



- To magnify and glorify God in worship, prayer and praise.
- To fellowship, nurture and disciple all members and visitors in the ways of life based on Biblical teachings.
- To take Jesus Christ, His Word, and His Love to all people in our community and the world.

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November 2025

Oak Island
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Word from the Pastor

The naming of the months on our calendar is a downright confusing thing. Since we mark the beginning of the year in January, November is the 11th month on our calendar. But the name itself means the ninth month (in fact, September means the 7th month, October means the 8th month, and December means the 10th month!). The reason for all of this is a bit long and complicated: the ancient Romans added two months to the calendar, which shifted everything, in addition to the fact that we have not always marked the beginning of the New Year in January (for much of history, it was in March, which would make November month number nine).

In the old Anglo-Saxon calendar, used by the “Old English”, this time of the year was called “Blodmonath,” which mean “Blood Month,” or “Month of Sacrifice.” It seems that it was called this because it was the month when livestock were slaughtered, and before the coming of Christianity dedicated to their pagan gods. But even some of this is a guess, simply because it was only after the evangelization of the Anglo-Saxons that any of their history was written down.

At any rate, November was considered the month when winter began in earnest, with some even marking the beginning of winter in October (which makes sense if you know anything about weather in the British Isles). This is why Christmas was considered to fall in “Midwinter” (since we date winter by the solstice, our “official” winter does not begin until December 21 or 22, even though in the northern climes snow has already fallen).

For us in the USA, November is associated with Thanksgiving, which also marks the beginning of the “Christmas” shopping season. In fact, President Roosevelt actually moved Thanksgiving Day from the last Thursday to the fourth Thursday in November, so that there would be, in some years, more days in the “Christmas Season” (defined by the economy, that is).

Thanksgiving is one of those interesting holidays that is credited to the Pilgrims, though the Pilgrims did not believe in any holidays determined by the calendar (especially Christmas and Easter). The Pilgrims would call a feast day or a fast day in response to a community’s experience of blessing (like a good harvest, or the coming of peace after a war) or experience of tragedy (like an illness or war). The Pilgrims would not have approved of an annual Thanksgiving Day, any more than they approved of Christmas or Easter. A subject for another day!

But here we are! November is upon us. Let us approach our national day of Thanksgiving with thankful hearts. Let us also be aware that November will bring us the first Sunday of Advent on its final Sunday. Enjoy the cooler air (as I do), the quieter roads in our community, and the turning of the year to winter.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Walter L. Taylor



Dear Friends,

We want to express our thanks and gratitude to you for the wonderful Pastor Appreciation reception on Sunday, October 26, as well as the kind and generous notes, cards, and gifts that we received. We are grateful to be serving at Oak Island EPC, and once again you have given us something that we can "brag about" to our friends and colleagues! Again, thank you so much.

Pastors Agnes and Walter Taylor



CUSTODIAN POSITION NEEDED

The last couple of years Rodney Ashley has served our church as our custodian, and did a wonderful job, but at the end of October he retired from his position here at OIEPC. That means we are looking for a new custodian.

Do you know someone who might be interested in this position? Contact Bill Neeb, head of our Personnel Committee. We hope to find a new custodian as soon as possible.



OIEPC Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, November 27
1:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Sign-up Sheets:
Narthex
Fellowship Hall
Office Foyer



Turkeys will be provided. Please plan on bringing a dish and/or dessert to share.
Contact: Lynne Barmore

November Worship



I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; Let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! (*Psalms 34 :1-4*)

November 2

Colossians 1:15-20: "The Supremacy of Jesus".

Rev. Doug Vinez will preach on the Supremacy of Jesus Christ.

Hymns: 167 When Morning Guilds the Skies
 420 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
 154 Thou Art the Way

November 9

John 3:1-15: "Crucified, Resurrected, Ascended".

In the Gospel of John, the expression "lifted up", in reference to Jesus, often includes the whole action of his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to the Father.

Hymns: 246 Man of Sorrows! What a Name
 506 As When The Hebrew Prophet Raised
 155 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

November 16

Matthew 25:31-46: "Coming Again to Judge".

The Lord Jesus is coming again to judge the living and the dead. What does it mean to live in the light of this truth?

Hymns: 715 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
 163 At the Name of Jesus
 289 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

November 23

2 Corinthians 3:12-18: "Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life".

Who is the Holy Spirit? Is the Holy Spirit God, or something else?

Hymns: 363 We Gather Together
 98 Now Thank We All Our God
 339 For Your Gift of God the Spirit

November 30

Rev. 21:9-27: Advent 1: "The One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church".

The Church is not simply a "trade union", or a club for individual Christians. It is the ark of salvation, an essential part of God's mission in Jesus Christ.

Hymns: 317 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
 194 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 156 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

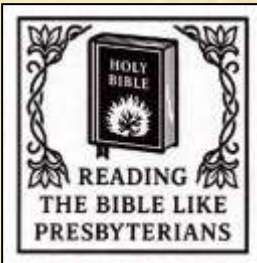


ADUSTED
OIEPC Adult Sunday School Schedule
SUNDAYS AT 9:15 AM

Due to the illnesses that have swept through our congregation, we had to make some changes to our Adult Sunday School schedule.

Our new schedule looks as follows:

· **Reading the Bible Like Presbyterians** – *Pastor Walter Taylor*
Pastor Taylor will finish his series on November 9.



· **The Fulness of Christ for Everyday Life** – *Charles Bogardus*
In this Fall Sunday School class, we will uncover how our faith in Christ and the Scriptures provides a reliable resource for providing what everyone needs in their everyday lives. These Scriptural provisions will be compared to the temporal and shallow offerings of the world and show that it is ultimately Jesus Christ who offers the most abundant life.

- November 2 Freedom
- November 16 Peace
- November 23 Hope
- November 30 Identity
- December 7 Satisfaction
- December 14 Meaning



PRE-SERVICE PRAYER
SUNDAYS 10:05 – 10:20 AM



After Sunday School, we meet for a group prayer meeting. Our prayers will be focused on God’s glory, our worship service, and our spiritual growth as a congregation.

Everyone is invited to join: elders, deacons, church members and regular attendees!
Whether you have previously participated in a church prayer meeting or not, please join us, even if it is to pray silently.

Psalm 29:2 – “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.”

Hebrews 12:28 – “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.”



Monday's at 7:00 p.m. Location: Conference Room

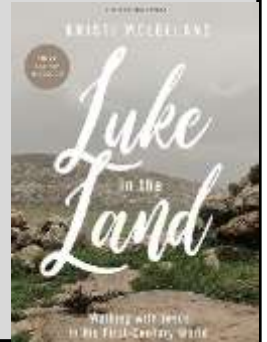
Our Women's Bible Study group is studying "Luke in the Land: Walking with Jesus in His First Century World" by Kristi McLelland.

With this study, we travel through Israel in video sessions filmed in Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, and more to see the gospel story in a whole new way. Through the videos, the book and our discussions, we will gain a deeper understanding of stories of Jesus's life from a first-century point of

view and explore cultural and historical concepts that will give new perspective on well-known biblical stories. Kristi McLelland will deepen the way we read the accounts of Jesus. We will spend a couple of weeks exploring each chapter together.

It is never too late to join! Buy a book (Amazon, Christian Book Distributors) and join us!! You will be surprised how many new insights you will gain!

For more information, contact Rev. Agnes Taylor @ 910-278-9741.



**Upcoming
Communion:
December 7**

**December
Newsletter**

**DEADLINE:
November 15**



Men's Morning

Bible Study & Discussion

Wednesday, November 5

8:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.

Join us as we'll be discussing some of the parables of Christ and then considering the practical applications for our own lives. Our goal will be to seek a deeper walk with Him.

Location: Mroczek's home at **305 Lord Thomas Avenue** in Southport.

Contact: *Dirk Mroczek*: mroczek.dirk@gmail.com

Make plans now to join us for Bible study, fellowship and great coffee!

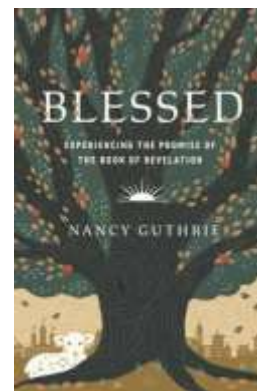




BOOKS AND COFFEE

**Disciples Room at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, November 4
Tuesday, November 18**

Our Books and Coffee group is continuing an in-depth study of Nancy Guthrie's book "Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation".



Blessed covers the full text of the book of Revelation, exploring its call to patient endurance as God's sovereign plans for judgment and salvation are worked out in the world. This book shows that Revelation is less about when Jesus will return and more about who we are to be, what we are to do, and what we can expect to endure as we wait for Jesus to return to establish his kingdom in the new creation.

With a friendly and engaging tone, Blessed takes the fear, intimidation, and confusion away from studying Revelation, providing a solid and accessible resource that we can use to study this important yet often avoided book. We invite you to join us on a journey to discover the blessings of the book of Revelation!



Doug and Abby Vinez are missionaries to the Western Province of Africa through the Global Training Network. They are providing quality biblical and theological training to thousands of indigenous church planters, pastors and Christian leaders throughout the Majority World, so that these pastors and leaders can then effectively equip and lead their congregations to evangelize and disciple their communities for Christ. They have reached people in Zambia, Namibia Botswana, Malawi, Kenya and other countries in Africa. Their outreach has enabled many of their disciples to be church planters in regions in that did not know Christ in Africa.

This is the 28th year they have been providing this training.

Doug and Abby will be joining us in church service on November 2. Doug will provide the sermon. Following the service, the congregation is invited to a covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Doug will also play a short video during the luncheon.

We look forward to seeing you!

Paula Paxton, Mission Committee



**Sunday
November 2
Noon**



Prayer Requests

If you have a need or prayer request, please call the church office or email us.

All urgent prayer requests will then be shared through email to all church members. This will allow your prayer requests to be shared universally with your church family. Due to privacy laws, hospital admission information is not available to your pastor. Thank you.



OUR NURSERY NEEDS YOU!!



We are blessed to have a beautiful, well-equipped Nursery, plus a wonderful, experienced Nursery Worker, Keena Knox, but what we do NOT have are enough volunteers to assist Keena.

For reasons of legal liability, we ARE REQUIRED to have two adults over 18 in the Nursery if we have a child or children. We need your help to be able to provide nursery care for families with young children. If there are no children on the Sunday you signed up for, you can return to the Sanctuary.

Will you be a blessing to visiting families with young children? There is a sign-up sheet on the small bulletin board right next to the Nursery. Let's fill the open slots together and provide this important ministry to God's little ones and their families!



WILL YOU HOST A FELLOWSHIP TIME?



Do you enjoy our Fellowship Time after the worship service, and the opportunity it gives to connect with others in our congregation? Why not sign up to be the host for one of our Fellowship Times? Or how about co-hosting it with someone else?

You would be responsible for providing some simple goodies (a plate of cookies will do just fine!), and if needed some beverages to be enjoyed during our time of fellowship. Need help with the coffee maker? No problem! Lisa Milligan or Agnes Taylor will be happy to assist you!



A sign-up sheet is located on the long table in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to participate in this ministry of welcome and fellowship!

SURVING THE HOLIDAYS

Sunday, November 16 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.



Grieving a loss? Know someone who is? The holidays are portrayed in the movies and in commercials as a happy, warm family time. But for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, the holidays have a very different feel and may trigger many tough emotions. Find encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the challenges of the holiday season through GriefShare's *Surviving the Holidays*.

This special 2-hour seminar will be held on Sunday, November 16, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall here at OIEPC. There is a \$10.00 fee for the seminar materials, but scholarships are available. For more information about *Surviving the Holidays* or our scholarships, please contact Rev. Agnes Taylor at 910-278-9741 or oakislandpcdce@gmail.com.



You can register online by going to griefshare.org/holidays and clicking on **Find the Event**. You will see the name of our church pop up as one of the options. Or, if you prefer, you can contact Pastor Agnes, either by phone or email.



Shoebox Season is here!!

Let's partner with Samaritan's Purse to spread joy and bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to boys and girls around the world. You can pack a traditional shoebox as you have done in the past or you can choose to 'Build a Shoebox' online. See details below!! ***Our goal is to pack or build online approximately 100 or more shoeboxes this year.***

Pack a Traditional Shoebox: Place your packed shoeboxes on the pew in front of Sherry's office no later than:
Sunday, November 16

Pick up shoeboxes and pack them with fun toys, hygiene items (***NO toothpaste and NO soap***) and school supplies. Shoeboxes available for pick up: Sunday, Oct 26 in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall.



Donate \$10.00 per box to cover shipping and other project costs (training for local churches and Gospel materials). For easiest processing, you can give online or give by check using the envelope/brochure found inside your box.

- If writing a check, please write your check to 'Samaritan's Purse' and write a note on the memo line that the donation is for 'Operation Christmas Child'. Please remember to attach a label to your shoebox and mark if the shoebox is for a boy or girl and the age group.
- If packing a traditional shoebox, please sign the sheet located in the Narthex or the Fellowship Hall with your name, email address and the number of shoeboxes you are packing (**sign-up sheet will be available on October 26th**). If you are unable to attend services and would like to participate in packing a traditional shoebox, the shoeboxes will be located on the bench in front of Sherry's office along with the sign-up sheet.

Build a Shoebox Online

Building a shoebox online starts now by using the OIEPC goal page. This option allows you to pick and choose certain essentials (school supplies), a 'Wow' toy (doll, stuffed animal or soccer ball with pump), small toys (necklace, jump rope, harmonica, frisbee and yoyo) and accessories (flashlight, calculator, socks, shirt, flip flops, watch, etc.). The cost for building a shoebox online is \$30 total. There is no additional charge for shipping.

An OIEPC goal page has been created to keep track of the number of shoeboxes that are built online.

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/d496f8eb-a26e-474a-a8a6-74d6c2d6d393>

Thank you in advance for your participation. Have fun packing your shoeboxes or building them online!

Grace and Peace, *Lisa and Bonnie*



Men's Fellowship
Saturday, November 8
8 - 9 a.m.
Disciples Room



Enjoy our free breakfast and fellowship!

All men of the church are invited!

You never know who you'll meet or the topics of discussion. Contact: *Dirk Mroczek*

Oak Island EPC	ACTIONS OF THE SESSION	September 28, 2025 October 7, 2025 October 22, 2025
On September 28, 2025, Leslie Boyd, Cynthia Boyd, Jack Daulton, Barb Daulton, Keith Faile, Lisa Faile, Bill Flythe, Nona Flythe, Anne Love, and Lauren MacGregor into membership with OIEPC. On October 7, 2025, Session approved action to engage the services of Mr. Bounds to replace grill cloth on the six grill panels for a maximum of \$2,700. Personnel Committee: Rodney Ashley, custodian, is retiring and Cheryl Montgomery will fill position while a permanent replacement is sought. Communication Committee: Special Grief Sharing event for the holidays, Lessons and Carols, and Candle-light Service will be publicized. Missions Committee: Doug Vinez will preach on November 2, 2025. Missions Group will be going to Peru on November 6, 2025. Due to SNAP benefits being suspended, the SOIIF Food Pantry is in need of assistance. Session approved \$2000 contribution to them. Outreach Committee: Men's Pancake Breakfast will be held the last Saturday of November. An organ concert for the community is being planned. Worship Committee: Communion will be held on November 2, 2025, with congregants coming forward. Stewardship and Finance Committee: The ramp to Sanctuary Porch will be widened. Rock will be used to fill in space on right side where bushes were previously. Clerk's Report: Richard Staat died on October 3, 2025. Presbytery: Sandi Scott and Patricia Bressler gave report on their attendance at Presbytery. Pastor's Report: Concern was expressed for those who are experiencing difficult health issues. Dr. Taylor will be on vacation beginning October 31, 2025, and returning on November 5, 2025. Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Hall, Clerk		

MONTHLY REPORTS OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

Sept 2025

September

Contributions Received Year To Date For General Funds

\$ 265,235

Budgeted Monthly

\$ 28,854

General Fund Contribution For Sep2025

\$ 30,441

Special Funds Contributions

Paths of Hope	\$	100
Missions General	\$	100
Mary Sneed Memorial Fund	\$	75
Human Needs	\$	677
Scholarship Fund	\$	5,437
New Organ 2025 Fund	\$	27,400

Total Special Funds

\$ 33,789

Total All Funds Received in Sep2025

\$ 64,230

Prayer ListNursing/Rehab Homes:

Gene Stark	Southport Health & Rehab Center, #202A, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461
Suzan Fogle	Southport Health & Rehab Center, #605, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461
Margaret Pettrey	Lexington Country Place, #213B, 700 Mason Headley Rd, Lexington, KY 40504
Shelvy Pasour	Peak Resources Gastonia, #302, 2780 X-Ray Drive, Gastonia, NC 28054

Our homebound, hospitalizations, those suffering with long-term illnesses, and other prayer requests:

Jennifer Davis (daughter of Phyllis Hendrick); Chris DeArros; Pat Kelly; Allen Walts; Louis Perry (friend of Bob and Jane Wydra), treatment for prostate cancer; Mary Ann Whitley (friend of Eagle family), undergoing cancer treatment; Jenny Muse; Bonnie Diana (friend of David and Paula Paxton) treatment for brain tumor; Lynne Barmore, chemo treatments; Jose Pena, ongoing health concerns; Gary Taylor (son-in-law of Bonnie Pendergast), ongoing cancer treatment; Charlene Harding (mother of Kent Winrich), in memory care with Lewy body dementia; Nate Winrich (son of Kent Winrich), non-believer; Jim Gerlach, in remission for multiple myeloma, Sid Hart, broken pelvis and elbow; Tony Dellinger (cousin of Jane Wydra), recovering from a heart transplant; Walter and Jane Moore, hospice; Evelyn Reynolds, hospice; Vickie Potter (friend of Glenda Dennis), cancer treatment; Shawn Gray (friend of Ken Eagle), recovering from kidney transplant surgery; Javier Mendoza-Diek (friend of Ken and Karen Eagle), brain bleed from bicycle accident; Bob Jenkins, under treatment for cancer; Merle Scherle, under treatment for acute lymphocytic leukemia; Angie Myers, (daughter-in-law of Ann Myers), leg infection; Christopher Jilek (son of Bill and Nona Flythe), spinal fusion of cervical area around neck.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Walter L. Taylor, Pastor
 Rev. Agnes Taylor, Assistant Pastor
 Sherry Hardison, Office Administrator
 Michael Byers, Bookkeeper
 Donna Winrich, Director of Music
 Ann Myers, Organist
 Keena Knox, Nursery Coordinator

Rev.W.L.Taylor@gmail.com
 oakislandpcdce@gmail.com
 oakislandpc@gmail.com
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 donna.winrich@gmail.com

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship & Communion NOON Nurture Committee NOON Fellowship Meal	3	4 10:00 Books and Coffee 6:30 Missions Committee	5 8:30 Men's Morning Bible Study/off site 3:00 Choir Practice	6	7 8:00 Emmaus	8 8:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
9 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	10 11:00 Martha's Circle	11 9:00 Finance Committee	12 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 Deacons Mtng 7:00 Outreach	13	14	15
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship 4:00 Surviving The Holiday's	17 7:00 Womens Bible Study	18 10:00 Books and Coffee	19 1:00 Craft Club 3:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Session	20	21 8:00 Emmaus	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	24 7:00 Womens Bible Study	25	26 3:00 Choir Practice	27 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 Thanksgiving Dinner	28	28
30 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship						



11/1	BILL FLYTHE
11/10	LEE SMYRE
11/10	PAULA ABEL
11/12	PATRICIA KELLY
11/15	JANE JENKINS
11/15	BECKY DAVIS
11/16	KATHRYN COIRO
11/19	KAREN EAGLE
11/23	MERJA HUNT
11/28	SUZAN FOLGE
11/30	JUDY NAQUIN
11/30	MARK GREENE



CAFÉ NOEL RETURNS TO OIEPC!!! **Sunday, December 14 5:00 p.m.**

Once again, OIEPC will open its doors right here at OIEPC to celebrate the Christmas season as a church family. What is Café Noel? For Café Noel, our Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a tasteful and festive Christmas restaurant. There will be a delicious dinner, followed by our amazing dessert buffet. Afterwards there will be a musical program with a variety of performances by members and groups in our congregation. Café Noel is a wonderful Christmas celebration for our church family and friends, offered to you by our Nurture and Christian Education Committee.

Our dinner will be catered. Stay tuned for more information!!!

Our dessert buffet will showcase desserts made by members of our congregation willing to contribute a (preferably homemade) dessert for our always delicious buffet. Sign-up sheets to provide a dessert for Café Noel will be available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, November 23.

Would you like to be one of our performers this year? Please contact Pastor Walter!

You can make your reservations for Café Noel Sunday, November 16 through Sunday, November 30 after worship in the Lounge, the room next to the Church Library. We will let you know how much the dinner will cost per person as soon as we have a price! You can pay cash or by check. Please make checks out to OIEPC, with "Café Noel" on the memo line. You will receive tickets for the people in your party in return.

