



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 22 | March/April 2024

"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 FOCUS

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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I can hardly believe it has been about five months since I have been blessed to worship and minister with the good people of Oxford United Methodist Church. As I write this short reflection, I am reminded of when my parents would travel to Annual Conference and leave their six children behind to be cared for by church members who loved us without reservation.

As they drove off, I would scream and say, "Mama, Daddy **don't leave, don't leave**". I would cry out because I knew I would miss them so very much. We were not used to both parents being gone at the same time. I would often ask the caregiver, are my mother and dad on their way home yet? She would reply, "**Not yet, but soon.**" That's how I felt about being away from Oxford UMC. But here we are - on the cusp of being together!

You will never know how much I missed you as I thought of you while attending to important health issues. Your prayers were answered and I will be eternally grateful! My oncologist reported to me that there is no cancer in my body! Praise God!

In this season of Lent, let us continue to ask that our compassionate God give us space and courage to always have a place of hope and love in our hearts especially for those without family or friends.

Our Lenten journey reminds us of the need to follow Christ as he leads us into the promise land. May all of us take time to seriously reflect on how God receives us where we are,

with the expectation that we will keep growing in love and wisdom. It is with God's energy, grace and love, that we are clothed with righteousness and forgiveness - in the name of our Lord who will care for us all of our days and in our eternal home.

In His service as faithful servants,
Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor





Holy Week Schedule



March 24th @ 10am

Palm Sunday is the day we remember how they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem - as a King. He humbly rode a donkey and the townspeople waved palm branches to welcome him. We also wave palms on this day to welcome him into our lives.



March 29th @ 12pm (noon)
at Oxford UMC

Good Friday is the day people all over the world remember the death of Jesus and the horrendous pain He experienced on our behalf. Good Friday services are held in most communities. Some churches hold noon day services to intentionally include the business community.



Easter SUNDAY



March 31st @ 10am

Easter is the culmination of Jesus defeating death and gives us hope to embrace and believe in life eternal. While people still die, Jesus, through his life and ministry made it possible to have a relationship with God now while on earth, and also to spend eternity in heaven with our Creator.

Learning & Loving Rightly

By Bishop David Bard | MI Area |
Posted on February 6, 2024 in "Bishop's Blog"



Reflecting on Black History Month, Bishop David Bard encourages us to do our part in cultivating hearts and souls that love more deeply and intelligently...

It seems as if we just turned the calendar to a new year, and the first month of that new year has already passed. March is always a busy month. Projects that slow for the holidays pick up speed again. Appointment-making for the coming year begins. The North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops meets.

As January becomes February, we enter Black History Month, and on the fourteenth, we have Valentine's Day. Black History Month is important for helping us enrich and deepen our understanding of our history as a country and world. Later in the year, we will mark Women's History Month (March), Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May), Pride Month (June), and Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15). Each of these shares an effort to enrich and deepen our understanding of our history, noting the impact of persons who have often been excluded from or marginalized in our historical narratives. Each of these remembrances celebrates significant contributions and notes the unique challenges of groups of persons.

Central to the [anti-bias, anti-racism work](#) we are committed to as a conference is deepening our understanding of our history and its ongoing impact. A deeper and richer comprehension of the effects of race and racialized thinking on our history is necessary in our work of building a more beloved community in the name and spirit of Jesus, this Jesus whom Paul says "*is our peace*" and "*has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us*" (Ephesians 2:14, NRSVue).

Learning a richer, deeper, more complex history. Enlivening our minds so as to help build beloved community. One might say this is intelligence in the service of love. Learning and love.

Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the significantly important figures in Black history in the United States, in his sermon "Love in Action," wrote the following, "Never must the church tire of reminding men that they have a moral responsibility to be intelligent." You have heard me share that before. He goes on, "But if we are to call ourselves Christians, we had better avoid intellectual and moral blindness We are commanded to love God, not only with our hearts and souls, but also with our minds" (*Strength to Love*). Learning and love.

Dr. King earned his doctorate from Boston University. One more recent faculty member at the Boston University School of Theology, Robert Cummings Neville, also writes about the importance of intelligence and its connection to love: "Christian intelligence is one office of the church's ministry, and the timely and well-placed exercise of this office is absolutely indispensable to the practice of the gospel of

Christ. Without the cultivation of informed intelligence to the utmost, Christian ministry becomes stupefied, banal and boring. . . . The practice of the Christian life requires informed intelligence. . . . Christian intelligence is needed to prize the world divinely" (*The God Who Beckons*). Learning matters. Informed Christian intelligence is indispensable, and it serves our ability to prize the world divinely, to love rightly.

Dr. King wrote his dissertation comparing the concept of God in the works of theologians Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman. Paul Tillich was a well-known theologian in the mid-twentieth century. In one of his sermons, Tillich wrote about truth and love and said, "Distrust every claim for truth where you do not see truth united with love; and be certain that you are of the truth and that the truth has taken hold of you only when love has taken hold of you and has started to make you free from yourselves" (*The New Being*). Learning and love.

In this Black History Month, which is also a month in which love is celebrated, may we pray that God enlivens our minds, enlarges our hearts, makes our spirits gentle and generous, and creates capacious souls in us. May we give ourselves to learning, to cultivating an informed Christian intelligence in this time of social media soundbites, rampant misinformation, and echo-chamber conversations. May we do our part to cultivate hearts and souls that love more deeply and intelligently.

**To read the latest from the Bishop ([click here](#))
Conference ([click here](#))
Or the East Winds District ([click here](#))**



PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

The family of Sue Smith David Lawrie Laura Hubbard Julie Langley Holly McIntyre
Olga Neill Carolyn Foss Bob Willobee Pastor Julius Del Pino Clifford Warren
Kent Patterson John & Nadine Lychuk Kip Lawrie Joyce Del Pino
Ron Shedlowsky Ro Van Wagoner Amy Thorson John Hauxwell
Bruce Conrad Kristina Del Pino Shirley Ricketts Ron Bunker Shirley Conner

We ask your blessings upon:

Our Revived Church - that Oxford UMC may be a great source of love
for this community and that we may revive our vision
All Families + those expecting new children; dealing with loss of a loved one
All our school children, their teachers, school workers and administrators
All affected by the Oxford High School and all other School Shootings
Those affected by Natural Disasters & all Violence in the US and worldwide
All of our brothers and sisters who deal with racism & hatred
First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by illness
Those with mental illnesses, are lonely, or do not have someone to pray for them
Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government
Those in the military serving on our behalf
Oxford UMC, Pastor, Staff, Guests, United Methodists, and Christians everywhere
We also pray for those whose names are unmentioned, dear Lord, for
you know and love them.



We ask all these things in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen!



Need prayer with a Pastor?
Sign up on the sheet outside the office, or contact the church office



Birthdays

- March 2 - Holly Cischke | Jon Gross
- March 3 - Lynda Bertich | Karen Etherton | Cameron Mumbrue
- March 5 - Steve Clay
- March 8 - Grayson East
- March 11 - Lucinda Bellairs | Teresa Nelson
- March 18 - Millie Solon
- March 19 - David Cischke
- March 20 - Levi Lair | Lorrin Schwartz
- March 26 - Ginny Conrad
- March 31 - Marta Acheson

- April 2 - Larry Bradford
- April 6 - Mark Mudd
- April 14 - Shirley Conner
- April 15 - Renae Shagena
- April 19 - Shirley Acheson
- April 20 - Jordyn Meersseman
- April 28 - Mary Garrard
- April 30 - Carolynn Foss

Anniversaries

March 11 - Mike & Lucinda Bellairs

Local Missions & Outreach

Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

We are 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!”

Current Needs -

Canned pineapple	Beef stew	Canned mandarin oranges	Baked Beans
Canned tomatoes	Canned chicken	Chili	Chunky Soup
Cake mix	Personal care items	Feminine Products	

Current Hours -

Office: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 to noon
 Pantry: Tuesdays - 1-3pm; Wednesdays - 10-2pm; Thursdays - 1-5 pm; 3rd Saturdays of month - 9:45-11:30am

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

FISH is a 100% volunteer organization and they need your help.
 All donations are tax deductible. Remember - NO EXPIRED FOOD PLEASE!

*FISH Location: 1060 S. Lapeer Rd., Oxford
 Website: www.oxfordorionfish.org*

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



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)
 LakePoint Community (Thursdays)
 from 5:30-6:30pm

and/or Oxford UMC (Saturdays)
 from 9:30-10:30am



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.

The Clothing Closet (at Oxford Free Methodist Church at 790 S. Lapeer Road) needs help sorting donated clothes on Tuesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm or helping clients shop, two Tuesdays a month, from 12:00pm-3:00pm.

Bed, Blessings & Beyond and Little Luxuries (at LakePoint Church at 1550 W. Drahner Rd) is temporarily closed. Please contact them if you have an idea for a new location.

If you would like to donate your time or money to help your neighbors in need please contact them:

Website - www.loveincfnoc.org or
 call 248-693-4357 for more information.

UMCOR Sunday

MARCH 10, 2024

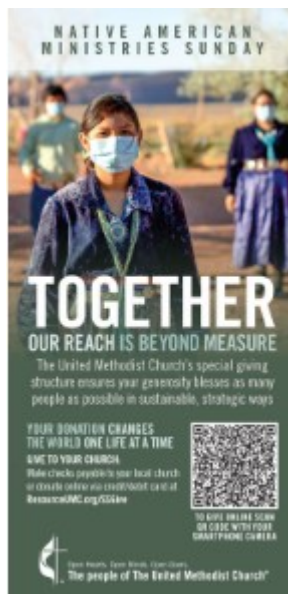
This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for the ministry of The United Methodist Committee on Relief – otherwise known as UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR’s administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable.



HOW TO GIVE: Write a check to your local church with “UMCOR” in the memo line and place in the offering plate or mail to Oxford United Methodist (21 E. Burdick St. Oxford). Thank you for your generosity.

Native American Ministries Sunday

APRIL 14, 2024



This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.

HOW TO GIVE: Write a check to your local church with “Native American” in the memo line and place in the offering plate or mail to Oxford United Methodist (21 E. Burdick St. Oxford). Thank you for your generosity.



March 10th

A Wakeup Call

God – let me be aware.
Let me not stumble blindly down the ways,
Just getting somehow safely through the days,
Not even groping for another hand,
Not even wondering why it all was planned,
Eyes to the ground unseeking for the light,
Soul never aching for a wild-winged flight,
Please, keep me eager just to do my share.
God – let me be aware.
God – let me be aware.
Stab my soul fiercely with others’ pain,
Let me walk seeing horror and stain.
Let my hands, groping, find other hands.
Give me the heart that divines, understands.
Give me the courage, wounded, to fight.
Flood me with knowledge, drench me in light.
Please – keep me eager just to do my share.
God – let me be aware.

–Miriam Teichner

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

Rev. John Wesley (founder of Methodism)

Finance Update - 2024

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.

January Giving	\$	3,241.00
February Giving	\$	<u>4,837.32</u>
Giving Subtotal (to date)	\$	<u>8,078.32</u>
Budget for 2024	\$	111,968.00

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

If you prefer to write a check or donate with cash please use your offering envelopes.

If you need envelopes or have a question about your giving statement, please call Larry Bradford, financial secretary or leave a message for him with the church office.

Please consider giving your donation electronically!

It will be paid as you decide and directly deposited into the church account. It is so easy!

And no more check writing!

There is no fee. Safe and secure.

Forms are available from the office.



2024 Church Council

- Church Council Chairperson: Michelle Wood (248)969-2545
- General Fund Treasurer: Becky Sallans (248)628-1289
- Designated Fund Treasurer: Kevin Kater (248)628-7804
- Financial Secretary: Larry Bradford (248)628-5759
- Finance Co-Chairpersons: tbd
- Board of Trustees: Tony Rizzo (248)628-1787
Michelle Wood (248)969-2545
- SPRC Chairperson: tbd
- Worship Team: Michelle Mumbrue (248)969-9173
Laura Clancy (248)628-6648
- Missions & Outreach: John & Devon Warren (248)778-8735
- Adult Bible Study: Sue Rizzo (248)628-1787
Rosemary Rumbold (248)391-0973
- Education Team: Mary Dempsey (810)797-5736
Amie Von Knorring (248)342-8051
Bob Willobee (248)628-2357
- Camp Ed. Coordinator: (available)
- Social Media: Megan Imirowicz [megan.imirowicz@gmail.com]
- Revive Team: Steve Laidlaw (248)801-5924
- UMM President: Fred Nelson (248)628-9826
- UMW / Rachel Circle: Carolyn Lawrie (586)925-2687
- Lay Member to Annual Conference: John Warren (248)778-8735

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

There are openings on the SPRC, Nominations, Memorials, Finance, Education and Trustee's committees. Please inform the office if you are interested in serving on a committee.



UMCOR News

A MINISTRY OF PRAYER & PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Christie R. House | February 16, 2024

ATLANTA – As Israel’s bombardment and ground invasion against the Gaza Strip approaches its fifth month, Palestinians across the region, in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, experience the loss of their jobs and the inability to move across checkpoints, or buy or sell food. They face a constant threat of harm and harassment, not because they are anywhere near Gaza, but because they are the Palestinians within reach.

Amid the scenes of overwhelming death and destruction, by God’s grace, small miracles happen each day.

Amir*, a Palestinian youth, finds it nearly impossible to cross the Palestinian/Israeli line to get to his school in a safe way. Yet, his school, community and United Methodists giving through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) created a way for him to continue his education. Hope Secondary School opened a remote learning station in his neighborhood and provided him with an electronic tablet and a place where wi-fi still works. In this way, Amir has been able to rely on the safety of his own community and continue his education – a small but important miracle for him and other students.

“As we support our partners across the Middle East, we continue with faith and hope to encourage one another at this time,” said Roland Fernandes, general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR. “In the face of so much loss – Muslim, Christian and Jewish lives, the 28,000 men, women and children lost in Gaza, our hearts are breaking. But we believe that God is with those who suffer, and we are a small part of a much larger effort to work for peace in the region.”

NO NEWS IS NOT GOOD NEWS

Gaza is bound by the Mediterranean Sea down its entire west coast and an Israeli fence more than 37-miles-long on its east side. All crossings but one into Israel have been closed by Israel since Oct. 7, 2023. There is a crossing into Cairo, Egypt, at Rafah to its south, which Israeli authorities close much of the time. Rafah is where hundreds of trucks wait in line for a chance to cross the border into Gaza to provide emergency aid. Food, water and medical supplies go unused until something happens to stop the bombardment and allow drivers to complete their mandate to deliver aid.

Just as nothing gets into Gaza, nothing and almost no one can get out. Even news is sparse because of communication blackouts, lack of electricity and fuel, and because more than 82 journalists reporting from inside Gaza have been killed.

David Wildman, Global Ministries’ United Nations and Middle East liaison, traveled to the region in December 2023 with a South African international solidarity delegation. They met with Palestinian Christian



ACT member DSPR is responding to the needs of people in Gaza, providing medical and psychosocial support. (Photo: DSPR. Parental permission granted for photos of minors.)

colleagues and human rights leaders across Palestine, Jordan and Egypt, as well as in Tel Aviv with the families of hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza. “There is a trickle of aid getting through,” Wildman said. “There should be more than 500 trucks going into Gaza every day, but there are at most 120 allowed to pass from Cairo to Rafah, but the little aid that gets in cannot reach all the people safely.”

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians in the Near East (UNRWA) has had its shelters in Gaza bombed and reports 152 of its workers have been killed in the current crisis, more than in any other crisis in the world.

On January 26, in a case for genocide brought against Israel by the South African government, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague ordered Israel to stop its military actions that have caused so much death and destruction, allow complete, unhindered humanitarian access, prevent and punish ‘direct and public incitement to commit genocide,’ and preserve evidence of atrocities.

“We’re watching the world struggle with what to do to stop the genocide,” Wildman said. “There is a growing call around the world for an immediate cease-fire as a necessary first step. The only time since Oct. 7 that any hostages have been released was during the humanitarian pause in November, which saved lives. Palestinian prisoners were released, but since Oct. 7, more than 6300 Palestinians have been detained, often without charge. The message to us from families of hostages was: ‘release all for all’ – all hostages for all Palestinian prisoners.”

Among the members of the visiting delegation was also Bishop Ivan Abrahams of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and the general secretary of the World Methodist Council. “We decided that Christmas can only have meaning for us if we heeded the call from our siblings in Palestine, and we go and stand in solidarity with them. We felt strongly that we needed to break the silence, that we could not be complicit, that it was our moral implication and a biblical imperative to go and stand by those who suffer from such injustice.”

UMCOR JOINS ECUMENICAL EFFORTS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

UMCOR, like other humanitarian agencies, has found it

difficult to get relief into Gaza. A long-time Global Ministries' partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Near East Council of Churches, has staff in Gaza that have been working with what they have, but they, like 90% of all Palestinians in Gaza, have been displaced. UMCOR affirms the ACT appeal for Gaza relief that will support the work of DSPR, but how soon the aid can reach Gaza is a real challenge. An emergency grant to provide 14,000 people with emergency food rations made it to the DSPR in Gaza early in the conflict...

HOLD THEM IN PRAYER

The Rev. Jane Eesley, a Global Ministries missionary, serves as the advocacy coordinator with the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem. "The United Methodist Church chose not to start another church but to support what is here through Greek Orthodox, Lutheran and Anglican churches," she explained. "We trust in the body of Christ that is already here and in the indigenous Palestinian Christians. They are grateful for the ways we conduct a 'servant ministry' alongside them. A lot of people turn away and flee from suffering. It is important to be here among those who suffer." ...

...Palestinian Christians have reached out to Christians across the world to call for an immediate cease-fire and to trust in God and pray for them. "They believe God will find a way we can't even see," noted Eesley. "Tell others about Palestinian Christians. There is great anxiety among them that before too long, there will be no more Palestinian Christians to witness in the place where Jesus was born."

**Name changed to protect identity.*

The Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, UMC, in New York City, recorded a service of prayer and worship for the Middle East on January 30, 2024: [A Spiritual Call and Response for Palestine](#). David Wildman talks about his trip to Palestine starting at minute 38.

Christie R. House is a consultant writer and editor with Global Ministries and UMCOR.

[the entire article is available at:

<https://umc.mission.org/a-ministry-of-prayer-and-presence-in-the-middle-east>]

WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

By Young Seon "Christina" Kim | February 20, 2024

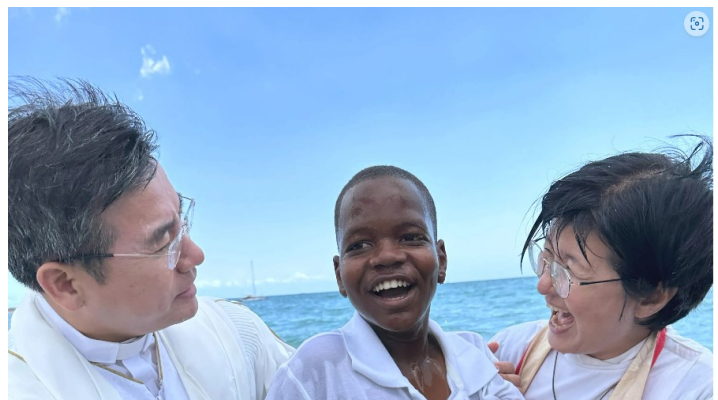
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA – God has a way of working through challenges even when we are tempted to give up. The Global Mission Secondary School (GMSS) had been years in the planning. In 2020, God miraculously made a way to complete phase one... Our teaching team gathered, and God sent 41 students who came from lower income families or single parent households... In 2022 and 2023, we completed phases two and three. The Cornerstone Church on campus was completed with support from First Korean UMC in Wheeling, Illinois.

The Rev. Sun Hyung Jo and two church members from

First Korean UMC came to Tanzania to officiate at the Cornerstone Church dedication in September 2023, with the GMSS community, the Dar es Salaam district superintendent, church leaders and members of United Methodist churches in Tanzania.

Today, the GMSS community has grown to 148 students, nine full-time and two part-time teachers, two administrative staff, three security personnel and three cooks. It is located on the western outskirts of Dar es Salaam city. Through our parents, who volunteered to be GMSS ambassadors, the school has become widely known in Tanzania. When we were recruiting new students for the 2024 academic year, 182 candidates took the entrance exams, even though we had capacity for only 40 students. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, who has been helping us *build a Christian school where lives are transformed, and global leaders are raised* (the school vision).

BAPTISMS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN



Rev. Sun Hyung Jo (left) of First Korean UMC in Wheeling, Illinois, and Rev. Christina Kim (right) baptize a student from GMSS in the Indian Ocean. (Photo: Daniel Suh, First Korean UMC)

In 2022, I baptized seven students in the beautiful Indian Ocean, which was an awesome experience. In 2023, we baptized 16 more students at the same place when Rev. Jo and his team were here in September.

As we held the hands of the students and entered the water, the school choir began singing. We were filled with excitement, joy and gratitude, bearing witness to their new life in Christ as devoted followers of Jesus. Rev. Jo was overjoyed by the experience and expressed his desire to return with his church members for another baptism. That night, I knelt down before God, giving thanks for the incredible life I live as a missionary in Tanzania...

In May last year, one of our volunteers, Jonas, was ordained during the 2023 Annual Conference of the UMC of Tanzania. He was appointed as pastor for Chambewa UMC. I met him when he was 16 through my discipleship and leadership training in the Tarime District...

With God, all things are possible. This is the GMSS school motto...

[the entire article is available at:

<https://umc.mission.org/with-god-all-things-are-possible>]

Knit Knack



We meet every Friday from 1-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us if you enjoy any type of needle work. We are always willing to teach anyone who would like to learn. If you have any questions, please call Mary Garrard, 248-613-4505.

Piece Makers Quilting

You are invited to attend the Piece Makers group and help with our prayer quilts. They usually meet on Wednesday 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.

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



Book Discussion Group

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 1pm in the Memorial Room.

Wednesday March 13: *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. A powerful cultural touchstone of modern American literature, *The Color Purple* depicts the lives of African American women in early twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance and silence. Through a series of letters spanning twenty years, first from Celie to God, then the sisters to each other despite the unknown, the novel draws readers into its rich and memorable portrayals of Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery and Sofia and their experience. *The Color Purple* broke the silence around domestic and sexual abuse, narrating the lives of women through their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery. Deeply compassionate and beautifully imagined, Alice Walker's epic carries readers on a spirit-affirming

journey towards redemption and love.

Wednesday, April 10: *The Readers of Broken Wheel* by Katarina Bivald. Broken Wheel, Iowa, has never seen anyone like Sara, who traveled all the way from Sweden just to meet her pen pal, Amy. When she arrives, however, she finds that Amy's funeral has just ended. Luckily, the townspeople are happy to look after their bewildered tourist—even if they don't understand her peculiar need for books. Marooned in a farm town that's almost beyond repair, Sara starts a bookstore in honor of her friend's memory.

All she wants is to share the books she loves with the citizens of Broken Wheel and to convince them that reading is one of the great joys of life. But she makes some unconventional choices that could force a lot of secrets into the open and change things for everyone in town. Reminiscent of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, this is a warm, witty book about friendship, stories, and love.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Bogus (248 747-7544).
Hope to see you at Book Discussion!



Excelsior Bell Choir

The Bell Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. Come to hear us play every third Sunday during the school year. Please remember to join us for brunch immediately after the service. If you have any questions please contact Rosemary Rumbold (248-391-0973)

Praise Singers

Join us to practice Sunday's songs and hymns. Rehearsals are at 5:30p on Wednesdays and 9am on Sunday mornings.

If you have questions or if you would like to be a part of the Praise Singers please contact Renae Shagen (248-969-2225).

UM Women: Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle is a faith based women's group that meets once a month for a business meeting, breakfast treats, but most of all Christian fellowship & prayer. We come together to praise the word of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:7

It is with a heavy heart that I write this next paragraph. In addition to being a beloved, active member of our Oxford UMC church family, Sue Smith was a faithful member of Rachel Circle. We celebrate her wonderful spirit that now lives with Jesus. We will miss her dearly. Especially her enthusiasm for celebrating the everyday life moments. Seeing Sue walk into a meeting wearing a holiday shirt or a headband with springy, wiggling holiday themes made us all smile. She walks on the mountain top, her pain is gone. Our hearts & prayers go out to Rod, her beloved husband & best friend, and her family.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”
Psalm 23:4

Mark your calendars (March & April):

- ◆ Friendship Hour is Sunday, March 3rd, 2024
- ◆ Our **March** gathering is Monday, the 11th, at 10am

I am looking for volunteers to co-host Friendship Hour on Easter Sunday, March 31st, 2024. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Carolyn Lawrie or the church office.

- ◆ Our **April** gathering is Monday, the 8th, at 10am
- ◆ Friendship Hour is Sunday, April 25th, 2024.



With love & respect,
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).



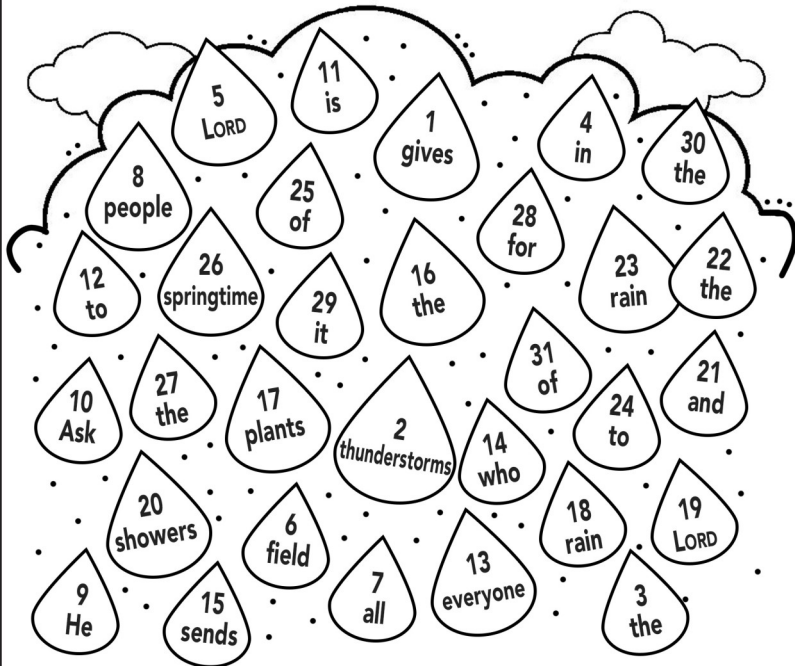
We are always updating and keeping our website current

Did you know there are daily scripture readings?
Have you seen it lately?
Join us at - oxfordunitedmc.org
~~~~~  
Like social media?  
Visit us on Facebook or Instagram  
~~~~~  
We also have a channel on YouTube!
go to OUMC Oxford MI
and subscribe



Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18

_____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____ ;

_____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15

_____ 27 _____ 2

_____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23

_____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25

_____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

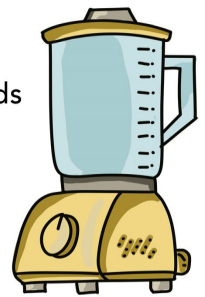
SOMETHING OLD,

Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



DAY 1
Genesis 3:15

DAY 2
Isaiah 7:14

DAY 3
Matthew 1:20-21

DAY 4
Luke 2:11

DAY 5
Luke 2:52

DAY 6
Mark 1:9-11

DAY 7
Matthew 4:10

DAY 8
Matthew 4:18-20

DAY 9
Luke 6:27-31

DAY 10
Matthew 11:28-30

DAY 11
Luke 4:40-41

DAY 12
Luke 8:24-25

DAY 13
Matthew 12:8

DAY 14
Mark 6:41-42

DAY 15
Luke 9:20-22

DAY 16
John 3:16-17

DAY 17
John 6:35

DAY 18
John 8:12

DAY 19
John 10:14-15

DAY 20
Mark 10:13-16

DAY 21
Mark 9:2-3

DAY 22
Matthew 20:17-19

DAY 23
Luke 19:9-10

DAY 24
Matthew 14:25-27

DAY 25
Luke 10:36-37

DAY 26
John 11:25-27, 43

DAY 27
John 12:3

DAY 28
Matthew 21:8-9

DAY 29
Mark 11:15-16

DAY 30
John 17:17-19

DAY 31
Luke 22:3-6

DAY 32
Mark 14:22-24

DAY 33
John 13:3-5

DAY 34
Matthew 26:39

DAY 35
Luke 22:63-65

DAY 36
Mark 15:22-26

DAY 37
Matthew 27:50-54

DAY 38
John 19:40-42

DAY 39
Luke 24:1-8

DAY 40
Matthew 28:19-20






MARCH

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

[This calendar is online at:
www.oxfordunitedmc.org]

Usual Events :

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>
9a (S) Praise Singer Practice 10a (S) Worship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 12p Program Deadline 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 10:30a (F/FK) Wednesday Book Study 1p (CD/F/FK) Piece Makers Quilting (1st & 3rd weeks) 5:30p (S) Praise Singers Practice 6:30p (S) Bell Choir Practice	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	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	2
 3 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT HOLY COMMUNION Pastor Julius returns!	4	5	6 7p (Y) Trustees	7	8	9
10  4TH SUNDAY IN LENT UMCOR Special Sunday 11:15a Revive Team "CRT"	11 10am (FH) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	12	13 1p (M) Reading for Fun	14	15	16
17 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT [ST. PATRICK'S DAY] Bells & Brunch	18 6p (CC) SPRC	19	20	21	22	23
 24 PALM SUNDAY	25	26	27	28	29  Good Friday Service @ 12 (noon)	30
31  Happy EASTER!						




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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 (Office Closed)	2	3 7p (Y) Trustees	4	5	6
 7 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER HOLY COMMUNION	8 10am (FH) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	9	10 1p (M) Reading for Fun	11	12	13
14 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER Native American Ministries Special Sunday 11:15a Revive Team "CRT"	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Bells & Brunch	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	29 7p Church Council	30				

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

First Class
Stamp
Required

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



The Grapevine
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Oxford United Methodist Church

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Alexander Wolf, Pianist

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:

(and also join us either online or via radio)

10:00 a.m. Worship

*10:20a.m. Sunday School to classes
(during Worship Service, Sept - May)*

Coffee & Refreshments after service

All Are Welcome!