

July 19, 2026

E-Connections

News from **Oakmont Baptist Church**

A Word from Our Pastor

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven,” (Matthew 18:3-4). As we give thanks for and reflect on another amazing week of Vacation Bible School, what are some specific things (actions, characteristics) we’ve seen in the children that we need to embrace, ways in which we as adults need to change so that we’re more like the children? How have we witnessed the children practicing humility and how can we embody their humility in our adult lives?

Mandy Smith, pastor and author, in her book “Unfettered,” gives us some help. She distinguishes between “childish” behavior and “child-like” trust. Yes, there have been moments of childish behavior this week, with children pouting when they didn’t get their way, disrupting their group by doing their own thing, and maybe even applying an angry punch or pinch to their neighbor. This is normal! And, there’ve been beautiful moments of child-like trust as the children have listened to the Bible story brought to life each night by the adult and youth actors. I particularly love watching the children trust their leaders as they guide them from activity to activity and as the adults join in those activities with the children. The children display humility when they give up control of their time and trust the adults and youth to lead them in the right direction.

While contrasting childish and child-like behavior, Smith also speaks of “adultish” and adult-like behavior! To be “adultish” is to think we are in complete

control of everything. The “adultish” person seeks to exercise control over every person and event and situation. But the adult-like person, practicing childlikeness, trusts God in and with every situation.

As I write these words it’s Wednesday morning and we have two more nights of VBS. We’ll see plenty of childish behavior on these nights, so I’ll ask the Spirit to help us discern when to laugh and when to correct. But more importantly, in observing “childish” behavior, the Spirit just might expose our own “adultish” ways. We’ll also see plenty of child-like moments of trust from the children; may these moments strengthen us in “adult-like” maturity and child-like trust in God.

Jesus then said, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,” (Matthew 18:5). “Connecting” has been one of our VBS theme words this week, which flows easily from this verse. When we connect with children and the children connect with each other, Jesus is there. I thank God for the ways we’ve experienced the presence of Christ this week, for the joys of partnering with the Memorial Baptist Church in welcoming our community’s children, and for the ways our children have been drawn to Jesus each night. May the seeds planted sprout and grow and flourish in faith.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





OBC Updates



July 19

Romans 8:12-17
Eric Porterfield preaching

July 26

Romans 8:18-25
Eric Porterfield preaching



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Sanctuary Angels

Special thanks to the many folks who stepped forward to serve as “Sanctuary Angels” to help make everything ready for Sunday worship. We are grateful for you! Wayne Taylor has developed a volunteer schedule for the group.

Oakmont SENIORS MINISTRY



Senior Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, July 28 at 11:30 a.m.
Kickback Jack's Restaurant

Join us for this time of fun, food and fellowship for this “Dutch treat” meal!
Everyone is welcome to attend!

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!



Senior Adult Field Trip to Grifton Planetarium

Senior adults! Join us for a field trip to the Grifton Planetarium on Friday, August 7. Meet at Oakmont at 9:00 a.m. to travel to the planetarium. The visit is scheduled from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$10 per person, and a cash payment will be collected the day of the event.



Senior Adult Fall Trip to Lancaster, PA

PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE REGARDING FINAL PAYMENTS: The deadline for final payments to Lisa Stevens is Sunday, JULY 26. This allows us time to get the payments to PML by the August 3 deadline. If you cannot make the July 26 deadline, you can also mail your own payment to PML. Please contact Lisa if you have any questions or need more information. Thank you!

**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.

Music Ministry Memos



Mid-Summer Music Ministry Potluck and Rehearsal for Chancel Choir/Orchestra/Tech

Wednesday, July 22 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Music Suite

Refer to the Thursday “Music Ministry Update” email for a link to sign up to bring food. If you would like to join one of these groups, please feel free to attend and get to know us!

WANTED: TECH Operators for the TECH Team Ministry

We will be hosting an operator training event soon that will offer advanced training for current operators and beginning training for new operators on all four positions for in-house and broadcast audio media. If you would be interested in serving on the TECH TEAM as a new member, contact Laurie Cosby at: laurie@oakmontchurch.com.



Oakmont's Social Media

Our social media presence has increased! Visit our [facebook page](#) to view postings about church happenings, including videos! The purpose of these posts is to share with one another and others in the community how God is working at Oakmont. Therefore, we'd love for you to “share” these postings as a way of informing others about the great things God is doing at Oakmont.

Church Directory Photos October 1–3



The time has finally arrived! A new church directory is on the way! Pictures will be taken Thursday through Saturday, October 1–3, 2026, and the company we're working with thinks directories will be in our hands by Christmas. As picture days approach, we will have sign-ups online and in the church office. We also will need volunteers to help facilitate picture-taking. Please make plans now to be included in our directory!



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

Oakmont Prayer Garden

Your Prayer Garden Team needs help! Your team is getting older, and we need some younger bodies with strong backs and a willingness to do some work. I've divided the duties into small manageable tasks:

- One person to just take care of the roses, which would only include deadheading.
- Four people to weed, each person assigned to one section of the garden. (There are four sections).
- Four people to mow on a rotating basis. (The mower is battery-powered, and it takes about 10–15 minutes to mow and blow the grass off the walkway.)

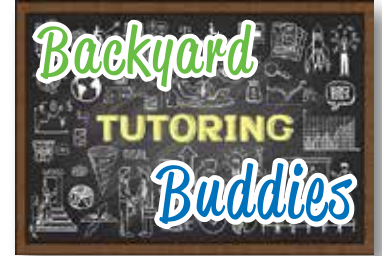
The team has done a wonderful job designing the garden, and it's beautiful. So, we want to maintain it and keep the garden in everlasting beauty. We have all the tools you'll need and it's not necessary to bring anything from home. So, please join us and help us keep the garden in great shape! Call, text, or email David Steele at 252-916-5322 or steeled02@gmail.com.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

This week we are focusing on VBS, which has been so much fun! But after that, we will be back at the pool on Mondays July 20 & 27 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. and at Oakmont for Pizza, Play, and Practice on Wednesdays July 22 & 29, from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.



Clothes Closet



The clothes closet is now accepting donations again! IT IS LOCATED IN THE OLD YOUTH ROOM! The entrance is at the youth room double doors facing the parking lot on the Oakmont Square side of the church. This vital community ministry is open on first and third Tuesdays (no fifth Tuesdays) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Our next open date to love our neighbors is July 21.

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

LINKS



During the school year, LINKS meets on second Tuesdays 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. On Tuesday, July 14, the teens and DSS staff gathered to share lunch and have fun learning about teamwork! They will be back on August 11 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Please join us in praying for these teens as they take the next right step in their lives.

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

These meals go out to our homebound Oakmonters as well as those who are dealing with illness, grief, or other difficult circumstances. Our July dates are the 21st and 28th. Special thanks for the two teams that make this ministry work!



Walmart Fridays

For June and July while ECU is on a summer schedule, our Walmart Fridays drivers will move to an every-other-Friday schedule, with drivers on standby for urgent needs. Our next trip is July 24 with David Steele driving.

After lots of prayer and conversation, we have decided to make this summer the closing season for this ministry. The good news is that ECU now has an on-demand shuttle that students can call upon to take them anywhere they need to go within a certain radius from campus! This Walmart Fridays ministry began at Immanuel Baptist and has served a great need for many years when students without transportation had few ways to get to the grocery store. We thank God for the many people who have supported our International friends at ECU in this very practical way. Special thanks to the drivers who stepped up as this ministry came to Oakmont. We are grateful!

Young Lives



This ministry of Young Life supports teen moms and their children and meets in our Fellowship Hall the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Lillie Moore from Young Lives and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry for moms and their children. Next gathering will be July 21!

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

STAYING IN THE KNOW with all that's going on with our youth is easy!
Just sign up for our email and texting lists,
AND GET INVOLVED NOW!





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, and 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 JULY, WE WILL BE CONTINUING OUR ADVENTURE AS WE EXPLORE HOW JESUS TAUGHT US TO HELP GOD'S KINGDOM GROW. GOD'S KINGDOM IS FOR EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWS JESUS. THIS MONTH OUR STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO USE THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN THEM TO HELP OTHERS LEARN ABOUT JESUS. THE ADVENTURE OF GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM IS NOT ALWAYS EASY, BUT IT IS AN EXCITING CALLING THAT JESUS HAS GIVEN TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. SO, LET US

LEARN TO LISTEN TO JESUS AND DO WHAT HE SAYS, BECAUSE WE ARE LIVING THE GREATEST ADVENTURE WHEN WE FOLLOW CHRIST.

Our story for this week comes to us from Matthew 25:14-30. In this passage Jesus tells us a story about a master and his three servants. One day, the master was going on a trip, but before he left, he gave each of his three servants a portion of his wealth to look after while he was gone. One servant he gave 5 bags of gold, one servant he gave two bags of gold, and one servant he gave one bag of gold. After receiving the money, the servant with the five bags of gold went out and began working more. Eventually, he was able to turn the five bags of gold into 10 bags of gold! The servant who was given the two bags of gold went out and did the same thing. He turned his two bags of gold into four bags of gold! But the servant who was given one bag of gold did not do anything with it. Instead, he hid the money in the ground and waited for his master to get back.

When the master returned, he was thrilled to learn that two of his servants had gone out and multiplied his money. He even gave those two servants a raise and more responsibility with their work. However,

“The Story of the Bags of Gold” | Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

July Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

JULY THEME: KINGDOM QUEST —LIVING THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

No matter what the adventure is, it is really important to have a guide, someone who leads the way and someone you can go to when you need help. We want our children to know God gave us a Guide – His Son, Jesus! Jesus teaches us about God's Kingdom. So, this month, we are exploring stories Jesus told us to learn how we can help God's Kingdom grow. God's Kingdom is for everyone who follows Jesus, so let's remember what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33: “Put God's kingdom first.” Let's encourage our children to do what Jesus says: to use what God gives us to grow, to help others, to forgive, and to never give up on prayer. That's not always easy, but we can embrace the adventure in that – and our children can too!

July Memory Verse

“Put God's kingdom first.” – Matthew 6:33 NIV

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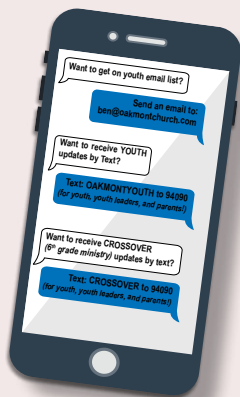
when he learned that one of his servants had done nothing with his money, he became extremely upset. He had given his servants an opportunity to step up and use the things they had been given to make an incredible change.

The reason that Jesus told this story is because the same is true for us. As members of God's Kingdom, we should not hide it away like the one servant did. Instead, God's Kingdom grows when we use what God has given us. Like the servants who multiplied what their master had given them, God has also given us special talents and gifts to share with others and to grow the Kingdom of God.

This week, I want you to take some time to think about the special talents and gifts that God has given you. How might God be calling you to use those talents and gifts to grow the Kingdom of God? It is so wonderful to belong to the Kingdom of God, but it is even greater when we can share the Kingdom with others!

—Ben Gurganus,
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education
Resources and ideas are from Orange Curriculum.

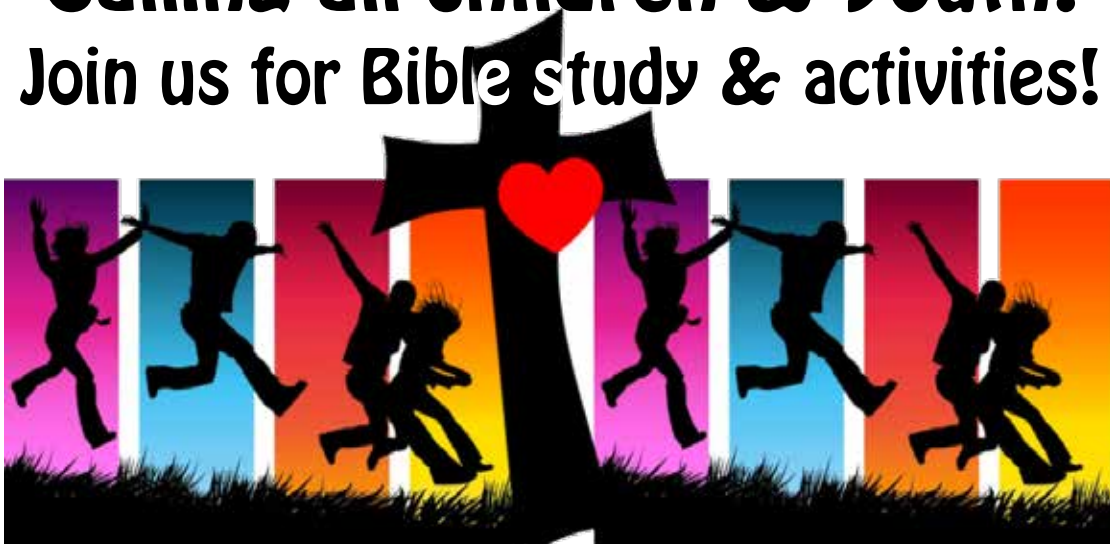
— **Children's Connection continued on next page.** —



Children's Ministry Text Group

For any parents of children who would like to be added to the Children's Ministry text alerts, please text "oakmontkids" (no quotation marks needed) to 833-744-0524. *Stay informed!*

Calling all children & youth! Join us for Bible study & activities!



First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade July Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

JULY THEME: KINGDOM QUEST— Living the Greatest Adventure

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

It’s July, and we are diving into another set of parables that Jesus told. Last month, we focused on what God’s Kingdom is. This month, we’re going to explore how Jesus teaches us to live in and help grow God’s kingdom. We start off with The Story of the Farmer, and how God’s kingdom grows when we listen to God and do what He says. In Week 2, we explore The Parable of the Bags of Gold, discovering how God wants us to use the gifts He has given us to grow the kingdom. We follow up with The Servant Who Had No Mercy, where our students will learn that because God has forgiven us, we can help bring His kingdom to others when we forgive them. And we wrap up the summer series with The Story of the Persistent Widow, where kids will see how important it is to keep talking with God and never give up, even when you don’t get the answer you want right away.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for July —

July 3

God’s Kingdom grows when you hear
and do what God says.

July 17

God’s Kingdom grows when you forgive.

July 10

God’s Kingdom grows when
you use what God has given you.

July 24

God’s Kingdom grows when you pray
and don’t give up.

July Memory Verse

*“God’s Kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy.
All this comes through the Holy Spirit.”*

– Romans 14:17

— Youth Calendar —

JULY

JULY 19 | Youth Mission Trip Meeting

JULY 29–AUG. 5 | High School Youth Mission Trip

JULY 21 | Kings Dominion Trip

— This Week's Events —

Sunday, July 19

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

4:00 p.m.
Youth Mission Trip Meeting

Monday, July 20

9:30 a.m.
Backyard Buddies
Summer Enrichment Program
OSA Pool

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, July 21

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

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

2:00 p.m.
Clothes Closet

7:00 p.m.
Young Lives Meeting
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 22

6:00 p.m.
Backyard Buddies
Summer Enrichment Program
Dinner & Tutoring
Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m.
Music Ministry Potluck
Dinner & Rehearsal
*Rooms 606–607,
Choir Suite & Sanctuary*

Friday, July 24

Walmart Van Ministry

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



July 12, 2026

FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (<i>This Week</i>)	\$22,662	Communion Offering (<i>This Week</i>)	\$460
(\$865 Online, \$21,797 Mail)		Communion Offering (MTD)	\$1,730
Receipts (MTD)	\$40,953.25	Building Fund (<i>This Week</i>)	\$162
Receipts 2026 (YTD)	\$595,878.92	Building Fund (MTD)	\$1,354
Receipts 2025 (YTD)	\$596,459.97	Building Fund (YTD)	\$14,380

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Our Spiritual Connection"
Dr. Laurie Cosby and the Children's Sunday School Class

HYMN

"God, Our Father, We Adore Thee"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

VBS TESTIMONIES

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Kay Redd

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Ben Gurganus

READER'S THEATRE

"Life! Here Is Love!"
Revelation Players

Charles Dorris

SPECIAL MUSIC

"No Longer Slaves"
Dr. Laurie Cosby

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:12-17

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

"Weeding, Listening, Stewarding"

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

LIFE AT OAKMONT

Rev. Ben Gurganus

BENEDICTION

Rev. Eric Porterfield

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

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Pastoral/Music Ministry Secretary
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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.

