



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 27 | March/April 2025

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

OUR MISSION

*Uniting in Jesus Christ
we spread God's love*

OUR FOCUS

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

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from the
PASTOR!



In this season of Lent, let us continue to ask that our compassionate God give us space and courage to always have a place of hope and love in our hearts especially for those without family or friends.

Our Lenten journey reminds us of the need to follow Christ as he leads us into the promise land. My prayer is that we continue to come closer to being more like Jesus. May all of us take time to seriously reflect on how God receives us where we are, with the expectation that we will keep growing in love and wisdom. He came to remind us that we are worth saving and loving. He modeled compassion for us at its best. He cared for all who suffered and invited the little children to sit, listen and ask questions of him.

This is a new time for us to let go of old habits that no longer serve us or Oxford Church. We are called to be children of the light. Wherever there is darkness, injustice, and human pain, God calls us to carry the light of His son. Because we are redeemed children of God, we carry the light of Advent and the promise of Lent wherever we go. Let your light shine in your home, in your community and in the world. It is with God's energy, grace and love, that we are clothed with righteousness and forgiveness - in the name of our Lord who will care for us all of our days and in our eternal home.

Faithfully and lovingly in His service,
Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor



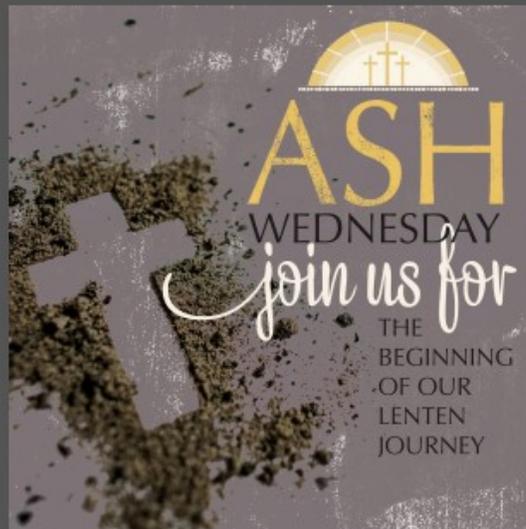


March 5th

7pm - Drive-thru
acceptance of ashes
(from your car)

7:30pm - Worship
(indoors)

Oxford
UMC



www.oxfordunitedmcc.org

Vacation Bible School Fundraiser

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this fun special event that will generate funds for our Vacation Bible School. We offer VBS for free to all children in the area as an out-reach to our neighborhood and to spread the Word of God. As you may expect this is quite expensive but we want to show the generosity and love that Christ shares with us all every day.

There will be a variety of wonderful items donated by local businesses and a variety of individuals. Please be generous and make a bid on items that interest you.

If you haven't attended one of our fabulous Potato Bakes it is always a fun time and the food is wonderful, come and see what it is all about.

At the end of the event all winning bids will be awarded. We thank you so much for doing whatever you can to help our church grow and thrive in Oxford and for sharing love with all God's children.

Oxford United Methodist Church
presents a....

silent auction & potato bake

April 5th from 5-7
\$5 for potato bake

21 E Burdick st
Oxford, Mi 48371

All proceeds go to the
children's vacation bible school fund.
Any questions call Megan 2486601041

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



PALM SUNDAY

April 13th @ 10am
Palm Sunday is the day we remember how they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem - as a King. He humbly rode a donkey and the townspeople waved palm branches to welcome him. We also wave palms on this day to welcome him into our lives.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17th @ 5:30pm
at Thomas UMC
Maundy or Holy Thursday is the day people remember the last supper of Jesus and the washing of the feet of his disciples. This occurred before his arrest and crucifixion.



GOOD FRIDAY

April 18th @ 12pm (noon)
at Oxford UMC
Good Friday is the day people all over the world remember the death of Jesus and the horrendous pain He experienced on our behalf. Good Friday services are held in most communities. Some churches hold noon day services to intentionally include the business community.



April 20th @ 10am

Easter is the culmination of Jesus defeating death and gives us hope to embrace and believe in life eternal. While people still die, Jesus, through his life and ministry made it possible to have a relationship with God now while on earth, and also to spend eternity in heaven with our Creator.

We are so blessed to be welcoming new and new baptized members into the church on this very special day.

There will not be a brunch but special treats will be prepared - join us in fellowship!



*"Do all the good you can,
in all the places you can,
to all the people you can."*
Rev. John Wesley (founder of Method-
ism)

Finance Update - 2025

Thank you for your faithful giving each month to God's Church. We as a Finance team keep track of giving and expenses each month. Thank you for your faithfulness. Please help monthly with our General Fund.

Due to Covid, we closed the building on February 2nd to keep everyone safe. This has put us a bit behind in giving for February and our cash flow is restricted at present. If there is anything you can do to give a bit more asap, it would be greatly appreciated!

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

January Giving	\$	4,156.00
February Giving	\$	2,612.84
<i>(partial report for February)</i>		
Giving Subtotal	\$	
Budget for 2024	\$	111,968.00
Budget for 2025		To be voted on

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

If you need envelopes or have a question about your giving statement, please call Larry Bradford, financial secretary or leave a message for him with the church office.

*Please consider giving your donation electronically!
It will be paid as you decide and directly deposited into the church account. It is so easy!
And no more check writing!
There is no fee. Safe and secure.
Forms are available from the office.*

2025 Church Council

- Church Council Chairperson: Fred Nelson (248)390-7636
- General Fund Treasurer: Becky Sallans (248)628-1289
- Designated Fund Treasurer: Kevin Kater (248)628-7804
- Financial Secretary: Larry Bradford (248)628-5759
- Finance Chairperson: Jon Gross (586)220-1910 *(new!)*
- Board of Trustees: Tony Rizzo (248)628-1787
- SPRC Chairperson: Pauline East (248)320-4823
- Worship Team: Michelle Mumbrue (248)969-9173
Laura Clancy (248)628-6648
- Missions & Outreach: (available)
- Adult Bible Study:
 - Sue Rizzo (248)628-1787
 - Rosemary Rumbold (248)391-0973
- Education Team:
 - Mary Dempsey (810)797-5736
 - Amie Von Knorring (248)342-8051
 - Bob Willobee (248)628-2357
 - Megan Imirowicz [megan.imirowicz@gmail.com]
- Camp Ed. Coordinator: (available)
- Social Media: Megan Imirowicz [megan.imirowicz@gmail.com]
- Revive Team: Steve Laidlaw (248)801-5924
- UMM President: Fred Nelson (248)628-9826
- UMW / Rachel Circle: Carolyn Lawrie (586)925-2687
- Lay Member to Annual Conference: (available)

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

There are openings on the SPRC, Nominations, Memorials, Finance, Education and Trustee's committees. Please inform the office if you are interested in serving on a committee.



Open-Eyed and Resilient

By Bishop David Bard | MI Area |
Posted on February 5, 2025 in "Bishop's Blog"



In a chaotic world, Bishop Bard invites us to stay grounded in resilient love as we care for one another, even in disagreement...

How many of you remember past Februarys when you pasted colored construction paper over a shoebox, cutting a hole in the top and drawing hearts on the sides? This was the box for your valentines, which you brought to school along with cards for every student in your class. You put cards in their box, and they put cards in your box. Maybe you asked your parents, "Do I have to give a card to [insert name]?" about someone in your class you did not care for. Of course, the answer from your parents was, "Yes, you do." There is a good lesson on love in that. In the economy of God's love, everyone deserves dignity and respect.

Love is the topic of many novels, movies, poems, and songs. While most are enjoyable, not every artistic work about love, and not every statement about love, is insightful or helpful. Years ago, in the movie *Love Story*, a main character said, "Love means never having to say you're sorry." It sounded nice in the film, but it is horribly bad advice. Any of us who have been married for any length of time know that saying sorry is part of the relationship. Being able to apologize is an important part of love.

The familiar saying, "Love is blind," can be insightful. When we are "in love," it is easy to overlook something in the one we love. At its best, this is rather benign. None of us is perfect, and any long-term love relationship includes being able to overlook small faults and annoyances. Does it really matter if your spouse never learned to squeeze the toothpaste from the bottom? We should see our spouse in their best light. At its worst, however, a person "madly in love" may overlook deeply hurtful or even abusive behavior. They may love, but they are not being loved. If you are in such a relationship, there are resources to help.

While a certain kind of romantic love may be "blind," the essence of love is just the opposite. Love isn't really blind. It is clear-eyed and resilient. Paul's prayer for the followers of Jesus at Ephesus includes a prayer that the eyes of their hearts might be enlightened. Love is intended to be wise and clear-eyed. It is open-eyed and resilient.

I often think of resilient and clear-eyed love in February when the month that includes its celebration also marks Black History Month. I love my country, and I want to see it clear-eyed, honestly, including the times when we have failed to live up to our promise. In his famous August 28, 1963, speech, "I Have a Dream," the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. . . It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned." We have not always lived up to our promise...

I want a love for this country that is clear-eyed and resilient, a love that sees our history with all its joys, beauty, and achievements and its failings, shortcomings, and brutalities. We are a country whose history includes slavery, segregation, and mistreatment of indigenous people, immigrants, and migrants...

Speaking of clear-eyed love, many of us are now aware of the Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, who preached at a prayer service the day after Inauguration Day. President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance were in attendance, and Bishop Budde concluded her sermon with a direct plea to the president for mercy for those frightened and vulnerable, specifically naming LGBTQ and migrant persons. Many have seen those last moments, but they need to be put into the context of her entire sermon, in which she speaks of national unity rooted in honoring the inherent dignity of all, in honesty, and in humility. She speaks of unity as a way of being with one another and genuinely caring for one another, even in disagreement. [Click here to watch her entire fifteen-minute sermon.](#) *[You may also find it on YouTube]*

Reaction to her sermon was swift, including scathing remarks from the president. In response, Bishop Budde said she hoped to encourage a different conversation and broaden the characterization of migrants. She said she wants the church to be a conscience and a consolation. Vitriol toward and threats against Bishop Budde have continued. A bill has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives condemning her sermon.

You may disagree with some of Bishop Budde's statements. I hope, though, that you will see her sermon as grounded in clear-eyed love. She wanted to call attention to the frightened and vulnerable in our country. Isn't caring for the frightened, the vulnerable, and the least something the church has been doing for centuries? I hope you will see Bishop Budde standing in the tradition of the prophets, Jesus, and faith-informed reformers like Martin Luther King, Jr.

I hope you will do this not for Bishop Budde's sake but for our ministry together for Jesus Christ in the Michigan Conference. We have challenges ahead as we seek to live out God's love in Jesus Christ, a love that heals, frees, and redeems. We will need to look clear-eyed at where we have not lived up to our professions of faith. We will need to speak the truth in love to one another and to the world. If we are going to have a positive impact on the wider world in the name of Jesus, we will need to find ways to work for and speak for justice and the common good. Such work and speech will take us to places where others will disagree. We need to find ways to disagree in love.

God loves us in Jesus Christ with a love that is clear-eyed. God sees us as we are and loves us. God loves us in Jesus Christ with a love that is resilient, a love that does not give up on us. May we live with the same kind of love for one another and for the world. Love is not blind. It is clear-eyed and resilient.

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

[The full text is available at [Open-eyed and resilient - Bishop's Blog](#)]

UMCOR Update

CHURCH RESPONDS TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN CONGO

By Chadrack Tambwe Londe | Posted on January 30, 2024



BENI, Congo – The United Methodist Church is serving as a beacon of hope for people displaced by longtime conflict in the North Kivu province. With financial support from the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the East Congo Episcopal Area responded to the humanitarian crisis in Beni, assisting more than 12,000 people. The \$150,000 grant funded the distribution of 125 tons of food rations, non-food items and hygiene products to 1,750 households.

According to Jean Tshomba, coordinator of UMCOR’s disaster management office in eastern Congo, recurring clashes between armed groups in the region have forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes, particularly in Kanyabayonga, which recently fell to the March 23 (M23) Movement, a Congolese-Tutsi-led rebel military group.

“Recent attacks attributed to the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces), CODECO (Cooperative for the Development of the Congo) and M23 armed groups have forced over 70,000 people to leave their homes, including those in the recently captured Kanyabayonga,” Tshomba said. These displaced people, flocking to Beni, find themselves in desperate need of food, drinking water and hygiene products.

Fighting also has intensified in Goma, where at least 100 people, including eight United Methodists, have been killed in recent days.

Read story [United Methodists killed in Congo conflict](#)

...Each household received 66 pounds of rice, 66 pounds of maize flour, one gallon of vegetable oil, two pounds of salt and nine pounds of beans, as well as six bars of laundry soap, six toothbrushes and six tubes of toothpaste.

Tshomba noted that surveys conducted with the displaced population identified priority needs. Following strict compliance with health protocols, the distribution was done in close collaboration with local authorities and humanitarian organizations.

Bishop Gabriel Yemba Unda, resident bishop and legal representative of The UM Church in eastern Congo, expressed sorrow at the suffering endured by the displaced population. Calling for peace in eastern Congo, he condemned the violence and urged all parties involved to work toward a peaceful resolution of the regional conflict. Unda stressed the importance of showing Christian compassion by taking concrete action to alleviate misery.

“We don’t just distribute food and clothing,” he explained. “We also give psychological and spiritual support to people who have suffered so much. We want to show them that they are not alone and that they can count on us.”

“God is always present in times of trial, and with his grace, we can overcome any difficulty. I encourage you not to lose hope, courage and faith in a better future.”

Kavira Alexandrine, a widow, heads a household of 15 people. “Since my husband’s death, everything collapsed. I found myself alone with 15 mouths to feed. We lost everything in the fighting. I didn’t know how to cope. Thanks to the church’s help, we finally have enough to eat. I’m so grateful. I don’t know what I would do without the help of The United Methodist Church,” she said.

“I’ve regained a little hope, thanks to your support. I will be able to rebuild my life and that of my children. I thank God for you.”

... Tshomba said the emergency aid is part of a long-term commitment by The UM Church to the region’s most vulnerable populations.

“The aim is not only to alleviate the immediate suffering of the displaced, but also to contribute to their long-term resilience,” he said.

Urging the international community to increase support of the people of eastern Congo, Unda said, “Every donation counts to help these people rebuild their lives.”

Quoting Matthew 25:35-40, he encouraged United Methodists to help those most in need.

“We are all called to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth,” he said.

UMCOR – WILDFIRES IN CALIFORNIA

On January 7, strong Santa Ana winds in Los Angeles caused wildfires to spread rapidly in multiple communities. Thousands of homes and businesses have been destroyed, as well as multiple local UM Churches. Preliminary assessments of the damage is underway. UMCOR has awarded two solidarity grants to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to undergird their immediate relief efforts. This includes evacuee support

like food and essential supplies as well as support for volunteer efforts and other relief activities.



Photo: Rev. Garth Gilliam, California-Pacific Conference

Support relief and recovery efforts by donating to UMCOR.

Local Missions & Outreach

Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

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

Current Needs -

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

Current Hours -

Office: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 to noon
 Pantry: Tuesdays; Wednesdays; Thursdays - 9-2pm; 3rd Saturdays of month - 9:45-11:30am

WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THIS MINISTRY

FISH is a 100% volunteer organization and they need your help.
 All donations are tax deductible. Remember - NO EXPIRED FOOD PLEASE!

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

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



Oxford UMC Meal Outreach



ALL ARE WELCOME!

All are invited to the community
Free! meal program at OUMC!!

On Saturday mornings we are serving breakfast at PFP (People Feeding People)! We encourage you to attend and not only be fed by food but also with fellowship. We are lifting people up through nutrition and friendship. We are providing a hot breakfast and most weeks a sack lunch for people in the Fellowship Hall (the 3rd week is carryout). If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Kathy Laidlaw (248) 701-5910. We hope that you come and enjoy!!!

WHERE: Oxford United Methodist Church
 WHEN: Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am

Community Free Meals

If you or someone you know would like a **Free!** hot meal please invite them to visit:

Lake Orion UMC (Mondays)
 Immanuel Congregational (Tuesdays)
 LakePoint Community (Thursdays)
 from 5:30-6:30pm

and/or Oxford UMC (Saturdays)
 from 9:30-10:30am



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.

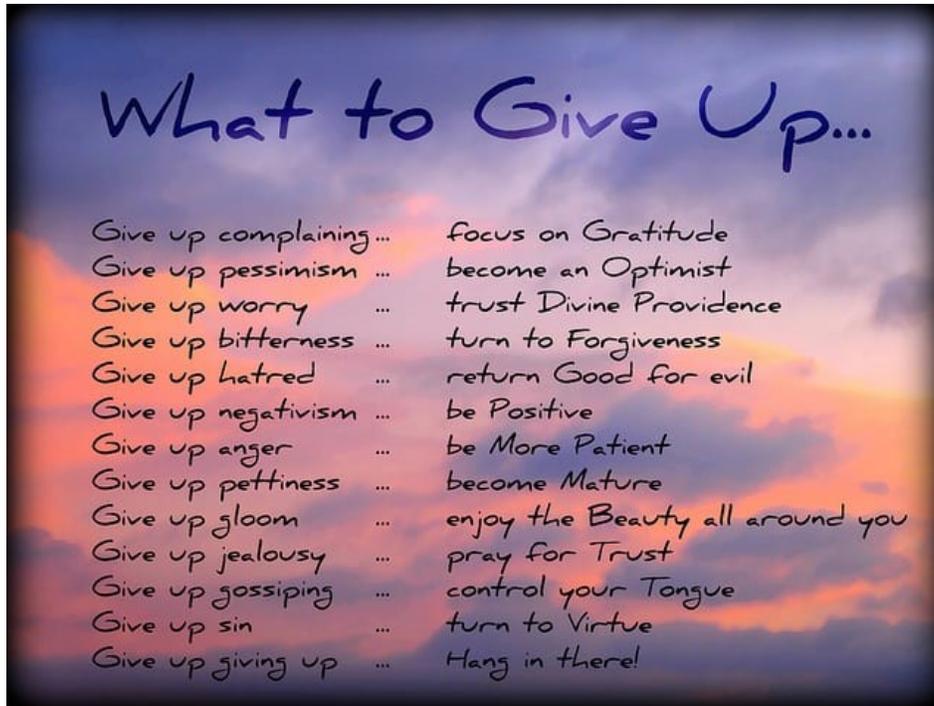
The mission of Love INC is to mobilize local volunteers and churches to help those in need and transform lives in the name of Christ. They try to provide any help that is beyond the scope of the churches on their own.

The Clothing Closet (at Oxford Free Methodist Church at 790 S. Lapeer Road) needs help sorting donated clothes on Tuesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm or helping clients shop, two Tuesdays a month, from 12:00pm-3:00pm.

Bed, Blessings & Beyond and Little Luxuries (at LakePoint Church at 1550 W. Drahner Rd) is temporarily closed. Please contact them if you have an idea for a new location.

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 information.



UMCOR Sunday

MARCH 30, 2025

This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for the ministry of The United Methodist Committee on Relief – otherwise known as UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR’s administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable.



HOW TO GIVE: Write a check to your local church with “UMCOR” in the memo line and place in the offering plate or mail to Oxford United Methodist (21 E. Burdick St. Oxford). Thank you for your generosity.



March 9th

PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Family of Julie Langley Family of Bart "Moke" Hodge (Kathy Laidlaw's Father) Emma Taylor
 Anna Taylor Dick & Barb Casper Pastor Julius Del Pino Gail Mack Emily Perkovic
 Conrad Family Steve Trykar Ruth Lawdins Mike Dempsey Jean & Don Zimmerman
 Tom, Lynda & Adam Kelly & her unborn baby Anna Taylor
 John Hauxwell Kip Lawrie Nikki Doctor Glen & Geraldine McLaughlin
 Beth Atack Rick Smith Connor Donovan Olga Neill Kent Patterson
 Ann Anderson Bob Willobee Carolynn Foss Carol Hauxwell
 Ron Shedlowsky and Family Denise Gildner Ro Van Wagoner Shirley Conner
 Linda McIntyre Bruce Conrad Ginny Conrad Amy Thorson Mary Adekitan

We ask your blessings upon:

All Families + those expecting new children; dealing with loss of a loved one
 All of our brothers and sisters who deal with racism & hatred
 First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by illness
 All our school children, their teachers, school workers and administrators
 Our neighborhoods and the Revival of our community
 All affected by the Oxford High School and all other School Shootings
 Those with mental illnesses, are lonely, or do not have someone to pray for them
 Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government
 Those in the military serving on our behalf
 Those affected by Natural Disasters & all Violence in the US and worldwide
 Oxford UMC, Pastor, Staff, Guests, United Methodists, and Christians everywhere
 Our Revived Church - **that Oxford UMC may be a great source of love
 for this community and that we may revive our vision**



We also pray for those whose names are unmentioned, dear Lord, for you know and love them.

We ask all these things in your name, Lord Jesus. *Amen!*

Need prayer with Pastor?

Sign up on the sheet outside the office, or contact the church office



Birthdays

March 2 - Holly Cischke | Jon Gross
 March 3 - Lynda Bertich | Cameron Mumbroe
 March 5 - Dahlia Turner
 March 8 - Grayson East
 March 11 - Teresa Nelson
 March 18 - Millie Solon
 March 19 - David Cischke
 March 20 - Levi Lair | Lorrin Schwartz
 March 26 - Ginny Conrad
 March 31 - Marta Acheson

April 2 - Larry Bradford
 April 6 - Mark Mudd
 April 14 - Shirley Conner
 April 15 - Renae Shagena
 April 19 - Shirley Acheson
 April 20 - Jordyn Meersseman
 April 28 - Mary Garrard
 April 30 - Carolynn Foss

Anniversaries

March 11 - Mike & Lucinda Bellairs

UM Women: Rachel Circle

We invite you to attend a couple of our meetings to see if our group opens up a new door for you in 2025. We are a group of women who believe we have the power to make a positive difference in the world. Maybe you just want to open a new door to broaden your life in friendly new ways. We are a casual, friendly group.

We welcome you!

My favorite moment during every meeting is when we listen to heartwarming & amazing short stories of Christian strength through devotions at each meeting. These stories help us understand & visualize how truly wonderful God's blessings are & see how He helps direct us when we truly need Him the most.

"God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power & love & self control."

2 Timothy 1:7

If you are a woman looking for a friendly, supportive group, come check us out. In addition to our meetings we host & serve Friendship Hour, we have fundraising events & free community events. All these activities help us to help others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Mark your March & April calendars :

Our meeting dates are: March 10th & April 8th, 2025
10:30a start time.

Friendship Hour hosting is :

Sunday, March 9th & April 13th, 2025

With love & respect,
Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President



Visit Us
ONLINE

We are always updating and keeping our website current

Did you know there are daily scripture readings?

Have you seen it lately?

Join us at - oxfordunitedmc.org

UM Men: Band of Brothers

Congratulations! To the Chili Cook-off Contest Winner:

Kay Boyle



Much fun was had by all!



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

Questions? Please contact Fred Nelson, UMM President (248-628-9826)





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.

Excelsior Bell Choir

The Bell Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm
Come to hear us play every third Sunday during the school year.
Please remember to join us for brunch immediately after the service.
If you have any questions please contact Rosemary Rumbold (248-391-0973)

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).



Piece Makers Quilting

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

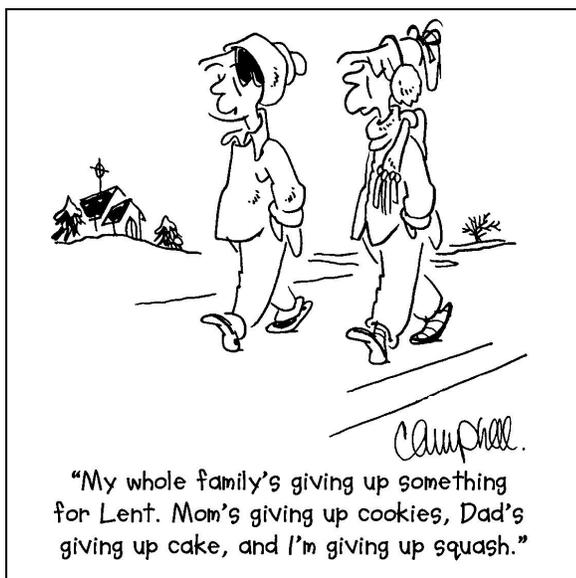
Do you know someone who would like the comfort of the prayers woven into a quilt during its creation? These quilts are intended for *anyone* who could use a hug and a prayer during challenging times.

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

Reading for Fun - Book Discussion Group

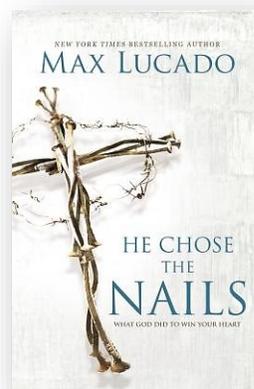
Do you enjoy reading? We do!!!

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.



"My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."

Wednesday Lenten Bible Study at 10:30am



Is your heart unsettled by the chaos of the world? Are you heavy-laden with bad moments, mad moments, or anxious moments? Today, rest in God's self-giving love and leave all your troubles at the foot of the cross.

There were no accidents on the days surrounding Jesus' death. Jesus' last moments were not left up to chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. Our Lord planted the trio of crosses and

painted the sign. God was never more sovereign than in the details of the death of his Son. God didn't have to do all these things, you know. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet he did much more. So much more.

In *He Chose the Nails*, *New York Times* bestselling author and pastor Max Lucado will help you:

- Learn just how much God loves and cares for you.
- Take comfort that Jesus understands everything you face in this life.
- Remember that there's nothing you can do to earn God's gift.
- Stand firm in the promise that you are forgiven, and you are welcome in God's presence.

Search the scene of the cross and listen for God's gentle whisper, "I did it just for you."

All are welcome - bring a friend! Starts March 5th.

The Covenant Experience

March 23

11:30am - 1pm

*For anyone who would like to learn more
about the United Methodist Church.
Childcare and Lunch are available.*

UMC Camping

It's the time of year to think about signing up for Camp!

There are many choices at our Michigan United Methodist Camps for all ages and interests. Be sure to go online [www.umccamping.org] to find out the schedule for this year. Forms are also available on the kiosk.

Summer camps are already taking registrations and you can save \$ by registering early.

Scholarships are also available both from the church and the camps if needed. Contact the church office [248-628-1289] if you need more information.



Anne Donovan

Many of you might have seen Anne in the pews on Sunday morning and not had the chance to get to know who she was. Unfortunately, she was not in our midst very long as she passed on December 23, 2024.

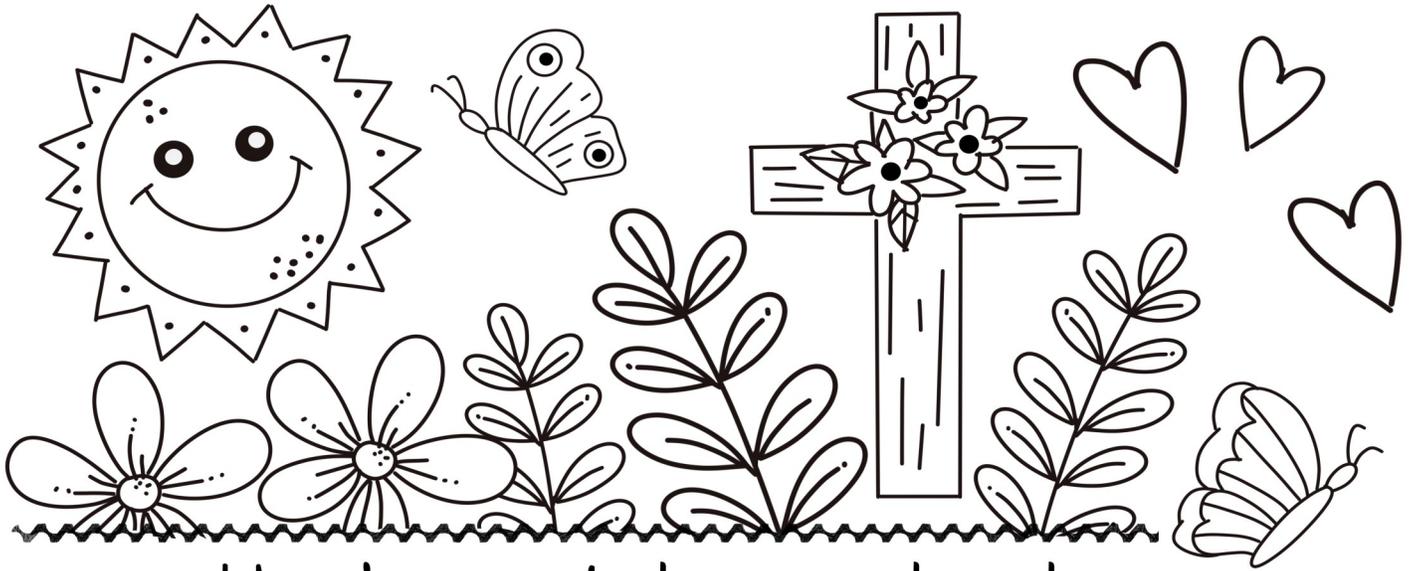
Anne was planning on becoming a member of Oxford UMC on Easter Sunday. This owl is an example of some of her painting talent...

This poem was written by her Art teacher and she treasured it.

Her family shared it with us...



“My life is full of memories
That keep me going on
Making still more memories
To comfort when I'm gone
For I will go more peacefully
If I have done my best
Please be spiritually peaceful
When my ashes lay in rest
For they are but the residue
Of the temple I once dwelt in
No more coming & going now
No more thought of man made sin
My angel guides me on my quest
Together we will be our best
At keeping touch with souls we know
Still struggling on the earth below
The turtle dove keeps flying home
And yellow are the willow
Returns in spring again
Again and again and again.”



He is not here; he has



Luke 24:6, NIV



2025



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

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

Usual Events :

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>
9a (S) Praise Singer Practice	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	9:30a (F/FK) People Feeding People
10a (S) Worship		12p Program Deadline	10:30a (F/FK) Wednesday Book Study	8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	2p (U) Knit Knack	
1-4p (S/F/FK) Oxford WPTC		1p (CD/F/FK) Piece Makers Quilting Projects (1st & 3rd weeks)	5:30p (S) Praise Singers Practice	5-8p (S/F/FK) Oxford WPTC		
		8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	6:30p (S) Bell Choir Practice			
		5-8p (S/F/FK) Oxford WPTC				

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1
 2 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION	3 7p (F) Church Council	4 7p (Y) Trustees	5 7p Ashing 7:30p  ASH Worship	6	7	8
9  1ST SUNDAY IN LENT 11:15a Revive Team "CRT"	10 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	11	12 1p (M) Reading for Fun	13	14	15
16 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT Bells & Brunch	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT	24 5-9p (F/FK) Oxford WPTC	25 5-9p (F/FK) Oxford WPTC	26 5-9p (F/FK) Oxford WPTC	27 5-9p (F/FK) Oxford WPTC	28 5-9p (F/FK) Oxford WPTC	29 5-9p (F/FK) Oxford WPTC
30 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT UMCOR Special Sunday 5-9p (F/FK) Oxford WPTC	31					

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		1 7p (Y) Trustees	2	3	4	5 5-7p Silent Auction & Potato Bake
 6 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT HOLY COMMUNION	7 7p (F) Church Council	8	9	10	11	12
13 PALM SUNDAY	14 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	15 	16 1p (M) Reading for Fun	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:30p Worship @ Thomas UMC	18 GOOD FRIDAY 12p Worship @ Oxford UMC	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY Bells & Goodies New Member Recognition	21 PRESIDENT'S DAY	22	23	24	25	26
27 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER	28	29	30			

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

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



The Grapevine

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Oxford United Methodist Church

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We thank all who create, fold, mail and read The Grapevine!*



Regular Sunday Worship:

(and also join us either online or via radio)

10:00 a.m. Worship

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

Coffee & Refreshments after service

All Are Welcome!