



March 2026



# Oak Isl and Evangelical Presbyterian Church

1503 East Oak Island Drive Oak Island, NC 28465

910)278-9741 www.oipres.org



With Us Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



- 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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The Lenten season is upon us. "Lent" is an old word that is related to the word "lengthen." It originally described the springtime, when the days begin to "lengthen" and become longer. In fact, in Dutch, the word for spring is "lente." Given that the season prior to Easter came in spring, the words for "spring" and "Lent" were often indistinguishable. In the medieval church, going back to a very early time, the season of Lent was characterized by a time of fasting, as a preparation for the coming feast of Easter, when the fast would end in the Easter feast. Of course, it also made sense to fast during Lent. Spring (and hence the growing season) had not yet arrived, and the winter stores of food were beginning to run low. Given the scarcity of food, it made sense to enforce the need for cutting back with a fast!

At the Protestant Reformation, especially among Reformed churches, Lent "took a real hit," you might say. While Anglicans and Lutherans continued to observe Lent, albeit somewhat scaled down from the obligatory Roman Catholic practices, the Reformed wing of the Reformation pretty much laid it aside altogether. The Lenten fast and self-denial, as a way of "earning" the Easter celebration, did not sit well with Reformed theology of salvation by grace. It too easily bespoke a spirituality of works-righteousness. However, over the last two centuries, more Reformed churches began to take up Lent again, albeit in a more chastened way. Certain things that went with the old Lenten observance were not carried on, however.

For example, in the medieval Roman Catholic Church (and even among some Protestants like Anglicans and Lutherans still), it was not allowed to sing any hymns with "Alleluia" in them. "Alleluia" is a word of celebration, from the Hebrew meaning "Praise the Lord!". Such praise was reserved for Easter and the season that followed it. In the Reformed Tradition, however, there is never a Lord's Day when it is inappropriate to say or sing "alleluia." Besides, it is one thing to remember that our Lord was crucified for us. It is never appropriate, even in Lent, to pretend that he is not yet risen! Likewise, the obligatory fasting, or otherwise "giving up" something for Lent is not typically practiced by Reformed Christians, though some have made use of the practice in more recent times.

I once told a Lutheran friend of mine that we in the Reformed Tradition "tip our hats" to the liturgical calendar. And so we do. In this season of Lent the sermon texts are all from the reading of the passion story in the Gospel of Matthew. In this way, we will prepare for the coming of Easter, but by contemplating the passion (suffering) of our Lord. We will sing at least one hymn with an "alleluia" in it (a hymn that is, interestingly enough, a passion hymn!).

Let us use this Lenten season to reflect on what it means that our Lord endured the cross, freely accepting death, for our sakes, that by his resurrection he would lead us out of death into new life. Remember to join us for worship on Maundy Thursday (which is Thursday, April 2), when we will hear and respond to the passion of our Lord from the Gospel of John.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Walter L. Taylor

**March 1:**

"What Do We Do with Judas?": Matthew 27:1-10: What do we do with Judas? Christians have struggled with the betrayal of Judas, his recognition that he had "betrayed innocent blood," and his scandalous death.

Hymns: 389 This Is the Day the Lord Has Made  
421 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness  
170 Fairest Lord Jesus

**March 8:**

"Which Jesus Do You Want?": Matthew 27:11-26: Did you know that the name "Barabbas" means "son of the father"? Also, some ancient manuscripts of Matthew's Gospel give the first name of Barabbas as "Jesus." Thus, when Pilate gives the crowd a choice of which prisoner they wanted released, the choice was between "Jesus Barabbas" or "Jesus called Christ." This intriguing mixing of names here points to the fact that all of us must make a choice. What kind of Jesus do you want?

Hymns: 108 What'er My God Ordains Is Right  
248 Ah, Holy Jesus, How Has Thou Offended  
669 Commit Now All Your Grievs

**March 15:**

"Lift High the Cross": Matthew 27:27-44: Jesus is delivered over to be crucified. He is crucified amid the mockery of the crowds.

Hymns: 246 Man of Sorrows! What a Name  
252 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
254 Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

**March 22:**

"The Temple Destroyed": Matthew 27:45-66: What does it mean that the veil in the temple tore at the death of Jesus? What does his death mean for the temple? What does it mean for us?

Hymns: 252 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
250 Throned upon the Awful Tree  
247 O Sacred Head Now Wounded

**March 29:**

Palm Sunday: The choir will present the message of the Passion of our Lord in their Easter Cantata, "God So Loved" by Pepper Choplin.

Hymns: 263 Lift High the Cross  
251 Beneath the Cross of Jesus





## 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."



**April  
Newsletter  
Due:**



**March 15**

## Women's Bible Study

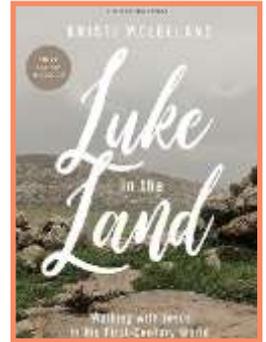
Monday's at 7p.m. ~ Conference Room

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.

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



## Men's Home Bible Study

Wednesday, March 11 & 25 8:30 a.m.— 9:30 a.m.

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

We'll meet until 4/22 unless otherwise notified. Contact Dirk: [mroczek.dirk@gmail.com](mailto:mroczek.dirk@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, March 18  
1:00—4:00 p. m.**



OIEPC crafting group met in February and began working on a project to benefit the Day4Hope sponsored by Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship (SOIIF).

Ardene Burkhardt created several pillowcase kits, and along with her expert sewing instruction, she shared further information regarding the upcoming event, which will benefit impoverished children in Brunswick County. They receive medical, dental & hearing exams, haircuts, new school supplies, books, clothing, gift cards, a catered lunch, and amongst some of the offerings are new pillows and pillowcases. Over 270 children participated in this back-to-school event last year, and this number is expected to be greater this August.

If anyone missed the OIEPC February crafting event, this will be featured again at the OIEPC Wednesday, March 18 crafting meeting,. All are welcome to attend.

Ardene will again provide pillowcase kits & assistance. All completed pillowcases need to be given to Ardene by:  
Mother's Day.

Join us on the 18<sup>th</sup>!



**For More Information: click onto:**

<https://day4hope-nc.org>

Day4Hope+2025+-+Final+Summary+Flyer.pptx+(1).pdf

Please contact Dorothy Crawford (910-294-1732) or Rebecca Jarvis (202-549-0209) with any questions.





Our annual Easter invitation to come up to the choir loft for the Choral Benediction will be this Easter Sunday, April 5, near the end of the service. Pastor Taylor will invite interested members of the congregation to come up to the choir loft and pick up a copy of the chorus and join the choir in the loft. The choir always welcomes this opportunity to join voices with the members who want to sing this beautiful and stirring piece by Handel. *So please consider coming up when invited!*

Objections? See below:

- I don't sing well. We don't care! Come make a joyful noise with this glorious work!
- I haven't sung it in so long! There will be choir members absolutely delighted to have you come and stand next to them! They'll make space for you.
- I don't want Donna to draft me into the choir!  
I won't - I promise!



Questions?  
Contact Donna at:  
[donna.winrich@gmail.com](mailto:donna.winrich@gmail.com)  
She can also email you practice links for your part if you would like to learn or just brush up!



**OIEPC NURSERY**

In order to be able to offer a Nursery to visiting families with young children, we need your assistance!

Would *YOU* be willing 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 children on a Sunday you signed up for, you will be able to return to the Sanctuary. You can also watch the service in the Nursery.

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

*~ Thank you ~*



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](mailto:Rev.W.L.Taylor@gmail.com)  
[oakislandpcdce@gmail.com](mailto:oakislandpcdce@gmail.com)  
[oakislandpc@gmail.com](mailto:oakislandpc@gmail.com)  
[oipecbookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:oipecbookkeeper@gmail.com)  
[donna.winrich@gmail.com](mailto:donna.winrich@gmail.com)

**Nursing/Rehab Homes:**

Suzan Fogle Southport Health & Rehab Center, #605, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461

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:**

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; 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; 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; Ryan Dew (grandson of Jose and Sandi Pena), needs positive changes in his life; Sue Jones, cancer treatment; Mark Lemley (brother of Patricia Bressler's neighbor), ongoing cancer treatment; Linda Dorman, in rehab after a stroke; Phyllis Hendrick, under hospice care.



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.***

Oak Island	EPC ACTIONS OF THE SESSION	February 18, 2026
<b><u>Nurture and Education Committee:</u></b> Will meet on March 1, 2026.		
<b><u>Missions Committee:</u></b> Missionaries were at worship services on January 11 and 18, 2026. The church collected 107 gift cards for Angel Tree with a sum of \$4295.		
<b><u>Worship Committee:</u></b> The next Communion will be March 1, 2026, with congregants coming forward.		
<b><u>Stewardship and Finance Committee:</u></b> Approval was given for the transfer of \$900 to New Organ Fund from Wind/Hail Fund (where it was moved last month) to bring it up to \$2500 which was the donated amount for a new organ bench. Approval was given for paying additional cost of Steeple Siding Expense billed by Mocean. Approval was given for \$25,000 to be transferred from the checking account to Vanguard Money Market Fund.		
<b><u>Communications Committee:</u></b> Phil Johnson reported that he will be working with Technology Committee and Deacons.		
<b><u>Presbytery Report:</u></b> Dr. Taylor reported the next Presbytery Meeting will be held April 24-25, 2026, at Providence Presbyterian Church in Angier, NC.		
<b><u>New Business:</u></b> Discussion regarding possibility of Columbarium on church grounds was initiated.		
Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Hall, Clerk		



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Monthly Meetings Time and date TBA.  
Please email Dirk Mroczek if you would like to be involved:  
mroczek.dirk@gmail.com



BOOKS AND COFFEE

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.

Please contact Rev. Agnes Taylor @ 910-278-9741 for all March meeting dates.



Saturday, March 21  
9 AM—12 Noon

On Saturday, March 21st from 9 AM-12 Noon we will be holding our annual workday. We will be outdoors, doing yard work, trimming, edging, etc. along with minor painting and repairs on the beautiful grounds of OIEPC. *We invite all those who would like to join us to pitch in!* Mr. Marshall Scott will be the bossman. It is BYOR (Bring Your Own Rake) and any other yard tools as you like. Yes, we will also have the necessary tools available as well. If catastrophic weather is predicted for 3/21 we will postpone this workday until 3/28 9-12 noon. Please contact Dirk Mroczek if you have any questions: mroczek.dirk@gmail.com

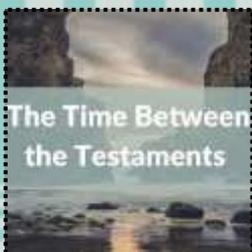
**BRING YOUR OWN RAKE**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:15 A.M.  
“The Time Between the Testaments”— Pastor Walter Taylor

*Join Us*

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.



Our Sunday School series is: 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.

# march

Sunday	Monday	Tues day	Wednes day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship NOON Nurture Committee	2 7:00 Womens Bible Study	3	4 3:00 Choir Practice	5	6 8:00 Emmaus	7
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	9 11:00 Martha's Circle 7:00 Womens Bible Study	10 6:30 Missions Committee	11 8:30 Men's Home Bible Study/off site 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 Deacons Mtng	12	13	14
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	16 7:00 Womens Bible Study	17 9:00 Finance Committee	18 1:00 Craft Club 3:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Session	19	20 8:00 Emmaus	21 9:00-Noon Spring Clean up
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	23 7:00 Womens Bible Study	24	25 8:30 Men's Home Bible Study/off site 3:00 Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Easter Cantata	30 7:00 Womens Bible Study	31				





**3/1**      **Kent Winrich**

**3/1**      **Lisa Faile**

**3/3**      **Cindy Johnson**

**3/11**     **Diane Hagerty**

**3/13**     **Peggy Neeb**

**3/19**     **Emily Dickenson**

**3/22**     **Van Weaver**

**3/23**     **Jose Pena**

**3/27**     **Tony Witkege**

### YOUR PLATTERS



If you have brought dishes, baskets or shopping bags into the kitchen within the past four months, please come get them.

Thank you,  
Ann Hunt Smith



Since there were no registrations, GriefShare has been canceled. Please contact Agnes for any concerns.

### MONTHLY REPORTS OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

Jan 2026

**January**

**Contributions Received Year To Date For General Funds** **\$ 48,832**

**Budgeted Monthly** **\$ 29,473**

**General Fund Contribution For Jan 2026** **\$ 48,832**

Special Funds Contributions

Lynne Barmore Memorial Fund	\$	100
Choir Fund	\$	100
Human Needs	\$	297
Sanctuary Fund	\$	5,841

**Total Special Funds** **\$ 6,338**

**Total All Funds Received in Jan 2026** **\$ 55,170**



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!

Sign-up sheets are located on the long table in the Fellowship Hall.



# Walter and Agnes Taylor 34th Wedding Anniversary

## *Faith, Fellowship, Fun*

