

May 3, 2026

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

So many wonderful things are going on every Youth Sunday, when the youth lead every aspect of our worship service. For starters, our youth are learning how to lead. We as a congregation dedicate the time and space for this learning, and we actively support and encourage them and pray for them as they learn how to lead in leading our worship service.

Further, our youth are saying “thank you” to the adults for supporting them in so many ways as they grow, and the adults are saying “thank you” to the youth for blessing us with their energy and giving us hope for the future of our church.

But most of all, what goes on during Youth Sunday are the same things that happen every Sunday of the year. We’re worshipping God together, the only difference being who’s leading us in worship. We’re loving one another, with a special youthful feel to our expressions of love. And we’re listening to God speak to our hearts as we do every Sunday in the music, the prayers, the messages.

That’s my favorite part of Youth Sunday: listening for God to speak through our youth. I love seeing the different things our seniors notice in the Scripture passages from which they preach. I love listening for God in the youth’s music, including the lyrics, the instruments, and in their presence as they sing. I love listening for Jesus speak to the children through our youth, and being guided into the presence of Jesus as the youth pray.

We pray for our youth as they prepare to lead this Sunday. We will pray for them as they lead, and support and encourage them afterward. But most of all, I invite you to listen for the voice of Jesus as they lead. Jesus will most likely speak to us in different ways than most Sundays, and that’s a great thing! But Jesus will be speaking, just like every Sunday.

Let’s be here with our spiritual listening ears on.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





OBC Updates



May 3
Youth Sunday!

May 10
John 10:1-10
Eric Porterfield preaching
Observance of Holy Communion

Oakmont SENIORS MINISTRY



Senior Adult Coffee Talk

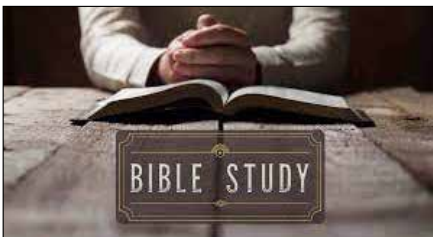
Tuesday, May 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

The cost is \$3, and you can pay at the door.

Sign-up sheets will be in your Sunday school classrooms;
or you can let PJ Castles know that you plan to attend!

See you there!



Drop-In Bible Study

Come join us on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in Room 300 as we continue our study of Paul's short letters. Our last meeting will be Wednesday, May 6. Hope to see you soon!



Easter Offering

Thank you so much for giving generously to our Easter Offering through April to support our local Oakmont ministries. These gifts make possible Backpack Pals, Backyard Buddies Afterschool Tutoring, the Clothes Closet, Tuesday Night Meals, Celebrate Recovery, the Village Ministry (moms in recovery either pregnant or with young children), care for families experiencing a housing crisis, and other community ministries like Trunk or Treat and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Senior Adult Ministry Council



We are pleased to announce that we are restarting our Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) Council. We are excited to get this ministry going again to provide even more opportunities for our senior adults. We look forward to more social activities including a monthly Coffee Talk fellowship, quarterly day trips, and some two-to-three day overnight trips in the fall and/or spring. Mrs. PJ Castles has agreed to serve as Senior Adult Ministry coordinator (thank you PJ). We welcome other ideas for this ministry. If you are interested in serving on the Senior Adult Ministry Council, please contact PJ or call Nicole in the church office.

Fall Trip to Lancaster, PA



We are excited to announce that registration is now open for a Senior Adult trip to Lancaster, PA via the PML travel company. The trip dates are September 22–24, 2026. The trip includes tickets to see the show “Joshua” at the Sight and Sound Theater, a visit to Kettle Kitchen Village, shopping at an Amish Farmer’s market, admission to the Bible Tabernacle experience, two nights hotel accommodations, two breakfasts at the hotel, two dinners including one Amish-style dinner, and deluxe motor coach transportation departing from and returning to the OBC parking lot. Deposits are due by May 15, and final payments are due by August 3. Flyers with more information and registration forms will be available in Sunday school classes and in the narthex. Single, double, and triple occupancy are available. Trip insurance is also available for an additional fee. Please contact Lisa Stevens for more information.

Spring Wednesday Nights



5:45 p.m.

Womens' Bible Study (*Fellowship Hall*)

6:00 p.m.

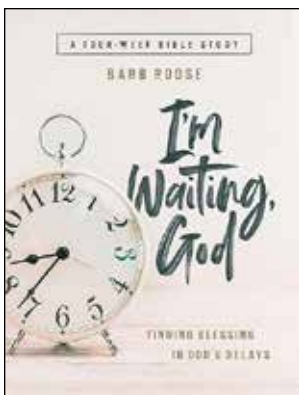
Large Group Bible Study (*Multipurpose Room*)
Youth Bible Study
Music and Missions, children and preschoolers
ESL

Our final night of Wednesday night ministries before the summer break is May 13.

Jesus' Farewell Discourse, Large Group Wednesday Night Bible Study



So much happened on the night before Jesus' death. The Last Supper, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, his betrayal and arrest . . . we read Luke's account of these events during our Maundy Thursday service. In addition to the meal, John's gospel shows us that Jesus also washed the disciples' feet, then taught them in great detail as a way of preparing them for his departure. This teaching is called "The Farewell Discourse," and we will examine these chapters during our last study of the semester. Join us as Eric Porterfield leads an exploration of John 13-17.



Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

Sharron Edwards led our third session of *I'm Waiting, God: Finding Blessing in God's Delays* by Barb Roose. Thanks, Sharron! Next week, Dot will lead our fourth and final session, and we will enjoy a light supper together starting at 5:45 p.m. No need to bring anything except your book, your Bible, and yourself!



Pam Strickland, executive director of NC Stop Human Trafficking, invites you to join the golf fundraiser for this vital organization. Please help us share this information! Click [here](#) to learn more.

Music Ministry Memos



Sunday, May 3

3:30 p.m. | Handbell Rehearsal (room 607)

This is the last rehearsal until the fall!

Wednesday, May 6

6:00 p.m. | Orchestra Rehearsal (sanctuary)

7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (choir room)

The JOY Singers are on break until the fall!

Contact Laurie Cosby if you are interested in joining any of these groups at laurielee@oakmontchurch.com.

Flowers in Honor/Memory for Worship



Friends: When you would like flowers in the sanctuary in honor or memory of someone, please contact Chris Rodgers, as she is the head of the Flower Team. (If you need her contact information, please contact Lauri Johnson at Oakmont Baptist Church.) This will alleviate any confusion. Also, if you would like a note in the worship outline on Sunday morning, please contact Lauri Johnson at lauri@oakmontchurch.com. Thank you!



Save the Date!

This year's VBS is scheduled for July 12–16 at The Memorial Baptist Church. Stay tuned for details on how you can help make this another successful week for our kids and neighbors!

The Wheels Are Turning for a New Church Directory!



Don't recognize everyone you see in church? Looking to match faces and names? Help is on the way! A long-awaited church directory is in the works, most likely with pictures taken in the fall. It's a massive project requiring lots of help. If you're interested in helping lead or would like to volunteer for this project, please contact Nicole Davis in the church office.

Online Giving



When you give through ACS online (via our website), please remember that this can ONLY be used to send the money to the "Operating Fund" (which is our regular budget). Please do not use the other two options in the drop-down menu. We welcome all other gifts for our various ministries (including—but not limited to—communion, building fund, Backpack Pals, and other special events gifts during the year) to be sent to the church either as cash, check, or through your bank. If you write a check, please use the memo line to indicate where your gift should be directed. Also, if you set up a gift through your bank's online platform, most banks have a 'memo' line or a 'note' line where special instructions may be given digitally. This will be a great help to the church, the tellers who count the money on Mondays, and this also helps our CPA. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Lauri Johnson in the church office at 252.756.1245; or you may send an email to lauri@oakmontchurch.com.

Jesus said, "let the little children come to me." Matthew 19:14

Jarvis Preschool

ENROLLMENT

2026-2027 **New Location!**

Oakmont Baptist Church
1100 Red Banks Rd.
Greenville, NC 27858

*Christian, play-based half-day program for babies (6 weeks) through pre-k.
*Early Drop Off available every day at 8am for additional cost
*Lunch club and Suzuki violin lessons are available for 3 & 4 year olds for additional costs

PLAY

GROW

LEARN

ENROLL NOW!

Proudly serving families in Pitt county since 1969!

Email jarvisumcpreschool@gmail.com
Call 252-752-3101 or Visit jarvis.church/preschool

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Click [here](#) or on the image above to access the website to learn more!.

Do you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter?



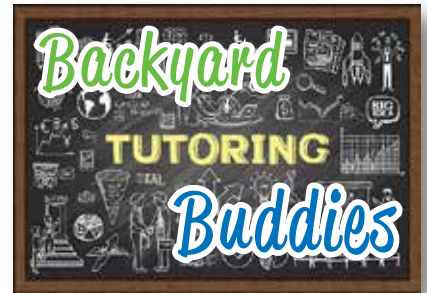
Please let us know if you would like to receive *E-Connections* online. All we need is an email address. If you have received it in the past and seem to have missed some issues, please check your trash or spam folder, as sometimes it goes into those folders. If you think you should be getting it and you are not, please call us in the office at 252-756-1245. Or if you have any questions, please call us. Thank you.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

We are so thankful for our crew of ECU tutors and are praying for them as the semester ends. We are back on a regular schedule now until Memorial Day in May. Our students are gearing up for testing so please pray for them, their families, and our tutors.



Clothes Closet—PAUSE on Donations



This vital community ministry is open the first and third Tuesdays (no fifth Tuesdays) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. **As the team prepares for an eventual move to the Youth Room space, we are putting donations on PAUSE for now.** Our community partner, Hope of Glory, would love to have your clothes to fund their financial literacy and mentorship ministry! Our Clothes Closet will be open to love our neighbors on May 5 and 19.

If you can help, please contact Robin Congleton at rebecca.congleton55@gmail.com or Alicia at alicia@oakmontchurch.com!

The Village Update



Our next visit is planned for May 4! Our ministry with moms in recovery and their children happens twice a month from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. with Bible Study and Childcare Ministry. Several of our moms are about to graduate from the program and are looking for jobs and housing. Please pray for the right next steps for them!



Walmart Fridays

Every Friday, Oakmont van drivers take ECU International students, most of whom don't have cars, to Walmart for their weekly shopping. This ministry offers both practical support as well as relational ministry time for the drivers to connect with the students. We are working on the summer schedule now!

ESL Classes



English as a Second Language classes meet Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. A dedicated team of teachers and conversation partners makes this ministry possible each week. Currently, Oakmont is one of the few places offering ESL beyond Pitt Community College. We are grateful for the chance to serve our neighbors as they work to learn English!

LINKS



The students and staff of LINKS (support for teens in foster care and preparation for their coming independence) meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! Diane Myers leads this ministry of hospitality, with help from Sharron Edwards and Nicole Davis. We will welcome LINKS friends again May 12.

Young Lives



This ministry of Young Life supports teen moms and their children. On the third Tuesday of the month, this lively group meets from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lillie Moore, from Young Lives, and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry for moms and their children. The next gathering is May 19.

Backpack Pals!



As the school year begins to wind down, team lead Liz Evans works hard to make sure everything is stocked up just enough to get us through the end of the school year. That way, we don't need to store food over the summer and can start fresh in September. It's a beautiful thing to see volunteers popping in and out to get the weekend food bags ready for our friends at Eppes.

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

Our team is back at work cooking, packing, and delivering hot meals for our homebound and neighbors in need. May dates are the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.



Spiritual Formation at OBC

Prayer Team at Oakmont



Oakmont, you have a prayer team that wants to pray for the issues in your life that challenge you! We have set up four prayer boxes around the church; two at the back of the sanctuary, one in Grand Central, and one in the back hallway near the choir suite. There is no issue too small; it would be our honor to support each of you this way. Please put us to work!

Care Team Update



The CARE (Connecting, Appreciating, Responding, Engaging) Team provides a ministry of love and support to some of our members who are not able to attend worship and other church activities on a regular basis. The team makes visits, phone calls, and remembers birthdays, just to name a few things. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Lynne James at lynnej@suddenlink.net or Kimberly Williamson at kfwilliamson@suddenlink.net.

Join us on Sunday mornings!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP
this Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP
at 10:45 a.m.

WATCH US ON CABLE CHANNEL 7
at 12:15 p.m.



Watch our worship services online!

You're invited to subscribe to Oakmont's YouTube channel to watch our worship services online! Access it via YouTube by typing in the channel's name: "Oakmont BC Greenville NC." You can also access it by clicking [here](#) or on the YouTube logo above.



Join us for live-stream using the QR code above!



Small Group Connections AT OAKMONT



Life Lessons Bible Studies

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Sharron Edwards

Location: Room 311

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Cal Hayslip

Location: Room 606

Nurturing Faith Bible Study

Co-ed Small Group for adults in 40s–50s who may have children in middle and/or high school

Teacher: Mac Williamson

Location: Room 501

The Journey Class

Co-ed small group for adults ages 30s–50s who may have school-aged children

Teacher: Lauren McGee

Location: Room 502

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Potter's Clay

Co-ed ongoing class for middle/older adults

Co-teachers: Tim Britton, Ed Congleton, Bill Gaston

Location: Room 300

College/Young Adult Class

A class for college-age coeds

Teacher: Michele Mazey

Location: Room 506

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Disciples

Co-ed ongoing class for older adults

Co-teachers: Dot Seay, Fred Daniel & Wayne Taylor, Pat Dunn

Location: Fellowship Hall

***Connections Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Messengers

Co-ed ongoing class for senior adults

Teacher: Carol Foor

Location: Room 307

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Pathfinders

Co-ed ongoing class for senior adults

Co-teachers: Tom Durham, Gerry Jolly

Location: Room 609

Koinonia

An ongoing class for women who are single, divorced, widowed, or women who do not attend a class with their husbands.

During the summer, this small group chooses a contemporary book on a relevant subject, often written by a female author, to study together.

Teacher: Bridgette Williamson

Location: Room 610 (and off-campus on occasion)

Children's Connection



FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT HOW JESUS CARES FOR EVERYONE! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO A PERSON IS, WHERE THEY COME FROM, OR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, JESUS CARES FOR EVERY SINGLE PERSON JUST THE SAME! IN OUR BIBLE STORIES THIS MONTH WE WILL READ ABOUT HOW JESUS TOOK CARE OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE THAT HE WAS AROUND. FROM SICK PEOPLE TO LONELY PEOPLE, AND EVERYONE IN BETWEEN,

JESUS SHOWED PEOPLE WHAT GOD'S LOVE TRULY LOOKED LIKE BY HELPING EVERYONE JUST THE SAME!

Our story for this week comes to us from Mark 6:53–56. In this story we learn how Jesus took care of the many different people who came to Him for help. Wherever Jesus went, great crowds would come to Him because they needed His help. Many people knew that Jesus could perform great miracles, so whenever He was around, the crowds would bring the sick to Him so that they could be healed. The people would beg Jesus for help, and they would reach out to touch Him, because they knew that just by touching the edge of his cloak, they would be healed. But here is the amazing thing about Jesus: no matter how great the crowds were, no matter how many people came to Him for help, Jesus had compassion for the people. Jesus knew that many of the people who came to Him felt lost, confused, and needed help, because no one else could help them.

Jesus' interaction with the crowds reminds us that Jesus cares about everyone. In our story this week, Jesus does not pick and choose which people from the crowd are allowed to approach Him. Jesus does not question the people in the crowd to see if they are worthy of touching Him. Instead, Jesus allows all the people to come to Him—to learn from Him and to be healed, both physically and spiritually. Jesus' love for

Continued on next page...

“Villages, Towns, and the Countryside” | Click [HERE](#).

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

May Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

MAY THEME: HATS OFF—JESUS CARES ABOUT EVERYONE

First responders and community helpers show up and care for the people in their community, and when preschoolers learn about these people, they learn who they can ask for help. And when people help us, we can say, “Hats off to them! Thanks for caring so much!”

We want our children to know that there is someone else who cares for them every day, but He doesn't wear a hat to show us who He is. We can read story after story in the Bible where Jesus shows us that He cares for every single person—no matter who they are, what they've done, or where they're from! We want every child to know “how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:18 NIV). This month let's pray for our children, that they will grow to love and admire Jesus more and more as we discover that Jesus cares about everyone. And join us this month as we say, “Hats off to Jesus!”

May Memory Verse

“How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” – Ephesians 3:18, NIV

Continued from previous page

the people was unconditional and freely given to anyone who came to Him.

This week, I want you to remember this story about Jesus' interaction with the crowd. The crowd was probably made up of all kinds of people, both good and not so good. There were probably people in the crowd who were righteous followers of God. But, I'm sure there were people in the crowd who had not been living good lives up until that point either. There were probably people in the crowd who had made big mistakes in life, people who had not always been kind to others, people who had questions and doubts, but Jesus welcomed them all the same.

So, as you get ready for a new week, I want you to interact with the many different people in your life like Jesus would. No matter who a person is, what they have done, or where they are from, Jesus loves them all the same. So may we also try to show this same kind of love to others, no matter who they are! Jesus cares about everyone, so let us care about everyone, too! Amen.

—Ben Gurganus,
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education

Resources and ideas are from Orange Curriculum.

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade May Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

MAY THEME: TREK- Don't Stop. Don't Give up. God's With You!

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TRUTH AND GOD'S CREATION, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Following Jesus and carrying out the good work He left for us to do is an epic quest—a journey that none of us can complete on our own. That's why this month's theme is "Trek: Don't stop, don't give up—God's with you"—so kids can remember that God will help them on this grand adventure, every step of the way.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for April —

May 3

Keep going because of what God has done.

May 17

God can help you see things in a new way.

May 10

Keep following God, even when you have questions.

May 24

Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

May 31

God will make everything right in the end.

May Memory Verse

"Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up."

— Galatians 6:9, NIV

— Youth Calendar —

May 3 | Youth Sunday!

May 22 | Mission Trip Registration Deadline. Mission trip dates are July 29–August 5 in West Yellowstone, Montana.
Reminder: The mission trip is for high school students only.

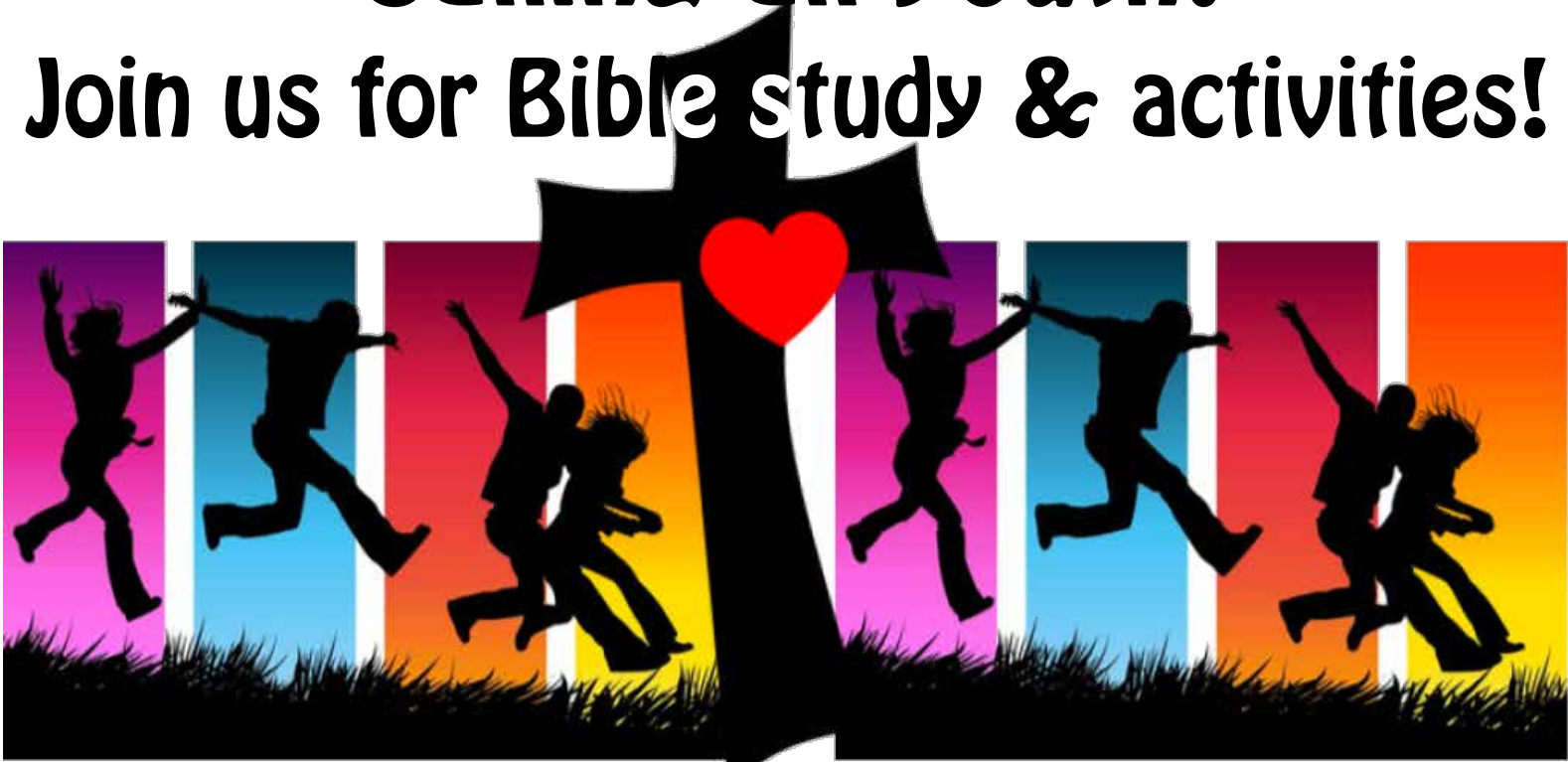
The youth group will meet on a regular weekly basis, every Sunday and Wednesday night, unless otherwise posted.

ON SUNDAY EVENINGS, the youth will arrive at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m., and small group Bible study will begin at 6:30. Youth can be picked up by 7:30 p.m. each Sunday.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Bible study is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. each week.

Calling all youth!

Join us for Bible study & activities!



— This Week's Events —

Sunday, May 3

YOUTH SUNDAY

9:40 a.m.
Bible Study/Sunday School

10:45 a.m.
In-Person & Live-Stream Worship

12:15 p.m.
Worship on Cable Channel 7

1:00 p.m.
Korean Church Service & Lunch
Fellowship Hall

3:30 p.m.
Handbell Rehearsal

Monday, May 4

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, May 5

9:30 a.m.
Senior Adult Coffee Talk
Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

1:00 p.m.
Homebound Meal
Preparation & Delivery

2:00 p.m.
Clothes Closet

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

Wednesday, May 6

11:00 a.m.
Drop-in Bible Study

5:45 p.m.
Women's Bible Study

6:00 p.m.
ESL
Large Group Bible Study
Preschool, Children
& Youth Activities
Orchestra Rehearsal

7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL

Sunday



April 26, 2026

FAITHFULNESS

2026 MISSIONS AND MINISTRY SPENDING PLAN: \$1,304,524

Receipts (<i>This Week</i>)	\$24,022	Building Fund (<i>This Week</i>)	\$10
	(\$3,947 Online, \$20,075 Mail)	Building Fund (MTD)	\$1,871
Receipts (MTD)	\$85,781.20	Building Fund (YTD)	\$5,205
Receipts 2026 (YTD)	\$378,803.17	Easter Offering (<i>This Week</i>)	\$590
Receipts 2025 (YTD)	\$401,188.95	Easter Offering (YTD)	\$10,495
Communion Offering (<i>This Week</i>)	\$311		
Communion Offering (MTD)	\$2,754		

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME		Ric Espinoza
SKIT		Oakmont Action News Team
CALL TO WORSHIP		Wyatt Judge
HYMN	<i>"Thrive"</i>	

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER		Jacob Gosnell
SCRIPTURE READING		John Eaves
SERMON		Abby Andrews
HYMN	<i>"Lord, I Need You"</i>	
OFFERTORY SENTENCES		Jziya Espinoza
OFFERTORY	<i>"Holy, Holy, Holy"</i> <i>Logan Knight, Saxophone</i>	

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME		Ava Andrews and Chloe Locklear
SCRIPTURE READING	Jeremiah 29:11	Kent Eaves
SERMON		Christian Mangato
READER'S THEATRE		Jose Mendez, Chloe Locklear Wyatt Judge and Jacob Gosnell
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>"Honest"</i> <i>Mattie Wilson</i>	
SCRIPTURE READING	Psalms 149:1-5	Parker Bunch
SERMON	<i>"How Are You Dancing?"</i>	Abigail Price
INVITATION		Rev. Ben Gurganus
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>"Holy Spirit"</i>	

SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

LIFE AT OAKMONT		Abby Andrews and Abigail Price
BENEDICTION		Meison Trejulo

All People of Oakmont Baptist Church Are Ministers and serve alongside

Rev. Eric Porterfield
Senior Pastor
eric@oakmontchurch.com

Dr. Laurie Cosby
Minister of Music
laurielee@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Ben Gurganus
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education
ben@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Alicia Porterfield
Minister of Missions
alicia@oakmontchurch.com

Dr. Greg Rogers
Pastor Emeritus

Ms. Lauri Johnson
Pastoral/Music Ministry Secretary
lauri@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Nicole Davis
Educational Ministries Secretary
nicole@oakmontchurch.com

Mr. Wayne Taylor
Facility Manager
wayne@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Amy Cook
Communications Specialist
amycook@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Caroline Bissette
Technical Assistant
techteam@oakmontchurch.com

Mr. Jackson Bunch
Mr. David Horvath
Mr. Jimmy Weaver
Mr. Phillip Williamson
Sextons

Worship & Music Leadership

Mrs. Alisa Gilliam
Pianist

Mr. Jim Gilliam
Music Assistant

Mrs. Karen Meetze
Organist



1100 Red Banks Road | Greenville, NC 27858 | 252.756.1245 | oakmontchurch.com
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

