



The ANCHOR

JANUARY 2026

**Oriental United Methodist Church
404 Freemason Street
Oriental NC 28571
252-249-0213
orientalumc@orientalumc.org
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

"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us."

—Hal Borland (1900-1978), naturalist & New York Times writer

Every year, as the days wind down to December 31, the advertisements start in a frenzy: "New year, new you." We're asked to consider every bite or sip of everything we've ever put into our mouths, our purchasing habits, our relationships, our mental and physical health. What habits do we want to start or break? And yet, to some extent, January 1 is very much like December 31. The sun rises, weather happens, and we still have to do all the normal things life asks of us: breathe, move, eat and drink. There's still laundry and dishes to be done—no amount of resolving has ever taken that burden from me—and dogs to be walked and played with.

I've made no secret that I dislike resolutions. Usually they have to do with starting new habits, and I've learned since I was diagnosed with ADHD that the disorder itself makes forming habits very difficult. All the "do it for 3 weeks and it will be a habit for life" wisdom is lost on me. It can take months of diligent effort and supporting strategies for something to become such a habit that I can actually maintain it without too much effort. That means that most resolutions are bound to fail.

Instead, I am looking into what I can take into the year to come. What have I learned in 2025 (or before) that I want to keep with me? Here are a couple of thoughts:

- Even though it feels like a waste of time, giving my body the rest it needs helps me do more, better.
- I am going to miss The Bible Year when it ends at the beginning of Lent. I've enjoyed making some of the connections between one part of scripture and another.
- Our church and community are full of wonderful, capable people with all kinds of skills and gifts. I hope to never lose a sense of awe at that!
- Any activity that helps me feel closer to God is sacred.

There will be lots more, of course, but it's a start. What did you learn or experience in 2025 that you want to carry into 2026?

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anne

Just a reminder to all teams/groups:

**You will need to renew our Facility Use Request forms for 2026
Please give the office the list of your meetings for 2026**

Please take a good look at the Prayer List and let the office know if you have any names that you'd like to add, or if there are any names that can be taken off the list. Thank you.

Events that occur weekly throughout January

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

January 1	Church office closed	
January 4	Bring PCFLO donations-Healthy Cereal	
January 6	Fresh Expressions team meeting	7:00 pm
January 7	Prime Time's Cooking, Care and Connect	10:00 am
January 8	The Gathering	6:00 pm
January 9	Prime Time's Cooking, Care and Connect	10:00 am
January 10	Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall	9:00 am
January 12	Mission Team meeting	9:30 am
	Prime Time's Digital Workshop	10:00 am
	Sojourners Circle meeting @ M&Ms	11:30 am
	Community Youth Group	5:00 pm
January 13	Sara Veal Circle meeting	9:30 am
	Prime Time's Cooking, Care and Connect	10:00 pm
	Sand Dollar Circle meeting in Fellowship Hall	6:30 pm
January 14	Prime Time's Creative Card Making in the OUMC Fellowship Hall	10:00 am
	Prime Time's Game Day in the Fellowship Hall	2:00 pm
January 19	Church office closed	
	United Women of Faith meeting	9:00 am
	Trustees Meeting	4:00 pm
January 21	Finance Committee meeting	9:30 am
January 26	Deadline for February Newsletter	
January 26	The Gathering	6:00 pm
January 28	Prime Time's Game Day in the Fellowship Hall	2:00 pm
January 29	Prime Time Pancake Dinner and Silent Auction in Fellowship Hall	4:30-7:30 pm



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**The Deadline for the February Newsletter
 is January 22!**

Methodist Men's Breakfast

Our monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, **January 10 at 9 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please text or email Jim Kellenberger by noon on Friday the 9th, if you plan to attend.

919-621-0362/jimkellenberger05@gmail.com

Women's Circle News

Sojourner's Circle: January 12 @ 11:30 at M&Ms

Sara Veal Circle Meeting: January 13 @ 9:30

Sand Dollar Circle: January 13 @ 6:30 at Julie Weigand's house

PCFLO Food of the Month:



Looking ahead to
 January
 the Food of the Month is
Healthy Cereal



January's Birthdays

Edie Baluss	1/1
Linda Parker	1/1
Nancy Duttry	1/4
Betty Brown	1/5
Bodie Hammond	1/6
Lil Broughton	1/6
Grayson Robert Hoehl	1/6
Harriett Werner	1/9
Helen Bland	1/9
George Steenson	1/10
Nancy Hart	1/11
Freda Watson	1/14
Kari Forrest	1/16
Lynda Sheffer	1/17
Angie Propst	1/19
Katy Pugh	1/19
Holly Dunn Russell	1/20
Emma Lupton	1/20
Chris Wynne	1/20
John Phillips	1/21
Jeff Schwarzer	1/22
Wayne Dunbar	1/23
Chuck Gordon	1/23
Levi Barns	1/24
Mickie Durham	1/24
Jason Dunn	1/25
Henry VanGamper	1/26
Mollie Belangia	1/29
Sheri Hale	1/31

If your January 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
January 4	Ann Boswell	Jeff & Ann Boswell
January 11	Ros Cheetham	Laurie Sampson
January 18	Deb Rodenhouser	Joanne Hurley
January 25	Donna Creech	Sandy VanHook



Something old is new again. <https://www.orientalumc.org/>

The Oriental UMC website is in the process of being recreated and revamped. By the time you read this newsletter, the new site will be live. However, it may not be complete. Be patient as the Website Committee continues to work on the upgrade over the next several weeks. If you note any errors, misinformation, or links that do not work, please let the office know.

Late this fall OUMC was informed that our website would no longer be hosted by its current provider. With little warning, a Website Committee composed of John Phillips (this is his third OUMC website), Carl Crothers (this is his second OUMC website), Laurie Sampson (this is her second OUMC website), and Pastor Anne was convened with the mission of creating a brand new website host associated with Realm. Due to the time constraint, the goal was to have a new site, with the most critical church information, up and running by the first of the year. The high priority pages were identified as HOME, ABOUT US, and information about the LABYRINTH. Other content, tweeks, and photographs will be added soon. Visiting the website, you'll see we achieved our initial goal.

Please be patient as we continue to build the site and hopefully create a user-friendly website that members and visitors will find useful.



The truckload of toys taken to Camp Seafarer for distribution in Pamlico County

The truckload of food OUMC collected for the PCFLO food drive!



Since Thanksgiving was so late this year, we were unable to report on our **Thanksgiving Dinners** in last month’s article. We were happy to see that our Piglet food invoice was less than last year, and we had generous donations to cover the cost of our meals. In addition, there was \$405 extra that was sent to PCFLO! We appreciate your giving that made this mission outreach possible!

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Thank you for supporting **“Presents for Pamlico Kids/Angel Tree”** again this year! The toys and gift cards were delivered to Camp Seafarer and for two days the gifts were available for parents to select presents for their children. What a great effort to bring smiles to the deserving children of Pamlico County and what a fun way to spread the love of God to our community in need this Christmas!

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For the past four years, we have supported twenty families with Holiday Food Boxes from **Backpack Christmas Blessings**. This year we received food for **thirty-eight** families! Through our Mission Budget, OUMC donates **\$1,000** per year to Backpack Blessings to help purchase food. The Pamlico County School social workers give us the names of families in need of help with their holiday meals. The meals are packed at Garber Methodist Church in New Bern and then delivered to our church. The Mission Team distributes the food the week before Christmas.

The two food boxes include a generous variety of non-perishable groceries. Each family also receives a bag of fruit, hotdogs, cheese, chips, and bread...along with a large ham. It is a true joy to see the smiles of gratitude on the faces of these parents and their children!



Our budgeted Mission funds for January will be sent to Carol and Donald Paige, our missionaries in Spain. They will receive \$1,500 to assist with their salaries. Please pray for their ministry at LIFE International School and their current need for additional funds.

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Our Mission Team enjoyed serving through local, national and global outreach projects in 2025. We look forward to a new year and additional opportunities to serve God by helping those in need!

Wishing you the best of God's blessings in the New Year! Nancy and Steve Duttry

Our bell ringers collected  
\$1,023.29 for The Salvation



## Invitation to Silent Worship

by Olga Roesch

Starting this January, we'd love to invite OUMC to participate in our Quaker Silent Worship on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at OUMC's Keeping Room/Parlor. It is a quiet time of reflection, no performance is expected, you are welcome to just sit with us in God's Presence.

Someone will greet you at the door and offer you some introductory materials or answer questions you may have. All are welcome, no need to be Quaker or believe a certain way, just come and experience the silence. This is a chance to share space and find peace together by simply being present with no leader or agenda.

For me, as a non-Quaker, it adds to my personal contemplative/centering time as a group. The Quaker group with whom I have been meeting for worship in our part of Eastern NC is called 'Core Sound Friends'. Some of us in Pamlico County wanted to have an added opportunity for worship locally as the main group meets monthly in Beaufort and in New Bern. Ours is a much smaller group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month as mentioned above.

If you would like me to send you a reminder email or if you have questions please feel free to email me at [olgaroesch54@gmail.com](mailto:olgaroesch54@gmail.com).



### **Finance Update**

To meet our total expected expenses for 2025, our contributions will need to total about \$260,000, or about \$5,000 per week.

Total Offerings as of Dec. 18, 2025 \$228,951

Budgeted income for 50 weeks \$ 250,000

Shortfall (\$ 22,049)



# January 2026

To RSVP call 252.675.0909 or email

## Cook, Care & Connect

January 7, 9 & 13

10:00 am– 1:00 pm

Oriental United Methodist  
Church – Fellowship Hall

## Cook, Care & Connect: A Community Cooking Experience

This January, the kitchen becomes a place of connection, compassion, and community. Cook, Care & Connect is a hands-on cooking series designed not only to teach simple, nourishing recipes but also to support neighbors who could use a little extra care—those recovering from illness, surgery,

or simply needing a reminder that their community is thinking of them.

### Why This Event Matters

At its heart, Cook, Care & Connect is about more than food. It's about people coming together to prepare meals, share stories, and strengthen the bonds that make Pamlico County such a special place.

### What to Expect

- Learn & Create: Participants will work side-by-side to prepare wholesome dishes using fresh, minimally processed ingredients.
  - Share & Enjoy: After cooking, everyone sits down to enjoy the meal together—celebrating fellowship, friendship, and the joy of shared effort.
  - Give Back: Extra meals will be packaged and delivered to community members who need a boost, offering comfort through food and kindness.
- Whether you're an experienced cook or just beginning your culinary journey, your presence makes a meaningful difference.

### Event Schedule

Wednesday, January 7 • 10 am–1 pm  
Classic Pasta with Simple Meat Sauce  
Hosted by Alisa & Tim Wright

Friday, January 9 • 10 am–1 pm  
Chicken Chili & Chicken Quesadillas  
Hosted by Chef Bob Locarro

Tuesday, January 13 • 10 am–1 pm  
Roasted Root Vegetables & Vegetable Salads  
Hosted by Chef Bob Locarro

**Meet the Hosts**—Alisa, a newly retired wellness and classroom teacher, and her husband Tim, a recently retired police officer, share a passion for simple, wholesome home cooking. Though not formally trained, they've spent years discovering how delicious and nutritious minimally processed meals can be. Their class will guide participants through preparing a classic pasta dish with a flavorful homemade sauce—no jarred sauce needed. While the sauce simmers, Alisa will lead a gentle chair-yoga session to help everyone relax, stretch, and prepare to enjoy the meal together. Alisa and Tim bring warmth, encouragement, and a love for community to the kitchen. They're excited to cook with you and share a fun, delicious experience.

### Chef Bob Locarro

With more than 45 years of professional culinary experience, Chef Bob Locarro brings extraordinary skill—and extraordinary stories—to the table. Trained at the Culinary Institute of America in New York, Bob has worked in artisan bakeries, fine dining restaurants, and wild-game kitchens. His career later took him to Aspen, Colorado, where he thrived as a private chef.

Bob's first freelance job was with legendary music producer Quincy Jones, and he later spent two memorable weeks cooking alongside actor Dustin Hoffman. His classes blend technique, creativity, and storytelling, offering participants both culinary knowledge and a glimpse into a remarkable career. Join him to learn practical, flavorful recipes and hear firsthand the tales behind his decades in the culinary world.

### A Celebration of Food, Fellowship & Community Care

Cook, Care & Connect is more than a cooking class—it's a way to strengthen community ties, support neighbors in need, and enjoy the simple joy of preparing and sharing a meal together.

**RSVP to [director@primetimepamlico.org](mailto:director@primetimepamlico.org) or call 252.675.0909 to reserve your spot!  
Invite a friend...**



# January 2026

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

**Breakfast with Friends**  
Brantley's Restaurant  
Thursday's  
January 8, 15, 22, 29  
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.

**Prayer Shawl**  
Thursday's  
January 8, 15, 22, 29  
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.



**Creative Card Making Class**  
Wednesday—January 14  
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 Required.

**Game Day (2nd & 4th Wed)**  
Wednesday—January 14 & 28  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Oriental United Methodist  
Church – Fellowship Hall



Join us for two afternoons 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. Come share your favorite games

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



**iPad and Hotspot Basics Learn how to navigate and use iPads and hotspots.** This is the 5th session in a 5 part series.

Additional Sessions will be offered in 2026!

### Prime Time Needs Your Assistance

We are requesting donations for the silent auction to be held on Thursday, January 29th. Items such as jewelry, scarfs, décor items, experiences, spa packages, boating excursions, cakes, cookies, dinners, and services are all welcome. Please new or gently used items only.

For pickup or drop off, please call Debora at 252.675.0909.



# PANCAKE

## Dinner & Silent Auction

**29 JANUARY 2026 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Oriental United Methodist Church - Fellowship Hall

**JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS FOOD AND A GREAT CAUSE!**

**PANCAKES, LINK SAUSAGE OR BACON, FRUIT, COFFEE OR JUICE**

**Tickets available:  
Nautical Wheelers  
Oriental United Methodist  
Church  
Prime Time Board Members or  
by calling 252.675.0909**



### DINNER & SILENT AUCTION BENEFIT PRIME TIME

PRIME TIME OFFERS SEMINARS, DAY TRIPS &  
FUN ACTIVITIES TO KEEP OUR ADULTS AGED 50+  
ACTIVE AND ENGAGED  
HELPING TO ELIMINATE ISOLATION

## The Bible Year readings for January, 2026

Sunday, January 4: Romans 14:1-16:27  
Monday, January 5: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3:23  
Tuesday, January 6: 1 Corinthians 4:1-6:20  
Wednesday, January 7: 1 Corinthians 7:1-9:27  
Thursday, January 8: 1 Corinthians 10:1-12:31  
Friday, January 9: 1 Corinthians 13:1-16:24  
Saturday, January 10: 2 Corinthians 1:1-3:18

Sunday, January 11: 2 Corinthians 4:1-7:16  
Monday, January 12: 2 Corinthians 8:1-10:18  
Tuesday, January 13: 2 Corinthians 11:1-13:13  
Wednesday, January 14: Galatians 1:1-2:21  
Thursday, January 15: Galatians 3:1-4:31  
Friday, January 16: Galatians 5:1-6:18  
Saturday, January 17: Ephesians 1:1-2:22

Sunday, January 18: Ephesians 3:1-4:32  
Monday, January 19: Ephesians 5:1-6:24  
Tuesday, January 20: Philippians 1:1-2:30  
Wednesday, January 21: Philippians 3:1-4:23  
Thursday, January 22: Colossians 1:1-2:23  
Friday, January 23: Colossians 3:1-4:18  
Saturday, January 24: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3:13

Sunday, January 25: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:28  
Monday, January 26: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-3:18  
Tuesday, January 27: 1 Timothy 1:1-3:16  
Wednesday, January 28: 1 Timothy 4:1-6:21  
Thursday, January 29: 2 Timothy 1:1-2:26  
Friday, January 30: 2 Timothy 3:1-4:22  
Saturday, January 31: Titus 1:1-3:15  
Sunday, February 1: Philemon 1-25



# 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

Office: (252) 249-0213  
 Fax: (252) 249-0411

Church Email: [orientalumc@orientalumc.org](mailto:orientalumc@orientalumc.org)

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