



The ANCHOR

FEBRUARY 2026

Oriental United Methodist Church
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252-249-0213
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www.orientalumc.org



LOVE BOLDLY, SERVE JOYFULLY AND LEAD COURAGEOUSLY

Our Core Values

Since 1887, Oriental United Methodist Church has been and is committed to living out our values of love for God and one another. Guided by John Wesley's Three Simple Rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. All are always welcome in our OUMC community.

Ponderous Thoughts: Goldilocks and Labyrinths

While Marcia Ostendorff and I are away at the Southern Lights Conference (we should all go as a church next year; it has been wonderful), we took advantage of some free time to go find the two labyrinths on St. Simon's Island. First we visited the Christ Church labyrinth, on an beautiful Southern Gothic church campus with an old cemetery and a memorial to John and Charles Wesley, shared with the neighboring United Methodist Church. The Wesleys visited and ministered at Fort Federica on St Simon's Island as the resident Anglican priests.

The Christ Church labyrinth was beautiful. To get to it, you take a little path into the woods, and then you come upon this large and beautiful Chartres-style labyrinth—it's the same style as our Oriental Community Labyrinth. The path is the same, but it includes some details ours does not, as well as a large area to walk around the outside. It was pretty and very well-maintained, but a little bit sterile-feeling somehow, and the path was narrow and a little awkward to walk

From there, we wandered a bit until we located Frederica Park, one of several public parks owned by the St. Simon's Land Trust. According to the website, we could follow a "botanical trail" into the woods and find a number of informational stops about the area, a fairy garden for children to enjoy, and a labyrinth...so we set off. The fairy houses were charming, set in a little circle for imaginative play. The labyrinth...well, it made us sad. At some point, the path was designed in two halves, able to be walked by two people at a time, and meeting in the middle around a tree. The boundaries of the paths were once raised flower beds...but time has not been kind. Years of neglect made it impossible to follow the path, and the general air of decay hung heavily over the area. What looks like rock in the photo is old, rotting landscape fabric. We didn't stay long.

We decided that we're just really grateful for our local labyrinth, which is just right. It's comfortable to walk the path, it's in an open and inviting area, and people seem to gravitate toward it. If you haven't walked it in a while, give it a try again on a warm-enough day. Let the turns help you pray or clear your mind. Let God meet you in the center, and offer you love and grace to take with you as you go.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anne



Events that occur weekly throughout February

Sunday	Worship Service, OUMC Sanctuary	10:00 am
	Drum'in Dragons Practice in the Fellowship Hall	3:00 pm
Tuesdays	Bible Study	10:00 am
	Beginners Ukulele	12:30 pm
	UHOO's Ukulele Practice	2:00 pm
Wednesday	Community Art	2:00 pm
	Praise Band Rehearsal	5:00 pm
Thursday	PrimeTime Breakfast with Friends at Brantley's in the Back Room	8:30 am
	PrimeTime Prayer Shawl Ministries—Fellowship Hall	10:00 am

Calendar of Events

February 1	Bring PCFLO donations-Peanut Butter	
February 2	OUMC Music Planning	11:00 am
February 3	Fresh Expressions meeting	7:00 pm
February 5	Worship Team meeting	1:00 pm
February 8	Soup & Sandwich luncheon by Sand Dollar Circle	11:00 am
	Quaker Silent Workshop-open to all	2:00 pm
February 9	Mission Team meeting	9:30 am
	Prime Time's digital workshop	10:00 am
	Sojourners Circle meeting	11:30 am
	Community Youth Group	5:00 pm
February 10	Sara Veal Circle meeting	9:15 am
	Prime Time's Matter of Balance	10:00 am
	Sand Dollar Circle meeting	6:30 pm
February 11	Prime Time's Card Making	10:00 am
	Prime Time's Game Day	2:00 pm
February 12	Women's Bible Study	10:30 am
	The Gathering	6:00 pm
February 13	Prime Time's Matter of Balance	10:00 am
February 14	Methodist Men's Fellowship Breakfast	9:00 am
February 15	SPRC meeting	1:30 pm
February 16	Office closed	
February 17	Prime Time's Matter of Balance	10:00 am
February 18	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	"Ashes To Go" at the Bean	8:00 am
	Service at OUMC	7:00 pm
February 19	Women's Bible Study	10:30 am
February 20	Prime Time's Matter of Balance	10:00 am
February 22	Quaker Silent Workshop-open to all	2:00 pm
February 23	The Gathering	6:00 pm
February 24	Prime Time's Matter of Balance	10:00 am
February 25	Prime Time's Game Day	2:00 pm
February 26	Women's Bible Study	10:30 am
February 27	Prime Time's Matter of Balance	10:00 am

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**The Deadline for the March Newsletter
 is February 23!**

Methodist Men's Breakfast

Our monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, **February 14 at 9 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please text or email Jim Kellenberger by noon on Friday the 13th, if you plan to attend.

919-621-0362/jimkellenberger05@gmail.com

Women's Circle News

Sojourner's Circle: February 9 @ 11:30 at M&Ms

Sara Veal Circle Meeting: February 10 @ 9:30

Sand Dollar Circle: February 10 @ 6:30 in the fellowship hall

PCFLO Food of the Month:

Looking ahead to
 February

Food of the Month is **Peanut Butter**



February's Birthdays

Nancy Karl	2/01
Dianne Arvizu	2/01
Gary Sheffer	2/01
Alston Spruill Jr.	2/02
Mary Hiatt	2/04
Peggy Moseley	2/08
Thomas Michael Delamar	2/10
Connie Vuolo	2/12
Olga Roesch	2/12
Stan Brown	2/14
Tracy Peterson	2/14
Annie Kate Delamar	2/15
Pat Leonard	2/17
Nelle Murphy	2/20
Matthew Arvizu	2/21
Jill Conkwright	2/21
John Cooney	2/23
Kenneth Belangia	2/23
Patti Higginbottom	2/26
Dick Osmun	2/27
Robert Lupton	2/27
Phyllis Lane	2/28

If your February birthday is not listed

Please call the office 249-0213

Announcements continued...

Our volunteer greeters and readers for the 10:00 worship service

DATE	READERS	GREETERS
February 1	Ros Cheetham	Ken & Lou Ann Roberts
February 8	Lynne Fountain	Joanne Hurley
February 15	Ann Boswell	Jeff & Ann Boswell
February 22	Deb Rodenhouser	Chuck & Wanda Forrest

There will be a beginners ukulele class starting up on March 3, 2026.

Please contact Claudia Bemis at csbemis@yahoo.com to get details for joining the class.



Quaker Wisdom

By Olga Roesch

In January we celebrated the historical figure of Martin Luther King as a model for peace and justice. King studied the spiritual concepts of non-violence from “Jesus and the Disinherited” authored by Howard Thurman, a noted theologian, minister, and philosopher.

Thurman, a non-Quaker, integrated his studies on Quaker wisdom from Rufus M. Jones, a 20th century influential Quaker theologian leader and professor, using Rufus Jones’ ideas of finding the Divine within by focusing and emphasizing universal love and reconciliation.

Through his writings Thurman emphasized prayer, meditation and being present to God in the silence as a path to find inner strength. The wisdom of Quakerism, through Howard Thurman, provided a profound theological framework for the Civil Rights Movement led by Martin Luther King.

You are invited to take part with us in Quaker Silent Worship the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month in the Keeping Room at OUMC at 2 p.m. for an hour.

If you would like me to send you a reminder email or if you have questions, please feel free to email me at olga-roesch54@gmail.com.

“The Flow of the Dough”

By Donna Crothers

Oriental United Methodist Church’s 2026 budget is well over a quarter million dollars, and the church’s financial team goes to great lengths “to give the congregation comfort that the money they give is managed wisely and well,” as Treasurer Marjorie Dufek explains. Pastor Anne Sims agreed, “Transparency is foundational. The budget is not a secret,” and any church member can see a copy.

“The flow of the dough,” as Finance Committee Chairman Jim Kellenberger calls it, begins with tithes and offerings coming into the church via mail, the collection plate on Sunday, drop-offs at the office, and increasingly, online contributions. Although the church receives a small amount of its general income from fundraisers or facility rentals, more than 98% comes from tithes and offerings. As Jim points out, the members of the church determine its direction with their giving.

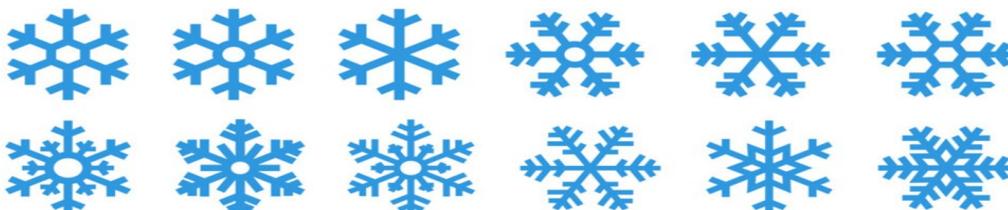
Only a limited number of people are allowed to handle the incoming monies. There is a designated counting team, consisting of Martha Barlow, Cynthia Delamar, Janice Hindes, Shirley Mauney and Sandy VanHook, and two of these people count the offerings after sanctuary or river services. They enter cash and check amounts on a count sheet and place the monies and count sheet in a money bag in a locked location. They also place a count sheet in Marjorie’s folder.

After that, Financial Secretary Sharon Stephenson picks up the bag and records donations from each person in Realm; she is the only person in the church with access to information on individuals’ giving. She then prepares and makes the deposit at First Citizens Bank, and makes sure Marjorie receives the deposit slip to record.

While most funds go into the church’s General Fund, congregants may designate contributions for various efforts, such as missions, the Community Labyrinth, or other activities. Sharon records these designations – as well as General Fund contributions – and runs a funds designations report that she gives to Treasurer Dufek, who then makes those designated deposits.

The General Funds are spent based on the budget approved annually by the Church Council, the Finance Committee, and other committee heads. As Treasurer Dufek pays the bills, she follows generally accepted accounting principles. For example, she periodically sends Jim Kellenberger a copy of the records of checks written so there are two sets of eyes on expenditures.

And just to ensure the team is following best practices, the church annually has a financial review by a third-party accounting firm – a practice that is not mandated. “We are one of the few non-profits that goes to these lengths” to ensure transparency, Jim Kellenberger says. And he is particularly proud of the fact that the review has not even had suggestions for improved practices for the past two years. OUMC congregants can rest assured that church funds are being handled with transparency and care.



MISSION ARTICLE – February 2026

This month the Mission Team would like to highlight our wonderful missionaries in Spain, Carol and Donald Paige, and their service at LIFE International School.

Carol reports:

“In four years, LIFE has more than tripled in size from 36 to 130 students! It is incredible the number of families that are showing interest in our school. However, our current facility had no room to grow, and we were bursting at the seams.

Good News! After a few agonizing months of building searches and closed doors, God dropped the perfect opportunity in the laps of the Board. A science and technology organization owns a building where they want a school, and they called us.

It was a building that we could not afford, but miracles happened during the contract negotiations that put it in our price range. We even received a fully equipped industrial kitchen completely free from another business that had recently moved!

The building is in a perfect location close to the train station, creating easy access for future and current families. It also has enough room for us to expand and grow over the next eight years.

On September 1st, our staff gathered on the steps of the new building to worship and dedicate the space to God. On October 1 st , construction began. We hope to move in by the end of January.”

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What a grand example of Ephesians 3:20,21...”Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...to Him be the glory”... NLT

We are thankful that OUMC can help support this global outreach project!



The mouthwatering aromas of onions, garlic, and olive oil permeated the air of the OUMC church kitchen at a recent cooking class sponsored by PrimeTime. Called “Cook, Care, and Connect: A Community Cooking Experience,” the series, in the words of the PrimeTime newsletter, “becomes a place of connection, compassion, and community.” As one participant enthusiastically said, “I was expecting a cooking class, but I came away with so much more. Not only did I learn great cooking tips, but I learned so much about healthy eating choices and a healthy lifestyle.” Chef Bob Loccaro, who has cooked for celebrities such as Quincy Jones and Dustin Hoffman, volunteered his time to invite participants into the kitchen to prepare chicken quesadillas, chicken chili, salads, and root vegetable-based dishes. After a meal together, participants box up the leftovers to deliver to community members recovering from surgeries or illness. Although PrimeTime was officially launched in 2001, it originated with a parish nurse.

The program has expanded to include not only health and wellness seminars but also opportunities for learning, socializing, and creative expression. Its mission is “to provide services and activities promoting physical, social, mental, and spiritual well-being for the 50+ community in Oriental and surrounding areas.”(primetimepamlico.org) So anyone living in Oriental, Arapahoe, Minnesott Beach, Merritt, or along the Neuse River or on either side of Beard Creek is included in the service area. Those who live outside that area can still benefit from phone consultations with director Debora Steenson (ph. 252-675-0909) or in-person appointments. Through Neuse Neighbors Network, an organization which partners with Primetime, seniors can get tech support, transportation to medical appointments, or help with household tasks.

Although PrimeTime’s headquarters is at Oriental United Methodist Church, it is funded primarily by fundraising events, memorials, individual and estate donations, and grants. A typical monthly calendar includes the following social activities: Breakfast with Friends, a weekly breakfast on Thursdays at 8:30 at Brantley’s Restaurant; two monthly game days on 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Oriental United Methodist Church fellowship hall. The annual Pancake Supper, including a Silent Auction, is a time for fellowship as well as a fund-raising event. Educational opportunities include the recent healthy cooking class and demonstration focused on healthy food choices, while a recent wellness event drew medical professionals from the area and included a diabetes screening and immunizations. A recent Digital Skills Series, led by ECU faculty, focused on iPad and Hot Spot Basics. Creative expression classes include the weekly Prayer Shawl group Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the OUMC fellowship hall, where participants knit or crochet shawls for the ill or bereaved and baby items. Beginners can receive instruction, and the yarn is provided. A creative card-making class meets the second Wednesday of each month, led by a Stampin’ Up instructor. The class is limited to ten people, and there is a fee of \$25 for paper supplies. Some classes require reservations, while others welcome anyone who shows up. To get more information, contact director Debora Steenson at direc-





# February 2025

To RSVP call 252.675.0909 or email [director@primetimepamlico.org](mailto:director@primetimepamlico.org)

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**Breakfast with Friends**  
Brantley's Restaurant  
Thursday's  
February 5, 12, 19, 26  
8:30 am



**ALL ARE WELCOME** Please join the group at Brantley's (Center Room) for breakfast. The breakfast will continue every Thursday at 8:30. (Except for when they are closed). Come as you are able. Breakfast is on your own.

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**Prayer Shawl**  
Thursday's  
February 5, 12, 19, 26  
10:00 am  
Oriental United Methodist  
Church – Fellowship Hall

### **Share Comfort Through Knitting & Crocheting**

Crochet or knit shawls and lap robes to share warmth, hope, and prayer with those facing illness, grief, or loneliness. Your handmade gift becomes a tangible reminder that someone cares—and prays—for them. For questions or to arrange delivery, please call 252-675-0909. Let's wrap our community in love, hope, and prayer—one stitch at a time.



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**Creative Card Making Class**  
Wednesday—February 11  
10:00 am – Noon  
Oriental United Methodist



The card making class meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday. The class is led by Cheryl Mcaskill, a Stampin'Up demonstrator. Cost for is \$25/month. Advance Registration.

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**Game Day (2nd & 4th Wed)**  
Wednesday—February 11 & 25  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Oriental United Methodist  
Church – Fellowship Hall



Join us for an afternoon of fun-filled board games, cards, and fellowship! All skill levels are welcome! We've been playing Rummikub, but it's always exciting to introduce new games and learn from others. If you have a favorite game, this could be an opportunity to share it with others and maybe even inspire new enthusiasts.

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**Digital Skills Session**  
*iPad and Hotspot Basics Learn how to navigate and use iPads and hotspots.*  
Monday—February 9  
10 am—12pm



**Basic Computer Skills** This starts the new series for 2026. Bring your laptop to get hands on experience from the expert.



# February 2026

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director@primetimepamlico.org

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## *A Matter of Balance*

**Tuesdays & Fridays**

**February 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27,**

**March 3 & 6**

**10 :00 am—11:30 am**



It is estimated that one-third of adults over the age of 60 and 50 percent of adults over the age of 80 will fall each year. Fear of falling can be just as dangerous as falling itself. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in severe physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. This program is designed to empower older adults to take control over their lives and reduce their fear of falling.

The class entitled, *A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls*, emphasizes practical strategies to reduce and control fear and increase activity levels so that seniors can improve their quality of life and remain independent. Participants learn to set realistic goals, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, learn exercises to increase strength and balance, and are taught how to get up after a fall.

**Class Size is limited to 16 participants.** This eight (8) session program will be held for four weeks every Tuesday & Friday, beginning on February 10th through March 6th at 10:00 am. The sessions will be held at the Oriental United Methodist Church located at 404 Freemason Drive, Oriental, NC. Please register by calling 252.675.0909 or email director@primetimepamlico.org.



# Oriental United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 70

Oriental, NC 28571

**THE ANCHOR: YOUR LINK TO OUMC**



Prayer List:: CLAUDIA BEMIS, HELEN BLAND, MARY BOUDREAU, JENNIFER BURKE, MARTHA JO CAMPBELL, ALDO CRISTIANI, LINDA DAIL, NANCY & DENISE DiNUNZIO, PETER DRIPCHEK, BRANSON DUNN, JILL ENSLEY, DAVID FILIPIAK, MARVIN FRIEL, JODIE GEIGER, JOHN HALLINAN, KELLY HITCHCOCK, PATTI HIGGINBOTTOM, JOAN HORICK, JOAN JOHNEN, CAROL JOHNSON, WARREN JOHNSON, MARTHA KEEFE, SUSAN KLEMM, GRACIE KNOWLES, KAYLA KRELIE, PEGGY LAURICELLA, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, GREG, GARY & PAT LEONARD, MATT McINTYRE, DIANA MIDYETTE, SUSAN PANDICH, LILLY PEARSON, DIANNE PILAND, CLAIRE PITTMAN, DEBBIE PRICE, SALLY CROTHERS RAMIREZ, LINN RAYE, ANTOINETTE RIZZI, KATHY SCIORRA, DEBBIE SEVELIO, BEN & ANNE SIMS, CAROL SMALL, ERNIE SMITH, JOAN ULVOG, JEANNE URBAN, KAREN VAN GAMPER, HAROLD & ARLENE WALTER, HATTIE WERNER, EDNA WHORTON, GLEN WIBLE, MISSIONARIES, OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

### OUR CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Anne Sims: Pastor  
 Catherine Baxley: Lay Leader  
 Tracy Peterson: Office Staff

### PRIME TIME STAFF

Debora Steenson: Director  
 Prime Time Number: 252-675-0909  
[director@primetimepamlico.org](mailto:director@primetimepamlico.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

9 am to 3 pm Monday through Thursday  
 (Except Holidays)

### PHONE NUMBERS

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WEB SITE: [www.OrientalUMC.org](http://www.OrientalUMC.org)