

# The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor

Issue 17 | May/June 2023

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them, bear much fruit..." John 15:5

## OUR MISSION

*Uniting in Jesus Christ  
we spread God's love*

## OUR FOCUS

We envision a church with a vibrant Christian spiritual life where we welcome and value all God's people... Where we grow, discover, and share our gifts in the church and in the world.

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From  
the  
Pastor



A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates. St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

"Three points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" says St. Peter, "that's certainly worth a point."

"One point? Golly. How about this: I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"TWO POINTS!!" the man cries, "At this rate the only way I get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Exactly, son! Come on in!"

I have been doing lots of thinking on the subject of grace....the free and unmerited acceptance and love of God. How else can we face our struggles with the sure hope that God goes before us to prepare us for the path of life.

What sparked my thinking on this vast subject is the book written by Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*. What she helped me to understand is that grace is the circle that holds us together. It does not matter if these struggles are visible or invisible. God's grace is always sufficient, and God's grace surrounds us every moment of life. It is for this reason we will always have the blessing and strength to keep the circle expanding for others who need our blessings.

Let the grace of God fill us so that we might believe in the power and love of the Almighty! Is this not the blessing of grace?



In His service as faithful servants,  
Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor



OXFORD UMC &  
**WOJO'S GARDEN**  
Fundraiser

Shop for your May flowers at Wojo's in Ortonville or Davison on May 10 & 11. Be sure to mention Oxford UMC at checkout and 10% of your total sales will be donated to the Bells for new music.  
(gift cards not included)

 2570 Oakwood  
Ortonville, MI  
248-627-6498

or

7360 E. Court St.  
Davison, MI  
810-658-9221

## A Mothers Day Prayer

*Thinking of you on Mother's Day,  
and saying a special prayer ~  
That God who knows how dear you are,  
will keep you in his care.  
That He will bless your daily life  
with joys of every kind ~  
With perfect health and happiness  
and peace on heart and mind.*



# PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

The family of Lil Prawdzik    The family of Keith Acheson    The Beethem Family and OHS on the loss of Daphne  
Joyce Del Pino    Palmer Speck    Bob Willobee    Jude    Debbie Mason    Shirley Acheson  
Kent Patterson    Kip Lawrie    Ron Shedlowsky & Family    Chuck McIntyre    Julie Imirowicz  
Rev. Kristin Lowe    Ro Van Wagoner    Ruth Patterson    Amy Thorson    John Hauxwell  
Bruce Conrad    Kristina Del Pino    Shirley Ricketts    Ron Bunker    Shirley Conner

We ask your blessings upon:

Those in the military serving on our behalf [especially Kevin Friesmuth & the crew of the USS West Virginia]  
Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government  
Those affected by Natural Disasters & all Violence in the US and worldwide  
Those with mental illnesses, are lonely, or do not have someone to pray for them  
First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by illness  
All of our brothers and sisters who deal with racism & hatred  
All Families - those expecting new children; dealing with loss of a loved one  
All our school children, their teachers, school workers and administrators  
All affected by the Oxford High School 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. *Amen!*

**The Church is always open for prayer!  
Come any time when it is open or when there is a meeting.  
Need prayer with Pastor? Sign up on the sheet outside the office.**



**Birthdays**

May 2 - Julie Langley | Ethan Pearson  
May 7 - Steven Matteson  
May 9 - Amy Cischke | Ruth Patterson  
May 15 - Laurie Del Pino  
May 16 - AmyBeth Fleischer  
          | Charlotte Nicholson

June 1 - Morgan Gross  
June 3 - Kevin Kater  
June 6 - Sue Rizzo  
June 25 - Ron Bunker

**Anniversaries**

May 20 - Emaleigh Von Knorring  
May 21 - John Lychuk  
May 25 - Rosemary Rumbold  
May 31 - Zoe Fleischer  
  
May 20 - Bernie & Rosemary Rumbold  
May 30 - Peter & Carolyn Foss

June 3 - Jon & Shawn Gross  
June 24 - Tom & Lynda Bertich  
          | Rod & Sue Smith  
          | John & Devon Warren  
June 26 - Bruce & Ginny Conrad  
June 27 - John & Nadine Lychuk

# Local Missions & Outreach



Food  
Pantry  
Needs

## Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry

*“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”*

We are collecting FISH donations on the first Sunday of each month. You may also make out a check to Oxford UMC and put “FISH Food Pantry” in the memo line and we will make sure that your donation gets there. “Thank You!”

### Current Needs -

- |                   |                |                          |                   |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Spaghetti noodles | Beef stew      | Canned mandarin oranges  | Baked Beans       |
| Taco shells       | Canned chicken | Manwich (sloppy joe mix) | Chili             |
| Chunky Soup       | Cake mix       | Personal care items      | Feminine Products |

### Current Hours -

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

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

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

FISH Location: 1060 S. Lapeer Rd., Oxford  
Website: [www.oxfordorionfish.org](http://www.oxfordorionfish.org)

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

## Oxford UMC Meal Outreach



### ALL ARE WELCOME!

All are invited to the community  
**Free!** meal program at OUMC!!

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

WHERE: Oxford United Methodist Church  
WHEN: Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am

## Community Free Meals

If you or someone you know would like a

**Free!**

hot meal please invite them to visit:

Lake Orion UMC (Mondays)

Immanuel Congregational (Tuesdays)  
from 5:30-6:30pm

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



Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) of North Oakland County is a non-profit network of churches in the area, including Oxford UMC.

The mission of Love INC is to mobilize local volunteers and churches to help those in need and transform lives in the name of Christ. They try to provide any help that is beyond the scope of the churches on their own.

The Clothing Closet (at Oxford Free Methodist Church at 790 S. Lapeer Road) needs help sorting donated clothes on Tuesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm or helping clients shop, two Tuesdays a month, from 12:00pm-3:00pm.

Bed, Blessings & Beyond and Little Luxuries (at LakePoint Church at 1550 W. Drahner Rd) is temporarily closed. Please contact them if you have an idea for a new location.

If you would like to donate your time or money to help your neighbors in need please contact them:

Website - [www.loveincfnoc.org](http://www.loveincfnoc.org) or  
call 248-693-4357 for more information.

# Conner/Wood Memorial Scholarship Application

The Conner/Wood Memorial Scholarship is a gift of up to \$1,000.00 given each year to a graduating High School Senior or current College Student who is a member of the Oxford United Methodist Church. The recipient will use the funds toward the cost of their education. This is a non-renewable scholarship and the recipient will not be able to apply for the scholarship again. You however, may reapply if you haven't been awarded the Conner/Wood Memorial Scholarship. **If you are interested in applying for the Scholarship, please complete this application and return it to the Church Office by: Sunday, May 14, 2023.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School attending or will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

Year you became a member of the church: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit, in writing, your response to the following questions:

- ◆ List the activities and involvement you have had with the Oxford United Methodist Church during the last 4 years.
- ◆ How has the Oxford United Methodist Church helped prepare you for your post High School educational experience?
- ◆ Having benefited from your involvement with the Oxford United Methodist Church, what do you see as your role in the church-at-large (during college, after college)?



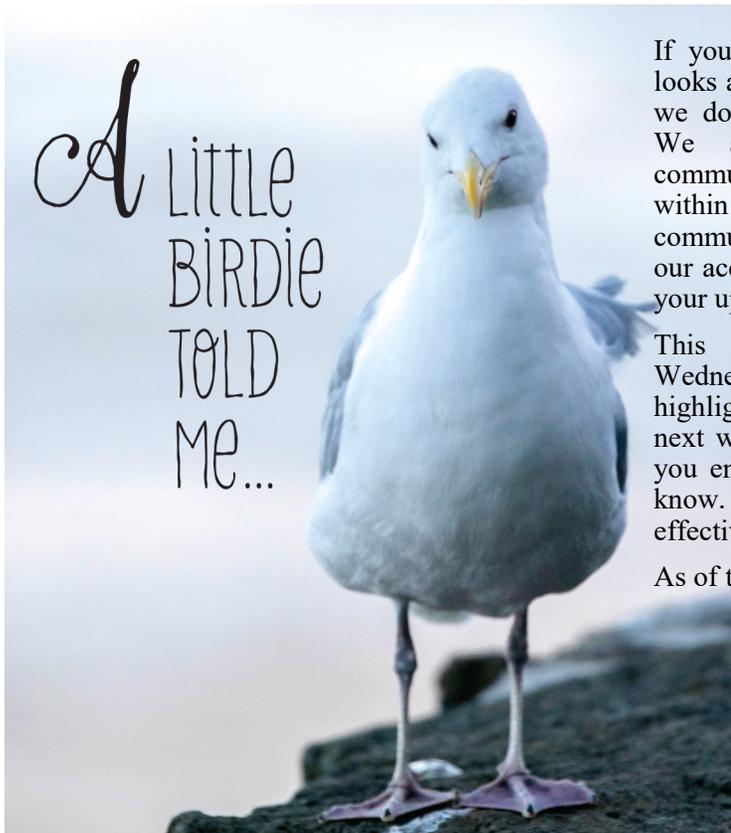
Don't use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God's command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow pilgrims. Consider these tips for engaging in corporate worship:

First, show up — in person if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the service displays the gospel: greeting, singing, confessing, reading Scripture, hearing Bible-based teaching, praying, giving and communing.

Be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of life. Instead, consider how you'll carry the experience into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let that overflow fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshipping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come.

—Monica L. Wilkinson



If you haven't received the weekly email newsletter that looks a bit like this sample to the right we do not have your email address! We are attempting to increase communication and connectiveness within the church and with our community. We would love to increase our accuracy so please contact us with your updated information!

This new E-news goes out on Wednesday of each week and highlights what is happening on Sunday and throughout the next week. If there is something you think is missing or if you enjoy it just the way it is please let the church office know. We want to be transparent, positive, informative, and effective in fulfilling our mission statement.

As of today this is just a rumor, but there might be a new directory in the works! Keep your eyes opened for it and if it is able to be published soon, copies will be available in the Sanctuary.

FYI - All meeting minutes are available to read in the copy room. If you would like a paper copy please ask Becky to make you one.



We meet every Friday from 2-4pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us if you enjoy any type of needle work. We are always willing to teach anyone who would like to learn. If you have any questions, please call Mary Garrard, 248-613-4505.



### Piece Makers Quilting

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

Do you know someone who would like the comfort of the prayers woven into a quilt during its creation? These quilts are intended for *anyone* who could use a hug and a prayer during challenging times.

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



### Excelsior Bell Choir

The Bell Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm

Come to hear us play every third Sunday **during the school year.**

Please remember to join us for brunch immediately after the service.

If you have any questions or if you would like to learn to be a substitute, please contact Rosemary Rumbold (248-391-0973)

### Praise Singers

Join us to practice Sunday's songs and hymns. Rehearsals are at 5pm on Wednesday evenings.

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 us

# Heavenly Harmonizing: The story of 'Blessed Assurance'

*One of our most beloved hymns was a divinely-inspired collaboration between two enduring Methodist women of faith.*

**CRYSTAL CAVINESS**

United Methodist Communications | April 21, 2023

In a New York City home in 1873, one friend played a few bars of music on the piano for another friend and then asked, “What does that melody say to you?”

The story goes that the second friend immediately replied, “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!”

Almost effortlessly and within a few minutes, Fanny Crosby had written the verses and refrain to accompany the music written by Phoebe Palmer Knapp. The beloved hymn, aptly titled, “Blessed Assurance,” (#369 in the United Methodist Hymnal), celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2023.

The musical collaboration was among the first between Crosby, a woman who was blind and became known as one of the most prolific hymn writers in history, and Knapp, a successful composer and the daughter of famed Methodist revivalist Phoebe Palmer. Crosby and Knapp ran in the same musical circles in New York, as well as worshipping together at Old John Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

The new hymn was an almost instant hit, as far as hymn popularity goes. In its first year, it was published in three different publications: “Gems of Praise, No. 1 (Methodist Episcopal Book-Room); “Guide to Holiness,” a Methodist periodical published by Walter and Phoebe Palmer; and “Bible School Songs,” edited by Knapp and J.H. Vincent, according to [HymnologyArchives.com](http://HymnologyArchives.com).

In the past 150 years, the hymn has been published by faith communities throughout the world and has been recorded by the likes of Carrie Underwood, Alan Jackson, CeCe Winans, Glen Campbell and Third Day.

## A little about Fanny Crosby

Though blind since an infant, Crosby seemingly never let her lack of sight impede her life. In fact, she often spoke of her blindness as a blessing.

“If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow, I would not accept it,” she said. “I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me.” (From “Song Stories: The Stories Behind Worship’s Best Loved Songs, Volume 1”)

Crosby was 44 years old when she wrote the first of more than 8,000 hymns. She collaborated with William B.



Bradbury, an accomplished hymn writer, on the first hymn. Their partnership resulted in many songs, as well as a publishing contract with Biglow and Main Publishers. Crosby’s contract required that she write three hymns per week for \$2 per hymn. Crosby, who often would write six or seven hymns per day, submitted so many hymns that the publisher requested Crosby write under a pseudonym to avoid the appearance that Biglow and Main only published Crosby’s hymns. Crosby’s songs were listed under 100 pen names, according to “Song Stories.”

## A little about Phoebe Palmer Knapp

Knapp, because of her parents’ professions as evangelists, grew up in a home surrounded by religious music. She and her mother often collaborated on hymns with the elder Phoebe writing verses and the younger Phoebe writing melodies on the piano or organ. She is credited with writing music for more than 500 hymns.

An interesting side fact is that Knapp was married to Joseph Fairchild Knapp, who made his fortune in publishing and then went on to found and serve as the second president of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The Knapps lived at the Hotel Savoy on Fifth Avenue in New York City, where they owned what was believed to be the largest organ in the world in a private residence.

## ‘One of the sweetest I had heard’

For Crosby’s and Knapp’s collective body of works, “Blessed Assurance” indisputably was their most successful. Crosby, it seems, also was a fan.

“My dear friend, Mrs. Joseph F. Knapp ... had composed the tune, and it seemed to me one of the sweetest I had heard for a long time,” Crosby wrote in “Fanny Crosby’s Life Story” (1903). “She asked me to write a hymn for it, and I felt, while bringing the words and tones together, that the air and the hymn were intended for each other. In the many hundred times that I have heard it sung, this opinion has been more and more confirmed.”

# Save the Date

## Retirement Thanksgiving Jamboree

For

### Rev. John H. & Laura Hice

District Superintendent of East Winds UMC Churches

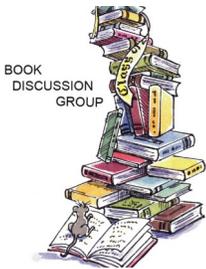
**Sunday, May 21, 2023**

**@ 3:30pm**



**Davison UMC  
207 E. 3rd Street  
Davison, MI**

## Book Discussion Group



Do you enjoy reading? We do!!!  
Our book group is always looking for more readers who like to chat with friends about books. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1pm in the Memorial Room.

**Wednesday, May 10:** *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson. We can't choose what we inherit. But can we choose who we become? In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves.

Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor's true history, and fulfill her final request to "share the black cake when the time is right"? Will their mother's revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever? Charmaine Wilkerson's debut novel is a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories, and even names can shape relationships and history. Deeply

evocative and beautifully written, *Black Cake* is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch.

**Wednesday, June 14:** *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. Eight ordinary people. One extraordinary choice. It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live.

From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth to what they promise?

As society comes together and pulls apart, everyone faces the same shocking choice: Do they wish to know how long they'll live? And, if so, what will they do with that knowledge?

*The Measure* charts the dawn of this new world through an unforgettable cast of characters whose decisions and fates interweave with one another: best friends whose dreams are forever entwined, pen pals finding refuge in the unknown, a couple who thought they didn't have to rush, a doctor who cannot save himself, and a politician whose box becomes the powder keg that ultimately changes everything.

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



## UM Women: Rachel Circle

Happy Spring !

If you have not tried our group yet, I want to personally welcome you. Rachel Circle is a group of women of all ages & backgrounds. We are a sisterhood of Christian fellowship. We support one another, we raise money to assist with missions, we volunteer for Friendship Hour (when applicable), we pray for all in need & so much more.

**When:** the second Monday of each month at 10am in the Fellowship Hall, inside the Oxford United Methodist Church. This is a casual, friendly group meeting. You do not need to be a member of this church to attend.

At our next meeting we will be discussing fundraising ideas, and fun activities for the summer. Normally, Rachel Circle meets September through June. We will be discussing continuing to meet through the summer months. Each meeting starts with about 20 minutes of fellowship & a continental breakfast, so we can get to know each other better & hopefully you too. If you have any questions or need a ride please call the church office. We are glad to help.

We look forward to seeing you!  
Respectfully, Carolyn Lawrie  
Rachel Circle President



## 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).



## Bible Quiz

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

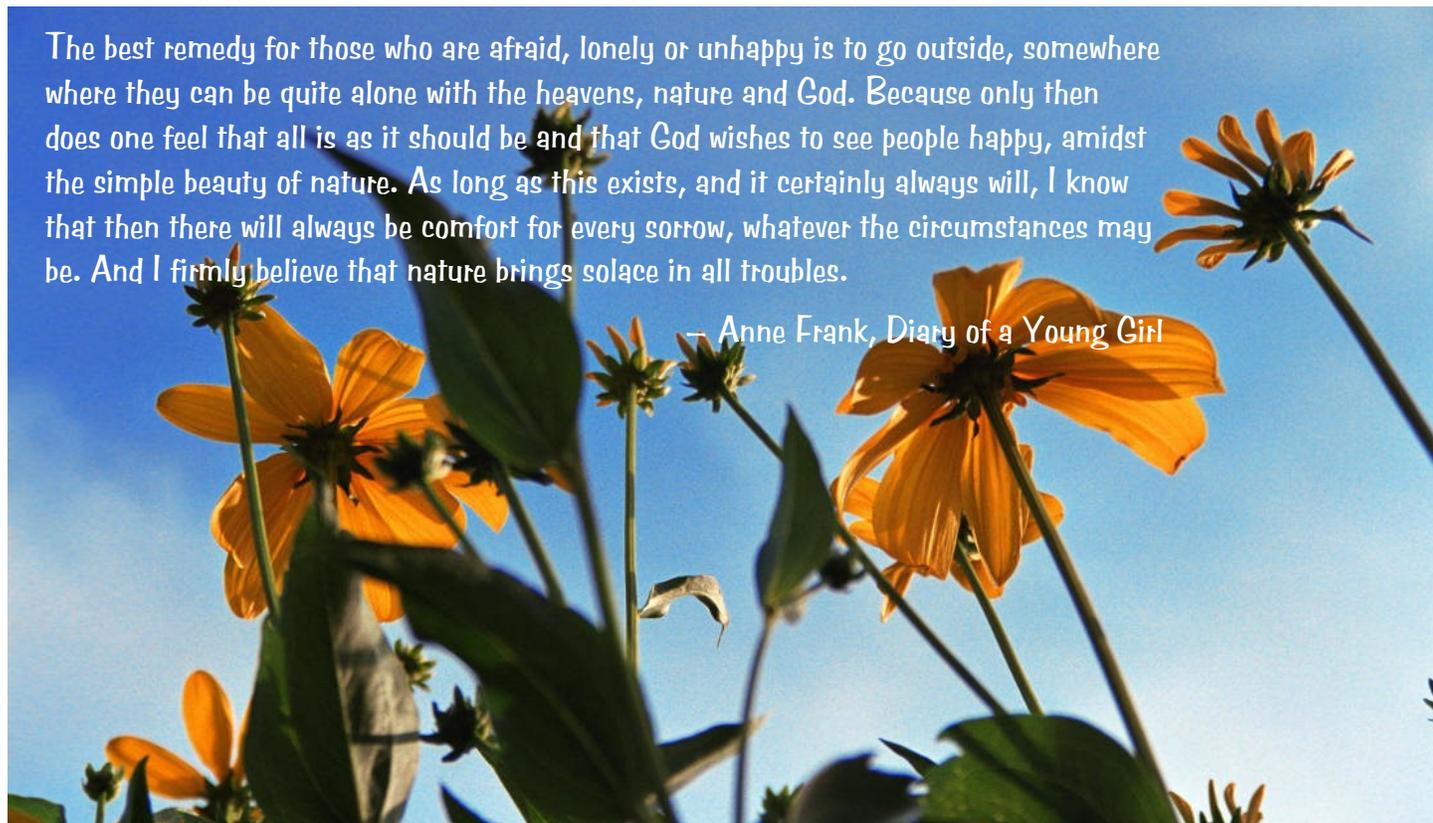
- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15)

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

— Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*





## Ministries in Mental Illness

The following is taken from *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church - 2016*. As May is Mental Health month you may find this enlightening...

First published Sep 09, 2009 | [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

### *Theological Statement*

We believe that faithful Christians are called to be in ministry to individuals and their families challenged by disorders causing disturbances of thinking, feeling, and acting categorized as "mental illness." We acknowledge that throughout history and today, our ministries in this area have been hampered by lack of knowledge, fear, and misunderstanding. Even so, we believe that those so challenged, their families, and their communities are to be embraced by the church in its ministry of compassion and love.

Our model is Jesus, who calls us to an ethic of love toward all. As Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, his words and proclamations were accompanied by "healing every disease and every sickness" (Matthew 9:35). Jesus had compassion and healed those besieged by mental illness, many of whom had been despised, rejected, persecuted, and feared by their community.

John Wesley and the founders of The United Methodist Church practiced a faith grounded in the redemptive ministry of Jesus Christ, with a focus on healing the whole person: physical, spiritual, emotional and mental. The concern for the health of those within the ministry of the church led to establishment of medical services for those in need without regard to financial means, thereby refusing no one for any reason. That spirit of all-encompassing love and compassion serves as a legacy and a model for us as we seek to respond to those challenged by mental illness.

Today, because of the achievements of the scientific and medical communities, we know more about the causes and treatment of the many disorders considered "mental illnesses." More important, we know that the gift of healing is one of the spiritual gifts received from God. The call of those baptized in Christ includes a mandate to exercise the gift of healing by the church as evidence of God's love, a precursor to the reign of God, and a sign of the presence of God's Holy Spirit through the community of the church.

We therefore commit ourselves to learning more about the causes of mental illnesses; advocating for compassion and generosity in the treatment of mental illnesses; and prayerfully leading our congregations to be in ministry, demonstrating that our church, as the body of Christ, can work to provide the means of grace that leads to wholeness and healing for all.

### **Challenges Facing Persons With Mental Illness and Their Congregations and Communities.**

Mental illness is a group of brain disorders that cause disturbances of thinking, feeling, and acting. Research published since 1987 has underscored the physical and genetic basis for the more serious mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, manic-depression, and other affective disorders.

All aspects of health—physical, mental, and spiritual—were of equal concern to Jesus Christ, whose healing touch reached out to mend broken bodies, minds, and spirits with one common purpose: the restoration of well-being and renewed communion with God and neighbor. Many interventions are needed to heal the often chronic conditions of the brain and nervous system, known as mental illness. The body of Christ needs deeper healing in understanding, education, compassion, and adequate ways to support the families and individuals living with mental illness. Those impacted by mental illness also need to be supported in their quest for healing, knowing that most often Jesus heals over time, using a variety of healing modalities.

Precisely because mental illness affects how we think, feel or act, it has an impact on our ability to function in community with others.

There are many reasons that explain why persons with a mental illness diagnosis exhibit difficult or disruptive behaviors. The reasons include traumatic events like war; abuse or domestic violence; a life of physical or emotional poverty; deprivation of social experiences and limited social skills; and behaviors due to loneliness, being misunderstood, being powerless, or the absence of joy in their lives.

Therefore, mental illness challenge our commitment to community. We experience this challenge in several key ways:

#### 1. Stigma

Stigma has been with us for millennia and remains a major issue today. When the man of Gadara said his name was "Legion, . . . because we are many," his comment suggests the countless individuals in every age, whose mental dysfunction causes fear, rejection, or shame, and to which we tend to respond with the same few measures no more adequate for our time than for his: stigmatization, isolation, incarceration, and restraint. Jesus embraced and healed such persons with special compassion (Mark 5:1-34).

#### 2. Incarceration

We believe all persons with a mental illness diagnosis should have access to the same basic freedoms and human rights as other persons in a free society. A fine line of distinction exists between criminal violation of the law and behavior that is criminalized because law enforcement agencies have had no other recourse for handling persons whose actions resulted from mental illness symptoms that affect thinking, perceptions and behavior. We oppose the use of jails and prisons for incarceration of persons who have serious, persistent mental illnesses for whom treatment in a secure hospital setting is far more appropriate. Moreover, many incarcerated persons with mental illness need psychiatric medications. Citing economic reasons as the

cause for failure to provide medications to a person who needs them is unacceptable, as is imposing medication compliance as a condition of release or access to treatment and other services.

### 3. Deinstitutionalization

We express particular concern that while the process followed in the United States and some other nations in recent years of deinstitutionalizing mental patients has corrected a longstanding problem of "warehousing" mentally ill persons, it has created new problems.

Without adequate community-based mental-health programs to care for those who are dehospitalized, the streets or prisons have become a substitute for a hospital ward for too many people. Consequently, often the responsibility, including the costs of mental-health care, has simply been transferred to individuals and families or to shelters for the homeless that are already overloaded and ill-equipped to provide more than the most basic care. Furthermore, the pressure to deinstitutionalize patients rapidly has caused some mental-health systems to rely unduly upon short-term chemical therapy to control patients rather than employ treatments that research has demonstrated are successful.

### 4. Misunderstanding of Faith

Sometimes Christian concepts of sin and forgiveness, are inappropriately applied in ways that heighten paranoia or clinical depression. Great care must be exercised in ministering to those whose mental illness results in exaggerated self-negation. While all persons stand in need of forgiveness and reconciliation, God's love cannot be communicated through the medium of forgiveness for uncommitted or delusional sins.

## The Response We Need

John Wesley's ministry was grounded in the redemptive ministry of Christ with its focus on healing that involved spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical aspects. His concern for the health of those to whom he ministered led him to create medical services at no cost to those who were poor and in deep need, refusing no one for any reason. He saw health as extending beyond simple biological well-being to wellness of the whole person. His witness of love to those in need of healing is our model for ministry to those suffering from mental illness.

#### 1. Healing

Effective treatment recognizes the importance of medical, psychiatric, emotional, and spiritual care, psychotherapy or professional pastoral psychotherapy in regaining and maintaining health. Congregations in every community are called to participate actively in expanding care for persons who are mentally ill and their families as an expression of their nature as the body of Christ.

Treatment for mental illness recognizes the importance of a nonstressful environment, good nutrition, and an accepting community.

#### 2. Congregations

The church, as the body of Christ, is called to a ministry of salvation in its broadest understanding,

which includes both healing and reconciliation, of restoring wholeness both at the individual and community levels. We call upon the church to affirm ministries related to mental illness that embrace the role of community, family, and the healing professions in healing the physical, social, environmental, and spiritual impediments to wholeness for those afflicted with brain disorders and for their families.

We call upon local United Methodist congregations, districts, and annual or central conferences to promote United Methodist congregations as "Caring Communities." The mission to bring all persons into a community of love is central to the teachings of Christ. We gather as congregations in witness to that mission, welcoming and nurturing those who assemble with us. Yet we confess that in our humanity we have sometimes failed to minister in love to persons and families with mental illness. We have allowed barriers of ignorance, fear, and pride to separate us from those who most need our love and the nurturing support of community.

United Methodist congregations around the world are called to join the Caring Communities program, congregations and communities in covenant relationship with persons with mental illness and their families. Caring Communities engage intentionally in:

- Education. Congregations engage in public discussion as well as responsible and comprehensive education about the nature of mental illness and how it affects society today. Such education not only helps congregations express their caring more effectively, but reduces the stigma of mental illness so that persons who suffer from brain disorders, and their families, can more freely ask for help. Such education also counters a false understanding that mental illness is primarily an adjustment problem caused by psychologically dysfunctional families.
- Covenant. Congregations through their church councils enter into a covenant relationship of understanding and love with persons and families with mental illness to nurture them. The covenant understanding may well extend to community and congregational involvement with patients in psychiatric hospitals and other mental-health care facilities.
- Welcome. Congregations extend a public welcome to persons with mental illness and their families.
- Support. Congregations think through and implement the best ways to be supportive to persons with mental illness and to individuals and families caring for them.
- Advocacy. Congregations not only advocate for specific individuals caught up in bureaucratic difficulties, but identify and speak out on issues affecting persons with mental illness and their families that are amenable to legislative remedy.

[If you would like to read the rest of this article please go to:  
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ministries-in-mental-illness>]

More Mental Health Information:  
<https://nationaltoday.com/mental-health-awareness-month/>



*"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 faithful giving each month to God's Church. We as a Finance team keep track of giving and expenses each month. Thank you for your faithfulness. Please help monthly with our General Fund.*

January Giving	\$	7,267.05
February Giving	\$	5,966.15
March Giving	\$	5,890.00
 Budget for 2023	\$	 118,856.00

*If you prefer to write a check or donate with cash please use your offering envelopes (now available).*

*If you need envelopes, please call the church office or Larry Bradford, financial secretary.*

*Please consider giving your donation electronically! It will be paid as you decide and directly deposited into the church account.*

*It is so easy! And no more check writing!  
There is no fee to join. Safe and secure.  
Forms are available from the office.*



## 2023 Church Council

- Church Council Chairperson: Michelle Wood (248)969-2545
- General Fund Treasurer: Becky Sallans (248)628-1289
- Designated Fund Treasurer: Kevin Kater (248)628-7804
- Financial Secretary: Larry Bradford (248)628-5759
- Finance Co-Chairpersons: Bernie Rumbold (248) 391-0973 and AmyBeth Fleischer
- Board of Trustees: David Cischke (248)863-8037 and Michelle Wood (248)969-2545
- SPRC Chairperson: John Warren (248)778-8735
- Worship Team: Michelle Mumbrue (248)969-9173 and Laura Clancy (248)628-6648
- Missions & Outreach: John & Devon Warren (248)778-8735
- Adult Bible Study: Sue Rizzo (248)628-1787 and Rosemary Rumbold (248)391-0973
- Education Team: Mary Dempsey (810)797-5736, Amie Von Knorring (248)342-8051, Bob Willobee (248)628-2357
- Cindy Vincentini (248)252-2157
- Camp Ed. Coordinator:
- Revive Team: Steve Laidlaw (248)801-5924
- UMM President: Fred Nelson (248)628-9826
- UMW / Rachel Circle: Carolyn Lawrie (586)925-2687
- Lay Member to Annual Conference: John Warren (248)778-8735

Church Council meets the last Monday of the even months at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

## **The Covenant Experience Extended to June 4! 11:30am - 1pm**

*For anyone who would like to learn more about the United Methodist Church*

*Contact the church office if you would like to sign up or need childcare*

~  
In the next Grapevine we will introduce our new members!  
~



**Please contact Michelle Mumbrue or a member of the Worship Team to be a Sunday Servant. We very much appreciate your service!**

# Just for Fun...



A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women’s Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, “Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you’re so old and it doesn’t matter?” Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, “I’m cramming for my finals.”

—Florence Littauer, *Women’s Devotional Bible*



## JESUS’ FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus’ family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus’ family tree?

*Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.*

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



**How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?**

\_\_\_\_\_

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8

Answer: FOURTEEN

# Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers. Use the references for help, if needed.

1. King Solomon’s father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2)
6. He had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b)
7. Samuel’s father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
9. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (Ruth 4:17)



2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (1 Samuel 2:12)
8. David’s best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 9. Boaz, 10. Jesse; ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul



# May 2023

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

**Usual Events :**

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>
10a (S) Worship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels <b>12p Program Deadline</b> 1p (CD/F/FK) Piece Makers Quilting Projects (1st & 3rd weeks) 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 10:30a - 3:30p (P) Pastor's Office Hours 5p (S) Praise Singer Practice 6:30p (S) Bell Choir Practice	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 2p (U) Knit Knack	9:30a (F/FK) People Feeding People

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1	2 7p (Y) Trustees	3	4 National Day of Prayer	5	6
7 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER HOLY COMMUNION 	8 10am (FH) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	9 7p (Zoom) Staff Meeting	10 1p (M) Reading for Fun	11	12	13
14 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Mother's Day 11:15a Revive Team "CRT"	15	16	17	18 ASCENSION OF THE LORD	19	20
21 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER ASCENSION SUNDAY Bells & Brunch	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 DAY OF PENTECOST	29 MEMORIAL DAY (Office Closed)	30	31			



# 2023 June



Oxford United  
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<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2	3
 <p>4 TRINITY SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION  PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY 11:30am Covenant Experience</p>	5	6 7p (Y) Trustees	7	8	9	10
11 2ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 11:15a Revive Team "CRT"	12 10am (FH) Rachel Circle 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	13 7p (Zoom) Staff Meeting	14 1p (M) Reading for Fun	15	16	17
18 3RD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST FATHER'S DAY	19 6p (CC) SPRC	20	21	22	23	24
25 4TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST	26 7p (Zoom) Church Council	27	28	29	30	

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 Street, Oxford, MI 48371  
Church office: 248-628-1289 Fax: 248-628-9411  
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Facebook: Oxford UMC

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*Becky Sallans, Office Administrator / Editor*  
[oumc.office@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oumc.office@sbcglobal.net)

*Alexander Wolf, Pianist*

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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:**

*(and also join us either online or via radio)*

*10:00 a.m. Worship*

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

*Coffee & Refreshments after service*

***All Are Welcome!***