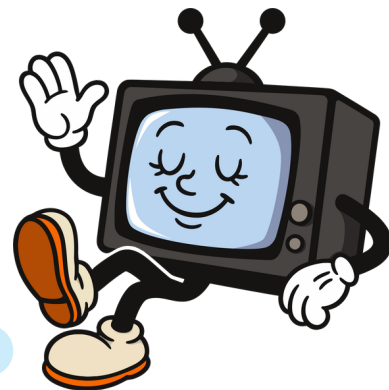




AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026

Did you have a morning routine as a kid? Did you wake up to a list of daily chores that had to be finished before moving on with the day? Were you encouraged to go outside and play, with the expectation that you would keep yourself occupied until momma hollered for you at suppertime? Did you spend your waking hours glued to the TV watching Saturday morning cartoons and old re-runs of your grandparents' favorite gameshows? Would you say that your childhood was shaped by shows like *The Waltons*, *Leave It To Beaver*, and *Andy Griffith*, or movies by Disney and Pixar? I suppose that your answer to these questions might just depend on when and where you grew up.

When I think back, I can remember the excitement of turning on my Saturday morning cartoons. Equipped with a bowl full of Cap'n Crunch and a serious case of bedhead, I would meander into the living room and become immersed in one show after another. Of course, I had my favorites like *G.I. Joe*, *Inspector Gadget*, *ThunderCats*, and *Space Ghost*. Sadly, shows like *Bluey*, *Barney*, and *Veggie Tales* weren't even a thing yet. Every once in a while, a classic cartoon would come on and it didn't take long for *The Looney Tunes*, *The Flintstones*, and *Scooby Doo* to draw me into their silly scenarios.

For some reason, *The Jetsons* always held my interest. Set in "the future", kids of all ages were introduced to a world that didn't exist yet. With their flying cars and automated appliances, this middle class family of the future lived a pleasant life, which was made better by gadgets - not unlike many of us today. According to bing.com, "Several futuristic inventions from *The Jetsons*, including video calls, smartwatches, flat-screen TVs, and robot vacuums, have become part of everyday life today." Isn't it interesting when fictional fabrications find their way into our everyday lives? Maybe it is, maybe it isn't - depending on when and where you grew up.

Setting our formative years aside for a moment, I have to ask if you've ever taken time to consider how much things have changed over the years - particularly in the life of the church. Not only have we moved from televisions to tablets and party lines to smart watches, we've seen the introduction of technologies that allow our shut-ins and distant family members to join us in Sunday School and worship every week - sometimes live, and sometimes later.

Even though I am comfortable with technology and change, I must admit that it's not always an easy conversation. While I know that talking about change makes almost everyone a bit nervous, I'd say that it's an unavoidable part of our lives these days. Our response to the ever-shifting sands of a tech-driven society is probably going to be an inescapable topic as we consider the Church of the future.

I often wonder where the Church is heading? How will our youngest members of the church family experience their faith as they, hopefully, grow to be disciples of Jesus and leaders of the church of tomorrow? While we work to preserve many of the traditions of our church, what sort of changes are we willing to acknowledge as 'necessary adjustments' as we strive to make the church a place where people to want to grow in faith and witness God making big things happen in and around us? What sort of role will you and your family play in the church's future? What will remain the same, and what will have to change in the long run?

Blessings, Pastor Adam



Congratulations to the Congregation for continuing to collect plastic for recycling. As of June 24th, we've collected **122.4 lbs** of plastic! Although the plastic doesn't weigh much, we're easily collecting an average of 3 full bags per month. Thanks to everyone who's participating in Caring for Creation by recycling plastic bags and films!

Based on recommendations from the Energy Audit conducted last year, our church campus now has Wi-Fi thermostats in the sanctuary, the education wing upstairs (well, the Wade Aldridge Class and the TBD class), the MPAC, and the MPAC classrooms. We're working on the schedule so that they'll keep things cool in the summertime. The Wi-Fi thermostats will decrease energy use and electricity bills.

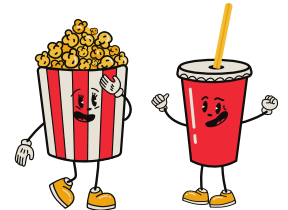
Thank you to Curran Cloer for watering the pollinator garden and the blueberry plants during the summer drought. David Henson plans to weed the garden once his new knee is ready to get down in the dirt! (The author of this article doesn't know the difference between the weeds and flowers, unless they're blooming, so she'll save the weeding for David).

The honey bees have been working hard making honey. The honey is set to be harvested at a Family Ministries event on July 29th at 2:00. Come on out and share in harvesting God's gift from the bees!

– Maureen Colwell

FAMILY MINISTRIES @ OHUMC

Kick off August with our Outdoor Movie Night on Saturday, August 1 at the MPAC! We will start at 5:00 PM with a movie showing for our little ones, followed by hotdogs, hamburgers, and board games at 6:30 PM. At 8:30 PM, we'll head outside behind the MPAC for our showing –please bring lawn chairs or blankets, and kindly RSVP in advance so we can prepare enough food!



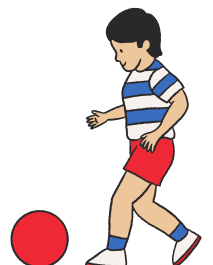
Later that week, join us for our Farewell to Summer campfire on Wednesday, August 5 at 5:00 PM at the MPAC for s'mores and a friendly kickball game.

We also have plenty of fellowship opportunities coming up in late summer and fall. Meet up for our Morning Group Hikes on Saturday, August 15 and Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 AM at the entrance of Oak Hill Community Park (NC-126).



On Saturday, September 19, gather at the MPAC for an App State vs. UNC Charlotte Football Watch Party with snacks and music at 5:30 PM before kickoff at 6:00 PM.

To conclude the month, join us for our Homecoming Meal and Kickball Game on Sunday, September 20, right after the church service.



MUSIC MINISTRIES NEWS

Friends, we are hoping to have a bumper crop of kids for our music and arts camp on Aug. 10-13 from 5:30 to 8:30. Please continue sharing our information.

We also are gearing up for the fall season and our homecoming celebration on Sunday, Sept. 20. Our Chancel Choir will welcome anyone who would can support our choir in singing on that Sunday. If you cannot commit to choir on a regular basis, you would be able to prepare for Homecoming with choir and then go forward with your other responsibilities for the evening.

Please also keep your eyes peeled for our children's community choir details. This group will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. Activities will include music games, movement, and learning songs for leadership in worship and performances in the community.

Chancel Choir rehearsals resume after our summer break on Wed., Aug. 6th at 6 PM.

– Amalie Hinson, Music Director



DO YOUR KIDS LOVE MUSIC AND PLAYING INSTRUMENTS? THEN SIGN THEM UP FOR "BEACHED -" A MUSIC CAMP REVUE AT OAK HILL METHODIST CHURCH

TO REGISTER USE THE QR CODE AND FILL OUT A FORM

OAK HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS OFFERING A FREE VBS/MUSIC AND ARTS CAMP! PERFORMANCE AND SHARING ON THE LAST NIGHT OF STORIES FROM THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

WHO? RISING 1ST - 8TH GRADERS

WHEN? AUGUST 10-13 5:30PM - 8:30 PM

WHERE? OAK HILL UMC 2239 HWY 181 MORGANTON

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 7/29 - Honey Harvest (2:00) & Biscuit-baking Workshop (4:00), MPAC
- 8/1 - Outdoor Movie Night, Kids Movie (5:00), Food & Games (6:30), Movie (8:30)
- 8/5 - Farewell Summer Campfire, S'mores, & Kickball (5:00), MPAC
- 8/10-13 - Music Camp
- 8/15 - Group Hike (10:00), Oak Hill Community Park
- 8/23 - Blessing of the Bookbags
- 9/19 - Group Hike (10:00), Oak Hill Community Park
- 9/19 - Football Watch Party (5:30), MPAC
- 9/20 - Homecoming with Kelly Stuart Gay speaking, followed by Covered Dish Lunch & Kickball

For weekly, recurring meetings, activities, and ALL church events, please go to the **Main Church Calendar** on our website - www.ohumc.com

Oak Hill's United Women in Faith (UWiF)
circles are always striving to turn **Faith, Hope, and Love**
into action on behalf of women, children, and youth
around the world!



United
Women
in Faith

Back to school, back to work, back to serving. We have several projects starting and NEED YOUR HELP!

Catawba Valley District Meeting | August 15 at First UMC, Gastonia – Annual Celebration and Prayer Breakfast in which we will honor women from our unit who have joined the Church Triumphant. See flyer below for details. A donation box** for the host church's local charity is in the hall.

Donations are Requested For:

Oak Hill Elementary Back-to-School Supplies** – Let's help them start the new school year off right!

Dry Bottoms Baby Closet** – Based at First UMC, Valdese. This ministry gives out baby items monthly.

Bereavement Fund – A couple years ago, we discontinued preparing meals for bereaved families due to dietary constraints, transportation challenges, and time commitments for volunteers. Instead, we now make a donation to the family's choice of a charity or church. We are asking for contributions from congregation members. Please mark your check as "Bereavement Fund" or give cash to Mabel Moore.

****All hallway boxes will be distributed between August 15–20.**

Bazaar | November 21 – Help support our only fundraiser of the year! As your gardens produce, please set aside extra canned goods, jams, and jellies. While baked goods must wait, crafts, art, and woodwork completed now will store perfectly. Please share your talents and make this year's Bazaar a success!

Get involved with us. Put your talents, gifts, and knowledge to use for God's purposes.

– Anita Fox, President

****Donations Requested****

Place in labeled boxes in the hallway by August 14th.



DRY BOTTOMS BABY CLOSET

- Diapers (especially sizes 5, 6, 7) 
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Lotion
- Baby Wipes
- Diaper Cream
- New & Gently Used Clothes (0-24M, 2-3T)

OH Elementary School Supplies

- Pencils + Pencil Cap Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Markers, Crayons, + Colored Pencils
- Wide Ruled Notebook + Copy Paper
- Kids Scissors (blunt + pointed tip)
- Expo Dry-Erase Markers
- Ziploc bags (gallon, quart, sandwich)
- Kleenex + Paper Towels
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Backpacks 

**Help us
help them**

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**CATAWBA VALLEY
ANNUAL CELEBRATION
AND MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Currently accepting: AUGUST 15, 2026

Hope for the Unhoused

- Socks
- Men/Women Underware
- Packed food
- Money donations

9:30 AM REFRESHMENTS
10:00 AM PROGRAM
FIRST UMC GASTONIA
190 E. FRANKLIN BLVD.
GASTONIA, NC 28052
PARKING OFF OAKLAND STREET

Mission Statements from:
First UMC Gastonia,
and Myers Memorial UMC

If you plan to attend please contact Tanya Lunsford 704-678-7122
tmartintm@gmail.com or
Cathryn Beasley 704-747-5418
cmbeasley3@gmail.com
to insure we will provide
adequate refreshments
Thank You!

uwfaith.org

Have you heard about our “Love Your Neighbor” fund?

Requests for assistance are received throughout the year. Before any \$ is given to help with a need, a small team conducts an interview with the family. After that, Pastor Love makes arrangements to help with rent, utilities, a hotel room, gasoline, or food - no cash is ever handed out.

Due to recent economic conditions, our requests have increased, and we would like to continue to help folks as they come to us with a need. Please consider supporting the “Love Your Neighbor” fund as a part of your church tithes and offerings.

Birthdays

Carter Fitzgerald	8/1
Penny Ward	8/1
Penny Helton	8/3
David Nantz	8/6
Donna Peeler	8/6
Chris Garner	8/13
Richard Smith	8/14
Anne Brown	8/18
Marilyn Norman	8/21
Jody Clark	8/27
Heather Atkins	8/28
Frank Maiella	8/29
David Henson	8/30
David Draughon	9/1
David Sides	9/1
Bradley Clark	9/4
Kellen Conley	9/4
Scott Amrhein	9/9
Hannah Garner	9/9
Kristen Amrhein	9/10
Sharon Butler	9/12
Jeff Clontz	9/13
Meredith Searcy	9/13
Eric Boltz	9/14
Karen Hennessee	9/15
Mabel Moore	9/16
Katy Searcy	9/18
Ivy Brittain	9/20
David Wright	9/20
Cordale Brown	9/21
Zalie Chase	9/21
Joyce Jensen	9/23
James Brown	9/24
Hazel Davis	9/25
Ruby Chester	9/26
Tracy Love	9/26
Naomi Nantz	9/27
Adam Fitzgerald	9/28



If your contact information has changed, please let the church office know as soon as possible. Thank you!

Anniversaries

Rusty & Charlene Allen	8/1
Hatchet & Brenda Barrier	8/7
Bill & Delores Whisnant	8/31
Jonathan & Sally Morningstar	9/9
Eric & Katelyn Boltz	9/17
Byron & Dina Boyd	9/25

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, Jody Clark, Leon Norman, Hazel Davis, Dottie Whisenant, Mason Searcy (military), Ruby Searcy, Carolyn Barlow, Betty Watkins, Peg Leadbetter, Helen Winters, Donna Peeler, Ann Peeler, Barb Trout, Dennis Turman, Ruth Curfman, John Chapman, Kevin Colwell, and Freida Hobson

Extended Family and Friends

Barbara Vance; Carolyn Teseneer; Brian Duckworth;
Miguel Betts (grandson of Sharon Butler's friend, Cathy);
Lori Barlow (Carolyn Barlow's daughter);
Pat Wheeler (Maureen Colwell's aunt);
Peggy Basinger (Maureen Colwell's sister-in-law),
Beth Elmore (Amalie Hinson's sister)

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

