



*"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 30 | September/October 2025

Welcome to the new and improved Grapevine!!

We have changed to a new way of creating our newsletter - hope you like it!

Our focus this fall is on starting again - starting new - reminding ourselves that we are a family of God and God loves us all. As stated in Ephesians 4:2-7...

"² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it."

Extend grace to yourself and to others. Start anew.

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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: Changing Seasons

The Summer months are almost behind us. We remember the memories of VBS activities with our children and youth group events that kept many of us active and full of hope and excitement. We registered over 25 children from our own church family, and the wider community. These young children included new faces of all ages and nationalities. They came looking for a place to accept them just as they are. They came needing to be with other children and adults who would provide a safe place to be themselves. They found what they were looking for because the people of Oxford United Methodist church are learning to truly follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Special thanks to the adults who brought energy and joy to these events. They shared the love of Christ in the singing and dancing from other children their age. Food and snacks were provided by church leadership. There was not a dull moment as adults, children and youth joined the circle Christian love. It may have been very warm in the church, but that did not stop the youngsters from laughing, singing and forming friendships.

The spirit and feeling of touching young lives is in alignment with our church vision to become empowered and known throughout Oxford. In case you have forgotten or did not know, 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

charts the path toward the fruition of dreams of what we can become.

The summer is almost gone and soon the leaves will be turning beautiful hues of orange and red. Now we look to the future with faith and courage. Every person will now be asked to recommit to giving their attention and resources ensuring the continued fulfillment of our vision.

As your pastor, I see this as an essential step towards continued growth; spiritually, financially and with respect to our extending programs.

The Worship Team has designated **September 14** as Rally Sunday. This will be the day we celebrate the return of all who have been away for the summer and to thank God for those who cared for our ministries during the summer months. We hope you will return energized and ready to accept your role in moving Oxford UMC to be a stronger, faith filled vital congregation in the East Winds District.



Fall EVENTS



Join us on September 14th
when we will be having a large celebration!
It's Children's Sabbath and the
start of Sunday School
It's Grandparent's Day!
It's Mission Sunday and we will be
blessing our current and future missions.

Youth Group will resume on the 17th

Wednesday Bible Study will start on the 17th

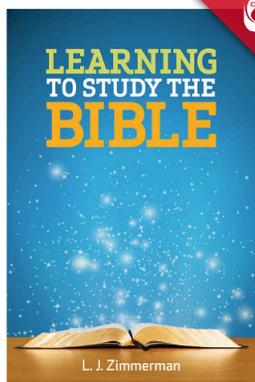
Bells & Brunch will start on the 21st
(Bell Choir Practice starts on the 10th)

CHURCH CONFERENCE

2025 Zone 6 Conference
October 26th @ 6pm
at Holly Mt Bethel UMC
[3205 Jossman Rd, Holly]

SPRC / DS Zoom Meeting - October 23
@ 7pm

Committee Leaders: All forms are due to
the Oxford UMC Church Office
by SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th
(forms are available at michiganumc.org/resources/forms)



Join Pastor Julius this fall as he teaches a new 8-session study that will help you deepen your understanding of how to use and navigate the Bible. Whether you study all the time or your Bible has an inch of dust on it - this study will help make sense of it. Date and time will be in the Sunday program soon! This is worth your time and effort.



PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Matthew & Megan Crothers - *Congratulations on their wedding!* Carolyn Foss CJ Ezra Gaiter
 Grayson East Steve Jerome Del Pino Family of Shirley Conner Jean Snyder
 Amie Von Knorring Weslyn Rose Randy O'Bleness
 Sophie Thrush Kip Lawrie Bob Willobee Hudson Taylor
 Susan Johnson Anna Taylor Peg Moulder Steve Trykar
 Ruth Lawdins Rick Smith John Hauxwell Nikki Doctor
 Rona-Jane Chislet Marina Chislet Glen & Geraldine McLaughlin Olga Neill
 Kent Patterson Carol Hauxwell Ron Shedlowsky and Family Denise Gildner
 Ro Van Wagoner Linda McIntyre Ginny Conrad Amy Thorson

Prayer List

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!*

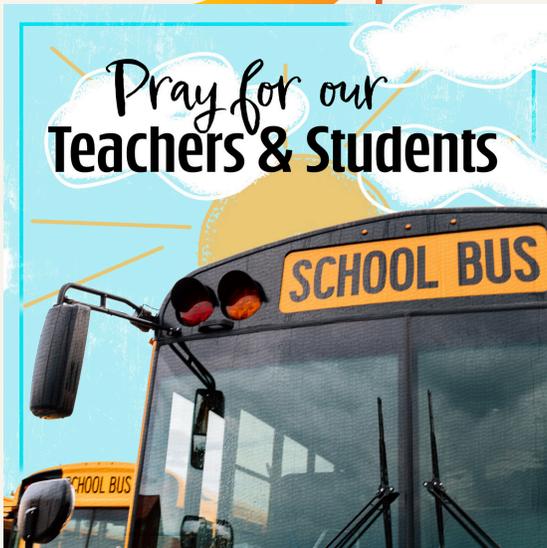
Need prayer with Pastor? Sign up on the sheet outside the office, or contact the church office

The Power of Prayer Warriors

Prayer warriors are spiritual soldiers—men and women who faithfully lift others in prayer, often behind the scenes. Though their work may go unnoticed by the world, it is deeply valued by God. Their intercession can strengthen the weary, comfort the grieving, and open doors for God's will to be done.

In Scripture, we are urged to "pray one for another" (James 5:16, KJV), reminding us that healing and restoration often come through the prayers of the faithful. A prayer warrior stands in the gap, bringing needs before the Lord with boldness and persistence. The Apostle Paul recognized the power of prayer, often asking others to pray for him as he shared the gospel. In the same way, prayer warriors today uphold churches, pastors, families, and communities.

Their prayers may be silent, but their impact is mighty. Never underestimate the difference a praying heart can make.



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September 1 - Mike Bellairs
 September 2 - Noemy Vale
 September 4 - Dan Mumbrue
 September 7 - Sydney Richter
 September 15 - Anne Rossier
 September 21 - Mary Dempsey
 September 26 - Bernie Rumbold
 September 29 - Megan Crothers
 September 30 - Laura Clancy



September 12 - Bruce & Debra Bunker
 September 18 - Tim & Jean Davidson
 September 23 - Mark & Amy Fleischer
 September 27 - Bob & Colleen Richter
 September 28 - Kevin & Keri Kater
 - Julius & Laurie Del Pino

Birthday's and Anniversaries



October 3 - Myles Richard
 October 6 - Bob Willobee
 October 16 - Julius Del Pino
 October 29 - Bruce Bunker
 October 30 - Steve Laidlaw
 October 31 - Catherine Richard
 - Eric Richard



October 10 - Steve & Kathy Laidlaw

The Best Gift for Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you’ve ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn’t a plaque or applause. More often than not, it’s simple: “Pray for me.”

Even the Apostle Paul didn’t ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: *“Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company”* (Romans 15:30–32, NASB).

This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.

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How to Get Connected

Social Media:

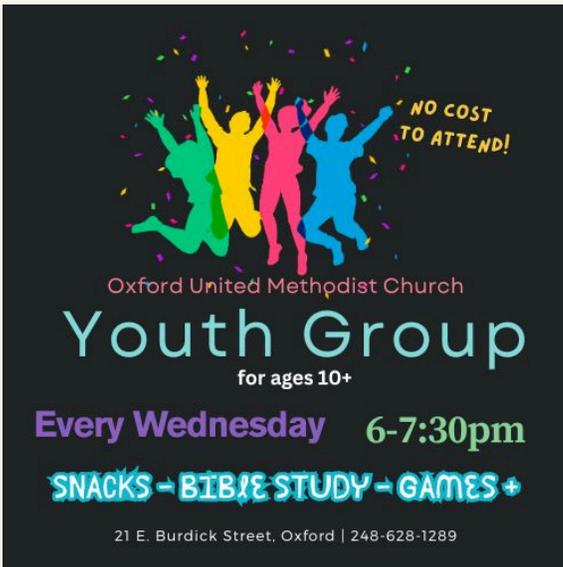
- Oxford UMC on Facebook
- Oxford UMC on X
- Oxford UMC on Instagram

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: Oxford UMC on youtube.com



Youth Group Returns on September 17th

Join Youth Director Amie Von Knorring as she begins another year of fun, Christian learning, games and snacks on Wednesday evenings. Kids age 10+ are invited to attend the Youth Group every Wednesday from 6-7:30pm. Sometimes, they have fun off site and take a field trip. There have been rumors of ice cream! Contact Amie if you are interested in helping and/or if you have a child interested in being a part of the fun - all are welcome. Kids - bring your friends along!

A big "Thank You!" to everyone who was able to help out with the Kalahari Fundraiser - we hope you had as much fun as we did!



Youth Ministry: Welcome Back!

Oxford UMC Sunday Servants:

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

	September 7 13 th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion	September 14 14 th Sunday after Pentecost Rally/Mission Sunday	September 21 15 th Sunday after Pentecost Bells & Brunch Begins	September 28 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	October 5 17 th Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday (Special Offering)	October 12 18 th Sunday after Pentecost	October 19 19 th Sunday after Pentecost Laity Sunday	October 26 20 th Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday
Liturgist			Carolyn Lawrie	Steve Laidlaw			Carolyn Lawrie	
Children's Word								
Acolyte								
Usher(s)								
Greeter(s)								
Friendship Hour	People Feeding People	Worship	Brunch	Rachel Circle	People Feeding People	Wednesday Bible Study	Brunch	Rachel Circle
Tech Team (PC)	David Cischke	Evan Sweeder	Tom Bertich	Fred Nelson	David Cischke	Evan Sweeder	Tom Bertich	Fred Nelson



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.



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

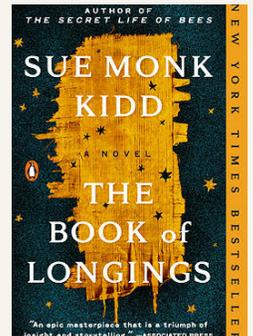
All are invited to attend the Piece Makers group and help with our prayer quilts. We usually meet on Wednesday afternoons (1st and 3rd weeks) starting at 1pm. Do you know someone who would like the comfort of the prayers woven into a quilt during its creation? These quilts are intended for anyone who 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!

Wednesday Bible / Book Study

Starting September 17 at 10:30am

There will be a new book study this fall... *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

... Sue Monk Kidd takes an audacious approach to history and brings her acclaimed narrative gifts to imagine the story of a young woman named Ana. Raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, she is rebellious and ambitious, with a brilliant mind and a daring spirit. She engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes narratives about neglected and silenced women. Ana is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. An encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes everything. ... Ana determines her fate during a stunning convergence of events considered among the most impactful in human history. Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her.



All are welcome to the study!

UM Women: Rachel Circle

When: Monday, Sept. 8, 2025 will be our first meeting of the season. Thereafter we meet on the second Monday of each month, 10:30a - 12noon.

Would you like to be part of a caring team of women who will be making a positive difference in the lives of others?

Community events, volunteering when needed to help others, keeping in touch with our church family, sharing 'God Wink Moments' through devotional readings & prayer. Hosting Friendship Hour & holding fundraisers to help causes, are just a few of the activities & reasons we come together.

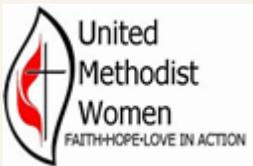
This Fall we will be changing up how meetings are held to see if we can accomplish more, in less time. Come add your voice to our Christ-based meetings, together we can make a positive difference.

A purpose driven life is the best way to feel connected to others.

If you need a ride, please contact the church office or Carolyn Lawrie.

Where: Oxford United Methodist Church (South entrance off of Burdick / Lakeville Rd.)

Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President



The Surpassing Grace

The word "surpass" means to exceed, to go beyond, to transcend the reach or capacity of. In his second letter to the church at Corinth, St. Paul refers to "*the surpassing grace of God that he has given you*" (2 Corinthians 9:14, NRSV). Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the amazing, abundant grace God had showered upon them.

When Paul wrote that letter, the church in Jerusalem was suffering intense persecution. The members were poor and struggling to be faithful under dire circumstances.

Paul knew the church at Corinth was doing fine financially and that they had a mind to help out the Jerusalem church. He wrote: "*You glorify God ... by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they ... pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you*" (2 Corinthians 9:13-14, NRSV).

Consider how you can share God's surpassing grace with others in need.

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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)



hello
Autumn



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 your faithfulness. Please help monthly with our General Fund. The summer has been difficult but hopefully we will recover this fall.

"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
<i>(Note: not the whole month)</i>	
Giving Subtotal	\$39,987.57
Budget for 2025	\$130,800.00



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 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.



Helping Our East Winds Neighbor

Posted on August 7, 2025 in "East Wind's District"

On July 16, 2025 the Paint Creek UMC, an East Winds District Church, experienced significant flood damage following an unusually heavy rainstorm. The churches' fellowship hall was impacted by the inadequate sewer drains and road runoff. This runoff left 6+ inches of flood water in the fellowship hall. We are grateful that our historic sanctuary remained unaffected, and it appears that we were able to save the kitchen from damage.

We have had the fellowship professionally cleaned and it is in the final stages of drying out. Before we can put our fellowship hall back together. Here is where we could use help. It has been confirmed that we have no insurance coverage for this type of issue. So, all cost for clean-up and repair are the responsibility of the Paint Creek UMC.

How can you help:

- Financially – If you or your congregation would like to help the Paint Creek UMC during this crisis please send donations to the East Winds Treasurer's office, please, write – "Paint Creek UMC fund" in the memo line. The address is: East Winds District c/o Linda Squires, 119 S Leroy St, Fenton, MI 48430
- Work team – If you are willing to help on a work team, please contact Rev. Carol Blair Bouse at cbclairbouse@eastwindsumc.org as we prepare to set up teams to go into the church.

For any questions, please contact Rev. Carol Blair Bouse



THE LOVE INC & HUNDREDX CAMPAIGN IS LIVE!

Make an impact just by sharing your opinion! Support Love INC by submitting quick surveys about brands and businesses you already know and use – all from your phone or computer.



SIGN UP NOW

- ✓ IT'S FAST
- ✓ IT'S FREE
- ✓ IT DIRECTLY SUPPORTS OUR MISSION



Every survey you complete helps us earn funding – without spending a dime. Let your opinion make a difference!

- Scan the QR code
- Or text "IMPACT" to 90412
- Be sure to select Love INC as your organization to support!

CAMPAIGN ENDS SEPTEMBER 2

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 chicken | Hamburger Helper | Chunky Soup |
| Cake mix | 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

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

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 September 6, September 20, October 4 and October 18

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. Drahner 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.

From the Bishop: Pause for Summertime Reflections

By Bishop David Bard | MI Area |
Posted on August 7, 2025 in "Bishop's Blog"

In this month's blog, Bishop David Bard highlights several recent news updates and resources, including his thoughts on The United Methodist Church's new vision statement...



"Summertime, and the living is easy." Well, at least according to Porgy and Bess. Summer often has a different pace to it, and we typically find some time away from work during these months. In keeping with that different pace, I would like to offer a few scattered thoughts with you. Though not an essay on a single topic, I want to offer helpful resources on important matters.

At this year's annual conference, you heard about a newly developed vision statement for The United Methodist Church. [Read more about this statement developed by the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table.](#) It is intended to guide our way into the future, embodying God's dream for the world, a world where every person might encounter the transformative grace of Jesus Christ, where communities flourish, and where all creation is made whole.

The vision statement reads: "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections." [Watch this video to learn more.](#)

This vision statement complements the [mission statement found in the Book of Discipline](#): "The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Disciples are persons who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

This renewed vision is more than words — it is an invitation to embrace joy and hope as we live God's mission. It provides a clear, Christ-centered framework for missional unity and collaboration across our worldwide connection.

I hope you will spend some time pondering this vision statement. I think it helps us as a church, and it fits well with the direction of the Michigan Conference as we seek to be a conference that is Christ-centered, that is comprised of vibrant congregations, that develops bold and effective leaders, and that works together in mission and ministry.

In late spring, the Council of Bishops offered another resource for the church called "[Pentecost People](#)," an eight-week resource for congregations to explore how we might continue to be people whose lives continue to be transformed by God's Holy Spirit. For each week, there is a short video presentation by one of our bishops, introducing the theme. A variety of resources, including Scripture readings, reflections, and small group discussion questions, accompany each video. I encourage you to [explore this](#)

[series](#) and see how you might use it in your congregation. And third, the Internal Revenue Service recently issued a statement reversing a long-standing prohibition against churches and pastors endorsing political candidates from the pulpit or in their communications. The [Johnson Amendment](#), which prohibited such endorsements, will no longer be enforced against religious organizations so long as they offer such endorsements in their typical religious communications, which would include worship. As one United Methodist chancellor wrote, "This is all intended to be cloaked in theology, doctrine, worship and/or practice."

Simply because one might legally endorse a political candidate without risking the loss of nonprofit status does not mean it is a good idea. While I intend to write more about this in the fall, I discourage pastors from endorsing political candidates from the pulpit.

A primary reason for such restraint is that it risks muting our moral voice. I think pastors and clergy should address moral issues from the perspective of our theology. No one who reads the Bible openly and honestly can miss the frequent references to important moral matters. How do we live out Jesus' injunction to "do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12, NIV)? What might it mean to take seriously these verses from Leviticus: "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34, NRSVUE)?

As clergy, we should wrestle with such texts in preaching and teaching. Moral matters will often have political dimensions to them, not in the sense of electoral politics but in the sense of making decisions about how we will live together in society. We should not ignore such political dimensions. However, when one endorses a candidate, one risks having everything they say filtered through the lens of partisan electoral politics. It dulls our moral voice.

Finally, this summer, we are witnessing incredibly harmful weather-related disasters. Early in July, the flooding of the Guadalupe River in central Texas resulted in the deaths of over 100 people. The grief is enormous. Record flooding has also struck New Mexico, North Carolina, and northeastern sections of the United States. I know you have been joining me in prayer, and many have contributed to relief efforts. [Learn how to give directly to flood relief.](#) Thank you.

Beyond the natural disasters are the human-caused disasters of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Please continue to pray for peace and the well-being of those in these horrific war zones.

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

September



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 (starts 9/10)

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

SEPTEMBER 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				

- 9/1 - Labor Day - Office Closed
- 9/2 - 7pm (Y) Trustees
- 9/7 - 10am (S) 13th Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Communion
- 9/8 - 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle
 7pm (F/FK) Worship Team
- 9/10 - 1pm (M) Reading for Fun
 - 6:30pm (S) Bell Choir Practice Begins
- 9/14 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost: Rally Day / Mission Sunday
 (Children's Sabbath & Grandparent's Day & Mission Trip Blessing)
 ~11:15am Revive
 DUE TODAY - Church Conference Forms to Church Office
- 9/15 - 7pm (F/FK & Zoom) Church Council
- 9/17 - 10:30am Wednesday Bible Study Resumes with
 "The Book of Longings" by Sue Munk Kidd
 - 3pm (F/FK) Paid Staff Meeting
 - 6pm (Y) Youth Group Resumes
- 9/21 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost: Bells and Brunch Worship





October

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-10:30am (F/FK) People Feeding People

10/5 - 10am (S) 17th Sunday after Pentecost:
 World Communion Sunday

~11:15am Liturgist Training

10/6 - 7pm (F/FK) Church Council

10/7 - 7pm (Y) Trustees

10/8 - 1pm (M) Reading for Fun

10/12 - 10am (S) 18th Sunday after Pentecost

10/13 - 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle

7pm (F/FK) Worship Team

10/15 - THE GRAPEVINE DEADLINE: November/December Issue

10/19 - 10am (S) 19th Sunday after Pentecost:
 Laity Sunday Worship & Bells and Brunch

~11:15am Revive

10/23 - 7pm SPRC / DS Zoom Meeting

10/26 - 10am (S) 20th Sunday after Pentecost:
 Reformation Sunday

- 6pm (Mt Bethel, Holly) Church Conference

10/31 - Reformation Day (Halloween)

OCTOBER 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	



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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!