church was only one-third of a normal month's giving. In the past, Church Council has foreseen the possibility of a missed Sunday, and directed that we keep a \$10,000 cushion in our checking account. Because of January's events we burned through the entire cushion paying for oil, electricity, other utilities, salaries, and conference apportionments. In fact, we had to hold off on paying some bills until the next Sunday's offerings came in so our checks wouldn't bounce. (This is a perfect place for me to insert the suggestion to automate our giving by having our banks setup regular check mailings or by giving online via PayPal. By choosing one of these methods, our giving comes to the church whether we are physically present or not. If you haven't automated your giving but are interested, reach out to Finance or the church office for more information.)

As I said earlier, God is good all the time, and He certainly has been to us recently. We made it through January, and our February and March tithes and offerings have returned to normal levels. We haven't made up the January deficit, but it hasn't gotten worse either. God has blessed us with the ability to worship together and He has blessed us with resources to honor Him with our tithes and offerings.

Through the love and thoughtfulness of past members who thought of OHUMC in their wills, we have some money in investment accounts managed by our Endowment Committee that provide limited funds for designated purposes. Recently the Committee provided money from one of these investments that has gone towards restoring our checking account cushion. God is faithful and He does provide. (This is a perfect place for me to ask if you have considered remembering OHUMC in your will or trust? If you haven't yet included the church in your estate planning but are interested in doing so, reach out to Finance or the church office for information.)

God has blessed us in many ways, not the least of which is in our finances. The lights are on. The building is warm. Our Pastor and staff are paid. Current study materials are in every classroom. And we have been faithful to local and worldwide missions and outreach through our conference apportionments. Of course, there is much more we hope to do. We're refurbishing the playground. We have driveway potholes to repair. We're still working toward a replacement van (or two). And, just around the corner, there's always an antiquated heat-pump/AC unit ready to give up on us. But we trust in God's provision, and we trust our own faithful responses of gratitude for His blessings.

Watch for a 1st Quarter 2026 Financial Report to be available in April.



Birthdays

Patsy McNeely	4/1
Jonathan Morningstar	4/1
Chelsea Schwind	4/1
Dean Galloway	4/3
Mary Taylor	4/3
Anabel Garner	4/8
Jane Overmyer	4/10
Becky Williams	4/10
Joey Schwind	4/11
Rebecca Mechem-Nantz	4/12
Jim Scott	4/12
Ian Clark	4/14
Carson Searcy	4/15
Scott Lookadoo	4/16
Jeff Edall	4/19
Chad Searcy	4/19
Sam Clontz	4/25
Anson Fitzgerald	4/27
Gladys Draughon	5/3
Shawn Fitzgerald	5/3
Rob Angley	5/6
Joanne Henry	5/10
Sally Morningstar	5/14
Jacey Smith	5/18
Debbie Fisher	5/19
Pam Lookadoo	5/21
Bill Whisnant	5/23
Tim Clark	5/24
Zach Gwynn	5/25
Ben Ledford	5/29
Nathan Taylor	5/29
Avery Clontz	5/30
Lindsay Johnson	5/31

Anniversaries

Jim & Betsy Scott	4/7
Donnie & Becky Williams	4/10
William & Anne Brown	4/20
Greg & Lisa Byland	4/27
Shane & Heather Atkins	5/10
David & Sharon Butler	5/18
David & Gladys Draughon	5/30