

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



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 35 | July/August 2026

Summer



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"

Matthew 11:28-30



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Our Mission:

Uniting in Jesus Christ
we spread God's love

Our Vision:

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



From the Pastor: A Summer Wish

There is so much I can say about the ministry of Oxford United Methodist Church, Oxford, Michigan. Rather than repeat what many of you already know, please afford me the opportunity to share the following...

We are in the summer months when church attendance declines and many take off to their favorite vacation spot. This year, I am asking every church family to remember that while we all need a break from our regular routine, our church will need to continue to meet the challenge of Ministry Shares and local church programs to maintain the momentum of growing in all areas of the church's ministry. I am asking you to please share your hopes and dreams for your church with those who are less active and visible in solidifying the foundation for the future. Invite others to worship with us. Help start a summer bible study class. Join the praise team. Offer to give the Word for Children. Do something out of the ordinary to spark the interests in a new program that gives hope, joy and healing.

Keep hope alive as we put our faith into action and people feel positive and generous about the church's vision. Let's continue to pull together so that those who are in need of a faith community may find what they are looking for at Oxford UMC..... a loving spirit that reflects the heart of Jesus the Christ for all people.

Bless you in this summer season as you grow to trust more in the goodness of Christ.

Your Pastor

Our Church Vision statement:

*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



STAY
connected
THIS SUMMER



PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Family & Friends of Gary Miller; Archer & Gus; Troy & Sam; Latimer Family Gail & Linda Sister Lynda
 Family Friend Todd Laurie Elynor Zurfluh Anna, Chris & Cassidy Neighbor John Jennifer
 Bob Willobee Laurie Del Pino Kim Rizzo Betty Morrison Franny Stokes Conor & Christopher Chris
 Jerry Lambert Ellen Bill & Danice Burns Gaiter Family Olivia Victoria and family Joy
 Nancy Stewart Evelyn Granger Mike Dempsey Pauline & Grayson East Mrs. Joan Ann Anderson
 Lisa Palazollo CJ John Hauxwell Amanda Guzman John Buscanti Samantha Clancy Jody Aiken
 Jake Taylor Mike Hoover Nadine Gildner Ed Roden & Family Ro Van WagonerCarolynn Foss
 Shirley Acheson Kip Lawrie Peg Moulder Olga Neill Glen & Geraldine McLaughlin Kent Patterson
 Carol Hauxwell Denise Gildner Ron Shedlowsky & family Ginny Conrad Amy Thorsen

We ask your blessings upon:



Our newest Members
and Constituents

All school children, teachers, graduates, school workers and administrators
 All Families - those expecting new children; dealing with loss of a loved one;
 Those navigating complex relationships; dealing with job / lack of job stress
 Those affected by Natural Disasters & all Violence in the US and worldwide
 First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by illness
 All of our brothers and sisters who deal with inequality, racism & hatred
 Those with mental illnesses, are lonely, or do not have someone to pray for them
 Those in the military who serve for our freedom
 Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government
 All affected by the Oxford High School, MSU and all other School Shootings
 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!

Prayer List

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

The Sacred Pace of Rest

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, "You can't hurry compost for the same reason you can't hurry love and you can't hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace." In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed. Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God... The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.



[Reprinted with permission from ChurchArtPro™ Online]

Oxford UMC

OUTDOOR SUNDAY *Worship*

Step into a moment of hope, joy, healing and connection as we celebrate and recognize our Local Law Enforcement Officers.

Join Us in Worship

Sunday, August 23, 2026

10:00 AM

Under the tent - front lawn
(if bad weather: indoors)

21 E. Burdick St - Oxford, MI

An uplifting time of music,
prayer, food and fellowship.

For more Information:

248-628-1289
(M & Th)

www.oxfordunitedmc.org

THANK YOU

We would like to take a moment to express our appreciation to everyone who attended, taught, volunteered, donated, supported, organized or did anything to help with Vacation Bible School this year! This includes Lake Orion UMC for their willingness to help out!

We would especially like to thank our fearless Leaders - Megan Crothers and Lynda Bertich for making such a wonderful time happen!



Covenant Class 2.0 - August 2nd | after worship | food, and childcare provided

We invite you to attend our next Covenant renewal class and get to know more about Oxford UMC. Interested in joining OUMC? Already a member and just have questions? This class is for you!

If you already have a red packet, please return the forms to the church office asap - thanks!



Join us in worship for a Hymn Sing on July 5th



Fionna Hana Dempsey ◆

Fionna has graduated from Berkley High School. She is the daughter of David and Mia Dempsey and the granddaughter of Michael and Mary Dempsey. She will be attending Albion College in the Fall and plans to pursue a career as a Dentist.



Ian Imirowicz ◆

Ian graduated from Brandon High School. He plans to attend college locally for two years and then transfer to Michigan Technical University.



Morgan Imirowicz ◆

Morgan graduated from Hope College with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree with honors. She was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Morgan has a job waiting for her in Grand Rapids after completing her licensing exam.



Noemy Ferreira Do Vale ◆

Noemy graduated with honors (she was on the chancellors and Deans list and graduated Magna Cum Laude) from South University in Savannah Georgia, with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Her next goal is to continue her education in graduate school so that she can further develop the skills needed to help and support others.



Matthew VonKnorring ◆

Matthew graduated this year from Oxford going to Jackson College with a Bowling Scholarship for accounting.

Summer!

friendship HOUR

Friendship Hour is a wonderful time to discuss the sermon message, say hi to old & new friends and meet others who attended the service that day. It's also great to finalize details of upcoming events and yes, have a bite to eat and drink before continuing your Sunday.

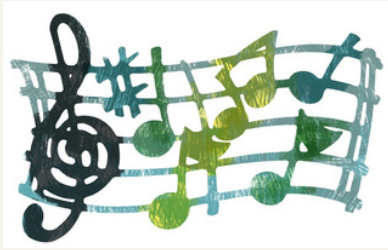
We love our weekly Friendship Hour time! The summer schedule for Friendship Hour has been listed in the program and is posted on the Fellowship Hall fridge and we are looking for happy volunteers to host a couple of Friendship Hour dates this summer.

If hosting sounds like something you would like to do, as a family or couple of buddies together, or if you want to help but don't really have a "group" to pair with, please contact Carolyn Lawrie.

We will teach you everything you need to know, plus it is all written down.

The fun part of hosting is you are completely in charge of the theme and what is or isn't served. Be creative or keep it simple. Have fun with hosting this beloved event.

Current dates available : July 12 & 26th, August 9 & 30th



Excelsior Bell Choir

The Bell Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm during the school year
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 (during the school year) 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).



Wednesday Video & Book Study at 10:30am

Call the church office to start a summer study!



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

All are invited to attend the Piece Makers group and help with our prayer quilts. We 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!



Youth Group: Elementary & Middle School

Wednesdays from 6-7pm
(during the school year)

Youth Group: High School

Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm
(Note date change!)

UM Women: Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle is a Christian, faith-based women's group. We meet once a month, during the school year, for fellowship with women from our church and surrounding community. We are currently on a summer break for our monthly meetings. However, as members are aware, we never take a break from the weekly activities here at the church. We had many volunteers show up to help with VBS this past month. You will also continue to see us serve up smiles along with refreshments throughout the summer at Friendship Hour.

Being a Rachel Circle member is more than showing up for monthly meetings. It is knowing you are a part of a much-needed bigger picture of serving Jesus Christ through prayer & service to others.

In July we will have our annual end of season, pot-luck luncheon. Usually held off site, last year was at Stoney Lake. If you would like to come & be a part of our informal, fun, season end social event, which is open to all women, we also welcome past members to come & enjoy with us. Please, contact Carolyn Lawrie or the Church office for details. We would love to introduce ourselves to you. We are not all work, we love to have fun too !

Important dates:

Summer Friendship Hour dates:

June 19th & Aug. 23rd, 2026.

Fall meeting date:

Sept. 14th, 10:30am. Fellowship Hall.

The Bible teaches that serving others is a fundamental part of all Christian life. An expression of love & faith, to follow a Christ like path in helping others. Using the gifts that the Lord has blessed you & all of us with, that everyone has, is part of our mission in living a Jesus centered life.

Mark 10:45 *"For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

Peace be with you,
Carolyn Lawrie
President, OUMC Rachel Circle



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)



Freedom Worth Guarding

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom.

Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.



"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 faithfulness in giving each month to God's church. We as a Finance team keep track of giving and expenses each month. Thank you for being a good servant. **Please help monthly with our General Fund - especially remember us while you are on vacation during the summer.**

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

January Giving	\$5,323.91
February Giving	\$4,368.31
March Giving	\$8,000.60
April Giving	\$4,314.45
May Giving	\$6,759.00
June Giving (thru 6/15)	\$2,916.00
2026 Giving Subtotal	\$31,682.27
Budget for 2026	\$137,925.00

We give thanks for all that you can do!

If you prefer to write a check or donate with cash, please use your offering envelopes. If you would like information on how to do it electronically, please see Becky in the church office.

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.






Memorial Day Memories



How to Get Connected

Social Media:

-  Oxford UMC on Facebook
-  Oxford UMC on X
-  Oxford UMC on Instagram

Get Email Alerts:

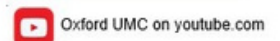
Visit our website at www.oxfordunitedmc.org to sign-up and receive information directly to your e-mail.

Call or Email our Main Office:

oumc.office@sbcglobal.net
Main Office: 248-628-1289

Worship Services Online

We load our Sunday services asap here:





July 7 - Matthew Von Knorring
 July 11 - Curtis Etherton
 July 16 - Tony Rizzo
 Jeremy Ford
 July 21 - Makenna Kater
 Charlotte Nicholson
 July 22 - Pauline East
 July 28 - Bob Richter



July 11 - Dan & Michelle Mumbrue
 July 21 - David & Amie Von Knorring
 July 27 - Todd & Carolyn Lawrie
 July 29 - Larry & Teddi Bradford
 David & Holly Cischke



August 2 - Kay Boyle
 Evan Sweeder
 August 5 - Tom Bertich
 Michelle Mumbrue
 August 14 - Kevin Friesmuth
 August 15 - Cindy Vincentini
 August 16 - Madalynn Von Knorring
 August 18 - Chris Acheson
 August 25 - Pamela Dudewicz
 August 26 - Amie Von Knorring
 August 27 - Morgan Imirowicz



August 4 - Fred & Teresa Nelson
 August 23 - Mat & Cindy Vincentini



A Prayer for Parents

Heavenly Father,

Make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they say and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting or contradicting them. Help me be as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

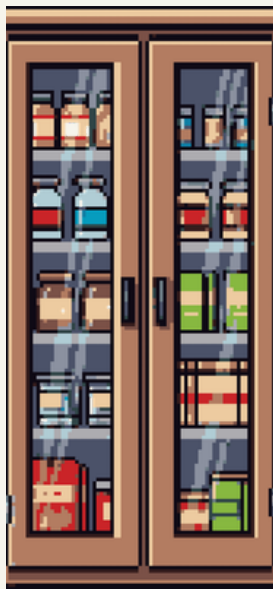
Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Let me not tempt my children to lie or steal. Guide me, hour by hour, that I may demonstrate in all I say and do that honesty leads to happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the harshness in me. When I am out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue. May I ever be mindful that my children are still children, and help me not expect from them the judgment of adults. Let me not rob them of opportunities to grow, to serve themselves and to make decisions. Grant me the wisdom to allow what is good and the courage to deny what may harm them. Make me fair, just and kind. And fit me, Lord, to be loved, respected and imitated by my children. Amen.

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 chicken Canned carrots Canned stew Canned soup Canned fruit
Canned kidney beans Canned mixed vegetables Chilli Any non-perishable food
Bagged or Boxed Potatoes 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

Questions? Contact Laura Clancy

(She would like to share this ministry with someone - please let her know if you are able to help!)

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

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

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

Oxford UMC is serving on July 4, 18 & 30, August 1, 15 & 29



Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) of North Oakland County is a non-profit network of churches in the area, including Oxford UMC. The mission of Love INC is to mobilize local volunteers and churches to help those in need and transform lives in the name of Christ.

They try to provide any help that is beyond the scope of the churches on their own.

The Clothing Closet (at Oxford Freedom Church at 790 S. Lapeer Road) is open on Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm.

The Connection Center (at LakePoint Church at 1550 W. Draher Rd) needs help.

Love INC is now overseeing the Meals on Wheels program here at Oxford UMC!

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

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

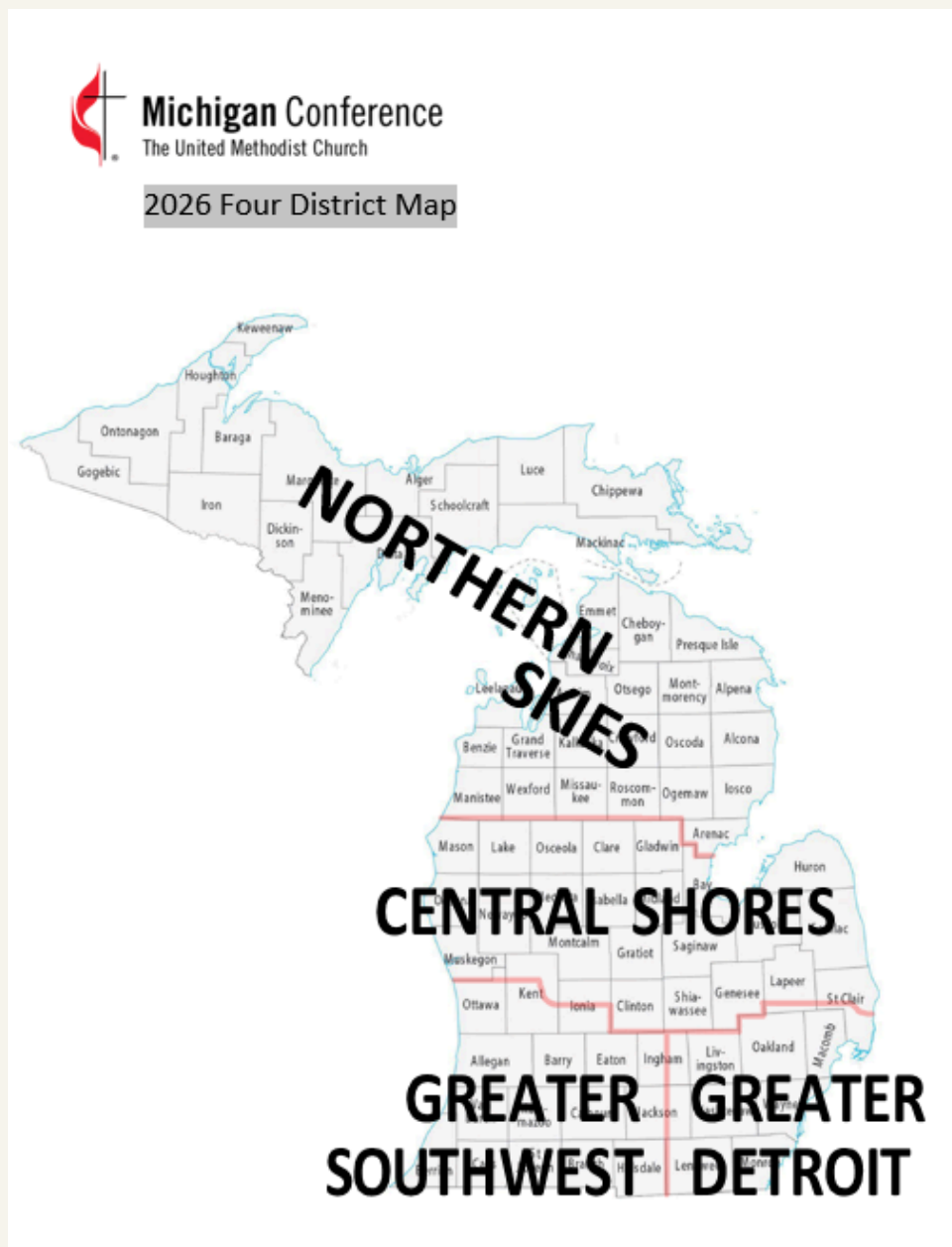
Local Missions & Outreach

From the District Superintendent: New Things

June 9, 2026

Good afternoon, Pastor Julius and the fine people of Oxford UMC, As you [may or may not be] aware, at the 2026 Annual Conference, the resolution presented to decrease the number of districts in the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church from seven (7) to four (4) effective July 1, 2026, was adopted. The Bishop then set the boundaries of the new districts. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the current East Winds District will become part of the newly formed Central Shores District. It has been my privilege to serve as your DS for the past year. The redistricting that is now set means that the Oxford UMC will now be aligned with the Greater Detroit Conference under the fine leadership of DS Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty. He will reach out to you in the near future. May God bless you and the Oxford UMC to make disciples of Jesus as you love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously!

DS Rev. John G. Kasper



From the Bishop

To read the latest from the Bishop ([click here](#))
Conference ([click here](#))
Or the Greater Detroit District ([click here](#))

July



Usual Weekly Events:

Sundays - 9am (S) Praise Singer Practice | 10am (S) Worship

Mondays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels

Tuesdays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 12pm PROGRAM DEADLINE | 8am - 4pm (W) Dragonfly Hybrid

Wednesdays - 10am (W) Cleaning Crew | 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 1pm (1st/3rd weeks) Piece Maker Quilting
| 6pm (M) Youth Group: High School

Thursdays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 8am - 4pm (W) Dragonfly Hybrid

Fridays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 2pm (U) Knit Knack Crafts

Saturdays - 9:30am-10:30am (F/FK) People Feeding People [OUMC Hosting: 7/4,18]



2026							JULY
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

7/4 - Independence Day

7/5 - 10am (S) 6th Sunday after Pentecost:
Holy Communion & Hymn Sing

7/6 - 7pm (F/FK) Church Council

7/12 - 10am (S) 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Conner/Wood Scholarship Presentation

7/13 - 7pm (F/FK) Worship Planning Team

7/19 - 10am (S) 8th Sunday after Pentecost

7/26 - 10am (S) 9th Sunday after Pentecost



Usual Weekly Events:

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Saturdays - 9:30am-10:30am (F/FK) People Feeding People [OUMC Hosting: 8/1,15,29]

8/2 - 10am (S) 11th Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Communion

8/3 - 7pm (F/FK) Church Council

8/9 - 10am (S) 11th Sunday after Pentecost

8/10 - 7pm (F/FK) Worship Planning Team

8/15- THE GRAPEVINE DEADLINE: September/October Issue

8/16 - 10am (S) 12th Sunday after Pentecost

8/23 - 10am (S) 13th Sunday after Pentecost - Outdoor Worship

Law Enforcement Recognition

8/27 - First full day for all Oxford Schools

8/30 - 10am (S) 14th Sunday after Pentecost

New Member Recognition

2026		AUGUST					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						



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

First Class
Stamp
Required

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



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Oxford United Methodist Church

21 E. Burdick St, Oxford, MI 48371

Church office: 248-628-1289-

Website: www.oxfordunitedmc.org

Facebook: Oxford UMC

Email: oumc.office@sbcglobal.net



The Reverend Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Becky Sallans, Office Administrator/Editor
Amie Von Knorring, Youth Director: MS+
Megan Crothers, Youth Director: HS
Alexander Wolf, Pianist

Article Deadline:

Due 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, edit and read The Grapevine!

Regular Sunday Worship:
(and also join us online or via radio)

10:00am Worship

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

Coffee & Refreshments after service

All Are Welcome!