



April 2026



Oak Isl and Evangelical Presbyterian Church

1503 East Oak Island Drive Oak Island, NC 28465

910)278-9741 www.oipres.org



Sunday's 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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With the coming of Easter Sunday, and the season of Eastertide (which is made up of seven Sundays, and not just one), once again we will read from the Gospels about the resurrection of Christ, and sing well-known hymns like, *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* and *Thine Be the Glory*, which addresses Christ as the “risen, conquering Son.” Week by week we confess that our Lord Jesus Christ was raised on the third day, and further that we believe in the “the resurrection of the body” (Apostles’ Creed), or “we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come” (Nicene Creed).

Yet, the Christian’s hope of the resurrection remains a doctrine that is all too often misunderstood by many Christians. Many Christians would not be able to state meaningfully this faith in the resurrection because it is so often neglected, even in what pass as ostensibly “traditional” or “conservative” churches. If asked about their faith, many Christians would talk about “going to heaven,” or their hope that at death their spirit, no longer constrained with the weight of a human body, will soar to heaven.

The problem with the above statement is that it is, at best, a partial, a “half salvation” (one might even say a “half-baked” salvation), and not the salvation that we confess week by week in the creeds! While we do believe that at death, our spirit (which is, honestly, only a small portion of who we are) will be “away from the body and at home with the Lord”, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:8, this is not our final salvation. It is what theologians have called “the intermediate state,” that state of reality for us between the time of death and the day when God will raise up his people at the resurrection at the last day. The teaching of Jesus, the teaching of Paul, the faith expressed in the creeds, and the Christian hope are not that we will experience in eternity some kind of “spirit” existence, apart from the resurrection (albeit transformation) of the body. God is not at work to redeem only a portion of us (an ethereal spirit devoid of any physical properties). The promise of Christ to his people is to raise us up at the last day (John 6:40 and 54). Our bodies are not to be cast off forever, just as the body of Jesus was not left to deteriorate. Rather, our Lord will transform us in the image of his resurrection.

And what’s more, what is true for us individually is also true for creation itself. The biblical hope is that there will be a “new heavens and a new earth.” Already in Isaiah 65:17 this promise is given by God: “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.” This promise is reiterated in the New Testament, at the very end of the book of Revelation, where we are told by John, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more” (Rev. 21:1). The word translated “heaven” in both Isaiah and Revelation could also be translated as “sky,” the point being that God is at work not only to renew us in the resurrection, but he will renew creation itself, so that it will become the place where he will dwell with his people forever.

This is the Christian hope as contained in scripture, and a hope that is not just

something for the distant future, but for now. It teaches us that since God has designs on us now (both in our bodily existence, and for the creation built for us), we are to live in and with both in a way that is God honoring.

This is why Christ calls us, as his followers, to live out our bodily lives to his glory. The body is not something to be denigrated—either in a bad theology that tells us the body is not important or in a set of ethics that says we can do anything we want with our bodies. Rather, God has designs on our bodies, namely, to raise them up in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:13-14). This means they are not to be abused in this life or used for immorality. God already has claim on them. In the same way, we are not to abuse the earth, the world around us, which belongs to God no less than our bodies do (Psalm 24:1). There is not as big a gap between living lives of moral virtue and caring for the physical world as one might think. Sadly, more than once I have heard Christians say that since our Lord is coming soon, it does not matter what damage we do to the physical environment! That is **as much a distortion of the Gospel as it would be to say that it doesn't matter whether or not Christians engage in sexual immorality!**

All of this is because of the resurrection of Christ. As God created the world, and called it “good,” and as he created man and woman and called them “very good,” it is God’s intention, in Jesus Christ, to raise them all up.

May we so live in the light of our Lord’s resurrection! Grace and Peace, Pastor Walter L. Taylor

Dear friends,

Please note the change in the hymns for Easter, as we are having Communion that morning, so the second Easter Sunday hymn has been changed accordingly.

Thanks, Walter

April Worship

April 5:

Easter- Matthew 28:1-15: **“Do Not Be Afraid”**: In Matthew’s telling of the encounter of the women at the tomb, we read that they are told twice, **“Do not be afraid.”** Only then did they **“worship him.”**

Hymns: 277 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
420 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing
 274 Thine Be the Glory

April 12:

Second Sunday of Easter: Matthew 28:16-20: **“What the Church Does”**: Jesus summarizes the mission of his disciples, as to what they are to be doing in the world.

Hymns: 706 Jesus Lives, and So Shall I
 613 Give Thanks unto the Lord Jehovah (Psalm 118)
 453 All Authority and Power

Beginning Sunday, April 19, Dr. Taylor will begin a sermon series based on the Lord’s Prayer.

April 19:

Third Sunday of Easter: **“Our Father in Heaven”**: Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, which shows that perhaps we do not know, naturally, what it is to pray. What’s more, Jesus gave us a prayer to pray, and even gave us a new, radical way of calling on God in our prayer, as our Father.

Hymns: 267 The Day of Resurrection
725 The Lord’s Prayer
 32 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

April 26:

Fourth Sunday of Easter: **“Hallowed be Thy Name”**

Hymns: **104 We Lift Up as Our Shield God’s Name**
 Insert O Lord, Our Lord, in All the Earth (Psalm 8)
 120 All Things Bright and Beautiful





OIEPC is updating our 75+ birthday list to mail out birthday cards. If you would like to be included, or are approaching 75, please send to Sherry:
 Birthday: date/month/year
 Thank you.
 Sherry oakislandpc@gmail.com



75 & FABULOUS

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 2 Service Begins: 7 p.m.



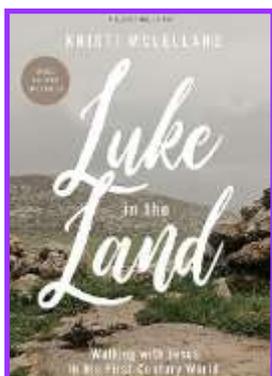
Men's Home Bible Study

Wednesday, April 8 & 22
 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



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Mondays at 7:00 PM ~ Conference Room

Kristi McLelland is a gifted and engaging Bible teacher, who is known for explaining the Bible through a Middle Eastern lens. Through enlightening study sessions and beautiful video lessons, "Luke in the Land: Walking with Jesus in His First-Century World" given us a deeper understanding of Jesus's life and ministry from a first-century point of view. It is not too late to join us, as Kristi guides us through snapshots of the Gospel of Luke!

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

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), hospice care; 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; 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, recovering from a stroke; Phyllis Hendrick, under hospice care.

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.

Thank you.

Pre-Service Pray- ~ On Easter Sunday, April 5, there will not be a Pre-Service Prayer meeting. ~

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."



Sundays: 10:05 – 10:20 AM

OIEPC
NURSERY and CHILDREN'S CHURCH

ASSISTANTS NEEDED FOR OUR NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH!

We want to provide the best and safest Nursery and Children's Church experiences for the children in our congregation, but we can't do it without you.

We have a Nursery Caregiver (Keena Knox) and we have Children's Church leaders (Amanda Jackway, Lisa Mace and Agnes Taylor). Now we need assistants for both these ministries. To make it easy for you, you do not have to sign up to become a permanent assistant, but you can pick some Sundays that you can help provide these important ministries to our young church attendants.

There is a sign-up sheet for the Nursery on the bulletin board just outside the Nursery in the Fellowship Hall, with dates you can choose from. **This is an opportunity for women AND men!!!**

- You do not have to change diapers!
- You can follow the worship service on the TV in the Nursery. And if there are no children, you can return to the Sanctuary.
- All you have to do is to enjoy a fun time, providing a safe environment.
- Be blessed, by being a blessing!

Being an assistant for Children's Church works the same way. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board inside the Children's Church room (the last room off the Fellowship Hall). Simply pick a Sunday to work as an assistant. You will be in the Sanctuary until it is time for Children's Church. If you do not see a Children's Church leader leave the Sanctuary, you can stay for the rest of the service. **Again, this is a ministry opportunity for women AND men!** Choose a Sunday now and then to be a part of our ministry for children!

Thank you for your willingness to be a blessing to God's children! Let's fill the slots on our two sign-up sheets and provide this important service to God's little ones and their families!

~ Thank You ~

Oak Island

EPC ACTIONS OF THE SESSION

March 18, 2026

A request for use of church facilities for a Men's Bible Study Fellowship was approved.

Missions Committee: Sara Smith will be at the church in April or May.

Outreach Committee: The Men's Bible Study will conclude in April. Jane Wydra is actively working at the Little Library, which is getting a good response. Cards will be given out requesting visitors to come on Easter Sunday.

Worship Committee: Communion will be observed on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. We will maintain the use of inserts into the bulletin for weekly updated prayer list and for the record of attendees.

Scholarship Committee: Scholarship Awards Sunday will be May 17, 2026.

Nominating Committee: Judy Naquin was appointed as the representative for the Deacons to the Nominating Committee.

Clerk's Report: The deaths of Gene Stark on February 24, 2026, and Jane Moore on March 8, 2026, were reported.

Presbytery Report: Mary Margaret Carman and Dirk Mroczek will be Ruling Elder Commissioners for the Presbytery meeting April 24-25, 2026, which will be held at Providence Presbyterian Church in Angier, NC.

Pastor's Report: Dr. Taylor reported that he will attend conference in Pennsylvania May 31-June 4, 2026. He reported that he will attend General Assembly June 15-19, 2026. The organ recital is scheduled for May 17, 2026 and will be in the afternoon or evening.

New Business: A request for use of parking lot by a local business was denied.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Hall, Clerk

MONTHLY REPORTS OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

Feb 2026

February

Contributions Received Year To Date For General Funds \$ 78,449

Budgeted Monthly \$ 29,473

General Fund Contribution For Feb 2026 \$ 29,617

Special Funds Contributions

Mission General \$ 100

Human Needs \$ 785

Scholarship Fund \$ 50

Total Special Funds \$ 935

Total All Funds Received in Feb 2026 \$ 30,552

The Power of Prayer – Sue Jones I am the Lord who heals you.” Ex. 15:12

How quickly things can change in our lives. In September I was coasting along just fine and I went for an annual mammogram. The next thing I knew I was meeting with my new Oncology doctor. Thirteen years ago, I had been diagnosed with breast cancer, treated via surgery and had faithfully returned for all my follow-ups. Fast forward to my latest visit to learn my cancer had returned. This journey has been different. I told a few friends at church my news and that I was sure God had a purpose in this latest diagnosis. I now know he had several things (the 4 P's) for me to learn and share.

- ◆ **Purpose** – I started off knowing and believing that God has a purpose when we are diagnosed with a terminal illness. Part of that **purpose is realizing we can't manage it by ourselves. We need other people around us.**
- ◆ **Pride** – Initially the few people I had told were praying for me and I felt their prayers, but I was not sharing my story with all my Church family. Rev. Agnes Taylor recognized that and asked me why I was not on the prayer list and I really did not have a good answer other than I was letting my pride go before me.
- ◆ **Prayer** – So my next step was going on the prayer list. What happened? God really began his work. I received cards, phone calls, offers for rides and **an uplifting of the “power of prayer”.** **If you look at the “Prayer List”** every week and ask yourself, I wonder if my prayers are working? I am here to tell you they do work! They lift up the sick person, they also lift the caregivers, and they lift up our LORD and SAVIOR n that he tells us to pray for each other and especially our Church brothers and sisters.
- ◆ **Praise** – I now feel the love of our Church family. I know that they are praying for me every time I sit in the Chemo chair or have a Pet Scan. I know that **God is listening and while I don't know his plan there** have been answered prayers. My chemo has reduced the cancer in several spots and that is good news. I have been able to handle the chemo that I am receiving and it is very strong. I learned my doctor and several of my nurses are Christians. On some days I go to treatment and see other members of our church there for treatment. I think that brings comfort to each of us.

So, I close this **“Thank You”** to let you know that your prayers do matter, **and God hears them and he answers them in “His Way”.**
So keep praying!

Sue

“But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities, upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace and with his wounds, we are healed. “ Is. 53:5

Friday
April 17
6:00 PM



Friday
April 17
6:00 PM

With blossoms and green leaves everywhere, the promise of sunshine and warmer weather is here! And after a long, cold winter that promise is very welcome!

The Nurture and Christian Education Committee invites you to celebrate the promise of summer with a Picnic at the Church!

Pulled pork, buns and beverages will be provided. We invite YOU to bring a side dish or dessert!

Sign up and join us on April 17 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall! Sign-up sheets will be located outside the Church Office and in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex starting Sunday, April 5th. You can also call the Church Office to sign up! Sign-up is just to give us an idea of the attendance number. If you forget to sign up or you do not know whether you can come until the day of the picnic, that is NOT a problem. Just come and join us!!!

If the weather is good, you will even be able to eat outside at our picnic tables!

We want to thank the wonderful ladies of Martha's Circle, and everyone who attended, for the wonderful reception in honor of our wedding anniversary! You made that day so very special. It was a joy to celebrate with you all! And thank you for the sweet cards and gifts! We will most certainly remember this special celebration!

Thank you!

Walter and Agnes Taylor



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
oiepcbookkeeper@gmail.com
donna.winrich@gmail.com

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

With Pastor Walter Taylor

Beginning the second Sunday of April at 9:15 a.m. (April 12, as **there will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday**), our Adult Sunday School Class will embark on a study of the Book of Psalms. Not every single Psalm will be examined (there are after all 150 of them!). But we will look at many individual Psalms, putting them in their various contexts. The Psalms come to us in different *genre*, or types. There are Psalms of Lament, Royal Psalms, Psalms of Thanksgiving, Imprecatory Psalms, etc. In the same way that the hymnbook contains different kinds of hymns, so it is with the Psalter, which is the hymnbook of the Bible.

John Calvin wrote this about the Psalms: "I have been accustomed to call this book... 'An Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul;' for there is not an emotion of which anyone can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. Or rather, the Holy Spirit has here drawn to the life all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which the minds of men are wont **to be agitated.**"
Come ready to dig into the Psalms, hopefully to be inspired,

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 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.

April 14 + 28

Please contact Rev. Agnes Taylor @ 910-278-9741 for more information.



A huge **thank you** to all who participated in our church Spring clean-up workday.

~ 1st Annual ~

Save Marshall Scott

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Monthly Meetings
Time and date TBA.

Please email Dirk Mroczek if you would like to be involved:

mroczek.dirk@gmail.com



May Newsletter

Due: April 15



**COMMUNION:
April 5**

April HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 4/1 Richard Davis
- 4/11 Jane Wydra
- 4/12 Ann Hunt Smith
- 4/21 Shirley Detwilder - Doelp
- 4/21 Ed Hagerty



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:00 Choir Practice	2  7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 8:00 Emmaus	4
5  10:30 Worship	6 	7 6:30 Missions Committee	8 8:30 Men's Home Bible Study/off site 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 Deacons Mtng	9	10	11
12 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	13 7:00 Womens Bible Study	14	15 1:00 Craft Club 7:00 Session	16	17 8:00 Emmaus 6:00 Church Picnic	18
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	20 7:00 Womens Bible Study	21 9:00 Finance Committee	22 8:30 Men's Home Bible Study/off site 3:00 Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	27 7:00 Womens Bible Study	28	29 3:00 Choir Practice	30		