

VITAL CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of Oak Forest United Methodist Church
July 2026

Message from Rev. Dwight & Carol Cartner

Dear Oak Forest UMC Family,

The combined service Sunday, May 31st was overwhelming, to say the least. We planned to attend the combined service so that we could see and talk with all the people from both services. We had no idea of all the celebrating that was happening, a great sermon and the beautiful music from the praise team band and the 10:30 choir.

Sunday's surprise reception and being together was awesome. The organization of the event was typical of Oak Forest UMC and the refreshments were delicious. A special word of thanks to the many people who spoke about our 20 plus years with you. It was a blessing to us.

The love offering was overwhelming and will be put to good use. Carol and I will always remember our wonderful years at Oak Forest ~ bus trips, fellowship time, fried apple pies, making chicken pies, Never Too Old group activities and all the friends we have made. Thank you for allowing us to sing in the choir and all the fun we had being a part of it. I know Oak Forest UMC is the best and friendliest church around. Carol recalls that, "We came one Sunday when Dwight retired and we never left." We appreciate and love you all.

As several ministers came and left, they continued to allow us to be an active part of the life at Oak Forest UMC. We especially want to thank Pastor Rick for including Dwight in the numerous ministries of the church. Thank you to Lynn Makepeace, Margaux and Caroline Carter for their friendship.



Thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers during my hospitalization and rehabilitation from my stroke. The doctors say I am making progress, but I think it is going too slowly.



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Remember you are loved by us as God loves all of us. We will miss you, but we will never forget the impact you have made in our lives. We will remember Oak Forest UMC in our prayers.

Blessings,
Pastor Dwight and Carol Cartner



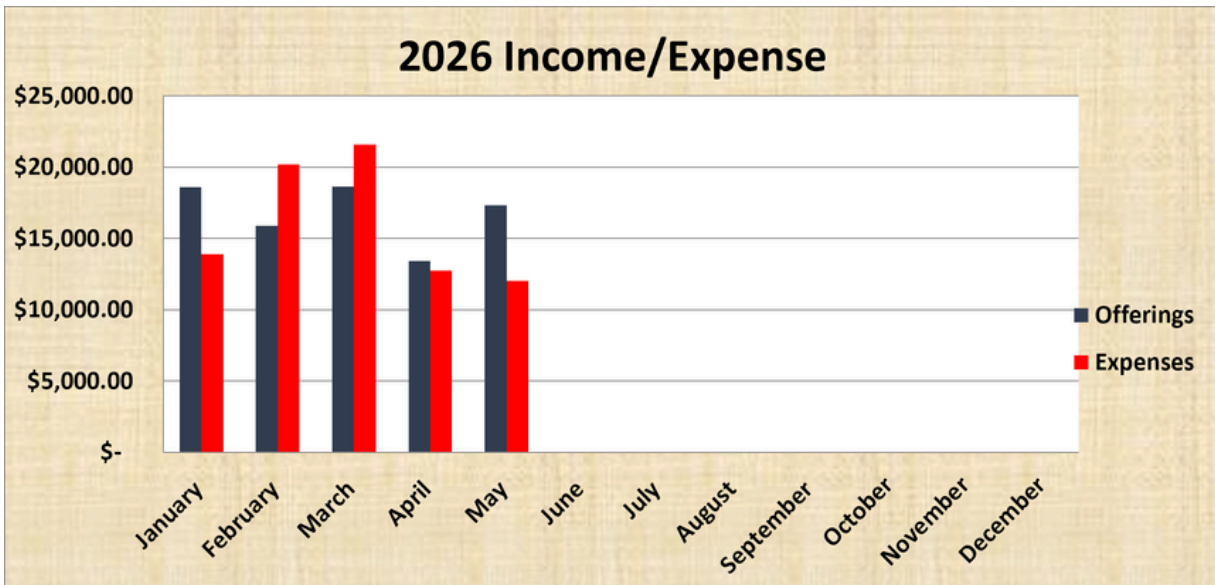
New address
Dwight and Carol Cartner
935 1st St NE
Hickory, NC 28601

Phone numbers have NOT changed
Dwight 336-242-8518
Carol 336-239-9585



Finance Report

Finances for the month of May 2026. Income from tithes and offerings was \$17,312.78. The expenses were \$12,005.95. The total cash flow for the year is positive at \$3,385.74.



Our revenue reflects the giving for 5 Sundays and our expenses for the month of May were lower than normal. The expenses for the month of June will reflect our quarterly premiums for liability, auto, and workman's compensation.

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.

(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 May is \$22,927.29.

These funds were transferred from Pinnacle Bank to The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina on 3/24/26.

Development Fund

The current value of the fund as of the end of May is \$72,697.37. Funds in this account are from the Church's Designated Fund account and are currently earning 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.

Submitted by the Finance Committee

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.





Oak Forest Preschool



**SUMMER
CAMP**



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

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



Combined Service - May 31st



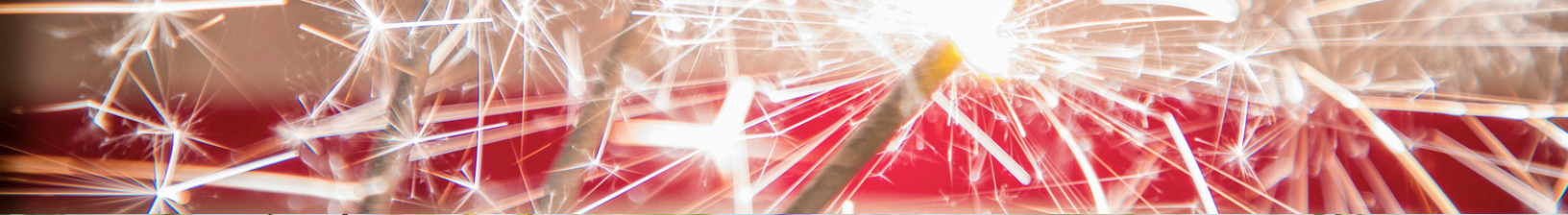
UW Faith Wear A Hat, Bring A Hat



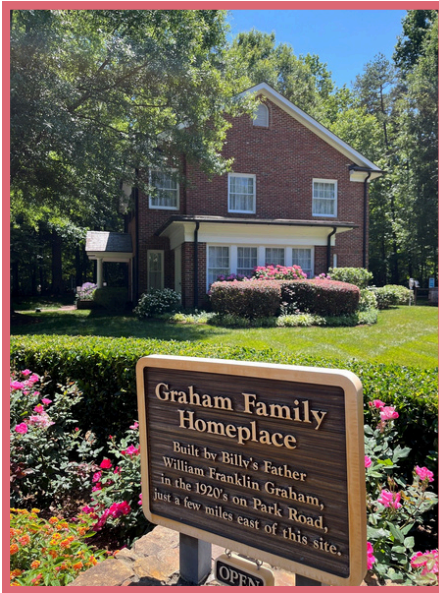
A Day at the Lake - Lake Thom-A-Lex



We collected 45 units of flour and sugar for the grain offering in June. Thank you for your donations!



Billy Graham Library



**NEVER
TO OLD
CLUB**





Tim Johnson and family at the passing of his cousin, Martin Johnson on May 27th.

Gary Wallace and family at the passing of his mother, Shelby Wallace on June 5th.



Dear Church Family,

I want to take a moment to express my heart felt gratitude for all of the love and support you have shown me during this time following my fall. Your thoughts, prayers, calls, texts, visits and meals (Carolyn Shoaf's team) have meant the world to me. Knowing that I have such a loving, caring and supportive community around me has great comfort and strength (and lots of joyful tears). A BIG thank you to Johnny & Alice Johnson for getting the ramps built too! Thank you again for everything from the bottom of my heart.

In Christ's Love,

Doug & Tracy Powell



AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY


★ ★ ★ ★

Made in the
USA
MUSICAL

★ ★ MIDWAY ★ ★


July 26th at 4pm
★

OAK FOREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FLC
11461 OLD US HWY 52

Cookies and Ice Cream Served
Donations Greatly Appreciated

Invite your friends!



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Friday, July 3rd
Office Closed**



**Oak Forest Choir Musical
(with Ice Cream & Cookies)
Sunday, July 26th
4:00pm
Family Life Center**

Blood Drive



**American
Red Cross**

**August 2nd
12:30pm - 5:30pm
Family Life Center**



UPDATE

The Lexington Ministry has let us know that they no longer need flour and sugar. They have requested that we donate ravioli and spaghetti with pop-top lids for easy opening. These items will be collected on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your donations of flour and sugar for many years and hope you can continue your donations with these new items.



Announcements

Ushers

July 5 - Team #1
July 12 - Team #2
July 19 - Team #3
July 26 - Team #4

Children's Time

July 5 - Rev. Dave Kelley
July 12 - Linda Anthony
July 19 - Carla Dry
July 26 - Casey Mancilla

10:30 Worship Leaders

July 5 - Rev. Dave Kelley
July 12 - Kevin Hershberger
July 19 - Kevin Hershberger
July 26 - Kevin Hershberger

Nursery Volunteers

July 5 - 9:00 - Dianne Johnson
10:30 - Carla Dry
July 12 - 9:00 - Carleen Hill
10:30 - Lorraine Marovich
July 19 - 9:00 - Tracy Powell
10:30 - Cheryl Cope
July 26 - 9:00 - Carleen Hill
10:30 - Nancy Spence

Greeters

July 5 - 9:00 - Dianne Johnson
10:30 - Gary & Melanie Wallace
July 12 - 9:00 - Cathy Messinger
10:30 - Joe & Pam Lowery
July 19 - 9:00 - Dianne Williams & Donna King
10:30 - Johnny Morgan & Dennis Anthony
July 26 - 9:00 - Ron & Debra Chandler
10:30 - Suzanne Arnold & Theresa Sykes



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

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

Speakers for Wednesday Night Prayer Services for the month of July

July 1 - Alice Johnson
July 8 - Rev. Rick Carter
July 15 - Carl Matthews
July 22 - Sheryl Kelley
July 29 - Linda Anthony

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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2. Gil Hill, Joyce Neilson, Carolyn Shoaf
3. Kim Barnes
4. Matthew Dry, Peggy Idol, John Vannoy
6. BJ Harris 8. Bobbie Lindsay
10. Carlos Mancilla, Jake Duncan
11. Brooke Harris 13. Lorraine Marovich
16. Chuck Nemeth
17. Don Ramsey, Sharon Henderson
21. Matt Troutman 22. Bob Young
24. Rita McGown, Carolyn Morgan
25. Ann Campbell 28. Darrell Cope
29. Alex Cook, Tyler Douglas
30. Mitchell Freeman 31. Geraldine Ramsey



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 July 2026

Wednesday, July 1

- 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, July 2

- 6:30pm Trustees - FLC large classroom

Friday, July 3

Office Closed for Independence Day

Sunday, July 5

- 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, July 7

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

Wednesday, July 8

- 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, July 12

- 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

Monday, July 13

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

Tuesday, July 14

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

Wednesday, July 15

- 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, July 19

- 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, July 21

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

Wednesday, July 22

- 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, July 23

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

Sunday, July 26

- 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
- 12:00pm Ouelette Private Event - FLC (until 3:00)
- 4:00pm Oak Forest Choir Musical - FLC

Tuesday, July 28

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

Wednesday, July 29

- 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





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