



The ANCHOR

APRIL 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

“Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, CEB

As I write this, it’s Tuesday of Holy Week. The marathon has begun, and this year we have the privilege of conducting a memorial service to add to the general busy-ness as we worship. I often say to family members I meet following a death, “I’m sorry to see you under these circumstances, but I’m honored that the church can walk with you.”

Walking with people during the highs and lows of their lives is a great gift as a pastor, but it’s not mine exclusively. We all share it as Christians and as members of this lovely, hospitable congregation. This Holy Week, more than others, I’m feeling very aware of how much I count on the work of others to make it all happen—and how very thankful I am that we’re walking through life together.

I won’t thank everyone by name for fear I will leave someone out, but I do want to highlight a few:

Tracy, who has such a willing spirit and does everything I ask of her and more, from learning new skills in the office to making the sanctuary presentable between cleanings.

Catherine, who keeps everything going, remembers the details I forget, is always available for advice or assistance, and almost never says no. When she does, I know I’m on the wrong track.

Our music team: Claudia and Miss Julia, our volunteers who play the drums, flute, bass, ukulele, guitar, shaker and spoons—we even hear the harmonica, saxophone, organ, and glockenspiel occasionally. And our singers. Your talents give life to our worship.

Our leaders on the church council and our team and group members, from the UMM/UWF to the Trustees, Missions Team, and beyond. You make it all happen, and bring us new visions of how the kingdom might look, and help us grow together.

To each of you—and especially if you don’t find yourself in this list—thank you. You make OUMC the loving, faithful, welcoming, fruitful church home it is. I’m so grateful to be in ministry with you.

Grace, peace, and eternal thanks,
Pastor Anne



Events that occur weekly throughout April

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

April 2	Maundy Thursday meal and communion	6:00 pm
April 3	Good Friday Service	6:00 pm
April 4	Sand Dollar Circle Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am
April 5	Easter Sunrise Service at LouMac Park	6:45 am
	Worship Service in Sanctuary	10:00 am
	Bring PCFLO donations-canned tuna	
April 7	Fresh Expressions Team meeting	7:00 pm
April 8	Prime Time Card Making	10:00 am
	Prime Time Game Day	2:00 pm
April 9	Labyrinth Committee Meeting	2:00 pm
	The Gathering at The Bean	6:00 pm
April 11	Methodist Men's Fellowship Breakfast	9:00 am
April 12	Quaker Silent Worship-all are welcome	2:00 pm
April 13	Prime Time's Digital Workshop	10:00 am
	Sojourners Circle Meeting	9:30 am
	Community Youth Group	5:00 pm
April 14	Sara Veal Circle Meeting	9:15 am
	Sand Dollar Circle Meeting	6:30 pm
April 15	Finance Committee Meeting	9:30 am
	Prime Time Board Meeting	1:00 pm
April 19	SPRC Meeting	1:30 pm
April 20	UWF Board meeting	9:00 am
	Mission Team Meeting	9:30 am
April 22	Prime Time's Game Day	2:00 pm
April 26	Quaker Silent Worship-all are welcome	2:00 pm
April 27	The Gathering at The Bean	6:00 pm
April 29	Prime Time Lunch & Learn	8:30 am



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**The Deadline for the May Newsletter
 is April 27!**

Methodist Men's Breakfast

Our monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday,
April 11 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please text or
 email Jim Kellenberger by noon on Friday the 10th, if
 you plan to attend.

919-621-0362/jimkellenberger05@gmail.com

Women's Circle News

Sojourner's Circle: April 13 @ 11:30 at M&Ms

Sara Veal Circle Meeting: April 14 @ 9:30

**Sand Dollar Circle: April 14 @ 6:30 in the
 fellowship hall**

PCFLO Food of the Month:

**April food of the month is
 TUNA/CHICKEN**



April's Birthdays

Mike Russo	April 4
Clyde Spears Jr.	April 9
Ann Kellogg	April 10
Ethan Dunn	April 13
Reginald Piland	April 15
Mary Wible	April 17
Rebecca Rice	April 18
Joan Gracie	April 20
Larry McLamb	April 21
Howard Cheetham	April 21
Wyatt Cutler	April 22
Abbey Piner	April 24

If your April birthday is not listed,

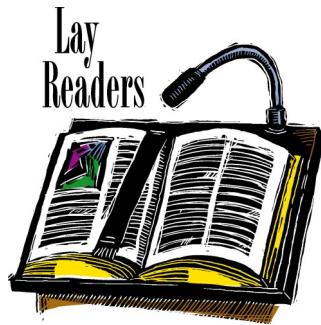
Please call the office 249-0213



Announcements continued...

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

DATE	READERS	GREETERS
April 5	Deb Rodenhouser	Dave & Linda Bacon
April 12	Karen VanGampen	Joanne Hurley
April 19	Lynn Rockwell	Chuck & Wanda Forrest & Bodie
April 26	Ann Boswell	Jeff & Ann Boswell



Sincere thanks from Leslie Kellenberger for everyone's thoughtfulness and prayers for a successful cochlear implant. Cards, visits, phone calls, a prayer shawl, food (Linda Parker's meatloaf!!) so very much appreciated. Couldn't have done it without you!"



Finance Update

To meet our total expected expenses for 2026, our contributions needed to total about \$260,000, or about \$5,000 per week.

Total Offerings as of March 24, 2026 = \$52,281

Total budget as of March 24, 2026 = \$60,000

Surplus / shortfall = \$7,719

Cyber Scams: How Do We Protect Ourselves?

By Priscilla Seals

As we are painfully aware at OUMC, scammers are out there preying on our compassion as Christians, purporting to be Pastor Anne in need of gift cards, or a former church member inviting us to a Celebration of Life. In this new, often baffling digital community, how do these scammers even get our contact information?

This article is the first in a series explaining the threats to our cybersecurity and how to stay safe as individuals and church members.

Resources such as the General Council on Finance and Administration for the United Methodist Church (gcfa.org) are valuable sources of information. According to the GCFA, there has been a troubling rise in scams impersonating pastors or other church members, partly due to a sometimes-naïve trust by members and in some cases, few safeguards to protect contact information. Often the cybercriminal spoofs the pastor's name or e-mail, uses emotional language such as this: "I need your help right now," and asks for gift cards or wire transfers.

Some red flags include the supposed sense of urgency and a request for an unusual method of payment such as gift cards, PayPal, or Cash App. When in doubt, slow down and check the claim through another method—e-mail the pastor or another church member before responding. Look carefully at the e-mail to see if it matches an e-mail address you are familiar with or a site you recognize, such as Evite. Pastor Anne stresses that the church will never ask for donations by text or e-mail in large amounts or via gift cards. She asks that any such requests be confirmed with her or the church office.

Christianity Today stresses: "Using head and heart together helps void scams and fraud while preserving compassion and the ability to help, when appropriate."

Our next article will address how our church safeguards our personal information, which includes Realm and Constant Contact.



MISSION ARTICLE – April 2026

Hello Friend of 1st Choice Pregnancy Resources of Pamlico,

Each year we contemplate life-affirming ministry and how best to accompany our clients. Meeting them with compassion, we help them take courage in the moment and in those to come until they find hope for the future. Every encounter – and there are many – makes manifest the real and radical love encapsulated in the saying “You are not alone.”

So much more than a catchphrase, 1st Choice embodies service and support through relational accompaniment. It’s not unlike our community and individual partnerships, the “Friends of 1st Choice,” from whom we draw strength. In this spirit we invite you to support our upcoming annual fundraising banquet, “An Evening of Empowerment.”

The banquet serves as our principal fundraising event for the year. Your participation is essential to its success. Funding is necessary. Resources are critical to sustaining on-going mission and allowing growth to meet new challenges.

Let us know how you’d like to help.

Our Sincerest Appreciation,

Regina Kemble, Executive Director

252) 745-5683

info@1stchoicepamlico.com

1st Choice
PREGNANCY RESOURCES OF PAMLICO

*“Evening of Empowerment”
Fundraising Banquet*

Saturday, April 18th
Doors Open 5:30pm Dinner served at 6:00pm

*Featured Speaker:
Dr Susan Bané MD, PhD*

**BROAD CREEK
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
45 OLYMPIA RD. NEW BERN, NC 28560

\$65 a ticket \$120 for 2
Table Host \$500

Sponsor Levels Available
\$1,000 Advancement Ally
\$750 Bridge Builder
\$500 Champion of Change
\$100 Diaper Donor

Holts Chapel AME Zion Church Annual Missionary Service

April 19th at 3:00 pm

2911 Kershaw Road, Oriental

Rev. Dr. Marlena Dags, Pastor

Some of you may remember the sunny summer morning out at the riverfront service years ago when Hattie Werner’s granddaughter gave her a puppy named Star, not long after Hattie lost her husband. Star the wonder dog passed away recently at a ripe old age. You may want to send Hattie a note of sympathy or give her a phone call. Mailing address PO Box 523, Oriental, NC 28571



This workshop is open to all Women in Faith. You do not have to be a member of a Circle to attend.

Spiritual Enrichment Workshop

April 25 @ 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Sound District United Women of Faith invite women to a Spiritual Enrichment Workshop on Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Havelock Tourist & Event Center.

2026 SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP
FEATURING
SOUL CARE

Jesus
Take the Wheel

Saturday, April 25, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Late/Walk-In Registration Opens at 9:30 AM

Faith
Hope
Love
Joy

Havelock Tourist & Event Center
201 Tourist Center Drive
Havelock, NC
252-444-4348

\$20 Includes Lunch | **Students** with ID: **\$10**
\$25 After April 18

Catered Lunch by **Mucho Bueno Street Food**

Questions? **Yvette Franklin**, cell 757.880.0267 gyfranks@gmail.com

- ◆ Inspiring Soul Care Sessions
- ◆ Fellowship & Renewal
- ◆ Time to Let Jesus Lead

Register on Eventbrite!

Prime Time Lunch & Learn

Travel Made Easy for Adults 50+

Marjorie Dufek, Travel Agent with Flora Travel

Wednesday, April 29

11:30 am

Oriental United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall



Reservations Required—Call 252.675.0909/email director@primetimepamlico.org

Discover how fun, safe, and stress-free travel can be at any age. Join us for a special Lunch & Learn with a professional travel agent, Marjorie Dufek, who will share insider tips, senior-friendly destinations, and smart strategies for planning your next getaway with confidence. Whether you're dreaming of a cruise, a weekend escape, or a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, you'll learn how to travel affordably, avoid common pitfalls, and choose experiences that match your comfort and interests.

This uplifting session is perfect for anyone who wants to stay active, explore new places, and enjoy the companionship and security that come with well-planned travel. Come enjoy lunch, ask questions, and leave inspired to say, "Where do I want to go next?"

Marjorie Dufek believes travel is an investment you make in yourself. Her focus is ensuring that your investment pays off, beautifully.

After several years of retirement, she missed working with people to solve complex problems. She joined Flora Travel to turn her years of corporate experience traveling the world into an asset for others. Marjorie stated, "I know what it takes to have a meaningful journey, and I bring professional knowledge and insider access to crafting your adventures. Think of me as your personal travel concierge. Whether it is a romantic getaway, a complex multi-destination adventure, or an unforgettable family celebration, my goal is simple: to do all the heavy lifting so you can simply experience the richer, deeper journey we design together."



wants to help you deClutter

We are accepting **DONATIONS** for our participation in the **Town Yard Sale on Sat. May 2** at the **Oriental United Methodist Church**
To schedule a Pick-up or Drop Off please call **252-675-0909**

Items needed Include Gently Used:
Household Items, Small Furniture, Jewelry, Accessories, Home Decor, Toys, Linens, Sports Equipment, Yard Equipment and Tools
Please No Clothing, Electronics, Books, Shoes or Heavy Furniture

Prime Time's mission is to provide services and activities promoting physical, social, mental and spiritual well-being for the 50 plus community in Pamlico County and surrounding areas. Prime Time brings together many resources helping area residents sustain an independent and enriched quality of life.

PRIME TIME IS SUPPORTED BY MEMORIALS, INDIVIDUAL AND ESTATE DONATIONS AND GRANTS.



April 2026

To RSVP call 252.675.0909 or email
director@primetimepamlico.org

Breakfast with Friends
Brantley's Restaurant
Thursday's
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
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
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
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—April 8
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.

Game Day (2nd & 4th Wed)
Wednesday—April 8
Wednesday, April 22
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.

Digital Skills Session
Smart Phone Intermediate
Monday—April 13
10 am—12pm
Oriental United Methodist
Church – Fellowship Hall



Smart Phone Intermediate

Learn to navigate your smartphones settings, organize apps, and other tools. Hands on learning!



Oriental United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 70

Oriental, NC 28571

THE ANCHOR: YOUR LINK TO OUMC



Prayer List:: HELEN BLAND, MARY BOUDREault, 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, WYATT ROHRMAN, KATHY SCIORRA, DEBBIE SEVELIO, BEN & ANNE SIMS, CAROL SMALL, ERNIE SMITH, JOAN ULVOG, JEANNE URBAN, KAREN VANGAMPER, 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

OFFICE HOURS

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

PHONE NUMBERS

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 Fax: (252) 249-0411

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