

VITAL CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of Oak Forest United Methodist Church
August 2026

Lay Leadership/Nominations

Lay Leadership will hold their first meeting on Tuesday September 15th at 6:30pm to discuss our nominations for leadership in the church for the next 3 years. Our **2026 Lay Leadership Committee** consists of: **Carla Dry, Tim Bryan, Lorraine Marovich, Dianne Williams, Donna King, Carleen Hill, Susie Hershberger, Joe Lowery, Angela Oulette.**

All members to required committees are elected annually by the Lay Leadership (Nominations) Committee and are asked to commit to serving a three-year term. The following is a list of the committees/ministries that are required to function as a United Methodist Church:

1. Lay Leadership Committee

Responsibilities Include:

- Becomes familiar with as many persons as possible in the congregation.
- List their gifts, skills, interests, knowledge, and commitment.
- Study the responsibilities for each leadership position and identify the gifts needed to function effectively in this position.
- Meet approximately 3 times in September/October to recommend church members for positions on various committees.
- Make phone calls to potential committee members.
- Familiarize yourself with the latest Book of Discipline, and read sections on Lay Leadership.

2. Staff Parish Relations Committee

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is charged with encouraging, strengthening, nurturing, and supporting the pastor(s) and church staff and their family(s). The committee shall confer, consult, and counsel the pastors and staff on matters pertaining to the effectiveness of ministry.

Responsibilities Include:

- Providing annual evaluations for the pastors and staff
- Developing and approving written job descriptions for various staff positions
- Consulting with the pastor and staff concerning continuing education and spiritual renewal
- Enlisting, interviewing, evaluating, reviewing, and recommending lay preachers and persons for candidacy of ordained ministry, annually to the charge conference
- Recommending staff positions needed to carry out the work of the church
- Being involved in the interview processes for hiring (and firing) of staff
- Attending unscheduled meetings of an urgent nature as the need arises

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3. Finance Committee

Responsibilities Include:

- Attending committee meetings once every other month to review church finances
- Reviewing the church budget bimonthly with all the other members and committee Chairperson and makes recommendations regarding any/all line items in the budget
- Approving or disapproving of disbursements, and timing of disbursements, of Oak Forest's financial commitments to various organizations throughout the year
- Giving recommendations for raising, receiving and disbursing church monies
- Assisting with internal audits as required
- Attending unscheduled meetings of an urgent nature as the need arises

4. Board of Trustees

Responsibilities Include:

- Provide recommendations for the purchase, sale, encumbrance, construction, repairing, remodeling and maintenance of any and all property of the local church and the parsonage located at 1074 Country Lane
- Sets the policies for use of all church facilities and equipment

5. Worship Committee

Responsibilities Include:

- In consultation with ministers, choirs, and musicians, this group evaluates and proposes worship experiences (regular, seasonal and special) of the congregation.
- Meets 3 to 4 times per year to plan worship services and review needs for each service.
- Goal is to assist in the planning of worship service details and logistics to enhance and provide meaningful worship experiences for the congregation.
- Committee consists of leaders and representatives of various ministry groups such as ushers, greeters, altar guild, music, multimedia, acolytes, as well as, members at large who assist with the above groups or special needs as they arise.

6. Evangelism/Welcoming Team

Responsibilities Include:

- Informing the congregation and the community of upcoming programs at our church
- Advertising (posters, pamphlets, etc.) at certain locations in town and at our church and by announcements.
- Serve to keep the church family informed as to the various events taking place at our church that can serve our community



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7. Missions and Outreach Committee

Responsibilities Include:

- Leadership in the mission and community work of the church.
- Makes financial recommendations regarding what outreach projects (local, national and international) the church funds each year
- Provide leadership for special mission initiatives
- Has an educational component in terms of keeping church members informed of what mission and outreach projects the church supports and mission and outreach possibilities individuals and groups may want to undertake.
- They are the mission "cheerleaders" for the church
- Plan special speakers and programs (such as mission fairs and mission minutes during worship) on various missions and outreach opportunities

8. Fellowship/Member Care Committee

Responsibilities Include:

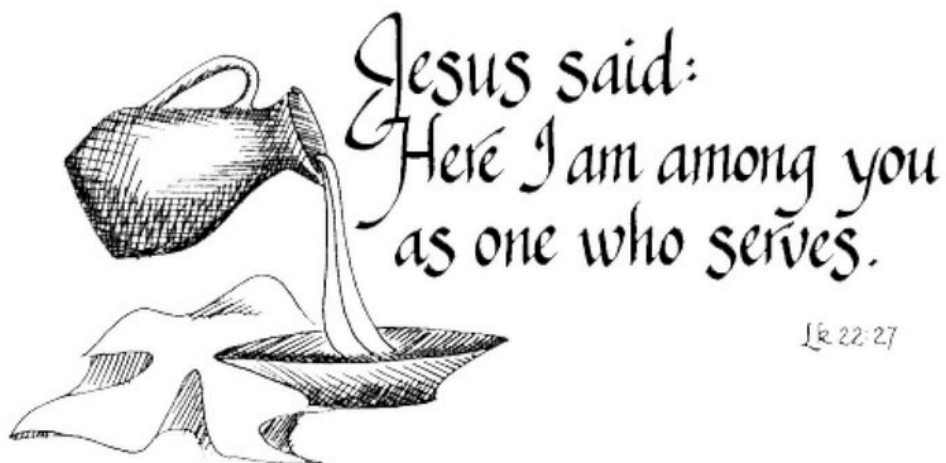
- Attending committee meetings once every other month to discuss caring opportunities for local church community
- Plan and implement programing, events, or service opportunities that provide nurture to local church community
- Recruit church members to assist with programs, events or service projects
- Projects include, but are not limited to, the following: Coffee Fellowship Time, Church-wide picnic, Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Church Pictorial Directory, and Newborn Ministry

Our church is blessed to have additional committees to help in other vital areas such as: Financial Audit Committee, Endowment Committee, Cemetery Committee, Never Too Old, Sports Council, Timeless Ministry, Helping Hands, UWF, UMM, IT Committee, and Children's Council.

I asked you to prayerfully discern where the Holy Spirit is call you to serve at Oak Forest UMC.

Blessings and peace,

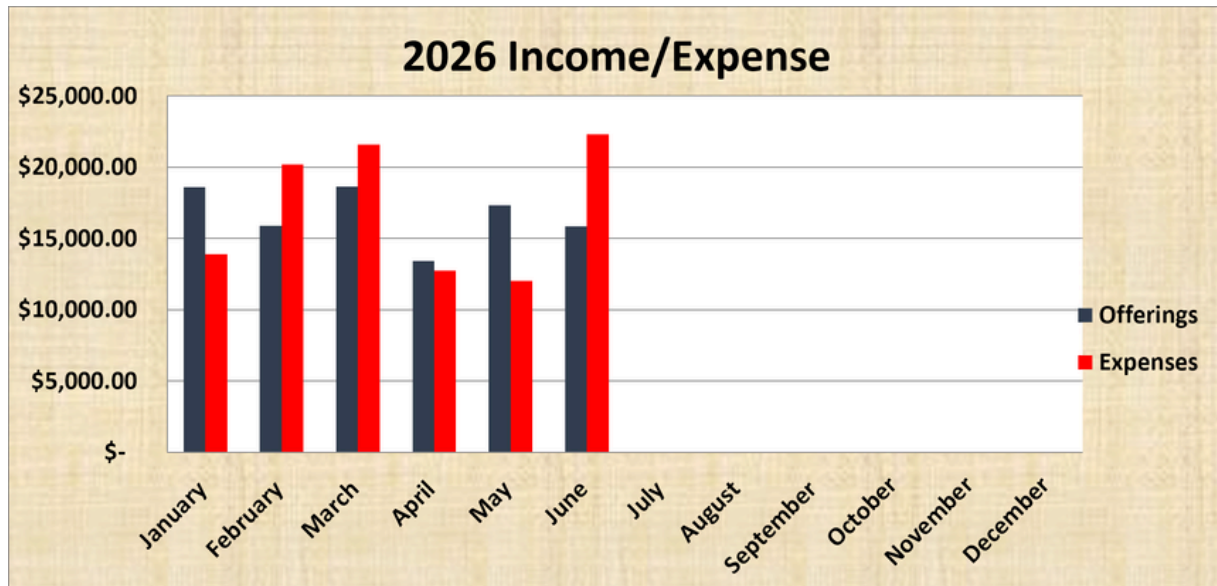
Pastor Ruk





Finance Report

Finances for the month of June 2026. Income from tithes and offerings was \$15,838.46. The expenses were \$22,298.21. The total cash flow for the year is negatively \$3,074.00.



June's numbers reflect our quarterly insurance premiums of \$5,818.00 (liability, auto, and workman's comp.), and repairs to church vehicles.

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 June is **\$22,794.13**.
These numbers will be reported on a quarterly basis.

Development Fund

The current value of the fund as of the end of June is **\$72,924.55**. 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 June is **\$129,768.60**.

Programable Thermostats Cost

Temperature adjustments made by pressing the **HOLD** button on the digital thermostats located throughout the church do not return to normal schedule operation.

Please press either the **Cancel** or **Run** Schedule button to return to normal scheduled operation.
Electrical costs are our largest expense each month.

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.



Summer Camp Talent Show



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.

Welcome New Member!!



Joined 7/12/2026

To the Congregation and Leadership of Oak Forest United Methodist Church,

I have been a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, having joined Aldersgate UMC in Charleston, West Virginia, at the age of 13. I am deeply grateful for my foundational years there, particularly my confirmation class led by Pastor David Peters. He profoundly shaped my faith by introducing our class to diverse worship experiences, helping us truly understand what it means to be part of the United Methodist connection.

In November 2019, my late husband, Jim, and I relocated to Midway to be closer to our daughters and their families. We treasured the opportunity to be actively involved in our grandchildren's lives and activities. Jim and I celebrated our 48th wedding anniversary on August 20, 2024, just before his passing on August 31, 2024. Throughout this period of profound transition, I have been immensely blessed by the unwavering love and support of my family.

In my search for a new church home in the area, I visited several congregations. However, I truly believe God's plan was to lead me back to my roots. Finding a church family at Oak Forest United Methodist Church has been exactly what I needed. The congregation has been incredibly warm and welcoming, and I have especially enjoyed participating in the choir.

Thank you for receiving me into your community and allowing me to officially transfer my membership to Oak Forest United Methodist Church. I look forward to growing in faith and serving alongside you all.

Sincerely,
Gail Waldeck



We collected 75 units of pop-top canned goods for July. Thank you for your donations!



Made in the USA



We collected 75 units of pop-top canned goods for July. Thank you for your donations!



Susie Brewer and family at the passing of her son, Stewart Brewer, on June 30th.

Patsy Swain and family at the passing of her husband, Lewis Swain, on July 15th.



Dear Oak Forest Family,

I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your calls, cards, prayers, texts, emails and visits during my Mama's stroke and passing. Your thoughts and prayers have carried me through since June 7th. Thank you to the volunteers who filled in for me when I needed to be out and also to those who came to the visitation and funeral. You will never know how much all of this has meant to me. I've heard so many people speak about how loving and caring Oak Forest is and you truly showed up for me even though I'm not a member. Your kind gestures will never be forgotten.

Kim Barnes





Blood Drive



**American
Red Cross**

**Sunday, August 2nd
12:30pm - 5:00pm
Family Life Center**



**Soup Making
Monday, August 17th
8:00am
FLC Kitchen**



**Chicken Pies for Bazaar
Thursday, August 27th (FLC)
Cook chicken - 8:00am
Friday, August 28th (FLC)
Make Pies 6:00pm**



**Sunday, August 30th
10:00am in the Sanctuary**



**Sunday, August 30th
Finance Committee - 5:30pm
Church Council - 6:30pm
FLC large Classroom**



September 19, 2026

Fall Bazaar & Cruise-In

Oak Forest UMC
11461 Old US Hwy 52
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

Food:

BREAKFAST: 7:00–10:00 am
LUNCH: 11:00 am–1:00 pm



EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 19th 7am–1pm

- Yard Sale, Bake Sale, Children's Toys & Clothing (all day)
- Breakfast 7-10am; Lunch 11am-1pm
- General Store (baked goods, canned goods, fried apple pies, soups, vegetables, small crafts)
- Chicken Pies (no preorders)
- **CRUISE-IN** cars, trucks, & bikes 8am-1pm

Silent Auction (bidding ends at 12pm)

Auction:

Saturday:

SILENT AUCTION ends @ 12:00 pm!



Announcements

Ushers

August 2 - Team #5
August 9 - Team #6
August 16 - Team #7
August 23 - Team #8
August 30 - Team #1

Children's Time

August 2 - Rev. Dave Kelley
August 9 - Betty Hughes
August 16 - Bob Young
August 23 - Rev. Rick Carter
August 30 - Margaux Carter

10:30 Worship Leaders

August 2 - Rev. Dave Kelley
August 9 - Betty Hughes
August 16 - Betty Hughes
August 23 - Betty Hughes
August 30 - Betty Hughes

Nursery Volunteers

August 2 - 9:00 - Dianne Johnson
10:30 - Carolyn Shoaf
August 9 - 9:00 - Carleen Hill
10:30 - Nancy Spence
August 16 - 9:00 - Tracy Powell
10:30 - Carleen Hill
August 23 - 9:00 - Dianne Johnson
10:30 - Louise Thompson
August 30 - 9:00 - Tracy Powell
10:30 - Carla Dry

Greeters

August 2 - 9:00 - Carleen Hill
10:30 - Bob & Lori Young
August 9 - 9:00 - Angela Ouellette
10:30 - Jay & Jane Vannoy
August 16 - 9:00 - Tracy Powell
10:30 - Denise Hinkle & Suzanne Arnold
August 23 - 9:00 - Karen & Monty Holt
10:30 - John & Owen Vannoy
August 30 - 9:00 - Dianne Johnson
10:30 - Louise Thompson



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

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

Speakers for Wednesday Night Prayer Services for the month of August

August 5 - Bob Young
August 12 - Judy Clodfelter
August 19 - Donna White
August 26 - Betty Hughes



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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2. Patty Blake, Ronnie Chandler
4. Dwight Carter, Gene Sykes
5. Tim Bryan, Kathy Tolhurst
6. Jeff Vannoy, Terrie Boggs
8. Rose Reaves, Alex Wall
9. Michael Morgan
14. Robert Spicer
15. Steve Joyce
16. Brooklyn Weavil
17. Emily Shoaf
21. Micki Bryan
22. Ryan Ferrell, Donna King
23. Linda Anthony
24. Frances Ann Nichols, Josh Andrews
29. Evelyn Troutman
30. Todd Weavil
31. Tonya Walker, Rachel Cruise



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



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 August 2026

Sunday, August 2

- 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
- 12:30pm Red Cross Blood Drive - FLC

Monday, August 3

- 6:30pm Worship Committee Meeting - FLC large classroom

Tuesday, August 4

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 7:00pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 5

- 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, August 6

- 6:30pm Trustees Meeting - FLC large classroom

Sunday, August 9

- 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, August 10

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

Tuesday, August 11

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 7:00pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 12

- 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, August 16

- 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
- 4:00pm Handbell Practice - Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 17

- 8:00am Soup Making - FLC kitchen

Tuesday, August 18

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 7:00pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 19

- 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, August 23

- 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
- 4:00pm Handbell Practice - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, August 25

- 9:30am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
- 7:00pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 26

- 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, August 27

- 8:00am Cook chicken for chicken pies - FLC kitchen
- 6:00pm NTO Game Night - FLC large classroom

Friday, August 28

- 6:00pm Prepare chicken pies - FLC kitchen

Sunday, August 30

- 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
- 10:00am Combined Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 4:00pm Handbell Practice - Fellowship Hall
- 5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting - FLC large classroom
- 6:30pm Church Council Meeting - FLC large classroom





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