



VITAL CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of Oak Forest United Methodist Church
August 2022

Disciple Bible Study Class

BY PASTOR RICK

Are you new to the Christian faith? Do you need to recharge your faith? Come join Rev. Rick Carter on Tuesday nights at 6:30PM until 8:00PM starting on September 13 for the Disciple Bible Study Class. The purpose of Disciple Bible Study Class is to help persons begin a journey toward Christian faith and life. Read the testimony of someone who participated last year:

“Although I wasn’t entirely sure what the Disciple Bible Study Class would encompass when I thought about taking it last year; the idea of studying God’s Word with other believers, applying scripture to my everyday life and growing in my own faith seemed appealing. I can tell you over the last year since I’ve taken it, my faith has gotten noticeably stronger and deeper. I have truly had a new beginning in my life.

Little did I know during last year’s class that God would use this opportunity to build some very strong bonds between us and draw us closer to Him through the presence of the Holy Spirit. It helped me appreciate and have a deeper compassion with the struggles of others and how they dealt with them. It validated how our trials and tests of faith can be used by God to reach out and touch those we come in contact with from friends and family to co-workers and even complete strangers. We laughed, we cried, we encouraged one another and in the final analysis left with each other’s perspective of what our God-given gifts and talents are and how to use them for His Kingdom’s work.

So, if you’ve been searching for answers to life’s questions and/or desire to have a deeper and more abiding faith, I would highly recommend the Disciple Bible Study Class. It will be time and effort well sown into your life that can and will have earthly and most importantly, eternal consequences for yourself and those around you.

No matter your life’s circumstances or where you are in your faith journey, you will be touched, and I pray blessed by your presence and participation. It was such a blessing to me, I plan and look forward to being there again this year. Come join us won’t you? This is **your invitation**. Please pray about your decision and come see what God has in store for you.”

If you are looking to begin your journey in the Christian faith or need to recharge your faith, please contact Rev. Rick Carter or the church office to reserve a book and your place in the class.

Pastor Rick

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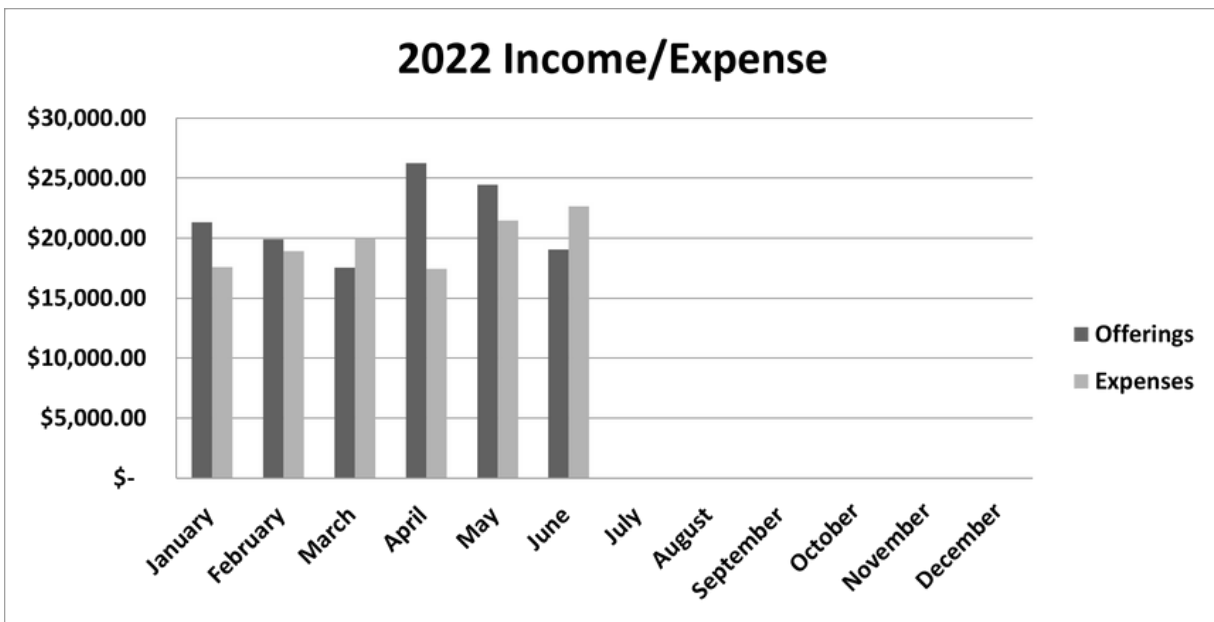
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Budget Report for June 2022

Finance reported for the month of June 2022. Income from tithes and offerings was \$19,057.88, and our expenses were \$22,642.28. Total cash flow for the month was negative \$3,584.40. (June is when we pay our quarterly insurance premium of \$3,553.00).



Report by - Gil Hill & Cathy Smith – Co. Chairs Finance Committee

Please remember that your tithes and offerings are important to the church even when you are unable to be present on Sunday morning. The Finance Committee encourages you to look at the automated ways available for giving to Oak Forest such as:

Using the **Vanco Mobile Faith Encouragement** app.

From our web site – www.ofumc.org

(Select – **Ways to Give** from the home page)

Using your banking institute's check writing service to automatically send a weekly or monthly check to the church.



Endowment Report

Current value of the Endowment fund is \$114,219.98 based on 5,526.5083 shares at \$20.668 per share as of June 30, 2022.

The Fund is currently invested in a Diversified Fund with 70% of the investments in equity and 30% in fixed income. The fund is managed by the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina.

The fund pays a dividend each quarter with dividends purchasing more shares of the fund.

Dividends/Expenses for this year (2022) per quarter are:

<u>Dividend per share</u>	<u>Revenue:</u>	<u>Expenses:</u>
Quarter 1- \$.389233	\$2,120.73	\$310.36 (reflects a 10% Covid discount)
Quarter 2 - \$0.082917	\$457.68	\$297.57 (reflects a 10% Covid discount)
Quarter 3 -		
Quarter 4 -		

Dividends are paid each quarter:

Quarter 1 – January. Quarter 2 – April. Quarter 3 – July. Quarter 4 – October.

The current economic conditions have played a major part of the Endowment Fund’s value. The value of the fund is down approximately \$24,230.00 since January 1, 2022.



Technology Report

Adding WIFI to all buildings. *Completed.*

Upgrading church staff and After School Director’s computers. *Completed.*

Developing a new web site. *Completed.*

Purchasing better streaming equipment for worship services. *Completed. Testing has started.*

Looking in to upgrading security cameras around the church. *Under Consideration.*

Possibility of a permanent sound board system in the sanctuary. *Under Consideration.*

Children's Ministry



Check out the kids ministry Facebook page, **Oak Forest UMC Children's Ministry** for information about all our kids activities and special events coming up soon!



We are in need of Nursery volunteers during for the 9:00am or 10:30am service. Contact Ben/Stacey Roop if you can help!

We are also in need of teachers for Children's Church during the 9:00am service. Contact Stacey Roop or Betty Hughes for more info or if you would be willing to volunteer.

Join us for **Children's Church** during the 9:00am service or special **Children's Sermons** at the 10:30am service.

Nursery Care is provided during our 9:00am and 10:30am worship services for infants through 4 years old.

Preschool Summer Camp will be August 8th-12th from 8:00am - 12:00pm.

The **Preschool 2022-2023 School Year** begins **August 29th**.

Elementary Age & Middle school Summer Programs (opens 7:00am - 6:00pm) last day is **August 26th**.

Middle School & Elementary Age After School Program begins **Monday, August 29th**.

Stay tuned for info about upcoming Fall Plans for Children & Youth Ministry (with weekly meetings, events, activities)!

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16



Stay tuned for new and exciting opportunities to be involved and stay connected with our Children's Ministry!



Youth Ministry



Sign up for our **Youth text group** by texting the message **@db9fec** to the number **81010**.
Or email **ben.roop@ofumc.org** to be added to our email list.



Now Hiring!!!!

- 2022-2023 School Year Program
- Working with Elementary and/or Middle School Children
- Must be 18 Years or Older
- Childcare Experience & Education is a plus; but not required
- 16-20 hours per week
- 10 month or 12 month Position Available

Contact Ben Roop @ ben.roop@ofumc.org or (336) 764-2991
Staff Applications & more info about our Ministry can be found on our website www.oakforestchildcare.org

Middle School & Elementary Age After School Program begins **Monday, August 29th**.

Stay tuned for info about upcoming Fall Plans for Children & Youth Ministry (with weekly meetings, events, activities)!


Don't let
anyone
look down on you
because you are
young,
but set an example for
the believers in
speech,
in conduct,
in love,
in faith
and in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12



Check out our Facebook page for weekly lessons, resources, video meetings & more for Middle School & High School students!

 <https://www.facebook.com/OakForestYouth/>

Follow us on Instagram:

 <https://www.instagram.com/OakForestYouth>



Congregational Care

What do you know that has lasted in some form or another for over 2000 years?

What are your first memories of:

God

Family

Friends

Faith

We United Methodists have a long, rich heritage of each of the four memories you may have of God, Family, Friends, and Faith. United Methodists enjoy a rich history, one steeped in Scripture, tradition, and faith.

United Methodists' roots include people who for more than 2000 years have followed Jesus.

A few centuries ago, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, defined Methodists as, "a people who profess to pursue (in whatsoever measure they have attained) holiness of heart and life...in a steady imitation of Him they worship... in justice, mercy, and truth, or universal love filling the heart, and governing the life."

As we go into the world, we do so with an appreciation for our heritage and strive to model our abiding faith to others.

God: In our own individual understanding that forms our belief of creation, life, and love.

Family: Those who gave us nourishment, security, and love.

Friends: Those who meet us, accept us, and love us as we are.

Faith: What do we believe about God, Family, Friends, and Ourselves that makes us realize we can do what others think may be impossible if we love ourselves enough to try?

As I reflect on these things, I am reminded that our Church family is vital to the strongest and the weakest of us. It takes all of us to make our life complete in the sight of God who created us in His image.

Closing thoughts: Do you feel loved by God, Family, and Friends, and is your Faith strong enough to sustain you when the storms of life attack us?

J. Dwight Cartner
Congregational Care Associate



Methodist History (Morals & Theology)

Note: This is the second of three articles on religious (spiritual) education.

Proverbs 1:8 Listen to your father's instructions and do not forsake your mother's teachings.
Proverbs 2:10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and moral knowledge will be attractive to you.
2nd Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear but of a sound [secure] mind.

Last month's article covered centuries of oral training/learning from parents. While most were day-to-day instructions, spiritual education started to emerge concurrently with Abraham arriving in the land of the Canaanites. My perspective will be using the Abrahamic religions. After presenting one more very special Biblical era person, second to fourteenth century apologists will be skipped to "stay out of the briar patch."

Jesus of Nazareth directly taught God's word against the wishes of the Jewish priests. In AD 27-28, Jesus selected twelve students to be his "school" using a method later used by Buddha and made famous by the Greeks. They stayed with him as he traveled, observing and listening to his talks. He used stories and parables, many of which generated more questions for lively discussions. He also spoke before large crowds. Yet, his students only later in life grasped his message to practice and teach moral and spiritual principles "to all nations." After the Dark Ages, many individuals challenged the status quo demanding better Christian education, especially for the children. Three individuals are highlighted here.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) may have generated as much influence on Christian education as did his more famous 95 theses. He translated the Greek language Bible into colloquial German, bypassing the need for parish priests to "interpret" God's word. Remember, indulgences? He challenged the right of only the Catholic Church to educate the populous, advocating for public schools. Luther's written explanations for Christian precepts (e.g., Lord's Prayer, baptism) are still used today. He advocated a balanced approach in education between mind and heart [spirit] for all, including girls.

John Comenius (1592-1670) is better known as the "Founder of Modern Education." Yet his work in Christian education stands on its own merit. He was an ordained Bishop and organized schools throughout Europe with a balance between secular and religious education. In his book, *The School of Infancy*, he advocated mothers should pro-actively engage children, ages one thru six, in lessons of life and knowledge. One of his three key reasons for advocating reading skills was to give the child the ability to directly read and study the Bible. Locally, the Comenius Foundation carries on his tradition.

Hannah Ball (1734-1792) shares credit for developing the modern Sunday School format with Mr. Robert Raikes, who several years later implemented a similar program used widely in England. Christian education was not part of the original Methodist movement. On learning of her program John Wesley strongly supported her. One of his sermons was entitled "On the Education of Children." She provided general education for the community's poor always focusing on Christian principles during Sunday session and Monday evening sessions. Without her effort, many children would not have received any formal education as children of the poor often worked 12 hours per day six days a week.

For over two thousand years, the history of Christian education has been one of benign neglect and rebirth. While each renewal had been on children's Biblical knowledge, the nineteenth century included adult education with a focus on developing wisdom to better discern God's meaning for our lives. Next month, a view of contemporary Christian education viewed from the mountain top using survey data will wrap up this three-part series.

Submitted by Marshall Hiatt



AUGUST Events



We need your help on **Wednesday, August 3rd** at 9:00am when we will be making vegetable soup. On **Thursday August 18th** (8:00am - 3:00pm) we will cook chicken for the chicken pies and **Friday, August 19th** (1:00pm-11:00pm) we will be making the chicken pies. Come join us as we prepare for the Fall Bazaar!

Blood Drive



The Red Cross Blood Drive will be **Sunday, August 7th** from 12:30pm - 5:00pm in the Family Life Center. Register ahead of time at redcrossblood.org and search under zip code 27107 or Oak Forest United Methodist Church. Come give the gift of life!



Come support the Midway Cheer Car Wash Fundraiser here in the church parking lot on **Saturday, August 13th** from 10:00am to 1:00pm! Contact Randi Sullivan if you have questions!



Join us on **Sunday, August 21st** at the 9:00am service for a musical performance and slide show presented by the 2022 Summer Camp kids! All Pre-K through 12th grade students will receive a special gift!



Sign up for the Financial Peace class! Use the link on the church website or see Carla Dry. This class will be held on Tuesday nights (9 weeks) at 6:30pm from **August 16th to October 11th**. The cost is \$30 (a \$129 value).



NEVER TO OLD

The Never Too Old Club (formerly the O.W.L.S.) will meet at the Carriage House Restaurant on **Monday, August 22nd** at 11:00 a.m.

Please RSVP by **Thursday, August 18** to Louise Thompson, 704-996-7228 or Jane Vannoy 336-788-5811.

We hope you can join us for good food and fellowship.

Diaper Drop for baby Reop!



August 21-28

Gathering diapers, baby wipes and gift cards for
our wonderful church staff.

Sponsored by SPRC

Note from the Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee has developed guidelines for the Columbarium and are available on the wall rack near the copy machine. Also, the price per niche is as follows: \$900 for Top Row A, \$800 for next row B, \$700 for next row C, and \$600 for Bottom Row D - \$200 will be returned to the family when the name and death date have been engraved on the door of the niche. Those members and spouses who now own a grave plot may be reimbursed the money they paid in order to buy a niche in the Columbarium. You may contact Dennis Anthony at 336-764-1861, email JDA@triad.rr.com or text 336-486-0492.



**Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!
More information will be coming soon!**

Pastor Rick will be leading the Disciple Bible Study Class. This class will be held on Tuesdays for 24 weeks beginning September 13th and ending in March. No class on holiday weeks. Cost is \$30 for materials. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Disciple Bible Study

Tuesdays
September 13, 2022; 6:30-8pm

Are you new to the Christian faith?



Do you need to recharge your faith?



Friday, September 16th & Saturday, September 17th

We are now accepting your donations!!

Join us for this two-day event where there will be a Yard Sale, Bake Sale, Children's Toys and Clothing and Rummage all day. There will be a general store with baked and canned goods, fried apple pies, soups, vegetables and small crafts - AND chicken pies are back (limit 3/family and no preorders).
Breakfast and Lunch will be served!

Car, Truck & Bike Cruise-In

Park On Short Grass

Plus : Fall Bazaar

Oldest Cars Park In Front

Show within a Show



Breakfast—Eggs, Gravy Biscuit & Sausage
Lunch—Burgers & Dogs



Stang Gang
Vette Set
Mopar Magic



Silent Auction & Yard Sale

Saturday September 17th, 2022



**Friday, September 30th
Saturday, October 1st
Sunday, October 2nd**



Announcements

Ushers for August

August 7th - Team #6
August 14th - Team #7
August 21st - Team #8
August 28th - Team #9

Children's Time Readers

August 7th - Donna White
August 14th - Bob Young
August 21st - Linda Anthony
August 28th - Stacey Roop

10:30 Worship Leaders

August 7th - Dwight Cartner
August 14th - Charles Watson
August 21st - Charles Watson
August 28th - Al Alexander



Greeters for August

August 7th 9:00 - Johnny & Rhonda Dillon
10:30 - Marshall & Nancy Hiatt
August 14th 9:00 - Jay & Lu Ann Deweese
10:30 - Jay & Jane Vannoy
August 21st 9:00 - Doug & Tracy Powell
10:30 - Ken & Bonnie Baker
August 28th 9:00 - Ron & Debra Chandler
10:30 - John & Louise Thompson

The Wednesday Weekly Prayer service at 6:15pm until 6:45pm in the church sanctuary.

This service is led by members of our congregation. August leaders are below. This will be a time of praises and prayer requests.

Speakers for Wednesday Night Prayer Services for the month of August

August 3rd - Betty Hughes
August 10th - Tim Bryan
August 17th - Karen Wall
August 24th - Dwight Cartner
August 31st - Scott Hicks

Many Ways to Give to Oak Forest:

In person on Sunday mornings with a check or cash.
Using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. (*Vanco Mobile*)
From our web site – www.Oakforestumcnc.org
(Select – **Ways to Give** from the home page)
Using your banking institute's check writing service to automatically send a weekly or monthly check to the church.
Send a check to the church office through the mail.

Thank you for support of Oak Forest's ministries, programs and operations with your financial donation.

Announcements for the Vital Connection are due on the third Friday of the month.

F.Y.I

Finance Committee & Church Council meet on the 2nd Sunday of every other month at 5:30 & 6:30pm in the FLC

United Women in Faith (UWF) Meetings
2nd Monday of every month at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

United Methodist Men (UMM) Meetings
2nd Monday of every month at 6:30pm in the FLC Sunday School Classroom

Trustees will meet every 1st Thursday night at 6:30pm in the FLC Sunday School Classroom

Never Too Old (formerly O.W.L.S.) meet every 3rd Thursday night at 6:00 for game night in the FLC Sunday School Classroom

Men's Bowling

The men of Oak Forest will meet at Creekside Lanes for bowling every Wednesday at 10:00am.

Women's Bowling

The women of Oak Forest will meet at Creekside Lanes for bowling every Tuesday at 10am.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2. Kathy Myers, Ronnie Chandler
3. Tonya Walker
4. Dwight Cartner, Gene Sykes
5. Lucinda Ann Dukes, Tim Bryan, Stacey Roop, Kathy Tolhurst
6. Jeff Vannoy, Heather Drab, Terrie Boggs
8. Rose Reaves, Alex Wall
9. Michael Morgan
12. Dena Doar
14. Robert Spicer, Mark Hill
15. Steve Joyce, Dan Moffitt
16. Brooklyn Weavil
17. Emily Shoaf
18. Ed Apgar
19. Corey Joyce
20. Patty Blake, Don Stewart
21. Micki Bryan
22. Ryan Ferrell, Donna King
23. Linda Anthony
24. Frances Ann Nichols, Josh Andrews
25. James McGown
28. Cornelia Motsinger, Emma Sullivan
29. Jessica Sorenson, Evelyn Troutman
30. Todd Weavil, Scott Hicks

If you have a birthday that isn't listed, please let the office know.



Isaiah 61:10

Connect with us!

Meet our Staff!

Rev. Rick Carter

Contact at Office: (336) 764-2949

Cell: (336) 457-4316

Email: rick.carter@ofumc.org



Rev. Dwight Cartner

Congregation Care Associate

Home: (336) 248-4520; Cell: (336)242-8518

Email: dwightcarol58@windstream.net



Ben Roop

Director of Children & Youth Ministries,
Church Treasurer, After School & Summer
Camp Director

Cell: (336) 225-2382

ASP Office: (336) 764-2991

Email: ben.roop@ofumc.org

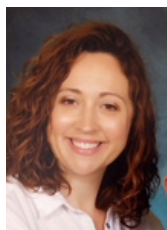


Stacey Roop

Assistant Director of Children & Youth
Ministries

Cell: (336) 255-3632

Email: stacey.roop@ofumc.org



Kim Barnes

Administrative Assistant

Office: (336) 764-2949

Email: kim.barnes@ofumc.org



YADKIN VALLEY DISTRICT STAFF

Rev. Dr. Samuel Moore

District Superintendent

smoore@wnccumc.org

Office: (336) 725-4502; Fax: 336-723-6341



<https://www.facebook.com/oakforestumcnc/>



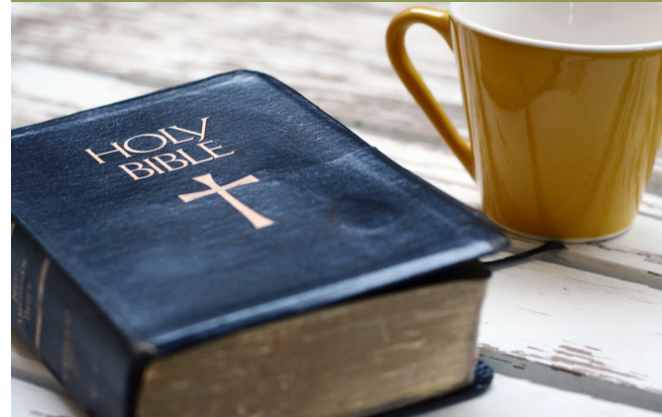
<https://www.instagram.com/oakforestumcnc/>



<https://www.flickr.com/people/oakforestumcnc/>



<http://www.ofumc.org/>



"For where two or three
gather in my name, there
am I with them." -
Matthew 18:20



Calendar of Church Events for the month of August 2022

Tuesday, August 2

6:30pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 3

8:00am Bazaar Committee making soup - FLC Kitchen
 10:00am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service - Sanctuary
 7:30pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

Thursday, August 4

Shelter Meals - Never Too Old Club
 6:30pm Trustees Meeting - FLC large classroom
 6:30pm Refit - FLC

Sunday, August 7

9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
 9:00am Children's Sunday School Class w/Stacey Roop
 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - FLC
 10:00am Adult Sunday School Class - FLC large classroom
 10:30am Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
 12:30pm Red Cross Blood Drive - FLC

Monday, August 8

6:30pm United Women of Faith - Fellowship Hall
 6:30pm United Methodist Men - FLC classroom

Tuesday, August 9

10:00am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:30pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 10

10:00am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service - Sanctuary
 7:00pm Choir Practice - Sanctuary
 7:30pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

Thursday, August 11

6:30pm Refit - FLC

Saturday, August 13

10:00am Midway Cheer Car Wash Fundraiser

Sunday, August 14 (United Women of Faith Sunday)

9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
 9:00am Children's Sunday School Class w/Betty Hughes
 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - FLC
 10:00am Adult Sunday School Class - FLC large classroom
 10:30am Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 16

10:00am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:30pm Financial Peace Class - Sanctuary
 6:30pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 17

10:00am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service
 7:30pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

Thursday, August 18

8:00am Chicken Pie Preparations - FLC Kitchen
 6:00pm Never Too Old Club Game Night - FLC large classroom
 6:30pm Refit - FLC

Friday, August 19

1:00pm Make Chicken Pies - FLC Kitchen

Sunday, August 21 (Back to School Sunday)

9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
 9:00am Children's Sunday School Class w/Stacey Roop
 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - FLC
 10:00am Adult Sunday School Class - FLC large classroom
 10:30am Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 23

10:00am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:30pm Financial Peace Class - Sanctuary
 6:30pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 24

10:00am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service
 7:00pm Choir Practice - Sanctuary
 7:30pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

Thursday, August 25

6:30pm Refit - FLC

Sunday, August 28

9:00am Adult Sunday School Class - Builder's classroom
 9:00am Children's Sunday School Class w/Stacey Roop
 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service - FLC
 10:00am Adult Sunday School Class - FLC large classroom
 10:30am Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 30

10:00am Women's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:30pm Financial Peace Class - Sanctuary
 6:30pm Refit - FLC

Wednesday, August 31

10:00am Men's Bowling at Creekside Lanes
 6:15pm Wednesday Night Prayer Service
 7:30pm Praise Band Practice - FLC

*From the fullness of his grace
we have all received one*

Blessing

after another.

John 1:16

Oak Forest United Methodist Church
11461 Old US Hwy 52
Winston-Salem, NC 27107