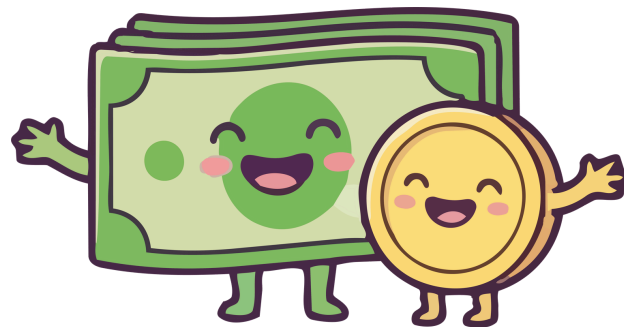




OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2026

**"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).**

As you know, pastors don't get to sit much during the typical worship service. On an average Sunday, the only moments to pause are during the playing of the prelude or the passing of the offering plates. During these brief respites, one might be tempted to simply close their eyes and reflect or lift a prayer – both are very good options during worshipful interludes.

Just recently, I moved my seat which typically sits beside the organ. The old preacher's chair now sits just around the corner, and that little shift changed my view of the congregation. Now, as the music is played and the plates are passed, I can look at all of the precious faces who make the church family what it is today.

During our homecoming worship service, I paused for a brief moment to look at all of the people who joined us for the celebration. In the sea of familiar faces, there were extra bodies who hadn't been in the church in years – well, it's been a while. As the ushers helped to move the offering from pew to pew, I saw something that gave me great joy in the moment. One of our young disciples, Adalyn Boltz, stood up in the pew and leaned forward with anticipation as the offering plates moved closer and closer to her row. With her wee little arms raised above her head, each of her hands held an envelope. She couldn't wait to give her gift to the church.

In that moment, I thought about how wonderful it would be if we all gave our gifts to the church with such joy and enthusiasm. I can only imagine what it might look like if folks stood up on their pews and waved their offering envelopes in the air. We'd all be grinning from ear to ear until the last envelope dropped into the plate – but that would never happen; even so, I'm sure that the Finance Committee and I would love to see such enthusiasm on Sunday mornings. God loves a cheerful giver, after all.

Admittedly, stewardship looks different for everyone. While there are no membership dues at church, there are many benefits to regularly giving back to God. In fact, I'd say that life is better when you prioritize giving a gift to the Lord as a part of your monthly spending habits - and I am thankful that you all give so intentionally to support the church in so many ways.

For many folks, giving habits are a direct reflection of lessons learned from watching parents and other role models over the years. As we grow in our faith, we follow in their footsteps and model our habits after them as a part of our faith journeys. Generosity is often a character trait that grows in time, and the beneficiaries of our kindness may or may not be people that we know.

Philosopher Alber Camus once said, "Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present." Your support of the church may very well pave the path for strong and vital ministries in the future. I don't know about you, but that resonates with me - especially as I consider what "CHURCH" will look like for future generations of the Oak Hill church family. THANK YOU for giving so faithfully.

Blessings, Pastor Adam



Honey Harvest and Beehive – On July 29, Pam and Scott Lookadoo harvested the honey from the beehive at a family event with about 8 adults and 5 children. The bees shared 22 pints and 24 half-pints of honey for this harvest. Pam said the bees are healthy and she's never seen a hive with so many bees. She set up another box with two frames containing honey remaining after the harvest, so the bees can move next door, if they choose. She added lemon oil to the new hive body to attract the bees in case they decide to split from the existing hive. To protect the colony, she placed Hornet traps nearby, made from a 2-liter soda bottle with banana peels fermented in apple juice (and some vinegar to deter honeybees). Pam gave half-pints of honey to each family who attended the honey harvest and sold the remainder to the congregation with proceeds donated to the playground fund.

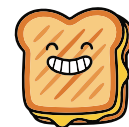
Blueberry Plants – The blueberry plants are looking healthy, and David Henson believes that they will produce an abundant harvest in years to come. David checked the pH of the soil around the blueberry plants and got readings of 6.7, 6.8, and 6.9. He said that any pH below 7.0 is okay, although the plants ideally prefer pH of 4.5-5.5. This fall, he will amend the soil with sulfur granules and pine straw to lower the pH further.

Pollinator Garden – David weeded the garden in early August, removing an herb called Poor Joe that was taking over. At that time, he reported that the flowers we planted such as Black-eyed Susans, Ragwort, late boneset, Hyssop and Goldenrod all look healthy. The bees were working the blooms. He requested approval to transplant Hairy Mountain Mint and Yarrow from his own garden to the church pollinator garden. Both plants are deer resistant and grow in full sun to partial shade. He plans to add a layer of compost and a layer of mulch.

NexTrex Recycling Challenge – Our church has collected 155.6 pounds of plastic bags and films to date.
– Maureen Colwell

FAMILY MINISTRIES @ OHUMC

Sunday, November 15 at noon (rescheduled) in downtown Morganton on the Courthouse Square - Join us to support The Meeting Place Mission at their annual grilled cheese competition, Give Cheese A Chance! Sample loads of unique grilled cheeses and help crown a winner! For tickets and more info, see Suzy Fitzgerald or The Meeting Place Mission's Facebook.



Saturday, October 10 at 8:30 am - Take a Field Trip with us to Grandad's Apples in Hendersonville! Enjoy a variety of fun family activities on the farm and apple orchard, including a corn maze, cow train, and apple cannon. Meet in the church parking lot.

Saturdays, October 17 and November 21 - Meet up for a Nature Walk at 10:00 AM at the entrance of Oak Hill Community Park (NC-126). Join us for breakfast at the church bazaar at 8:30 before our nature walk on the 21st.



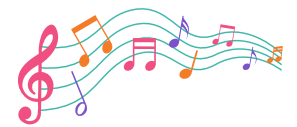
Wednesday, October 28 at 5:00 pm - Halloween Party at the Shelter

Tuesday, November 17 - Italian Drive-by Fundraiser benefitting the playground/youth program



Sunday, November 29 at 7:00 pm - Love Feast in the Sanctuary

MUSIC MINISTRIES NEWS



Lots of new things are coming in our worship arts/music program. Our Toddler Tunes music activity for the very young has begun meeting, and will continue on Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:00 in the Toddler Sunday School Class downstairs. This opportunity is for children up to 3 years of age.

Our Morganton Area Children's Choir is A new opportunity for kids grades 2-6 to sing music of all kinds. No experience needed. Rehearsing Wednesdays 3:45-4:30 in the Sanctuary. For more info and to register for our open house, on Wednesday, Oct. 21, email amalie.hinson@gmail.com.

Finally, it is time to begin preparing for the holiday season. Our cantata and Christmas play will again be combined this year and presented for Sunday worship on Dec. 13. If you would like to help with this project as a singer, actor (no lines or solos), or instrumentalist, let me know!

– Amalie Hinson, Music Director



Meals on Wheels Update

The OHUMC Meals on Wheels team needs your help with our community outreach. Specifically, we need 1 or 2 volunteers to give 2 hrs of time a month to help with our deliveries. The commitment truly is a brief amount of time and the rewards are wonderful. We have a couple of weekdays on our schedule where we need new volunteers and we're eager to workout a day that is convenient for any volunteer. Read on, and if you are led, talk with Ben about joining this outreach that touches our community in a special way.

Our OHUMC Meals on Wheels ministry provides volunteers who deliver nutritious and balanced meals to Oak Hill community neighbors needing food assistance. Most of these neighbors are home-bound, and the hot meals and short visits they receive are special gifts. Those visits and interactions are as special to the volunteers as to our neighbors. Ask any volunteer and you'll be told that we get more out of this ministry than do the neighbors on our list.

Locally, meals are ordered and provided by the Burke County Senior Services (BCSS) Nutrition Program that administers the Meals on Wheels program here. BCSS also determines eligibility, and maintains service and waiting lists. For questions on program eligibility or to apply for meals, contact the Burke County Senior Services Nutrition Program office by phone: 828-430-4147.

Oak Hill United Methodist Church volunteers are a part of the BCSS Meals on Wheels delivery team. Our volunteers have a regular schedule to deliver pre-packaged meals to seniors in the Oak Hill community. Additional delivery volunteers are always welcomed and needed. Volunteers can serve as little as 2 hours, one day a month. We currently have volunteers covering more than one day in our delivery cycle and we'd love to share those days with others who have this brief time and desire to serve. We make visits only to 7-10 community neighbors on the BCSS list, but over the weeks and months those meals add up. In 2025, we delivered approximately 850 meals! For more information on volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels through OHUMC, contact Ben Nantz at 828-437-6665.

May God bless you and yours with health and nourishment as we share in this ministry together.



The **Third Annual Giving Tree** event is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 15. This special tradition prepares us for Thanksgiving and Christmas as it shapes our hearts and minds to understand and grow toward the real meaning behind both holidays. We are still in the planning stage, so little info is definite, but please put the date on your schedule and be looking for more info as it is confirmed.

Thank you, Anita Fox



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

As we move into a busy fall season, we want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who filled the collection boxes in the hallway. Thanks to your generosity, local shelters received new socks, underwear, and gloves; students started their school year with fresh supplies; and Dry Bottoms was delighted to receive essential supplies for mothers with young children. Additionally, we assembled eight menstrual health kits for distribution to local shelters, schools, and disaster relief areas.

On August 15, the District United Women in Faith celebrated our achievements. Oak Hill's women were recognized for our diverse programming, reading program, and ongoing outreach to women, children, and youth locally, nationally, and internationally. During this time, we also remembered and celebrated our beloved members who have joined the Church Triumphant. (As it turns out, we have been doing this faithful work all along—we just finally filled out the paperwork!)

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for our only fundraiser of the year: the Annual Bazaar, Bake Sale, and Breakfast on **Saturday, Nov. 21**. Please bring goodies to sell, baked cookies, cakes, candies, canned goods - anything to eat. We have several members who have promised to bring new craft items to the Bazaar. Breakfast is always a good start for the day. We need volunteers to help run the event and welcome guests into our midst. If you feel your talents don't work in one area, use them for another. Biblical teachings tell us the body of Christ needs all parts.

We are supporting our vision by putting our minds, hands, and feet into turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

– Anita Fox, President



Food Pantry Update

Our OHUMC Food Pantry continues to be a robust outreach and ministry for community neighbors needing food assistance. The Food Pantry provides a food box containing 2-3 family meals to 35-45 families each week. It also provides the opportunity for neighbors to share personal and family needs, and for us to offer prayers and emotional support.

This outreach ministry is possible through the Grace of God and loving donations from our congregation. The donations of shelf-stable foods (beans, rice, cereals, canned goods, etc.) continue to sustain our Food Pantry. The financial gifts enable us to supplement our stores with local purchases.

Numbers are only a part of the success story, but they make an impressive chapter given our humble beginning and the handful of ministry volunteers that meet each Wednesday. In a recent month, the Food Pantry served 156 families (367 individuals), and boxed and distributed 2,250 pounds of food. That is an average of nearly 15 pounds of food per box given out each visit. Through your generosity this year so far, over 2,900 pounds of food have been donated by our congregation along with \$3,500 in cash for local food purchases. This outstanding commitment was used to support our successful application for an \$8,000 grant to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to our neighbors weekly.

We continue to partner with Second Harvest Food Bank Metrolina – a non-profit regional warehouse providing food for distribution to those in need in North and South Carolina. We are able to get dry-goods, canned vegetables and fruit, and frozen meats for an 18 cent/lb administrative fee; and we get some fresh vegetables and other foods at no cost. At our last visit, we were able to get 934 lbs of groceries for \$156.78. That's nearly 6 pounds of food for every dollar; your contributions go a long way!

You can continue to help this ministry by praying for it; donating shelf-stable food items for distribution; financially supporting; and/or by volunteering to drive or help with food pick-up, or organizing and distributing our food boxes. We thank God for the opportunity and resources to love and serve our neighbors.

–Ben Nantz

Finance Report



Budget - Our church leaders are currently working diligently on the 2027 budget, and each work area has been asked to submit its funding requests as soon as possible. The Finance Committee will draft a proposed budget in October for the Church Council to review before final approval at our Charge Conference November 15. If you are aware of expenses to be included in next year's budget, please contact the appropriate work-area to ensure your recommendations are included in their consideration. Changing our budget after Charge Conference is possible but is much more cumbersome than getting it right from the start. Thank you for helping us plan accurately for all of our 2027 ministry needs!

Giving - Our 2026 giving has been exceptionally faithful and consistent. In past years, summer giving has dropped as attendance is down due to vacations and other absences from our worship service. Not this year, though! Our faithfulness in giving to God's work here at Oak Hill UMC has been impressive and allowed us to meet expenses and complete work that in past years would have been delayed until "better times." I trust each of us has experienced the joy of giving back to the Lord a portion of the blessings He has overwhelmed us with. Because we remain on target to meet our annual expenses, we can fully carry out the community ministries we set out to do this year. God makes His work possible, especially when we are faithful, focused, and financially generous.

A Surprise - Confession time for me (Ben). As we began planning for next year's budget, I realized that our Apportionments had not been paid this year. From the start, I missed noting that monthly obligation. Again, God provides and it is by the strength of this year's giving we have the funding to meet our Apportionment obligations by year's end. It will take about \$4,500 for each of the last 3 months to catch up on this. I ask for your continued faithful giving that will provide for our other ongoing expenses. And I promise to not miss this next year. OHUMC has paid 100% of its assigned Apportionments for many years and that loyalty to our District, Conference, and General Church has given us a strong reputation.

-Ben Nantz

Special Funds

Please remember to support our special funds, which are outside our General Fund tithing and giving, and they are incredibly important to our outreach ministries. Our financial report at the end of August revealed that nearly \$19,000 of Special Fund giving was spent in support of ministries like: Love Our Neighbor, Scholarships, Backpack Ministry, Food Pantry, Playground Rehabilitation, and Gifts for Christ Outreach.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 9/27/2026						
CASH FLOW						
BALANCE SHEET	Beginning Jan. 1, 2026 - Year to Date			YTD TOTAL	Week of: Sept. 21 - 27, 2026	
	General Fund		Special Fund		General Fund	Special Fund
Beginning Bank Balance	9,929.70		178,044.52		14,957.98	6,945.95
Total Incoming Deposits	188,987.56		29,165.43		4,148.40	21.00
Tithes & Offerings	-	174,613.73	-		-	-
Non-Cash Tithes	-	(383.70)	-		-	-
Voided Checks	-	2,076.90	-		-	-
Reimbursement: Sales Tax	-	802.89	-		-	-
Incoming Deposit & Transfer	60,000.00	11,871.50	34,500.00		-	-
Outgoing Transfer	(4,500.00)		(180,000.00)		-	-
Bank Interest YTD	-	6.24	52.93		-	-
Total	-	188,987.56	-		-	-
Expenses	(239,810.88)		(54,851.91)	(294,662.79)	-	(55.98)
Ending Cash Balance	19,106.38		6,910.97	26,017.35	19,106.38	6,910.97
SPECIAL FUNDS BALANCES			TREND IN DEPOSITS			
Bank Interest minus Charges		238.71	Week Ending		General Fund	Special Fund
Backpack Ministry		6,826.32	09/27/26		4,148.40	21.00
Capital Reserve Fund		28,726.82	09/20/26		3,312.60	76.00
Food Pantry		11,042.24	09/13/26		10,000.21	553.89
Gifts for Christ		0.00	09/06/26		6,088.06	565.00
Grant - Connect Church (MPAC)		869.17	08/30/26		1,275.00	171.00
Grant - Resourceful Comm. 20-21		3,710.49	08/23/26		3,282.45	173.00
Grant - WNCC Disaster Capital		35,109.72	08/16/26		2,700.26	165.00
Love Our Neighbor		817.89	08/11/26		0.00	8,000.00
Robin Fleming Fund		4,934.21	08/09/26		3,394.80	735.00
Special Missions Offerings		7,455.24	08/02/26		4,137.62	1,086.00
Vehicle Fund		10,607.32	07/26/26		7,469.80	626.00
Youth & Family Outreach		4,892.88	07/19/26		5,939.70	1,001.00
Special Funds Transfer to Edward Jones Invest.		(120,000.00)	07/12/26		4,100.00	501.00
All Other		11,679.96	07/05/26		4,578.06	30.00
TOTAL		6,910.97				

Our tithing and gifts to God's church, returning to Him a portion of all He has provided for us, has pleased God and He continues to show His pleasure to us. Thank you for your faithfulness, and for your gifts in support of OHUMC.



Oak Hill UMC Homecoming Update

Celebrating Our Blessings & Accomplishments

Homecoming is a wonderful time to highlight the hard work of all our dedicated volunteers! Together, we continue to care for and revitalize our church home to the glory of God.

Building & Facility Upgrades

- WiFi thermostats are now installed in the MPAC, Sanctuary, and part of the educational wing for remote temperature management with more to come.
- Replaced individual ovens in the MPAC with a newish double oven. Biscuits come out perfect every time!
- UMM pressure washed walkways and stairs around the church and MPAC
- Purchased a Zamboni-like floor scrubber for the MPAC.
- Updated plumbing for the kitchen sink in the parsonage.
- Revised the Rules for Facilities Use to raise the fee for non-member events and include a security deposit.
- Revitalizing the playground, which includes replacing asphalt with sod, improving drainage, and refreshing the playground equipment. All of this will make the space safer and more enjoyable for our growing young families.

Ministries & Community Outreach

- Food Pantry expanded capacity to serve 50 families (up from 35). Partnered with Freedom High School for students who assist with packing boxes and loading cars. Joined a coalition with Mtn. Grove, Linville, and Glen Alpine UMCs that was awarded grant funding for fresh produce.
- Green Team expanded sustainability efforts by setting up and sorting plastic film recycling collections, planting a blueberry patch, and introducing an on-site beehive with proceeds from the sale of its honey supporting playground renovations!
- WiF Circles have been busy, creating and collecting donations for projects which support women and children. After the revival of the Knit Whits, prayer shawls were recently given to 2 families who have been lifted in prayer.
- Family Ministries have hosted many fun opportunities for fellowship this summer!
- A new Toddlers Sunday School class was added to our roster. Thanks to faithful attendance, our Sunday School boasts an average weekly attendance of 40 loving souls.
- Our Music Director, Amalie, hosted a free Music Camp for kids this summer and will begin a weekly music class for toddlers this month.
- Celebrated a confirmation class of 7 students.
- Grace Heights Ministry has so many participants each month that they have almost outgrown the room where they sing hymns and share devotions.
- Scholarships were awarded to 5 college students.
- Our Meals on Wheels support team continues faithful deliveries to our neighbors in need.
- Support continues for Oak Hill Elementary through a school supply drive, annual Teacher Luncheon, and Backpack Ministry.

A heartfelt expression of gratitude to each and every one of our volunteers for your unwavering support, tireless efforts, and steadfast dedication!

*Thank
You*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 10/10 - Red Cross Blood Drive (9:00-1:00), MPAC
 10/10 - Family Ministries Field Trip to Grandad's Apples, Hendersonville
 10/17 - Nature Walk (10:00), Oak Hill Community Park
 10/28 - Halloween Party (5:00-7:00), Shelter
 11/3 - Friendly Tuesday - Do Your Own Thing (8:00-12:00), Fellowship Hall
 11/15 - Give Cheese A Chance (RESCHEDULED)
 11/15 - Giving Tree, MPAC
 11/15 - **Charge Conference (after worship), Sanctuary**
 11/17 - Italian Drive-by Fundraiser, MPAC
 11/19 - Community Thanksgiving Service (6:00), Mountain Grove UMC
 11/21 - WiF Bazaar, Bake Sale, & Breakfast, MPAC
 11/21 - Nature Walk (10:00), Oak Hill Community Park
 11/29 - Love Feast (7:00), Sanctuary

For weekly, recurring meetings, activities, and ALL church events, please go to the

Main Church Calendar on our website - www.ohumc.com



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

Anniversaries

Joe & Susan Schwind	10/2
Adam & Tracy Love	10/4
Bryan & Annette Searcy	10/4
Chris & Lori Draughon	10/15
Ken & Brigitte Clark	10/22
Barry & Suki Davis	10/25
Randy & Myra Paschall	11/11
Ben & Elaine Nantz	11/20

Birthdays

Greg Moore	10/3
Izaak Watkins	10/8
Wes Taylor	10/9
Dee Whisnant	10/11
Will Brown	10/13
Cason Scott	10/18
Melinda Clontz	10/19
Jenna Brown	10/21
Annette Searcy	10/22
Eric Smith	10/22
Shane Atkins	10/24
Dianna Fisher	10/24
Phylis Wright	10/28
Bobby Rhodes	10/29
Karen Shuffler	10/29
Ann Aldridge	10/30
Jeff Allman	10/31
Will Taylor	10/31
Donnie Williams	10/31

Piper Atkins	11/1
Amanda Conley	11/4
Carla Brown	11/6
Debra Cloer	11/11
Chris Draughon	11/11
Katy Fox	11/11
Elinora Miller	11/11
William Brown	11/13
Piper Cato	11/13
Betsy Scott	11/14
Ayden Helton	11/16
Oma Brown	11/18
Jesse Carswell	11/18
Drew Taylor	11/21
Sandi White	11/23
Sam Brittain	11/24
Betty Turman	11/25
Judy DeVries	11/26
Tristian Brown	11/29
Debbie Morehead	11/30

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Patrick Henson (military), Jay Fox, Donna Shoun, 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, Nancy Clark, Jody Clark, John Chapman, Kevin Colwell, Freida Hobson, Debbie Meurson

Extended Family and Friends

Barbara Vance; Carolyn Teseneer; Brian Duckworth;
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);
Ronnie Moore (Sonny Moore's brother);
Judy (Penny Helton'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. 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