



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 4 | March / April 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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This Months Highlights:

⇒ *Thank you for continuing to
Worship Online on Sundays -
There will soon be other options!*

On Palm Sunday we will resume in-person worship at 10am, we will still have online worship and are looking into FM in-car worship in the front parking lot!

⇒ *Palm Sunday Worship at OUMC
March 28 - 10am - In the Sanctuary and online shortly after*

Join us in worship together while obeying all CDC guidelines .

If you are uncomfortable worshipping in person please tune in as usual.

Let us all joyfully celebrate Jesus's entrance to Jerusalem!

⇒ *Good Friday Experience*

April 2nd 12noon -2pm (in half hour increments)

You are welcome to come when it is convenient for you to experience a prayerful Good Friday with music, scripture and Holy Communion.



*Join Us For
Worship!*

10am

*Holy Communion -
First Sunday of the month*



From
the
Minister



The prayer that follows is a prayer we all need to read and remember in this Holy season. In the midst of death, Jesus the Christ comes into our lives to remind once again that God's love and grace is the final word! Yes, we grieve and cry.....yes we hurt with those families and individuals whose lives have been turned upside down forever. But thanks be to God we will one day sing together, eat together, pray together, cherish life and all of its manifestations. It won't be the same. Everything will be different. Everything will be different except God's beautiful love for each of us.

Read the prayer below and let it capture your being as you remember how good God is..... Even in times like these. I wish each of you and your family a blessed Easter and remember to take the time to be thankful for your abundant blessings!

In the spirit of the Risen Lord,
Julius E Del Pino, Pastor



until March 28th then you can either watch online or worship at church in person.

Please follow these 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)

March 7 - 3rd Sunday in Lent / Holy Communion

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-46
"Joyously Exuberant"

A Prayer for Those Feeling Alone because of COVID-19 by David Sparks, United Church of Canada minister

I feel alone, Loving God, and it troubles me. I miss so much.
I miss the casual greetings of neighbours,
the warm hugs of family members. I call them to mind:

(time of silent reflection)

I miss being able to shop wherever I like, whenever I like.
I am thankful for online shopping but I miss the groups of which
I am a part, exercise and special interest groups.
I remember my friends there by name:

(time of silent reflection)

And I miss what I have taken for granted all these years,
being in church for the Sunday service. I miss greeting old
friends and new friends of the faith community,

I miss being present when the words of scripture are read,
I miss the time of reflection that follows, and I miss the singing,
how I miss the singing! I miss making a joyful noise together,
but I also miss our mid-week study groups.

(time of silent reflection)

I am thankful for the wonders of the Internet, through which
I can see family members and friends and talk with them as if
they were close, but I can't touch them or see how they are.
I miss the holding and the hugs. I rejoice that the Internet brings
worship to my living room. It is good to greet my fellow
worshippers online; it is good to share in the worship life of the
faith community. I give thanks for modern technology, but it isn't
the same, and I long for the time when we can get back to our
church community home again. Be my companion in the
loneliness, Loving God, be strength when I feel weak,
be endurance when I feel like despairing, be the source of hope
when there seems nothing to hope for, and stay with me in all the
pandemic days. I offer my prayer in the name of the One who
knew loneliness and what it felt like to be utterly abandoned,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

(<https://united-church.ca/prayers/feeling-alone>)

March 14 - 4th Sunday in Lent

Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

"The Rigorous Demands of Christian Life"

Special Offering: UMCOR Sunday
Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 21 - 5th Sunday in Lent

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

"Life Changing Experiences"

March 28 - Palm Sunday

(Return to in person worship)

Gospel: John 13:21-30

"What Really Happened to Judas?"

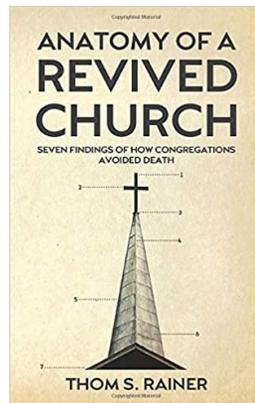
All Church Study

We as a church are exploring the book:

“Anatomy of a Revived Church”
 Seven Findings of How Congregations Avoided Death
 by Thom S. Ranier

There is hope. God can save your church. Thom Rainer reveals seven findings of revived churches. Through new research, he figuratively dissects hundreds of churches that were on the path toward death. But they turned around. They revived. They did so in the face of facts and naysayers who told them it could not be done. Get ready to walk with us through the anatomy of churches that were revived because they chose to live. The choice is as simple as it is profound. Change or die. And now, in God’s power, the choice is yours.

You may purchase this book on Amazon (there is a link on Pastor’s Book Recommendation page on our website at oxfordunitedmc.org) If you have a problem with funds, books are available. Contact Becky at 248-628-1289.



THE "CHURCH REVIVED"

A task force is in the process of working to chart a pathway forward for OUMC as we seek to determine God's plan for us: there are many steps to achieve our objective but we're sure we're on track to success!

Our first step is to read, study & understand a small book "Anatomy of a Revived Church" by Thom Rainer which sets out in 7 chapters his findings of the common faults & practices leading to most churches failures; amongst which resistance to change, and an unhealthy reliance on tradition---we've always done it that way---, on concentrating on tending to members with the exclusion of the community, on unrealistic expectations of "silver bullet" solutions to the problem of enrollment decline etc. all contribute to a church in trouble. Everyone is encouraged to get a copy of the book (see the article up above), to read it, to think about the questions posed at the end of each chapter, & most importantly to pray for God's direction in acting on the 10 conclusions at the end of the book. We would ask that this would be done by the end of March.

The next step is to attend a series of 2 hour workshops designed to discern God's calling for this church and this community. There we will examine our spiritual and leadership skills before making a plan to move forward. Patty Dennis from the Michigan Annual Conference will facilitate & lead this study.

Holy Week Schedule

March 28 PALM SUNDAY

John 13:21-30

Welcome Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem and journey through the holy week ahead.



April 2 GOOD FRIDAY

[noon (12pm) - 2pm]

Enjoy a *new experience* focused on Jesus' death and crucifixion on the cross. A holy and prayerful time of worship held in half hour increments. Come when you can. Invite your friends and family.



April 4 EASTER SUNDAY

John 21:15-19

Celebrate Jesus' resurrection, new life and the gift of salvation. Invite your friends, family and neighbors.



EASTER SUNDAY

The 3rd step is to meet in Church following Sunday service for 30 mins to one hour to consider, discuss & set an action plan for the future, which requires input from everyone to insure a successful outcome.

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!

Pray for One Another -
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:

Shirley Acheson

Shirley Conner

Bob Willobee

The family of Pearl Hoard [10/17/2020]

The family of Marvin "Jay" Willobee [12/25/2020]

The family of Marcella Frost [2/13/2021]

The family of Martha Riley [2/17/2021]

The family of Jean Kessler [2/23/2021]



We ask your blessings upon:

Our first responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all working/dealing with Covid-19

Those with mental illnesses - especially depression or anxiety brought on by 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



Linda Brown Bill Conner

Gertrude Curtis Sue Enekes

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

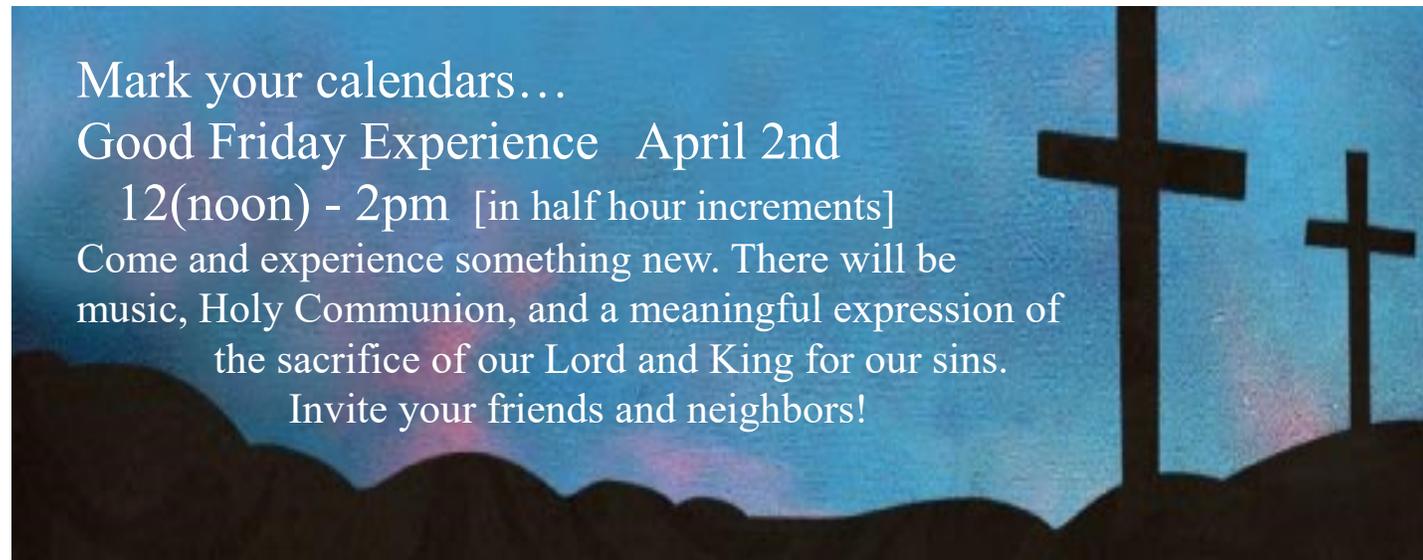
Mark your calendars...

Good Friday Experience April 2nd

12(noon) - 2pm [in half hour increments]

Come and experience something new. There will be music, Holy Communion, and a meaningful expression of the sacrifice of our Lord and King for our sins.

Invite your friends and neighbors!



A Note from the Bishop

BISHOP DAVID BARD
Michigan Area



I greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit as we enter the season of Lent.

The United Methodist Book of Worship tells us that Lent “began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.” Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, where we are reminded of our mortality. Somber colors are encouraged, with an encouragement to remove “all shiny objects from the worship area” and perhaps give up flowers. Individually people often give something up for Lent.

It was last year during Lent that our churches were asked to refrain from in-person worship due to the coronavirus pandemic. Early on, the hope was that perhaps by Easter, we would again be able to gather together for worship. It was not to be. Months later, we would also be asked to refrain from in-person worship during the Christmas season. We have given up a lot, and we are not yet through this pandemic.

Of course, some have given up even more. This past year has been a year of incredible loss. Reminders of our mortality arrive every day as we hear the running total of deaths from COVID-19, now over 400,000 here in the United States. Some of you are grieving loved ones lost, whether from COVID or not. We have lost time together with family and friends, missed marking milestones in ways we would have liked. There have been moments where we’ve lost a measure of hope, moments such as the death of George Floyd, or when some of our cities were aflame, or when our political rhetoric burned, or when we witnessed the violent storming of the Capitol building.

Lent acknowledges loss and limits [Link: [When did Ash Wednesday begin and why do we celebrate it? | The United Methodist Church \(umc.org\)](#)]. It invites giving something up, but that never for its own sake. When we voluntarily give something up, it is intended to be in the service of creating space for something new, creating more space for God’s grace, God’s love. Lent reminds us we don’t have all the time in the world, so we are invited to use our time well. Lent reminds us that life entails real loss, so we are invited to appreciate its good gifts when they come

our way. Lent encourages us to be more disciplined in our use of time, in the direction of our attention, in the expenditure of our energy.

Discipline. The most important Lenten disciplines are the disciplines of love – patience, kindness, thoughtfulness, and humility. I wrote about these in [my monthly blog for February](#), [Link: [Follow the way of love - The Michigan Conference \(michiganumc.org\)](#)] and I hope you will go back and read it.

Friends, Lent reminds us that we are fragile, mortal, and sometimes broken, that we know loss and that we lose our way. Yet we are also always loved by God, wildly and extravagantly, and in these limited mortal lives of ours, we might reflect that love of God in what we do and who we are. Disciplines of love exercised in grace help us do that. I invite you to observe a holy Lent, honing the disciplines of love, knowing that you are loved by God.

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

Every Valley Shall be Exalted



Did you know that there is actually a Valley of the Shadow of Death from the 23rd Psalm? It is known as the Wadi Qelt, and at the time of Jesus, it was on one of the main roads between Jerusalem and Jericho. When Rev. Margie Crawford took a trip to the Holy Land she visited this site and has more to say about it online -

'Every valley shall be exalted' - The Michigan Conference ([michiganumc.org](#))

It is a very interesting read!

If you are interested in something on one of the United Methodists websites or something we reference in worship or in print but don’t have access to a computer (FYI - the library does have access) or would like a paper copy of something in this newsletter, just ask Becky and she will get the information to you.

Knowledge is available for everyone!

2021 Church Council

Church Council Chairperson: (Interim)
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)

The UMC Connection & Apportionments

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 goal is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Why should our church support UMC Ministry Shares?

- 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 United States 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.

Stewardship & Finance Update

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	\$ 1,125.00
February Giving	\$ 7,540.00
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

Location: 1060 S. Lapeer Rd., Oxford Web-site: 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 Free Meals

During the second week of February there was a change to our Community Meal Ministry. As you may be aware, in addition to a hot meal - Connie Miller and her team have been distributing groceries as our numbers have increased. They have chosen to move their food distribution to Immanuel Congregational Church. As a result we have currently suspended the Wednesday carryout meal program at this time through OUMC. We appreciate the hard work of all our cooks and all associated with our Wednesday Community Free Meal Ministry during these last many years and especially during COVID. You have truly been a blessing to those in need. We are unsure what the future holds for us as we continue to follow our vision in Oxford and find new ways to care for the community but rest assured, God has a special plan for us. Let us look forward with excitement and new possibilities. Please keep OUMC and its ministries in prayer!

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 (INC) - North Oakland Co.



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 meeting will be on Monday, April 12th at 10am.

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

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the one year anniversary of hearing things like "pandemic", "Covid-19" or "masks". Seriously, prior to March 9th a year ago, none of these words meant anything to the majority of us. One year later, we have gotten used to so many changes, the 'current' normal.

Now we rejoice with words like "effective vaccines", "call for an appointment", "dining in" and yes, worshipping together in church! Soon we will gather together again in church to rejoice the Easter season & new beginnings. To be sure, we are ready for a time of rejoicing!

In the excitement of returning to a more normal daily life, keep in mind that the Lord is by you daily. Through every minute of this and moving forward. Talk to Him, give him your burdens. Allow Him to take the stressors from your shoulders. He can not take the weight off you, if you do not first give it to Him. He is here, waiting to give you relief. Daily life has been hard, isolating, challenging, depressing, and yet Jesus is waiting for you to allow Him to lift the burdens that keep your heart from the joy and peace He wants for you.

"Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus". Philippians 4:7

If you want to believe this, say Amen, right out loud, right now. You are His and He wants only the best for you! Read

it again, say it with conviction and we will say Amen together. God bless you! See you in person real soon!



Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President

UMC Camping

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

Our church, and the camps, can also help you pay for camp.



Email Lucinda Bellairs [lucindabellairs4@gmail.com] or call the church office [248-628-1289] for more info.

UM Men: Band of Brothers

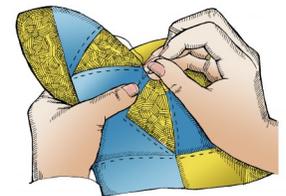
The United Methodist Men focus on Evangelism, Missions, and Spiritual Development.

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



Piece Makers

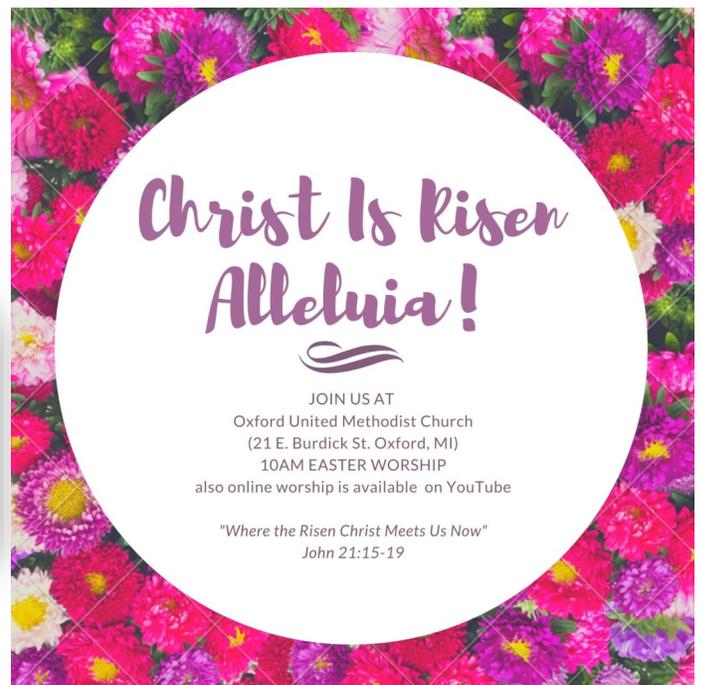
You are invited to attend the Piece Makers group and help with our prayer quilts. They usually meet on Tuesday afternoons (1st and 3rd weeks) starting at 1pm.



QUILTING GROUP

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!



Fellowship, Music & Service Groups



We normally invite you to join us on Fridays at 2pm at the church, however we are currently not meeting due to the upswing of Conid-19. Stay safe!

We are working on lapghans at home 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)



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.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021: *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright. Survival for Ki Lim and Sang Ly is a daily battle at Stung Meanchey, the largest municipal waste dump in all of Cambodia. They make their living scavenging recyclables from the trash. Life would be hard enough without the worry for their chronically ill child, Nisay, and the added expense of medicines that are not working. Just when things seem worst, Sang Ly learns a secret about the bad-tempered rent collector who comes demanding money--a secret that sets in motion a tide that will change the life of everyone it sweeps past. The Rent Collector is a story of hope, of one woman's journey to save her son and another woman's chance at redemption.

The April selection was unavailable at the time of printing. Please contact Joanne for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact

Joanne Bogus (248 747-7544). Hope to see you at Book Discussion!



Paying it back and forward

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

[REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM NEWSLETTERNEWSLETTER.COM]

Something to Think About

Greetings everyone! I am so looking forward to seeing you all on Palm Sunday.

As you know we are reading the book “Anatomy of a Revived Church” by Thomas S. Rainer as an all church read. Some of you may have started it already, the Wednesday Morning Book Study group is doing it now I know, and all of the church leaders are certainly reading it, some for the second or third time. Last night at our staff meeting we were looking at chapter three. Which talks about metrics, and how we can use them to our advantage.

Metrics, if you aren't familiar with the term is basically a measuring tool, report card if you will which enables us to track our effectiveness. What are some of the metrics you can think of? Right away the attendance, or financial support are the ones that pop into mind. It makes sense. If more people are coming we must be doing better. If more money is given we must be doing well.

But what about discipleship? Are we making disciples? What about missions? How many in our congregation are involved in mission work? Small groups? We know that revived/successful churches have strong involvement in small groups, missions and outreach to the community. Is there a way to measure these metrics?

These among other questions, and answers are found in this dandy little book.

Ok, I know, your thinking oh boy, we are going to read,



On behalf of church council and the finance team, we wanted to send a special thank you to David Cischke for his tremendous time and effort to get the parsonage rented. The process required significant time and effort working with the real estate agent, Carla Covert, as well as on site time to get the house prepped and ready for the new renters. As a result of his hard work, they were able to move in January 12th.

Thank you very much David!

study and talk about how to fix the church again. Right? Yes, we last did things like this about 18 months ago. Before the change of pastors, and the Covid-19 situation more or less yanked the rug out from under our efforts, but we learned a lot, and we will not be starting over from scratch. I have noticed a great surge in the spirit of our congregation. It may be that God has used this break in our normal church life to remind us how important and valuable Oxford United Methodist Church is to each of us, and to our community.

So yes we will be talking about things, but if nothing else, this last year has proven to us all that we really can find a way to keep going forward with Gods word no matter what barriers are placed before us. So get the book and read it, think about what it says. Read it again. Talk to each other about what you learn, and the questions it will bring to your mind. Write down questions you want to ask the pastor. And truly consider what your part in this revival of our church can look like.

If you have trouble getting a book contact the office, we will get you one.

Just a note, looking forward to a great Good Friday Experience. Hoping to see you all there.

As always I send you each and every one,
my love and prayers.
John Warren

Dear Oxford UMC,

We want to express how grateful we are that we were able to be married in your beautiful Sanctuary. We were distressed to find that our plans fell through at a different location at the last minute and Pastor Del Pino was gracious enough to offer the church. Peg Moulder was especially gracious in offering to change the paraments when she learned we would be there. And we couldn't have asked for a more beautiful location! You were truly an answer to prayer!

Catherine & Eric Richard



UMCOR Sunday

MARCH 14, 2021

UMCOR Sunday is March 14. Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing, this special offering helps pay administrative costs of UMCOR so every dollar YOU give can offer a person hope.

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act. So don’t be fooled by the word “committee.”

Since 1940, when UMCOR’s forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we’ve continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do, it’s something “we” do.

When You Give You Equip Christ’s Body to Serve in His Name

That’s because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days.

Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion, or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need. Because you give, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When catastrophic flooding hit mid-Michigan in 2020, we responded.
- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in

Japan, we responded

- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus’ name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday. In fact, it’s your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not “they.” We.

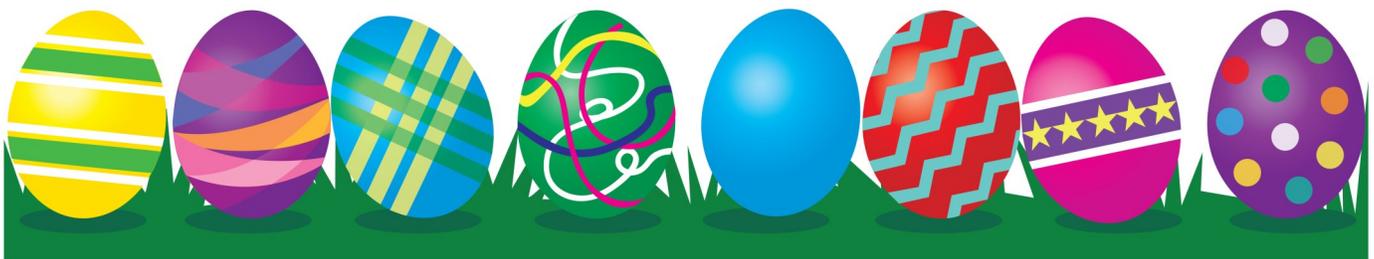
Will you continue to give to UMCOR Sunday?

Will you continue to meet the needs of the children, families, and communities who’ve experienced devastation in the wake of disaster?

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we actually minister to Jesus, who said:

“I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.” (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)

As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.





- March 2 - Holly Cischke | Jon Gross
- March 3 - Lynda Bertich | Karen Etherton
Cameron Mumbrue
- March 5 - Steve Clay
- March 8 - Greyson East Jr.
- March 11 - Lucinda Bellairs | Teresa Nelson
- March 18 - Millie Solon
- March 19 - David Cischke
- March 20 - Lorrin Schwartz
- March 23 - Mari Jo Bierwirth
- March 26 - Ginny Conrad
- March 27 - Frank Enekes | Teri Jacobsen
- March 30 - Susan Enekes



- March 11 - Mike & Lucinda Bellairs
- March 23 - Ronald & Karen Etherton



- April 2 - Larry Bradford
- April 3 - Cecelia Nicholson
- April 7 - Lil Prawdzik
- April 14 - Shirley Conner
- April 15 - Renae Shagena
- April 19 - Shirley Acheson
- April 20 - Jordan Meersseman
- April 22 - Michael Nelson
- April 24 - Kim Rizzo
- April 27 - Matthew Rizzo
- April 28 - Mary Garrard
- April 30 - Carolynn Foss



New-and-Improved
WEBSITE

Have you seen the new website yet?
Take a moment and give it a look at
oxfordunitedmc.org



March 2021

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

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

**Please Note: ALL BUILDING USAGE IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED BY OUTSIDE USERS.
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED - WORSHIP IS ONLINE ONLY UNTIL THE 28th**

**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 Online until March 28th	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 (at home) Knit Knack	

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 7p (Zoom) Church Council	2 7p (Zoom) Staff Mtg.	3	4	5	6
7  3RD SUNDAY IN LENT HOLY COMMUNION	8	9 7p (Zoom) Trustees	10 1p (M) Reading for Fun	11	12	13
14 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT UMCOR SUNDAY <i>Daylight Savings Time Starts</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT	22	23	24	25	26	27
28  PALM SUNDAY 10AM - RETURN TO IN PERSON WORSHIP	29 7p (Zoom) Church Council	30	31			

April

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

2021

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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 Good Friday Experience 12-2pm	3
 4 EASTER SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION	5	6 7p (Zoom) Staff Mtg.	7	8	9	10
11 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER  Bell Choir Performs	12 10a (F/FK) Rachel Circle	13 7p (Zoom) Trustees	14 1p (M) Reading for Fun	15	16	17
18 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER Native American Ministries Sunday	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	26 7p (Zoom) Church Council	27	28	29	30	

Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

A. John
B. Paul of Tarsus
C. Joseph of Arimathea
D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)



Bible Quiz

Paul declares that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Which of the following does Paul specify as unable to block God's love?

A. death; life
B. angels; demons
C. present; future
D. height; depth
E. all of the above



PUZZLE



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.

 VDEO _____ (Genesis 8:8)
 LWO _____ (Psalm 102:6)
 GEELA _____ (Isaiah 40:31)
 TOKRS _____ (Jeremiah 8:7)
 APROSWRS _____

"Are not five _____ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many _____."

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14												

1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

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

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



The Grapevine

is published bi-monthly by

Oxford United Methodist Church

a Stephen Ministry Congregation

21 E Burdick Street, Oxford, MI 48371

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Article Deadline:

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: **(Currently online only)**

10:00 a.m. Worship

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

Nursery available

Coffee & Refreshments after service