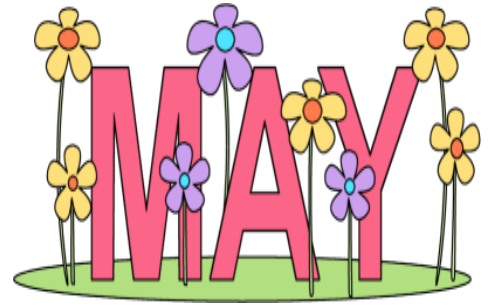




The ANCHOR

MAY 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

"She read books as one would breathe air, to fill up and live." — Annie Dillard

I have always been a reader, as long as I can remember. Family lore says Mom taught me to read when my sister was very little, so I could occupy myself some of the time. I struggle to sleep without reading in bed, and I've spent more nights than I can count reading just one more page, just one more chapter and waking up with a book on my chest and my glasses still on. Or to the book falling on my face...

Lately, though, I'm in a bit of a rut. I've been reading long series of urban fantasy novels. I have always loved immersing myself in a new world, and lately I've gravitated towards completed series that tell of magical creatures in worlds similar to ours, pretty distractions from what has been a very busy year that's consumed so much attention that these lighter stories are all I've had bandwidth for.

So this summer (as soon as I finish my current series), I'm looking for new reads. I've got a couple on my list: *Joyful, Anyway*, by Kate Bowler, who says, "I believe that the world would be a gentler place if we took apart the well-meaning clichés we use when life is hard. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger? Maybe what doesn't kill you might try again tomorrow...life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone. And while we can't always be happy, we can be joyful, anyway."

Josh Scott's *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups* looks at familiar stories we've known from childhood, and offers new information for us to understand them as adults in our current context.

Diana Butler Bass' new book, *A Beautiful Year*, examines the Christian liturgical calendar of holy days and readings and how it's stories of love, hospitality, mercy, justice, and gratitude intersect with the secular calendar we live by.

But I need your help. What should be on my summer reading list? What have you read that you think I'll enjoy, or that I should read and learn from? Please don't hesitate to email me suggestions of books, articles, or even podcasts that you love! Bonus points for podcasts that publish transcripts, as I'm a much better reader than listener, but I'll give your suggestions a try!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anne



PS: If you haven't read *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi and you're looking for a summer read of your own, I highly recommend this lovely tale of a gentle and kind person who really sees those around him, and how that changes the community in which he finds himself. You might hear more about that in the fall!

Events that occur weekly throughout **May**

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 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

May 2	Town-wide Yard Sale	
May 3	Bring Jiffy cornbread mixes to church for PCFLO	
May 7	Worship Team meeting	1:00 pm
May 9	Methodist Men's Fellowship Breakfast	9:00 am
May 10	Quaker Silent Worship-All are welcome	2:00 pm
May 11	Mission Team Meeting	9:30 am
	Sojourners Circle meeting	11:30 am
	Community Youth Group	5:30 pm
May 12	Sara Veal Circle meeting	9:15 am
	Sand Dollar Circle meeting	6:30 pm
May 13	Prime Time Game Day	2:00 pm
May 14	The Gathering at The Bean	6:00 pm
May 16	River's Edge-Perry Griffin House	1:00 pm
May 17	Church Council meeting	1:30 pm
May 20	Prime Time Board meeting	1:00 pm
May 24	Quaker Silent Worship-All are welcome	2:00 pm
May 25	Office closed-Memorial Day	
	The Gathering at The Bean	6:00 pm
May 26	Newsletter deadline	
May 27	Prime Time Game Day	2:00 pm
May 31	5th Sunday Sing at St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church	6:00 pm



Announcements

**The Deadline for the June Newsletter
is May 26!**

Methodist Men's Breakfast

Our monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, **May 9 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: May 11 @ 11:30 at M&Ms

Sara Veal Circle Meeting: May 12 @ 9:30

Sand Dollar Circle: May 12 @ 6:30 at Nancy Duttry's house

PCFLO Food of the Month:

**May food of the month is
JIFFY CORNBREAD MIX**



Office closed Memorial Day, May 25

Celebrate May Birthdays



May's Birthdays

Jacqueline Welles	May 3
David Burrows	May 5
Dalene Johnson	May 6
Blake Dunbar	May 8
Leslie Hammer	May 13
Mark Milos	May 14
Gina Gilgo	May 15
Brenda Milos	May 15
Dave Bacon	May 18
Priscilla Wormell	May 23
George Sechrist	May 23
Catherine Baxley	May 24
Amber Belangia	May 25
Tucker Hayes McIntosh	May 26
George Tucker	May 27
Janice Hinds	May 28
Robert Godal	May 31

If you have a May birthday that is not listed,
please call the office 249-0213

Announcements continued...

**We return to two Sunday worship services on May 3:
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
May 3	Jim Kellenberger	Leslie Kellenberger
May 10	Ros Cheetham	Joanne Hurley
May 17	Deb Rodenhouser	Ken & Lou Ann Roberts
May 24	Donna Creech	Joanne Hurley
May 31	Dennis Balsley	Gail Hargett-Lilly

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

May 3	Janet Lind	Janet Lind
May 10	Karen VanGamper	Karen VanGamper
May 17	Janet Lind	Janet Lind
May 24	Karen VanGamper	Karen VanGamper
May 31	Janet Lind	Janet Lind



Resources on Aging at Your Fingertips

By Donna Crothers

Do you have questions on how to care for someone with dementia? Are you concerned about how to plan for and pay for assisted living or long-term care? Or maybe you just want some tasty recipes that can be part of a low-cholesterol diet or a diet for a diabetic.

Help may be closer than you think! Prime Time has a lending library of more than 50 different titles that address these issues and many more. Prime Time Director Debora Steenson said the selection covers many older adults' health issues, such as stroke recovery, improving balance, mental disorders in older adults, and help for caregivers. "One of the things I find is helpful is if the caregiver can read about the disease" that they are dealing with, Debora said.

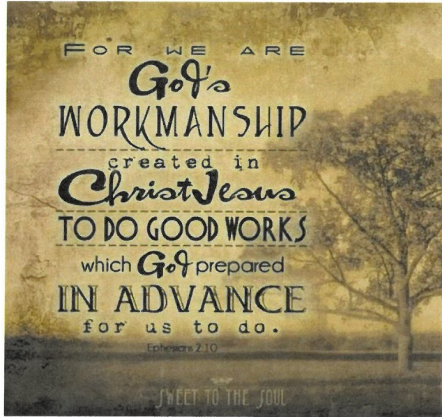
The Prime Time lending library originated with a grant from the East Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging in 2023. Along with books, the grant provided DVD programs, such as one for how to deal with dementia. A variety of cookbooks were later added with grants from Resourceful Communities over the past three years; the grants also provided cooking classes that Prime Time sponsored.

However, Debora said that even though the library has been available for about three years, it is under-utilized. "I would like to see more people using the library to make their lives easier," Debora said. The books contain great tips; for example, caregivers need to have a name posted for Emergency Medical Services to call in the event the caregiver becomes incapacitated.

If you think the Prime Time lending library might have resources that could help you, contact Debora at director@primetimepamlico.org to set up a time to browse the selections. Debora noted that the lending rules are "very lenient" – you can keep your book till you have time to go through it. You have access to some very useful information in the Prime Time office at OUMC!



MISSION NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – May 2026



If you would like to join in the fun and support a wonderful cause, please remember the **Hope Regala** will be held on **May 8th and 9th** at River Dunes. This is Hope Clinic's biggest fundraiser of the year! OUMC is a sponsor for this event. Check out their website for more details: hoperegala.com

~~~~~

OUMC continues to support the **Methodist Home for Children** by requesting a special offering on **Mother's Day**. Please note on your check memo line, Methodist Home for Children. Thank you!

~~~~~

Our budgeted Mission Funds for May go to **Robeson County Church & Community Center** for \$1,000.

~~~~~

A great big THANK YOU for your generous donations!! The balance in our **Local Mission Fund** is now **\$3,408**, which includes \$1,500 for summer swimming lessons!

Together in His service,

*Your OUMC Mission Team*



Sunday May 10, 2026 is Mother's Day and the Missions Team at OUMC is sponsoring a drive to raise funds for the Methodist Children's Home.

Please consider a donation to this worthy cause in honor or memory of your mother. Make checks out of OUMC with **"Methodist Children's Home" on the memo line.** Thank you.

OUMC Praise Team  
and Pepper Choplin.  
Pepper was in town for  
Cycle NC and joined us  
for Sunday worship.



### 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 April 13, 2026 = \$68,844

Total budget as of March 24, 2026 = \$75,000

Surplus / shortfall = \$6,156



# May 2025

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

**Breakfast with Friends**  
Brantley's Restaurant  
Thursday's  
May 7, 14, 21, 28  
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  
May 7, 14, 21, 28  
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—May 13  
Wednesday—May 27  
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.

**Powerful Tools for  
Caregivers**  
6 sessions on Tuesday  
Tuesday—May 26 thru  
Tuesday-June 30  
10:00 am – Noon  
Pamlico County Senior Services  
Center  
Call 252.675.0909 for more details

Caring for a family member or friend with a chronic condition can be physically, emotionally, and financially draining. This highly effective, evidence-based, self-care educational program for family caregivers, builds the skills caregivers need to take better care of themselves as they provide care for others. Caregiver participants learn to minimize the potentially negative impacts of caregiving in a six-week program emphasizing self-care and empowerment. Research on Powerful Tools for Caregivers has consistently shown increased self-efficacy for caregiver participants. More details on next page.

**Join Prime Time at the  
Pamlico County Senior Services Aging Well Expo 2026**

**Thursday, May 28, 2026 10 am—1pm**

**Pamlico County Senior Services Alliance, NC**

**Informational Booths, Medicare info, Health Screenings, Door Prizes**

# Powerful Tools FOR Caregivers



## Are you a caregiver?

Join us for a FREE CLASS designed to help you take care of yourself while you take care of your relative or friends.

**TAKE CARE TO GIVE CARE!!!**

Powerful Tools For Caregivers (PTC) is an evidence-based program providing caregivers with the tools and strategies to better handle the unique challenges that come with being a caregiver.

### Six-Week Curriculum will help caregivers improve:

- Communication skills
- Self-efficacy
- Self-care behaviors and improve self-confidence
- Management of emotions and communicating feelings
- Reducing stress and knowing your resources
- Set goals and problem-solving, making the tough decisions

---

**When: Tuesdays from 10:00am - Noon**

**May 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**Where: Pamlico County Senior Services  
Alliance, NC**

**Cost: FREE**

---



**Registration  
due:**

**May 19, 2026**

Space is limited &  
registration is  
required

For more information  
& to register call:

**Debora Steenson  
252.675.0909**

**Or**

Return registration  
forms:

**Prime Time  
OUMC  
P O Box 70  
Oriental, NC 28571**

**Presented By:**

**Prime Time**

**Pamlico Co. Sr. Services**

**Eastern Carolina Council  
Area Agency on Aging**



# Oriental United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 70

Oriental, NC 28571

**THE ANCHOR: YOUR LINK TO OUMC**



Prayer List:: HELEN BLAND, MARY BOUDREULT, JENNIFER BURKE, MARTHA JO CAMPBELL, ALDO CRISTIANI, 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 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)

Find us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/www.orientalumc.org](https://facebook.com/www.orientalumc.org)

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