



May 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.

Anyone who knows me understands that I take our own Reformed/Presbyterian tradition very seriously, though not uncritically. It is not uncommon for me to quote from John Calvin in a sermon or when teaching. Yet, more than once I have disagreed with Calvin. One of the areas in which Calvin's view did not win the day in the Reformation was his position on the use of instrumental music. I am glad that it did not!

Calvin was opposed to the use of instrumental music in worship, as were a few other Protestant Reformers (Zwingli was another). Calvin worked hard to ensure that the Psalms were translated into the language of the people and set to music for congregational singing. In fact, there was a lot of congregational singing in Geneva at the time of the Reformation. But the organ in the cathedral was silenced. All singing was acapella, without instrumental accompaniment.

That position did not last. It did not take too many decades to pass before the Reformed churches in Europe began to restore their organs, build new ones, and again use them for the praise of God. In fact, the Reformed churches in the Netherlands have maintained an organ tradition every bit as impressive as that of the German Lutherans. I'm glad that Calvin lost that one.

On Sunday, May 17, we will have a recital and dedication for our new organ. Charles Douthit, an accomplished organist, will perform (more information follows in the newsletter). Mr. Douthit will demonstrate the full range of our organ and fill the room with beautiful music. We will also have a brief service of dedication for the organ, though in reality this organ has already been dedicated to God by its use in worship.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to this celebration. An organ recital is a great, "non-threatening" way to invite someone into our church building. It is also a way of showing others that we at Oak Island EPC "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Our worship and our music ought to be beautiful, as beauty itself is a gift of God to his creation.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Walter L. Taylor

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**Sunday,
May 17**



May 3: Communion

Fifth Sunday of Easter: "Your Kingdom Come": In the Lord's Prayer, we do not pray that we may go to God's Kingdom, but rather that his Kingdom will come to us. What does this mean for us and for the world? We will share in the Lord's Supper on this first Sunday of the month.

Hymns: 369 Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns
480 Come, for the Feast is Spread
125 Let All Things Now Living

May 10:

Sixth Sunday of Easter: "Your Will Be Done": To pray for the will of God to be done is both a comfort but also a challenge. It is a prayer for our own wills to be subjected to his.

Hymns: 53 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
536 Searcher of Hearts, from Mine Erase
108 Whatever My God Ordains Is Right

May 17:

Ascension of the Lord: "Our Bread": Perhaps the most curious lines in the Lord's Prayer is the line about our daily bread. But that word translated "daily" has been something of a puzzle to the Church from its most earliest times, and a word that we still don't know how exactly to translate. What are we praying for when we pray for "our bread"?

Hymns: 295 Crown Him with Many Crowns
146 Break Thou the Bread of Life
289 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

May 24:

Pentecost: "Debts and Debtors": On this Pentecost Sunday we will reflect on what it means to forgive and to be forgiven.

Hymns: 339 For Your Gift of God the Spirit
335 Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me
494 Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

May 31:

Trinity: "Temptation": What are we really for when we pray, "Lead us not into temptation?" Would God lead us into temptation? What does "temptation" mean?

Hymns: 101 Come, Thou Almighty King
100 Holy, Holy, Holy
105 O God, We Praise Thee



Our Adult Sunday School Class has embarked 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, maybe even shocked and offended at what awaits us in the Psalms.

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER MEETING

Sundays:
10:05 – 10:20 a.m.



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."

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.





Bible Study Fellowship

ATTENTION MEN!

Invitation to join us:
Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

COMING SOON

JOIN US!

Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church will host a Bible Study Fellowship Men's Group starting in September. The 2026-2027 study is the Epistle of Paul to the Romans.

An information meeting regarding this study will be held in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. In the meantime, learn more about Bible Study Fellowship on its website: bsfinternational.org
For more information please contact: Ken Eagle ken@morriseagle.com



The church's **Little Free Library** has now been in existence for about a year and a half. Our red book-sharing box near the sidewalk has attracted a lot of attention from passersby, and the nearby bench has been appreciated by many visitors. We keep the Little Free Library stocked with a variety of books: Christian fiction, nonfiction, and biography; secular fiction, nonfiction, and biography; plus children's books which include cardboard books, picture books, early readers, chapter books, high school reading, both Christian and secular. In addition, we leave copies of Our Daily Bread devotionals, and information cards about our church for visitors to take home. A bookmark with information about OIEPC is placed in each book.

The Little Free Library was proposed by Cindy Lane and became operational in late July 2024. She shepherded the ministry until she and Richard moved away. Since its inception, **a grand total of 957 books have been "checked out"**! This is amazing! What's even more amazing is the **phenomenal growth in March 2026. 126 books** were checked out (the busiest month, by far).

One thing that surprised me is that almost 69% of the books checked out have been children's books. Maybe that shouldn't be a surprise considering how many families vacation here, but the trend has continued throughout the winter months.

Christian books, both adult and children's, account for about 21% of the books checked out. Quite a few of the Christian nonfiction books relate to God walking with us during difficult times. Patrons of the Little Free Library may not attend church regularly, but may be introduced to God's love and hope through a book they find in our little red box.

Many of the donated books are shared by visitors to the Little Free Library, many by you in the collection box in the hallway near the church office. We also purchase books from used book sections of the Rourk Library in Shallotte, the Southport Realty used bookshop, and thrift stores. I would like to encourage you to look at your bookshelves throughout the year, not just at yard sale time, and donate to the Little Free Library. **Of course, all books are appreciated but we always need Bibles and children's books.**

Thank you to all who have donated books to this ministry - and it is a valued and well-used community outreach ministry. It's a good feeling to know that we are able to provide wholesome and inspirational reading materials to the community. I pray that our visitors will take advantage of this easy opportunity to learn more about Christ and grow in their faith.

Cindy Lane and Jane Wydra



Little Free Library
Take a Book. Share a Book.

BOOKS AND COFFEE

Please contact Rev. Agnes Taylor @ 910-278-9741 for information about meeting dates.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Please email Dirk Mroczek for information about meeting dates.

mroczek.dirk@gmail.com



**June Newsletter
Due: May 15**

Jesus Loves Me

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.

If there are no children, you can return to the Sanctuary.

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!

Let's fill the slots on our two sign-up sheets and provide this important service to God's little ones and their families!





Mission Committee
Anchor of Hope Romania

Anchor of Hope Romania was founded more than 10 years ago by Sarah Smith. She and her team work with abandoned babies, orphans of many ages, and foster/adoptive families. Sarah holds a yearly camp for the orphanage children where they can learn about Christ while doing relationship therapy. Most of these children feel unloved and do not trust others. Inspired by Hebrews 6:19, Sarah sees Jesus as the only real hope these children have. There has been a special emphasis on placing more children in foster families, and teaching foster parents and caregivers how to care for children from traumatic backgrounds.

Sarah is very familiar with OIEPC as her grandfather used to live across the street and she attended Vacation Bible School here during her summers here on Oak Island.

We are happy to support this much needed mission.

Colleen Gerlach



OIEPC NEW ORGAN DEDICATION AND CONCERT

Sunday, May 17 at 6PM

Mark your calendars and join us on for OIEPC's dedication of the new Makin Organ and Organ Concert.



Charles Douthit will be our guest organist. He is a gifted young award-winning organist having won the Baylor School of Music Semper Pro Musica Competition for organ in 2021. Charles is the primary organist and assistant music director at Trinity Baptist Church in Mooresville, North Carolina. His concert will demonstrate his virtuosity and explore the dynamic range of OIEPC's new Makin Organ. There will be a meet the organist reception in Fellowship Hall following the concert.

For more information contact:
David Paxton djpaxton77@gmail.com

Dear Church Family,

We want to express our sincere thanks to each of you for the prayers, love, and support shown during mother's (Linda Dorman's) recent hospitalization. Your encouraging words, cards, calls, and thoughtful acts of kindness have meant more to our family than we can adequately express. We have truly felt upheld by your prayers and strengthened by your love. During a difficult and uncertain time, your faithfulness and compassion were a constant reminder that we are surrounded by a caring church family.

We are grateful to share that Linda (Mom) is well on the road to recovery. While she still has some healing ahead, her spirits are lifted, and we are thankful for the progress she is making. She dearly misses everyone and looks forward to the day when she can be back worshipping alongside you again soon.

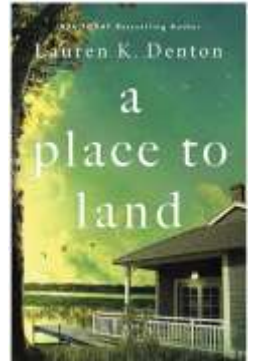
Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ to our family. We are deeply blessed by each of you and are forever grateful.

With love and appreciation,
Linda Dorman, Kristi Dorman Austin, PhD, and Michelle Dorman Downs

A beautiful evening, great fellowship, delicious pulled pork, side dishes and desserts, made for an enjoyable and relaxed *OIEPC Church Picnic* on Friday, April 17.



Sisters Violet and Trudy Figg have lived in the sleepy town of Sugar Bend since they were born, and now in their later years, they enjoy a quiet life running an arts and crafts store. However, their idyllic lives belie their troubled past: the mother who left when the sisters were in high school, the abusive father who died in a drunk driving accident, and Trudy's brief marriage to Jay Malone, the charismatic owner of an ice cream store franchise who abused Trudy. Jay vanished in the early 1980s, and Trudy hasn't spoken a word since for reasons she's never explained, communicating only through written notes. Then the boat that Jay was last seen in washes up on a riverbank and the mystery of Jay's fate piques the interest of a journalist and police offer, whose investigations threaten to dredge up an acrimonious past. Denton masterfully paces this slow-burn mystery and vividly renders the dark undercurrent of small-town life, exemplified in the residents' unwillingness to believe that beloved local celebrity Jay was abusive.



When Avery Lansing Crawford left her hometown of Camellia, Alabama, she was the darling of the town. A beauty queen. Now she's come back a disgraced and divorced mom who's lost almost everything--her home, her husband, even her design TV show--all while the public watched. And if the humiliation wasn't bad enough, Avery and her two small children are moving in with her mama...just in time to give everyone in Camellia something to talk about. With three generations of strong Southern women around the family dinner table, coming home to Camellia could be the perfect fresh start. Even if Avery is the topic of salacious gossip over sweet tea and her grandmother won't stop interfering in her love life. But the bonds of family and the promise of second chances just might lead to a future that looks nothing like she expected.

Diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's, Grayson Hayes realizes he must quickly right a terrible injustice--if he could just remember what it is! He heads to his West Virginia hometown in hopes of jogging his memory. As the past takes shape, can he trust God to forgive and reconcile unremembered wrongs?



Determined to save Sherri's life, Kristen drops everything to guide her sister on the harrowing cancer treatment journey. When she's unable to balance the strain of caring for her patients, being a wife and mother, and her frantic efforts to save her sister, Kristen's carefully balanced life crumbles, starting with her marriage. Desperate to regain her footing, she vows to rebuild her broken relationships . . . as soon as she's sure Sherri will beat the odds stacked against her.

Unlike her sister, Sherri Reynolds has worked to cultivate balance in her life. Her children, her job as a teacher, and her strong faith keep her grounded--until her diagnosis sends her spiraling into the scary world of what-ifs and unknown outcomes. Sherri faces the agonizing realization that family history may be about to repeat itself. With the clock ticking, she's determined to use whatever time she has left to heal old wounds and restore relationships.

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

For PRAYER
Request

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.

OIEPC

SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY:
APRIL 19 AND MAY 17



Lamar McKee Scholarship ~ 2026 Recipients ~



Amelia Grace Rankin

Hello, my name is Amelia. I am a Southport native and a senior at South Brunswick High School. I am very active in the SBHS Marching and Concert Bands. I am the overall Percussion Captain, and my favorite instrument is the marimba. I participate in the All-County Band, and I am a member of the National Honor Society. I attend Trinity United Methodist Church where I sing soprano in the church praise band, play percussion in church cantatas, volunteer weekly with our children's program, and each summer lead a group at Vacation Bible School. I look forward to continuing my education in college. I plan to major in music or psychology at UNC Wilmington or at UNC Charlotte.

I am truly honored and thankful to receive the Lamar McKee scholarship provided by the Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Thank you.



Cooper Pittman

My name is Cooper Pittman, I attend SBHS and I am from Oak Island. I spend my time in extracurriculars like playing soccer and tennis for South Brunswick, and being a member of many clubs like the National Honor Society and DECA, while also making an impact within my church. This Fall, I will be attending NC State University, and I will be majoring in Sport Management.

I am blessed to receive the Lamar McKee scholarship and can't wait to see how Jesus will continue to use me in the future.



Molly Jenkins

"My name is Molly. I am from Oak Island. This Fall, I will be attending the UNC at Chapel Hill, where I plan to major in political science and double minor in journalism and Spanish, with hopes of becoming fluent and studying abroad.

Throughout high school, I have worked hard academically, earning my associate's degree while staying involved in extracurriculars such as volleyball, student council, Key Club, soccer, National Honor Society, and serving in my church and community. My faith and relationship with Jesus Christ is my foundation and guides me to serve others with compassion and purpose through everything I do.

I am incredibly grateful for this scholarship and for the support from the church family. It means so much to know that others believe in me as I take this next step in my education and future."

MEET OUR

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
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donna.winrich@gmail.com



Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

MAY 31

Yummy!

You are invited to a Potluck Fellowship lunch Sunday, May 31, after our worship service.

Bring a dish to share (how about something that reminds you of summer?), enjoy a time of fellowship before our church programs take a summer break, and of course a wonderful *potluck* buffet!

Mark your calendar and plan to come!

Prayer List

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; 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; 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; 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, home hospice in Hamlet; Scott Lyon (brother-in-law of Susan and Phil Naz-zaro), healing of ongoing health concerns, Leslie Reynolds (daughter of Nona and Bill Flythe), high risk pregnancy; Sue Kaiser (friend of Barbara Weese), upcoming open heart surgery; Bud Miller (brother of Colleen Gerlach), upcoming open heart surgery; Laura Sierat (mother of Agnes Taylor), congestive heart failure.

Oak Island EPC**ACTIONS OF THE SESSION****April 15, 2026**

Pam Rostonski, Jodi Harrison, and David Harrison were welcomed into membership of OIEPC.

Personnel Committee: Bill Neeb reported that a Gospel Sing Night was requested for July 12, 2026.

Nurture/Education Committee: Sunday School has been running smoothly and there have been sufficient volunteers for Nursery and Children's Church.

Missions Committee: Sara Smith may not be able to come due to health of her child.
Rev. Agnes Taylor and Susan Smith will present information regarding Paths of Hope at the Presbytery Meeting in Angier

Outreach Committee: The Men's Bible Study will conclude in April and started again in the fall.

Worship Committee: Communion will be observed on May 3, 2026.

Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Awards Sunday will be May 17, 2026.

Stewardship/Finance Committee: A new adjustable organ bench is to be ordered.

Clerk's Report: Updated information for membership roll was presented.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Hall, Clerk

MONTHLY REPORTS OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS**Mar2026****March**

Contributions Received Year To Date For General Funds	\$ 119,596
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Budgeted Monthly	\$ 29,473
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General Fund Contribution For Mar2026	\$ 41,147
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Special Funds Contributions:

Flower Ministry Fund	\$ 150
Human Needs	\$ 247
Scholarship Fund	\$ 50
Lynne Barmore Memorial Fund	\$ 115
Gene Stark Memorial Fund	\$ 100
Paths of Hope	\$ 100
Greenman-Peru Mission	\$ 100

Total Special Funds	\$ 862
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Total All Funds Received in Mar2026	\$ 42,009
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- 5/8 **Laura Hildreth**
- 5/10 **Patricia Bressler**
- 5/11 **Tom Naquin**
- 5/18 **Tim Hildreth**
- 5/27 **Mary Dyksterhouse**
- 5/28 **Lauren MacGregor**
- 5/30 **Iain Taylor**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 Emmaus	2
3 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	4 7:00 Womens Bible Study	5 6:30 Missions Committee	6 3:00 Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	11 11:00 Martha's Circle 7:00 Womens Bible Study	12 9:00 Finance Committee	13 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 Deacons Mtng	14	15 8:00 Emmaus	16
17 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship 6:00 Organ Concert	18 7:00 Womens Bible Study	19 7:00 Men's Bible Study Fellowship	20 1:00 Craft Club 3:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Session	21	22	23
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	25 Memorial Day 	26	27 3:00 Choir Practice	28	29	30
31 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship NOON Fellowship Lunch						

FROM THE HEART

Support your local
furry friends

Donations Accepted:
May 1 – June 5



On Sunday, April 12, our From the Heart women's group met to make plans for 2026. From the Heart's mission is to serve our congregation and community through hands-on projects and collection of donations.

During the month of May, we will once again collect items for the Brunswick County Animal Shelter. There will be a box for donations next to the Information Table just off the Office Foyer, plus there will be additional boxes in the Lounge, next to the Church Library.

From the Heart will take the donations to the Animal Shelter on Saturday, June 6.
We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 AM so we can carpool to Supply.

Items the Animal Shelter needs are:

Puppy Food	Flea and Deodorizing shampoo
Kitten	Food Blue Dawn Dish Detergent
Bleach	Laundry Detergent
Towels (bath & hand) size	Pill Pockets
Dog Kongs	Hand Sanitizer
Cat Toys	Fabuloso and Mr. Clean with Febreze
Newspaper	Paper Towels

Your help will mean so much to all the animals!

