

*"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 31 | November/December 2025



"10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
Luke 2:10-12

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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: Taking Time to Participate



The leaves are finally changing colors as we prepare for the chilly fall months to descend upon us here in the great state of Michigan. The love of God is just as amazing as the fall colors we are blessed with to see each fall. Young children will find time to play while adults gather into piles, the abundance of colorful leaves that have fallen.

As we enjoy experiencing the different seasons, let us recall how God cares for us no matter who we are and where we have come from. Let us take time to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and open our hearts to receiving new blessings during the fall season. I invite you to please read the Grapevine and become familiar with the many planned activities coming this fall and into our Advent season. We have church leadership and staff who can help you identify which program or event that will interest you the most... but please sign up and be visible in your participation.

I want to remind you that we will have our second Covenant and Renewal Classes this fall. The first session will be held on November 9 following worship. I look forward to leading that experience with new people who have expressed interest in learning more about our ministries. Please help them feel welcome and appreciated. If you would like to assist me in creating a learning environment for these new disciples, please let me know.

Bless each of you for stepping forward to do your share in building up the body of Christ. If you have not filled out your pledge card and returned it to the church office, please do so. Your support of time, talents, gifts and witness will ensure continued growth in all areas of church life and ministries. Bless you and our beloved Oxford United Methodist Church. Our time under God is now.

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



PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Mike Dempsey Samantha Clancy Nadine Gildner-Lychuk Bob Willobee
Gregory Dempsey Steve West Ken Bryant Ricky Ed Rodan & Family David
Nathan Ro Van Wagoner Carolyn Foss CJ Ezra Gaiter Grayson East
Steve Jerome Del Pino Friends & Family of Jean Snyder Amie Von Knorring
Randy O'Bleness Sophie Thrush Kip Lawrie Hudson Taylor Susan Johnson
Peg Moulder Steve Trykar Ruth Lawdins Rick Smith John Hauxwell
Glen & Geraldine McLaughlin Olga Neill Kent Patterson Carol Hauxwell
Ron Shedlowsky and Family Denise Gildner Ginny Conrad Amy Thorson

We ask your blessings upon:

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
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
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



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.
Amen.

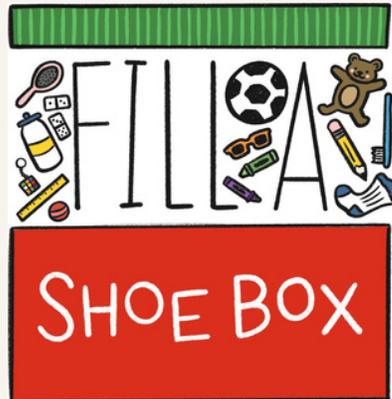
[Reprinted with permission from ChurchArtPro™ Online]



DECORATE

the church

Hanging of the Greens
after the service
November 23rd



**Check out the Fellowship Hall
for the Rachel Circle display on
“Operation Shoebox 2025”**



Donations will be gathered on the tree from November 23rd - December 14th
(so items may be delivered before Christmas)

We are collecting mittens, gloves, socks and underwear for men, women and children.

These are going to be donated to the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac.

Hats and scarves created by our knitting group, or donated, will be going to
The United Methodist Union of Greater Detroit (this is the missionary organization of the Greater
Detroit District of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church).

WORSHIP *with us*

Join Us for Christmas Eve Service at
OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AT 6:30 & 10PM.

*We invite you to join us for candle lit
Carol services with the Message given by
the Rev. Julius E. Del Pino, PhD.*

*6:30pm includes Christmas carols,
readings, and music by
piano, and bells.*

Cookie Fellowship to follow.

*10pm is a Holy Communion service
with Christmas carols .*

WEDNESDAY

24

DECEMBER

21 E. Burdick St
Oxford, MI 48371

website:
oxfordunitedmcc.org





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 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).

Book Discussion Group

Do you enjoy reading? We do!!! Our book group is always looking for more readers who like to chat with friends about books. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1pm in the Memorial Room.



Wednesday Video & Book Study

Starting November 26 at 10:30am

There will be a new video & book study for Advent...

Not a Silent Night by Rev. Adam Hamilton.

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. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

The five sessions are:

1. Beginning with the End
2. The Piercing of Mary's Soul
3. Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished
4. Mary, Full of Grace
5. It Was Not a Silent Night



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

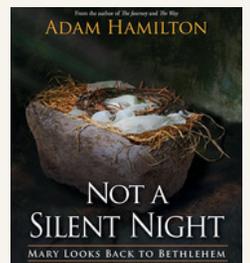
All are invited to attend the Piece Makers group and help with our prayer quilts. We usually meet on Wednesday afternoons (1st and 3rd weeks) starting at 1pm.

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!



JOIN THE Youth Group

Youth Group

At the time of printing our Youth Group is undergoing some wonderful growth! On October 26th we had our Trunk or Treat "Love You Boo" event and it was a big success and fun was had by all!

We have hired another Youth Director [welcome to Megan Crothers!] who will handle the High School age while Amie Von Knorring continues to do a marvelous job with our younger ages. So exciting! Keep your eyes peeled for more information about this new High School group!

We are so blessed to be able to offer this spiritual growth and fun to our children and neighbors! Thank you to everyone who is a part of making this happen here at Oxford UMC.

If you would like to help make these groups a success, please talk with Pauline East; SPPRC Chairperson, about using your gifts in person or if you would like to make a monetary contribution so we are able to fund these groups - please drop a check in the offering plate and write "Youth Group" on the memo line.

Thank you!



Even our furry friends had fun!



UM Women: Rachel Circle

The holidays are coming, and we are getting ready to help children around the world with Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child, Shoebox drive 2025. Look for our display table in the Fellowship Hall. Pray for O.C.C.S. & for all the children. Our Rachel Circle Christmas gathering will be Monday, Dec. 8th at noon. All Rachel Circle members past & present are invited, along with anyone interested in becoming a member of the group. If you would like to check us out, please attend one of our meetings or talk to one of the women in our group. We lift each other up with fellowship, prayers & positive Christian faith & volunteering.

Our next meeting is Monday, Nov. 10th at 10:30 - noon.
(refreshments are served)

Friendship Hour dates are: Nov. 30 & Dec. 28th, 2025.

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)



Candles That Tell a Story

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."



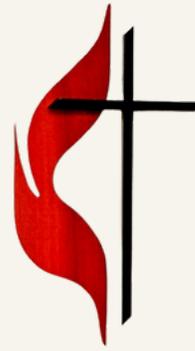
The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

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. Please take the time to fill out your commitment cards for 2026 so we may plan our budget for the next year.

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



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

Rev. John Wesley (founder of Methodism)

January Giving	\$4,156.00
February Giving	\$3,239.56
March Giving	\$6,751.00
April Giving	\$5,176.00
May Giving	\$5,045.91
June Giving	\$5,765.95
July Giving	\$4,369.69
August Giving	\$5,483.46
September Giving	\$4,700.00
October Giving	\$5,029.00
Giving Subtotal	\$49,716.57
Budget for 2025	\$130,800.00

*IN ALL
Things
GIVE
Thanks*

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.

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 *(new#)*

Board of Trustees: Tony Rizzo (248)628-1787

SPRC Chairperson: Pauline East (248)320-4823

Worship Team: Michelle Mumbroe (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 VonKnorring (248)342-8051
Bob Willobee (248)628-2357
Megan Crothers [megan.imirowicz@gmail.com]

Youth Director: Amie VonKnorring (248)342-8051

Social Media: Megan Crothers [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.



THE LAST DAY TO GIVE FOR 2025 IS DECEMBER 28th

Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

We are collecting FISH donations on the first Sunday of each month. You may also make out a check to Oxford UMC and put “FISH Food Pantry” in the memo line and we will make sure that your donation gets there. “Thank You!”



Current Needs -

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Canned pineapple | Beef stew | Canned mandarin oranges | Baked Beans |
| Canned tomatoes | Peas | Hamburger Helper | Chunky Soup |
| Cake mix | Personal care items | Feminine Products | Chilli |

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

Local Missions & Outreach



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 November 1, 15, & 29, December 6 & 20

Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) of North Oakland County is a non-profit network of churches in the area, including Oxford UMC. The mission of Love INC is to mobilize local volunteers and churches to help those in need and transform lives in the name of Christ. They try to provide any help that is beyond the scope of the churches on their own.



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

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

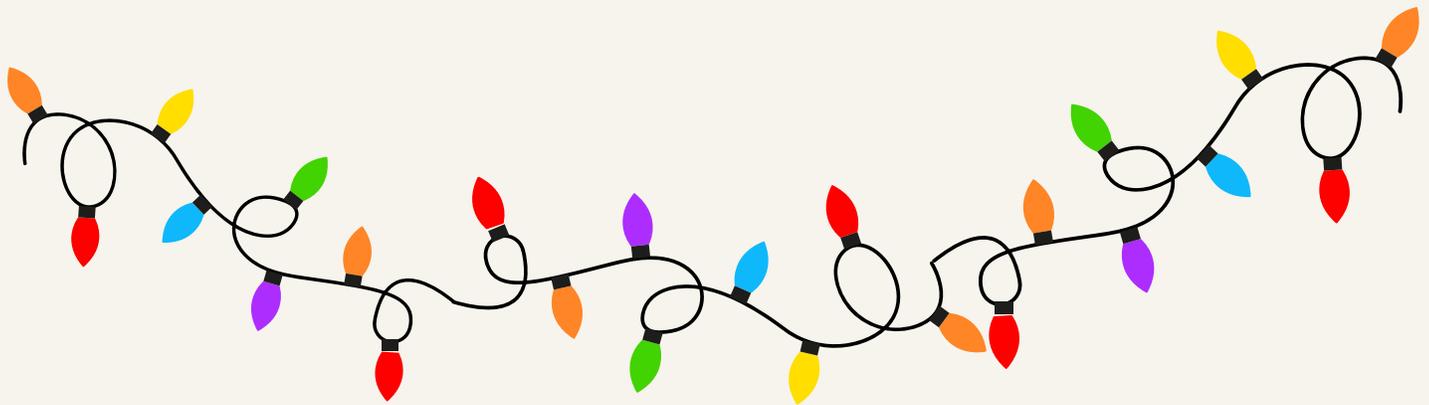
Love INC is now overseeing the Meals on Wheels program here at Oxford UMC!

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.

Oxford UMC Sunday Servants:

(Please contact Laura Clancy or Michelle Mumbrue to volunteer!)

	November 2 21st Sunday after Pentecost All Saints Sunday & Holy Communion	November 9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Veteran's Day Recognition	November 16 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost Bells & Brunch	November 23 24 th Sunday after Pentecost	November 30 1st Sunday of Advent UM Student Day (Special Offering)	December 7 11st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion	December 14 1st Sunday of Advent	December 21 1st Sunday of Advent Bells & Brunch	December 24 Christmas Eve 6:30pm 10pm	December 28 1st Sunday after Christmas
Liturgist	Steve Matteson	Steve Laidlaw	Dan Mumbrue	Shawn Turner					6:30pm Bernie Rumbold 10pm	
Children's Word	Michelle Mumbrue		Mary Dempsey							
Acolyte										
Advent Candle Lighters	-	-	-	-					-	-
Usher(s)	Laura Clancy	Steve Matteson	Steve Matteson	Steve Matteson	Steve Matteson					
Greeter(s)	Bob Willobee	Bob Willobee & Laura Clancy	Bob Willobee & Laura Clancy	Bob Willobee & Laura Clancy	Bob Willobee & Laura Clancy					
Friendship Hour	PFP	Worship	Brunch	Bell Choir	Rachel Circle	PFP	Wednesday Bible Study	Brunch	after 6:30pm Cookie Fellowship	Rachel Circle
Tech Team (PC)	David Cischke	Evan Sweeder	Tom Bertich	Fred Nelson	David Cischke	Evan Sweeder	Tom Bertich	Fred Nelson	Fred Nelson	David Cischke



From the Bishop

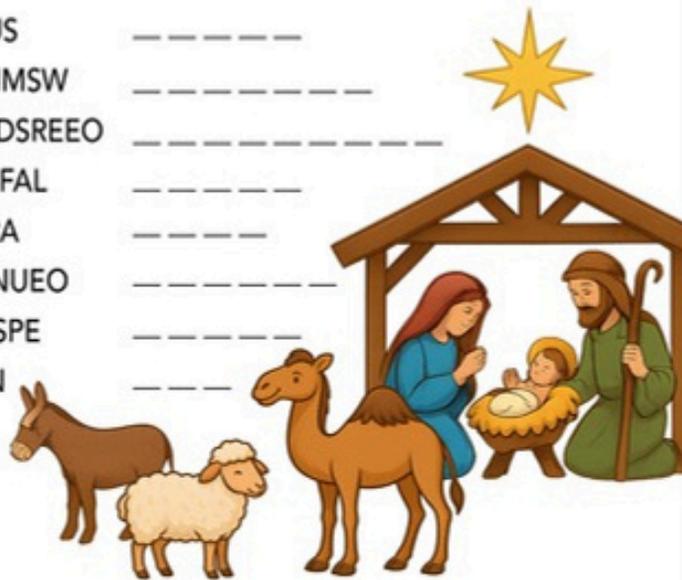
To read the latest from the Bishop ([click here](#))
Conference ([click here](#))
Or the East Winds District ([click here](#))

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME _____
- (2) NEAGLO _____
- (3) NRMEDAG _____
- (4) ODEKSNY _____
- (5) AMGYR _____
- (6) OHESJIP _____
- (7) EFJSUS _____
- (8) ITEENMSW _____
- (9) SPHHDSREEO _____
- (10) EMCFAL _____
- (11) TLSRA _____
- (12) CSSNUEO _____
- (13) HEVSPE _____
- (14) ENIN _____



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love



Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

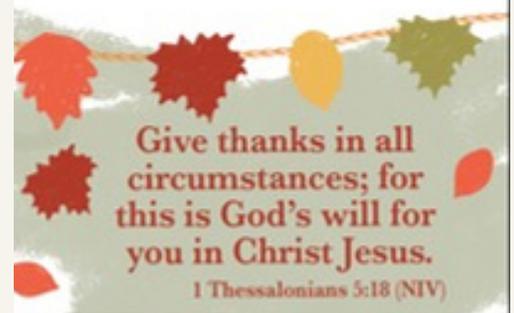
What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.



November



Usual 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 - 1pm (W) Cleaning Crew | 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 10:30am (M) Book Study |
 1pm (1st/3rd weeks) Piece Maker Quilting | 5:30pm (S) Praise Singer Practice | 6pm (Y) Youth Group |
 6:30pm (S) Bell Choir Practice

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 (F/FK) People Feeding People

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

11/2 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!

- 10am (S) 21st Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Communion & All Saint's Sunday

11/3 - 7pm (F/FK) Church Council Meeting

11/4 - Election Day [we are a polling place] | 7pm (Y) Trustees

11/8 - 9am (W) All Church Clean-Up

11/9 - 10am (S) 22nd Sunday after Pentecost: Veteran's Recognition

- 11:15am (S) Covenant Class #1

~11:15am Revive

11/10 - 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle

7pm (F/FK) Worship Team

11/12 - 1pm (M) Reading for Fun

11/16 - 10am (S) 23rd Sunday after Pentecost: Bells & Brunch

- 11:15am (S) Covenant Class #2

11/23 - 10am (S) 24th Sunday after Pentecost

- 11:15am (W) Hanging of the Greens

11/27 - Thanksgiving Day

11/30 - 10am (S) 1st Sunday of Advent





DECEMBER

Usual Events:

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

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DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

12/1 - 7pm (F/FK) Church Council

12/2 - 7pm (Y) Trustees

12/6 - 1pm Oxford Christmas Parade
 ~2pm Oxford UMC Christmas Party

12/7 - 10am (S) 2nd Sunday of Advent: Holy Communion

12/8 - 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle

- 7pm (F/FK) Worship Team

12/10 - 1pm (M) Reading for Fun

12/14 - 10am (S) 3rd Sunday of Advent

~11:15am Revive

12/15 - THE GRAPEVINE DEADLINE: January/February Issue

12/19 until 1/5/26 - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED for the Holidays

12/21 - 10am (S) 4th Sunday of Advent: Bells and Brunch

12/24 - 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship

- 10pm Christmas Eve Worship

12/25 - Christmas Day

12/28 - 10am (S) 1st Sunday after Christmas

12/31 - New Year's Eve



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

First Class
Stamp
Required

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



The Grapevine

is published bi-monthly by

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, fold, 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!