



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 28 | May/June 2025

"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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This month we are featuring our tenant Dragonfly Hybrid. Here is a little information about them...

Welcome from Dragonfly Hybrid!

We are Dragonfly Hybrid, a homeschool hybrid program serving students in grades 4-12. [They also offer high school options onsite for those enrolled with Oxford Virtual Academy as a dual enrolled student to allow some peer interaction and hands-on

participation]. Our team includes Jenni Stec (owner), Jasmine Weis (director), and Marcy Mitchell (administrative librarian). We meet for classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays and are honored to be entering our fourth year in partnership with Oxford United Methodist Church. It has been a joy to work alongside the church's staff and members – we truly feel welcomed and supported here!

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open through August 15th.

We proudly partner with Oxford Virtual Academy to offer our program at no cost to families. Please check our program out at www.dragonflyhybrid.com or feel free to contact any of our staff if you have any questions. Thank you for being part of our journey!

Vision & Values

- Be Kind
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Work Hard
- Have Fun





feeling..... this God nudge. This God telling each of us "to help my people.... help my people as I have asked you.

This is our time to really trust God like never before. This is the time to listen to the words of Jesus as we become joy filled disciples to inspire others to follow Jesus. Are you ready? Are you ready to build this church on rock instead of sand? This is the time to give off the top so that our ministries will flourish for decades to come! This is our time!

See you soon and often!
Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor

We have made it through the Easter festivities and 40 days of Lent. The Ash Wednesday service launched the beginning of Lent and now we begin to turn our attention to planning for the season of Pentecost.

I want to encourage you to warmly embrace the new people who joined the church on Easter Sunday. They are gifts from God. Their contact information can be found later in this issue. My heart has been deeply moved to see how God is blessing us beyond measure. I witnessed what happens here on Wednesday night when our youth gather under the leadership of Amie Von Knorring. I hear the noise and joy of beautiful children and youth every Wednesday night. Do you feel God calling you to help our youth and Children's ministry grow in faith? If you feel you have a heart for children and youth, we need you, but more importantly, our children and youth need you.

Have you ever felt an overwhelming nudge to ask your friends and neighbors to join you in worship? I am sure there has been a situation you have been in where you have thought "these people could really benefit from the gospel, from the word of God, and from the love of our church community. I implore you to take a risk and follow up on this



WEAR RED FOR
Pentecost
JUNE 15TH

Conner/Wood Memorial Scholarship Application

The Conner/Wood Memorial Scholarship is a gift of up to \$1,000.00 given each year to a graduating High School Senior or current College Student who is a member of the Oxford United Methodist Church. The recipient will use the funds toward the cost of their education. This is a non-renewable scholarship and the recipient will not be able to apply for the scholarship again. You however, may reapply if you haven't been awarded the Conner/Wood Memorial Scholarship. **If you are interested in applying for the Scholarship, please complete this application and return it to the Church Office by: Sunday, May 11, 2025.**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name of School attending or will attend: _____

Course of study: _____

Year you became a member of the church: _____

Please submit, in writing, your response to the following questions:

- ◆ List the activities and involvement you have had with the Oxford United Methodist Church during the last 4 years.
- ◆ How has the Oxford United Methodist Church helped prepare you for your post High School educational experience?
- ◆ Having benefited from your involvement with the Oxford United Methodist Church, what do you see as your role in the church-at-large (during college, after college)?



Would you like to learn how to host your own Friendship Hour?

Each Sunday after our church service we have a time of fellowship in our Fellowship Hall for all to come and share a snack & a beverage.

This is a nice time to meet and greet people, share and learn more about different activities that are happening here at the church.

During the winter months we rely on our different teams to rotate hosting.

During our summer months we still need a few groups to host.

However, we would appreciate individuals, families, or friends coming together to host this activity.

If you are interested in learning what hosting a Friendship Hour entails

Please contact the church office (248-628-1289) or Carolyn Lawrie (586-925-2687).



*Festival of the
Christian Home
and Mother's Day*

May 11th - 10am

This will be a very special service!

A graphic for a fundraiser featuring a green leafy background. A large green circle contains the text 'OXFORD UMC & WOJO'S GARDEN Fundraiser'. Below the circle, text describes the event: 'Shop for your May flowers at Wojo's in Ortonville or Davison on May 14 & 15. Be sure to mention Oxford UMC at checkout and 10% of your total sales will be donated to the Bells for new music. (gift cards not included)'. At the bottom, two locations are listed with a location pin icon: '2570 Oakwood Ortonville, MI 248-627-6498' and '7360 E. Court St. Davison, MI 810-658-9221'. A small circular logo with a green leaf is in the top right corner.

OXFORD UMC &
WOJO'S GARDEN
Fundraiser

Shop for your May flowers at Wojo's in Ortonville or Davison on May 14 & 15. Be sure to mention Oxford UMC at checkout and 10% of your total sales will be donated to the Bells for new music. (gift cards not included)

2570 Oakwood Ortonville, MI 248-627-6498 or 7360 E. Court St. Davison, MI 810-658-9221



***CROP Hunger Walk 2025
May 18***

1pm Registration | 2pm Walk

***Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church
2700 Waldon, Lake Orion***

Join 10 community churches from Lake Orion and Oxford to help end hunger one step at a time. There is a 2 mile and 6 mile walk.

Refreshment stops will be along the route and at the end.

For donation envelopes, please contact Evan Sweeder.



June 8 - We will be celebrating all High School and College Graduates!

Oxford United Methodist Church would like to honor our high school and college graduates on June 8. If you would like your child or grandchild honored, please let Becky know. A picture and information

about where they graduated from, future

plans, and anything else they would like to share will need to be provided to Becky by May 22. We look forward to celebrating their great accomplishments.



**FATHER'S DAY &
PEACE WITH JUSTICE
SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY
JUNE 15TH - 10AM WORSHIP**





June 22nd-25th
from 5:30-8:30pm

This year's vacation bible school's theme is True North!
True North teaches kids to look at God as their True north
when they are in need or feeling hopeless.

Kids this year will get to make personalized crafts, amazing bible stories,
fun games and sing and dance like no one's watching.

The kids will also get the chance to meet and learn about this year's vbs mascots!

You can start signing your kids up at www.myvbs.org/OUMC2025/ (or on our website!)

We are asking everyone to help out with some donations for decorations and snacks.
Some decorations we need are tents, green Christmas tree's without lights, boxes, wood logs,
deer head mounts, etc. A full list of decoration and supply needs will be posted in the
Fellowship hall. Any borrowed decorations will be tagged with the name of the owner
so we can return them at the end!

We still need volunteers for group leaders, activity leaders and more
All interested in helping - please attend a training & decorations making on May 10 @ 12:30pm
We appreciate all the help we can get to make this year a success!

A large "Thank You!" to everyone that helped with the silent auction!
All together \$2089 was raised.

Also, our thanks go out to all that donated for the heart fundraiser. \$268 is our current total.

Any questions, comments or concerns please see Megan Imirowicz (248-660-1041)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Our Youth Group currently meets every Wednesday evening from 6-7:30pm, and is open to all kids ages 10+. They enjoy snacks, Bible Study, games and much more. Invite a friend (or two) to come with you!

They are currently offering a Fundraiser **for all** families on Sunday, August 3, 2025. You do not have to be a part of the Youth Group to attend...

Questions?

Contact Youth Director Amie Von Knorring

In Sandusky, Ohio



Kalahari
RESORTS & CONVENTIONS

Oxford United Methodist Church Fundraiser Event!!

Sunday, August 3, 2025 | ONLY \$159!

Mark your calendar to take a break!! Support your Church while having fun! Get away without going too far from home to America's LARGEST indoor waterpark and enjoy a special rate for families and friends! Rooms are ONLY \$159 and feature 2 Queen beds and INCLUDES waterpark passes! A portion from EACH room booked will benefit Oxford United Methodist Church. Book on or before July 3, 2025 to avoid being shut out.

Book online today! <https://book.passkey.com/e/51010138>



Limited # available. For call-in reservations 1-877-525-2427 ask for the Oxford United Methodist Church. Group Rate. Standard Rooms sleep 4-6, admission for 4 to the waterpark! Up to 2 guests may be added for \$50 each. Rates prior to 13.75% tax.

PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Family of Betty Hoffman Susan Johnson Peg Moulder Jazsmyine Gaiter
Rev. Jennifer Jue Emma Taylor Anna Taylor Dick & Barb Casper Gail Mack
Emily Perkovic Steve Trykar Ruth Lawdins Rick Smith John Hauxwell
Nikki Doctor Rona-Jane Chislet Marina Chislet Glen & Geraldine McLaughlin
Kip Lawrie Olga Neill Kent Patterson Bob Willobee Carol Hauxwell
Ron Shedlowsky and Family Denise Gildner Ro Van Wagoner Shirley Conner
Linda McIntyre Bruce Conrad Ginny Conrad Amy Thorson Mary Adekitan

We ask your blessings upon:

All Families + those expecting new children; dealing with loss of a loved one
All of our brothers and sisters who deal with racism & hatred
First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by illness
All our school children, their teachers, school workers and administrators
Our neighborhoods and the Revival of our community
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
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!

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



Birthdays

May 2 - Ron Etherton | Julie Langley
May 5 - Matthew Crothers
May 7 - Steve Matteson
May 9 - Amy Cischke
May 15 - Laurie Del Pino
May 16 - Amy Fleischer
May 20 - Emaleigh Von Knorring
May 21 - John Lychuk
May 25 - Rosemary Rumbold
May 31 - Zoe Fleischer | Shawn Turner

June 1 - Morgan Gross
June 3 - Kevin Kater
June 6 - Susan Rizzo
June 11 - Desirae Turner
June 17 - John Warren
June 24 - Zoe Gaiter
June 27 - Craig Acheson

June 3 - Jon & Shawn Gross
June 18 - Grayson & Pauline East
June 24 - Tom & Lynda Bertich
June 26 - Bruce & Ginny Conrad
June 27 - John & Nadine Lychuk

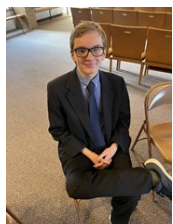
Anniversaries

May 20 - Bernie & Rosemary Rumbold
May 30 - Peter & Carolynn Foss

On Easter Sunday we welcomed the following people into membership here at Oxford UMC - please welcome them!



Confirmed Member:



Ian J. Imirowicz

Ian is a brother, a son, an uncle, and a grandson. He is interested in technology and programming. He likes to camp, hike and just be in nature.
Mother: Julie Conrad
Grandparents: Bruce and Ginny Conrad
Oxford UMC Sponsor: Evan Sweeder

New Professing Members:



Eric C. Richard Jr.

Eric was born in Chicago, Illinois and raised in northwest Indiana. He moved to Michigan after meeting Catherine. They were married in 2020. He is the father of Myles and loves spending time with him. He also attended Via de Cristo weekend 70 last spring. He was instrumental in wiring up the Oxford UMC office for Wi-Fi. And currently works in communications on complex computer and telephone systems.
Oxford UMC Sponsor: Dan Mumbrue
Address / Phone: 11400 Ingram St. Livonia (248)872-7816



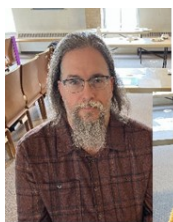
Randy G. O'Brien

Randy is a father (to Stephanie & Ryan), and a grandfather (to Nash, Willa, Hazel and Wren). He is also a US Army veteran. He is also the caretaker of a 10 acre show-horse farm.
Oxford UMC Sponsor: Tony Rizzo
Address / Phone: 2090 Delano Rd Oxford (734)612-2350



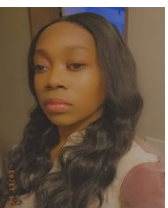
Anne Rossier

Anne enjoys making latch-hook rugs and gardening for both herself and her condo association. She lives in the home she inherited from her mother. She has previously worked at Letica doing accounting receivables, and at McDonalds.
Oxford UMC Sponsor: Renae Shagena
Address / Phone: 632 Oxford Oaks Ct. Oxford (947)300-7040



Shawn & Desirae L. Turner (and daughter, Dahlia Turner)

Shawn and Desire have three daughters. They enjoy gardening and being outdoors. Shawn collects agates and fossils and makes them beautiful, when he is not camping or fishing. And Desire enjoys anything creative. They both want to do more for others and enjoy volunteering in the community and church.
Oxford UMC Sponsors: Shawn - Steve Matteson
Desirae - Carolyn Lawrie
Address / Phone: 141 Laurel Leah Oxford
Shawn - (248)653-4866
Desirae - (248)653-4874



Cymone & Jazmyne I. Gaiter (and children, Cieana Garrett, Zoe Gaiter, & Ezra Gaiter)

Cymone and Jazmyne have three children. Jazmyne works EMS and likes helping people. She enjoys anything medical and reading scary / mystery novels. Cymone enjoys family time the most. He also likes traveling and is an adventurous cook. You might also find him at the shooting range or a comedy show.

Oxford UMC Sponsors: Cymone - Steve Matteson
Jazmyne - Laurie Del Pino
Address / Phone: 357 Shin Branch Oxford (248)613-6340

[Please note that this information is not to be used for commercial purposes and should be added to your Oxford UMC Directory]

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee

The leadership team has been working steadily to bring new members into the church, establish goals for growth, and strengthen the outreach of our church. Good things are happening.

We are excited for the addition of nine new members received on Easter Sunday. This is major along with two adult baptisms. A new Youth Program established and led by Amie Von Knorring and her helper Mary Dempsey, and volunteers, is off and running with an average of twelve attendees each week. Fundraisers chaired by Meghan Imirowicz have been successful for Vacation Bible School support for the summer program. There are many other proposed projects on the horizon as well.

We are fortunate to have our dedicated employees starting with Office Administrator Becky Sallans who has

been with us nearly 24 years. Pianist Alex Wolf has 12 years and our newest, Youth Director Amie Von Knorring. We also have Social Media and Vacation Bible School Director Megan Imirowicz who has been very successful raising funds for our programs. Watch for other opportunities to support these viable programs.

Pastor Julius Del Pino has been a very strong mentor with a determined vision and he works with teams to bring the vision to fruition. His strong leadership and encouraging and supportive demeanor is the catalyst for all of us. We are blessed by his presence.

I am excited to see the growth and interactions occurring within the church. There are a lot of wonderful members of this church and here's to much more continued growth in the future.

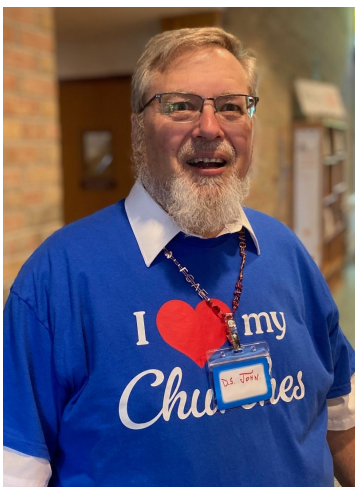
Bless us all as we work in Jesus holy name,
Pauline East
SPPRC Leader



East Winds District News

LANSING MI...Bishop David A. Bard announces to the Michigan Conference the appointment of the Reverend John Kasper as district superintendent of the East Winds District, effective July 1, 2025. Rev. Kasper is currently serving as the district superintendent of the Central Bay District. He will follow the Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford, who has been a district superintendent since 2018. Rev. Dr. Crawford has been appointed as pastor of Northville United Methodist Church, effective July 1.

With Rev. Kasper serving as superintendent of two districts, Bishop Bard also announces the appointment of the Rev. John Hice as half-time assistant to the East Winds DS, effective July 1. Rev. Hice is being appointed as a retired elder. Immediately preceding his retirement, Rev. Hice served as district superintendent for the East Winds District. It is expected that this appointment will continue through the end of 2025.



Bishop Bard is making these appointments in light of likely changes to the Michigan Conference budget. Bishop Bard: "Even though finances play a significant

role in these decisions, I am pleased that our current cabinet is willing to think creatively about superintending moving into the future. We will continue to think and imagine new ways of fulfilling our Disciplinary responsibilities while helping the churches of our conference explore unique ways to grow in vital mission and ministry. I am very grateful to Rev. Kasper and Rev. Hice for their willingness to assume new responsibilities."

Bishop Bard said: "Making a new appointment to the cabinet is always a joy, and always also means a loss. The Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford has served as a district superintendent faithfully and well. Her ministry in both the Western Waters and East Winds districts has been deeply appreciated. She has served with her keen mind, out of her deep faith and love for the church. She has cared deeply about the congregations and clergy under her care. Her cabinet colleagues and I will miss her."

The 2026 budget proposal, if approved, will provide funds for five district superintendents for the Michigan Conference. Bishop Bard will work with the cabinet and other conference leaders on a plan for superintending and districts to be proposed to the 2026 annual conference session. "We will want to think in new and creative ways about how our annual conference provides support for and supervision of our clergy and how we can encourage and provide resources for local congregations and ministries as they seek to be vibrant places for the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."



*"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 - 2025

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.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce." Proverbs 3:9

January Giving	\$ 4,156.00
February Giving	\$ 3,239.56
<i>(Note: February 2 no worship)</i>	
March Giving	\$ 6,751.00
April Giving	\$ 5,176.00
 Giving Subtotal	 \$19,322.56
Budget for 2025	\$130,800.00

We are currently having difficulty making our monthly expenses. If there is any way you could please increase your monthly giving - especially in the summer - we would greatly appreciate it!



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.*

2025 Church Council

Church Council Chairperson:	Fred Nelson	(248)390-7636
General Fund Treasurer:	Becky Sallans	(248)628-1289
Designated Fund Treasurer:	Kevin Kater	(248)628-7804
Financial Secretary:	Larry Bradford	(248)628-5759
Finance Chairperson:	Jon Gross	(586)220-1910 <i>(new#)</i>
Board of Trustees:	Tony Rizzo	(248)628-1787
SPRC Chairperson:	Pauline East	(248)320-4823
Worship Team:	Michelle Mumbrue	(248)969-9173
	Laura Clancy	(248)628-6648
Missions & Outreach:	(available)	
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
	Megan Imirowicz	[megan.imirowicz@gmail.com]
Youth Director:	Amie VonKnorring	(248)342-8051
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:		
	Laurie Del Pino	[lauriedelpino56@gmail.com]

Church Council meets the first Monday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.



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
Canned tomatoes
Cake mix

Beef stew
Canned chicken
Personal care items

Canned mandarin oranges
Hamburger Helper
Feminine Products

Baked Beans
Chunky Soup

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

WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THIS MINISTRY

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



WINE, DINE & DO GOOD!

You're invited to an unforgettable evening at **Victoria's Bistro** as we host a **Wine Dinner Fundraiser** in support of **Love INC**, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families in need right here in our community.

Sunday, June 1st, 2025

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Victoria's Bistro 12 S Washington St, Oxford

4:00 PM – Cocktail Social Hour

5:00 PM – Dinner & Presentation

Enjoy a beautifully crafted multi-course dinner, expertly paired with hand-selected wines.

We're bringing the flavor—and the heart.

\$125 per person (includes gratuity)

\$50 from every ticket sold will be donated to

Love INC

A portion of all retail wine sales that evening will also be donated.

Reserve your seat now at:

toasttab.com/victoriawineanddine

Limited seats available – don't wait!

All sales are final. No refunds for cancellations.

Pre-paid reservations only.



North
Oakland
County

Overtaken by God's Love

Posted By **morgan1965** | Posted on April 21, 2025 in "The Lyght House" | a blog by Bishop Ernest S. Lyght

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on the back of a borrowed donkey, it was indeed a triumphal arrival and entrance. Matthew 21:1-11 describes Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As Jesus made his way on the back of a donkey, "a very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowd that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'" At this time the whole city was in turmoil. Some wanted to know who is this man. The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee." This event is known to modern day Christians as Palm Sunday, and it marks the beginning of Holy Week.

As Jesus made the decision to go to Jerusalem at this particular time, he surely was mindful of his great love for all people. Also, he was guided by the fact that God had sent him into the world because of God's great love for the world's people (John 3:16). Jesus had spent his entire ministry teaching the principles of Love: love God; love your neighbor; even as you love yourself. Jesus demonstrated his abiding love when he invited his disciples to join him for a sacred meal – the Last Supper. Jesus took a towel. He washed the disciples' feet. He shared the bread and the cup with them. Jesus practiced inclusivity, because he invited Judas who would betray him; he included Peter who would deny him three times;

he included the other disciples, all of whom would later desert him. In spite of these ominous acts looming on the horizon of time, Jesus dared to enter Jerusalem and shower his disciples with his love on Maundy Thursday.

On the next day, Good Friday, Jesus gave his life on the cross. Out of love and compassion, Jesus told the criminal who asked to be remembered that "truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). The disciples, who had spent three years of in-service training with Jesus, watched his crucifixion from a distance. They were afraid that they might be identified as Jesus' disciples and be crucified too, just like their teacher.

On that Sunday, the third day, God raised Jesus from death to life. After Jesus' resurrection and appearances to the disciples, the disciples went to the Upper Room and spent a long time in prayer and meditation. When the day of Pentecost came, they stood tall for Jesus and expressed their love for Jesus. They had been overtaken by God's love.

Do you have the courage to enter Jerusalem with Jesus? Are you willing to pick up your cross and bear your cross as you journey with Jesus in an upside-down world? Are you willing to be overtaken by God's love? When we are overtaken by God's Love, we are ready, willing and able to follow Jesus' directive to Peter: "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17). That's what it means to be Easter People.

Easter now tells us that Christ has risen. He is risen indeed. Have you been overtaken by God's love?

Think About It!

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).



UM Women: Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle is a sisterhood of Christian fellowship. We currently meet September through June, on the second Monday of each month.

Our meetings include prayers, support & fellowship for each other, a business meeting, followed by sharing of ideas on community service & fundraisers, hosting Friendship Hour & at least one devotional reading which helps remind us the reason we come together is to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

If you are a woman looking for more Christian support in life from other women of all ages, or for how you can help others, maybe you are seeking to broaden your horizons in a volunteer based, easy going group - then please check us out.

Next Meeting: **Monday, May 12th @ 10:30am** at OUMC

Next scheduled *Friendship Hour: is **Sunday, June 29th**
(*However we do have several open dates in June available)



Questions?
Need a Ride?
Please contact - Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President

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.



Excelsior Bell Choir

The Bell Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm

The last performance for this school year will be on May 18.

You are invited 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 Shagena (248-969-2225).

Visit Us
ONLINE



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Did you know you can sign up for Vacation Bible School online?

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go to OUMC Oxford MI
and subscribe

Plumb the Depths of our Rich History

By Bishop David Bard | MI Area |
Posted on April 2, 2025 in "Bishop's Blog"

As we near Easter, Bishop David Bard asks us to proclaim the message of a loving and redeeming God who remains ever near, the same message that has been carried by so many before us...



In the last six months, it has been my joy and privilege to travel with groups from both the Michigan Conference and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC). I just returned from a trip to Greece and Rome... following Paul's travels and seeing some of the seminal sites in the history of Western civilization.

Seeing these magnificent sites and structures, I pondered, "What did Paul have to offer in his preaching?" When one thinks of Rome, Peter must also be included. So, what about the preaching of Peter and Paul attracted persons to follow this Jesus, a Jesus crucified at the hands of the Roman Empire but then proclaimed as risen?

Monotheism may have been attractive to some. Throughout Greece and Rome, temples were built to various gods. Perhaps the simplicity of worshiping one God appealed to some, though there were certainly monotheistic trends in other religions of the time, including those in Egypt.

More important, though, was the character and nature of this single God proclaimed by Paul and Peter. This God was genuinely caring. This God was concerned for the well-being of all persons. While traveling ... I could not avoid the impression that the religious systems of all three were hierarchically structured and that those higher up in the social system were also closer to the gods. The God of Jesus Christ did not distinguish between rich and poor, ruler and ruled, in caring and concern. "There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28, NRSVUE). In the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman religions, the emperors were given titles such as "son of God" and "savior." In the Christian faith, all can be considered children of God, and our savior is a Jew from a backwater province who was crucified by the empire.

The notion of a caring and concerned God is rooted in the faith of the Hebrews and is now extended in Jesus to all persons. And this caring and concerned God is always near in the resurrected Christ. People responded to this message. And while the message of the Christian faith is about an accessible God, there is also a sense that some places can be places of special encounter with this God of Jesus Christ. Some have labeled them as "thin spaces," places where the presence of God in the risen Christ seems remarkably powerful. One cannot travel to Greece and Rome without being taken by the remarkable church structures that have been thin places for many people: St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, and monasteries built on the Greek

mountains in Meteora. Icons, in their unique artistry, provide a powerful reminder of the presence of God.

The message of a caring, concerned, and accessible God often threatened the empire. To worship the usual gods supported the imperial structures and systems. To worship the God of Jesus Christ might lead people to question those systems and structures. The relationship between the Christian faith and the philosophical and religious ideas of the Greeks and Romans remains interesting. Some early Christians, such as Justin Martyr (AD 100-165), taught that as all truth comes from God, the truth that may be found in Greek and Roman philosophy should be welcomed by Christians. Unfortunately, his Christian faith still cost him. Justin was beheaded for refusing to renounce his faith, likely and ironically, during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, an emperor keen on philosophy.

When the empire fell, there was a time when the Christians showed little concern for its grand structures. Marble from the Colosseum in Rome was taken and used for building homes. Later, popes and other authorities began to appreciate the importance of these ancient structures. Archaeologists have uncovered wonderful places that tell us about our history and help it come alive. Walking the ancient streets of Corinth, where Paul walked, is an amazing experience I have had twice these past six months. I will be processing these trips for some time. I come away with a desire to dig deeply into the rich wells of our Christian tradition. I encourage you to do so as well. People have been following Jesus for nearly two thousand years, and we have much to learn from them. They have worshiped in caves, catacombs, and church buildings, ranging from the simple to the grand and ornate...

In plumbing the depths of our history, we must also acknowledge where we have gotten things wrong in following Jesus. The church has sometimes uncritically embraced hierarchies of value inconsistent with our faith. The church has often found itself enamored with the power of Caesars. In our history, we have justified slavery and racism. In the 1920s, Congress passed an immigration act that set strict quotas on immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe. Our founders often referred to the thought of the Greeks and Romans, but ironically, in 1924, we decided we did not want to allow many Greeks or Italians into the country.

The heart of our faith, though, is always an appreciation of each person as a unique creation of God, created in the image of God — a God who cares and seeks the well-being of God's creation and its redemption and salvation. This God came near in Jesus and remains near in the risen Christ. On Easter morning, when we sing out, "Christ the Lord is risen today," it is not a statement about the past but about the present. Today! The message of a loving and redeeming God who remains ever near, the message carried by Paul and Peter and so many others through the centuries, remains our message to share. Celebrate this. Plumb the depths of our rich history. Share the story.

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

Thoughts to Ponder...

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Seizing Holy Opportunities

In *Holy Moments*, Matthew Kelly discusses the world's need for more small (but sometimes large) instances of people caring for others, cultivating joy, encouragement and love instead of anger, envy, fear. Kelly defines a Holy Moment as "a single moment in which you open yourself to God. ... You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is telling you to do."

This may mean mowing the lawn for a neighbor with a broken leg, praising a child on his artwork, buying a surprise snack for someone having a bad day, working extra shifts for a coworker with cancer so she can receive her full salary while out sick, paying for the next car's drive-thru order. Anyone can create a Holy Moment, because you don't need special skills, position or wealth. "If you want to see miracles, make yourself available to God," Kelly suggests.

He adds that God has a track record of collaborating with "the most unlikely people to make amazing things happen, and now He wants to collaborate with you." When we're open to God's leading, holy opportunities abound. And we will experience as much joy as the ones to whom we show care.



Loving My "Enemies"

In polarized times, when people view huge concepts such as justice, government policy and care for neighbors differently, how do we follow Jesus' command to love our enemies? I prefer the word opponents, but our Lord's instructions still stand.

In the Bible, "love" doesn't mean liking someone; it means caring for them, treating them kindly. I find The Message paraphrase of Luke 6:27-36 helpful: "Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst," Jesus says about one's enemies. So, when I contact government leaders to express my opinions, I address them with respect, whether I agree with them or not. When I encounter a neighbor whose views oppose mine, I ask myself what I would want them to do for me, whether help with an errand or be friendly. Then, as The Message puts it, I "grab the initiative and do it for them."

And this, which might be the hardest: Amid tough times, Jesus says, "Respond with the supple moves of prayer." It's human nature to pray that God change our enemies' or opponents' minds. But it's more Christlike to pray for their health, their families and whatever God desires for them, not what I want. Can I do this? With God's help, yes.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Just for Fun

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Finish the garden for your mom!

My mom's name is _____

Her favorite color is _____

Her favorite food is _____

WORD SEARCH

A	Y	L	O	V	E	I	B	M	P
S	P	G	I	A	A	W	E	U	A
P	E	U	R	L	E	R	F	O	W
E	F	G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S
C	U	K	D	U	M	I	T	H	K
I	N	W	J	P	V	E	H	K	I
A	C	Q	O	S	C	N	E	P	N
L	B	E	S	T	A	D	R	Q	D

MY MOMMY IS THE BEST

My mom is the best because:

My mom is the best because:

TIC TAC TOE

MOM

Color and cut out the bookmark!

IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

What you need:

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

What you do:

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same side) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.



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 6p (Y) Youth Group	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
 4 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER HOLY COMMUNION UMCOR Special Sunday: Native American Ministries Sunday	5 7p (FH) Church Council	6 7p (Y) Trustees	7	8	9	10 12:30p (W) VBS Meeting and Decorations Making
11 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Festival of the Christian Home Mother's Day	12 10:30am (FH) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	13	14 1p (M) Reading for Fun Wojo's Bell Choir Fundraiser	15	16	17
18 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Last Bells & Brunch until fall CROP Walk [1p Registration 2p Walk]	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31 Annual Michigan UMC Conference



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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 7TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER HOLY COMMUNION	2 7p (F/FK) Church Council	3 7p (Y) Trustees	4	5	6	7
8 PENTECOST [WEAR RED] Graduation Celebration 11:15a Liturgist Training	9 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	10	11 1p (M) Reading for Fun 3p (F/FK) SPPRC	12	13	14
15 1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Father's Day UMCOR Special Sunday: Peace with Justice Sunday	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	23	24	25	26	27	28
"True North" Vacation Bible School - 5:30 - 8:30pm						
29 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	30					

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

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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!