



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 2 | November / December 2020

"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

The five practices of
Fruitful Congregations:

1. Radical Hospitality
2. Passionate Worship
3. Intentional Faith Development
4. Risk-taking Mission & Service
5. Extravagant Generosity

Inside This Issue :

2. Meet The Pastor
3. Michigan Annual Conference
4. From the Bishop
5. Local Missions & Outreach
6. Mission and Outreach
7. Christian Growth & Music
8. Fellowship & Service Groups
9. 2020 Church Council
Finance Update
Trustee Update
10. Pray for the Homebound
Current Holidays
11. Birthdays & Anniversaries
Praying Through the Directory
Thank You's
- 12 / 13. Monthly Calendars

This Month's Highlights:

⇒ *Thanks Attitude*

This November let us be intentional and take a few moments to give thanks for each other in our OUMC family.

⇒ *All Saints Sunday November 1 - 10am*

*"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession."
(Deuteronomy 7:6)*

Celebrate faithful Christians who have passed on to eternity this past year. Light a candle for a loved one.

⇒ *Thanks Giving / Commitment & Bell Choir Sunday November 15 - 10am*

*"Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

Worship and give thanks for God's many blessings.

Make a commitment of time, talents, and resources to God's church. We are planning on giving something special to those in need through our Wednesday Community Meal program so we are *asking for food donations*.



**Join Us For
Worship!**
*Holy Communion -
First Sunday of the month*



From
the
Minister



A Personal Advent: 2020

By now most of you know that the season of Advent is a time for deeply personal reflection. It is both the source of great joy, looking back on the birth of Christ, and on the great abundance of blessings bestowed upon us all during the year. In varying degrees, we all have all been blessed with abundance. It is also a time of horrendous pain for many as we reflect on the losses and suffering, both personal and global, that have been part of our existence in the past year.

This time of year is one of unrealistically huge expectations – that of finding exactly the perfect gift for those we love, of throwing the best party, sending the right cards to friends and relatives. And it’s especially difficult to find time to reflect on the true meaning of Advent. We get so lost and obsessive about trying to care for and please others that we sometimes lose sight of the fact that we have to address our own needs as well: to find the quiet time to hear God’s still voice, to reflect on how we live our lives in response to God’s call, to nourish our own bodies, minds and spirits – and sometimes to



Please continue to pray that this Covid19 outbreak and precautions comes to an end. In the meantime - Please follow these guidelines: Social distancing 6 feet apart, wear a face mask please, Wash your hands often, no food or drinks at coffee hour. Oxford UMC trustees/volunteers are disinfecting high touch surfaces before and after the services. Please stay home if you are feeling sick.

November 1 - All Saints Sunday / Holy Communion

Daylight Savings Time Ends!

21nd Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:28

“Don’t Ever Stop Dreaming”

November 10

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 55:22; Proverbs 18:18; James 4:10

“A Lift for Living”

let go and to grieve.

I am so aware of how difficult it is to do this work of God. I know how easily we can be discouraged by the events of the world. I know it is a struggle. Yet, my friends, in spite of the conditions of the world, I believe with all my heart God expects us to be faithful. Is Advent a time of mercy? A time for sparing judgment? A time for allowing us to get it right? A time to grow deep in faith and in obedience? A time for preparation? A time for renewed hope?

Advent is about hope; hope that the wrong of this world will one day be made right.. Hope that the evil of this world will perish. Hope that justice will finally be the order of the day. Hope that our personal plan will be less and less and less and that God’s plan or God’s Will grows more and more apparent in our lives.

During this Holy season, we are reminded of our responsibility of being God’s presence in this community and world, each with our own work to do – the work of the kingdom of God – the work of witnessing to God in our daily lives, where we work and where we live. In our grief and in our joy, Lord help us to wait in faith, to watch eagerly for the coming of the Christ child, to be our presence and relieve the fears of our hearts. Make us people of peace, love, joy, and hope.....a people of confidence.....a people unafraid to call on you... a people who proclaim the coming of a Savior who speaks for justice and love in the midst of pain and brokenness. So let it be!

Julius E. Del Pino,
Minister

November 15 - Thanks Giving Sunday

24th Sunday after Pentecost / Commitment Sunday

Matthew 25:14-30

“Locked in a Room with Open Doors”

Bells Sunday

November 22 - Christ the King Sunday

Last Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 25:31-45

“Giving Our Very Best to God”

Trimming the Church

Sunday, November 22nd (after the worship service)

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



November 29 - 1st Sunday in Advent

tbd

Guest Speaker: Catherine Sallans [Pastor Del Pino will be there]
UM Student Special Offering

Advent & Missions



December 6 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 13 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 20 4th Sunday of Advent
Bell Choir

December 24 Christmas Eve 7pm

Sunday, December 27
[last day to make a 2020 offering]



Advent Bible Study

10:30am to 12noon

Starts Wednesday, December 2nd

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view - proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. This year experience Advent and Christmas with Mary (and Adam Hamilton).

Please drop in any Wednesday morning. Questions? Contact Sue Rizzo (248-628-1787).

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be set up when we decorate the church for Christmas and will be dressed with Christmas "ornaments" upon which will be written items for the **Grace Centers of Hope homeless shelter and for our neighbors in need.**



In addition to the usual **hats and mittens**, we are collecting **socks and underwear** for children, adults and families. All sizes are needed.

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

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

Local Missions & Outreach: Be A Blessing!

Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

We normally collect FISH donations on the first Sunday of each month. HOWEVER, at this time due to the pandemic only cash donations are being accepted. You may make out your 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!”



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

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

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

Remember, FISH is a 100% volunteer organization and they need your help.
 All donations are tax deductible.

Community Free Meals

The Church has long sponsored the Community Free Meals Program (CFMP) in conjunction with other church organizations and more recently the baton has been carried by the Church and the Free Meals Group (FMG) lead by Connie Miller. This is a very important outreach endeavor which provides meals and many other resources to people hurting during this Covid pandemic. OUMC helps financially, does some of the cooking, serves meals in a box at car-side, and makes use of our facilities, all to improve the lot of the hungry and dispossessed in the Oxford area.

OUMC will work with FMG to continue with these services during these difficult times, and welcomes gifts/donations of all kinds into the CFMP to benefit those in need. Further the Church will provide a tax letter to donors (whether they are individuals, companies, Charitable Foundations or other entities) so that the donor may take an eligible tax deduction for the gift etc. We understand that The Clark Foundation, many food supply companies, and many individuals have expressed interest in the program and will contribute when their gift is acknowledged by way of a tax letter.

Let's pray this is so, and that the Lord can powerfully work his way through OUMC!

If you or someone you know would like a Free! hot meal please invite them to visit OUMC on Wednesday's between 5:30 - 6:30pm!

- Bernie Rumbold, AmyBeth Fleischer & Rev. Del Pino




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



Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) of North Oakland County is a non-profit network of churches in the area, including Oxford UMC. The mission of Love INC is to mobilize local volunteers and churches to help those in need and transform lives in the name of Christ. They try to provide any help that is beyond the scope of the churches on their own. If you would like to donate your time or money to help your neighbors in need please contact them:
 Website - www.loveincfnoc.org or call 248-693-4357 for more info.

2021 Commitment Card

[Please cut out and place in the offering plate]



2021 Commitment Card (Estimate of Giving)

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

My/Our Financial Commitment

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

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

Name(s) (print): _____
Signature: _____



Thanks Giving Time and Commitment

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

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

Note: Commitment Sunday is **November 15th** with Bell Choir and Praise Singers music. We will also be praying about our commitment of time, talents, prayers, and finances to God's Church in mission and ministry in 2021. Please pray over and turn in your 2021 Commitment Card (see left), either at the **November 15** service or by mail. Your commitment is kept confidential by Larry Bradford, Financial Secretary. It may be changed at any time.

Thank you.

Your faithful generosity made possible the following gifts to missions in 2020 (to date):
(Due to the pandemic many gifts were not possible this year...)

Camp Scholarships (camp cancelled) \$
Free Meals Ministry \$
Love I.N.C./FISH \$

UMC Special Offerings:

- World Communion Sunday	\$	15.00
- Human Relations Day	\$	70.00
- Peace with Justice	\$	-
UMCOR - One Great Hour of Sharing	\$	90.00
Native American Ministries UMC	\$	-
	\$	175.00

Prayer Quilts Given - 4

Community Free Meals Served - 10 weeks
[we serve the 1st week of the month]
(25-50 individual meals per week)

Thank You!

Small Moments

[posted August 10, 2020]



BISHOP DAVID BARD

Michigan Area

Waking up and getting ready for work a couple of days following annual conference, and most days work is just down the hall. I was watching *CBS This Morning* while eating

breakfast. There was a quick story about happiness and the importance of small moments for happiness. The story was not arguing that there are not wonderfully momentous moments that make us happy, but rather that we should not think of happiness only in such terms.

I thought of the psalm I had read days earlier in which readers are encouraged to give thanks to God for God's wonderful works among humankind, including the good things of life. *"Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love and God's wonderful works to humankind. The Lord satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry are filled with good things."* (Psalm 107:8-9) I thought about Diana Butler Bass' book on gratitude, where she writes: "Gratitude calls us to sit together, to imagine the world as a table of hospitality. To feed one another. To feast, to dance in the streets... Gratitude empowers us. It makes joy and love possible." (*Gratitude*, 186)

We are living in a time when giving thanks is made difficult by circumstances. Our country continues to struggle to contain the coronavirus pandemic. Polarization in our society makes it much more difficult to encourage action for the common good. We continue to reckon with a history that has excluded persons from full participation in a common good based on race. We live in troubled times.

The weight of our world often weighs heavy on my heart and soul. Yet this strange and challenging time of pandemic has also offered many moments that evoke gratitude and bring joy. Coming away from annual conference, I am deeply grateful for all those who worked diligently, thoughtfully, and patiently to make this work. We were able to care for our necessary business without significant technical difficulties. There were many times over the three days, and in days preparing for annual conference, that my heart was offering virtual hugs and applause to conference staff and volunteers for all their work.

I continue to be heartened by the response of so many of you to the coronavirus as you make decisions for your churches. I know this is challenging. We long to be together in more familiar ways. After our virtual annual conference, any number of us could be heard to say, "We are really glad we know we can do this, and we hope we never have to have annual conference this way again." We want to be together, but we must continue to do so as safely as we can, even when that may mean being together is being together virtually. Jesus is present even where the two or three who gather in his name do so virtually. Jesus is present even where the two or three who gather in his name do so while maintaining social distance. Jesus is present even where the two or three

who gather in his name do so while wearing face coverings. The music that gives praise to God can sometimes be music that is sung only in the heart.

I am heartened by the deep sense I get that we are coming to a unique place in our country where the desire to dismantle systems of racism, that have been built over time, is reaching a tipping point. Yes, the work will be hard, and it is the work of Jesus Christ. There seems to be renewed energy for and commitment to the work of creating a more beloved community, where we are grateful for the diverse gifts that can come from all people. Using Diana Butler Bass' words, the beloved community is a table of hospitality to which all are invited, a table at which we feed one another. It is a feast and a dance that is more joyous when all are welcome.

You heard me say during my annual conference sermon that I am in the process of working with conference leaders to form an anti-bias/anti-racism working group. I expect this team will be in place by the end of the month and will begin its work in September. We will be looking at our conference structures, policies, and procedures. We will be offering resources for local congregations. Expect to hear more about the work of this group in the coming weeks.

Speaking of resources for anti-bias/anti-racism work, there are a lot of good materials available. I would encourage you, as you are reading some of these works or watching some of these videos, not to let yourself get too sidetracked when you may disagree in some way with the writer. I've recently re-read Robin DiAngelo, *White Fragility*, and finished Ibram X. Kendi, *How To Be an Anti-Racist*. I don't agree with everything I read in either book and, no surprise, there are points of disagreement between these authors. Yet I continue to learn a great deal from both.

Small moments have also been more personal. Listening to the funeral for John Lewis, the Rev. James Lawson quoted two poems that I later looked up to read again, and both were gifts (Czeslaw Milosz, "Meaning," and Langston Hughes, "I Dream a World"). I continue to find poems that create small moments of joy and gratitude in this difficult time, poems about sadness, tenderness, music, disappointment, difficulty, and love.

Julie and I have been very faithful in our walking and have been adding bicycling to our routine. Over the years, music has brought joy and evoked gratitude, and during this time, I am rediscovering jazz pianist Bill Evans. I would nominate Waxahachie, "Saint Cloud" as my favorite pandemic cd to date.

Small moments of joy and happiness for which I am grateful. I do indeed find that such gratitude empowers me for the challenging work in this difficult time. Gratitude encourages connection and community, inviting me to work with God and others in the creation of a better world – a feast where we feed each other, a dance in which all might participate. Gratitude reminds me of God whose work among humankind is wonderful beyond description and whose grace is intertwined with all life's good gifts.

I am taking time for small moments on this joyful journey.

[to read the full article please go to
<https://michiganumc.org/small-moments/>]

Our Missions & Outreach Groups



UM Women: Rachel Circle

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

When able, we meet the second Monday of each month
Sept. through June at 10am.

If we are still unable to meet in September, we have been discussing having a Rachel Circle Newsletter, that will be sent using the U.S. Mail. We will share devotions, letters from members & ideas for the future, more on that later.

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

During these Covid months we have continued a Card Ministry, kept in touch through high tech & low tech means. Used the 'Power of Prayer' to help bring Christian ministry to so many who have been through so much pain & grief. Many of us have gone through feelings of isolation, depression & loneliness. As Christians we are not immune to these emotions, especially during these Covid stay home, stay safe times. However, as strong Christian women we understand how important it is to share our Faith & Love.

We are joyful in each other's blessings.

In the meantime, may God bless each of you. Until we can meet in person, we will continue to use the Power of Prayer to lift all who are in need. We give thanks to our Lord, Jesus Christ for everything. I would like to leave you with this final thought. There is a saying: "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the rain". We are in the midst of a storm. How many times have you said or thought, 'when this is over' or 'can't wait till this is behind us'. John Wesley said: "*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can*". And, with that thought, Amen!

Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President



UM Men: Band of Brothers

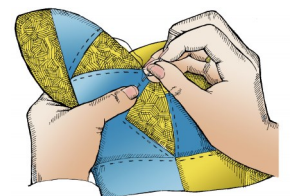
The United Methodist Men focus on Evangelism, Missions, and Spiritual Development.

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



Piece Makers

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



QUILTING GROUP

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!

Christian Growth & Music

Conner/Wood Memorial Scholarship

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. If you haven't been awarded the Conner/Wood Memorial Scholarship you may reapply as many times as you like provided you are still a member and current college student.

The 2020 recipient of this award was:

Jordyn Meersseman

Congratulations!



Jordyn is pictured here with her Grandparents - Devon & John Warren

S.O.A.P. Journaling

By John Gilman

[ACS Technologies - Ministry Impact Resources]



Reading the Bible can become a mundane task that we end up checking off an already over-filled to-do list if we aren't careful. Rather than it being a time of genuine worship, we end up reading a couple of verses then moving forward without truly taking time to reflect on God's Word and what He wants us to hear so we can grow. The S.O.A.P. journaling method has been a huge success by helping us dive into deeper thinking that doesn't require hours of our time. Here's how it works...

Read a passage of scripture

S- Scripture. Choose 1-2 verses out of the passage you read that stand out to you the most. Write those verses down.

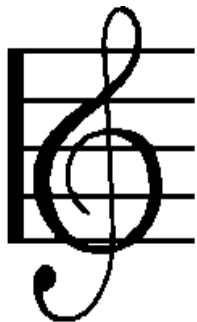
O- Observation. After writing the verses down, write down your observation of the details surrounding this passage. Who is this written for? Who is the author? What do you think God is trying to say to you in this passage?

A- Application. How does the Lord want you to apply this passage of scripture to your life right now?

P- Prayer. Write down a prayer your way to pray regarding these verses and what God has shown you in this reading.

By adopting this journaling method, you may very well be on your way to carving out time in your schedule to really dive deeper into God's Word. The S.O.A.P. method has allowed me to really focus in on just a few verses of scripture at a time and I am able to retain more and meditate more on God's Word. Grab a journal and give this a shot!

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



Bell Choir

The Excelsior Bell Choir rehearsals are on

Wednesdays (6:30-8pm)

If you have any questions please contact Rosemary Rumbold (248-391-0973)

Praise Singers

Join us to practice Sunday's songs and hymns.

Rehearsal days and times are midweek.

If you have questions or if you would like to be a part of the Praise Singers please contact Lucinda Bellairs (248-417-0214).

UMC Camping

There are many choices at our Michigan United Methodist Camps for all ages and interests. Be sure to look at the camp brochures or go online [www.umccamping.org].

Our church, and the camps, can also help you pay for camp.

Call Lucinda Bellairs [248-417-0214 or lucindabel-lairs4@gmail.com] or the church office [248-628-1289] for more info.



Scouting



Boy Scouts:

<https://beascout.scouting.org>
(1-248-338-0035)

Girl Scouts:

<https://www.girlscouts.org>
(1-800-482-6734)



Fellowship & Service Groups



Our group started 2020 with the #HatNotHate Project which was launched in 2018 by Lion Brand Yarn and has now been joined by Be Strong, a non-profit organization empowering youth to prevent bullying and social isolation. This project represents an anti-bullying campaign by distributing blue hats to select schools around the country which are participating in National Anti-Bullying Month during October. The color blue represents awareness, peace, and solidarity.

Although we haven't been gathering in person since early in March, we ended this project in May and mailed out our hats, all ninety-eight of them in June. Currently we are working on lapghans which we hope to distribute to nursing homes and/or veterans associations when that becomes safe for all involved.



We certainly miss the fellowship of gathering and may try to meet again sometime this fall. For any questions, contact Mary Garrard (810-797-5840).



Reading for Fun



Do you enjoy reading? We do!!!

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

Wednesday, September 9th: *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne. September is our "read a classic" month. One night in the reform club, Phileas Fogg bets his companions that he can travel across the globe in just eighty days. Breaking the well-established routine of his daily life, he immediately sets off for Dover with his astonished valet, Passepartout. Passing through exotic lands and dangerous locations, they seize whatever transportation is at hand—whether train or elephant—overcoming setbacks and always racing against the clock.

Wednesday, October 14th: *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts. This richly imagined novel tells the story behind *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the book that inspired the iconic film, through the eyes of author L. Frank Baum's intrepid wife, Maud. Hollywood, 1938: As soon as she learns that M-G-M is adapting her late husband's masterpiece for the screen, seventy-seven-year-old Maud Gage Baum sets about trying to finagle her way onto the set. Nineteen years after Frank's passing, Maud is the only person who can help the producers stay true to the spirit of the book—because she's the only one left who knows its secrets. But the moment she hears Judy Garland rehearsing the first notes of "Over the Rainbow," Maud recognizes the

yearning that defined her own life story: from her youth as a suffragette's daughter to her coming of age as one of the first women in the Ivy League, from her blossoming romance with Frank to the hardscrabble prairie years that inspired *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Judy reminds Maud of a young girl she cared for and tried to help in South Dakota, a dreamer who never got her happy ending. Now, with the young actress under pressure from the studio as well as her ambitious stage mother, Maud resolves to protect her—the way she tried so hard to protect the real Dorothy.

Wednesday, November 11th: *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro. In the summer of 1956, Stevens, a long-serving butler at Darlington Hall, decides to take a motoring trip through the West Country. The six-day excursion becomes a journey into the past of Stevens and England, a past that takes in fascism, two world wars, and an unrealized love between the butler and his housekeeper.

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



2020 Church Council

Church Council Chairperson: (Interim)
Michelle Wood (248)969-2545

Lay Leader: tbd

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

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

Financial Secretary: Larry Bradford (248)628-5759

Finance Chairperson: (Interim)
Bernie Rumbold (248) 391-0973
or AmyBeth Fleischer

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

SPRC Chairperson: John Warren (interim)

Worship Team is currently being formed:
Pastor Julius E. Del Pino (248)628-1289

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

Adult Bible Study: Sue Rizzo (248)628-1787

Christian Education: Michelle Wood (248)969-2545

Camp Ed. Coordinator - Lucinda Bellairs (248)417-0214
lucindabellairs4@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

Members at Large - Church Council:
Bernie Rumbold (2020), John Warren (2021)

Church Council meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to be considered for an open position please contact the Pastor (248)628-1289



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

Rev. John Wesley (founder of Methodism)

Church Conference News

On Thursday, October 29 our church leaders met with District Superintendent Rev. John Hice. We voted on the 2019 Church Conference minutes, voted and approved the 2020 and 2021 Pastor Compensation (including base salary, furnishing allowance, professional education, conference district meeting allowances and mileage) and the 2020 Membership report (losing 4 members to death and due to the pandemic not able to be accurate to judge membership for Love and Concern members). The 2021 leadership list (Church Council, Trustees, Staff Parish, Finance, Nominations, and Memorials) was voted on but we are still looking for a few more committee leaders. Important church numbers (as of October 29th):

Membership 126

Average Worship Attendance 43

Average church school attendance 5

Total church expenditures \$122,794

Percentage of UMC apportionments paid (thru Sept.) 5.6%
[\$1,000 paid of \$17,830 total]

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

We praise God for a good year in mission and ministry.

Finance Update

Thank you for your faithful giving each month to God's Church. We as a Finance team keep track of giving and expenses each month. Thank you for your faithfulness. Please help monthly with our General Fund. The last day for year-end giving is **Sunday, December 27th**. Thank you.

August Giving	\$ 10,566.00
September Giving	\$ 5,662.00
October Giving	\$ 13,788.77
Budget for 2020	\$ 147,613.00

Note: If you prefer to write a check or donate with cash, please use your offering envelopes. If you need envelopes, please call the office or Larry Bradford, financial secretary.



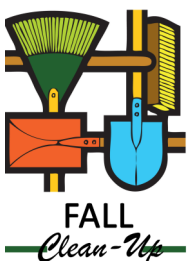
Please consider giving your donations electronically! They will be paid as you decide and directly deposited into the church account. So easy!

Trustees Update

Thank you so much to everyone who came out for the Fall Clean up at the Church!



We thank everyone who worked so hard!





Marcella Frost Linda Brown Bill Conner
 Gertrude Curtis Sue Enekes Pearl Hoard

World Communion Sunday

OCTOBER 4, 2020

According to the 1972 Book of Discipline paragraph 163.b there shall be a World Communion (formerly Fellowship of Suffering and Service) offering to support the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships and the scholarship fund for minority groups.

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

As a small child Mary Grace Galapon labored as a

housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess, of the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference, to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty.



Mary Grace's work, and the impact of hundreds more like her, are possible because you give.

Will you give generously on World Communion Sunday to make education and vocational impact possible for more students, like Mary Grace? Will you equip gifted and qualified students from around the globe to become the world-changers God created them to be?

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." And because the people of The United Methodist Church believe that all of God's children have been created and gifted to build the kingdom Jesus ushered in, we're resourcing them to do just that. Because of your giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.

Reformation Day

OCTOBER 31, 2020



(1483 – 1546) Martin Luther was a German priest, Dominican monk, and professor of theology who is attributed with starting the Protestant Reformation. He strongly disputed the claim that freedom from God's punishment of sin could be purchased with money. He confronted Johann Tetzel, a special papal envoy sent to Germany to sell indulgences. He is said to have nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the church door in Wittenberg in 1517 in order to confront several teachings of the Church. He refused to recant from his teachings and writings at the Diet of Worms in 1521. Pope Leo X excommunicated him following his refusal and he became an outlaw by decree of the Emperor.

Luther's major teachings are still found in Protestant teachings today:

Sola Fide - salvation cannot be earned by good deeds but is a free gift of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Sola Scriptura - he taught that the bible is the only source of divinely revealed knowledge excluding the papal decrees.

Priesthood of all Believers - all baptized Christians are priests. There is no need for a mediator (confessional priest) to confess sins to God.

He also translated the Bible into his German dialect that later become known as "high German" while he was in hiding. His hymns influenced the development of singing songs in church with contemporary melodies (some of them having apparently been bar tunes).



- 1 - Mike Bellairs
- 4 - Dan Mumbrue
- 7 - Sydney Richter
- 13 - Todd Davidson
- 18 - Teddi Bradford
- 18 - Janice Smith
- 19 - Jason Dudewicz
- 21 - Mary Dempsey
- 26 - Bernie Rumbold
- 29 - Megan Imirowicz
- 30 - Laura Clancy



- 1 - Chris Barclay
- 1 - John Pearson
- 2 - Gail Enekes
- 5 - Lisa Dalmia
- 6 - Robert Willobee
- 7 - Charles Garrard
- 9 - Sam Dettorre
- 13 - Bruce Conrad
- 14 - Kevin Smith
- 16 - Pastor Julius
- 29 - Bruce Bunker
- 30 - Steve Laidlaw
- 30 - Susan Smith
- 31 - Mary Adekitan



- 1 - Earl & Jan Hopper
- 3 - Bill & Shirley Conner
- 12 - Bruce & Deb Bunker
- 13 - Tom & Martha Riley
- 18 - Tim & Jean Davidson
- 23 - Mark & Amy Fleischer
- 27 - Robert & Colleen Richter
- 28 - Kevin & Keri Kater



- 10 - Steve & Kathy Laidlaw
- 10 - David & Jennifer Moore

We are praying for each other using the 2019 OUMC directory.
 [If you do not have a directory please pick one up from Becky in the church office.]
 For September please pray for those from Ruth Patterson to Bernie & Rosemary Rumbold.
 For October please pray for those from Lorrin Schwartz to Millie Solon.



Praying Through the Directory



Thank You! Pastor Steve Buck for your calm leadership and kindly care during these summer months between pastors. You were a breath of fresh air.

Your friends at Oxford UMC

Thank you! Pastor Jennifer Jue for your five years of Christian care and leadership. You will be missed.

Your friends at Oxford UMC

Thank You so much for all the prayers, cards and concern during my Father's passing! It was wonderful knowing we were being held in prayer. May God bless the Oxford UMC Church.

Becky Sallans and family

Dear Oxford United Methodist Church,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful card that you sent to me after the death of my husband, David. There are no words to express my gratitude! I also want to thank you for the privilege of playing in the Excelsior Bell Choir. I have been a member for over 20 years and consider the members to be very good friends. I hope to continue as long as I am able. Thank you again for remembering me at this difficult time. May God Bless you always!

With Love, Joanne Sweeney

Dear OUMC Friends,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards and the prayer quilt for Earl. It really means a lot.

Jan Hopper

Dear OM Congregation & Quilt Makers,

I only wish you could hear all the wonderful comments and exclamations when they see my

202 n o v e m b e r

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

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






***Please Note:* ALL BUILDING USAGE IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED BY OUTSIDE USERS.**

The only building usage allowed must adhere with current Covid19 guidelines - social distance 6 feet apart; wear a face mask please; no food or drink; wash your hands often; if you touch something please disinfect if after use.

Oxford UMC trustees/volunteers are disinfecting high touch surfaces before and after the worship services. Please stay home if you are feeling sick.

Weekly 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 11a (F/FK) Fellowship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 12p Bulletin Deadline 1p (CD/F/FK) Quilting Projects (1st & 3rd weeks)	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 5:30p (F/FK) Community Free Meals	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 2p (U) Knit Knack	

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
1  22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - <i>Holy Communion</i>	2	3  Don't forget to vote!	4 9:30a (F/FK/SK) Community Free Meals Set-up	5	6	7
8 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - VISION BANNERS DEDICATION -	9 10a (F/FK) Rachel Circle	10 7p (Y) Trustees	11 9:30a (F/FK/SK) Community Free Meals Set-up 1p (M) Reading for Fun	12	13	14
15  24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - COMMITMENT SUNDAY - <i>Bell Choir Plays</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY (25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST)	23	24	25	26 (Office Closed)  Thanksgiving	27	28
29 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT <i>UM Student Special Offering</i> <i>Guest Speaker: Catherine Sallans</i> (Rev. Del Pino will be here)	30				Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, Nov. 1st Daylight	 Fall Back DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

October 2022



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				1	2	3
4 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST <i>World Communion Sunday</i>  The Lord's Table	5	6	7 9:30a (F/FK/SK) Community Free Meals Set-up	8	9	10
11 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	12	13 7p (Y) Trustees	14 1p (M) Reading for Fun	15	16	17
18 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY	26 7p (U) Church Council	27	28	29	30	31 REFORMATION DAY / HALLOWEEN 

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

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



The Grapevine

is published bi-monthly by

Oxford United Methodist Church

a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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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:

10:00 a.m. Worship

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

Nursery available

Coffee & Refreshments after service

All Are Welcome!