



Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously



JUNE - JULY 2026

Walt Disney once said, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." I'm wondering if we should adopt a phrase like this as a guiding principle for our work here at Oak Hill UMC. What piques our interests? What are we curious about? How can these passions be parlayed into a huge win for the kingdom of God?

Thanks to our global connection, The United Methodist Church is in the midst of another season in which forward momentum is carrying us into a new and exciting expression of our faith. In May of 2025, our denominational leadership, The Council of Bishops, published a new vision statement, "reflecting the church's commitment to embodying God's dream for the world."

As United Methodists, we are called to **"love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously."**

As we strive to leave the angst and disappointment of disaffiliations behind, we are all invited to turn our focus to a future that is filled with possibilities and opportunities to create new programs, share life with our church family in new ways, lift up our neighbors in the community around us, and reshape the ways in which we do church. Loving, serving, and leading might be traits of any Christian who is worth their salt, but if we can embrace the spirit of the vision which invites us to do so *boldly, joyfully, and courageously*, then I dare say that we'd see more and more families with invigorated relationships with the LORD, their faith, and our church.

Walt Disney's quote has passed the test of time, and the name *Disney* continues to hold great influence all over the world. His wise words hold some organizational truths that would be worth considering. In fact, people all over the world have studied his words, and they've come to realize that "Walt Disney's words highlight curiosity as the engine of progress. 'Moving forward' represents personal or professional growth, while 'opening new doors' symbolizes seeking new opportunities and experiences through experimentation and courage. [Walt] Disney suggests that curiosity is not passive; it actively motivates people to try new things, learn from failures, and evolve over time" (economictimes.indiatimes.com via [google.com](https://www.google.com)).

So, how do we move forward and open new doors to engage the family of God in new ways that are exciting and captivating? That's the \$1,000,000 question - and I've already seen a few folks who are willing to take a risk and take action as we try a few new things.

At our recent "90's Night!" event, excitement was in the air. Those who came seemed to be happy to be together; they stayed longer than expected, because the experience invited them to break bread, support the restoration efforts in our playground, share in good conversation, and be entertained for a little while. Kids ran and played, adults reminisced and had a good time together, and several families who are looking for a church home were personally invited to come back again. It was so much fun! Thanks to the family ministries team that boldly, courageously, and joyfully took the ball and ran with the idea. Let's do it again, soon!

Blessings, Pastor Adam

OHUMC Food Pantry Update

We are pleased to update you on OUR Food Pantry's activities and express gratitude for your support. In May, we distributed 3,644 pounds of food to over 175 families, totaling nearly 400 individuals. Each family received an average of 21 pounds of food, along with conversation and prayer, if desired.

This month, we received nearly 50 pounds of donated dry goods and \$50 from our congregation, which help us complete food boxes and cover administrative costs. Donations from local Aldi's have significantly increased our food supply, but also our need for volunteers to pick up these donations. We appreciate those who have stepped up to help and encourage more volunteers to join us, as there is always a need and we have a great time working together. Thank you from our current volunteers and the families we assist.

Congratulations, Oak Hill UMC members! You recycled 24.95 lbs of plastic in March and 23.26 lbs in April, totaling **83.71** pounds for the 1st quarter! While that may not sound like much, remember that plastic is lightweight, so volume makes the difference. We care for creation by keeping this plastic out of the landfill!

Pam Lookadoo reports that the honey bees are healthy and doing well!
We will have a honey harvest later this year!

David Henson reports that 6 of the 9 transplanted blueberry bushes are about where they should be at this time of year. The other 3 should come along with more rain. As the berries start to ripen, please watch for deer when you are outside behind the MPAC. We may need to act to protect the berries from the deer.



David also reports that the pollinator garden is doing very well!

Flowers coming up from seed:

- 1 - Hyssop
- 2 - Yarrow
- 3 - Appalachian Ragwort

Transplanted flowers:

- 4 - Black-eyed Susan
- 5 - Sweet Annie

There are 3 other flowers in the garden that we may have sown, or may have volunteered:

- 1 - Goldenrod
- 2 - Buttonweed
- 3 - Dewberry

The pollinator garden's location has been ideal in this drought, with the bank and woods providing protection from the intense afternoon heat. All flowers are growing and look healthy!



Congratulations Class of 2026!

Ian Clark

Graduated Freedom High School
Will attend Appalachian State University

Avery Clontz

Graduated Freedom High School
Will attend NC State University for Applied Mathematics

Hannah Garner

Graduated Freedom High School and WPCC with an Associate's Degree in Arts
Will attend Western Carolina University for Business Administration and Law: Pre-Law Pathway

Jacey Smith

Graduated WPCC with an Associate's Degree in Applied Science for Medical Assisting
Plans to use her degree while continuing her education in the medical field



The Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the 2026 scholarship recipients:

*Piper Atkins - Avery Clontz - Hannah Garner
- Isaac Searcy - Jackson Smith*

2026 Confirmation Class



Hannah Garner
Anabel Garner
Garrett Scott
Cason Scott
Sam Brittain
Jameson Smith
Carter Fitzgerald

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

On April 26, we celebrated some of the many people who offer a little more to our Church community. It is always hard to choose someone who helps above and beyond their normal pathway. We have so many who qualify! This year, we chose to honor Nancy Clark, Barb Trout, and Ben and Elaine Nantz from the circles. We chose Melinda Clontz to retain the Mabel Reynolds pin for a year; this one is passed forward each year as a service pin in memory of a lady who gave all she had to our Church.

Even though it is summer and things are supposed to slow down, we are charging forward with activities. June 11-13 will be a Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska. The featured speaker is Rev. Holly McKim on the topic, Winds of Change. In 4 sessions, we will be motivated to grow and share our Faith. Participants always come back refreshed and full of God's Spirit.

On August 15, our District will be participating in the Annual Business Meeting, as well as the Prayer Breakfast. We will remember the women who have joined the Church Triumphant and plan for next year's events.

Mission U will be August 21-22 at the Catholic Center in Hickory. This is another great retreat to help us as individuals grow in our Faith journey.

- Anita Fox, President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 13 - Morning Group Hike, 8:00, Oak Hill Community Park
June 21 - Father's Day, 10:30, Sanctuary, Ken Clark preaching
June 24 - Ice Cream Social & Slip-n-slide, 4:30, Front Yard
July 1 - Children's Visit to Henson Farm, 3:45, Meet at Playground
July 15 - Ice Cream Social & Slip-n-slide, 4:30, Front Yard
July 29 - Honey Harvest & Biscuit-baking Workshop, 2:00 & 4:00, MPAC

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

The 2026 WNCC Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska will be held Thursday, June 18 - Sunday, June 21.
Follow along via livestream at www.ac2026.org

This year's theme:
Rebuilding My Church

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, 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, Freida Hobson, Jennie Duncan

Extended Family and Friends

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

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



From the Finance Desk

As we finished the first five months of 2026, our General Fund tithes and offerings have nearly perfectly matched our general expenses. That is because of your faithfulness and commitment to financially supporting our church. Between our tithes and offerings, and the gifts from our endowments we've balanced nearly to the dollar our income and outgoing expenses. And that is despite some significant and unexpected maintenance expenses (thank you Trustees for handling these), in addition to paying our salaries, utilities, insurance, and other regular expenses. It's almost like it was ordained!

God is pleased with our faithful response to His gifts to us, and to our responsible use of the offerings returned to Him through our church. In addition, our congregation has been faithful in giving above and beyond our tithes by giving to many Special Funds that support our Youth & Family Outreach, Food Pantry, Backpack Ministry, Love Your Neighbor (benevolence) Fund, Van Fund, Capital Reserve, and Playground Rehabilitation, just to name a few. This sacrificial giving enables care and feeding and outreach and repairs beyond what our general budget can accomplish. Thank you for your continued giving ministries in these many areas. Summer is a longed-for time that takes us away from our regular church attendance for travel, vacations, visiting with family and friends, and other activities.

Historically, it's also a time when we see a seasonal drop in the offerings coming to the church. The church budget doesn't build up cash reserves to cover this situation and it is vital for us to remember how greatly needed each of our tithes and offerings are. As we relax and fellowship away from our church family during these upcoming months, be faithful in thanking God by regularly returning a portion of His gifts to the church. Banking institutions can help send out reliable check offerings automatically and take that off your To-Do list while on vacation and throughout the year. Online options through PayPal also are available. Ask anyone on Finance if you would like more information. Have a great summer – in worship and play.



TREND IN DEPOSITS		
Week Ending	General Fund	Special Funds
05/31/26	\$4,548.00	\$550.00
05/24/26	\$1,868.00	\$281.00
05/17/26	\$6,223.82	\$875.00
05/10/26	\$3,821.00	\$2,072.30
05/03/26	\$4,152.00	\$801.00

Birthdays

Sonny Moore	6/4
Jenny Taylor	6/8
Meg Taylor	6/9
Will Propst	6/10
Alicia Fitzgerald	6/14
Ronny Angley	6/15
Jonathan Absher	6/17
Dina Boyd	6/19
Emily Gwynn	6/20
John Chapman	6/22
Elaine Nantz	6/23
Isaac Searcy	6/24
Lori Barlow	6/25
Dennis Turman	6/25
Brigitte Clark	6/27
Lori Draughon	6/27
Jackson Smith	6/27
Anita Fox	6/28
Luke Ledford	7/1
Caroline Clark	7/4
Chuck Fisher	7/6
Dottie Whisenant	7/6
Terry Smith	7/7
Gabe Searcy	7/8
Pat Hennessee	7/9
Jameson Smith	7/10
Debbie Parker	7/15
Zack Williams	7/15
Addie Boltz	7/16
Carol Sides	7/16
Brandon Aldridge	7/17
Nora Fox	7/18
Thomas Nantz	7/18
Alexis Boyd	7/19
Corbin Chase	7/19
Lisa Amrhein	7/21
Ashley Daye	7/23
Carolyn Barlow	7/24
Leon Norman	7/24
Jeff Clark	7/25
Randy Paschall	7/27
Mason Searcy	7/30

Anniversaries

Kevin & Amy Absher	6/5
Jeff & Melinda Clontz	6/10
Zack & Lindsay Williams	6/11
Chad & Meredith Searcy	6/12
Tim & Dianne Stuart	6/18
Matt & Lindsay Johnson	6/18
Dennis & Betty Turman	6/25
Sonny & Mabel Moore	6/30
Richard & Heather Smith	6/30
Frank & Sandy Maiella	7/2
Scott & Pam Lookadoo	7/14
Chuck & Debbie Fisher	7/16

SING!
PLAY INSTRUMENTS!
LEARN NEW MUSIC!
PERFORM
THE LAST NIGHT!

TO REGISTER
USE THE QR CODE
AND FILL OUT A FORM



**FREE SUMMER
MUSIC CAMP**

WHO? RISING 1ST - 7TH GRADES

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

WHERE?

**OAK HILL UMC
2239 HWY 181
MORGANTON**