

"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 37 | November/December 2026



Inside This Issue:

2. From the Pastor
3. Stewardship
4. Prayer List
5. Thanksgiving Prayer| Book Study
6. Decorating | Giving Tree
7. Christmas Party after the Parade
8. Christmas Eve Worship
9. Music, Study & Fellowship Groups
10. UMM & UMW | SPPRC
11. Finance Update | Youth Group
12. Birthdays & Anniversaries
13. Local Mission & Outreach
14. November Calendar
15. December Calendar
insert - Lahaina UMC Thank You

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.

oumc.office@sbcglobal.net
www.oxfordunitedmc.org



From the Pastor: The Treasures of Oxford UMC

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have been blessed to be your pastor since 2020. As I have endeavored to lead you, I want you to know how thankful I am for each of you. When I think about Oxford UMC, I think not only of Sunday worship, but also of friendships we share, the prayers we say, the kindness and respect we offer, and the many ways we see God at work in our lives, in our families and in the Oxford greater community.

As I said not long ago, our church is more than a building. We are a faith community called to share the love of Jesus Christ with others. Every week, in all kinds of ways, you help your church to make this love real. I see it in so many different ways. I see it in your willingness to serve, your concern for those who are hurting, and your commitment to keeping the light of Christ shining.

As we move toward 2027, I am inviting you to join me in prayerfully considering how we can continue to support and strengthen the many dynamic and needed ministries that many of you make possible. These ministries touch lives, offer hope, care for our neighbors, nurture our children and families, remind people that they are loved by God.

I know that each of us has different situations and responsibilities, and I never want to feel like our church ministries are a burden. Instead, I pray we can see it as an opportunity to say thank you to God for all God has given us. Every gift, offered with a willing and grateful heart will make all the difference in building a stronger church filled with Christ filled disciples.

Jesus reminds us that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. Please pray that our giving in 2027 will reflect the love we have for God, for one another, and for the people who need our church's care and compassion.

Thank you for including me to serve alongside you as we trust in the grace and love of God. Together, with faith and love in our hearts and generosity in our hands and pockets, I firmly believe with all my heart we will continue to do amazing things in the name of Jesus the Christ!

With a thankful heart and a trusting spirit in our Stewardship Team (Kyle & Kenzie Belevender, Dan Mumbrue and Steve Laidlaw) we will succeed!

Your Pastor
Julius E. Del Pino, PHD.

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



When we give to the Oxford United Methodist Church, we are not merely donating to an institution, but actively participating in spreading the love and gospel of Jesus Christ. Your gifts allow us to collectively share His boundless love, grace, and compassion. Through this shared generosity, we extend hope and healing to our immediate neighbors here in Oxford, across our great state of Michigan and into the world.

Every contribution, no matter the size, plays a vital role in fueling these ministries of hope, love, and peace. There is absolutely no pressure or obligation in this invitation—only a call to join together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Whether you are able to offer a small token or a larger financial gift, what truly matters is the spirit of love and faith behind it. Your support helps bring others to Christ, ultimately shifting our focus from what the church needs to how God is actively working within all of us.

That is why we invite you to prayerfully consider how you can share in this ministry of love, knowing that your support helps Oxford United Methodist Church remain a beacon of hope for those in need. Thank you for your willingness to bless others just as you have been blessed in the light of God; Jesus Christ, the King of Kings

<u>Our 2026 Stewardship Team</u>
Kyle Belevender
Kenzie Belevender
Dan Mumbrue
Steve Laidlaw

<u>Consecration Sunday</u>
(Please turn in your pledge cards by this date)
To Be Decided - Keep an Eye on the program for more information

PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

Prayer List

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

David Lawrie Family of Ro VanWagoner
Collins Family Kimmie McGrath and family Ewald Bargen
The James Family John McMath McPherson Family Uncle Gary
Mother of Jazymine Troy Clancy Pauline & Grayson East Todd Lawrie
Bob Willobee Gaiter Family Mike Dempsey Ann Anderson
John Hauxwell John Buscanti Samantha Clancy Ed Roden & Family
Nadine Gildner Carolynn Foss Shirley Acheson Kip Lawrie
Peg Moulder Denise Gildner Glen & Geraldine McLaughlin Kent Patterson
Carol Hauxwell Ron Shedlowsky & family Ginny Conrad Amy Thorsen

Holy One - we share these Joys and thank you for them:

Congratulations to the Osborn-Uselman family on the birth of Baby James Leland
Congratulations on the marriage of Ian & Jeneva Allison
Maddie for her Mom the Blessings of Long-time Members
the Grace of God for providing New Members

We ask your blessings upon:

All school children, teachers, graduates, school workers and administrators
All Families - those expecting new children; dealing with loss of a loved one;
Those navigating complex relationships; dealing with job / lack of job stress
Those affected by Natural Disasters & all Violence in the US and worldwide
First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by illness
All of our brothers and sisters who deal with inequality, racism & hatred
Those with mental illnesses, are lonely, or do not have someone to pray for them
Those in the military who serve for our freedom
Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government
All affected by the Oxford High School, MSU and all other School Shootings
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.

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



A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and eternal Companion, we come before you overwhelmed by the boundless goodness you bestow upon us.
On this special day, we remember how you blessed those who came to this land seeking the freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.
We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage.
We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything familiar to journey to a strange land, where they themselves were strangers.
We gather as grateful beneficiaries of your faithful servants
who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you.
Mindful of the first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and Native peoples, we now gather around our own tables with family and friends.
We come before you with love and deep appreciation
for your constant grace and abundant gifts.
The beautiful food before us is a visible reminder of your generous provision.
Ever-giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your blessings.
We ask for one gift more: the honor of your presence.
Be our Guest, so that we may enjoy fellowship with you and with one another.
We pray in the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen



[Reprinted with permission from ChurchArtPro™ Online]

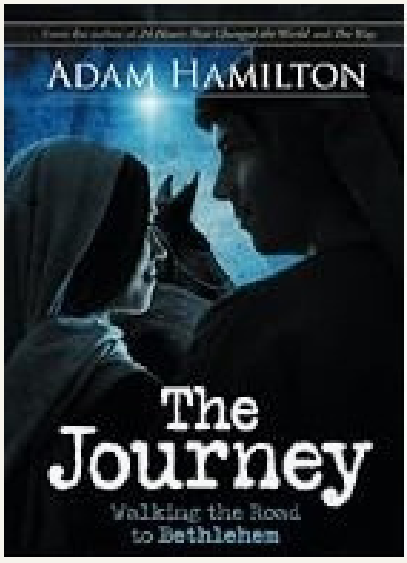
An Advent Wednesday Morning Book Study

10:30am

It's a story you know by heart, but The Journey combines historical information and archaeology with Adam Hamilton's thoughtful, conversational teaching style to give you a new perspective on the story of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.... This five-session DVD was filmed in on location in the Holy Land and is an essential companion resource to church program. Each exciting and informative session contains 10–15 minute video vignettes of pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton retracing the actual path of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Also includes a bonus segment on the Holy Land today.

Sessions include:

1. Mary of Nazareth
2. Joseph of Bethlehem
3. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth
4. From Nazareth to Bethlehem
5. The Manger



Christmas Decorating

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hanging of the Greens after the service November 22nd

Volunteers of all ages are welcome!



Donations will be gathered on the tree from November 22nd - December 13th (so items may be delivered before Christmas)

We are collecting mittens, gloves, socks and underwear for men, women and children. These are going to be donated locally to our friends at FISH and our neighbors who attend the Saturday morning free meal, People Feeding People (PFP).

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

If you have any questions please contact Laura Clancy (248-421-2504).

CHRISTMAS PARTY

AFTER THE PARADE

DECEMBER 5 - ABOUT 2PM

Hot Drinks-Food
Kids Gifts-Fun!

FREE

FREE



Oxford UM Church | 21 E. Burdick St. | Oxford, MI

www.oxfordunitedmc.org

CELEBRATE *with us*

THURSDAY
24
DECEMBER

Join Us for Christmas Eve Carol Services at

OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AT 6:30 & 10PM

21 E. Burdick St
Oxford, MI 48371

website:
oxfordunitedmc.org

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

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

10pm is a Holy Communion service with Christmas carols





Excelsior Bell Choir

The Bell Choir rehearsals are on
Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm
during the school year

BELL RINGERS ARE NEEDED!
(if you have a music background)

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
(during the school year) 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).

Join our Praise Team!



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!



UM Women: Rachel Circle

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

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

This year we will be changing up how meetings are held to see if we can accomplish more, in less time.

Please 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 & the Lord's will for you.

We meet the 2nd Monday of each month, Sept. through June.
At 10:30am, we always have snacks & beverages. We laugh & sometimes cry together. The fellowship & support in this group is amazing. We invite you to come check us out. Open to the community.

Also, if you are interested in helping with our Christmas Eve reception (immediately after the service) please let us know.

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

Important dates:

Friendship Hour dates:
November 29 & December 27

Carolyn Lawrie
President, OUMC Rachel Circle

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

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)

UNITED METHODIST MEN

SPPRC Update

It feels so good to be back to my duties with Staff Pastor Parish (SPPRC). My husband is slowly improving and we are trying to be patient knowing it is a long process. I thank everyone who has expressed concern, made calls and sent cards.

The year has really flown by and it is unnerving to see Christmas decorations out when I haven't even thought about Thanksgiving. Things seem to work out and Christmas comes and we welcome the birth of Christ.

Many positive things are happening in the church. We have been welcoming new members and a new covenant class just finished. Youth groups are continuing their work on Wednesday & Thursday evenings. We have a new Minister of Care, Renae Shagena, who along with Pastor visits shut ins, those hospitalized and those in Assisted Living. If you know of a loved one or church member who would like a visit please call the church office.

There are many opportunities to serve the church and your help would be welcomed. ,

Pauline East,
Team Leader
SPPRC



"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:

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving each month to God's church. We as a Finance team keep track of giving and expenses each month. Thank you for being a good servant. **Please prayerfully consider how you can increase your stewardship giving this year during our fall campaign as we are far short of our budget for this year.**

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

We give thanks for all that you can do!

If you prefer to write a check or donate with cash, please use your offering envelopes. If you would like information on how to do it electronically, please see Becky in the church office.

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

January Giving	$5,323.91
February Giving	$4,368.31
March Giving	$8,000.60
April Giving	$4,314.45
May Giving	$6,759.00
June Giving	$2,916.00
July Giving	$3,600.75
August Givng	$7,654.40
September Givng	$3,632.65
October Giving	$6,304.00
2026 Giving Subtotal	$52,874.07
Budget for 2026	*$137,925.00*



JOIN THE Youth Group

Youth Group: Elementary & Middle School

Thursdays from 6-7pm

Youth Group: High School

Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm

Birthday's and Anniversaries

November BIRTHDAYS

November 2 - Keri Kater
November 4 - Randy O'Bleness
November 6 - Peyton Kater
November 17 - Linda McIntyre
November 18 - Todd Lawrie

November ANNIVERSARIES

November 22 - Tony & Sue Rizzor

December BIRTHDAYS

December 4 - Becky Sallans
December 5 - Natale Vincentini
December 7 - Jan Hopper
December 10 - Ed Hepp
December 12 - Kayleigh Von Knorring
- Madeline Maline
December 13 - Colleen Richter
December 16 - Fred Nelson
December 17 - Dominick Vincentini
December 23 - Nadine Gildner-Lychuk
December 24 - Carol Hauxwell

December ANNIVERSARIES

December 19 - Eric & Catherine Richard



From the Bishop, etc...

To read the latest from the Bishop (click here)
the Michigan Conference (click here)
Or the Greater Detroit District (click here)



How to Get Connected

Social Media:

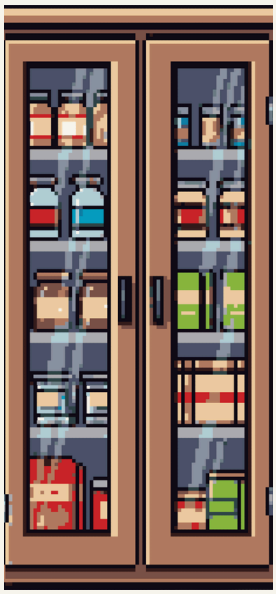
- Oxford UMC on Facebook
- Oxford UMC on X
- Oxford UMC on Instagram

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



Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Our Middle School Youth Group is currently collecting FISH donations.. Please reference the flyer in the church and on the church office window. 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 -

Shampoo Hand soap Baked Beans Pasta Canned Soups Canned Fruit and Idahoan brand Boxed Potatoes

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

Questions? Contact Laura Clancy
(She would like to share this ministry with someone - please let her know if you are able to help!)

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

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

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

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

All Are Welcome!

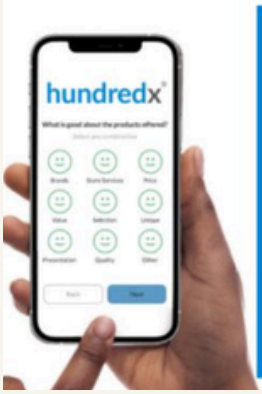
All are invited to the community Free! meal program at OUMC!!
On Saturday mornings we are serving breakfast at PFP (People Feeding People)!
We encourage you to attend and not only be fed by food but also with fellowship.
We are lifting people up through nutrition and friendship.
We are providing a hot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

WHERE: Oxford United Methodist Church WHEN: Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am
Oxford UMC is serving on November 7 & 21 December 5 & 19

---

love inc North Oakland County

Give without spending!



How it works:

1. Text "DFG" to 90412* to sign up or use the QR code
2. Choose companies + give your opinion (up to $1.60 per quality opinion)
3. Create up to $120 of impact (75 opinions max)

If you would like to donate your time or money to help your neighbors in need, or need help, please contact them:
Website - www.loveincofnoc.org or call 248-693-4357 for more information.

Lahaina United Methodist Church

October 1st, 2026

Rev. Julius Del Pino
Oxford United Methodist Church
21 E Burdick St.
Oxford, MI 48371

Dear Pastor Julius,

Aloha from all of us at Lahaina United Methodist Church. On behalf of our congregation, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to you and to the good people of Oxford UMC for your generous $2,000 gift. Your kindness has touched us deeply.

Although our church building was lost in the fires of 2023, our ministries continue, thanks to the prayers and support we received from good friends like you and the Oxford UMC ohana. This past March, we returned to our property in Lahaina. Until we can rebuild, we are worshiping in a pavilion we call our Garden Sanctuary. It is simple, open to the air, and a place where our congregation has felt God's presence and the joy of being home again. I have enclosed photos so you and the Oxford congregation can see the space your gift helps sustain.

Being back on our campus has also allowed us to open it to the wider community. Each month, under the shade of our Banyan tree, we host Pa'uplili Saturdays, a gathering with food, crafts, and a place for Lahaina community members to be together. We are grateful to partner with the Ho'ola Maui Long Term Recovery Group, the Salvation Army, and the county, who are planning to set up offices on our campus to coordinate their important work rebuilding our town.

Julius, you have walked alongside our congregation for many years, and your friendship and support have been a steady blessing through difficult times. Please share our heartfelt thanks with everyone at Oxford UMC. You are in our prayers, and we are looking forward to your next visit to Lahaina.

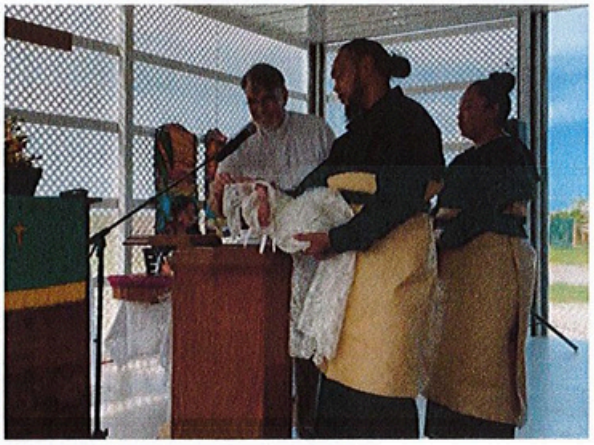
With gratitude and aloha,

John Crewe
Pastor
Lahaina United Methodist Church

Lahaina United Methodist Church











NOVEMBER



Usual Weekly 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

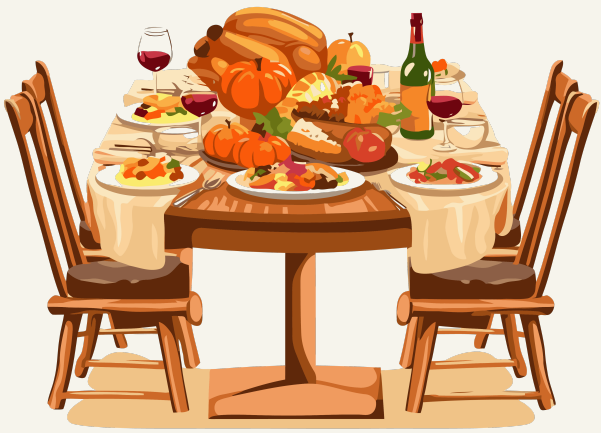
Wednesdays - 10am (W) Cleaning Crew | 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 10:30am (M) Wednesday Bible Study | 1pm (1st/3rd weeks) Piece Maker Quilting | 6pm (Y) Youth Group: High School

Thursdays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 8am - 4pm (W) Dragonfly Hybrid | 6pm (M) Youth Group: Elementary & Middle School

Fridays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 2pm (U) Knit Knack Crafts

Saturdays - 9:30am-10:30am (F/FK) People Feeding People [OUMC Hosting: 11/7,21]





11/1 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!
- 10am (S) 23rd Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Communion & All Saint's Sunday

11/3 - Election Day [we are a polling place]
- 7pm (Y) Trustees

11/8 - 10am (S) 24th Sunday after Pentecost: Veteran's Recognition

11/9 - 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle
- 7pm (F/FK) Worship Team

11/10 - 6:30pm (F/FK) Scouting America "Join Night"

11/15 - 10am (S) 25th Sunday after Pentecost: Bells & Brunch

11/22 - 10am (S) Christ the King Sunday
- 11:15am (W) Hanging of the Greens

11/26 - Thanksgiving Day

11/29 - 10am (S) 1st Sunday of Advent

11/30 - 7pm (F/FK) Church Council Meeting



DECEMBER

Usual Weekly Events:

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

Mondays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels

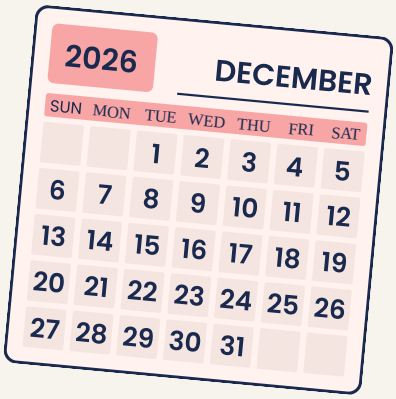
Tuesdays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 12pm PROGRAM DEADLINE | 8am - 4pm (W) Dragonfly Hybrid

Wednesdays - 10am (W) Cleaning Crew | 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 10:30am (M) Wednesday Bible Study | 1pm (1st/3rd weeks) Piece Maker Quilting | 6pm (Y) Youth Group: High School

Thursdays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 8am - 4pm (W) Dragonfly Hybrid | 6pm (M) Youth Group: Elementary & Middle School

Fridays - 10:30am (SK) Meals on Wheels | 2pm (U) Knit Knack Crafts

Saturdays - 9:30am-10:30am (F/FK) People Feeding People [OUMC Hosting:12/5,19]



12/1 - 7pm (Y) Trustees

12/5 - 1pm Oxford Christmas Parade
~2pm Oxford UMC Christmas Party

12/6 - 10am (S) 2nd Sunday of Advent: Holy Communion

12/14 - 10:30am (F/FK) Rachel Circle
- 7pm (F/FK) Worship Team

12/13 - 10am (S) 3rd Sunday of Advent

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

12/18 until 1/4/27 - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED for the Holidays

12/19 - 12noon (F/FK) Willobee Family Christmas Party (private event)

12/20 - 10am (S) 4th Sunday of Advent: Bells and Brunch

12/24 - 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship
- 10pm Christmas Eve Worship

12/25 - Christmas Day

12/27 - 10am (S) 1st Sunday after Christmas

12/28 - 7pm (F/FK) Church Council

12/31 - New Year's Eve



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

First Class Stamp Required

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



The Grapevine

is published bi-monthly by

Oxford United Methodist Church

21 E. Burdick St, Oxford, MI 48371
Church office: 248-628-1289-
Website: www.oxfordunitedmc.org
Facebook: Oxford UMC
Email: oumc.office@sbcglobal.net



The Reverend Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Becky Sallans, Office Administrator/Editor
Amie Von Knorring, Youth Director: MS+
Megan Crothers, Youth Director: HS
Alexander Wolf, Pianist

Article Deadline:
Due the15th 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, 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!