



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 13 | September/October 2022

"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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From
the
Pastor



The summer is almost behind us as we turn our focus and energies to the fall. I extend a word of special thanks to all of you who have stayed the course caring for God's people! While many have traveled and spent time at their cottages, the work of the church has continued.

As your pastor, I personally give thanks to the faithful and loyal friends and members who have continued to hold before us why we are here and what we are about! We are here to share in discipleship making with justice and mercy! We are here to teach others how to look outward as our church 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."

becomes known and understood in the wider community. We are here to model for others the love of Christ. We are here to be the CHURCH.

Now having said this, I feel a strong need to let you know how thankful and grateful we are to Becky Sallans and Alex Wolf. Both of them have worked closely alongside of us in supporting and helping to bring our very best to the surface. Their presence, professionalism, and abiding love for this congregation will give us renewed hope and energy to be more closely aligned with the vision of this church. God bless them both! And God bless you laity who are the foundation of this congregation. Let's invite others who are still sitting on the sidelines to become actively involved in caring for each other as well as caring for this community which God has blessed us with.

Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor



Autumn Fun at Oxford United Methodist Church



Bells & Brunch September 18th... Rally Sunday

Once again we will be blessed with our bell choir's beautiful music and a wonderful brunch! Invite your friends, family and neighbors for this wonderful worship and fellowship time.

Experienced musicians are welcomed as substitute bell ringers.
Rehearsals begin August 31 at 6:30pm.
See Rosemary Rumbold (248-391-0973)

Brunch help is needed. See Tony Rizzo (248-628-1787) if you are able to help.



Wednesday Bible Study

Starting September 7th at 10:30am

The events surrounding the birth of Jesus are told with remarkable simplicity in the Bible, but they have too often been obscured by myths, mistletoe, and consumerism. "The First Christmas" separates fact from fiction, stripping away Yuletide folklore and questionable traditions to tell how it really was in the world of the Nativity. Delving into Jewish, Greek, Roman, and early Christian sources, Paul L. Maier uncovers fresh and fascinating insights into the true, yet unfamiliar, story of the first Christmas.

A captivating combination of sacred and secular history, this informative and entertaining book answers many compelling questions, such as: Why did the Roman emperor Augustus order his famous census? What marriage customs applied to Mary and Joseph? When and where was Jesus born? Who were the Wise Men? What was the Star of Bethlehem? This beautifully illustrated gift book by a best-selling author and church history expert offers a glimpse at the real, historical drama of Christmas.

Questions? Contact Sue Rizzo (248-628-1787)



Membership "Covenant Classes"

Sundays, tbd - this fall (11:15am)

All are invited to these classes in which we learn what it means to agree to be a United Methodist Christian.

**Contacts: Sue Rizzo (rizztoe@gmail.com),
Laura Clancy (57momnchevy@gmail.com),
or Steve Matteson (vagomatteson@yahoo.com)**

Take a Moment... for Joy

By Bishop David Bard | MI Area

printed in "MI Area Leadership: Joyful Journey"

Bishop David Bard, encourages us to carve out time for joy-filled moments, so that we may have the capacity to care for the world's pain and suffering ...

In college I double-majored in philosophy and psychology. Here is a question I never ask a young person in college: "What are you going to do with that?" I rather tired of answering it years ago. There are even jokes associated with being a philosophy major. Yet there are encouraging moments. Remember when the Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz* tells the Scarecrow that he has all the brains he needs, only lacking a diploma, and awards him an honorary Th.D., "Doctor of Thinkology," degree. The Scarecrow immediately recites, "The sum of the square roots of any two sides of an isosceles triangle is equal to the square root of the remaining side," and then declares, "Oh joy, rapture!" Joy and rapture in thinking—words to warm the heart of a philosophy major.

Ten years ago, the philosopher Leszek Kołakowski,... published an essay in which he argued that "happiness as an immutable condition is not accessible to us." Fun thought, perhaps one that would have been best left within the confines of small philosophy departments. Not a lot of joy and rapture there.

Kołakowski reasoned that "being truly human involves the ability to feel compassion, to participate in the pain and joy of others." If so, then happiness, as an immutable condition, is not possible. "This is not just because we experience suffering. It is also because, even if we are not suffering at a given moment, even if we are able to experience physical and spiritual pleasure and moments beyond time, in the 'eternal present' of love, we can never forget the existence of evil and the misery of the human condition. We participate in the suffering of others." While permanent, unbroken happiness is impossible in this argument, "there is no reason to maintain that the things we experience as good... must all be seen as pure negation. Such experiences strengthen us; they make us spiritually healthier."

Psychologist Mary Pipher, in a recent guest essay for *The New York Times*, offers thoughts along the same lines. "I am leading a double life. Underneath my ordinary good life, I am in despair for the world. Some days, the news is such that I need all my inner strength to avoid exhaustion, anxiety and depression. . . . The most informed and compassionate among us are the most vulnerable to despair." Yet in her essay, Pipher discusses skills for navigating such a world, including doing the good we can and taking time to appreciate beauty. She encourages us to "balance our despair with joy." She concludes, "life is so terrible and beautiful at the same time. Do I have the capacity to hold it all in my heart?"

There is much in the world to weary us, to weigh down our souls, and to break our hearts... Yet we cannot walk away. If we are to be truly human,...we need to understand and participate in the pain and suffering of the world. Our Scriptures encourage us to remember that when one part



When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, . . .

I come into the peace of wild things . . .

I rest in the grace of the world, and am free

I think of the words of Sister Maura Eichner...

Eat bread. Drink wine. Try to sing the song of Christ. Live life. If you can dance, dance.

Everywhere grace awaits. Desire to love to love.

These poets echo encouragement from our Scriptures. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). "There is nothing better for mortals than to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in their toil. . . . God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy" (Ecclesiastes 2:24, 26). And if you really want a bit of a scriptural surprise encouraging us to take time for joy, read the book of Song of Songs.

The world is terrible and beautiful. Take time for the beauty. Go for a walk on a warm summer evening. Listen to music. Dance if you like, even if you are by yourself. Hold the hand of a loved one. Cuddle a child. Appreciate a painting. Swim in a cool lake on a hot day. Savor a favorite food. Take in the aroma while it is being prepared. Watch the fireflies at night. Pray a prayer only of joy and gratitude. Read a poem. Read a story. Watch a movie. Laugh at a silly joke. Add your ideas to this list.

Such moments are good for the soul. They increase our heart's capacity to hold the beautiful and the terrible. These experiences strengthen us. They make us spiritually healthier. I think they are also acts of profound faith. We trust that God in Jesus Christ loves this world, and that God is always working in this world toward peace, justice, reconciliation, generosity, care, Beloved Community, beauty, and love. Trusting that, it does us good to bask in such goodness for a bit, and to do so regularly. We don't ignore the deep pain and suffering of the world, but we also don't give it exclusive rights to dominate our souls.

Did I just take quite a lot of time encouraging you to take a moment or two to enjoy yourselves? Yes, but remember, I was a philosophy major.

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 Greg Brasau Family Amy Thorson Acheson grandson Kent Patterson
Shirley Acheson Chuck McIntyre Tom Bertich The Chislett Family John Hauxwell Ron Shedlowsky
Shelia Burdette Linda McIntyre Julie Imirowicz Ro Van Wagoner Ruth Patterson
Bruce Conrad Kristina Del Pino Ron Bunker Shirley Conner

We ask your blessings upon:

All our school children, their teachers, school workers and administrators
Our neighborhoods and the Revival of our community
All of our brothers and sisters who deal with racism & hatred
First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by illness
All affected by the Oxford High School and all other School Shootings
Those with mental illnesses, are lonely, or do not have someone to pray for them
All Families - those expecting new children; dealing with loss of a loved one
Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government
Those in the military serving on our behalf
Those affected by Natural Disasters & all Violence in the US and worldwide
Oxford UMC, Pastor, Staff, 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 all these things in your name, Lord Jesus.

Amen!



"Next time you're praying while you drive, I think you can skip bowing your head and closing your eyes."



**The Church is always open for prayer!
Come anytime when it is open or when there is a meeting.
Need prayer with Pastor?
Sign up on the sheet outside the office.**

Church Conference

October 16th at 6pm

(@ Lake Orion UMC - 140 E. Flint St.)

[SPPRC - September 18th (5pm) Zoom meeting w/the D. S.]

A time for church leaders and members to review our missions and ministries, church goals, pastoral compensation, and highlights and challenges ahead.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Please note: All committee leaders are requested to submit their 2022 reports to the church office **before Monday, September 25th.**



Questions? Contact Pastor or Becky (248-628-1289)

Dragonfly Hybrid Update

by Christy Turk

How OUMC is Supporting Oxford Youth in Education

Dragonfly Hybrid, an extension of Oxford Virtual Academy, has partnered with Oxford United Methodist Church to provide a safe, hybrid-learning (online and in-person learning) environment by utilizing our classrooms throughout the building. You may have already noticed many changes happening throughout the church building. How exciting it will be to see youth in our hallways!



Dragonfly Hybrid administrators, Jenni Stec (owner - left), Erin Edwards (Executive Director - middle), and Jasmine Weis (Director - right), will be onsite Tuesdays and Thursdays with staff and students from 7:30am – 4:00pm, with some arrival and departure times varying on those days. Additionally, you may see them present on the off-schedule days for planning and other school related items. We hope that you extend a warm welcome to them!

The first day of school for students was August 25th and the last day is June 1st. Although you can come by the church at any time, we ask that you limit your time on Tuesdays and Thursdays to keep from interfering with the learning times for the students. Additionally, Dragonfly Hybrid's designated parking lot and entrance is on the backside of the church so you may find it easier to park in the front and enter through the Burdick Street entrance for ease and less congestion if you need to come to the church on school session days. The students that will be attending are in grades ranging from 6th grade to 12th grade. As of mid-August, the enrollment numbers are around 40. We look forward to inviting them to participate in church activities, events, and services along with supporting the school with the same.

For safety and security, we ask that you refrain from letting any Dragonfly Hybrid staff members in without one of their administrators present. Staff and students are to always be monitored by Dragonfly Hybrid administrators as they are the only ones that have keys to the church. With that said, we also request that you, our church members and guests, do not ask Dragonfly Hybrid staff to open the doors for you as they cannot be held liable either.

It is best to either wait for the person in your party that has a key or come during Becky's office hours. This helps us to know who is coming and going for the safety of the students, the staff of the school and church, and our members.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about the school, please contact either Christy Turk or Amy Fleischer. We are the co-chairs to the implementation of the school and can give you the most accurate information. It is imperative that we do not address questions or concerns to the administrators of Dragonfly Hybrid directly. Amy and I are the point-of-contact and will happily discuss anything with you by phone, email, or an in-person meeting.

We truly believe we have been blessed with the opportunity to support our community, especially our youth, in a positive way. Educating youth in a safe environment is one that we are proud to be a part of and look forward to supporting Dragonfly Hybrid in this quest for years to come. The implementation of the school supports our vision for our church as it will allow us to "...welcome and value all God's people, where they can grow, discover, and share their gifts in the church and in the world".

Please contact Amy, Christy, or the church office to see how you can help prepare our church and worship service to receive all families that may seek our church as a place of worship. We are fortunate to have the families and students entering our building for education. Let's provide an exceptional worship service and church community for when they are seeking a place to worship. We need your help to provide it!

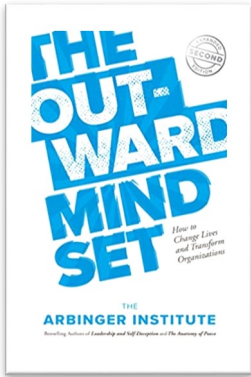
[Update From the Church Office: I can't tell you how exciting it was to hear the kids in the church last Thursday! It is like a breath of fresh air (or the Holy Spirit!) has energized this place and it is so wonderful to have a such a worthwhile purpose for our classrooms. We are truly blessed to be able to provide this refuge for these kids. Pastor Julius made a great impression on them on opening day and they have taken to calling him one of his favorite nicknames - Dr. J!

I also wanted to share that the OPC Meals on Wheels people made the comment that some of the kids offered to help them carry things into the building and were very gracious. OPC was impressed.

We have been blessed!]

*Blessed
to Be a
Blessing*

The Outward Mindset - Get Your Copy Today!



Patty Dennis advised us to read the book “The Outward Mindset” by the Arbinger Institute which focuses on the acronym SAM.

- S – **SEE** the needs of others and the challenges
- A – **ADJUST** our efforts to help each other and impacts on the greater good
- M – **MEASURE** and hold ourselves accountable

We invite you to order this from Amazon or your favorite bookseller. If you have a problem getting this book please contact the church office and Becky will order this for you. Cost = ~\$15

Revival Team Update

By Steve Laidlaw

The Church Revival Team (CRT) met three times during the past two months. The primary goal of the meetings was to discuss the Oxford Revival where over a four-day period, Centennial Park had youth programs, prayer, skits, praise music, speakers from local churches and Peter Warren as the guest speaker. The Oxford Revival...in our time, in our town, was on August 24 – 27. The CRT discussed ways in which our church could accommodate the downtown Revival as well as ways we can promote Oxford UMC.

The CRT discussed the time to start our Youth Program, which will commence in early October. Steve Laidlaw and Michelle Wood will be spearheading this endeavor and will seek advice from numerous church members to have a faith grounded youth program that is fun and inspiring.

Christy Turk has been asked to collaborate with Pastor and Becky to enhance the Church’s website and to ensure it’s constantly monitored and kept current and relevant.

The CRT has placed a great emphasis on the Book “The

Outward Mindset” and realized that we have to be intentional in always being cognizant of others in the community and outside our four walls. The focus must be on others and not ourselves. This selfless thinking will only enhance our ways to be Christ-like in our actions and ministries.

The Team deliberated on the following questions...

- ◆ Why do we exist as a church?
- ◆ Is Oxford UMC really needed in this community and if so, why?
- ◆ Is the community aware of what our purpose and vision are?
- ◆ Does the church have a clearly defined plan to reach those looking for a church like OUMC?
- ◆ What needs to change in our worship that will make it more inviting and spirit filled to serve God?

CRT will seek having a more scripture filled service, more upbeat music and having music being played as members and guests are walking into the sanctuary.

The Church Revival Team would love to hear your thoughts on these questions.

Ever Outward

Poet Rainer Maria Rilke said, “I live my life in widening circles that reach out across the world.” Indeed, we all do. As newborns, we focus only on ourselves. But as we grow, little by little we learn that the people and things around us are separate from us. Soon we can attend to others’ actions, needs and feelings. Like ripples from a stone dropped in water, our circles of care widen from family (biological or otherwise) to friends (playmates, classmates, colleagues), church family, community, country and finally even people across the globe.

The ministries of Jesus and his disciples also were widening circles: first “to the lost sheep of Israel” (Matthew 10:6; 15:24 NIV) but soon to “all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Early church leaders took the gospel

message ever outward, as Jesus had directed them: first to Jerusalem, then Judea and Samaria, and finally even “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8 NIV).

As our faith matures, our impact spreads outward too. Some people move geographically farther from home, while others use prayer, communication and technology to widen their reach of spiritual, emotional and financial support. How exciting that God’s love encircles us all and that we can share it far and wide!

—Heidi Hyland Mann





*"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

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	\$ 5,965.00
February Giving	\$ 8,003.00
March Giving	\$ 6,424.00
April Giving	\$ 6,067.00
May Giving	\$ 10,055.00
June Giving	\$ 4,075.00
July Giving	\$12,284.00
August Giving	\$ 7,065.00
Giving Subtotal	\$ 59,938.00
Budget for 2022	\$ 115,725.00

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

If you need envelopes, please call the church office or Larry Bradford, financial secretary.

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 to join. Safe and secure. Forms are available from the office.

2022 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:

Bernie Rumbold (248) 391-0973
and AmyBeth Fleischer

Board of Trustees: David Cischke (248)863-8037
Michelle Wood (248)969-2545

SPRC Chairperson: John Warren (248)778-8735

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
Adam Bertich (810)656-1629
Cindy Vincentini (248)252-2157

Camp Ed. Coordinator:

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

Revive Team: Steve Laidlaw (248)801-5924
Bill Turk [turk.oumc@gmail.com]

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 odd month at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!



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	Boxed or bagged potatoes
Boxed pasta	Canned chicken	Manwich (sloppy joe mix)	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)

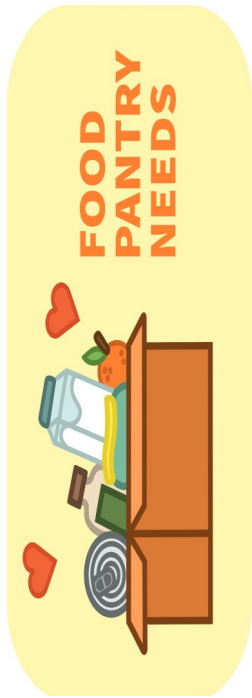
FISH is a 100% volunteer organization and they need your help.

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 INC.: FAITH & FINANCES CLASS

This FREE 8 week class starts September 8 and is designed to teach financial literacy to those who may be living paycheck to paycheck, have poor credit, or no emergency fund. To register, call 248-693-4357 or visit the website: loveincfnoc.org.

You can come alongside a neighbor in need in one the following ways:

- ◊ Become a budget buddy - If developing relationships is your thing and you can assist someone in applying what they are learning in class to their situation, this role is vital and for you
- ◊ Become a class greeter & encourager – Jump on this opportunity if you love people and have a cheerleader’s heart
- ◊ Become a class administrator - Keeping track of participant records is a ball you can make sure doesn’t get dropped

(Contact: Kit Ilenich | Transformational Ministry Coordinator | Transform@loveincfnoc.org | 248-693-4357 ex. 101)

YOU COULD WIN \$50 FOR SUPPORTING Love INC. Text “IMPACT” to 90412 and follow the link. Select Love INC. Each survey takes less than a minute and earns \$2 for Love INC. Complete 75 surveys, earn \$150 for Love INC & be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Card!!!

“Bill Russell: What a Legacy”

By Bishop Ernest Lyght | Posted on August 20, 2022
United Methodist Church Guest Editorial

The recent death of Bill Russell brought to mind some fond memories. My classmate, Ervin, and I were divinity students at Drew University. We enjoyed watching NBA games on the old TV in the dormitory recreation room. It was during the Bill Russell – Wilt Chamberlain era. Ervin and I decided that we would go to Madison Square Garden and see what we knew would be a thrilling basketball game. It was the Boston Celtics vs. the Philadelphia Warriors. We would get to see Russell and Chamberlain go head-to-head on the basketball court.

We caught the train in Madison, NJ and made our way to New York City’s Old Madison Square Garden. We went to the ticket window and to our chagrin, the game was sold out. Now what would two poor theologues do to get into an NBA game when the only tickets available would be the tickets offered by the scalpers. As we stood in the milling crowd, a man approached us with tickets in his hand. He asked if we wanted tickets for the game. We said yes (but was this guy a scalper?) We asked him how much he wanted for the tickets.

The man’s response surprised us, because he only wanted what he had paid for the tickets originally. He was a scout master and he had brought his scouts to see the game. We bought the tickets and went into the Garden. We were blessed by an angel sent by God.

After we arrived at our seats and sat down for a time, I looked down into the section in front of us. I had a second surprise of the evening; my brother was sitting there. Because there was a barrier separating the sections, I asked a man if he would go down and summon my brother who was stationed in New York at the time. Bill walked up to my location and we chatted for a while prior to the game. We had no idea that we would see each other at this game. It was a pleasant surprise encounter.

I can still see the image of Russell and Chamberlain leaning on each other in an effort to gain some advantage

as



As long
as I am
in the
WORLD,
I am the
LIGHT
of the
WORLD.

John 9:5

they played the game that night. Russell knew that he could not readily stop Chamberlain from shooting, so his effort focused on stopping him from getting the ball. We witnessed the battle between the two premier NBA centers.

As a fledging high school basketball player in the late fifties, I greatly admired Bill Russell as a basketball player. It was exciting to watch him play and to witness his defensive prowess. At times he would cause an opponent to miss a shot simply due to his intimidating presence which caused an opponent to think that Russell might block his shot. He was my basketball idol, and he inspired me to be a better defensive player.

Bill Russell died on July 31, 2022 at the age of 88. He and his teammates won 11 NBA championships. Russell was an MVP champion on the court and a civil rights champion off of the court. He did not hesitate to advocate for the civil rights causes of Muhammed Ali and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He stood tall for freedom and justice. It is fitting for the NBA to retire his number “six” league wide to honor his legacy.

What a legacy. Think about it!



Please contact Michelle Mumbroe, Laura Clancy or a member of the Worship Team to be a Sunday Servant. We very much appreciate your service!
Thank You!

No Lone-Ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there’s no such thing as solitary Christianity. “As Christians we’re called to belong, not just to believe,” writes Rick Warren. “We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ’s family and be members of his body.”

After all, Christian fellowship can’t occur without fellow Christians. We can’t learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don’t baptize ourselves. We don’t take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament’s very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ’s body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are “a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people” (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don’t be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!

[reprinted by permission from the Newsletter Newsletter]



Our group has been enjoying meeting together again on a regular basis. Watch for updates in later Grapevine articles.

We meet every Friday from 2-4pm 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.



Excelsior Bell Choir

The Bell Choir starts rehearsals on Wednesdays August 31st (6:30-8pm) and they have some great upbeat pieces for the year. We trust you will like the music and will come to hear us play on Sept. 18th and 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)

Piece Makers Quilting

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.

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

Please keep praying!



Praise Singers

Join us to practice Sunday's songs and hymns. Rehearsals are at 9am on Sunday mornings.

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



Birthdays

- September 1 - Mike Bellairs
- September 4 - Dan Mumbrue
- September 7 - Sydney Richter
- September 13 - Todd Davidson
- September 18 - Teddi Bradford | Jan Smith
- September 21 - Mary Dempsey
- September 26 - Bernie Rumbold
- September 30 - Laura Clancy

- October 1 - Chris Barclay | John Pearson
- October 2 - Gail Enekes
- October 6 - Bob Willobee
- October 13 - Bruce Conrad
- October 14 - Kevin Smith
- October 16 - Julius Del Pino
- October 21 - Lizzy Bellairs | Katy Daniels
- October 29 - Bruce Bunker
- October 30 - Steve Laidlaw | Sue Smith
- October 31 - Mary Adekitan | Eric Richard | Catherine Richard

Anniversaries

- September 2 - Bruce & Debra Bunker
- September 18 - Tim & Jean Davidson
- September 23 - Mark & AmyBeth Fleischer
- September 27 - Bob & Colleen Richter
- September 28 - Kevin & Keri Kater

October 10 - Steve & Kathy Laidlaw

UM Women: Rachel Circle

Welcome back Rachel Circle members & visitors !
 I hope you all enjoyed the summer months. I know for me it flew by as fast as a blink of an eye.
 As we return to fall schedules & usually a faster pace remember this is the beginning of a new season of worship. Bring your ideas and fresh perspective to our next couple of meetings as we have some planning to do.
 Not sure if Rachel Circle is for you ? Below I have jotted down a typical meeting, we are a relaxed group of women coming together to support one another in life's ups & downs. To share concerns & to see how we can support our church & community. Our meetings seem to fly by, truly.

Helpful things to know about Rachel Circle :

> We meet the second Monday of each Month at 10am - 11:30am

>What to expect at a typical Rachel Circle meeting :

At 10am we enjoy catching up with friends, introductions if needed & usually a varied continental breakfast. By 10:25am we start our meeting with opening prayers in the round. Followed by minutes from the last meeting. Then our agenda varies a bit, to the next event, fundraiser or tasks already on the agenda. At approximately 11:10am one of our ladies has a special devotion they would like to share with the group. Followed by some discussion & closing prayers in the round

>Our next two Sunday, Friendship (*coffee*) Hour dates are: September 25th & October 23rd, 2022.

We hope to see you at our next meeting!

Questions? Need a ride?
 Contact: 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).



A VIEW FROM THE OFFICE - Our feathered friends were really enjoying the Oxford UMC garden after the rain!

Visit Us
ONLINE

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 - oxfordunitedmcc.org

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, September 15: *Her Hidden Genius* by Marie Benedict.

Rosalind Franklin has always been an outsider—brilliant, but different. Whether working at the laboratory she adored in Paris or toiling at a university in London, she feels closest to the science, those unchanging laws of physics and chemistry that guide her experiments. When she is assigned to work on DNA, she believes she can unearth its secrets. Rosalind knows if she just takes one more X-ray picture—one more after thousands—she can unlock the building blocks of life. Never again will she have to listen to her colleagues complain about her, especially Maurice Wilkins who'd rather conspire about genetics with James Watson and Francis Crick than work alongside her.

Then it finally happens—the double helix structure of DNA reveals itself to her with perfect clarity. But what unfolds next, Rosalind could have never predicted.

Wednesday, October 12: *The Maid* by Nita Prose. Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by.

Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has been navigating life's complexities all by herself. No matter—she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for the job. But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception, one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black—but will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late?

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



We Have Been Blessed...



On August 24th some members of the LouHelen Bahai joined us for a unique blended worship service in which their very own Mr. Chuck Cornell and his friends played music for us. It was an interesting morning worshipping in a little different way. It taught us that even though we are different, we can still worship the same God. This is part of 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."

It is good to celebrate our differences!

Acting like a Christian

An anonymous letter from a member of OUMC...

Our church like many others preaches Christian beliefs be backed up by Christian behavior & actions.

I have personally seen some Angel Sightings. What are Angel Sightings ? They are wonderful moments when some task or job still needs to be done (usually at the church). You are distracted for a few minutes while attending to another matter & when you return the task at hand (in my case Friendship Hour clean-up) has already been completed. The kitchen was spotless. It is something that can easily bring a tear or two & fill your heart with joy for the blessings you just received.

This has happened to me personally twice in the past 8 weeks. I am not mentioning names because these Angels did not do this for the glory or pat on the back. They did it to show their Christian love to another person. They did it because they wanted to practice the actions of Christian behavior. God bless those Angels.

The big question is: If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict YOU ?



Have You Noticed Something Different?



If you have had a chance to take a look around the church recently you may have seen that a few things are in different places. We are so excited to welcome our new guests [Dragonfly Hybrid School] and in attempting to live out our vision, our copy room and church internal mailboxes have taken on a new business center look...



Please note that the labels are on the right side of the box for the different ministries.

Chairpersons - please keep your mailboxes cleaned out often.

Thanks!

Lets continue to say it out loud -

“We envision a church with a VIBRANT 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”

We continue to remain focused on our goal. We are growing and sharing. We are headed for revival!

Puzzle!

Look up each verse in an NIV Bible and find a word that fits in that row. Then write the word from the bold vertical column in the blank below to complete Proverbs 24:3-4.

1 Corinthians 8:1		N		
Philippians 1:9				H
2 Peter 1:5				S
		A		2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32			S	
John 7:15			R	
			I	Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18				E
	W			Proverbs 24:5

By wisdom a house is built, and ...
through _____ its rooms are filled with
rare and beautiful treasures.

PROVERBS 24:3-4, NIV

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

22					26					2					13					A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z																										
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ISAIAH 40:8

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, lesson, learning, foundation, grace, power, knowledge

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV





September 2022

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>
10a (S) Worship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 12p Program Deadline 1p (CD/F/FK) Piece Makers Quilting Projects (1st & 3rd weeks) 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	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 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
 <p>4 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>5 (Office Closed) LABOR DAY</p> 	<p>6 7p (Zoom) Staff Meeting 7p (Y) Trustees</p>	<p>7 Bible Study Starts!</p>	8	9	10
<p>11 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [?] 11:15a Revive Team</p>	<p>12 10am (FH) Rachel Circle</p>	13	<p>14 1p (M) Reading for Fun</p>	15	16	17
<p>18 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Rally Sunday! Bells & Brunch 5p (Zoom) SPRC MEETING WITH DS</p>	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>25 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Church Conference Forms due to Church office</p>	<p>26 7p (Zoom) Church Council</p>	27	28	29	30	





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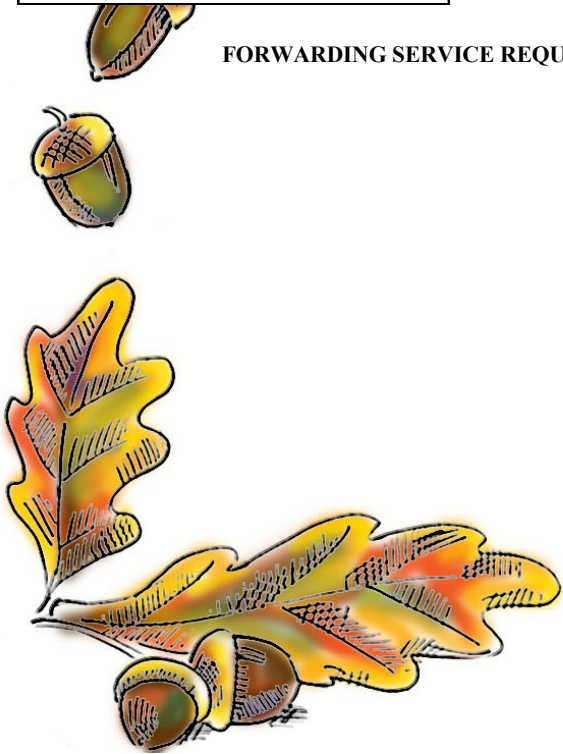
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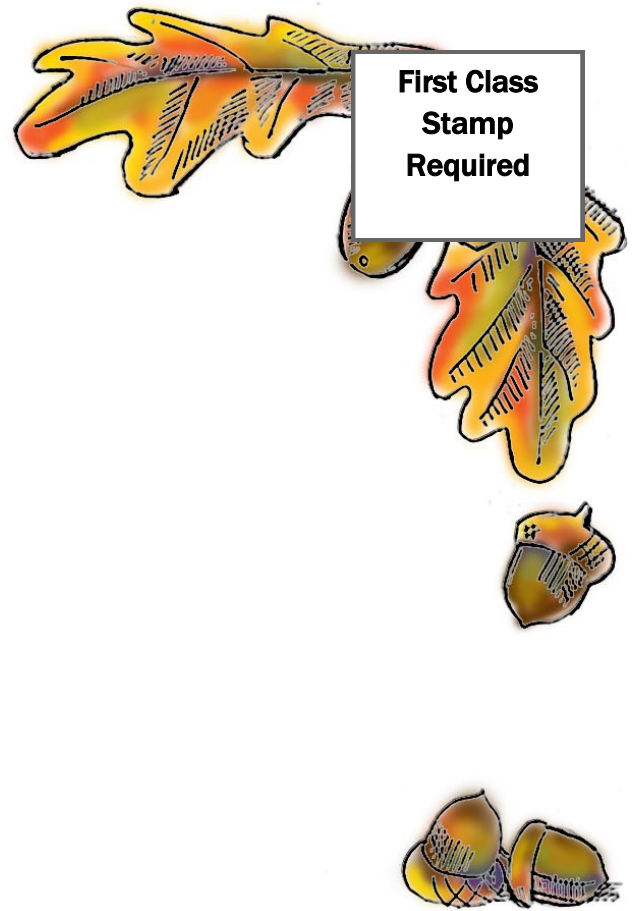
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1
 <p>2 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</p>	3	4 7p (Zoom) Staff Mtg. 7p (Y) Trustees	5	6	7	8
9 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	11	12 1p (M) Reading for Fun	13	14	15
16 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LAITY SUNDAY Bells & Brunch	17	18	19	20	21	22
 <p>6PM @ LAKE ORION UMC</p>	24 7p (Zoom) Church Council	25	26	27	28	29
30 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - REFORMATION -	31					

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



First Class
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Required



The Grapevine

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Alexander Wolf, Pianist

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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!