



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 24 | July/August 2024

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

OUR MISSION

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

OUR FOCUS

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

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The summer is here and many of us have already made plans to travel within Michigan, to another state or abroad. Some will stay closer to home. Whatever you decide, I hope you will have fun and take time to be with friends and family. But, I am also asking you not to forget your beloved church. I am asking you to be in Sunday worship more than one Sunday a month. To be frank with you, your church needs your presence, witness, prayers and love more than ever.

Just do one thing....just one thing! Help one night with VBS. Volunteer to scoop ice cream at the Ice Cream Social. Invite a friend who loves their pets to attend the Animal Blessing Outdoor Worship. Make a phone call to someone whom you haven't seen or heard from. Invite an individual who has recently joined the church to lunch. Call me to learn more about the ministry needs and leadership required now to keep Oxford UMC moving forward in its spiritual and stewardship growth. I am inviting you and your family to create more of

a spiritual climate where people will feel the healing power and love of Jesus Christ. There is much to be done and little time to sit back and relax. Thanks be to God we still have dedicated, competent, and mission-minded people to keep the hopes and dreams of Oxford UMC alive.

Please!!! **I am counting on YOU** to GET EXCITED ABOUT WHAT CHRIST WILL DO THIS SUMMER for VBS and other programs that will SHARE OUR VISION WITH THE COMMUNITY and those looking for a church home that will embrace and inspire them to grow in their faith!



See you soon and often!
Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor

An underwater scene featuring characters from Finding Nemo: Dory, Nemo, and Mr. Ray. The background is blue with bubbles and coral.

SCUBA
diving into friendship with god

Dive into FUN!

FREE!

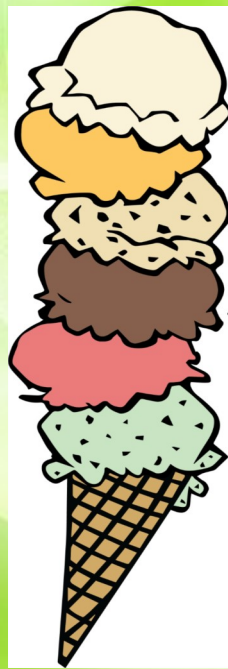
Vacation Bible School
Oxford UMC
21 E Burdick St. Oxford, MI

July 14-17, 2024
5:30 - 8:00 p.m

Ages 5 -15 Register online or first day
myvbs.org/OUMC2024



**Summer
Office Hours**
Only Open Tuesdays
through Thursdays



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday, July 20

12noon - 3pm

*Volunteers are needed - sign up
on the kiosk please!*



Outdoor Worship



Join Us July 21st at 10am
Outdoors with our Animal Friends!
There will be lots of water bowls & treats for them
and a Hot Dog luncheon in the Fellowship Hall
for the humans (can be easily "to go")

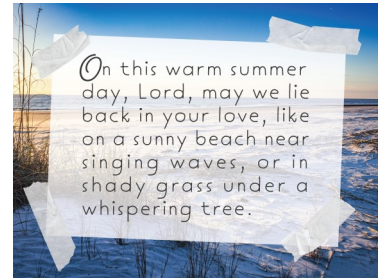
PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Nikki Doctor Family of Mark Steinert Bob Willobee Linda McIntyre Pat Edward
 Family of Don Steiner Rona Jane Chislett Marina Chislett Family of Corey Capers Carolyn Lawrie
 Mike Dempsey Mary Adekitan Connor Donovan Gayle Heverly Denise Gildner
 Julie Langley Olga Neill Pastor Julius Del Pino Clifford Warren
 Kent Patterson Kip Lawrie Joyce Del Pino Ron Shedlowsky Ro Van Wagoner
 Amy Thorson Bruce Conrad Kristina Del Pino Ron Bunker Shirley Conner

We ask your blessings upon:

Our Revived Church - **that Oxford UMC may be a great source of love for this community and that we may revive our vision**
 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
 Those affected by Natural Disasters & all Violence in the US and worldwide
 All of our brothers and sisters who deal with racism & hatred
 First responders, caregivers, medical personnel and all affected by illness
 Those with mental illnesses, are lonely, or do not have someone to pray for them
 Our local and national representatives in all three branches of government
 Those in the military serving on our behalf
 Oxford UMC, Pastor, Staff, Guests, United Methodists, and Christians everywhere
 We also pray for those whose names are unmentioned, dear Lord, for you know and love them.



We ask all these things in your name, Lord Jesus.

Amen!



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



Birthdays

July 4 - Michelle Wood
 July 7 - Matthew Von Knorring
 July 9 - Cristine Spencer
 July 16 - Tony Rizzo
 July 21 - Makenna Kater
 July 22 - Pauline East
 July 25 - Rod Smith
 July 28 - Robert Richter

August 2 - Kay Boyle | Evan Sweeder
 August 4 - Debra Bunker
 August 5 - Tom Bertich | Michelle Mumbrue
 August 15 - Cindy Vincentini
 August 16 - Madelyn Von Knorring
 August 18 - Chris Acheson
 August 25 - Pamela Dudewicz
 August 26 - Amie Von Knorring
 August 27 - Morgan Imirowicz

Anniversaries

July 11 - Dan & Michelle Mumbrue
 July 21 - David & Amie Von Knorring
 July 27 - Todd & Carolyn Lawrie
 July 29 - David & Holly Cischke
 Larry & Teddi Bradford

August 4 - Fred & Teresa Nelson
 August 23 - Mat & Cindy Vincentini



*"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 - 2024

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	\$	3,241.00
February Giving	\$	4,837.32
March Giving	\$	6,763.00
April Giving	\$	7,464.22
May Giving	\$	4,560.00
June Giving (to date)	\$	6,071.48
Giving Subtotal (to date)	\$	<u>32,937.02</u>
 Budget for 2024	\$	111,968.00

At this midpoint of the year we are behind in our budget - please help if you are able!



**Remember
Your Pledge
This Summer**

If you prefer to write a check or donate with cash please use your offering envelopes.

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

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

And no more check writing!
There is no fee. Safe and secure.
Forms are available from the office.

2024 Church Council

Church Council Chairperson:

Michelle Wood (248)969-2545

General Fund Treasurer: Becky Sallans (248)628-1289

Designated Fund Treasurer: Kevin Kater (248)628-7804

Financial Secretary: Larry Bradford (248)628-5759

Finance Chairperson(s): tbd

Board of Trustees: Tony Rizzo (248)628-1787
Michelle Wood (248)969-2545

SPRC Chairperson: tbd

Worship Team: Michelle Mumbrue (248)969-9173
Laura Clancy (248)628-6648

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

Adult Bible Study:

Sue Rizzo (248)628-1787
Rosemary Rumbold (248)391-0973

Education Team:

Mary Dempsey (810)797-5736
Amie Von Knorring (248)342-8051
Bob Willobee (248)628-2357
Megan Imirowicz [megan.imirowicz@gmail.com]

Camp Ed. Coordinator: (available)

Social Media: Megan Imirowicz [megan.imirowicz@gmail.com]

Revive Team: Steve Laidlaw (248)801-5924

UMM President: Fred Nelson (248)628-9826

UMW / Rachel Circle: Carolyn Lawrie (586)925-2687

Lay Member to Annual Conference: (available)

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

There are openings on the SPRC, Nominations, Memorials, Finance, Education and Trustee's committees. Please inform the office if you are interested in serving on a committee.

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.

UM Women: Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle is a faith based women's group that meets once a month (Sept. - June) for fellowship with other women in our community We pray, plan fundraising & fun events. All women of any age are welcome.

We will have our year end luncheon on Monday, July 8th. For more details please contact Carolyn Lawrie. Please continue to lift each other up in prayer. We want everyone well & back on their feet again.

Our first meeting in the Fall will be on Monday, Sept. 9th, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall of Oxford UMC.

Mark your calendars (July & August):

- 1) Friendship Hour is July 28th & Aug. 18th, 2024
- 2) Ice Cream Social - Saturday, July 20th - volunteers are appreciated.



Questions?
Please contact - Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President

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.

July 10: "Getting Old is Murder" by Rita Lakin. She's not Miss Marple. Her friends are no Charlie's Angels. Nevertheless, 75-year-old Gladly Gold and her gang of eccentric Fort Lauderdale retirees are out, about, and hunting down a killer, one who is silently stalking them.

August 14: "The Life She Was Given" by Ellen Marie Wiseman. On a summer evening in 1931, Lilly

Please Note

The following groups are on a summer hiatus but would love for you to join them when they return in the fall:

- ◆ Piece Maker Quilt Group
- ◆ Praise Singers (for Wednesday practice only)
- ◆ Excelsior Bell Choir
- ◆ Wednesday Book Discussion
- ◆ Rachel Circle (see article for exact dates)

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).



Blackwood glimpses circus lights from her attic bedroom window. Lilly has never ventured beyond her narrow room. Momma insists it's for Lilly's own protection, that people would be afraid if they saw her. But on this unforgettable night, Lilly is taken outside for the first time and is sold to the circus sideshow.

If you have any questions, please contact
Mary Garrard (248-613-4505).
Hope to see you at Book Discussion!



Local Missions & Outreach

Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

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

Current Needs -

Canned pineapple	Beef stew	Canned mandarin oranges	Baked Beans
Canned tomatoes	Canned chicken	Chili	Chunky Soup
Cake mix	Personal care items	Feminine Products	

Current Hours -

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

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

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

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

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



Oxford UMC Meal Outreach



ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

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

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

Community Free Meals

If you or someone you know would like a **Free!** hot meal please invite them to visit:

Lake Orion UMC (Mondays) from 5:30-6pm

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

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) is open on Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm.

The Connection Center (at LakePoint Church at 1550 W. Drahrer Rd) need help. Volunteer hours are from 10am - 2pm Monday - Thursday.

Love INC is now overseeing the Meals on Wheels program here at Oxford UMC! We are so glad to be a part of this worthwhile ministry!

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.

This Just In to the Office...



We received a call in the office from someone looking to help a friend's husband... he has cancer and lives in the Ortonville area (outside of our Love INC area). He exists on Ensure Plus & Boost drinks (300+ calories) and is allergic to chocolate. If you are able to help donate these drinks in vanilla or strawberry, please leave them near the church office and Becky will see that he gets them. Helping our neighbors - one person at a time.



Blessing of the Backpacks


We are once again participating in the backpack drive with Oxford/Orion FISH. Our Middle School and High School students are now required to carry clear backpacks. Mary Dempsey has been working with a wholesale business and will be ordering two cases of 24 backpacks at \$140 each. If you would like to make a financial donation to help her with the cost, she would be very appreciative. She is so thankful for the donations she has already received this year and in years past.

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BY THE SEASHORE

The sea and its creatures are evidence of God's intention and purpose in creation.


Directions: Unscramble the words. Then copy the circled letters in order below to complete Psalm 104:24-25, NIV.





DASN
LHSELS
USN
ESED AIS
BHECA
LALUBMER
WRTEA
FRUS
VWSEA



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How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them ___ ___;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the ___ ___, vast and spacious,
teeming with ___ ___ beyond number —
living things both large and small.
Psalm 104:24-25, NIV

Answers: sand, shells, sun, seashore, beach, umbrella, water, waves, all, sea, creatures

Visit Us
ONLINE 

We are always updating and trying to keep our website current.

Did you know there are daily scripture readings?

Have you seen it lately?

Join us at - oxfordunitedmcc.org

~~~~~  
Like social media?

Visit us on Facebook or Instagram

~~~~~


Conferencing as a means of Grace

By Bishop David Bard | MI Area |
Posted on June 11, 2024 in "Bishop's Blog"



In this conferencing season, says Bishop David Bard, may we strive to become conduits of God's grace for one another...

John Wesley, the cofounder of the Methodist stream of the Christian tradition, identified "Christian conference" as a means of grace along with prayer, searching the Scriptures, the Lord's Supper, and fasting. Inspired by Colossians 4:6, "let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt," Wesley wrote this about "Christian conference": "Are we convinced how important and how difficult it is to order our conversation right? Is it always in grace? Seasoned with salt? Meet to minister grace to the hearers?" ("Large Minutes," paragraph 40.5).

As the Wesleyan renewal movement grew into the Methodist Episcopal Church and through various splits and unions, including the 1968 union of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to become The United Methodist Church, our church lives were structured around conferences.

Annual Charge/Church Conferences organize the life of a congregation for the year. The Annual Conference gathers clergy and lay representatives of all the churches in a conference, in our case, the Michigan Conference, every year to worship, celebrate, give an account of our ministries, and affirm the appointment of pastors and other clergy. General Conference meets every four years to worship, celebrate, and provide the parameters for The United Methodist Church across the world. Following each General Conference in the United States are regional Jurisdictional Conferences where bishops are elected and assigned to four-year terms.

I write this blog the week following our Michigan Annual Conference, which was preceded a few weeks earlier by General Conference. I am tired, but a good tired. I fully recognize that not all our "conferencing" consistently meets the Wesleyan standard. Not all our speech is filled with grace and seasoned with salt. Wesley did say this was difficult. In the grace of God, we try, and sometimes remarkable things happen.

At the 2024 General Conference, a genuine spirit of cooperation was felt as we created more space in our denomination while recognizing the need for a more regional governance structure. Our recent Annual Conference was filled with good spirit as we leaned into fearlessness in embracing a new future. We do so prayerfully, joyfully, and with a bit of dance in our step.

Next month, the North Central Jurisdiction meets in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. No new bishops will be elected, given the budget realities of our denomination. We will celebrate the ministry of two retiring bishops, Gregory Palmer and Julius Trimble, and those bishops continuing to serve will receive their assignments for the next four years. I have

attended one other Jurisdictional Conference where there were no elections, and it seemed a little anticlimactic, but then I was not a bishop waiting to hear about my assignment.

Wesley believed that "Christian conference" was a means of grace, that in meeting together and discussing important matters, God's grace could touch our lives meaningfully and profoundly. While that may happen as we conduct our business, my experience with United Methodist conferencing is that grace is most often encountered in meeting people and developing relationships.

For clergy, Annual Conference is the only time we gather with our "church," with the group which includes us as members. Of course, weekly worship is a vital moment of Christian conferencing. Yet for clergy, there is something very special about Annual Conference. As your bishop for these past eight years, Annual Conference is where we have been able to develop our relationship. It is when I have the best opportunity to share what is on my heart and where I sense God's Spirit nudging me and perhaps us together. As tiring as it is, I love being with you all as we gather, and this year seemed particularly special. The spirit of our conference was so often joyful, even as we did hard work.

Yes, all this conferencing is a little tiring, but it continues to be a means of grace. As we move toward Jurisdictional Conference, with all its unanswered questions, I trust God's grace will be present, and I look forward to connecting with friends, old and new, who are so often conduits of that grace.

May we always strive to be that for one another, persons through whom God's grace flows as we seek to have our conversations be filled with grace and seasoned with salt.

I have one final note, and it saddens me to have to add this. One "conversation" that is decidedly not filled with grace or seasoned with salt is a rumor circulating in some United Methodist Annual Conferences. The rumor is now that our denomination, because of actions at General Conference, is allowing congregations to hold marriage services for same-sex couples, churches could be sued for refusing to do so. Those spreading this rumor are doing so to encourage churches to leave the denomination before they may be sued.

This rumor has no basis in fact. Changes to the Book of Discipline: (1) allow churches and clergy to operate according to their conscience, without consequence; (2) do nothing to change the reality that pastors have always decided who they will marry, and no one will force a pastor to officiate a marriage ceremony for any couple; and (3) do nothing to change the fact that churches will continue to determine what weddings are held in their church buildings. This is the decision of each local church's board of trustees. Further, the desires of all clergy and congregations in this matter are to be honored and not judged by others.

Again, though it may be difficult, may we always strive to be persons through whom God's grace flows as we seek to have our conversations be filled with grace and seasoned with salt.

**Questions? Please talk to Pastor Julius
To read the latest from the Bishop ([click here](#))
Or the East Winds District ([click here](#))**



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

Usual Events :

<u>Sundays</u> 9a (S) Praise Singer Practice 10a (S) Worship	<u>Mondays</u> 10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	<u>Tuesdays</u> 10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 12p Program Deadline 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	<u>Wednesdays</u> 10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	<u>Thursdays</u> 10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	<u>Fridays</u> 10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 2p (U) Knit Knack	<u>Saturdays</u> 9:30a (F/FK) People Feeding People
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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 7p (Y) Trustees	4 	5	6
7 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  HOLY COMMUNION	8 12noon (TBD) Rachel Circle Luncheon 7p (M) Church Council	9	10 1p (M) Reading for Fun	11	12	13
14 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	15 6p (CC) SPRC	16	17	18	19	20 12-3p Ice Cream Social (S. Lot)
 SCUBA Vacation Bible School 5:30pm - 8pm Ages 5-15 Register online (myvbs.org/OUMC2024) or at 1st day 						
21 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Outdoor Worship & Animal Blessing [Hot Dog Luncheon to follow]	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	29	30	31			



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				1	2	3
 <p>4 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOLY COMMUNION</p>	5	6	7 7p (Y) Trustees	8	9	10
11 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	12 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	13 7p (Zoom) Staff Meeting	14 1p (M) Reading for Fun	15 	16	17
18 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	26 7p Church Council	27	28	29	30	31

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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

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Alexander Wolf, Pianist

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!