



OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2026

SONLIGHT NEWSLETTER

The mission of Okatee Baptist Church is to grow a family of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are dedicated to evangelism, worship, ministry, missions and fellowship through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

DR. DARYLE HAWTHORNE, Pastor

Through the years, as October begins, life seems to get very busy until just after the new year. All of a sudden there are more special events, meetings, family get-togethers, and church functions because the holidays are here. With these occasions come some tremendous opportunities to love, share, care, bless, and celebrate.

In the midst of these wonderful celebrations, we must daily remind ourselves to slow down and focus on Jesus. Of course, this is true every day. We must remember the Source of life, hope, and joy. We must know that He is the reason for each day, as well as each season.

Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "Be still and know that I am God..." Some days, it is easier to be still than other days. There are days when life is extremely slow and we wish we had something to do or somewhere to be. And then there are days when we can't wait to just sit down for a few minutes and relax because we have been stretched in different directions.

This verse tells us to do more than simply be still and relax. We are also to know that He is God. Obviously, it is crucial for us to realize that when we are extremely busy, or when life is at a calmer pace. Here, in Psalm 46:10, it's important to slow down, breathe, reflect, and allow our minds to focus on what we know – Who we know – and know that He is God, and not us or anyone or anything else. If we are not careful, we can get our priorities turned around. So, this verse is a tremendous reminder to help us dial in on what is most important in the midst of some terrific occasions and opportunities to be together with family and friends.

He is worthy and wonderful! He is loving and Lord! He is kind and King! He is gracious and good! He is worth our attention and focus at all times! So yes, be still! And yes, know that He is God! So, take a deep breath! For some, the next one we get might not be till 2027. And that is okay, as long as we know that HE IS GOD. Love you, Church!

In Christ,
Pastor Daryle

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please change Bill & Sandy Jackson's phone to 843-707-1244

The Pascarella Family's new address is: 195 Standing Oaks Drive, Okatie, SC 29909

Congratulations to Phil Imhoff and Sandy Goodman who were married Saturday, September 26th. Please change Phil's address to 11 Candlelight Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909. Sandy's last name will remain the same.

Pastor Daryle Hawthorne, his wife, Christy, and their son, Josiah, joined the church Sunday, August 30th. Their address is : PARC at Broad River, 337 SC-128, Apt. 11-1114, Beaufort, SC 29906
Pastor Daryle's Phone is 864-0934-3539 and his email is pastordaryle@gmail.com.
Christy's phone is 864-934-3542. Her email is sevenhawthornes@hotmail.com.

DR. TIM SEARCY, Associate Pastor

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

October is a month that naturally turns our thoughts toward the harvest. For generations, this has been the season when farmers gathered the fruit of months of planting, cultivating, and waiting. Even today, when many of us are far removed from farming, pumpkins, fields, changing leaves, and cooler days remind us that the season of harvest has arrived.

Jesus often used the imagery of a harvest to teach an important spiritual truth. In Matthew 9, Jesus traveled through the cities and villages, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing those who were hurting. But Matthew tells us something particularly important about what Jesus saw:

“Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36, NASB)

Jesus saw more than a crowd. He saw people. He saw their struggles, their fears, their hurts, and most importantly, their spiritual need. Then He turned to His disciples and said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” (Matthew 9:37, NASB).

Those words are just as true today.

Every day we are surrounded by people who need the hope of Jesus Christ. They live in our neighborhoods. They work beside us. They attend school with our children and grandchildren. We meet them in stores, restaurants, offices, ball fields, and countless other places. Some may appear to have everything together, while inwardly they are carrying burdens we know nothing about. Some are searching for purpose. Some are lonely. Some have been disappointed by life—or even by the church. Some simply have never had anyone clearly and lovingly tell them about Jesus.

The harvest is still plentiful.

Perhaps the greater question is whether we see it.

It is easy to become so busy with our own schedules, responsibilities, and concerns that we fail to notice the people God has placed around us. Yet every day brings opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ, offer an encouraging word, pray with someone who is hurting, invite someone to church, or share the hope we have found in Jesus.

Jesus also reminded His disciples that while the harvest is plentiful, “the workers are few.” His first instruction was to pray: “Therefore plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:38, NASB). But there is something challenging about praying that prayer. We cannot sincerely ask God to send workers without being willing to say, “Lord, send me.”

As we enter this harvest season, let us ask God to give us the eyes of Jesus—eyes that truly see the people around us. Let us pray for opportunities to share His love and the courage to respond when those opportunities come.

The fields are ready. The harvest is plentiful. And God has placed each of us exactly where we are for a reason.

Who might God be placing in your path today?

Dr. T

UPCOMING EVENTS

October is Pastor Appreciation Month



FALL WORKDAY AT OBC

Saturday, October 10th
9am - Noon

Your help is needed to help beautify the church grounds in preparation for the Fall Festival

WOM MEETING

Monday, October 12th at 1pm
Fellowship Hall

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Saturday, Oct. 17th / 8am
Fellowship Hall

All men and boys are invited for good food, fellowship, and a challenge for men.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, Oct. 21st / 6pm
The theme is Soup and Cornbread! Bring your favorite soup or cornbread. The Church will supply drinks, ice cream and toppings.

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 25th / 5-7pm
Volunteer your time and talents to help make the fall festival a success! Volunteer meeting Sunday, October 4th following worship service. Contact Gail Lenga at 301-331-5540 with questions.

JOIN US ANY TUESDAY AT
11:30AM FOR A PRAYER
GATHERING IN THE GATHERING
AREA OF THE EDUCATION BLDG



WOM will be meeting on October 12 @ 1:00 in the Fellowship area behind the sanctuary to assemble the prisoner packets for this year.

We are planning to add a couple of new ministry areas to our missions opportunities for next year. The Lord has blessed families throughout this year with our Blessing Box. We will continue this ministry and are thankful to all who have helped us keep the box supplied with food items or monetary gifts. Please remember if you are supplying canned goods to get the ones with the pop tops so that can openers are not needed.

Please pray for your WOM ladies as we do missions locally and support national and international missions as well.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

LEADER: Marilyn Janosko

Date and Time: October 14th at 11am

Place: 673 Tiki Terrace - Latitude Margaritaville

Please call Mickie at 843-783-4012 to call in a Gate Clearance for you on this day.

Directions from Okatee Baptist Church:

Turn right onto Hwy. 170 to Argent Rd. turn right at light and stay on Argent until Hwy 278.

Turn right onto Hwy. 278 West to Latitude Margaritaville will be on left at light.

See Marilyn Janosko for your Study book.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

TEAM LEADERS: Ted and Marilyn Janosko

OCT 15th - Preparing your earthly legacy, Planning for the loss of a loved one Seminar at the church 7:00-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be several speakers and some checklists will be provided.

NOV 14th - Bingo at the church 4-6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be provided.

DEC 5th - Kelly Tours, Real Christmas Story at Narroway, Trip # 28285. Cost \$179. Trip to depart from Savannah about 7:30 am. If we have 10 or more, the bus will pick us at the church. We currently have three signed up. There are 18 seats remaining. You can book by calling directly to Kelly Tours (. 912-964-2010) ext. 210 Chanda Mashburn and let her know you are from Okatee Baptist Church. Cast serves a traditional Christmas dinner. A boxed dinner is provided on the return trip.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM

Leaders: Chris Campbell & Michael Robbins

We're looking forward to volunteers coming out to help with our fall workday on October 10th from 9:00 to 12:00! Our focus will be on grounds beautification for the upcoming Harvest Festival. Bring your gloves, shovels, rakes, wheelbarrow and gardening tools!

We are looking for new team members to help keep the church running. If you're interested, please let one of the Building & Grounds team members, your Deacon, or a member of the Nominating Team know.

VETERANS DAY RECOGNITION

Please send photos of vets and first responders in uniform for a video tribute being done on November 8th. Send photos to Pam at church or to Ted Janosko. We will be sure to return all photos. If you submitted a picture in 2024, we plan to use those it again. Thank you!

Okatee Baptist Church
5467 N. Okatie Highway
Ridgeland, SC 29936



Finding comfort, encouragement, and hope - one day at a time.

For more information: 843-987-0885

Okatee Baptist Church

You do not have to face the holidays alone. Whether your loss was recent or some time ago, you are welcome to join us for a supportive and understanding time together.

- During our time together, we will talk about:**
- Handling difficult emotions and unexpected waves of grief
 - Managing holiday traditions and changes
 - Dealing with social gatherings and family expectations
 - Finding meaningful ways to remember and honor your loved one
 - Caring for yourself during a demanding season
 - Finding hope and comfort through faith

The holiday season can be especially difficult when you are grieving the death of someone you love. Traditions, gatherings, music, and memories can bring both comfort and unexpected sadness. **GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays** offers encouragement, practical guidance, and hope for navigating Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the holiday season while grieving.

November 24

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GriefShare®

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LEADER: Gail Lenga