



The ANCHOR

August 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

"There is no virtue in advertising one's sadness. But there is no wisdom in denying it either. And there is the beautiful possibility that great love can grow out of sadness if it is well-tended. Sadness can make us bitter or wise. We get to choose." Allen Levi, *Theo of Golden*

As I sit in Mariposa writing this article, I'm feeling desperately sad. Crying a little in public, in fact. I've just made the appointment to euthanize our dog Rosie, who is what some would call my heart dog. That just means of the dogs we've had, all of whom I've loved with my whole heart, she is somehow special. She's my girl. And the last gift I can give her is to release her from the suffering of arthritis and cancer at the end of a long life. In the coming days and weeks, if you see me crying, that's probably why.

I am not a person who deals with sadness well. I think sometimes I'm personally offended by it. I hate to cry, and I hate to do it in public. I was raised (as so many of us were) not to let others know my business or my weaknesses. But loving these animals that add so much to our lives means going through the sadness that comes when we have to say goodbye.

Here's what I've noticed about not hiding this grief too much: there are wonderful people who have just the right thing to say when I need it. Tom, who made me laugh when I needed to, right after I made the appointment. Donna, who's going to go with me when we let her go. Bill and Kristy, who will help us bury her. Benita, who insisted on a hug when I really thought I just wanted to sit and be prickly and miserable and alone—she was right. And all of you who shared prayers and kind words and hugs with Ben and me Sunday.

There's a lot of wisdom about God and faith and how we see and are seen in Allen Levi's book, *Theo of Golden*, which is why we'll be spending most of September with it. It will provide inspiration for our worship and sermons from September 11 through the first Sunday of October. Catherine and I are looking at forming a weekly discussion group for those 4 weeks as well. You absolutely do NOT have to read the book to be ready for worship during those weeks, but you might enjoy it. I encourage you to give it a try.

This week, *Theo* has me thinking about how my sadness after losing previous pets has made me capable of great love for other pets and even people. I'm choosing love (and it will probably not be long before we choose another dog to love, despite my intention to let Sophie be an only dog for a while) over bitterness. I'm choosing a tender heart that breaks, because I believe God's love for us is reflected in our pets' love for us and in our tender, breakable, healable hearts. I think they see in us who we are and who we can be, our best loving selves, and God does, too.

And I'm so grateful for that.

Grace and Peace,

Anne

Events that occur weekly throughout **August**

Sunday	Riverfront Worship Service at Lou Mac Park	8:30 am
	Worship Service, OUMC Sanctuary	10:30 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 Pamlico Breakfast with Friends at Brantley's in the Back Room	8:30 am
	PrimeTime Pamlico Prayer Shawl Ministries—Fellowship Hall	10:00 am

Calendar of Events

August 2	Bring Healthy Cereal for PCFLO	
August 8	Methodist Men's Breakfast	9:00 am
August 9	Quaker Silent Worship-all are welcome	2:00 pm
August 10	Mission Team Meeting	9:30 am
	Prime Time- ECU Digital Class	10:00 am
	Music Planning Committee Meeting	11:00 am
	Community Youth Group	5:00 pm
	Sand Dollar Circle Meeting	6:30 pm
August 12	Prime Time Game Day	2:00 pm
August 13	Trustees' Meeting	11:00 am
	Labyrinth Committee Meeting	2:00 pm
	The Gathering	6:00 pm
August 15	River's Edge	1:00 pm
August 16	SPRC Meeting	1:30 pm
August 17	United Women in Faith Board Meeting	9:00 am
	Prime Time Meeting	2:00 pm
August 19	Prime Time Board Meeting	1:00 pm
August 22	UWF Annual Breakfast at Brantley's	9:00 am
August 23	Quaker Silent Worship-all are welcome	2:00 pm
August 24	The Gathering	6:00 pm
August 26	Prime Time Game Day	2:00 pm
August 30	5th Sunday combined service at the riverfront	8:30 am
	Church Council Meeting	1:30 pm
	5th Sunday Hymn Sing at Oriental Free Will Baptist Church	6:00 pm



Announcements

**The Deadline for the September Newsletter
is August 26!**

Methodist Men's Breakfast

Our monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, **August 8 at 9 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please text or email Jim Kellenberger by noon on Friday the 8th, if you plan to attend.

919-621-0362/jimkellenberger05@gmail.com

Women's Circle News

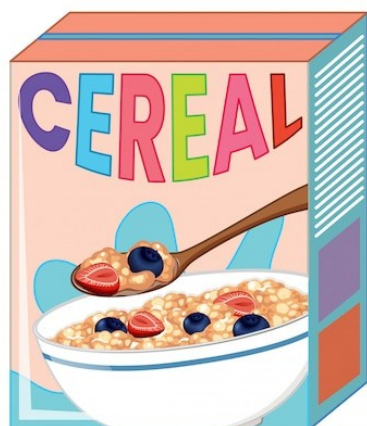
Sojourner's Circle: Resume in September

Sara Veal Circle Meeting: Resume in September

Sand Dollar Circle: August 11 at 6:30 pm at Sharon Stephenson's house

PCFLO Food of the Month:

**August food of the month is
HEALTHY CEREAL**



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Melody McLean	08/02
Summer Dunn	08/02
Deborah Weaver	08/02
Mitchell Johnson	08/02
Mackie Spruill	08/04
Kristy Kepp	08/04
Janet Lind	08/05
Carl Crothers	08/06
David Bland	08/07
Julie Wiegand	08/08
Don Lane	08/12
Michael Guzzo	08/13
Marilyn Ragan	08/13
Jerry Luh	08/14
Karen Spruill	08/15
Gary Leonard	08/15
Lynne Fountain	08/15
Bill Manger	08/16
Gabriel Huff	08/17
Dianne Piland	08/18
Judy Styron	08/21
Piper Delamar Goss	08/22
Kathy Guzzo	08/22
Martha Barlow	08/23
Clint Belangia	08/24
Al McCulloch	08/24
Linda Hoff	08/27
Susan Yeagle	08/28
Susan Manger	08/29
Harper Lynn Dunbar	08/29

If your August birthday is not listed
please call the office at 249-0213.

Announcements continued...

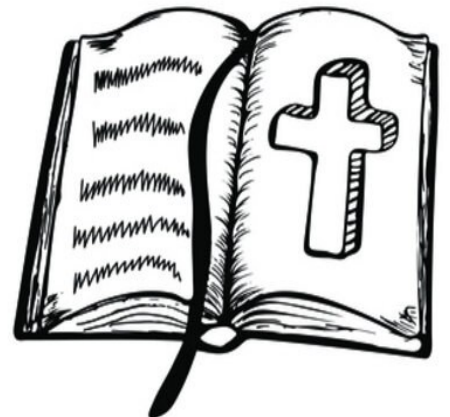
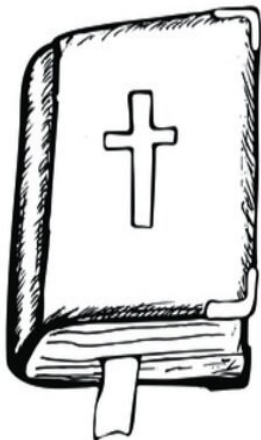
8:30 at Lou Mac Park & 10:30 in the Sanctuary

Our volunteer greeters and readers for the **8:30 worship service**

DATE	READERS	GREETERS
August 2	Donna Creech	Joanne Hurley
August 9	Jim Kellenberger	Jim & Leslie Kellenberger
August 16	Deb Rodenhouser	Sam Liskowacki & Deb Geschwindner
August 23	Donna Creech	Joanne Hurley
August 30	Carl Crothers	Carl & Donna Crothers

Our volunteer greeters and readers for the **10:30 worship service**

August 2	Janet Lind	Janet Lind
August 9	Karen VanGamper	Karen VanGamper
August 16	Janet Lind	Janet Lind
August 23	Karen VanGamper	Karen VanGamper



Mission Team Article-August 2026

The Mission Team had two family food distributions in July. OUMC is a sponsor church for Backpack Blessings, who provided enough boxes and bags of food for 36 families of Pamlico County students. Any food that was not picked up was taken to PCFLO.



Swim Lessons taught by Katie Rahn went well in June. Twenty-four students received lessons at the Village Health & Fitness Center. Our church provided these lessons at discounted prices through donations from NCO and our Local Mission Fund. What a great outreach opportunity for the children of Pamlico County!

We are excited to welcome our missionaries from Spain, Donald and Carol Paige! They will be visiting our area in August along with their children, Cora and Daniel. We look forward to having them worship with us at our 8:30 service on August 9th . On Monday, August 10th at 9:30 you are welcome to join us for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, where they will share an update and slide show of their ministry at LIFE International School. If you would like to attend, please respond to the church office (252) 249-0213.



We have started collecting **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** for the students of Pamlico County. If you would like to help, there is a bucket in the Narthex and a blue bin in the Fellowship Hall to drop off your donations. A supply list is available at the church office. Supplies are **due by August 19th** . Thanks so much!

We appreciate your continued donations and support!

Your OUMC Mission Team

PCFLO Need Is Increasing

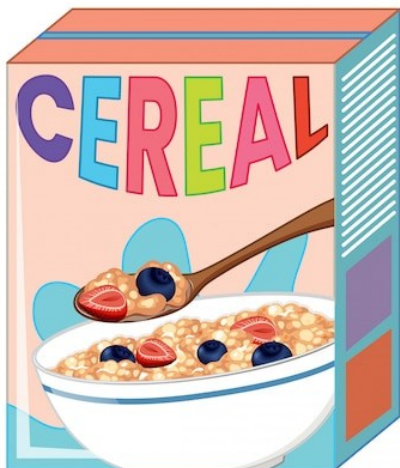
By Donna Crothers



Pamlico County Fishes and Loaves Outreach has selected healthy cereal as its Food of the Month for August, and the need is greater than ever. As PCFLO evaluated its operations for the first six months of 2026, statistics show that average monthly food purchase costs are up 19% compared with 2025. PCFLO must buy more food because it is getting less food from the federal government, in-kind donations also are down, and of course, the cost of food is up over last year.

At the same time, more clients than ever are seeking PCFLO's services as federal aid programs are cut and families face higher costs. For the first half of 2026, the number of individuals coming to the food pantry was up 13.79% compared with last year. And "emergency visits," which are unscheduled clients, increased 20.91% for the first half of the year vs. the same period last year. During June, PCFLO served 977 individuals at the pantry alone – not including its other programs like the mobile food pantry.

So, if you are able, please bring **healthy cereal** to the basket in the narthex during the month of August! Your support is appreciated! PCFLO's Food of the Month for September is **turkey gravy**.



REWYRE Your LIFE - If you could benefit from a supportive environment that will help you move forward positively after the loss of a relationship (breakup, divorce, death, etc) we'd love to have you join us!

What: We will read and discuss the book *Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends*, by Fisher and Alberti (which focuses on divorce, but is mostly relevant to everyone who has lost a partner.)

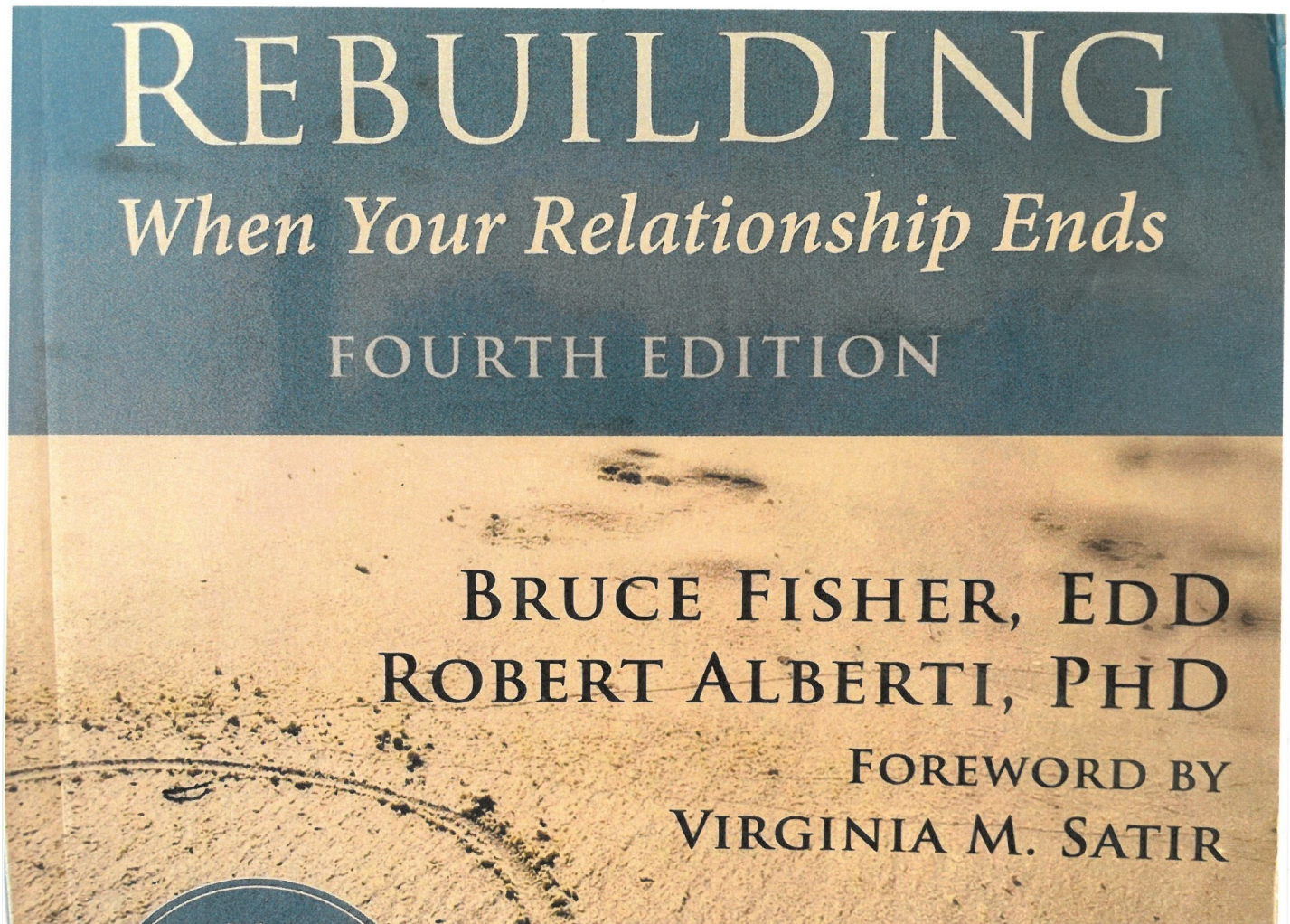
Why: We all heal and grow better as part of a community.

Where: Perry-Griffin Community Center

When: 7-8:30pm on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 23; ending Nov 18

Who: Ann Boswell, who has benefitted greatly from ReWYRE, will lead us.

How to sign up: Text Ann at 919-593-9806: Type ReWYRE and leave your name & email and/or call or text



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 July 26, 2026 = \$131,414



August 2026

To RSVP call 252.675.0909 or email
director@primetimepamlico.org

Breakfast with Friends

Brantley's Restaurant

Thursday's

August 6, 13, 20, 27

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

August 6, 13, 20, 27

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.



Game Day (2nd & 4th Wed)

Wednesday—August 12

Wednesday—August 26

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 & Mexican Train Dominos, 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 Session

Monday—August 10

10 am—Noon

Oriental United Methodist
Church – Fellowship Hall

Intro to Artificial Intelligence

Learn the pros and cons of using AI and how to detect AI in images.

Prime Time Pamlico is partnering with by East Carolina University's College of Health and Human Performance for this research study.

On the Road Again...Visiting Historic Bath, NC

Thursday, August 27 10 am Arrive in Bath

Reservation required. Call 252.675.0909 or email director@primetimepamlico.org

Join Prime Time Pamlico for a richly guided visit to Historic Bath, where the colony's earliest chapters still echo through beautifully preserved homes and quiet waterfront paths. For approximately \$15, participants can tour landmark sites including the Palmer-Marsh House (1751), and the Bonner House (ca. 1830), along with the Exhibit Center's 2,500-square-foot display and a scenic one-mile walking tour. Founded in 1705 as North Carolina's first town and port, Bath's history of settlement, rivalry, piracy, and resilience makes this journey a meaningful step back in time. With accessible options, peaceful trails, and the optional visit to St. Thomas Church (1734), this outing offers a perfect blend of learning, leisure, and community connection—an ideal adventure for Prime Time Pamlico participants ready to explore another coastal town. Lunch on your own following the tours.



Prime Time Pamlico, Inc
director@primetimepamlico.org
252.675.0909

Free Digital Skills Information Sessions

**Oriental United Methodist Church
404 Freemason St Oriental, NC 28571**

Please bring a device join us for any of the following sessions:

**AUG 10
10-Noon**

Intro to Artificial Intelligence

Learn the pros and cons of using AI and how to detect AI in images

**SEPT 14
10-Noon**

Intro to Social Media

Learn how to create accounts, adjust settings, and stay up to date with social media

**OCT 12
10-Noon**

Smartphones 101

Learn how to navigate smartphones, download apps, and use various communication tools

**NOV 16
10-Noon**

Basic Computer Skills

Learn how to navigate a computer, create, format, and share documents

**CALL DEBORA STEENSON 252-675-0909 TO SIGN UP
OR EMAIL DIRECTOR@PRIMETIMEPAMLICO.ORG**



This is a research study by East Carolina University's College of Health and Human Performance



Oriental United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 70

Oriental, NC 28571

THE ANCHOR: YOUR LINK TO OUMC



Prayer List:: HELEN BLAND, MARY BOUDREAU, JENNIFER BURKE, MARTHA JO CAMPBELL, ALDO CRISTIANI, NANCY & DENISE DiNUNZIO, PETER DRIPCHEK, BRANSON DUNN, JILL ENSLEY, DAVID FILIPIAK, MARVIN FRIEL, JODIE GEIGER, JOHN HALLINAN, NANCY HART, KELLY HITCHCOCK, PATTI HIGGINBOTTOM, JOAN HORICK, JOAN JOHNEN, CAROL JOHNSON, WARREN JOHNSON, MARTHA KEEFE, SUSAN KLEMM, GRACIE KNOWLES, KAYLA KRELIE, PEGGY LAURICELLA, 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, TRACY VAIL, KAREN VANGAMPER, WORTH WALLIN & FAMILY, HAROLD & ARLENE WALTER, HATTIE WERNER, BILL WHITE, 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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