

# The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor  
Issue 8 | November / December 2021

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them, bear much fruit..." John 15:5

## OUR MISSION

Uniting in Jesus Christ  
we spread God's love

## OUR VISION

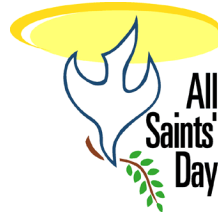
We envision a church with a vibrant Christian spiritual life where we welcome and value all God's people... Where we grow, discover, and share our gifts in the church and in the world.

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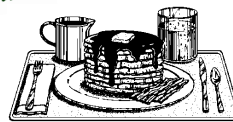


Children's  
Christmas Programs



All  
Saints'  
Day

SUNDAY  
BELLS &  
BRUNCH



ADVENT



*There is  
so much happening*

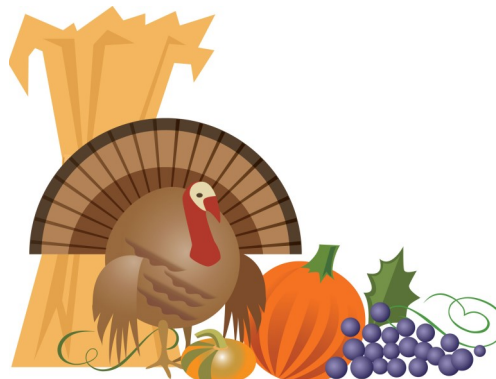
*here - please read carefully - maybe read it  
through again! May God bless your holidays!*

*We are so grateful for each of you!*



ANNUAL  
Stewardship  
CAMPAIGN

THE LORD'S  
SUPPER



Join Us For  
Worship!

*Holy Communion -  
First Sunday of the month*



I look forward to sharing another Christmas with you and your family. I anticipate the beauty of Christmas with the candlelit sanctuary decked with beautiful wreaths, garlands, ribbon, and other decorations. I look forward to the services of Christmas eve.....the 7pm service with young families and children, singing and reliving the birth of our Savior scene. The bell choir will be at their very best for this special service.

At the 10pm service, there will be the singing of carols and the opportunity to partake in the Lord's Supper. I look forward to seeing all of you and new friends at either one or both of the services. I also look forward to seeing our special friends.....some of our Jewish sisters and brothers who travel a long distance.....who come only on Christmas Eve, but who have come for so many years that they are known as our friends.

I also envision in my mind a picture of the Christmas over 2000 years ago, when a young woman stood on the edge of thrill and terror. This woman, who had been called to be God's agent in bringing a miracle to the world and who was to be a mother of the child of God, was consumed by joy, excitement and panic. I see on the hillside, the shepherds transfixed with excitement and

terror as the bright song of an angel pierced the dark night. I watch them, filled with fear and hope, stumble towards the manger, to witness the beginning of a new age. At the manger, I see those conflicting emotions of a young woman and of the shepherds dissolve at the sight of God's love, made real in the simplicity of a child, and I'm once again awestruck by the incredible, stunning, amazing reality...that God loved the world so much, that God became human.

This Christmas, especially, I rejoice at having the opportunity and blessing to minister in a community of faith which has tried to make the inclusive love of God a reality in the village of Oxford and beyond. Let us remember the birth of the Christ child and welcome the rebirth of the cosmic Christ into our lives. I invite you to join me on Christmas Eve.....bringing your own fears and doubts to God, to give thanks and praise to this infinitely gracious and loving God who is Christ Jesus.

Your generous love gift this Christmas will be used to meet human need as we continue to move through this Pandemic. *Lord, help us to be willing to be what the world needs for healing, mercy and love.* What you give does make a difference. I wish you peace, love, hope and joy as we travel through this Advent season towards the miracle of the Christ child.

Blessing and Peace be with you in this Season,

Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor



Worship in person, online or in your cars!

Please follow these in person guidelines:  
Wear a face mask please and social distance 6 feet apart - even if you have had your vaccination. It better to be safe with the illnesses around. It's always a good idea to wash your hands often, and please stay home if you are feeling sick.

**November 7 - All Saints Sunday / Holy Communion**

*Daylight Savings Time Ends!*  
24th Sunday after Pentecost  
*Matthew 18:21-22*  
"Jesus and Forgiveness"

**November 14**  
25th Sunday after Pentecost  
*Matthew 8:23-27*  
"Jesus and Faith"

**November 21 - Christ the King Sunday**

*Luke 17:20-21*  
"Jesus and the Kingdom of God"  
*Bells & Brunch Sunday*  
*Hanging of the Greens (after worship)*



**November 28 - 1st Sunday of Advent**

UM Student Day  
*Matthew 20:25-28*  
"Jesus and Service"  
(UM Student Special Offering)

# Advent 2021

**November 28** 1st Sunday of Advent / UM Student Sunday -  
*Holy Communion*

**December 4** 1pm Oxford Parade / 2pm Oxford UMC Party

**December 5** 2nd Sunday of Advent - *Holy Communion*

**December 10** 7pm Rachel Circle Presents: "Polar Express"

**December 12** 3rd Sunday of Advent - *Children's Program*

**December 19** 4th Sunday of Advent - *Bell Choir and Brunch*

**December 24** 7pm & 10pm Christmas Eve Worship

This year there will be two services on Christmas Eve, The 7pm service will be a Carol service including: Christmas carols, readings, and music by piano, organ, harp and bells. The 10pm service will include Holy Communion. If you would like to help by being a greeter or usher at either service please let Michelle Mumbrue or me know.

- Rosemary Rumbold

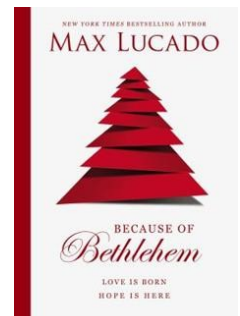
**Sunday, December 28** [last day to make a 2021 offering]

## Advent Bible Study

### "Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here"

by Max Lucado | 10:30am to 12noon | Starts Wednesday, December 1st

For some, Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration, and family, while for others it is a time of loneliness, grief, and loss. No matter what this season holds for you, the promise of Christmas will bring you a lifetime of hope. The child in the cradle becomes the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a Savior in heaven. No one expected God to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. Please drop in any Wednesday morning. Questions? Contact Sue Rizzo (248-628-1787).



## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be set up when we decorate the church for Christmas and will be dressed with Christmas "ornaments" upon which will be written items for the **Grace Centers of Hope homeless shelter and for our neighbors in need**. In addition to the usual **hats and mittens**, we are collecting **socks and underwear** for children, adults and families. All sizes are needed.

Please take one or more of these "ornaments", purchase the item, and place it in the collection box near the Giving Tree. **These items must be NEW, not used, and please do NOT wrap them.**

This mission project gives us the opportunity to show our love for those less fortunate and to bring blessings to children, youth, and adults.



## Trimming the Church

**Sunday, November 21st**

(after the worship service)

All are invited to stay after the service to help decorate for the Christmas season. Pizza will be provided for lunch. Thank you in advance for your time and service

## If Only...

**LOVE**  
 YOUR *neighbor*  
 AS **YOURSELF.**  
*Mark 12:31*

There are many of you ... who think to yourselves:  
 "If only I had been there! How quick I would have  
 been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen.  
 How happy I would have been to go with the  
 shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!"

Yes, you would!

You say that because you know how great Christ is,  
 but if you had been there at that time, you would have  
 done no better than the people of Bethlehem....

Why don't you do it now?

You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve  
 him, for what you do to your neighbor in need  
 you do to the Lord Christ himself.

—Martin Luther

[reprinted by permission from the Newsletter Newsletter]

## Pray for and Encourage One Another Daily

this is one of the most important things we can do  
to care for one another!

Lord - we lift up these people to you by name:

Dorwin Combs - Cousin of Emma Taylor    Ron Shedlowsky    Laura Hubbard  
 Charles Nelson - Father of Fred Nelson    Christy Turk    Robert Willabee  
 Elizabeth Fowler    Tom Bertich    Bruce Conrad    Kristina Del Pino  
 Shelia Burdette - Mother of Christy Turk    Ron Bunker    Chuck & Linda McIntyre  
 Shirley Conner    Charlie Garrard    Lillian - Sister of Emma Taylor  
 The family and friends of Bill Conner [10/12]

Our Homebound - Gertrude Curtis, Sue Enekes, Linda Brown

We ask your blessings upon:

All our brothers and sisters who deal with racism & hatred  
 First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by Covid-19  
 Those with mental illnesses, are lonely or do not have someone to pray for them  
 All our school children, their teachers and administrators  
 Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government  
 Those in the military serving on our behalf  
 Those affected by Natural Disasters & Violence in the US and worldwide  
 Oxford UMC Church Council, Trustees, Pastor and Staff  
 Oxford UMC Membership, Guests, United Methodists, and Christians everywhere  
 Our Revived Church - that Oxford UMC may be a great source of love  
 for this community and that we may revive our vision

We also pray for those whose names are unmentioned, dear Lord, for you know and love them.

We ask these prayers in your name, Lord Jesus.

*Amen!*

**HAVE YOU  
 TALKED  
 TO GOD  
 TODAY?**

# Local Missions & Outreach: Be A Blessing!

## Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry

*“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”*

We would like to resume collecting FISH donations on the first Sunday of each month. You may also make out a check to Oxford UMC and put “FISH Food Pantry” in the memo line and we will make sure that your donation gets there. “Thank You!”



**FISH Location:** 1060 S. Lapeer Rd., Oxford  
**Website:** [www.oxfordorionfish.org](http://www.oxfordorionfish.org)

**To receive food from FISH:  
 (248) 628-3933**

### **Current Hours -**

Office: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 to noon

Pantry: Tues 1-2:45pm; Wed 10-11:45am; Th 1-4:45pm and 4-5 pm; Sat - 3rd Sat of month 9:45-11:30am

*Any questions, contact Julie Langley (248-628-9619) or John & Devon Warren (248-778-8735)*

Remember, FISH is a 100% volunteer organization and they need your help.

All donations are tax deductible.

## Oxford UMC Meal Outreach



### **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

All are invited to the community  
**Free!** meal program at OUMC!!

On Saturday mornings we are serving breakfast at PFP (People Feeding People)! We encourage you to attend and not only be fed by food but also with fellowship. We are lifting people up through nutrition and friendship. We are providing a hot breakfast and most weeks a sack lunch for people in the Fellowship Hall (the 3rd week is carryout). If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Kathy Laidlaw (248) 701-5910. We hope that you come and enjoy!!!

WHERE: Oxford United Methodist Church

WHEN: Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am

## Community Free Meals

If you or someone you know would like a **Free!** hot meal please invite them to visit:

Lake Orion UMC (Mondays),

Immanuel Congregational  
 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

and/or Lakepoint Church (Thursdays)  
 from 5:30-6:30pm



## Love In the Name of Christ (INC) - North Oakland Co.




Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) of North Oakland County is a non-profit network of churches in the area, including Oxford UMC. The mission of Love INC is to mobilize local volunteers and churches to help those in need and transform lives in the name of Christ. They try to provide any help that is beyond the scope of the churches on their own. If you would like to donate your time or money to help your neighbors in need please contact them:

Website - [www.loveincfnoc.org](http://www.loveincfnoc.org) or  
 call 248-693-HELP [4357] for more info.

## 2022 Commitment Card

[Please cut out and place in the offering plate]



**2022 Commitment Card  
(Estimate of Giving)**

We thank God for our blessings!  
I/We commit to giving our  
\_\_\_\_\_ prayers  
\_\_\_\_\_ volunteer service

My/Our Financial Commitment

\$\_\_\_\_\_ weekly (for 52 weeks)  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly (for 12 months)  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ Electronic Giving  
*[Please include authorization form  
and submit with voided check]*

**Offering Envelopes Request (check one):**  
 Weekly envelopes (52)     Monthly envelopes (12)

Name(s) (print): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanks Giving Time and Commitment

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."  
Matthew 6:21*

Thanksgiving season is a special time to give thanks to God and show God our love and gratitude. God has blessed us with many gifts of time, talents and skills, and financial resources, and we are obligated to share our abundance. We share our volunteer time and financial resources to make a difference and help people in our community: free People Feeding People Meals every Saturday morning, FISH Food Pantry donations of food, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items that help people in need, LOVE I.N.C. network of churches that help people with emergency needs (utilities shut offs, rent and evictions, etc.). Please support our church's General Fund and our UMC Ministry Shares (formerly apportionments) giving so that we can be a strong United Methodist Church active in missions on the local, state, national, and worldwide level. Please pray for Oxford UMC and how you can get involved and support our ministries and mission efforts. Our goal is to share God's love in very real, practical ways with people in need. God calls us to be generous givers, and to commit our hearts, resources, and lives to God's Church in mission to people in need. Let us truly be God's Love and Light and hope in our community.

Note: Commitment Sunday is **December 19th** with Bell Choir and Praise Singers music. We will also be praying about our commitment of time, talents, prayers, and finances to God's Church in mission and ministry in 2022. Please pray over and turn in your 2022 Commitment Card (see left), either at the **December 19th** service or by mail. Your commitment is kept confidential by Larry Bradford, Financial Secretary. It may be changed at any time.

Thank you.



## Time to Double Down

*After you have made a decision that is pleasing to God, the Devil may try to make you have second thoughts. Intensify your prayer time, meditation and good deeds. For if Satan's temptations merely cause you to increase your efforts to grow in holiness, he'll have an incentive to leave you alone.*

—St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

[reprinted by permission from the Newsletter Newsletter]

# The Church "Revived"

## - Team Notes

*(taken from the minutes of that meeting)*

The Church Revival Team met November 1st and had another productive meeting. Steve Laidlaw is looking for a Co-Chair for this ministry. Please contact him if you are interested in growing Oxford UMC

Movie night was moved to December 10th (Thank you Rachel Circle!) so that it may be publicized at the Oxford Christmas Parade and Oxford UMC Party on the 4th.

Tony Rizzo will be coordinating our float and Christy Turk will be obtaining a banner and working on marketing. Rosemary Rumbold will be coordinating the party. Please see these people if you are available to help.

Youth Ministry will be starting on Sunday nights in 2022 with Steve as the Leader. He needs a female counterpart. Please let him know if you can help.

Worship and making sure everything from Greeters, Ushers, Friendship Hour and clean-up was discussed. We are attempting to find a youth praise band or youth music and need volunteers to usher and greet. Michelle Mumbroe and the Worship Team could use more help.

### **PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

Patty Dennis' return was discussed to take us to the next level. We need to resolve our current issues first.



## Reading for Fun

Do you enjoy reading? We do!!!

Our Book Group is always looking for more readers who like to chat with friends about books. We meet the **second Wednesday** of the month at **1:00pm** in the new Memorial Meeting Room.

**Wednesday, November 10th:** *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George. Monsieur Perdu calls himself a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls. The only person he can't seem to heal through literature is himself; he's still haunted by heartbreak after his great love disappeared. She left him with only a letter, which he has never opened.

Internationally bestselling and filled with warmth and adventure, *The Little Paris Bookshop* is a love letter to books, meant for anyone who believes in the power of stories to shape people's lives.

**Wednesday, December 8th:** *What Rose Forgot* by Nevada Barr. Rose Dennis wakes up in a hospital gown, her brain in a fog, only to discover that she's been

Who are we serving?

Christmas Eve worship was discussed and we need help in all roles. Rosemary is looking to perform a dress rehearsal for the 7pm service beforehand.

People Feeding People was discussed and gift cards will be distributed before Thanksgiving and before Christmas.

Hanging of the Greens will need help on the 21st of November.

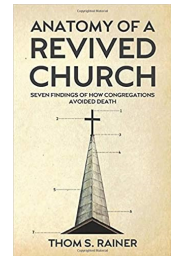
### **PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

**Your help is very much needed here!**

Changing the vision statement was discussed and will be voted on at the next meeting.

This book is still available

in the kiosk:  
 "Anatomy of a Revived Church"  
 Seven Findings of How Congregations  
 Avoided Death  
 by Thom S. Ranier



committed to an Alzheimer's Unit in a nursing home. With no memory of how she ended up in this position, Rose is sure that something is very wrong. When she overhears one of the administrators saying about her that she's "not making it through the week," Rose is convinced that if she's to survive, she has to get out of the nursing home. She avoids taking her medication, then stages her escape.

The only problem is—how does she convince anyone that she's not actually demented? Her relatives were the ones to commit her, all the legal papers were drawn up. But any lingering doubt Rose herself might have had is erased when a would-be killer shows up in her house in the middle of the night. Now Rose knows that someone is determined to get rid of her.

With the help of her computer hacker/recluse sister Marion, thirteen-year old granddaughter Mel, and Mel's friend Royal, Rose begins to gather her strength and fight to take back control of her own life. But someone out there is still determined to kill Rose, and they're holding all the cards.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Bogus (248 747-7544).

Hope to see you at Book Discussion!



## “Second Wind” of Grace

[posted November 1, 2021]

BISHOP DAVID BARD

Michigan Area



November arrives so quickly. ZOOM is not only an online meeting platform, it is our experience of time in September and October. Suddenly it is November – zoom!

In the upper Midwest, fall often becomes winter in

November. In November we are invited to make time to be thankful.

As followers of Jesus, we do not require a national proclamation to encourage thankfulness. Long before there was a United States, the apostle Paul wrote to the early Jesus community at Thessalonica: “Rejoice always.... Give thanks in all circumstances.” (I Thessalonians 5:16, 18)

I confess that these words of Paul can sometimes sound shallow and superficial. I enjoy language and poetic language – rhythm, rhyme, alliteration – and find that the rhyme “attitude of gratitude” often grates. I think of the words of Anne Lamott in her book *Help, Thanks, Wow*: “It is easy to thank God for life when things are going well. But life is much bigger than we give it credit for, and much of the time it’s much harder than we would like.” (p44-45) Sometimes, the phrase, “attitude of gratitude” doesn’t account for how messy, painful, and difficult life can be.

Perhaps I struggle with the phrase because Paul’s words “give thanks in all circumstances,” get mashed into the notion that we should give thanks not “in” everything but “for” everything. Eugene Peterson’s rendering of the phrase leans in that direction, “Thank God, no matter what happens.” God may want to have a talk with me, but I don’t see myself thanking God for a cancer diagnosis, a hurricane, the death of a loved one, the dissolution of an intimate relationship, violence done against someone for their race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or maybe just out of spite. Certainly, there are often surrounding circumstances in such instances for which I can be grateful – the care offered in the face of illness, the compassion shown after a disaster, the awakening that can happen in the face of injustice or violence, the repentance undertaken by a person who has committed a grievous wrong.

I can get to gratitude, but the phrase “attitude of gratitude” does not well describe the process. It seems to short-circuit seeing fully the horror, pain, injustice, and tragedy people experience. Please know, if the phrase works for you, don’t let me discourage you. My experience is that I can get to gratitude for the good in life because there is an underlying openness to the wonder, beauty, mystery, and joy of life even as I am open to the pain, devastation, tragedy, and wounding in life. That underlying openness to life is rooted in a deep sense of the unlimited, unfathomable, wild grace of God, as I know it in Jesus Christ, a grace for which I am always grateful.

Etty Hillesum captures something of this complex

relationship between grace and gratitude for me when she writes in her diary, “there must be someone to live through it all and bear witness to the fact that God lived, even in these times.” Etty Hillesum was Jewish, deported from the Netherlands to Auschwitz where she died. So too the journal entry of Orthodox priest, Alexander Schmemmann: “the knowledge of the fallen world does not kill joy, which emanates in this world, always, constantly, as a bright sorrow.” Both of these writings are found in an anthology edited by the poet Christian Wiman, *Joy: 100 Poems*.

Friends, sometimes I get tired of reminding us of the difficulties, complexities, sorrows, pains, wounds, and injustices in the world – a pandemic, denominational division, national anger and impatience, faith communities declining, the persistence of racism and the resistance to struggling with it. To refuse to see them, though, is to partially shut our eyes, obscure our vision. Anne Lamott is right, “We and life are spectacularly flawed and complex” (*Help, Thanks, Wow*, p45). We need to see it all. Someone just sent me an essay in *The Atlantic*, written by an Episcopal priest, where the author admits her struggles figuring out church while the pandemic waxes and wanes, how best to gather, how to counter a trend started before the pandemic of declining religious participation. “I’m sick of innovating and pivoting,” she writes, and we can feel her pain.

And there is the unlimited, unfathomable, wild grace of God. No easy answers, but grace. Anne Lamott writes “grace can be the experience of a second wind, when even though what you want are clarity and resolution, what you get is stamina and poignancy and the strength to hang on” (*Help, Thanks, Wow*, p47).

Grace as a second wind, as stamina. And grace is often more. It is the beauty of a sunset or a painting. It is a gentle touch. It is music, it is poetry, it is dance. It is a walk in the sunshine, or sometimes the rain. It is holding a child. It is the strength to see pain and respond. It is bright sorrow. It is an icon of Jesus that pierces your soul. It is bearing witness that God lives and is gracious.

I carry within me a deep sense of the unlimited, unfathomable, wild grace of God, as I know it in Jesus Christ, a grace for which I am always grateful. You might say I have an underlying attitude of gratitude, even if I wouldn’t.

Make time this month for thankfulness and gratitude, and know I am grateful for you, for your partnership in ministry.

I am together with you on this Joyful Journey of Gratitude and Grace.

amazing  
GRACE

[to read more articles by Bishop Bard and others  
please go to <https://michiganumc.org/category/voices/>]



# Our Missions & Outreach Groups

RACHEL CIRCLE PRESENTS...



## A CHILDREN'S DRIVE-IN MOVIE

on December 10th

at 6pm kids are invited to come in their pajamas and create a train or car to watch the movie:

"Polar Express" in on our big screen at 7pm

Invite your friends, family, the kids down the street - all are welcome!

### UM Women: Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle is a sisterhood of Christian fellowship. We support one another, we raise money to assist with missions, we volunteer for Coffee Hour Fellowship (when applicable), memorial lunches and so much more.

We meet September through June

You do not need to be a member of this church to attend, everyone is welcome!

If you have not tried our group yet, we would love to have you join us. We have an exciting schedule ahead of us here at Oxford UMC.

In the meantime, may God bless each of you. Whether or not we can meet in person, we will continue to use the Power of Prayer to lift all who are in need. We give thanks to our Lord, Jesus Christ for everything.

John Wesley said: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can". And, with that thought, Amen!



Carolyn Lawrie  
Rachel Circle President

### UM Men: Band of Brothers

The United Methodist Men focus on Evangelism, Missions, and Spiritual Development.

Questions? Please contact Fred Nelson, UMM President (248-628-9826) or John Warren (248-778-8735)



We invite you to join us on Fridays at 2pm if you feel safe doing so. If not please work on your project at home and be with us in spirit.

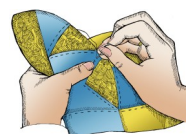
We are still working on lapghans which we hope to distribute to nursing homes and/or veterans associations when that becomes safe for all involved.

Questions, contact Mary Garrard (810-797-5840)

### Piece Makers

You are invited to attend the Piece Makers group and help with our prayer quilts. They usually meet on Tuesday afternoons (1st and 3rd weeks) starting at 1pm.

Do you know someone who would like the comfort of the prayers woven into a quilt during its creation? These quilts are intended for *anyone* who could use a hug and a prayer during challenging times.



QUILTING GROUP

If you have any questions, please contact Linda McIntyre (248-245-7898) Please keep praying!

## from the Worship Team...

### *Did You Know?*

Signing up for Greeters and Ushers has become easier!

A Signup Genius has been created to make this process easier for all. This is a free online program that allows for us to schedule jobs. Just click the link in the email,

find the date and job you want, add your name in the comments, and follow the directions. You will receive an email 2 days before your job to help remind you. If you don't have an email, NO WORRIES. You can still sign up. Just let Michelle Mumbrue know and I will sign you up. Thanks for your support! Many hands make light work.

Michelle Mumbrue  
Worship Team Chairperson

## Our Sunday Servants for November

	November 7 Holy Communion (All Saints Sunday) <i>Matthew 18:21-22</i> <i>"Jesus &amp; Forgiveness"</i>	November 14 25th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Matthew 8:23-27</i> <i>"Jesus and Faith"</i>	November 21 Christ the King Sunday <b>Bring a Friend to Church Sunday</b> (Bells & Brunch) <i>Luke 17:20-21</i> <i>"Jesus &amp; the Kingdom of God"</i>	November 28 1st Sunday in Advent (UM Student Sunday) <i>Matthew 20:25-28</i> <i>"Jesus and Service"</i>
Liturgist	Sue Rizzo	Steve Laidlaw	Bernie Rumbold	Sue Rizzo
Minister of Children's Ward	Courtney Turk	Michelle Wood	Mary Dempsey	Student
Acolyte	Courtney Turk	Courtney Turk	Dominick Vincentini	Student
Ushers (2)	Steve Laidlaw	John Warren		
Greeters (2-4)	Steve & Kathy Laidlaw	Turk Family	Michelle Wood Millie Solon	
Advent Candle Lighters	-	-	-	Student
Sunday School Youth Room (2)	Mary Dempsey Amie Van Knorring	Mary Dempsey Amie Van Knorring		
Friendship Hour (Team)	People Feeding People	Excelsior Bell Choir	Brunch	Rachel Circle

# Our Sunday Servants for December

	December 5 Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Advent	December 12 3rd Sunday in Advent	December 19 4th Sunday in Advent	December 24 - 7pm Christmas Eve	December 24 - 10pm Christmas Eve	December 26 1st Sunday after Christmas
Liturgist						
Minister of Children's Word		Children's Program				
Acolyte	Courtney Turk					
Ushers (2)				John Warren	John Warren	
Greeters (2-4)						
Advent Candle Lighters	Turk Family	Laidlaw Family	Rumbold Family	Mumbrue Family	Von Knorring Family	-
Youth Room (2)						
Friendship Hour (Team)	Revive Team	Piece Maker Quilters	Brunch	Tbd	Tbd	Carol Hauxwell (cookies)

**Please contact Michelle Mumbrue or a member of the Worship Team  
to be a Sunday Servant in the open areas.**

**We very much appreciate your service!  
Thank You!**





## New! Hymn Sing

Starting December 2nd at 11am

Please join us on Thursdays for a really fun and lively Hymn Sing with Sharron Patterson in the Sanctuary. You can sit near the organ (God willing or the Piano if we must!) and pick your favorite hymns.

We hope to see many happy faces!  
Pastor may also be available for communion if you wish

### from Alex's Desk...

Alex is expanding our musical knowledge - how wonderful! He chose this particular hymn for several reasons; it is one of Millie Solon's favorites, we sang it at Bill Conner's funeral, and the Excelsior Bells are planning on performing it sometime in November.

Hymn # 77 "How Great thou Art"  
words and music by Stuart K. Hine, 1955

Stuart K Hine was an English missionary who heard the song when traveling in the Ukraine in the 1930s. Hine translated the text and notated the music from memory. The song resembles in a sense the sacred song "The Almighty" written a century earlier by Franz Schubert. "How Great Thou Art" as it is most often heard today became famous as part of Billy Graham's Crusade music. As of 1974 there are more than 150 recorded versions.

Simon, L. William (1975)  
Reader's Digest Family Songbook of Faith and Joy  
Reader's Digest Assoc. Canada

**How Great Thou Art**

Traditional Swedish folk tune,  
adapt. by Stuart K. Hine

Words: Stuart K. Hine

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der Con-sid-er  
 2. When thru the woods and for-est glades I wan-der And hear the  
 3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar-ing, Sent Him to  
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion And take me

all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the Toll-ing  
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, When I look down from lofty moun-tain  
 die, I scarce can take it in- That on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

REFRAIN

thun-der, Thy pow'r thru-out the un-i-verse dis-played!  
 gran-deur And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze, Then sings my  
 bear-ing, He bled and died to take a-way my sin! Then sings my  
 ra-tion And there pro-claim, my God, how great Thou art!

soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my  
 soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

(c) 1949 and 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust.  
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 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Art Arrangement and Design by Joy E. Books 2012



*If you have experience with music, please consider joining one of these groups...*

### Excelsior Bell Choir

The Excelsior Bell Choir rehearsals  
are on  
Wednesdays (6:30-8pm)  
If you have any questions please contact  
Rosemary Rumbold (248-391-0973)

### Praise Singers

Join us to practice Sunday's songs and hymns.  
Rehearsal days and times are midweek.  
If you have questions or if you  
would like to be a part of the Praise Singers please  
contact Renae Shagena (248-969-2225).

## 2021 Church Council

Church Council Chairperson:  
Michelle Wood (248)969-2545  
[michelleywood@gmail.com](mailto:michelleywood@gmail.com)

Lay Leader: tbd

General Fund Treasurer: Becky Sallans (248)628-1289  
[oumc.office@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oumc.office@sbcglobal.net)

Designated Fund Treasurer: Kevin Kater (248)628-7804  
[KKater@att.net](mailto:KKater@att.net)

Financial Secretary: Larry Bradford (248)628-5759

Finance Chairperson(s):  
Bernie Rumbold (248) 391-0973  
[rum708@aol.com](mailto:rum708@aol.com)  
or AmyBeth Fleischer  
[amybethfleischer@yahoo.com](mailto:amybethfleischer@yahoo.com)

Board of Trustees: David Cischke (248)863-8037  
[dcischke2115@gmail.com](mailto:dcischke2115@gmail.com)

Michelle Wood (248)969-2545  
[michelleywood@gmail.com](mailto:michelleywood@gmail.com)

SPRC Chairperson: John Warren  
[jwarren061751@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren061751@gmail.com)

Worship Team Chairperson:  
Michelle Mumbroe (248)969-9173  
[brueha@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brueha@sbcglobal.net)

Missions & Outreach: John & Devon Warren  
(248)778-8735

Adult Bible Study: Sue Rizzo (248)628-1787  
[rizztoe@gmail.com](mailto:rizztoe@gmail.com)

Marketing: Christy Turk [turk.oumc@gmail.com](mailto:turk.oumc@gmail.com)

Camp Ed. Coordinator - Lucinda Bellairs (on hiatus)

UMM President: Fred Nelson (248)628-9826

UMW / Rachel Circle: Carolyn Lawrie (586)925-2687  
[carolyn.lawrie1958@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.lawrie1958@gmail.com)

Revive Team Chairperson: Steve Laidlaw (248)701-5924  
[sklaw@aol.com](mailto:sklaw@aol.com)

"People Feeding People" Chairperson:  
Kathy Laidlaw (248)701-5910  
[sklaw@aol.com](mailto:sklaw@aol.com)

Lay Member to Annual Conference: John Warren  
(248)778-8735

Members at Large - Church Council:  
John Warren (2021)

Church Council meets the last Monday of the odd months at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to be prayerfully considered for a particular ministry please contact the Pastor (248)628-1289



*"Do all the good you can,  
in all the places you can,  
to all the people you can."*

Rev. John Wesley (founder of Methodism)

## Church Conference News

On Wednesday, September 29 our church leaders met with District Superintendent Rev. John Hice. We voted on the 2020 Church Conference minutes, voted and approved the 2022 Pastor Compensation (including base salary, furnishing allowance, professional education, conference district meeting allowances and mileage) and the 2021 Membership report (Adding one (1) by baptism, two (2) by transfer and losing five (5) members to death). It was decided that due to COVID and the pastoral changes again this year it would be inaccurate to consider that there would be an accurate list of inactive members so no changes to the Love and Concern list were made. The 2022 leadership list (Church Council, Trustees, Staff Parish, Finance, Nominations, and Memorials) was voted on but we are still looking for a few more committee leaders. Important church numbers (as of September 29th):

Membership 114

Average Worship Attendance 46 (online and in person)

Average church school attendance 0

Total church expenditures \$78,995.00

Percentage of UMC apportionments paid (thru Sept.) 39%  
[\$6,085 paid of \$15,284 total]

Congregational core values: Hospitable, Caring, Friendly,  
Missional, Generous, Community-minded.

We praise God for sustaining us in mission and ministry.

## Finance Update

Thank you for your faithful giving each month to God's Church. We as a Finance team keep track of giving and expenses each month. Thank you for your faithfulness. Please help monthly with our General Fund. The last day for year-end giving is **Sunday, December 26th**. Thank you.

**August Giving** \$ 15,232.00

**September Giving** \$ 6,484.75

**October Giving** \$ 7,064.75

**Budget for 2021** \$ 115,934.00



Note: If you prefer to write a check or donate with cash, please use your offering envelopes. If you need envelopes, please call the office or Larry Bradford, financial secretary. **Please consider giving your donations electronically! They will be paid as you decide and directly deposited into the church account. So easy! No more check writing! There is no fee to join. Safe and secure. Forms available from the office.**

This year we invite all High School and College age students to come and be a part of our worship service on November 28th to honor them for their service to the church and their academic achievements. This will be a special Sunday for all of us as we celebrate the gift that these young people are to their family, this church, and their schools. If you would like your child to be a part of this worship service please contact the church office as soon as possible.

## UM Student Sunday

**NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

This Special Sunday with offering calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting their faith with knowledge. In his 1758 financial guide “The Way to Wealth,” Benjamin Franklin wrote, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

Do you remember the “good news” story from the Morehouse College commencement? The commencement speaker, billionaire Robert F. Smith, pledged that his family would pay off the \$40 million student loans of all 396 graduating seniors.

Wouldn't it be amazing if we were able to do something like that? What would it look like if, as a church family, we could help students graduate from college without the burden of overwhelming debt?

United Methodist Student Day is one of six Special Sundays when we receive an offering for a particular ministry through the denomination. On the last Sunday in November, your gifts through this offering benefit students as they pursue opportunities in higher education. Your contribution will be joined with those of millions of other United Methodists to provide scholarships to deserving recipients.

Student Day was first celebrated in 1940 when a college education could be attained for \$450 annually. Today, that same education costs over \$23,000 each year. We are invited to invest in young leaders by giving generously on United Methodist Student Day as part of our offering. Please be in prayer with the students who are recipients of the education made possible through this special offering. Thank you.

**Education matters  
Please give generously**

The United Methodist Church believes that every person has the right to education and that the responsibility of educating young people rests with the family, faith communities, and the government. On United Methodist

Student Day, we have the opportunity to support scholarships and low-interest loans that help young leaders achieve their dreams.

As a community of faith, let's make this United Methodist Student Day the most successful yet. We have the opportunity to contribute to the development of young people. Together, we can help propel the next generation toward success.

**Support United Methodist students  
with our prayers and gifts**

We are mindful that many students struggle financially, spiritually or emotionally. They are preparing themselves to face a world that in many ways is broken and hurting. Together we can support them and remove some of their anxiety to make space for them to experience God's peace.

We will also join with other churches in the denomination to receive a special offering. While many young people have the privilege and resources to attend college, many others do not.

On United Methodist Student Day, we will come together as a community to invest our resources in education.

Last year, our church, along with other United Methodist congregations, gave \$370,123 to the offering. These last few years, the world has experienced some unprecedented times, but we hope that you will give as much as you can to help our United Methodist students. When you give to the United Methodist Student Day offering, your gifts support the Gift of Hope Scholarship program that is awarded to United Methodist students annually.

We are indeed one body, but investing in our individual members will take us to the next stage in building the beloved community. When you support United Methodist Student Day, you make it possible for students to change the world in the name of God's love—to live out their dreams for a better world.

Thank you for your generosity. Without your gifts, we could not continue this ministry.

# November



# DECEMBER



**Birthdays**

November 2 - Keri Kater  
 November 6 - Scott Davidson  
 Peyton Kater  
 November 10 - Gertrude Curtis  
 November 12 - Richard Nelson  
 November 17 - Linda McIntyre  
 November 18 - Todd Lawrie

December 2 - Rosemary Tyler  
 December 4 - Becky Sallans  
 December 5 - Natale Vincentini  
 December 7 - Jan Hopper  
 December 10 - Ed Hepp  
 December 12 - Kayleigh Von Knorring  
 December 13 - Colleen Richter  
 December 14 - Emily Lawrie  
 Shirley Ricketts  
 December 15 - Deanna Moser  
 December 16 - Fred Nelson  
 December 17 - Dominick Vincentini  
 December 23 - Nadine Lychuk  
 December 24 - Carol Hauxwell  
 December 29 - Daniel Moore

**Anniversaries**

November 22 - Tony & Sue Rizzo  
 November 24 - Bill & Ro Van Wagoner  
 November 30 - Chris & Vonda Barclay

December 12 - Charles & Linda McIntyre



## 2021 In Memoriam of Loved Ones

On November 7th we will celebrate all those whom we have lost since our last All Saints day by lighting a candle and lifted them up in prayer to the Lord. We ask that you continue to keep their families and friends in prayer. Here are the names of church members, constituents, family and friends we will include:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entered into Eternity</u>
Pearl Hoard - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i>	October 17, 2020
Marvin "Jay" Willobee Jr. - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i> <i>Brother of Bob Willobee</i>	December 25, 2020
Marcella Frost - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i>	February 13, 2021
Martha Riley - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i>	February 17, 2021
Jean Kessler - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i>	February 23, 2021
Billy "Bill" Conner - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i>	October 12, 2021
The Covid-19 Pandemic Victims	2021

**We invite you to take a stroll through the Memorial Garden.**

*Brick Orders for the Memorial Garden are available on the kiosk  
 or from the church office.*

**Remember - Joel 2:28 - Keep Dreaming!**



# 2021 November

Oxford United  
Methodist Church  
21 E. Burdick St.  
Oxford, MI 48371

[This calendar is online at:  
[www.oxfordunitedmc.org](http://www.oxfordunitedmc.org)]

**Please Note:** We ask all to wear a mask even if you have been vaccinated,  
wash your hands often; if you touch something please disinfect if after use.  
Please stay home if you are feeling sick.

**Usual Events :**

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>
10a (S) Worship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels <b>12p Program Deadline</b> 1p (CD/F/K) Quilting Projects (1st & 3rd weeks) 7p (F/FK) BS Troop #366	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 10:30a (F/FK) Wednesday Book Study 10:30a - 3:30p (P) Pastor Julius' Office Hours (Call for apt.) 6:30p (S) Bell Choir Practice	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 6:30p (MM) Women's Bible Study with Shawn Gross	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 2p (U) Knit Knack	9:30a (F/FK) People Feeding People

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 7p (U) Revive Team	2 7p (Zoom) Staff Mtg. 	3	4	5	6
7  24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - Holy Communion	8 10a (F/FK) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	9 7p (Y) Trustees	10 1p (M) Reading for Fun	11	12	13
14 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY - COMMITMENT SUNDAY - Bell Choir Plays Brunch 	22	23	24	25  Thanksgiving	26	27
28 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT UM Student Special Offering Guest Speaker: Rev. Jean Snyder (Rev. Del Pino will be here)	29 7p (Zoom) Church Council	30			Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, 	





# december

## 2021



Oxford United  
Methodist Church  
21 E. Burdick St.  
Oxford, MI 48371

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<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			1	2 11a (S) <b>New!</b> Hymn Sing	3	4
5 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  The Lord's Table	6	7 7p (Y) Trustees 7p (Zoom) Staff Mtg.	8 1p (M) Reading for Fun	9 11a (S) Hymn Sing	10 6p (S) Children's Drive-In Movie: "Polar Express"	11
12 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	13 10a (F/FK) Rachel Circle	14	15	16 11a (S) Hymn Sing	17	18
19 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	20	21	22	23 11a (S) Hymn Sing	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM & 10PM WORSHIP	25 CHRISTMAS 
Church Office Closed for the Christmas Holiday						
26 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  <i>Last Day to make a donation for 2021</i>	27	28	29	30 11a (S) Hymn Sing	31 NEW YEARS EVE	
Church Office Closed for the Christmas Holiday						

# Christmas Fun

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BIBLE READING PLAN



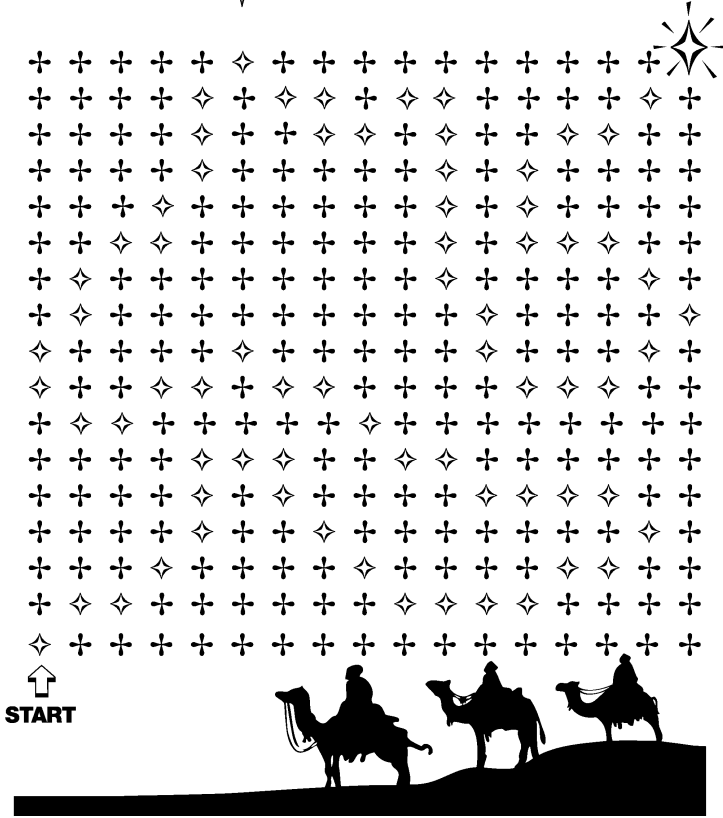
Light in the Darkness

Day 1: John 1: 1-13  
Day 2: Isaiah 9: 2-7  
Day 3: Isaiah 11:1-10  
Day 4: Isaiah 40:1-5  
Day 5: Isaiah 40:6-8  
Day 6: Isaiah 42:1-9  
Day 7 : Isaiah 43:1-5  
Day 8: Isaiah 52: 7-10  
Day 9: Jeremiah:33-:14-16  
Day 10: Psalm 139:1-8  
Day 11: Psalm 139:9-16  
Day 12: Psalm 139:17-24  
Day 13: Isaiah 7:14  
Day 14: Matthew 1:18-25  
Day 15: Malachi 3:1-3  
Day 16: Mark 1:1-8

Day 17: Luke 1:5-25  
Day 18: Luke 1: 26-35  
Day 19: Luke 1:39-45  
Day 20: Luke 1: 46-56  
Day 21 Luke 1: 57-66  
Day 22: Luke 1: 67-80  
Day 23: Luke 2: 1-7  
Day 24: Luke 2:8-21  
Day 25: John 1:14  
Day 26: Luke 2:22-32  
Day 27: Luke 2: 33-38  
Day 28: John 1:15-18  
Day 29: John 1 29-34  
Day 30: Matthew 3:13-17  
Day 31: Matthew 4:1-11

# Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✨ path that leads to baby Jesus.



START

Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LDOG    NCAKNRIENFSE    RYHMR

# Puzzle!

Complete each friend pair from the Bible, using the verses as hints. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below to complete Proverbs 17:17.

David &	— — — — — ○ —	2 Samuel 15:37
King Agrippa &	○ — — — — —	Acts 25:13
Naomi &	○ — — — — —	Ruth 1:22
Paul &	— ○ — — — —	Acts 16:25
Joshua &	— — — — — ○ —	Numbers 14:6
Peter &	— — — — — ○ —	Luke 5:8-10
Job &	○ — — — — —	Job 2:11
Elijah &	— ○ — — — —	2 Kings 2:1-14
Zophar &	— ○ — — — —	Job 2:11
Jonathan &	— — — — — ○ —	1 Samuel 18:1
Peter &	— — — — — ○ —	Luke 5:8-10
Jesus &	— ○ — — — —	John 11:20
Jesus &	— — — — — ○ —	John 11:5
Timothy &	— — — — — ○ —	2 Timothy 1:1
Jesus &	○ — — — — —	John 11:5
Mary &	— — — — — ○ —	Luke 1:39-40
Job &	— — — — — ○ —	Job 2:11
Aaron &	○ — — — — —	Exodus 4:27

“ — — — — — ”  
— — — — — .....

PROVERBS 17:17a

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

Answer: Hushai, Festus, Ruth, Silas, Caleb, John, Bildad, Elisha, Job, David, James, Mary, Lazarus, Paul, Elizabeth, Eliphaz, Moses; A friend loves at all times.

## Bible Quiz

In Matthew's genealogy, which woman is *not* mentioned as Jesus' ancestor?

- A. Tamar
- B. Rahab
- C. Mary
- D. Ruth
- E. Sarah
- F. Bathsheba



Answer: E (See Matthew 1:1-17.)

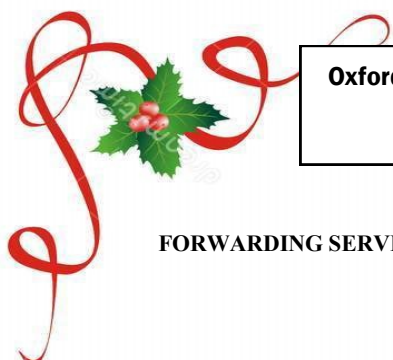
## Bible Quiz

After Jesus healed 10 men at one time, how many returned to thank him? What had been their ailment?

- A. five; blindness
- B. all 10; deafness
- C. one; possession by demons
- D. one; leprosy



Answer: D (See Luke 17:11-19.)



Oxford United Methodist Church  
21 E Burdick Street  
Oxford, MI 48371

First Class  
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



## The Grapevine

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### Oxford United Methodist Church

a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Alexander Wolf, Pianist

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#### **Article Deadline:**

**The 15th of the Even Months**

The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space

LARGE PRINT EDITION available upon request

We thank all who create, fold, mail and read The Grapevine!



### **Regular Sunday Worship:** **(In-person, Online and In-car)**

10:00 a.m. Worship

Nursery available by request

Coffee & Refreshments after service

**All Are Welcome!**