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NOVEMBER 2026

Our Church Mission

- 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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Oak Island 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.



The Pilgrims of Thanksgiving fame would not have approved of our Thanksgiving holiday. For starters, they would have disapproved of a preset, national day of Thanksgiving set by the calendar. For them, thanksgiving feasts were declared in response to the circumstances. The "Pilgrims" were hard-nosed "Puritans," described in their time as being of the "hotter sort" of English Calvinists, for whom even the Calvinistic Netherlands (where they had lived for several years in exile) could not pass muster. The only regular "holiday" on their calendar was the Sabbath, the Lord's Day, and no other—not even Easter, not even Christmas.

Rather, they declared a feast or a fast depending on the circumstances they faced. A good harvest, the coming of peace, victory over their enemies—these were circumstances when they would call for a feast. A bad harvest, defeat in battle, a plague of disease—these were the things that would cause them to call for a fast.

That first "Thanksgiving Day" for which we remember the Pilgrims was actually a three-day celebration (for all their austerity, they still knew how to party!). When a group of native Americans showed up at the celebration, and saw how meager the offerings were, they went hunting and brought back several deer to supplement the feast. Not only did they eat, but they played games, had contests, and celebrated the blessings given them by God.

But such things were determined by circumstance, and not by a preset day on the calendar.

It is striking that the "Pilgrims" of Massachusetts get the credit for Thanksgiving. Their Thanksgiving feast of 1621 was not the first one celebrated in what they called "the new world." Native Americans had harvest celebrations of their own. Several English settlements had celebrated a day of Thanksgiving before that of the Pilgrims (in places like Jamestown, Virginia). In colonial America, Thanksgiving celebrations were done locally, usually as fall harvest celebrations. In 1789, the Congress and the first President, George Washington, called for a national day of Thanksgiving for Thursday, November 26 of that year. A few other Presidents made similar proclamations (though not Thomas Jefferson, as Jefferson thought it a violation of the Constitution to call the nation to a day of prayer and religious observances!). Finally, Thanksgiving Day as we know it was declared by President Abraham Lincoln for the fourth Thursday in November. It stuck, ironically, given that it was 1863, one of the bloodiest years in American history. Franklin Roosevelt did try, both in 1940 and 1941, to make Thanksgiving Day the third Sunday in November, to extend the Christmas shopping season by a week to help the economy. But football games were already scheduled, and so he didn't try that again.

Well, for all of that, I am glad that we have a national Thanksgiving Day, and despite the disapproval of the Pilgrims I am happy to celebrate it. I have many great memories of Thanksgiving days in my youth (often my mother and I would drive to her brother's home, my uncle Larry, where we would join him, my aunt, and my

Continued on page 2 ~

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cousins who lived in “the country” in rural west Georgia). For all but one year since becoming the Pastor of our congregation, I have celebrated Thanksgiving with those who gather in the Fellowship Hall here. But one thing I remember well is how, on all those Thanksgiving Days, there was a true sense of thankfulness around our tables.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! [Psalm 105:1-3]

Pastor Walter L. Taylor

November

November 1: Communion
“Building Wisely”: Luke 6:46-49: Jesus calls on his followers to be more than hearers and learners, but also doers and practitioners of his Word. At the end of his “Sermon on the Plain” in Luke, Jesus caps his teaching with the story of the wise and foolish builders. Is your life built on doing the Word of Christ, or merely on hearing and learning his Word?

Hymns: 358 For All the Saints
420 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Come
343 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

November 8:
“What Jesus Longs to Find”: Luke 18:1-8: The Rev. Sam Kennedy, the RUF pastor for UNCW, will lead worship and preach.

Hymns: 7 From All That Dwell below the Skies
55 To God Be the Glory
580 Lead On, O King Eternal

November 15:
“On Judging and Forgiving”: Luke 7:36-50: Jesus uses an event at a formal dinner to tell a story about forgiveness and gratitude. All too often, we look at the sins of others while ignoring our own. Jesus has something to say about that.

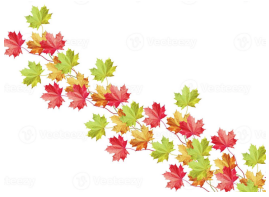
Hymns: 457 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
486 God, Be Merciful to Me
460 Amazing Grace

November 22:
“Sowing Seeds”: Luke 8:4-15: Jesus tells the parable of the seeds, only to have his disciples ask about its meaning. What did Jesus say, and why did he say it at this early time in his ministry?

Hymns: 363 We Gather Together
98 Now Thank We All Our God
125 Let All Things Now Living

November 27: Advent 1
“Assuming the End”: Luke 19:11-28: In the season of Advent, we meditate on the final Coming of Christ even as we prepare to celebrate his Coming at Bethlehem. What does the Parable of the Minas have to say to us, as well as to those who have “supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately”? What does Jesus have to say about this?

Hymns: 317 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
194 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



COME TO OUR CHURCH ON OAK ISLAND



OAK ISLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – NEW STUDY STARTING

Our Adult Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings, from 9:15 AM until 10:00 AM. We invite you to join us! Sunday School gives you a great opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge and to get to know others in our congregation better.

For Sundays in November and December, our adult Sunday School class will study the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, as a preparation for our celebration of Christmas. Come and join us and see what these two Gospels each say about the coming of Christ in Bethlehem. We will begin this study on Sunday, November 1. We will not have Sunday School on Sunday, November 8, but will resume on the following Sunday, November 15.

Would you be interested in teaching a four- to eight-week study in 2027? Whether you are interested in teaching about a Bible book, church history, or a topic related to our life as Christians, the Nurture Committee would love to hear from you! Talk to our Assistant Pastor, Agnes Taylor or committee chair Amanda Jackway, and they will share your name and ideas with the committee!

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER MEETING

After Sunday School, we have our weekly Pre-Service Prayer Meeting. Our prayers are 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."

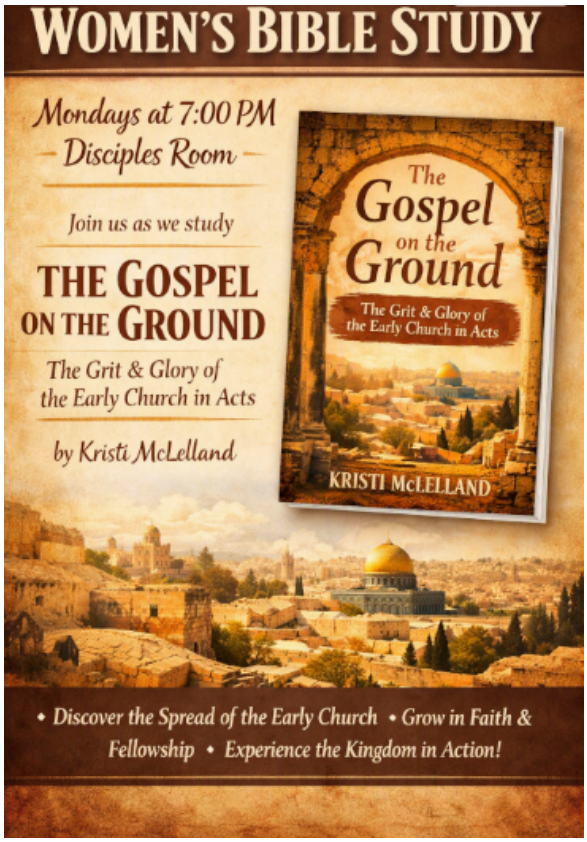
GENEROUSLY REFORMED STUDY ~ Meets on the Third Sunday of the month at 5:00 PM.

The Generously Reformed Study is a study/discussion group based on the recently published book *Generously Reformed: Theology Rooted Deep and Reaching Wide* (Baker Academic: 2026, 216 pages). This book was written by three very good Reformed theologians from very different place, yet who share in a love of Christ, his Church and the Reformed Tradition: Todd Billings, Suzanne McDonald, and Alberto La Rosa Rojas.

Generously Reformed is a good read, but a book that needs to be read slowly and probed (thus, we will meet once a month). It is not too late to join! If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Taylor.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

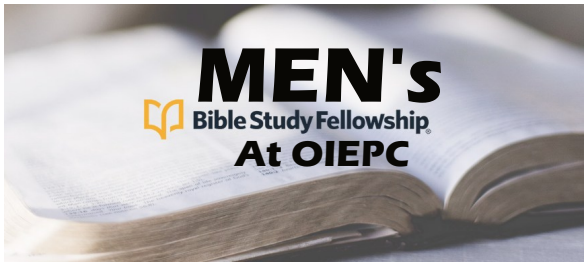
We want to invite you to be a part of our Children's Church ministry! Choose a Sundays to assist a Children's Church leader! There is a sign-up sheet in the Children's Church room, the last room on the left side of the Fellowship Hall. We use award-winning Jesus Storybook Bible, written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and illustrated by Jago. The Jesus Storybook Bible curriculum helps children discover the story beneath all the stories in the Bible: God's great story of salvation. They are invited to discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of this great story and at the center of their story as well. Come and discover for yourself how every Bible story whispers Jesus' name!



It is not too late to join us in studying *The Gospel on the Ground: The Grit & Glory of the Early Church in Acts*, by Kristi McLelland.

Did you know that for the vast majority of his life, Jesus never travelled outside of a one-hundred-mile radius from where he was born? Today however, his name is spoken in every corner of the earth. The Gospel on the Ground is the story of how Jesus' message of hope and reconciliation began to spread from Jerusalem and how it is still spreading today.

Learn how the kingdom of God is always on the move - always looking outward to bring meaning and joy to a world searching for true fulfillment and hope. Explore the call of Jesus to his disciples then and to us today. See how God's Word can sustain us even in the most difficult of times and embrace the transformative grace we experience as children of God in his kingdom of celebration.



Nov 3
Nov 10
Nov 17
Nov 24

To learn more about Bible Study Fellowship and the Romans study, visit the following website: bsfinternational.org

If you would like to participate in the Romans study or discuss any questions you may have email: Ken Eagle at ken@morriseagle.com

CARING FOR GOD'S LITTLE ONES

To provide a safe and welcoming environment for nursery-age children (ages 0 through 3), and to protect the liability of our church, we need to have two adults (18 years and older) present in our Nursery at all times. Assisting our Nursery Coordinator Keena Knox is easy and fun! You do NOT have to get on the floor, pick up children or change diapers! Keena will take care of that. What we need is your loving and friendly presence in the Nursery, making children feel welcome and at home. This is a ministry opportunity for women and men, young and old (that is, 18 and older). Many Sundays there will not be any children, so you are free to go back to the Sanctuary to listen to the sermon, if you want. Otherwise, you can watch the worship service on the TV in the Nursery.

Please note that if we do not have two adults in the Nursery, we unfortunately cannot provide childcare, which may cause a problem for visiting families! There is a sign-up sheet on the small bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, outside the Nursery. Pick a couple of dates to assist in the Nursery and help us to provide this ministry to families with young children!





11/1	Bill Flythe	11/19	Karen Eagle
11/3	Betty Coe	11/23	Merja Hunt
11/10	Lee Smyre	11/28	Susan Fogle
11/10	Paula Abel	11/30	Judy Naquin
11/15	Jane Jenkins	11/30	Mark Greene
11/16	Kathryn Coiro		

MARTHA's CIRCLE

Monday,
November 9
11 am
Contact:
Ann Hunt Smith

Dear friends,
We want to thank you for your kind words and kind gifts, as well as the wonderful lunch for Pastors Appreciation.
We are grateful for the support and love shown to us and our family throughout the years, and throughout each year. We continue to be thankful to serve the Lord with you at OIEPC.

Gratefully,
Walter and Agnes Taylor



Let's be thankful together

thanksgiving luncheon

Join us!

Thursday, November 26
1 P.M.





Sign-up Sheets: Narthex, Fellowship Hall & Office Foyer.

Turkey will be provided.

Contact Agnes Taylor for any information.

Please plan on bringing a dish and/or dessert to share.

Dear Church Family!!

Thank you all so much for your prayers, cards, calls, texts, hugs and well wishes during our time of struggle this year. Ryan is safe physically and spiritually, and he has a great attitude! Eli was released from the burn unit and came home just in time for his 14th birthday. He will still make frequent trips to Chapel Hill, and the treatments are painful, but it's sure better than it could have been. José continues his treatments and we thank God for his great doctors. And we thank God for all of you and pray God's blessings for you all!!

Love in Christ, José and Sandy Pena

OIEPC SHOEBOX SEASON IS HERE!

Christmas with Boys and Girls Around the World.
Get boxes at OIEPC starting Sunday, October 25.

Samaritan's Purse OPERATION Christmas Child ™

PACK A TRADITIONAL SHOEBOX

- ✓ Pick Up Boxes at the Church
- ✓ Fill with Toys, School Supplies & Gifts
- ✓ Donate $10 for Shipping
- ✓ Return by November 15!

BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE

- ✓ Select Gifts Online
- ✓ Cost is $30 (Includes Shipping)
- ✓ Use our OIEPC Goal Page

https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/1cc961f6-a088-487d-93cc-7d833a90c498

Drop Off Shoeboxes at OIEPC by November 15th!

Let's Make a Difference in a Child's Life!



Grace and Peace, Lisa and Bonnie

CRAFT GROUP



CRAFT GROUP ~ Tuesday, November 17 at 10 AM

The craft group is meeting once a month, on every third Tuesday of the month in the Disciples Room.

Every month has a different theme. In November we will make baby quilts for young foster children. There will be cut kits available for the sewists, plus instructions and demonstrations, so you do NOT have to be an experienced sewist! Bring your own sewing machine, plus an extension cord. Bring a brown bag lunch as well, so we can enjoy lunch together!

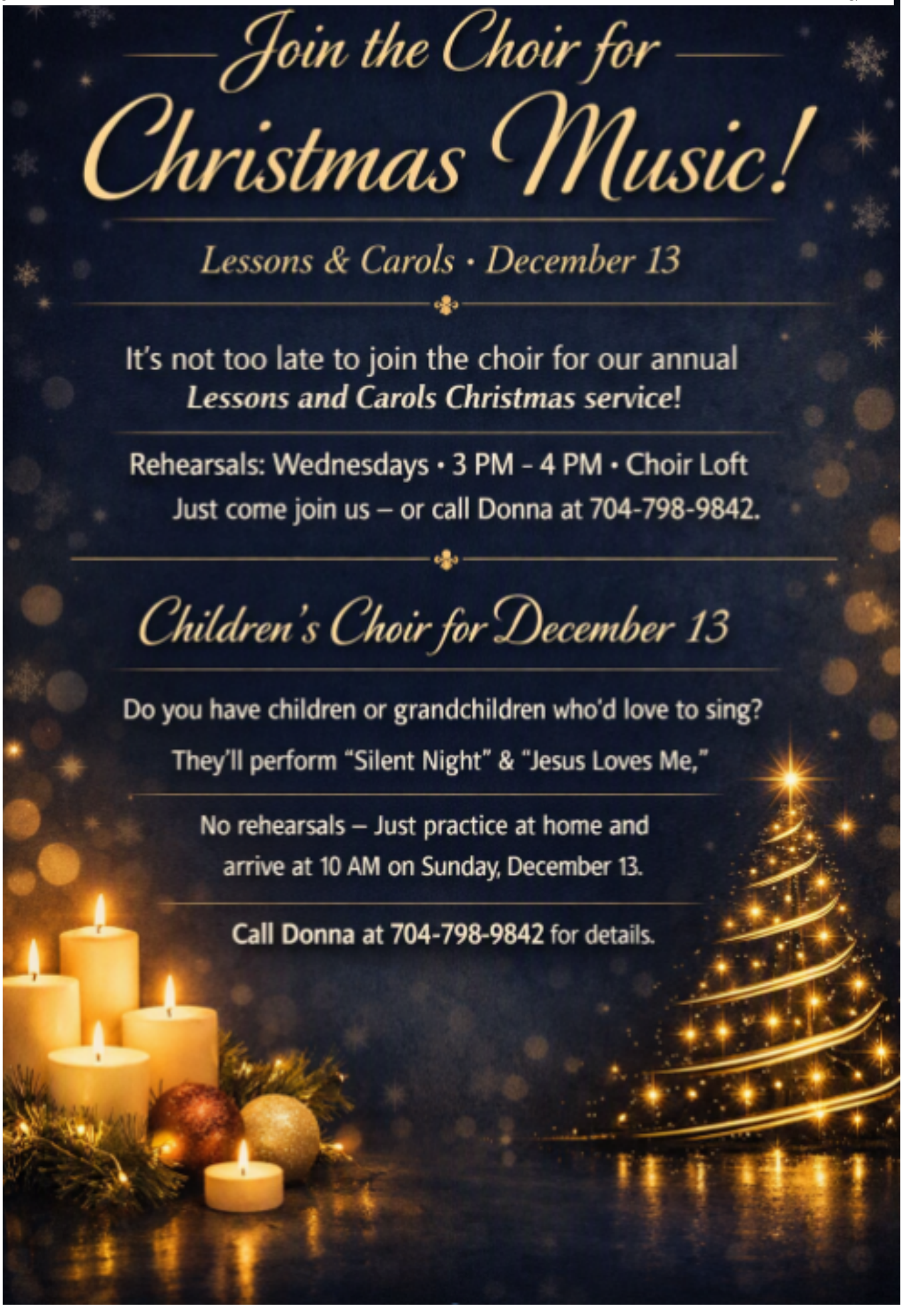
UPCOMING PROJECT:
November: Sew totes for foster care children.

We welcome all crafters, sewists and knitters! Knitters are invited to join us to make prayer shawls for our church.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Join us on Sundays after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall! Take the time to meet others in our congregation while enjoying some snacks.

Would you be willing to provide snacks (and maybe some beverages) for a Sunday?
We keep our snacks simple, so you do NOT need to provide lunch! If you are willing to host a Sunday, you can sign up on the Fellowship Time sheet on the long table in the Fellowship Hall. Do you want more information before you commit to a Sunday? Contact our Assistant Pastor, Agnes Taylor, and she will be happy to answer any questions you may have!


Join the Choir for
Christmas Music!
Lessons & Carols · December 13
It's not too late to join the choir for our annual
Lessons and Carols Christmas service!
Rehearsals: Wednesdays · 3 PM – 4 PM · Choir Loft
Just come join us – or call Donna at 704-798-9842.
Children's Choir for December 13
Do you have children or grandchildren who'd love to sing?
They'll perform "Silent Night" & "Jesus Loves Me,"
No rehearsals – Just practice at home and
arrive at 10 AM on Sunday, December 13.
Call Donna at 704-798-9842 for details.

Be an Angel This Season

— with The Gift of Giving —



OIEPC Local Missions Outreach

A **Gift-Wrapped Box** will be displayed in the **narthex** beginning **Sunday, November 8th** through **December 13th** for the gift cards.

During the week, the box will be **moved near the church office.**

Please be sure to note on the outside of the gift card the amount of the card.



♥ Suggested Gift Cards ♥

- Grocery Stores
- Walgreens
- CVS
- Academy Sports
- Belk
- Amazon
- Shoe Show
- Walmart
- CVS
- Academy Sports
- Belk
- Big Lots
- Rack Room Shoes
- Gas Cards

Be an Angel to someone and share your **Love of Jesus** with those less fortante in our community.

"Matthew 25:40 Jesus said: "Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of Mine, you did for ME!"

Thank you for this blessing. Paula Paxton, Missions Ministry


COMING SOON:
OIEPC
CAFE NOEL
Join us on Sunday, December 13th, at 5:00 p.m.
Café Noel will once again open its doors right here at OIEPC
to celebrate the Christmas season as a church family.
Enjoy dinner and an amazing dessert buffet!
Followed by a special musical program
with performances by our talented congregation!
Would you like to be one of our performers this year?
Please contact Pastor Walter.
Make your reservations for Café Noel
Sunday, November 22 or Sunday, November 29
after worship in the room next
to the Church Library.
Don't miss our special
Christmas celebration!

MONTHLY REPORTS OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

Sep2026

September

Contributions Received Year To Date For General Funds				**$ 271,851**
Budgeted Monthly				**$ 29,473**
General Fund Contribution For September2026			**$ 28,231**	
Special Funds Contributions				
Missions General	$	50		
Human Needs	$	179		
Scholarship Fund	$	5,562	mostly yard sale	
Flower Ministry	$	100		
Total Special Funds			**$ 5,891**	
Total All Funds Received in Sep2026			**$ 34,122**	

Oak Island EPC **ACTIONS OF THE SESSION** **October 21, 2026**

Nurture & Education Committee:
Bingo Night is scheduled for October 30,2026.

Missions Committee:
Requests for Christmas Child Shoe Boxes have been initiated.

Outreach Committee:
The Men's Bible Study will conclude next week.
A Men's Retreat at Montreat is scheduled for November 6-8, 2026.

Worship Committee:
Communion will be held on November 1, 2026, with congregants coming forward.

Stewardship and Finance Committee:
Session approved payment of expenses for Men's Retreat at Montreat.

Scholarship Committee:
Applications will be provided to the schools early next year.

Nominating Committee:
The committee presented a recommendation of officers which will be presented to congregation at a Congregational Meeting.

Pastor's Report:
Dr. Taylor will be on vacation November 2 – 11, 2026.
Rev. Sam Kennedy with RUF will preach November 8, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Hall, Clerk

DECEMBER Newsletter

Due: November 15

PRAYER LIST

Nursing/Rehab Homes:

Suzan Fogle	Southport Health & Rehab Center, #605, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461
Shelvy Pasour	2780 X-Ray Drive, Gastonia, NC 28054
Pat Lindsay	TerraBella, #B-9, 1125 Leonard Street, Southport, NC 28461
Shirley Detweiler	Southport Health & Rehab Center, #104, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461

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

Chris DeArros; Pat Kelly; Allen Walts; Jose Pena, ongoing health concerns; 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; 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; Sue Jones, cancer treatment; Mark Lemley (brother of Patricia Bressler's neighbor), ongoing cancer treatment; Linda Dorman, recovering from a stroke; Scott Lyon (brother-in-law of Susan and Phil Nazzaro), healing of ongoing health concerns; Laura Sierat (mother of Agnes Taylor), recovering from heart valve surgery; Linda Robinson (mother of Lisa Milligan), cancer; Eli Dew (grandson of Jose and Sandy Pena), continued recovery from serious burns.

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 Evangelical Presbyterian Church ~ 1503 East Oak Island Drive

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship Noon Nurture Committee	2 7:00 Women's Bible Study	3 6:30 Missions Committee 7:00 Men's BSF	4 3:00 Choir Practice	5 9:00 Finance Committee (Budget)	6 8:00 Emmaus Men's Retreat	7 Men's Retreat
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship Men's Retreat	9 11:00 Martha's Circle 7:00 Women's Bible Study	10 7:00 Men's BSF	11 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 Deacons Mtng	12	13	14
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship 5:00 Generously Reformed Study	16 7:00 Women's Bible Study	17 9:00 Finance Committee 10:00 Craft Group 7:00 Men's BSF	18 3:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Session	19	20 8:00 Emmaus	21
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	23	24 7:00 Men's BSF	25 3:00 Choir Practice	26 OFFICE CLOSED  1:00 Thanksgiving Lunch	27	28
29 9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Pre-Service Prayer 10:30 Worship	30 7:00 Women's Bible Study					