

August 23, 2026

E-Connections

News from **Oakmont Baptist Church**

A Word from Our Pastor

My Dad was a commercial real estate developer in the Triad. I was fascinated by his work, including the way he took seriously the concerns of the neighborhoods that adjoined projects he was working on. He always did his best to compromise and shape the project in ways that were respectful of the larger community.

I'm reminded of my Dad as I watch the prospective buyers of our Branches property listen and respond to the concerns raised by the neighbors who live nearby.

You may have seen in Thursday's "Daily Reflector" that several neighbors expressed concerns about the rezoning request required for the operation of a day-care on the site. The city's planning committee chose not to endorse the rezoning request and instead encouraged further work toward a "meeting of the minds." The buyers remain committed to purchasing the property but are momentarily stepping back from the official rezoning application process to address the concerns raised. I'll keep you posted on their progress; but in the meantime, we continue to practice patience as we pray for the process.

Speaking of patience . . . those who were skeptical that the construction work in the church office could happen in two days were wise in their thinking! It's still not completely done but the office is functioning normally and we're grateful. It's exciting to see the walls rising for our new Youth Room.

For those who are patiently waiting for school to start, and those who don't want summer break to

end, we're praying for all students and their families and all teachers, administrators, and school employees as the school year begins. ECU and PCC students are already in class; Pitt County Schools start Monday. During the worship service this Sunday, we'll bless and pray for all our students and teachers.

We're blessing one specific group of ECU students this Saturday night as we participate in the International Students Welcome Dinner, hosted by St. James United Methodist Church. We're providing the fried chicken; many international students are fascinated by that wonderful southern delicacy known as hush puppies, which we will also provide in abundance! I'm delighted to see the fruit of Immanuel Baptist Church's longstanding ministry to international students continue to grow in different and vibrant ways.

For the twists and turns of congregational life requiring patience, and for the joy of life together as a new school year begins, we give thanks to God.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





OBC Updates



August 23

Psalm 138
Eric Porterfield preaching

August 30

Psalm 26
Eric Porterfield preaching

Welcome Dinner for ECU International Students *Saturday, August 22 at 5:00 p.m.*



St. James UMC will fully host the annual Welcome Dinner for ECU International Students this year, and Oakmont folks are welcome to come share a Southern dish and visit with the students. The Welcome Dinner is another ministry started by Immanuel Baptist many years ago and is now an established part of ECU's Office of Global Affairs calendar. We give thanks that this ministry of hospitality lives on and that we get to be a part of it. St. James is at 2000 E. 6th Street. Please contact Alicia if you have any questions.



Nursery/Preschool Toys and Books Needed at Hope of Glory

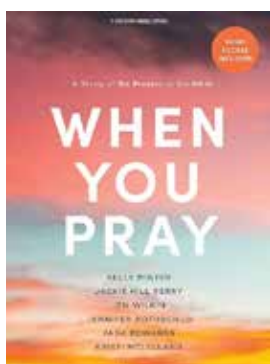
If you have toys or children's books to donate, please share them with Hope of Glory, our community ministry partner. Combining our resources with that of our new Jarvis at Oakmont friends has resulted in an abundance of books and toys—even after both groups did some paring down! Thanks for sharing your extra children's items with Hope of Glory which will support their financial empowerment ministry.

Dining Divas: A Social Group for Widows



We meet on the first Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. and have lunch at a local restaurant. Come and enjoy the friendships of Christian sisters! If you're interested in attending/joining this group, please contact Sue Curll at (252) 321-0214 or sue.v.curll@gmail.com.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study: Fall Edition



Wednesday Women's Bible Study: Fall Edition begins September 9 at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Together, we will study six different prayers in scripture guided by the book *When You Pray*. Each chapter of this seven-session study is written by a different Bible teacher and covers prayers from the Old Testament, Gospels, and Epistles. Not only will we explore scriptural prayers, but we will also work on deepening and expanding our own prayer lives. Please contact [Alicia](#) if you'd like to reserve a book (\$20 each; scholarships available), or you can order yours [here](#) (just FYI, the price of the book has fluctuated recently). Can't wait to be together again and be shaped by God through the gift of prayer!

Music Ministry Memos



WANTED: TECH Operators for the TECH Team Ministry

We are in the process of offering advanced training for current operators and we will be offering beginning training for new operators on all four positions for in-house and broadcast audio media: Sanctuary Power Point/Light Operator, Sanctuary Sound Mixer, Broadcast Video Camera Operator and Broadcast Sound Mixer. If you would be interested in serving on the TECH TEAM as a new member, contact Laurie Cosby at: laurielee@oakmontchurch.com.

All music ministry rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 9!

Church Directory Photos: October 1–3

Dear Oakmont Church Family,

Our church directory photographers will be here in just a few weeks, so the time to schedule photo sessions for our new church directory is here! Please find below important information regarding the dates and how to sign up for a session. You will receive a free 8x10 portrait and new church directory just for coming in for a session! There will be other options for products to

design and purchase the same day as your scheduled session, so if you are looking for special gifts for family and friends, look no further as Universal Church Directories is confident that items will be here in time for the holiday season. Cash (in small bills), checks, credit, and debit cards are accepted forms of payment for additional items.



Photo Session Dates

Thursday, October 1 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 2 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

— See the following page for instructions on how to sign up! —

Time slots are in 10-minute increments. Per the request of Universal Church Directories, please schedule two time slots if you have more than six people being photographed at one time.

Sign-up is available online now on weekdays! Please note: The scheduling page is not available to families on weekends starting Saturdays at approximately 12:01 a.m. until Mondays at 12:01 a.m. in order to prevent double booking. Please follow the instructions on the next page to sign up online.

If you prefer to sign up in person, we will have volunteers available to help you sign up in our narthex prior to and following our worship services each Sunday in September. We can schedule you at that time and provide a flyer that includes your appointment date and time.

No matter how you sign up, you will be asked to provide some basic information: your name, address, phone number, email address, and the number of people in your party. This information is only used by us at Oakmont to contact you regarding your photo session and for entry into the new directory. UCD does not collect or use this information, so please be as accurate as possible when providing it.

We are excited to have this opportunity to update our directory and get to know all of our friends and neighbors, so please make plans now to be included by scheduling a photo session! If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Davis in the church office at (252) 756-1245 or nicole@oakmontchurch.com.

Thank you!

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENTS



- Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled “photography appointment scheduling login.”
- Enter your church code (nc643).
- Enter your church password (photos643).
- Click on the “Enter” button.
- Click on the desired photography date.
- Click on the “Reserve Time” button beside the desired photography appointment time.
- Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk).
- Click on the “Schedule Appointment” button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family’s name.
- If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10 p.m.).
- Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family’s photography appointment.
- Contact Nicole Davis in the church office to change or cancel your photography appointment at (252) 756-1245 or nicole@oakmontchurch.com.

Oakmont SENIORS MINISTRY



Senior Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, August 25 at 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Join us for this time of fun, food and fellowship! Bring your own lunch, and dessert and beverages are provided.

Everyone is welcome to attend!



Senior Adult Coffee Talk

Tuesday, September 1 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!

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.

Treats for Eppes Middle School Staff



We had a great time dropping off individually-wrapped treats for the hardworking Eppes Middle School staff! Thanks to everyone who supplied these treats so the staff could stock up on snacks for the start of the school year. Teaching our middle school neighbors requires lots of energy boosts!



Oakmont's Social Media

Our social media presence has increased! Visit our [facebook page](#) to view postings about church happenings, including videos! And now we have an [Instagram](#) page! 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.

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.

Let's Welcome Jarvis at Oakmont Preschool by Collecting Pop Tabs!



A colorful poster for Jarvis Preschool enrollment for 2026-2027. The poster features a yellow background with a purple banner at the top that reads "Jarvis Preschool ENROLLMENT". Below this, it says "2026-2027" in a green banner. The text "Jesus said, 'let the little children come to me.' Matthew 19:14" is at the top left. The location is listed as "Oakmont Baptist Church, 1100 Red Banks Rd., Greenville, NC 27858". A speech bubble says "New Location!". The program is described as a "Christian, play-based half-day program for babies (6 weeks) through pre-k." It also mentions "Early Drop Off available every day at 8am for additional cost" and "Lunch club and Suzuki violin lessons are available for 3 & 4 year olds for additional costs". There are three circular photos showing children playing, reading, and learning. A QR code is present with the text "ENROLL NOW!". At the bottom, it says "Proudly serving families in Pitt county since 1969!" and provides contact information: "Email jarvisumcpreschool@gmail.com" and "Call 252-752-3101 or Visit jarvis.church/preschool".

Jarvis Preschool collects “pop tabs” (the tabs on aluminum soft drink cans) for the Ronald McDonald House, a charity that provides accommodations for families of out-of-town pediatric patients at major hospitals (learn more [here](#)). The charity redeems the pop tabs at aluminum centers, and those funds support the day-to-day work of the houses. What a great way for these children and their families to help other children and their families in need!

Let's help welcome the preschool and support this ministry by collecting as many pop tabs as we can by their opening day, September 9. Collection spots will be on the table in the narthex and at the church office.

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

Oakmont Prayer Garden

We have had a great response to our call for help in the Prayer Garden. However, we still need three more folks for weeding, one section each. Thanks to the following team members: Cutting grass: John Groesser, Ed Congleton, Bill Gaston, Al Holloway; Deadheading roses: Carol A. Brown; Weeding Section 1: Bobby Fussell; Section 2: Betty Langston.

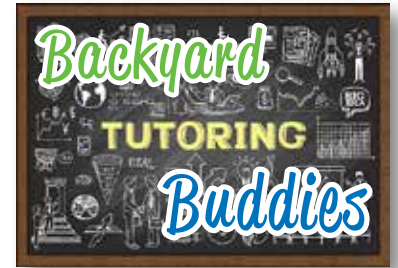
The team has done a wonderful job designing the garden, and it's beautiful. So, we want to maintain it and keep the garden in everlasting beauty. We have all the tools you'll need and it's not necessary to bring anything from home. So, please join us and help us keep the garden in great shape! Call,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

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

We will take the month of August to regroup before school starts. September 8 is our start back date for Backyard Buddies!



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. We were open this past Tuesday, so our next dates will be September 1 and 15.

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

The Village Update



Our plan is to be back at The Village before school begins. We have a special prayer request: please pray that more of the women will stay on for continued support after their 60- or 90-day court-assigned period ends. These moms need and deserve more time to learn and practice the serious work of healing and recovery. Please join us in praying that the moms who are there will begin to understand and fully accept the support and time the program offers as they seek to start anew.

MULTI-MEDIA

Our 10:45 a.m. worship service is recorded each week and shown on Cable 7 at 12:15 p.m.

Live streaming of our service and service archives are available in the Media section of our website.



ESL Classes

Our ESL classes will resume Tuesday, September 8 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, September 9 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We look forward to being with our neighbors who are working hard to learn English. If you'd be willing to be an occasional "conversation partner" with one or two students, please let us know!

LINKS



LINKS will be back in September with their regular school-year schedule: the second Tuesday of each month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Diane Myers leads this ministry of hospitality. Let's pray for these teens as they prepare to return to school later in the month.

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. They are taking a break for July and August and will be back in September!

*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 remaining August date is the 25th. It's such a gift to have a nice, hot meal on the table when we're in a challenging season. Special thanks to the cooks, packers, and delivery folks that make this ministry work!



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 AUGUST, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S WONDERFUL CREATION. FROM THE CREATION OF THE EARTH TO THE PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND US...OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN THAT EVERYTHING THAT GOD MADE WAS GOOD AND WONDERFUL. AS OUR CHILDREN LEARN TO MARVEL AT CREATION, WE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE ALSO PART OF THAT AMAZING CREATION.

WE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO GOD AND THAT GOD MADE THEM TO BE WONDERFUL! SO LET US BE FILLED WITH WONDER AND JOY THIS MONTH AS WE LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE WONDERFULLY MADE BY GOD!

Our story for this week comes to us from Psalm 139:1-4; Matthew 6:26, 10:30, 42. Last week we talked about how you were made in God's image. Being made in God's image means that God took incredible care when making us. It also means that God gave us a special purpose on earth, to live in a way that would show others what God is like. But why would God do that? Why do you think God would take incredible care and time in making us, and giving us a responsibility as important as showing others what God is like? The answer is probably more simple than you think...you are important to God!

All month we have been talking about how God created everything...even you! But have you ever really wondered why? God made you and provides for you because you are so important to God. Our Bible passages today tell us that God knows each of us better than we know ourselves. Before we get up in the morning, or go to sleep at night, God knows what we will do. Before we even say a word, God knows what

"God Knows Everything About Me" | Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

August Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

AUGUST THEME: MADE BY GOD – GOD MADE ME WONDERFUL

Young children are little artists. They experience so much joy when they create something and love to say, "Look at what I made!" But we want our children to know that THEY are made by God and that they are important to God. So this month, our focus with the children is helping them see that God made them wonderful. Through our lessons this month, we will help them experience awe and wonder as they see themselves as a part of God's creation. When they marvel at what they can do and create, we hope that they remember this month's memory verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful (Psalm 139:14 NIV). God made them amazing and wonderful. Let us pray that our children will not only learn, but proudly and joyfully declare: God made me wonderful!

August Memory Verse

"How you made me is amazing and wonderful." – Psalm 139:14, NIV

Continued from previous page

we will say. God is involved in every part of our lives because God loves us and cares about us. If we were not important to God, God would not take the time to be such an important part of our lives.

In the New Testament, Jesus talks even more about this. Jesus says that God already provides for the animals of the earth. If God does this, will God not also provide for people (you and me) as well? For we are even more special to God than the animals. Jesus goes on to tell us that God knows exactly how many hairs are on our heads. I'm not sure if you have ever tried to count the number of hairs on your head, but there are a lot! The only reason God would take such good care of us or know something as crazy as how many hairs are on our heads is because we are important to God. God is invested in every part of our lives.

So the next time you wonder how much God cares about you, I want you to go back and read the verses that we talked about today. Never take lightly just how important you are to God!

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

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



First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade August Bible Study Lessons
(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

AUGUST THEME: MASTERPIECE – Made by God

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

For the month of August, we will be diving in and exploring the incredible truth that each one of us is a Masterpiece: Made by God – in God's very own image! Throughout the month, students will discover that they are created for a purpose, that God can use everything in our lives, that every single person is of value because they are made in God's image, and that God has gifted us to work together to grow God's kingdom.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for August —

August 2

I am made in the image of God.

August 16

God can use all things.

August 9

God made me for a purpose.

August 23

Jesus values everyone.

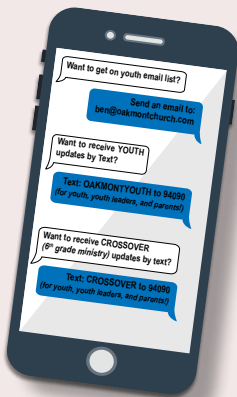
August 30

God grows God's gifts in me to build God's kingdom.

August Memory Verse

*"How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that.
What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."*

— Psalm 139:14 NIV



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!*



Mission Trip 2026 MONTANA

When the Oakmont Youth Mission team pulled into the parking lot of FBC West Yellowstone last summer, I could hardly believe it. It had been eight years since I had last seen the church where I spent an entire summer in college serving as a ministry intern. My internship in West Yellowstone was nothing short of transformational, and the only word that comes close to describing my experiences there would be “profound.” Being able to take the youth to such a special place in my life was something that I had dreamed

of since becoming a youth minister. So, when the opportunity arose to take the youth there for a mission trip in 2025, I jumped at the chance. I knew this might be the best opportunity we would ever have to go and serve in such a special place.

During the 2025 trip, we spent the majority of the week improving the grounds of the church. We shoveled and leveled huge piles of gravel for the parking lot. We stained large wooden pillars adorning the church’s entryway. We painted the entire exterior of the church, as well as the pastor’s office. We pulled weeds, cleaned base boards, and did our best to leave the church in a better state than when we first arrived.



As our week came to an end, the overall mood of the group was one of genuine sadness; nobody wanted to leave. The people we had met were incredible, loving, and caring. We even got to spend a few of our days exploring Yellowstone National Park and Grand Tetons National Park, where we saw breathtaking sights and had extraordinary encounters with incredible wildlife.

As we boarded the airplane to fly back to North Carolina, it was hard coming to terms with the possibility that we might not get to come back to West Yellowstone anytime soon. After all, how does one willingly leave a place like that?

It was because of our incredible experiences last year that I could not say “yes” fast enough when the members of FBC West Yellowstone asked if our group would consider returning to help them with more work this summer. This year, however, the work that we were called to do was more directly focused on helping members of the community - something we were more than happy to do. This year, over the course of our week in Montana, the mission team picked weeds, mowed lawns, stained fences, spread mulch, and split and stacked countless piles of firewood. We even got to help the church do mission outreach during their annual “Kids in the Park” summer festival – where we were able to witness, play with, and connect with close to 200 children and their families.

In addition to the work that we did, our group was also able to take in the gorgeous sights of Big Sky country. We spent several afternoons in Yellowstone and saw sights like Old Faithful, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Grand Prismatic Hot Spring, West Thumb Geyser basin, Mammoth Hot Springs, and Hayden and Lamar Valleys. While in the park we saw a grizzly bear, elk herds, antelope, and countless bison. One bison



Access all photos
[HERE.](#)

Access a slide show
[HERE.](#)

even came within 10 feet of our van and put on quite a territorial display – a truly awesome and humbling experience! Outside of the park, we summited mountains and took in the breathtaking views of Sawtell Peak. We visited the eerily beautiful Earthquake Lake and took a brisk swim at Cliff Lake. We explored the cowboy towns of Virginia and Nevada City and lost count of the number of times we said, “ooh,” “ahhh,” and “wow.”

To say that I am proud of our group and the work that they did during the mission trip would be an understatement. While we were on our job sites, one of my favorite parts of the trip was getting to speak to some of the people that we were helping. I loved hearing their stories, learning about their lives, and sharing special moments with them. Everyone I spoke with while we were there was incredibly grateful for the help that our group provided. Some of the people even stated that without our help they would not have been adequately prepared for the winter months.

I think that is what makes mission trips so special. The connections we make with the people we serve are a beautiful reminder of what it truly looks like when the family of God comes together. Even though we were serving a community that was on the opposite side of the country from us, it was abundantly clear that the same God we worship and serve in North Carolina is the same God who was present and at work in West Yellowstone, Montana. The compassion, hospitality, and love that we found in Montana came directly from the hearts of those who were so evidently following Jesus. I think that the biggest takeaway for our group was the reminder that, while we may look different from others, worship in different ways, and have different opinions and beliefs about certain things, the God we serve never changes. The love of Christ is so obvious and different from everything else in this world that it is instantly recognizable when you encounter it.

I think that is why our spirits are raised when we do things like mission work - because we allow the life-giving Spirit of God to fill us up, to revitalize our souls, and to connect us with those who we serve and are serving with. Mission work is transformational work. And that became so obvious to all of us during our week.

While we were sad to leave Montana once again, I have no doubts that our group came back home closer and more united than when we left. Our time in Montana gave us incredible opportunities to bond and grow with one another. While we left a piece of ourselves behind in West Yellowstone, we also brought a piece of West Yellowstone back with us to NC. I thank God for the incredible opportunity we had to return to Montana this summer, to be a small part of the work that God was already doing there. Now that we are back home and settling into the routine of our everyday lives, I pray that the spiritual work that we began in Montana would continue to weave its way into all that we do.

As we continue to reflect on what this year’s mission trip meant to us, I just want to say to you, our Oakmont family, thank you once again for the encouragement and support that you showed to our group as we were on this trip. I only wish that all of you could have joined us out there. But who knows...I have a strong feeling that God has not called us to Montana for the last time. I pray for a day soon when we can return once again and continue the beautiful partnership that we have created with the people of West Yellowstone. So, until next time, we give God thanks for the incredible trip that we had, and we pray that we would use our experiences in the work that God has called us to do in the here and now. From all of us on the Oakmont Youth Mission team, “Thank you and God bless!”

— This Week's Events —

Sunday, August 23

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

Monday, August 24

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, August 25

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

11:30 a.m.
Senior Adult Lunch Bunch
Fellowship Hall

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

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!

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



August 16, 2026

FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week)	\$24,777.20	Communion Offering (This Week)	\$120
(\$3,390 Online \$21,387.20 Mail)		Communion Offering (MTD)	\$1,410
Receipts (MTD)	\$66,615.67	Building Fund (This Week)	\$170
Receipts 2026 (YTD)	\$728,570.52	Building Fund (MTD)	\$490
Receipts 2025 (YTD)	\$686,701.47	Building Fund (YTD)	\$15,552

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN

"Come, Christians Join to Sing"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"What He's Done"

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Pat Dunn

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 1:3-11

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

ANTHEM

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
Chancel Choir

BLESSING OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Rev. Ben Gurganus

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 138

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

"Whole Hearted"

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

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

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.

