



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 5 | May / June 2021

“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 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.

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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.”

We Are Becoming a Revived Church!

new
Life



... just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life**. ROMANS 6:4

Join Us For
Worship!

10am

*Holy Communion -
First Sunday of the month*



From
the
Minister



Many of you may remember that I arrived at Oxford UMC September 1, 2020. As soon as I was officially appointed by Bishop David Bard, I immediately began to think and pray about where my energy would be best applied. So, after I had a number of conversations with members and friends of this congregation, I was able to identify **seven areas** of needed growth and attention. Below is an update on those seven areas...

Maintaining office hours on Tuesdays, 10:30-3pm. The Pandemic prevented the church from being open. Ministry was still being done beyond the church building.

Visiting Community Leaders: I have just begun to do this and as the health of our community, state and nation improves, I will continue to make my presence known. Recently I was able to have lunch with the Oxford Superintendent of Schools thanks to Steve Laidlaw. He emphasized how important it is for Oxford UMC to let the community know we are there for them.

Building and supporting a more active and stronger prayer team. The prayer team of 15 people is led by Carolyn Lawrie. She is doing a super job. Many church growth experts advocate that congregations that have an active prayer team are well on their way of finding the right path of revitalization and renewal.

Developing a Worship Team that is intentional about creating worship experiences that feed the souls of all kinds of people from different paths of life is critical to revitalization. I'm grateful for the current worship leaders

arriving early to prepare for worship and staying on afterwards for a most productive and transparent feedback session. We are blessed to learn that a very faithful and gifted member has accepted the role of leadership to move us forward with vitality and relevance

The All Church Read "Anatomy of a Revived Church: findings of how Congregations Avoid Death" has been launched by dedicated and faithful individuals. Two sessions on this book have already happened and soon we will move to the next step of growth and spiritual awareness.

The Tech Team has and continues to tell Oxford's story through YouTube and radio. The church needs a couple of more people to step up to ensure the future of this ministry.

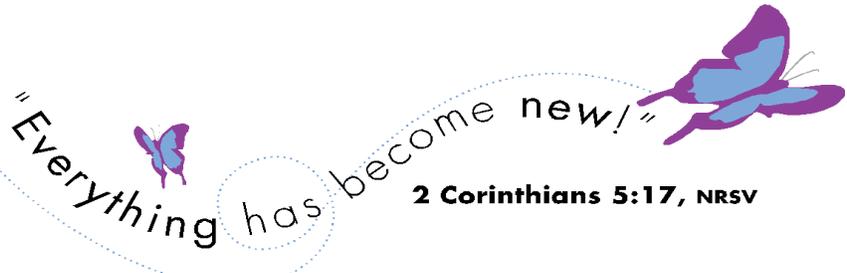
I was so encouraged to see the number of people in attendance at our book study, "Anatomy of a Revived Church". Likewise I am delighted to know that there is still a Book study on Wednesday morning. Thank You, Sue and Rosemary for your leadership. The Rachel Circle met for the first time in many months on Monday, April 12 under the leadership of Carolyn Lawrie. Bless you for getting this important group up and running again!

There is no doubt to any of us that we need to pray fervently for our educational ministries. I am sure you are well aware that the future of every church depends upon having a lively, strong, active inviting program..... where families and individuals feel the love of Christ without question or condition.

I invite each of you to do a little bit more.....say more about what you believe about your faith.....and how you are willing to make disciples of Jesus Christ. So let it be done!!

If you still wish to participate in any of these groups, please talk to me and we will help you get connected. Bless you as we continue the journey towards health, wholeness and renewal.

JEDP



"Everything has become new!"
2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV



Worship in person, online or in your cars!
Please follow these in person guidelines:
Social distancing 6 feet apart,
wear a face mask please,
Wash your hands often,
no food or drinks near others,
and please stay home if you are
feeling sick.

OUMC trustees/volunteers are disinfecting high touch surfaces.

Worship Online at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN2R96oWdXzxDqwdz8YBlrQ>
(or follow the link on our website)

Worship in your car on 87.9FM

May 2 - 5th Sunday of Easter / Holy Communion

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5; Psalm 37:4-6; Romans 8:28

“Jesus: Energized by Trust”

May 9 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Gospel: John 21:15-19

“This is Dedicated to the One I Love”

Mother’s Day

May 16 - 7th Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday

1 Corinthians 13:4-5; Psalm 143:8; Colossians 3:14

“Jesus: Energized by Love”

Excelsior Bell Choir

May 23 - Pentecost

Acts 1:1-11

“Did He Really Change the World?”

May 30 - Trinity Sunday

Guest Preacher: Rev. Jean Snyder

Special Offering: Peace with Justice



The “Church Revived”

We as a church are exploring the book:

“Anatomy of a Revived Church”

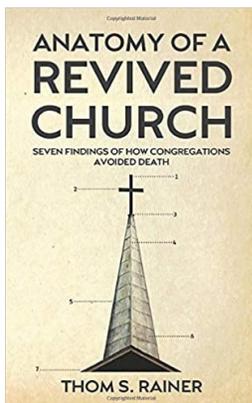
Seven Findings of How Congregations Avoided Death
by Thom S. Ranier

*In summary from Sue Rizzo and Rosemary Rumbold
(Whom we are so grateful for doing such a wonderful job
leading the Sunday morning workshops! - Thank You both!!) -*

*“We have had two sessions with over 30 in attendance per each.
This is awesome as we see the excitement of moving forward a
priority to our congregation We have two more sessions
4/25/21 and 5/2/21 after church.
All are welcome!!*

*Information will go back to our Action Team
and to our leader Patty from the conference.
Let’s keep moving forward!”*

You may purchase this book on Amazon
(there is a link on Pastor’s Book
Recommendation page
on our website at oxfordunitedmcc.org) or
you may pick up a book in the Sanctuary on
Sunday mornings. If you have any questions
please contact Becky at 248-628-1289.



So what do we need from you??

- ◆ PRAYERS for the church, and prayerful consideration of the materials.
- ◆ READ THE BOOK and prayerfully consider the questions at the end of each chapter. Ask yourself, what am I willing to do? What might I consider doing differently? Where is God in all of this?
- ◆ COMMITMENT to work together with all church members as part of the small group studies & Patty’s program.
- ◆ To PRAY TO GOD FOR GUIDANCE as we move OUMC forward to an exciting new presence in Oxford & the surrounding communities.
- ◆ A WILLINGNESS to embrace change, and to serve where your skill set meets the plan’s needs.

Amen AMEN!

Eat Your Vegetables!

Written by Josh Del Pino,
son of Pastor Julius E. Del Pino (JEDP)



“Eat your vegetables” is something my parents used to say to me and maybe this is something you remember hearing as a child too. Now I am challenging my father to do just that! For three weeks, from April 11th to May 1st, I am challenging JEDP to adopt a vegetarian diet and to do a 15-minute high-intensity core workout on the weekdays. What this means is that he cannot eat any meat or seafood of any kind during these three weeks. It means from Monday through Friday, taking 15 minutes each day to break down his muscles to build them up again. It also means breaking old habits and hopefully creating new habits.

I consider myself a pragmatic vegetarian which for me, means only eating meat or fish if it is prepared, but I do not buy meat or fish. I made the decision to dramatically reduce the amount of meat and fish I consume in 2006 when I had the humbling experience of food poisoning while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer. Food poisoning is tough, but it’s really tough when you are by yourself! As a child, I was tested for allergies and I found out that I was allergic to meat, but I never knew how I reacted to meat until I gave up eating meat and fish in 2006. Prior to 2006, when I ate meat and fish regularly, I used to scratch my throat and blow my nose every single day. Not a good look. Once I became a pragmatic vegetarian, I no longer scratched my throat and I didn’t have to blow my nose all of the time. My body simply felt better without meat and fish!



fish. And others will say, “You need to eat meat to put on some weight!” I have always been thin, even when I ate meat. The difference now is that I feel better when I *don’t eat meat or fish*.

Over the years people have asked me, “How do you get your protein?” I still eat eggs and I can get protein from soymilk, peanut butter, beans, and other vegetables. Some people ask, “Don’t you crave meat?” And my honest answer is, “Yes, sometimes.” However, I know that I feel better when I don’t eat meat or

There are not many things we can control in life actually, but what we eat is one thing we can control. And what we eat has a deep effect on how we think and how we feel. I initially started my vegetarian lifestyle for health reasons in response to food poisoning, but I now recognize there are many benefits and some of them are listed below...

1. Financial benefits: It is more expensive to purchase meat and/or fish than it is to purchase the equivalent amount of meatless protein items such as beans and vegetables.
2. Environmental and animal benefits: It takes far more natural resources and energy to farm and to feed animals than it does to harvest meatless sources of protein. Having a meatless or fishless diet is better for all ecosystems.
3. Kitchen benefits: Did I cook the meat long enough? Is the meat cooked all of the way through? Did I clean the cutting board? When using vegetables you don’t have to ask yourself these questions nor worry nearly as much about food poisoning and contamination of surfaces. It makes cleaning and cooking in the kitchen a little bit easier.
4. Health benefits: Does my body need *this* much protein and is it possible to get protein from a variety of plant-based resources instead of from animals? If we look at our distant ancestors, we’ll see that they got their protein from a variety of sources and that it wasn’t until the industrial revolution and the 20th century that meat became a central source of protein. But along with more meat in our diets, came more diseases.
5. Shelf life & Storage: I have bags of beans that have been sitting on shelves in my pantry for months and they won’t go bad, at least not any time soon. Unless you freeze it, if you leave meat or fish in a refrigerator for just a week, would you want to eat it? Probably not.

When you see JEDP over the next several Sundays, he may walk a little gingerly and look a little tired, but it’ll be worth it. Please don’t forget to ask him, “Did you eat your vegetables today?”



Conner/ Wood Scholarship (data in office)

Trustee Update

Church Cleanup



**May 1st
9am - noon**

We need your help for Spring clean up of our church building, memorial garden, and grounds. Come and lend a hand. All help is appreciated. Contact trustee Steve Laidlaw (248-701-5924) if you have questions.

Watch your step!

We will be repairing and leveling the sidewalk in the front of the church the second week in May so please be careful and use the rear entrance if you see work being done. Stay safe!



Prayer Warriors



"The power of prayer", we have all heard that saying. The Bible tells us to pray. Jesus tells us of the importance of prayer in Luke. When we pray alone or with others, it has a healing effect on all of us.

If you have read the "Anatomy of a Revived Church" by Thom S. Rainer (and we encourage you to read it!) you will find in chapter 4 that it is a priority for a church revitalization to have a powerful movement of persistent prayer. It is a necessary part of our spiritual life!

Have you ever prayed about something or for someone and still felt apathetic or uninspired? You truly want the prayer to help the situation, however it just seems like words. The Lord, through prayer, allows us to start healing ourselves. Even when we may feel worn down and emotionally withered. Daily prayer allows us (everyone) to open our hearts, forge a personal relationship with God, and allows us to forgive ourselves and others.

You can not let loose and open your heart *fully* to Jesus Christ in prayer and at the same time hold on to a grudge or a wrongful act that someone may have done to you.

Prayer leads us to redemption, to salvation, to scripture

and to the joy the Lord wants us to have daily, and to share that joy with everyone we meet.

The power of prayer is magnificent. It is all encompassing, it brings light & love into our souls. Our spirit learns to soar like a dove in flight, like a song that touches your heart, and you cannot help but tear up. Prayer is a gift.

The Oxford UMC Prayer Warriors invite you to join the prayer chain. You do not need to be a member of this church, although, we hope you will attend regularly. You do need to love and believe in Jesus Christ. Whether you have experience with personal prayer, prayer chains, or prayer requests, or not, the Oxford UMC Prayer Warriors welcomes you. Please contact Carolyn Lawrie or the church office to join.

Prayer requests are never shared outside of our group without your permission. All requests are always confidential. Please mention if you would like any prayer names to be shared with the Pastor and/or the congregation in the Sunday programs or this newsletter. Situations are never printed unless it is in memory of a loved one, someone is homebound, or in joy of a new child (see below) and once again, never without your permission.

We are all united by our love of Jesus Christ.

Please pray for Oxford UMC!

Pray for One Another Daily -

this is one of the most important things we can do to care for one another!

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

Gary Daniel Pearlman Rev. Laurie

The family of Shelia Hoover Rodan - *Sister of Mary Dempsey*

Mike and Angie Christopher and Jessica

Lillian - *Sister of Emma Taylor* Brendan Stokes the family of Stan Cerveny

Chuck McIntyre - *husband of Linda McIntyre* Ron Bunker

Shirley Acheson Shirley Conner Bob Willobee

Our Homebound - Bill Connor, Sue Enekes, Gertrude Curtis, Linda Brown

We ask your blessings upon:

Our Native American brothers and sisters, and all who deal with racism & hatred

First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by Covid-19

Those with mental illnesses - especially depression or anxiety due to the pandemic

All those who live alone, are lonely or do not have someone to pray for them

All those unemployed or underemployed and those working from home

All our school children, their teachers and administrators

Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government

Those in the armed forces serving on our behalf

Those affected by Natural Disasters & Violence in the US and worldwide

OUMC Church Council, Trustees, Pastor and Staff

OUMC Membership, Constituents, United Methodists, and Christians everywhere

Our Revived Church - that OUMC may be a great source of love for our community and revive our vision

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

We ask these prayers in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.



A Note from the Bishop

BISHOP DAVID BARD
Michigan Area

Exhale. Breathe. Like many of you, I feel as if I have been holding my breath for days as the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin has been going on. Late Tuesday, the jury returned a verdict of guilty on all three counts for which Mr. Chauvin was on trial for the killing of George Floyd.

There is a measure of relief, breathing and sighing, and a profound sadness. No verdict can return a person from the dead. George Floyd is gone from the lives of his family and friends. The verdict represents the ability of a community to hold its law enforcement officers accountable. Such accountability is necessary, and I am heartbroken that such abuse of power and authority still occurs, with deadly consequences.

Good policing matters and is needed. The violence continuing to plague our communities, whether in the all-too-common mass shootings of recent weeks, or the uptick in the murder rate in too many of our cities, testifies to the need for high-quality law enforcement, law enforcement that works with community leaders to strengthen relationships and build trust. Good policing is accountable policing and fair policing. Good policing applies the law equitably to every person, no matter who they are or what they look like. Not only was the killing of George Floyd an instance of an abuse of power, it was another instance of inequity in the application of the law. That inequity is part of broader racial inequities which still mar our common life in American society. The recent killing of Daunte Wright at the hands of law enforcement is another tragic and heart-rending example of both racial inequity and misuse of power. There is much work to be done, and today we breathe a little easier as we witness justice.

Breathe. I am thinking of a post-Easter text from the Gospel of John. “‘Peace be with you.’ When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (20:21,22). Breathe. Receive breath, the breath of Jesus, the breath of the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit, the breath of Jesus for the continuing work of dismantling racial inequity, the work of justice, the work of peace, the work of reconciliation, the work of healing, the work of building Beloved Community, the work of love. Breathe, and recommit to the work described in Isaiah 58 of being repairers of the breach, menders of the walls, restorers of livable streets.

Breathe and pray. Breathe in fresh winds of God’s Spirit and allow God’s Spirit to pray with you, in you, and through you. Pray for Minneapolis. Pray for our country. Pray for our church and the work of racial reckoning. Pray for the Floyd family in their sustained grief as the death of their family member, George, was witnessed over and over again these past days. Pray God’s healing grace. Pray for Derek Chauvin who is being held accountable for his actions and remains a person in need of God’s grace.

Breathe, work, pray. Come Holy Spirit.

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

May 5:

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls



BY NATIVE NEWS ONLINE STAFF
MAY 05, 2020

WASHINGTON — Even with so much attention focused on Indian Country’s reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian Country is not forgetting that May 5 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls (MMIWG).

Social distancing and “shelter-in-place” may prevent in-person MMIWG activities, but Native communities and programs are encouraged to creatively participate in this year’s National Day of Awareness.

According to the U.S. Justice Department, the murder rate of Native females is more than ten times the national average on some reservations. Often, these disappearances or murders are connected to crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking.

Each year since 2017, May 5 is recognized as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls. The date was selected because the Montana congressional delegation persuaded the U.S. Senate to pass a resolution declaring the national day of awareness because May 5 was the birthday of Hanna Harris, a 21-year-old member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe who went missing on July 4, 2013.

The National Day of Awareness highlights the need for ongoing grassroots advocacy and changes to the laws, policies, and increased allocation of resources to end these injustices. Individual and/or joint actions at the local, tribal, state, and national levels.

To bring more attention to the issues surrounding missing and murdered Native females, national Native women advocacy groups have asked individuals to wear red.

2021 Church Council

Church Council Chairperson:
Michelle Wood (248)969-2545

Lay Leader: tbd

General Fund Treasurer: Becky Sallans (248)628-1289
oumc.office@sbcglobal.net

Designated Fund Treasurer: Kevin Kater (248)628-7804
KKater@att.net

Financial Secretary: Larry Bradford (248)628-5759

Finance Chairperson: (Interim)
Bernie Rumbold (248) 391-0973
or AmyBeth Fleischer

Board of Trustees: David Cischke (248)863-8037
Michelle Wood (248)969-2545

SPRC Chairperson: John Warren (interim)

Worship Team is currently being formed:
Pastor Julius E. Del Pino (248)628-1289

Missions & Outreach: John & Devon Warren
(248)778-8735

Adult Bible Study: Sue Rizzo (248)628-1787

Christian Education: Michelle Wood (248)969-2545

Camp Ed. Coordinator - Lucinda Bellairs (on hiatus)

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

Members at Large - Church Council:
John Warren (2021)

Church Council meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to be prayerfully considered for a particular ministry please contact the Pastor (248)628-1289



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

Rev. John Wesley (founder of Methodism)

Stewardship & Finance Update

Christian Stewardship is the responsible use of our time, treasure and talents to advance the Kingdom and it provides an opportunity to witness taking our faith and joy into the world - beyond the walls of the church building. During the last year, the church and our congregation have experienced some very unprecedented times and it has proven to be challenging for most. The Church would like to take a moment to recognize and thank our dedicated parishioners for continuing to faithfully support the church with their time, treasure and talents throughout all of the obstacles and challenges we have faced. We are so excited to be able to have in-person services again and have it fill the void that has been missing for so many of us. We look forward to seeing you!

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	\$ 1,125.00
February Giving	\$ 7,540.00
March Giving	\$ 8,298.00
April Giving	\$ 6,072.25
Budget for 2021	\$ 115,934.00

Note: If you prefer to write a check or donate with cash, please use your offering envelopes. If you need envelopes, please call the office (248-628-1289) or Larry Bradford, financial secretary.



**KEEP YOUR GIVING STEADY
BY GIVING YOUR DONATIONS
ELECTRONICALLY!
FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE
SANCTUARY OR FROM THE
CHURCH OFFICE.
THERE IS NO FEE TO JOIN.**

Local Missions & Outreach

Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry "Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

We normally collect FISH donations on the first Sunday of each month. HOWEVER, at this time due to the pandemic only cash donations are being accepted. You may make out your 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!"



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

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

Any questions, contact Julie Langley (248-628-9619) or John & Devon Warren (248-778-8735)
Remember, FISH is a 100% volunteer organization and they need your help.
All donations are tax deductible.

Community Outreach

Tuesday, May 4th is International Fire Fighter Day. We have taken a special offering in worship on Sunday morning, and will take our last special offering on May 2nd. All cash received in those envelopes will be given (100%) to the Oxford Fire Department. In addition, the church has decided to donate 10% of our general offering collected from April 25 and May 2nd during worship to our firefighters. If you would like to donate to this, please bring your special offering to the church office or place in our mailbox before Monday, May 3rd.

It is so gratifying to support those who serve us so well!

Love In the Name of Christ (INC) - North Oakland Co.



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)
and/or Lakepoint Church (Thursdays)
between 5:30 - 6:30pm!



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. 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.

Our Missions & Outreach Groups

UM Women: Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle is a sisterhood of Christian fellowship. We support one another, we raise money to assist with missions, we volunteer for Coffee Hour Fellowship (when applicable), memorial lunches and more.

We meet the second Monday of each month Sept. through June.

Our next two meetings will be on Monday, May 10th and Monday, June 14th at 10am.

You do not need to be a member of this church to attend, everyone is welcome.

In the coming months Rachel Circle will look inward at the mission & vision for our group. How it relates & can benefit our community. We welcome any input, history, or past missions experience you may have that you would be willing to share with us. As a vital part of our movement forward, please join us in meaningful, powerful, Christian based conversations that will shape the future of our Rachel Circle as we move forward.

In our new normal, we need to understand & meet the new needs of our community. Let's unite our talents to make this happen.

God bless you!
Hope to see you soon.
Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President



We are once again meeting at the church and invite you to join us on Fridays at 2pm if you feel safe doing so. If not please work on your project at home and be with us in spirit.

We are still working on lapghans which we hope to distribute to nursing homes and/or veterans associations when that becomes safe for all involved.

Questions, contact Mary Garrard (810-797-5840)

UM Men: Band of Brothers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Michigan Conference of United Methodist Men is inviting men over the age of 18 to a Rebuild Event on a Saturday in September 2021. In partnership with "Rebuilding Together Tri-County" UMM will make repairs on a Lansing home of a veteran, disabled or low income homeowner. "Rebuilding Together" identifies the home and provides the material and supervision, Michigan Conference of UMM provides the volunteers. Volunteers do not need to be a member of UM or even a church member; both laborers and skilled tradesmen will be needed.

Interested? Email j.gordon.schleicher@gmail.com to get future information.

For information on Rebuilding Together go to www.rebuildtogethertricounty.com

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).



Piece Makers

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.

We will be tying a quilt in worship on May 2nd. Come, say a prayer and help send it on it's way.

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

Please keep praying!

Fellowship, Study & Music Groups

UMC Camping

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. Our church, and the camps, can also help you pay for camp. Email or call the church office [248-628-1289] for more info.



If you have experience with music, please consider joining one of these groups...

Bell Choir

The Excelsior Bell Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays (6:30-8pm) If you have any questions please contact Rosemary Rumbold (248-391-0973)

Praise Singers

Join us to practice Sunday's songs and hymns. Rehearsal days and times are midweek. If you have questions or if you would like to be a part of the Praise Singers please contact Renae Shagena (248-969-2225).

Reading for Fun



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 **1:00pm** in the Memorial Room.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Bogus (248 747-7544). Hope to see you at Book Discussion!



Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays - 10:30am to 12noon
in the Fellowship Hall
We are currently studying the book of Ruth

All are welcome to join anytime!
Questions? Contact Sue Rizzo (248-628-1787)

Thank You!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped get the church ready to open again... **Tony Rizzo** and **Michelle Wood** for stripping and waxing the floors; Tony also for setting up the FM receiver with help from **Fred Nelson**; **Carolyn Lawrie** for her diligence in cleaning the bathrooms and other areas; **Carol Hauxwell**, **Peg Moulder**, **Renae Shagena** and **Kay Smith** for making the church look welcoming and decorated; and anyone I may have inadvertently forgot to mention!

*Thank you to **John Warren** who helps out wherever he is needed and is a god-sighting to **Becky** especially when she is working from home!*

Thank you to all the Trustees who work so hard behind the scenes cleaning, repairing, shoveling and mowing and taking care of all the things we may not even hear about!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Palm Sunday and Easter worship services and who help out every Sunday - you are such a blessing! **We have amazing volunteers!!!**

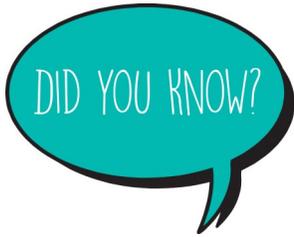
*A very special Thank you! goes to **Fred Nelson** - without his diligence and hard work we would not have been able to have an online worship during these very trying times. He spent many hours making sure we were able to worship at home and stay safe.*

Thank YOU! For having faith that Oxford UMC can live out it's vision and have a healthy and vibrant life here within the Oxford community.

It's because of YOU that people are loved, that they know Jesus Christ and they feel welcome here and valued.

Did You Know?

Since we have been back to in person worship, there has been a new addition to the programs with the following “little” symbol:



This is a ‘pearl’ of wisdom pertaining to the current, relevant, and exciting things that have been happening to and in Oxford UMC recently. If you would like to make an addition to this section please contact the church office and

we will try to get it in as soon as possible. Be aware, however that there are so many exciting and new things happening at Oxford UMC that it might be a bit before you see your item in print!

Here are the items that have been printed recently...

- ◇ *We are up to date on paying our Ministry Shares!* Oxford United Methodist Church joins UMC churches across Michigan, the USA, and the world in supporting our UMC connection of missions and ministries worldwide. Our UMC mission is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Why should our church support UMC Ministry Shares? (previously called Apportionments)

1.) Finance and funding is mission, an expression of our stewardship and our connectedness in Christ's mission together.

2.) UMC Ministry Shares provide avenues for giving that strengthen the work of local churches and annual conferences in the US and the world.

3.) Ministry Shares connect UMCs together, in mission and ministry together, striving to be God's people in local communities here and around the world. We can meet people's needs and address poverty and disasters all over the world.

- ◇ *Oxford UMC has a Revive Team!* Yes, we have a revive team filled with dedicated individuals who are working with Patty Dennis, a United Methodist Consultant to implement our church 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.”

- ◇ *Our Pastor is going to attend a Stewardship Team Jump-start? Stewardship isn't about raising money?* Stewardship education isn't about raising money, it's about raising up generous and faithful stewards of God's gifts. Stewardship teams are charged with creating cultures of generosity in their churches. Join Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker-Lewis, Senior Director of Church Relations, for a stewardship jump-start. Learn about trends in funding ministry, effective stewardship education and offering a relevant, compelling message. All Church Council members are encouraged to attend along with the Pastor on *Monday, May 10th* from 6-8pm by Zoom. This no-cost training will allow us to plan specifically for Oxford UMC and our needs. Please contact the church office as soon as possible if you would like to register.
- ◇ *That You Helped Your Neighbors During the Pandemic?* Oxford UMC, working with Connie Miller, was instrumental in facilitating over \$7,000 worth of donations to help buy groceries and other items for the Wednesday Free Meals program in 2020-21. In addition, thank you to members of our congregation that volunteered each week at the Free Meals program; distributing meals and groceries to our community.
- ◇ *OUMC was awarded a grant for the Revived Church Study?* Thanks to the East Winds District, OUMC was awarded a grant for 50% of the costs for our Revived Church Study. The District and our Superintendent have done their best to support and help Oxford UMC and wants to see us survive and thrive. Please pray for this Revive ministry and for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- ◇ *Jordyn Meersseman has completed her Safe Serve Certification?* We are so grateful to Richard Nelson for helping us be Safe Serve compliant for many years! This is a requirement to having a Health Department approved kitchen. Now, Jordyn has completed her classes to take over for Richard and will serve as compliance leader for our church - Thank you Jordyn!

Important COVID-19 Vaccination Transportation

Information for Homebound Seniors

Oakland County Health Division is partnering with Ready Nursing Solutions to assist the county with administering COVID-19 vaccine to homebound seniors. To register, call (810) 331-0902 to make an appointment. During high call volume times, callers may have to listen to the entire message to leave a voicemail and request a return call.

To register online, visit [Get Ready Vaccine](https://getreadyvaccine.com/patient-intake-form) [https://getreadyvaccine.com/patient-intake-form] and complete the Patient Intake Form. Be sure to select “Oakland County Residents – Homebound” on the intake form organization dropdown menu.



Special Offering: Peace with Justice Sunday

MAY 30, 2021

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor (Luke 4:18-19).”



Robert Griggs (center) prays with others outside Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. United Methodists joined AME members in prayers following the deadly shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens’ human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

Moved by Christ’s love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God’s image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.

Although you, and possibly even your congregation, may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.

Churches across The United Methodist connection are invited to celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday on May 30, 2021. This is one of the six offerings that The United

Methodist Church General Conference asks each local church to take. Half of the offering you give to Peace with Justice Sunday remains in the Michigan Conference to support justice ministries in our state. In 2021, gifts for Peace with Justice Sunday will be given to hundreds of initiatives in our United Methodist connection.

Here are a few that your gifts support:

- Peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- Equipping United Methodist in Liberia to implement The UMC Social Principles and address social justice issues
- Supporting students in Pennsylvania in educating their community about sex-trafficking.

Learn more about Peace with Justice Sunday [here](https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/pwjs-promo-card).
[<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/pwjs-promo-card>]

Offering envelopes and giving information will be available in the program on May 30th



WE'RE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU BACK TO OUR ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC!

GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021 | 9 A.M.

STONEBRIDGE GOLF CLUB | 1825 CLUBHOUSE DR, ANN ARBOR, MI 48108

At the Methodist Children’s Home Society, we know that being flexible and pivoting when needed is more important now than ever before.

We’re shifting gears and moving our Annual Golf Classic to Monday, June 28 at Stonebridge Golf Club by Arthur Hills in Ann Arbor. There, our golfers will enjoy 18 holes, breakfast, lunch, a cocktail reception and awards dinner along with a variety of activities, all while supporting our mission!

Become a sponsor or register your foursome today, we can cater any sponsorship package based on your interests! For sponsorship information and event details, [CLICK HERE](https://methodistchildrenshomesociety.salsalabs.org/golffclassic2021) [https://methodistchildrenshomesociety.salsalabs.org/golffclassic2021].

For questions regarding sponsorship or registration, contact Development Officer Sara Schafer at sschafer@mchsmi.org.

MAY

JUNE

Birthdays

May 2 - Ron Etherton | Julie Langley
 Ethan Pearson
 May 5 - Rev. Laurie Smith-Del Pino
 May 7 - Samuel Jones | David Moore
 May 9 - Amy Cischke | Ruth Patterson
 May 16 - Amy Beth Fleischer | Charlotte Nicholson
 May 18 - D.J. Moore
 May 20 - Emaleigh Von Knorring
 May 21 - John Lychuk
 May 25 - Rosemary Rumbold
 May 27 - Joanne Bogus | Kymber Nelson
 May 30 - Bill Conner
 May 31 - Zoe Fleischer

June 1 - Morgan Gross | Cora Nicholson
 June 3 - Kevin Kater
 June 6 - Sue Rizzo
 June 10 - Jay Smith
 June 17 - John Warren
 June 20 - Jennifer Moore
 June 25 - Ronald Bunker | Mitch Gruenberg

Anniversaries

May 20 - Bernie & Rosemary Rumbold
 May 21 - Jay & Jan Smith
 May 30 - Peter & Carolynn Foss

June 3 - John & Shawn Gross
 June 5 - Barry & Deanna Moser
 June 24 - Tom & Lynda Bertich
 John & Devon Warren
 June 26 - Bruce & Ginny Conrad
 June 27 - John & Nadine Lychuk



Have you seen our website?
 There is so much to see and learn!
 Check out our new "Chuck Knows Church"
 link under "Education".
 Visit us at oxfordunitedme.org...



May 2021

Oxford United
Methodist Church
21 E. Burdick St.
Oxford, MI 48371
[This calendar is online at:
www.oxfordunitedmc.org]

Please Note: Building usage must adhere with current Covid19 guidelines - social distance 6 feet apart; wear a face mask please; no food or drink; wash your hands often; if you touch something please disinfect if after use. Oxford UMC trustees/volunteers are disinfecting high touch surfaces. Please stay home if you are feeling sick.

Usual Events :

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>
10a (S) Worship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 12p Bulletin Deadline 1p (CD/F/FK) Quilting Projects (1st & 3rd weeks)	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 10:30a (F/FK) Wednesday Book Study 6:15p (S) Bell Choir Rehearsals	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 2p (M) Knit Knack	

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1 9am-noon Spring Church Clean-Up
2  5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER HOLY COMMUNION	3	4 7p (Zoom) Staff Mtg.	5	6	7	8
9 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Mother's Day	10 10a (F/FK) Rachel Circle	11 7p (Zoom) Trustees	12 1p (M) Reading for Fun	13	14	15
16 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER ASCENSION SUNDAY Bell Choir Ringing	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 PENTECOST	24 7p (Zoom) Church Council	25	26	27	28	29
30 TRINITY SUNDAY Special Offering: Peace with Justice Guest Preacher: Rev. Jean Snyder	31 MEMORIAL DAY 					

June 2021

Oxford United
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21 E. Burdick St.
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		1	2	3	4	5
 6 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOLY COMMUNION	7	8 7p (Zoom) Staff Mtg.	9	10	11	12
13 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	14 10a (F/FK) Rachel Circle	15 7p (Zoom) Trustees	16 1p (M) Reading for Fun	17	18	19
20 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Bell Choir Performs Father's Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	28 7p (Zoom) Church Council	29	30			

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

First Class
Stamp
Required



FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



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a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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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, and read The Grapevine!



Regular Sunday Worship: **(In-person, online and In-car)**

10:00 a.m. Worship

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

Nursery available by request

Coffee & Refreshments after service

All Are Welcome!