



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 21 | January/February 2024

“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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This issue we are giving Pastor Del Pino a break as he is out on medical leave - we hope and pray that he returns to us healthy, soon and with a renewed spirit!



2024



2024 Commitment Card

[Please cut out and place in the offering plate]

 **2024 Commitment Card**

We thank God for our blessings!
I/We commit to giving our
prayers, volunteer service
& year-end donation

My/Our Financial Commitment

\$ _____ weekly (for 52 weeks)

\$ _____ monthly (for 12 months)

\$ _____ Electronic Giving
[Please include authorization form
and submit with voided check]

Offering Envelopes Request (check one):

Weekly envelopes (52) Monthly envelopes (12)

Name(s) (print): _____

Signature: _____

Oxford UMC - 21 E. Burdick St. Oxford, MI 48371



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

*It's not too late to make a
financial commitment to
Oxford UMC for 2024!*

Thanks for Giving!

The Giving Tree was set up and dressed with Christmas "ornaments" items for the **Grace Centers of Hope homeless shelter and for our local neighbors in need.** In addition to the usual **hats and mittens**, we collected **socks and underwear** for children, adults and families.



Thank you so much!!!

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



February 14

On Ash Wednesday we are planning something special! Keep posted -
All are welcome!



Removing of the Greens

Un-Trimming the Church

Sunday, January 7th
(after the worship service)

All are invited to stay after the service to help un-decorate and get ready for the Epiphany. We really appreciate all the hard work you do to make our church look so clean! Thank you in advance for your time and service.

Kindness Matters...

By Bishop David Bard | MI Area | Posted on December 5, 2023 in "Bishop's Blog"

This article was originally titled "Kindness Matters This Christmas" but as it also matters in Epiphany we are sharing in this next season...



our Epiphany!] be a journey into kinder hearts and a recommitment to living with greater kindness, gentleness, tenderness, and love? Knowing the depth of God's love for us in Jesus Christ, might we, ...rekindle the fire of that love in our lives, lighting it anew ..

It has now happened twice in the past couple of months. I don't wear a clerical collar often, but sometimes the occasion calls for it. In the first instance, I helped preside at communion and celebrated a significant ministry at one of our Michigan United Methodist churches. I wore my clerical collar, and I stopped to fill my car with gas while driving home. A woman approached me as I was getting into my car to leave the station. I initially thought she might need some help filling her tank with gas. Why not ask the clergyperson for a little financial help? I was wrong. She approached my car, told me she was driving her three grandchildren to Grand Rapids, and asked if I would mind praying for her. I did.

A few weeks later, I was in a hotel lobby in Charleston, WV, returning from the memorial service for Bishop William Boyd Grove. I represented the North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops at the service and wore my clerical collar again. As I was walking through the lobby with another bishop, who was not wearing her collar, a woman stopped me and asked if I would pray for her. She was struggling with a few issues and was waiting for someone to pick her up from the hotel. I prayed for her.

I've been thinking quite a bit about these incidents. Should I wear my clergy collar more, or perhaps less — maybe take it off before leaving the church? Sorry, I am poking a little fun at myself, but truth be told, it can be a bit uncomfortable to be stopped by strangers and asked to pray for their lives. Yet good ministry often involves discomfort.

What strikes me most about these serendipitous occurrences is that people have a deep need to know that someone cares. Maybe the grandmother was more in tune with magical thinking, imagining that the prayer of a random man in a clerical collar might quiet her unruly grandchildren for the next 45 minutes. That did not seem to be the case. Maybe the woman in the lobby was in a skewed frame of mind, not entirely in touch with reality. Again, that did not seem to be the case. In both instances, I experienced the genuine need for people to be cared about, to have someone take time to notice and be kind. Given that the church has not always been kind and caring, I was joyfully humbled to think that these two persons saw a Christian clergy collar as a symbol that someone was a good person to reach out to for kindness and care.

...I preached in a sermon on the first Sunday of Advent, "Advent asks of us to take time to ponder, pause to attend deeply to the presence of Jesus in our lives. Advent is not meant to simply mark time, but to be a spiritual journey."

In a world where people feel a profound need to be cared about and where that need can be met too often by cold shoulders or apathetic indifference, might our Advent [and

I am aware of the enormous pain and suffering in the world — war, hunger, inequality, poverty, injustice, violence. Kindness feels so small compared to these significant problems. But will any of them be made better by our being less kind? Might larger hearts not also lead to expanded creative thinking to address such pressing issues? I think so.

I think so, not because I am a pie-eyed optimist who ignores the evil, injustice, and oppression in the world, who turns away from the deep wounds and pains in people's lives. I often hear the words of the Irish poet Seamus Heaney:

*Human beings suffer,
They torture one another,
They get hurt and get hard.
No poem or play or song
Can fully right a wrong
Inflicted and endured.*

I believe kindness matters, that it makes a difference, and larger hearts lead to larger minds because I take Advent and the story of Christmas seriously. God enters our world through a child born in the humblest circumstances. When he grows, Jesus does not command armies but teaches and touches, and lives are changed. At the heart of his teaching is a command to love — love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:28-34). "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35, NRSVue).

At its best, Christmas carries with it an extra measure of kindness. The world needs it. Everyone needs it. This Advent and Christmas [and Epiphany!], let the Spirit enlarge your hearts in such a way that they stay a little bigger, a little kinder.



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

PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Family of Shirley Moore Sandi Thorsen Lois Smith Olema Rev. John Hice Laura Hubbard
 Family of John Christiansen Lynda Bertich Lydia Carolyn Foss
 Pastor Julius Del Pino Dottie Borgne Chuck Patterson Rick Smith Clifford Warren
 Sue Smith Joyce Del Pino Kent Patterson John & Nadine Lychuk Kip Lawrie John Hauxwell
 Ron Shedlowsky Linda & Chuck McIntyre Ro Van Wagoner Ruth Patterson Amy Thorson
 Bruce Conrad Kristina Del Pino Shirley Ricketts Ron Bunker Shirley Conner

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 a Pastor?
 Sign up on the sheet outside the office, or contact the church office**



LENTEN
Study

Lenten Study with the Pastor

[Title to be decided]

Your pastor is inviting you to attend this Lenten in person study. No matter where you are on your faith journey, please prayerfully consider this opportunity to deepen your awareness of how prayer shapes our relationship with Christ and with each other. Rev. Julius Del Pino will be leading this prayer experience. Come and learn with him. More information on topic, times and dates will be announced in the Sunday program.

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 chicken	Chili	Chunky Soup
Cake mix	Personal care items	Feminine Products	

Current Hours -

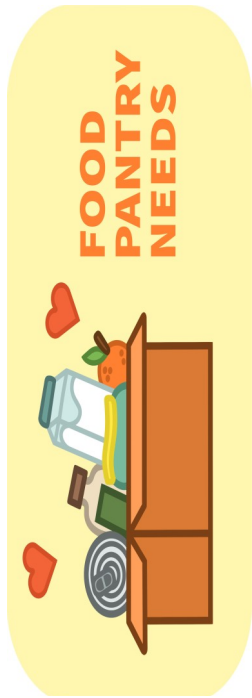
Office: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 to noon
 Pantry: Tuesdays - 1-3pm; Wednesdays - 10-2pm; Thursdays - 1-5 pm; 3rd Saturdays of month - 9:45-11:30am

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

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.

Best Themed Float!

The Oxford Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade voted Oxford UMC the "Best Themed Float" for 2023... Thank you to everyone who contributed!



We offer our congratulations also to Centerstage Dance Company who were voted "Best Marching Unit" and Buckhorn Towing who were voted "Best Christmas Spirit."



Human Relations Day

JANUARY 14, 2024

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." —Isaiah 49:6

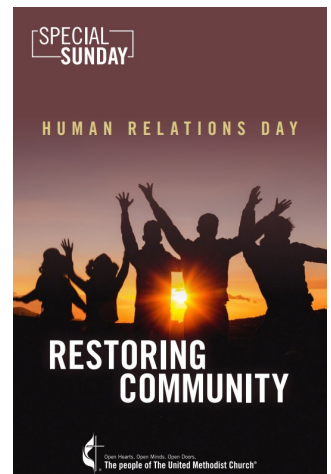
On Human Relations Day, we join with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together to build community and share God's love.

How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on Human Relations Day? It starts with you! Gifts collected in each local church are directed to The General Council on Finance and Administration, where funds are allocated to the administering agencies. Each agency has a specific role in the ministry behind Human Relations Day:

- ◆ General Board of Global Ministries administers grants for both the Community Developers Program and the United Methodist Voluntary Service Programs
- ◆ General Board of Global Ministries administers grants for Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs

The Human Relations Day offering supports programs like the South Los Angeles Mission Centers which recently launched a Community Computer Lab at Saint Mark UMC, Los Angeles. The Community Computer Lab provides space for distance learning, internet access,

senior assistance, resume building, employment application, government / public benefits, school assignments, copying, faxing, scanning, housing searches and medical care needs. Volunteers offer a welcoming, clean, peaceful environment for all who enter, and even for those whom it is hard to enter. For example, a senior visited the community computer lab in need of photocopies. When she arrived at the site she phoned to ask if someone could come out to her car, get the document, and make five copies. After all was done, she suggested the lab could offer a Curbside Copying service. In a neighborhood with limited economic resources, the community computer lab is providing a space for people of all ages to access technological tools while creating a sense of community and hospitality. Program leadership is thankful for how God is working through them to provide services and remove obstacles for the community to thrive. We know how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. As a denomination, our gifts on Human Relations Day work together to empower faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. HOW TO GIVE: Write a check to your local church with "UMHRD" 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. Without your gifts, we could not continue this ministry.





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

Rev. John Wesley (founder of Methodism)

Finance Update - 2023

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.

January Giving	\$	7,267.05
February Giving	\$	5,966.15
March Giving	\$	5,890.00
April Giving	\$	7,622.34
May Giving	\$	8,823.90
June Giving	\$	6,354.17
July Giving	\$	8,153.40
August Giving	\$	6,532.20
September Giving	\$	5,610.99
October Giving	\$	5,610.99
November Giving	\$	12,187.77
December Giving	\$	3,653.00
<i>(partial report for December)</i>		
Giving Subtotal	\$	83,931.49
Budget for 2023	\$	118,856.00
Budget for 2024	\$	111,968.00

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.*

2024 Church Council

Church Council Chairperson:	Michelle Wood	(248)969-2545
General Fund Treasurer:	Becky Sallans	(248)628-1289
Designated Fund Treasurer:	Kevin Kater	(248)628-7804
Financial Secretary:	Larry Bradford	(248)628-5759
Finance Co-Chairpersons:	tbd	
Board of Trustees:	Tony Rizzo	(248)628-1787
	Michelle Wood	(248)969-2545
SPRC Chairperson:	tbd	
Worship Team:	Michelle Mumbrue	(248)969-9173
	Laura Clancy	(248)628-6648
Missions & Outreach:	John & Devon Warren	(248)778-8735
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
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:	John Warren	(248)778-8735

Church Council meets the last Monday of the even months 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.



UMCOR Update

UMCOR CONTINUES TO SUPPORT PARTNERS IN UKRAINE

By Christie R. House | Posted on November 24, 2023

ATLANTA – Ekaterina* and her two young daughters fled the Donetsk region in 2022 a month after Russian forces invaded the region in March. She and her community were helping displaced neighbors from Volnovakha city, who arrived daily after fleeing Russian troops and fierce violence that overwhelmed their city.

Receiving news that the same troops were advancing and would soon reach her town, Ekaterina packed whatever she could and left with her children, her elder relatives, a brother and sister and their families. They reached Dnipro, Ukraine’s fourth largest city, west of Donetsk, not knowing what would come next.

“We were not even going to Dnipro; we were going nowhere,” Ekaterina explained. “We left late, and when we arrived, it was already curfew. We turned to the first military personnel in the village; they put us up in a hotel for free and we stayed for three days. Thank you to the residents – they welcomed us very well.”

Ekaterina found help at the center for displaced persons, supported by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) with funding from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and run by IOCC’s local Orthodox Church partner, Eleos-Ukraine.

At the center, she received a humanitarian kit, which included food and nonfood items, plus psychosocial and legal support services. Individual sessions with psychologists helped her learn how to better manage the stress she experienced during the war, while meetings with lawyers showed her how to get the documentation she needed to register for the state Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) support program.

Instead of moving on, Ekaterina’s family decided to resettle in Dnipro. The adults found work and rented housing, and the children entered school.

Later, Ekaterina learned that on April 1, exactly one day after they’d left, their hometown had been bombed. According to her, 600 people of the original 8,000 residents remain. Ekaterina is not sure there is anything left for her and her family in the Donetsk region. As a way of giving back, her family volunteers at the IOCC center that first welcomed them.

With UMCOR’s support, IOCC has also reconstructed and strengthened permanent shelters for displaced families. Through this one grant, UMCOR’s support has likely reached an estimated 73,000 people with emergency supplies, food, water and shelter, as well as legal and psychosocial help as they adjust to life while their country is at war.

REMOVING DANGEROUS THREATS TO LIFE

A second large UMCOR grant has aided the work of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), an organization that finds, removes and destroys landmines, cluster munitions



Vera, trained by MAG as a deminer in Ukraine. (Photo: Julia Kochetova, MAG)

and unexploded bombs from places affected by conflict. MAG also educates residents about unexploded ordnance and how to recognize the various types.

Exploded and misfired bombs, landmines and missiles literally cover the ground in many places across Ukraine. Ukrainian authorities calculate that nearly 30% of the country’s territory is contaminated with explosive ordnance, with the number of accidents in 2023 steadily increasing each month.

The head teacher of a school in Mykolaiv that participated in the awareness sessions noted: “The risk education lessons for our children are invaluable. These are lessons not just for now but for life because we know that unexploded ordnance and landmines might be a problem for our country for many years.”

In early November, the Ukrainian authorities officially accredited MAG to undertake survey and clearance activities. Forty-four deminers were already in training and are ready to deploy.

Many of the deminers are from Mykolaiv, and, given most men of fighting age are currently on the front line, women are training to become deminers for the good of their communities.

“I used to be a businesswoman,” Vera*, from Mykolaiv said. “I decided to become a deminer because honestly, I believe I’m not brave enough to be a soldier. I’m looking forward to going into a real minefield...I know there has been heavy use of landmines.”

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN UKRAINE PLANS ON LONG-TERM CARE

Since the beginning of the war, The United Methodist Church in Ukraine has stretched its resources and grown in its expertise in caring for IDP populations. In various localities – where this small church of a few congregations has connections – pastors, congregants and volunteers have welcomed, fed, sheltered and aided displaced people in many ways. United Methodists from the wider connection of congregations around the world have partnered directly with the Ukrainian UMC and through UMCOR to increase its capacity to serve many neighbors.

Tens of thousands of these IDP neighbors congregate in Zakarpattia Oblast, in Western Ukraine, living in private accommodations and shelters. Many people reside in

open shelter accommodations unsuitable for life in the long-term. In this context, the UMC in Ukraine has provided temporary shelter in various leased locations in the Uzhhorod area of Zakarpattia.

Hundreds of IDPs have been accommodated by the Ukraine UMC since February of 2022. Supporting the church in establishing a permanent shelter facility will help them defray costs associated with this ministry and assure that the space can be dedicated to social programming moving forward. The most recent grant from UMCOR to the UMC in Ukraine will enable the purchase of a hotel, which will become a Methodist Center for care in the region.

Private, clean and safe accommodations for displaced families will be a humanitarian need in short supply in Western Ukraine for the foreseeable future. In the long-term, the facility will be utilized for social ministries and eventually support other missions of the church.

**Names changed to protect identity.*



Survivors of Cyclone Freddy in Andranomavo, Madagascar, receive food aid from the UMC in Madagascar with a grant from UMCOR. (Photo: Justin Rakotoarimanana)

UMCOR – COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE IN THE WAKE OF DISASTER

By **Christie R. House** | Posted on November 16, 2023

ATLANTA – The ninth chapter of Matthew describes Jesus and his disciples traveling from village to village, teaching in synagogues and announcing God’s good news, healing people.

...When Jesus saw the crowds of people and what was happening in the cities and villages, Matthew 9:36 reveals: “...He had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

As followers of Jesus, how can our compassion expand across so many countries, in so many different circumstances? On a single day, we can see and hear about wildfires and tornadoes in the U.S., earthquakes in Turkey, war in Europe and the Middle East, and severe floods in Bangladesh. How should the church respond?

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he has compassion for them...”

BEING IN MANY PLACES AT ONCE

Having compassion is the first response, soon followed by provision of food, water and shelter for those affected by sudden, devastating events. While no organization or agency can be everywhere at once, the strength of the UM disaster network, which includes interfaith and

ecumenical partners, is that the response and the responders are spread out across the world, and they start work when they are most needed, wherever they are.

Nearly two years into the war in Ukraine, UMCOR has approved millions of dollars of war relief and recovery grants to Ukrainian partners and others in surrounding countries,...Yet, at the same time, UMCOR acted on several requests for assistance for an earthquake that severely affected parts of Turkey and Syria in February 2023.

In March 2023, UMCOR was able to assist United Methodist conferences in Mozambique, Madagascar and Malawi as they responded to devastation caused by Cyclone Freddy. In April, civil strife in Sudan and South Sudan broke out and UMCOR supported two partners in those countries.

Month after month, disasters happen and UMCOR responds, whether these disasters gain wide media attention and public awareness or not. UMCOR has the means to respond because people have supported UMCOR with their gifts, support that allows UMCOR to respond quickly when partners in affected regions ask for help.

UNPREDICTABLE DISASTERS NEED PREDICTABLE RESPONSES

In the United States, the United Methodist disaster network, including conferences, supply depots, and often responders from other denominations, functions differently than disaster response outside the U.S. The conference disaster response offices are UMCOR’s main partners at work in the U.S.

Some conferences repeatedly hit by major weather disasters, such as Florida, Texas, the Carolinas and New Jersey, have become experts at preparing, responding and providing long-term recovery help after major disasters. Most of them began with grants and training from UMCOR. Many are currently in various stages of UMCOR project grants to provide the long-term case management that UMCOR is known for...the last agents and volunteer teams to leave a recovery site even years after a major disaster strikes.

Today, recovery operations continue for populations affected by Hurricane Ida (2021) in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. Louisiana just completed project work from hurricanes Laura, Delta and Zeta, all of which struck in 2020, and currently moved right into recovery after Hurricane Ian (2022). Between 2004 and 2021, the Florida Conference developed recovery projects for 18 named events.

More than 20 smaller but essential grants were extended so far this year to U.S. conferences, including California-Pacific for Guam and Hawaii (Maui wildfires), Rio Texas, North Texas, New England and New York. Florida has taken on Hurricane Idalia response (Sept. 2023) in its current disaster work.

These quick responses as conferences step into new disasters are possible because donors directed their gifts to be used “where most needed.”



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

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!



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 January 10, 2023: *Santa Cruise* by Fern Michaels. At Ridgewood High, Amy, Frankie, Rachael, and Nina formed a deep bond. Now, fifteen years after leaving school behind, they're back for a reunion, laughing, reminiscing, and chatting about how much has changed—and how much hasn't. Nina, once the star of every school play, moved to Hollywood and landed a recurring role on a sitcom. Amy, fondly known as "the brains of the operation," is now a Silicon Valley bioengineer. Outgoing and compassionate, Frankie works for a New York publishing house. Rachael, always the most boy-crazy of the crew, married—mostly to please her parents—but is now divorced. All four are strong, successful, and somehow, still looking for the right partner. But Frankie has an idea to help solve that: a singles cruise for the holidays.

In late December, Amy, Rachael, Frankie, and Nina gather in Miami, ready to board their state-of-the-art cruise ship. The entertainment options are endless, the food is to die for, and the passenger list includes hundreds of eligible men. The highlight of the week will be a magnificent New Year's Eve celebration with multiple theme parties, dancing, and fireworks. The ladies are happy to give Cupid a helping hand here and there —

hanging mistletoe in elevators and cheering each other on through speed-dating events and shore excursions. Holidays—like the path of love itself—don't always go exactly as planned, but over the course of one festive, unforgettable week, all four will set sail on surprising new adventures.

Wednesday, February 14: *The Women of the Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell. In July 1913, twenty-five-year-old Annie Clements had seen enough of the world to know that it was unfair. She's spent her whole life in the copper-mining town of Calumet, Michigan where men risk their lives for meager salaries—and had barely enough to put food on the table and clothes on their backs. The women labor in the houses of the elite and send their husbands and sons deep underground each day, dreading the fateful call of the company man telling them their loved ones aren't coming home. When Annie decides to stand up for herself, and the entire town of Calumet, nearly everyone believes she may have taken on more than she is prepared to handle. In Annie's hands lie the miners' fortunes and their health, her husband's wrath over her growing independence, and her own reputation as she faces the threat of prison and discovers a forbidden love. On her fierce quest for justice, Annie will discover just how much she is willing to sacrifice for her own independence and the families of Calumet.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Bogus (248 747-7544).

Hope to see you at Book Discussion!



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).

UM Women: Rachel Circle

"Happy New Year!" from Rachel Circle

New beginnings are a wonderful opportunity to start over, a do-over as my kids used to say, a mulligan so to speak for you golfers. It is a new & fresh time to get your life on the right track. Where better to get advice from than your Bible.

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

2 Timothy 1:7

This verse is especially significant for the New Year because God has gifted His children with power (to face the unknown with courage); Love (to share with others & ourselves); & self-control (to make the right choices to live a blessed & joy filled, Christian life).

*"Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

While this is sometimes easier said than done (*seems like most of the time*), it is the path to living a blessed, grateful life and overcoming obstacles that change & overwhelm us. God does not will upon us tragedy or bad things. However, when & if they happen He teaches us how to respond. Very simply "Give thanks in all circumstances," not just for the good times, but for everything. A grateful heart has its own joy. It will fill your spirit like sunshine through a window on a cold winter day.

If you are a woman looking for a friendly, supportive group to help you through the rough times & friends to share the blessings & good times with - then you are cordially invited to attend our monthly group gatherings. You do not need to be a member of our church, just a willingness to be open to meeting new friends & experiencing a wonderful Christian sisterhood that as time goes on, I guarantee will change your life for the better if you let it. It is simply a place to come to talk to Jesus, to be accepted, to be appreciated, to share in a safe environment. We also occasionally have events that help us to help others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Mark your (Jan. & Feb.) calendars :

Our January gathering/meeting is Monday, the 8th, at 10am. & Friendship Hour is Sunday, Jan. 28th.

Our February gathering is Monday, the 12th, at 10am. & Friendship Hour is Sunday Feb. 25th, 2024.



With love & respect,
Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President

UM Men: Band of Brothers



**SOUPER
BOWL**

*Come watch the
Super Bowl on
the big screen,
play cards and
games, and eat
together. Join us
for lots of fun!*

February 11th at 5pm

UM Men will provide beverages, hot dogs, chips, salads and cake for dessert.

Chili Cook-off Contest:

Contact Fred Nelson (248-628-9826)
to enter the contest.

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

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



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

January

- January 1 - Carolyn Hepp
- January 3 - Kathy Laidlaw
- January 5 - Adam Bertich
- January 6 - Mac Clancy
- January 11 - Tim Davidson
- January 28 - Peyton Richter
- January 29 - Devon Warren

February

- February 4 - Emma Taylor
- February 6 - Ro Van Wagoner
- February 9 - Abi Mumbrue |
Mathew Vincentini
- February 13 - David Von Knorring
- February 19 - Carolyn Lawrie
- February 22 - Bill Van Wagoner

Anniversaries

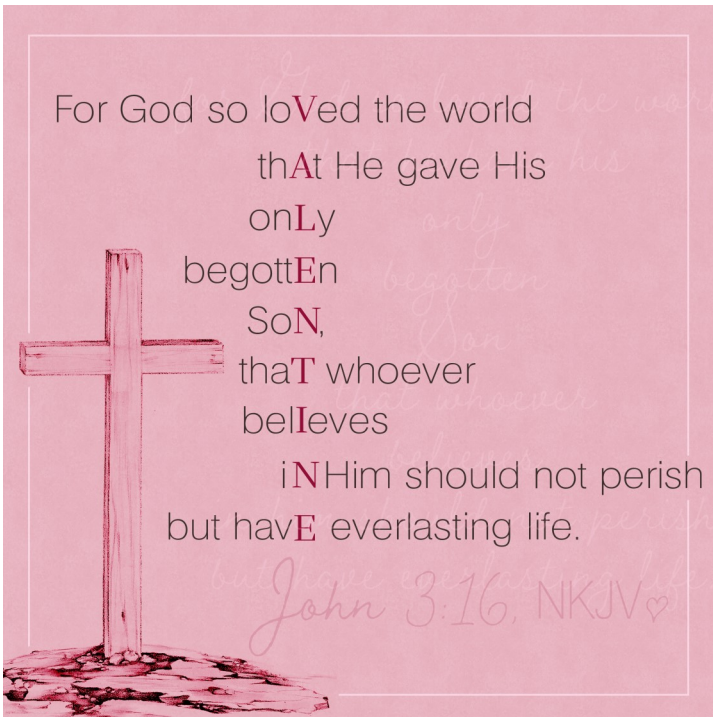
February 8 - Ed & Carolyn Hepp

The Realm of the Impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

—Corrie ten Boom

[REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM CHURCHART ONLINE]



Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ___ Father | 10 + 15 = ___ in |
| 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly | 10 - 5 = ___ God |
| 9 + 9 = ___ the | 6 - 3 = ___ to |
| 12 + 12 = ___ blessing | 12 - 6 = ___ and |
| 2 - 1 = ___ Praise | 6 + 6 = ___ Christ |
| 7 + 7 = ___ has | 18 - 9 = ___ our |
| 11 + 11 = ___ every | 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus |
| 13 + 13 = ___ Christ | 1 + 1 = ___ be |
| 8 + 8 = ___ us | 7 + 6 = ___ who |
| 10 + 10 = ___ realms | 2 + 2 = ___ the |
| 8 + 9 = ___ in | 10 + 5 = ___ blessed |
| 5 + 5 = ___ Lord | 4 + 4 = ___ of |
| 10 + 11 = ___ with | 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual |

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		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Read the Bible in a Year Chart

(Traditional Historical Chronology)

JANUARY	MARCH	MAY	JULY	SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER
1 - Genesis 1-4	1 - Judges 1-3	1 - 1 Kings 5-7	1 - 2 Chron. 29-32	1 - Esther 8-10	1 - 1 Cor. 1-4
2 - Genesis 5-8	2 - Judges 4, 5	2 - 1 Kings 8-11	2 - Isaiah 7-12	2 - Ezra 7-10	2 - 1 Cor. 5-7
3 - Genesis 9-11	3 - Judges 6-8	3 - Ecc. 1, 2	3 - Isaiah 13-23	3 - Nehemiah 1-7	3 - 1 Cor. 8:1-11:1
4 - Genesis 12-14	4 - Judges 9-12	4 - Ecc. 3-5	4 - Isaiah 24-27	4 - Nehemiah 8-10	4 - 1 Cor. 11:2-14:40
5 - Genesis 15-17	5 - Judges 13-16	5 - Ecc. 6-8	5 - Isaiah 28-35	5 - Nehemiah 11-13	5 - 1 Cor. 15
6 - Genesis 18-20	6 - Judges 17-21	6 - Ecc. 9-12	6 - Isaiah 36-39	6 - Malachi 1-4	6 - 1 Cor. 16
7 - Genesis 21, 22	7 - Ruth 1-4	7 - 1 Kings 12-16	7 - Isaiah 40-43	7 - Matthew 1, 2	7 - 2 Cor. 1-7
8 - Job 1-7	8 - 1 Sam. 1-7	8 - 1 Kings 17-19	8 - Isaiah 44-48	8 - Matthew 3:1-4:11	8 - 2 Cor. 8, 9
9 - Job 8-14	9 - 1 Sam. 8-12	9 - 1 Kings 20-22	9 - Isaiah 49-57	9 - Matthew 4:12-7:29	9 - 2 Cor. 10-13
10 - Job 15-22	10 - 1 Sam. 13:1-16:13	10 - 2 Kings 1-4	10 - Isaiah 58-66	10 - Matthew 8:1-11:1	10 - Acts 18:12-20:1
11 - Job 23-31	11 - Psalm 23	11 - 2 Kings 5-8	11 - Hosea 1-3	11 - Matthew 11:2-13:53	11 - Ephesians 1-3
12 - Job 32-37	12 - 1 Sam. 16:14-19:11	12 - 2 Kings 9:1-14:25	12 - Hosea 4-7	12 - Matthew 13:54-16:26	12 - Ephesians 4-6
13 - Job 38-42	13 - Psalm 59	13 - Jonah 1-4	13 - Hosea 8-13	13 - Matthew 17:1-19:2	13 - Romans 1:1-3:20
14 - Genesis 23-25	14 - 1 Sam. 19:12-21:15	14 - 2 Kings 14:26-29; Amos 1, 2	14 - Hosea 14	14 - Matthew 19:3-23:39	14 - Romans 3:21-7:25
15 - Genesis 26-28	15 - Ps. 34, 56	15 - Amos 3-6	15 - Micah 1-3	15 - Matthew 24:1-26:2	15 - Romans 8
16 - Genesis 29-33	16 - 1 Sam. 22:1,2; Ps. 57, 142	16 - Amos 7-9	16 - Micah 4, 5	16 - Matthew 26:3-27:66	16 - Romans 9-11
17 - Genesis 34-36	17 - 1 Sam. 22:3-23; Ps. 52	17 - 2 Kings 15-17	17 - Micah 6, 7	17 - Matthew 28	17 - Romans 12, 13
18 - Genesis 37-41	18 - 1 Sam. 23; Ps. 54, 63	18 - 2 Kings 18-20	18 - Nahum 1-3	18 - Mark 1:1-13	18 - Romans 14:1-15:13
19 - Genesis 42-45	19 - 1 Sam. 24-26	19 - 2 Kings 21-25	19 - 2 Chron. 33, 34	19 - Mark 1:14-3:35	19 - Romans 15:14-16:27
20 - Genesis 46-50	20 - 1 Sam. 27-31	20 - Ps. 1, 2	20 - Zephaniah 1-3	20 - Mark 4, 5	20 - Acts 20:2-21:16
21 - Exodus 1-4	21 - 2 Sam. 1-4	21 - Ps. 10, 33	21 - 2 Chron. 35	21 - Mark 6:1-8:28	21 - Acts 21:17-26:32
22 - Exodus 5-11	22 - 2 Sam. 5-7; Ps. 30	22 - Ps. 43, 66, 67	22 - Habakkuk 1-3	22 - Mark 8:27-10:31	22 - Acts 27, 28
23 - Exodus 12-15	23 - 2 Sam. 8:1-14; Ps. 60	23 - Ps. 71, 89	23 - Jeremiah 1-6	23 - Mark 10:32-13:37	23 - Colossians 1:1-3:4
24 - Exodus 16-18	24 - 2 Sam. 8:15-10:19	24 - Ps. 92-95	24 - Jeremiah 11, 12	24 - Mark 14-16	24 - Colossians 3:5-4:18
25 - Exodus 19-24	25 - 2 Sam. 11:1-12:14; Ps. 51, 32	25 - Ps. 96-100	25 - Jeremiah 26, 7-10	25 - Luke 1, 2	25 - Hebrews 1, 2
26 - Exodus 25-28	26 - 2 Sam. 12:15-15:37	26 - Ps. 102, 104	26 - Jeremiah 14-20	26 - Luke 3:1-4:15	26 - Hebrews 3:1-4:13
27 - Exodus 29-31	27 - Ps. 3, 69	27 - Ps. 105, 106	27 - Jeremiah 21-35, 36	27 - Luke 4:16-6:49	27 - Hebrews 4:14-7:28
28 - Exodus 32-34	28 - 2 Sam. 16-20	28 - Ps. 111-115	28 - Jeremiah 45, 25	28 - Luke 7:1-9:50	28 - Hebrews 8:1-10:18
29 - Exodus 35-40	29 - Ps. 64, 70	29 - Ps. 116-118	29 - Jeremiah 46-49	29 - Luke 9:51-12:59	29 - Hebrews 10:19-12:29
30 - Psalm 90	30 - 2 Sam. 21, 22; Ps. 18	30 - Psalm 119	30 - Jeremiah 13, 22, 23	30 - Luke 13:1-18:30	30 - Hebrews 13
31 - Leviticus 1-7	31 - 2 Sam. 23, 24	31 - Ps. 120-125	31 - Jeremiah 24, 27-29		
FEBRUARY	APRIL	JUNE	AUGUST	OCTOBER	DECEMBER
1 - Leviticus 8-10	1 - Ps. 4-6	1 - Ps. 127-129	1 - Jeremiah 50, 51	1 - Luke 18:31-21:38	1 - Titus 1-3
2 - Leviticus 11-14	2 - Ps. 7-9	2 - Ps. 130-134	2 - Jeremiah 30-33	2 - Luke 22, 23	2 - Philemon
3 - Leviticus 15, 16	3 - Ps. 11-16	3 - Ps. 135, 136	3 - Jeremiah 21, 34	3 - Luke 24	3 - 1 Timothy 1-3
4 - Leviticus 17-22	4 - Ps. 17, 19	4 - Ps. 146-150	4 - Jeremiah 37-39, 52	4 - John 1:1-18	4 - 1 Timothy 4-6
5 - Leviticus 23-27	5 - Ps. 20-22	5 - 1 Chron. 1-5	5 - Jeremiah 40-44	5 - John 1:19-4:54	5 - 2 Timothy 1:1-2:13
6 - Numbers 1-4	6 - Ps. 24-26	6 - 1 Chron. 6-9	6 - Lamentations 1-5	6 - John 5, 6	6 - 2 Timothy 2:14-4:22
7 - Numbers 5-7	7 - Ps. 27, 28	6 - 1 Chron. 6-9	7 - 2 Chron. 36:1-8	7 - John 7:1-11:53	7 - 1 Peter 1:1-2:10
8 - Numbers 8-10	8 - Ps. 29, 31	7 - 1 Chron. 10-12	Daniel 1-4	8 - John 11:54-17:28	8 - 1 Peter 2:11-4:11
9 - Numbers 11-15	9 - Ps. 35, 36	8 - 1 Chron. 13-16	8 - Daniel 5, 6	9 - John 18:1-20:31	9 - 1 Peter 4:12-5:14
10 - Numbers 16-19	10 - Ps. 37, 38	9 - Ps. 42, 44	9 - Daniel 7-9	10 - John 21	10 - 2 Peter 1
11 - Numbers 20-24	11 - Ps. 39, 40	10 - Ps. 45-47	10 - Daniel 10-12	11 - Acts 1, 2	11 - 2 Peter 2
12 - Numbers 25-27	12 - Ps. 41, 53	11 - Ps. 48-50	11 - 2 Chron. 36:9-21	12 - Acts 3:1-8:3	12 - 2 Peter 3
13 - Numbers 28-31	13 - Ps. 55, 58	12 - Ps. 73-76	Psalm 137	13 - Acts 8:4-11:18	13 - 1 John 1, 2
14 - Numbers 32-36	14 - Ps. 61, 62	13 - Ps. 77, 78	12 - Ezekiel 1-3	14 - Acts 11:19-12:25	14 - 1 John 3, 4
15 - Deut. 1-4	15 - Ps. 65, 68	14 - Ps. 79-81	13 - Ezekiel 4-11	15 - Acts 13, 14	15 - 1 John 5
16 - Deut. 5-8	16 - Ps. 72, 86	15 - Ps. 82-85	14 - Ezekiel 12-17	16 - James 1:1-3:12	16 - 2 John
17 - Deut. 9-11	17 - Ps. 101, 103	16 - Ps. 87, 88	15 - Ezekiel 18-20	17 - James 3:13-5:20	17 - 3 John
18 - Deut. 12-18	18 - Ps. 108-110	17 - 1 Chron. 17-22	16 - Ezekiel 21-24	18 - Acts 15	18 - Jude
19 - Deut. 19-26	19 - Ps. 138-141	18 - 1 Chron. 23-27	17 - Ezekiel 25-28	19 - Galatians 1, 2	19 - Rev. 1
20 - Deut. 27-30	20 - Ps. 143-145	19 - 1 Chron. 28, 29	18 - Ezekiel 29-32	20 - Galatians 3, 4	20 - Rev. 2, 3
21 - Deut. 31-34	21 - 1 Kings 1-4	20 - 2 Chron. 1-5	19 - Ezekiel 33-35	21 - Galatians 5, 6	21 - Rev. 4
22 - Psalm 91	22 - Prov. 1-3	21 - 2 Chron. 6-9	20 - Ezekiel 36-39	22 - Acts 16	22 - Rev. 5
23 - Joshua 1-5	23 - Prov. 4-7	22 - 2 Chron. 10-16	21 - Ezekiel 40-42	23 - Philippians 1	23 - Rev. 6:1-8:5
24 - Joshua 6-8	24 - Prov. 8, 9	23 - 2 Chron. 17-21	22 - Ezekiel 43-48	24 - Philippians 2	24 - Rev. 8:6-11:19
25 - Joshua 9-12	25 - Prov. 10-14	24 - Obadiah	23 - 2 Chron. 36:22, 23; Ezra 1:1-5:1	25 - Philippians 3	25 - Rev. 12-14
26 - Joshua 13-17	26 - Prov. 15-20	25 - 2 Chron. 22	24 - Haggai 1, 2	26 - Philippians 4	26 - Rev. 15, 16
27 - Joshua 18-21	27 - Prov. 21-24	26 - Joel 1-3	25 - Zechariah 1-8	27 - Acts 17:1-10	27 - Rev. 17, 18
28 - Joshua 22-24	28 - Prov. 25-29	27 - 2 Chron. 23:1-26:8	26 - Zechariah 9-11	28 - 1 Thess. 1-3	28 - Rev. 19
	29 - Prov. 30, 31	28 - Isaiah 1-5	27 - Zechariah 12-14	29 - 1 Thess. 4, 5	29 - Rev. 20
	30 - Song of Songs 1-8	29 - 2 Chron. 26:9-23; Isaiah 6	28 - Ps. 107, 126	30 - 2 Thess. 1-3	30 - Rev. 21
		30 - 2 Chron. 27, 28	29 - Ezra 5:2-6:22	31 - Acts 17:11-18:11	31 - Rev. 22
			30 - Esther 1, 2		
			31 - Esther 3-7		




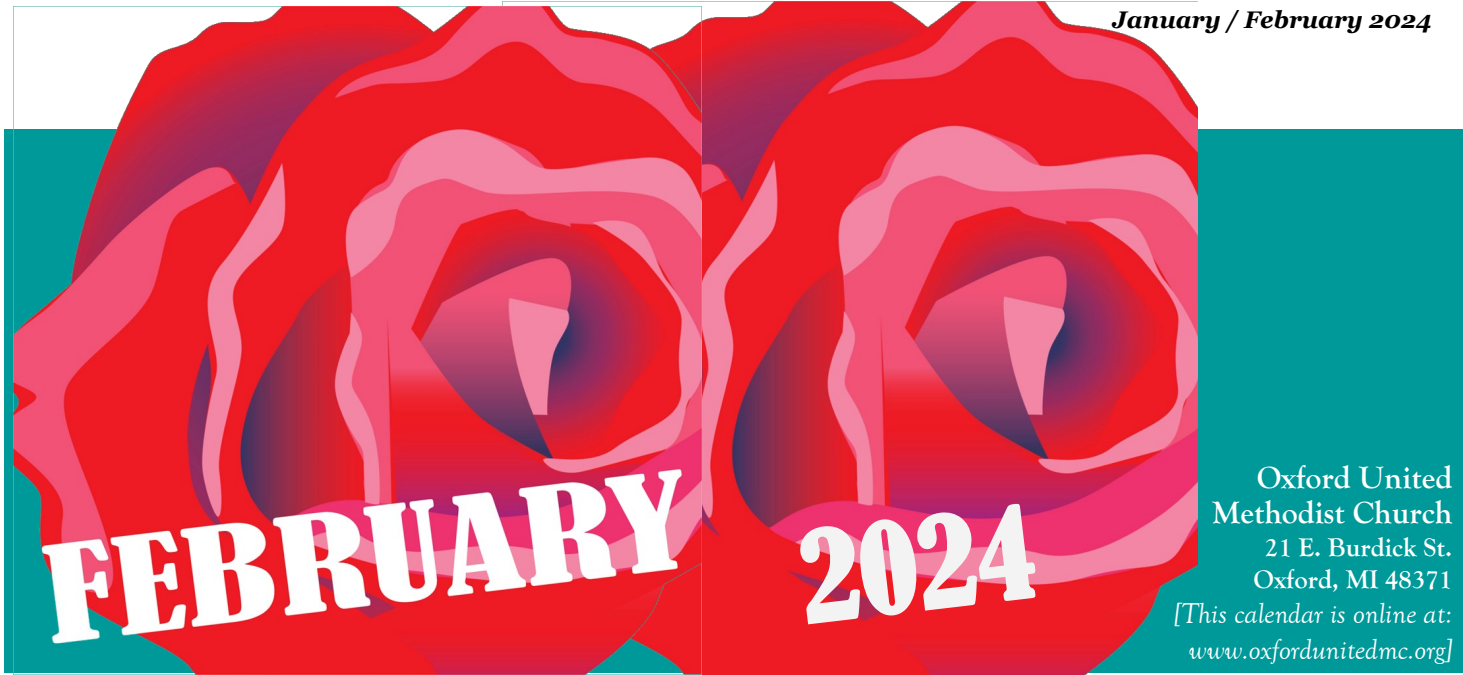
Oxford United
Methodist Church
21 E. Burdick St.
Oxford, MI 48371

[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 10a (S) Worship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 12p Program Deadline 1p (CD/F/FK) Piece Makers Quilting Projects (1st & 3rd weeks) 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 10:30a (F/FK) Wednesday Book Study 5:30p (S) Praise Singers Practice 6:30p (S) Bell Choir Practice	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 2p (U) Knit Knack	9:30a (F/FK) People Feeding People

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 (Office Closed)	2 (Office Closed)	3 (Office Closed) 7p (Y) Trustees	4 (Office Closed)	5	6
7 BAPTISM OF THE LORD	8 10am (FH) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	9	10 1p (M) Reading for Fun	11	12	13
14 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY Bells & Brunch <i>Human Relations Special Sunday</i> 11:15a Revive Team "CRT"	15 (Office Closed)  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21 3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY	29	30	31			



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<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2	3
 4 5TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY HOLY COMMUNION	5	6	7 7p (Y) Trustees	8	9	10
11 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY 11:15a Revive Team "CRT"	12 10am (FH) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 1p (M) Reading for Fun	15	16	17
18 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT Bells & Brunch	19 PRESIDENT'S DAY	20	21	22	23	24
25 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT	26 7p Church Council	27	28	29		

Oxford United Methodist Church
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Oxford, MI 48371

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



The Grapevine

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Oxford United Methodist Church

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Alexander Wolf, Pianist

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The 15th of the Even Months

The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space

LARGE PRINT EDITION available upon request

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



Regular Sunday Worship:

(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!