

VITAL CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of Oak Forest United Methodist Church
June 2026

Radical Hospitality 2026

We have numerous opportunities at the church to thrive and grow by being relevant in our community. What does it mean to be relevant? Many UMC congregations have read the book **Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations** by Robert Schnase to understand how to be relevant in the twenty first century. One of the five practices identified in the book is *Radical Hospitality*. Radical hospitality is when a church is invitational and engaging with the local community. This is the key to being relevant in today's competitive world.

The most important thing a church needs to thrive, and grow is relevance. While attending Duke Divinity School, I was asked to write an obituary for my home church. I was told that my home church burned down. What would I write in the obituary about my home church? How would the community react? Would anyone in the local community notice that my home church burned down other than the church members?

We must be Relevant.

Oak Forest UMC has a rich history of being relevant in the community. The church was created by members at Midway UMC to provide a kindergarten class for the community. What a great ministry!

Currently our church is relevant to the community by providing the **After School Program**, **After School Summer Program**, the **Preschool Program**, being a hub for **Meals on Wheels**, providing baby essentials through the **BEAR Closet**, collecting flour and sugar for the **Grain Offering**, taking a meal to the **Davidson Homeless Shelter**, helping the homeless through the **Donna Love Ministry**, collecting blood for the **Red Cross**, and hosting annual events such as the **Fall Bazaar and Car Show**, **Fish Fry**, **Fishing Derby**, **Trunk or Treat**, and the **Cross Walk** on Good Friday.

We must be Inviting.

We all need to ask the question, "What are we doing to invite community members into the church that are already coming to our doorstep for other reasons? How are we relevant beyond providing a service? What are we doing to show the love of Jesus Christ?"

We provide space for numerous community events. We have a **softball field**, **gymnasium**, **modern kitchen**, **paved parking lot**, and **meeting rooms**. Many outside groups utilize the softball field, gymnasium, parking lot, and meeting rooms. Softball leagues use the softball field. Basketball leagues use the gymnasium. Baby showers are held in the Family Life Center. The **ReFit exercise class** led by Teresa Levy is held in the Family Life Center on Tuesday and Thursday nights. **Car shows** use the parking lot.

We need to build on these opportunities. People in our community who are not yet members are literally coming to our doorstep with their children and their families.

(continued on Page 2)

This issue:

Pastor's Page
PAGES 1-2

Financial Report
PAGE 3

Building & Development
Funds & Endowment Report
PAGE 4

Never Too Old Club
PAGE 5

Children's Page
PAGE 6

Cartner Tribute
PAGES 7-8

Sympathies &
Thank You Notes
PAGE 9

Upcoming Events
PAGE 10

Announcements
& Birthdays
PAGE 11

Contact Us
PAGE 12

June Calendar
PAGE 13





(continued from Page 1)

We must Engage.

I have asked our congregation on numerous occasions, “What can we do to attract young people from the After School Program and Preschool Program to attend church on Sunday mornings?”

The ASP puts together an **End of Summer program** that has been offered at the 9am worship service. We have had a large turnout of over 170 people that attended church. We also have had a **Preschool Christmas program** in December and a **Preschool Graduation Program** in the summer for the children and families of the Preschool. Again, we have had large turnouts of over 100 children and their families for these Preschool events. We need to offer more of these opportunities.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities.

How can we further enhance the spiritual lives of these families? Maybe we could offer a **parents’ night out**? The ASP has offered Movie Night in our Family Life Center. Maybe we could offer a young married couple’s parenting class?

Sunday school Classes.

We need a **Sunday School Hour** between worship services, Sunday School teachers, and Sunday School classes! This is a critical element of not only attracting new members but also retaining them. People want to be part of a small group. This is a safe place where people share prayer concerns and pray for each other. This is the place where people grow spiritually. This is the place where people build relationships outside of family and friends.

Wednesday Night Activities.

We offer many opportunities to pray, sing, and grow spiritually on Wednesday nights. The **Wednesday Prayer Service** is open to anyone in the community to hear a lay led devotional and to pray. Both the **Praise Band** and **Traditional Choir** practice on Wednesday nights.

In the past we have offered **Christian Education classes** to our young children and youth on Wednesday nights. They have offered various themes such as “I Am Second” and “Cooking with the Bible.”

Summary.

Please join me in celebrating the fact that Oak Forest UMC is relevant in our community. We are inviting and engaging but we can always look for new opportunities. Please contact me or the church office to get involved and learn more.

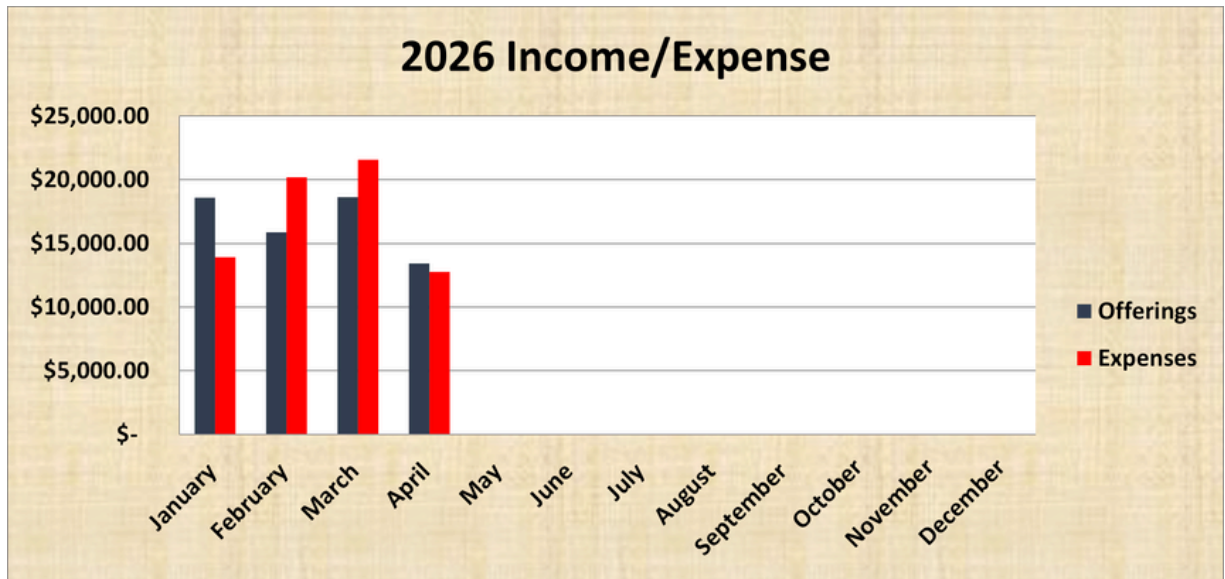
Blessings,

Pastor Rick



Finance Report

Finances for the month of April 2026. Income from tithes and offerings was \$13,404.89. The expenses were \$12,746.23. The total cash flow for the year is negative \$1,921.09.



Our expenses were low in April due to using available Designated Funds which are given to cover the cost of utilities.

Our reported expenses for each month do not reflect the church's total budgeted obligations. Currently, we have not paid our District and Conference apportionments which are \$1,871.18 per month. This has been mostly due to higher-than-expected utility cost and repairs to church vehicles, along with lower than usual giving.

(Copies of the church Budget and Designated Funds report are available on the blue shelves beside the copier usually around the 12th of each month.)



Building Fund Report

The building fund balance as of the end of April is \$22,853.49.

These funds were transferred from Pinnacle Bank to The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina on 3/24/26. A new Development Fund has been established and will earn 3.75% monthly.

(Rates are adjusted quarterly.)

Endowment Report

The current value of the Endowment Fund as of the end of April is \$124,979.17.

Development Fund

The current value of the fund as of the end of April is \$72,463.37. Funds in this account are from the Church's Designated Fund account and are currently earning 3.75% monthly. (Rates are adjusted quarterly.)

*Submitted by Susie Hershberger
Finance Chair*



Ways To Give

In person on Sunday morning.

Mailing a check to OFUMC 11461 Old US Hwy. 52, W-S, NC 27107

From our web site - ofumc.org - *Giving On Line.*

Direct payment from your financial institution.

Using the Vanco Mobile Faith Encouragement app.



We have currently not paid our monthly Conference and District Apportionments (\$1,871.18 per month) through the month of April.



High Point Rockers Game



NEVER TO OLD CLUB



**NTO Club trip to
The Billy Graham Library
Thursday, June 4 @ 9:30am**



**Thursday, June 25th
6:00pm - FLC large
classroom**



Oak Forest Children



Preschool Graduation 2026



For more information, visit www.oakforestchildcare.org to register.



Nursery Care is provided during our 9:00am and 10:30am worship services for Infants through 4 years old.



Children's Message at the 10:30am service.



Preschool School Year 2026-2027
Call 336-764-2991 or email oakforestpreschool@gmail.com for more info or to register.



Pastor Dwight & Carol Cartner (2005-2026)

It is with both sadness and joy I share with you that Pastor Dwight and Carol Cartner are moving to Hickory NC to live with their daughter, Jamye, and son in law, Rev. Paul Christy. It is a good move for all involved. Pastor Dwight and Carol faithfully and humbly served this church for 21 years beginning in 2005.

I would like to express my humble and sincere gratitude to Rev. Dwight and Carol Cartner. I remember six years ago when Lynn, Margaux, Caroline and I were welcomed into Oak Forest UMC. I had just completed 15 years in Kernersville at Main Street UMC, so I had never moved. I had a lot to learn about moving! Pastor Dwight and Carol Cartner were some of the first people we met before we moved. They were very patient with us and helped us along the way.

Dwight Cartner

Pastor Dwight and I met several times before I came to Oak Forest UMC. He gave me some very good advice and offered his assistance. He also introduced me to Nick's Hamburgers. We had many lunches together at Nicks. I am very thankful that Pastor Dwight and Carol helped me to transition from Main Street UMC to Oak Forest UMC.

Pastor Dwight and I led worship together on Wednesdays and Sundays surrounded by beautiful worship spaces and blessed with wonderful people and great music. On Wednesday nights we prayed for the congregation and each other. Pastor Dwight always offered to fill in for me so I could take vacation with my family.

Pastor Dwight and I celebrated the births of newborn babies, baptisms, weddings, and anniversaries. Pastor Dwight took me on my first pastoral visits to your homes. Pastor Dwight shared with me the visiting of our congregation in hospitals and nursing homes.



(continued on Page 8)

We collected 42 units of flour and sugar for the grain offering in May. Thank you for your donations!



(continued from Page 7)

Pastor Dwight was always there to help when there was a death in the church family. He helped with many phone calls for prayers and prayer updates. Pastor Dwight faithfully contributed an article to the monthly Vital Connection Newsletter. Finally, Pastor Dwight came to numerous Staff Meetings on Monday mornings to offer his insights and suggestions for making Oak Forest UMC a better place.

Carol Cartner

Carol Cartner joined Oak Forest UMC in 2005. Carol Cartner was always working behind the scenes. She filled in for Kim Barnes when Kim needed time off or was taking vacation. She recently served as our Lay Delegate for the WNC Annual Conference and on our Executive Committee. By serving as the Lay Delegate, Carol also served on the Staff Parish Committee and Finance Committee. Carol always helped with the Fall Bazaar making very tasty apple tarts and making chicken pies.

It has been a wonderful privilege to serve with Rev. Dwight and Carol Cartner. I will never forget them and the long-lasting memories of doing ministry together. May God bless the Cartners.

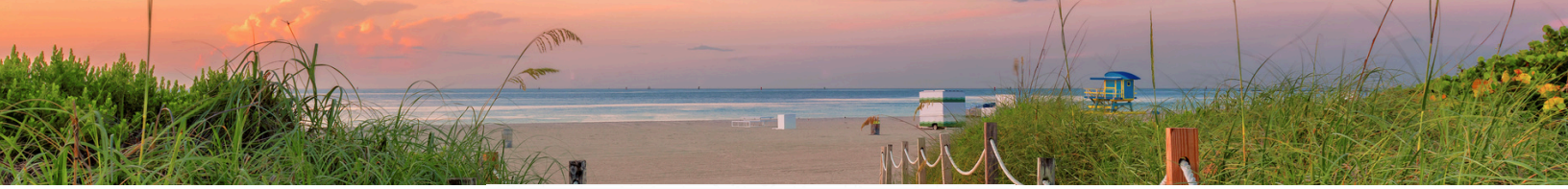
Blessings and peace, Pastor Rick

You will be missed!



It has definitely been a pleasure and a privilege getting to know Pastor Dwight & Carol. Both of them are sweethearts and I thank Carol for her help and Pastor Dwight for his sense of humor and just appreciate them so much for all they have done for me and for Oak Forest. I wish them the very best.

Kim Barnes



Larry Cromer and family at the passing of his mother, JoAnn Cromer on April 16, 2026.

Anna Smith and family at the passing of her cousin, Augustine Davenport on May 12, 2026.

The Kennedy family at the passing of Phil Kennedy on May 26, 2026.



Thank you for your kindness. Thanks for all the prayers, cards and phone calls concerning my current condition. Doing well at this point.

Johnny Johnson

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2,055.00 from your Spring Craft Fair to Parkway Fire & Rescue, Inc. Your fundraising efforts and donation enabled Parkway Fire and Rescue, Inc. to continue to assist our citizens impacted by Hurricane Helene. Our community and its citizens continue to recover and donations like yours greatly impact their life during this recovery process. Your donation reflects your care and concern to our volunteers and the community which we serve. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Mavis Parsley
Administrative Assistant
Parkway Fire & Rescue, Inc.
Spruce Pine, NC



JUNE & July

Picnic at the Lake

EVERYONE'S INVITED!



FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD!

700 Yorkley Road Lexington, NC 27292
Shelter 1; hot dog supper at 4pm

June 7, 2:30pm
Lake Thom A Lex

Shelter 1
(Rescheduled from May 24th)

Western NC UMC annual conference

June 18-21
Lake Junaluska



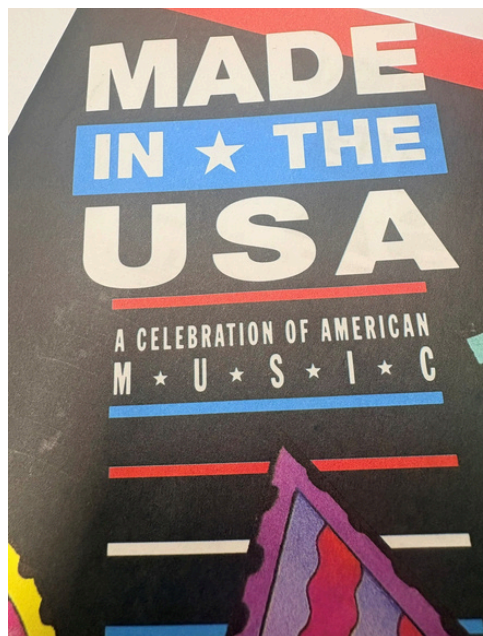
Sunday, June 21



Happy Fourth of July

Our office will be closed July 4th in observance of Independence Day

Friday, July 3
Office Closed



Oak Forest Choir Musical
Sunday, July 26th
More info coming soon!



Announcements

Ushers

June 7 - Team #5
June 14 - Team #6
June 21 - Team #7
June 28 - Team #8

Children's Time

June 7 - Rev. Dave Kelley
June 14 - Rev. Rick Carter
June 21 - Carolyn Shoaf
June 28 - Betty Hughes

10:30 Worship Leaders

June 7 - Rev. Dave Kelley
June 14 - Charles Watson
June 21 - Charles Watson
June 28 - Charles Watson

Nursery Volunteers

June 7 - 9:00 - Dianne Johnson
10:30 - Nancy Spence
June 14 - 9:00 - Carleen Hill
10:30 - Lorraine Marovich
June 21 - 9:00 - Tracy Powell
10:30 - Cheryl Cope
June 28 - 9:00 - TBD
10:30 - Carolyn Shoaf

Greeters

June 7 - 9:00 - Dianne Johnson
10:30 - Bob & Lori Young
June 14 - 9:00 - Cathy Messinger
10:30 - Judy Clodfelter
June 17 - 9:00 - Dianne Williams & Donna King
10:30 - Raymond & Anna Smith
June 28 - 9:00 - Ron & Debra Chandler
10:30 - Darrell & Cheryl Cope



The Wednesday Weekly Prayer Service at 6:15pm until 6:45pm in the church sanctuary.

This service is led by members of our congregation. June leaders are below. This will be a time of praises and prayer requests.

Speakers for Wednesday Night Prayer Services for the month of June

June 3 - Rev. Dave Kelley
June 10 - Rev. Rick Carter
June 17 - Carolyn Shoaf
June 24 - Karen Wall

Many Ways to Give to Oak Forest:

In person on Sunday mornings with a check or cash.
Using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. (*Vanco Mobile*)
From our web site – www.ofumc.org
(Select – **Ways to Give** from the bottom of each webpage)
Using your banking institute's check writing service to automatically send a weekly or monthly check to the church.
Send a check to the church office through the mail.



Announcements for the Vital Connection are due on the third Friday of the month.

F.Y.I.

Finance Committee & Church Council meet quarterly on the 2nd Sunday at 5:30 & 6:30pm in the FLC

United Women in Faith (UWF) Meetings
2nd Monday of every month at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

United Methodist Men (UMM) Meetings
2nd Monday of every month at 6:30pm in the FLC Sunday School Classroom

Trustees will meet every 1st Thursday night at 6:30pm in the FLC Sunday School Classroom

Men's Bowling

The men of Oak Forest will meet at Creekside Lanes for bowling every Wednesday at 9:30am.

Women's Bowling

The women of Oak Forest will meet at Creekside Lanes for bowling every Tuesday at 9:30am.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2. Carleen Hill, Kathryn Cartner Fowler
4. Aubrey Smith 5. Charles Ramsey
7. Bob Crummett 9. Angie Weavil
11. Helene Neeley 14. Theresa Capps
15. Angela Ouelette 18. Martha Henderson
26. Travis Swain, Dianne Williams
27. Doug Powell 28. Michele Grissler
29. Raymond Smith



If you have a birthday that isn't listed, or know of a name that should be removed, please let the office know.



Connect with us!

Meet our Staff!

Rev. Rick Carter

Contact at Office: (336) 764-2949
Cell: (336) 457-4316
Email: rick.carter@ofumc.org



Kim Barnes

Administrative Assistant
Office: (336) 764-2949
Email: kim.barnes@ofumc.org



Mandy Quesinberry

After School Program Director
Office: (336) 764-2991
oakforestaspm@gmail.com



Tabitha Jones

Preschool Coordinator
Office: (336) 764-2991
oakforestpreschool@gmail.com



YADKIN VALLEY DISTRICT STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti

District Superintendent
Office: (336) 725-4502; Fax: 336-723-6341



<https://www.facebook.com/oakforestumcnc/>



<https://www.instagram.com/oakforestumcnc/>



<https://www.flickr.com/people/oakforestumcnc/>



<http://www.ofumc.org/>



"For where two or three
gather in my name,
there I am with them."

Matthew 18:20





Calendar of Church Events for the month of June 2026

Tuesday, June 2

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 6:30pm Disciple 1 Bible Study - FLC large classroom

Wednesday, June 3

- 9:30am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 6:15pm Children's Bible Lesson - Nursery
- 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Choir Practice - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

Thursday, June 4

- 9:30am NTO Trip to Billy Graham Library
- 6:30pm Trustees - FLC large classroom

Saturday, June 6 (D-Day)

- 1:00pm Spence (Private Event) - FLC (until 5:00pm)

Sunday, June 7

- 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
- 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - FLC
- 9:50am Sunday School Class - FLC large classroom
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 2:30pm A Day at the Lake - Lake Thom-A-Lex

Monday, June 8

- 6:30pm United Women in Faith - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm United Methodist Men - FLC large classroom

Tuesday, June 9

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 6:30pm Disciple 1 Bible Study - FLC large classroom

Wednesday, June 10

- 9:30am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Choir Practice - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

Saturday, June 11

- 2:00pm Phil Kennedy Celebration of Life - Sanctuary

Sunday, June 14 (Flag Day)

- 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
- 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - FLC
- 9:50am Sunday School Class - FLC large classroom
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 16

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 6:30pm Disciple 1 Bible Study - FLC large classroom

Wednesday, June 17

- 9:30am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Choir Practice - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

Sunday, June 21 (Father's Day/1st Day of Summer)

- 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
- 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - FLC
- 9:50am Sunday School Class - FLC large classroom
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 23

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 6:30pm Final Disciple 1 Bible Study - FLC large classroom

Wednesday, June 24

- 9:30am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Choir Practice - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

Thursday, June 25

- 6:00pm NTO Game Night - FLC large classroom

Sunday, June 28 (John Wesley's Birthday)

- 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
- 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - FLC
- 9:50am Sunday School Class - FLC large classroom
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 30

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes



Father's Day Poem

Like a tree by living waters,
Rooted deep in holy ground,
Your faith has shaped our family
With a strength that's heaven-bound.
Your prayers have been our shelter,
Your kindness our delight;
A lamp that God has kindled
To lead us through the night.
May the Lord who walks beside you
Bless the work within your hands—
For you've shown us our Father's heart
In ways He understands.



Oak Forest United Methodist Church
11461 Old US Hwy 52
Winston-Salem, NC 27107