



- 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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In the 25th chapter of Leviticus there is a description of the Jubilee Year. Every fiftieth year in the land of Israel was to be a time of Jubilee. In that year, provision was to be made for the return of property to the families that previously owned them. Provision was to be made for the freedom of those who sold themselves into slavery due to poverty. There was to be kindness for the poor, to assist them in again regaining the lands they had lost over time, or redeeming them from their slavery. Yet, there is no evidence that the Jubilee Year was ever implemented in the entire **history of the Old Testament! Even so, the term "Jubilee" has remained with us as a word of celebration, especially celebrations of fifty years or more.**

2026 is a Jubilee Year for our congregation. On August 15, 1976, what is now Oak Island EPC was formally chartered as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS). Just a few years later, in 1983, it became a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which came into being when the PCUS reunited with the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, a division that occurred at the time of the Civil War. Ten years ago, after a long and arduous process, our congregation was dismissed from the PC(USA) and became a congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the EPC. In our fifty years of history as an officially chartered congregation, we have been a part of three different Presbyterian denominational bodies. But what has not changed is the faith and practice of congregation as a local church of Jesus Christ.

This year we will mark and celebrate the half century of life that our congregation has had, in hopes of many more years to come, God willing. This year we will look back, remember, and give thanks for those who have gone before us, whose work secured a church in this community of which we have become a part. But we will also celebrate the present, giving thanks that God is with us, even as we look to the future in hope and dependence upon God for what he intends to make of our congregation in the future.

So let us give thanks, as we celebrate our past, present, and future!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Walter L. Taylor



January 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! (Psalm 34:1-4)

January 4

Epiphany: “The Empire Strikes Back”: Psalm 2; Matthew 2:1-18: The Christmas story ends with the story of the Magi, King Herod, and the slaughter of the children of Bethlehem. The coming of the light casts shadows in the world. Does this story about the darker side of Christmas teach us how to read the world in our own time?

Hymns: 226 As with Gladness, Men of Old
 228 Saw You Never, in the Twilight
 Insert Psalm 2: Wherefore Do the Nations Rage

January 11

“Organized Religion”: Luke 2:39-52: “Organized Religion” has fallen on hard times throughout the Western world. People are quick to say things like “I’m spiritual, but not religious.” And even in many Christian circles, the word “religion” has become something of a negative term, and more than once I have heard things like “Christianity is a relationship, not a religion.” But is this true? What is “religion”? What was Jesus’ attitude to “religious observance”?

Hymns: 390 Lord of the Sabbath, Hear Us Pray
 394 This Day at Thy Creating Word
 599 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

January 18

TBA



Over the next several weeks into Easter, we will return to the Gospel of Matthew and give attention to the story of our Lord’s Passion: his suffering, death, and resurrection.

January 25

“The Plot Begins”: Matthew 26:1-16: The plot to kill Jesus comes together as the temple authorities and Judas begin to plan it together. Yet, in the midst of this, a woman offers up an extravagant act of devotion to Jesus. What are we to do with this story? Is what this woman does a “waste,” as her critics said? Or is there something more going on here?

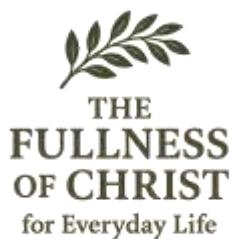
Hymns: 18 You Holy Angels Bright
 53 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
 585 Take My Life, and Let It Be

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 9:15 AM

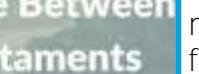
Our Adult Sunday School will restart on Sunday, January 11. Charles Bogardus will finish up "The Fulness of Christ for Everyday Life" with the second part of the topic "Meaning".



On Sunday, January 18 we will start a new series, led by our Pastors, Walter and Agnes Taylor.



The Time Between the Testaments



Can you imagine learning the history of America, but leaving out 400 years of it? You might begin with Native American civilization. But then, beginning with 1619, jump four-hundred years to America in 2019. A large and very important gap of history would be missing! Yet, all too often that is how we study the Bible and learn biblical history. The Old Testament story comes to a close some 400 years before the time of Christ. It comes to a close with the land of Judah being a province in the Persian Empire. But then, when we open the New Testament, we hear about very different historical, cultural, and even religious circumstances from what we left off with in the Old Testament. A lot of things happened in that 400-year period, things that affect how we read and understand the life and ministry of Christ and the early church.

Starting on Sunday, January 18, we will begin a 7-week Sunday School series, "The Time Between the Testaments." In this class we will examine what happened in the land of Judah and in the ancient world from the end of the Old Testament to the beginning of the New. We will look at the religious, political, and cultural changes that occurred. We'll see how all of this affected the religious outlook of the people of Judah/Judea, and how all of this worked to prepare the way for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Plan on joining us!



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.”



A big THANK YOU goes to those who have signed up to assist in the Nursery!

Thanks to you, we can continue to offer this service to visiting families with young children.

Would YOU like to help provide nursery care when it is needed? There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board right next to the Nursery. If there are no slots available on a Sunday you signed up for, you will be able to return to the Sanctuary.

*Let's continue to fill the open slots together
And provide this important service to
God's little ones and their families!*

WILL YOU HOST A FELLOWSHIP TIME?

Faith, Fellowship, Fun

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!

Martha's Circle

Martha's Circle wishes everyone a safe, healthy, and happy Christmas! Our next meeting will be Monday, January 12 in the Fellowship Hall.

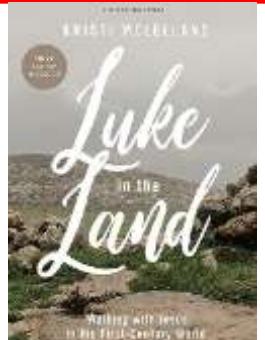
Please plan to attend and bring a friend as we welcome 2026.

Women's Bible Study

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

On Monday, January 5th, 2026, our Women's Bible Study group will continue with the study of "Luke in the Land: Walking with Jesus in His First Century World" by Kristi McLelland.

We have just started with chapter 3, "Inauguration".



Join us for this enlightening study and gain a deeper understanding of Jesus's life and ministry from a first-century point of view. Kristi McLelland is a gifted teacher who will expand your understanding of God's Word.

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

Missions Committee

OIEPC collected 107 gift cards for Angel Tree with a sum of \$4,295.

Our Oak Island families in need thank you.

Paula Paxton for the OIEPC Missions Committee



**February
Newsletter
DEADLINE:
January 15**



Men's Home Bible Study

Wednesday, January 14 + 28
8:30 a.m.— 9:30 a.m.

Meeting at Mrocze's home:
305 Lord Thomas Avenue, Southport

We'll meet at 8:30 every other Wednesday
unless otherwise notified.

Please email Dirk if you have question's:
mrocze.dirk@gmail.com



Outreach
The Outreach Committee is
resuming in January.

Time and date TBA.

Please email Dirk Mrocze if you
would like to be involved in 2026:

mrocze.dirk@gmail.com

BOOKS AND COFFEE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 AND 27

Our Books and Coffee group will continue to study Nancy Guthrie's book "Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation". Blessed explores the Revelation's call to patient endurance as God's sovereign plans for judgment and salvation are worked out in the world. In a friendly and engaging tone, 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.



We will meet on Tuesday, January 13 and 27 at 10:00 AM in the Disciples Room.

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



GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP

A new GriefShare group will start:
Sunday, February 8
4:00 PM in the Disciples Room

If you have lost a loved one or loved ones, you know that grief is a difficult and painful process. Our GriefShare Support Group is for people like you, dealing with the death of a family member or friend. GriefShare provides a safe, welcoming place where you will be among people who understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you will find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in your grief journey and how to navigate **your personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping** with grief, in all its unpredictability – and gain solid support each step of the way. Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions like loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in **your life and relationships; how to recognize what's normal in grief; and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.**

At a weekly meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers, healthcare professionals and GriefShare participants on grief-related topics. Afterwards, we have time for sharing, support, and personal application of what you learned in the video. You will never be made to speak. Participants will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating your personal grieving process. There is a \$20.00 fee for the GriefShare book.

GriefShare is led by facilitators Walter and Agnes Taylor.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our facilitators, or go to Griefshare.org. To register for the group, **go to GriefShare.org, locate our church through "Find a Group", and our church's group will pop up. Click on our group and it will give you all our information, plus a button to register for our group.** Once we have accepted your registration, you will be able to access lots of useful information on the GriefShare website. You will also be able to watch the video of the previous Sunday in case you missed that day or you would like to see it again. You can sign up for comforting daily emails and find many helpful articles.

For PRAYER
Request

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.

~ CAFÉ NOEL ~

Thanks to Rick Dobrowski, chef/owner of Fixins OKI, who catered a delicious meal, those who helped decorate and set up, the bakers who provided wonderful desserts, and of course, those who provided our musical entertainment, Café Noel once again offered a wonderful evening of Christmas joy to our church family!



Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Collection



40 traditional shoeboxes were built
 41 online build a shoebox
 Totaling: 81 shoeboxes!

Thank you OIEPC for your participation with Operation Christmas Child!
 Lisa Mace

OIEPC CHRISTMAS CAROLING

12 Carolers brought Christmas cheer to a number of people in our church with familiar carols and cheerful faces! As always, the visit of the carolers was greatly appreciated by all.



Oak Island EPC

ACTIONS OF THE SESSION

December 17, 2025

Special Order: Trudy Wells was accepted into membership at OIEPC.

Personnel Committee: Staff salary letters are to be mailed.

Nurture and Education Committee: A new series for Sunday School will be taught by Dr. Taylor and Rev. Agnes Taylor regarding the 400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Cafe Noel was a success with approximately 65 in attendance.

Missions Committee: Missionaries will be at worship services on January 11 and 18, 2026. The church collected 107 gift cards for Angel Tree with a sum of \$4,295.

Stewardship and Finance Committee: There have been contributions of \$42,228.63 made to the organ fund leaving a deficit exceeding \$800. Repair was made to one HVAC for sanctuary at a cost of \$1,014. Two Christmas trees were purchased, and cost will be paid from Contingency Fund. The frames for protective windows have been repaired.

The 2026 budget as corrected with a total of \$353,630. was approved.

Communications Committee: The church's website has had consistent hits during the last four years with 484 hits per week during 2025. Summaries of the Nicene Creed sermons have been uploaded to the web site.

Presbytery Report: Dr. Taylor reported the next Presbytery Meeting will be held January 30-31, 2026, in Darlington, SC. Bill Neeb will attend as a commissioner.

Pastor's Report: Dr. Taylor informed session that he would be out of town for meeting in Orlando, Florida, January 11-15, 2026. A future organ recital will be publicized. The founding of the church was August 15, 1976. A Jubilee Celebration will be planned.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Hall, Clerk



From the Heart

Our From the Heart women's group will meet on **Sunday, January 11** after the worship service to make plans for the first quarter of the new year. From the Heart focuses on service projects that benefit our congregation or our community. Interested in checking us out? Come and join us!!!

MONTHLY REPORTS OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
Nov2025

November**Contributions Received Year To Date For General Funds****\$ 318,244****Budgeted Monthly****\$ 28,854****General Fund Contribution For Nov2025****\$ 28,795****Special Funds Contributions**

Flower Ministry	\$ 100
Shoe Boxes	\$ 125
Sid Hart Memorial	\$ 50
Pastor Appreciation	\$ 100
Human Needs	\$ 312
Scholarship Fund	\$ 75
Mission General	\$ 200
New Organ 2025 Fund	\$ 6,250

Total Special Funds**\$ 7,212****Total All Funds Received in Nov2025****\$ 36,007**

Prayer List

Nursing/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; 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; 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; Bob Jenkins, under treatment for cancer; Merle Scherle, under treatment for acute lymphocytic leukemia; Angie Myers (daughter-in-law of Ann Myers), leg infection; Dan Bressler (brother-in-law of Patricia Bressler), ongoing cancer treatment; Glenda Dennis, retina issues; Robin Godwin (cousin of Jane Wydra), has suffered multiple strokes; Susan Pierson (friend of Diane and Ed Hagerty), pancreatic and liver cancer; Ryan Drew (grandson of Jose and Sandi Pena), needs positive changes in his life.

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

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

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2 8:00 Emmaus	3 9:00 New Officer Training	
4	5	6	7	8	9	
10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	7:00 Womens Bible Study	6:30 Missions Committee	3:00 Choir Practice		10	
11 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship Noon From the Heart	12 11:00 Martha's Circle	13 10:00 Books & Coffee	14 8:30 Men's Home Bible Study/off site 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 Deacons Mtng 7:00 Outreach	15	16 8:00 Emmaus	17
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	19 7:00 Womens Bible Study	20 9:00 Finance Committee	21 1:00 Craft Club 3:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Session	22	23	24
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	26 7:00 Womens Bible Study	27 10:00 Books & Coffee	28 8:30 Men's Home Bible Study/off site 3:00 Choir Practice	29	30	31

1/6 Lisa Milligan

1/6 Gloria Bogardus

1/7 David Paxton

1/13 Henrietta Mayo

1/15 Ursel Wallace



1/17	Karen Home
1/17	Phil Johnson
1/21	Anna Cate Coiro
1/30	Richard Davis
1/31	Linda Domman