

The Grapevine

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

Issue 18 | July/August 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



It is now officially summer and many of you are taking time to let down from a very hectic and busy year. Your church leadership and staff will continue to respond to the needs of the congregation and hopefully find time to enjoy the warm Summer days as well.

I am aware that summer months result in lower church attendance and less income. But I know in my heart that the good and faithful people of Oxford Church will continue to respond to human need as we discover new ways to be THE CHURCH that extends its Christian vision outwardly in the Oxford community.

Have fun this summer! Be safe! Pray often and get closer to God. Work on releasing old bad habits and keep asking God to help you. Reach out to someone whom you have not seen or heard from in years. Read your Bible and think about forming a bible class that will spark your interest in learning how scripture can help transform your life.

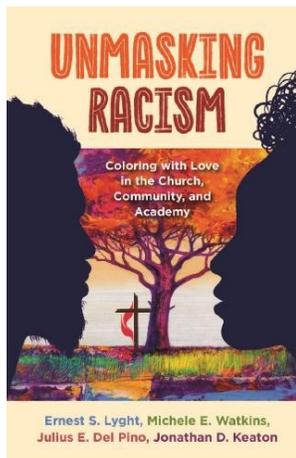
Most importantly, take excellent care of yourself. God loves you, we all love you and we need to see you here in September rested, healthy and ready to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the kingdom.

With deep gratitude for the privilege to serve you!

Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor

Pastor's book is now complete & available on Amazon!

(He will be holding a book signing in the fall and may have them available at a discount)



Unmasking Racism: Coloring with Love in the Church, Community, and Academy suggests that exposing, unmasking, and/or eliminating racism are prophetic responses to God's call. Love of God and neighbor represent their foundation. Justice, equality, mercy, and love for all God's children are one decision away—namely making a commitment to do God's will. By coloring with God's love, we take the long view. God uses our prayers, meditation, discernment, nonviolent direct action, and redemptive suffering to move our world towards a more perfect union.

PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Carolynn Foss Cischke Family Ruth Patterson Family Chuck McIntyre Millie Solon Sue Smith
Gail Mack Olga & Eric Neill Joyce Del Pino Jill Jude Debbie Mason Kent Patterson Kip Lawrie
Ron Shedlowsky & Family Rev. Kristin Lowe Ro Van Wagoner 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!

Need prayer with Pastor? Sign up on the sheet outside the office.



Birthdays

July 2 - Adam Dudewicz
July 4 - Michelle Wood
July 5 - Kyle Beckwith
July 16 - Tony Rizzo
July 21 - Makenna Kater
July 22 - Pauline East
July 28 - Bob Richter

Anniversaries

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

August 2 - Kay Smith
August 4 - Debra Bunker
August 5 - Tom Bertich | Michelle Mumbrue
August 7 - Harvey Acheson
August 14 - Kevin Friesmuth
August 15 - Cindy Vincentini
August 18 - Chris Acheson
August 23 - Megan Bellairs
August 25 - Pamela Dudewicz
August 26 - Amie Von Knorring
August 27 - Morgan Imirowicz

August 3 - Frank & Gail Enekes
August 4 - Fred & Teresa Nelson
August 23 - Mat & Cindy Vincentini

Being planned for this Summer...

Many hands are needed to make events fun for all. Please contact the Revive "CRT" Team (Chairperson - Steve Laidlaw) if you are able to help with some of these events. Lets show Oxford our love this summer!



**OUTDOOR
PRAISE &
WORSHIP**
SUNDAY SERVICE & PICNIC
Sunday, August 13 - starting at 10 am

Join us!

Would You Laugh?

Sunday June 18, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Joy J. Moore

Organization: Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

<https://day1.org/weekly-broadcast/647e26c66615fb799500001a/joy-j-moore-would-you-laugh>

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

This should be a funny story. It's not. We might laugh, but not in humor. There are moments, but that's not the gist of the story. The memorable moments are what we tell more often. So many memorable moments recorded in scripture occur in the heat of the day. (So many that I'm tempted to understand why the Bible Belt includes so many southern states.)

There in the heat, Abraham shows hospitality to God. Like the woman at the well did for Jesus, a giddy Abraham receives, with respect and resources, the familiar presence of God's messengers...here they are again; this isn't the first encounter. Remembering the moments of Abraham's life can be like scrolling a friend's Facebook page. You know that friend: the one who routinely meets noteworthy people and regularly encounters the holy – that one. Well, Abraham's practicing hospitality here, the hospitality that marks his character, the kind of hospitality in action that God expects of God's people, in that he requests not to be passed by. And their affirmative response to Abraham noticeably does not overlook his wife, Sarah.

What audacity God has! At this juncture in Abraham and Sarah's life, that promise that has been repeated over and over again - it provoked an involuntary outburst of laughter from Sarah.

God had promised all kinds of audacious promises to us, not those that make us laugh. Or would they? God promised that he "will never forget the needy – the hope of the afflicted will never perish" (Psalm 9:18). God promises to move between our yesterday and today, giving us a glimpse of tomorrow. God promises to stand between us and our enemies so that both our attentions turn to a divine alternative and forgiveness becomes possible.

We serve an audacious God whose promises often leave us speechless. A God who sends out ordinary people like you and me into a chaotic world. But hearing God's voice will probably leave you speechless - and maybe you should laugh aloud.

Deborah probably wanted to laugh when Barak said, go with me. Esther probably wanted to laugh when Mordecai

suggested she was positioned for such a time as that. Naomi probably almost smiled when Ruth said she would stay with her. Rahab must have laughed when the spies asked for her help. Tamar might even have smiled when she realized she had outwitted Judah. The woman at the well may have wanted to laugh when a thirsty Jesus claimed he had water for her. And Rhoda's glee was so great she forgot to let Peter in when she realized he was released from prison. Laugh at God's audacity to call ordinary people to do extraordinary tasks.

Which reminds me of the question: **Are we willing to be available to God like Abraham and Sarah?** Not just saved by grace, but set apart in a world of contempt and complacency, sanctified by the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. Christianity requires behavior that is more recognizably Christlike than vocal claims to follow Jesus... Among those who manipulate, we are to do good; among those who oppress, we seek justice; among those who lie, we help the downtrodden; among those who kill, we defend the cause of the orphans and fight for the rights of the widows; among those who ignore the realities of confinement, let us set the captives free.

Each of these are radical practices of hospitality that remain awe-inspiring, now as they were then, because the words of Jesus remain true: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." And the joyful noise of proclaiming the good news: "The kingdom of heaven has come near"? Well, that remains an incredible promise. We see glimpses, but we may have lost the awe.

Medical facilities cure the sick, but cleansing the lepers couldn't mean providing vaccines for diseases like measles, polio, or COVID 19. A few Pentecostals may cast out demons. And, Jesus, no one wants to raise the dead. But what if the people of God were available to do God's absurdity in the world? Or were so aware of God's presence that we recognize when the stranger we encounter might just be an angel sent from God? Like Abraham, we will have to not only recognize their need, but generously extend to them hospitality.

Righteousness is not merely good beliefs about the God made known in Jesus. Righteousness is a demonstration of that trust through words and deeds in a particular time and in a particular place.

John Wesley understood that God has never been looking for a Sunday-only religion but a society of love and mutual care which astonishes unbelievers and is recognizable as something entirely new. The divine intention has always been for the people of God to turn heads, to turn the world upside down, and to draw attention to itself as the location of hope and belief in a

Be Transformed

world shot through with cynicism. This is the way to heaven, the scriptural way of salvation, the struggle toward holiness.

And this is possible! A lying, doubting Abraham and a laughing, doubting Sarah show us. Abraham has a promise from God, a promise that is bigger than anything he and his wife can do for themselves. A clear indicator that you are in God's will is when the thing to be done is so incredible, so audacious, so laughable that you find yourself speechless at the possibility; when the thing to be done is so significant, you can't do it on your own.

This was so unbelievable that Sarah couldn't help but laugh. It happens. And when she was caught, she lied. It happens. Abraham will follow her lead in this more times over through their journey, but what they did next made all the difference in the world. Sarah and Abraham yield to God's will. Trust in God is to surrender all you can imagine for yourself to do what God has designed for you. Trust is leaving where you are to find the home God has prepared for you.

In our moments of darkness, in our moments of doubt, in our moments of uncertainty, in our midnight moments, there is a light that shines through asking us the same question that was posed to Abraham and Sarah: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" The resurrection light of Jesus Christ guarantees nothing is too hard for God, because the Lord dealt with Sarah as he said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised.

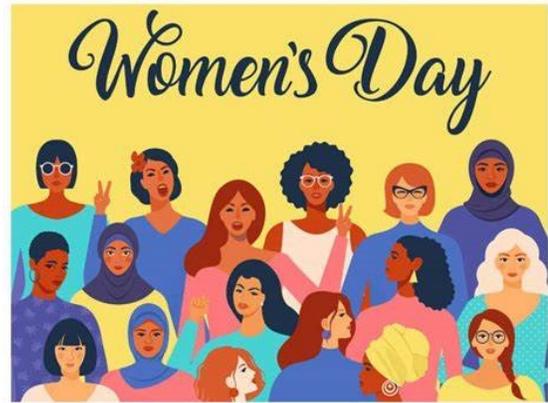
So, this story is our story. And this promise is our promise. Which means the responsibility is ours. Just as Jesus sent the disciples, God's Spirit is still nudging into the world those who are available to him.

Abraham and Sarah were willing to change their name, their residency, and their vocation when the promise of being parents was planted. Their imaginations were shifted, and Abraham, an old man, became giddy with the hospitality he loved to pass out. So giddy that when his friends showed up again, he was giving out instructions to his wife and to his servants for how to cook. Those expectations should shift our imagination too, because God's promises and God's expectations are no less audacious for us than they were then. Laughable, indeed.

This is yet one of many demonstrations of God's faithfulness that result in a woman getting the last word.

We can know God's voice. We can allow our lives to be shaped by God's Word. The rumors of the resurrection (started by something a few women said) have us here in a chaotic moment with an audacious God, who's making an incredible promise that leaves us speechless centuries after Jesus' public death. And we're still trying to make sense of the radical promises of God.

Go ahead and smile. Or maybe, you're going to laugh out loud at God. Amen.



National Women's Day is Sunday, August 6, 2023

We are very excited to announce a special Sunday service in honor of this national holiday.

Join us at 10am for Worship with Friendship time after the service.

We promise to feed you both spiritually, with fellowship & yummy treats.

What a great way to start the week!



for Worship!

10am / online

Holy Communion -

First Sunday of the month

New Directories are Available!

Prayer for July 4th

The following lines are from a long prayer, "That America Fulfil the Promise of Its Founding," by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today. (Full text of the service may be found at <https://tinyurl.com/nhc8747x>.)

ChurchArtPro | July 2023

O God, who is Liberator and Redeemer,
Lawgiver and Judge, ...

May America remain loyal
to the principles of the Declaration of Independence,
and extend their application
to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of oppression,
persecution, and unjust discrimination;
save us from religious, racial and class conflicts;
may our country be a haven of refuge
to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together,
of reconciling differences of opinion
and averting clashes of interest,
of helping one another
to achieve a harmonious and abundant life.

Give us the wisdom to elect to leadership capable,
conscientious people, people of integrity who will
govern our people according to your law of
righteousness.

Bless the enterprise of the American people, that
they may utilize the natural resources of the land for
the highest good of all people...

That the Star-Spangled Banner,
the symbol of our American democracy,
may ever wave o'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave. Amen.

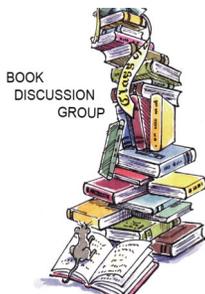


Come to Mission U

Study God's word and learn how faith moves us to action at Mission u, July 13-15, sponsored by United Women in Faith. Mount Pleasant: First UMC is the host, with a virtual option available.

Register now (go to: <https://michiganumc.org/event/mission-u/>)

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, July 12: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing

of everyone he loves.

The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his older sister, the brilliantly acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another. It is this unshakeable bond between them that both saves their lives and thwarts their futures. Set over the course of five decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past.

Wednesday, August 9: *To be decided*

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



Local Missions - Helping our Neighbors

Oxford / Orion FISH Food Pantry

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

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

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



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!” Remember - NO EXPIRED FOOD PLEASE!

Current Needs -

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

Current Hours -

Office: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9 to noon [Please call to make an appointment]
Pantry: Tuesdays - 1-3pm; Wednesdays - 10-2pm; Thursdays - 1-5 pm; 3rd Saturdays of the month - 9:45-11:30am (snow days - if the schools are closed, the pantry will be closed)

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.



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 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-noon

There are other volunteer positions available and they really could use the help! Some include working with clients and some are behind the scenes. Please call and volunteer today!
It could be as little as a few times a month or one day a week!

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.

UM Women: Rachel Circle

Greetings! Summer is upon us and the weather experts say this is the driest one since 1922. Similar to the flowers in the garden, we need daily care to stay strong, grow & flourish into all that our Lord, Jesus Christ wants for us.

I know this because I had my own spiritual drought about a month ago. It was the support of my sisters in Christian faith that actually recognized that I was **“lost in the darkness”**. They knew instantly that I needed prayer & to go home and take care of myself. So with hugs, loving prayers lifting me up & orders to go home & take care of myself, I grumbled my way home.

I not only physically (sleep deprived) but my soul was dark and I felt so completely isolated and alone. Gone was the warmth & joy that comes from being a well nourished Christian woman. The Son-shine that usually allows me to start each day, being grateful for another day, wasn't there. This happened very quickly due to a recipe of: lack of sleep for a couple of nights, which caused me to be cranky & wanted to do life on my own terms, skip a couple of days of quiet/devotional time, no gratitude journaling, nothing. Which led me not wanting to take any devotional input or quiet reflection of the self destructive, slippery sloped, downward path I was unknowingly taking.

Trust me when I say, **take control of your spiritual path through daily prayer, daily devotional reading & meditation on growth & everyday new beginnings**. Live your life with a grateful heart. Journal 3 different things you are grateful for every day. Write it down anywhere, but put it in writing everyday for at least a week. You will notice the difference in yourself.

You can count on the fellowship of your Christian sisters in Rachel Circle. We are taking a short summer break from meetings only, we still gather to host Friendship Hour on Sunday mornings & daily prayer for all who are in need.

Please, feel free to join us at any time, just contact the church office and we will help steer you away from the drought of the Spirit. As quickly as an unwatered garden will wilt, don't leave your spirit & soul unattended. We are reaching out to help you stay on or get on, the right path. Talk to Jesus & tell Him you are ready.

Reminders: Rachel Circle summer porch party at Shirley Conner's on Monday, July 10th at noon. Bring a dish to pass. Plates, cups & cutlery will be supplied. Rachel Circle will be hosting Friendship Hour July 9th, & 23rd. & August 13th & 27th. If you would like to help with any of these dates, please contact me.



Hope to see you soon,
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).



Friendship Hour is looking for hosts for the summer months.

Do you love to bake, cook, put out fresh fruit or just create a beautiful looking buffet?

Then we have the perfect place to make your dreams come true!

A little nervous to volunteer?

No worries, we will cheerfully walk you through & guide you. Or you could shadow a group doing it. You will have fun creating a welcome environment for all to enjoy after the service.

Please contact Carolyn Lawrie through the church office to let her know you'd like to try it.

The rest is a piece of cake - (sorry for the 'pun' I couldn't resist!)



**Please contact Michelle Mumbree or Laura Clancy to help with worship. We very much appreciate your service!
Thank You!**



*"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
April Giving	\$	7,622.34
May Giving	\$	8,823.90
 Budget for 2023	 \$	 118,856.00

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

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.*



**Don't Forget
Your Tithe**

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 and AmyBeth Fleischer	(248) 391-0973
Board of Trustees:	David Cischke Michelle Wood	(248)863-8037 (248)969-2545
SPRC Chairperson:	John Warren	(248)778-8735
Worship Team:	Michelle Mumbrue Laura Clancy	(248)969-9173 (248)628-6648
Missions & Outreach:	John & Devon Warren	(248)778-8735
Adult Bible Study:	Sue Rizzo Rosemary Rumbold	(248)628-1787 (248)391-0973
Education Team:	Mary Dempsey Amie Von Knorring Bob Willobee	(810)797-5736 (248)342-8051 (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.

(Next meeting - August 28th)



*The Church office will be closed
for the week of July 4th.*

*Wishing you and yours a very safe
and fun holiday!*

*Pastor Julius is available for
all pastoral emergencies*

An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

BY KEN SLOANE

Spiritual gifts are just that – gifts, given to Christian believers for the building up of the whole body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13 (NRSV) says, “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”

Spiritual gifts are not talents or skills. “These fruits and gifts are not of our own achievement. They and others are the outgrowth of the Spirit’s work in us, by grace, through our faith in Jesus the Christ. And they are not given for personal gain. Through these fruits and gifts, the Holy Spirit empowers us for ministry in the world” (*United Methodist Member’s Handbook*, Revised by George Koehler [Discipleship Resources, 2006], 84-85).

It’s important to discover your spiritual gifts and the spiritual gifts of others. Often, others recognize our gifts before we do. By using an assessment tool, you can learn about your gifts and the gifts of others. Here are three important statements about how spiritual gifts affect the whole community of faith:

1. The use of spiritual gifts provides life and vitality to individuals and to the congregation. By using your spiritual gifts, you are contributing to the spiritual health of the church.

2. When someone neglects to use his or her spiritual gifts, the whole community suffers.

When an individual is doing ministry in an area he or she is not gifted for, this leads to dissatisfaction and hurts the whole community of faith.

Where Do Spiritual Gifts Come From?

In Acts 2:38, Peter responds to the people who ask what they must do to be followers of Jesus. He says, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

In this statement, we find a fantastic promise: When we give our lives to Jesus Christ, we receive more than forgiveness and eternal life. We also are filled with the Holy Spirit, whose role in our lives is to provide us with guidance and power for living this life. As a result, we are given spiritual gifts that allow us to find our place in God’s community of faith. As we employ these gifts in daily living, we find fulfillment and purpose in our relationship with God and with others.

Spiritual Gifts Help You Live Out Your Call

The Wesleyan understanding of faith centers on the idea that life is an ongoing process of conversion that is highlighted by responding to these four calls:

When we discover our spiritual gifts, we are given the power to live into God’s call as the Holy Spirit shapes our understanding of ourselves. Conversion is a process

of letting go of the things that hold us back and of putting on the spirit of God that renews and gives life. The use of our spiritual gifts is life changing.



How Do I Discover My Spiritual Gifts?

First, you need to know what they are. “The Spiritual Gifts Assessment Inventory” available [here](#) covers twenty of the spiritual gifts found in Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:7-11, and Ephesians 4:11-13. Spiritual gifts are not limited to the ones used in this assessment. Gifts like hospitality, music, and others are also found in the Bible. The more you learn about your gifts, the better you are able to use them. Most important, you will discover those gifts that do not fit you, which means you need others who can work with you and support you.

Second, you need to have your gifts confirmed by the community of faith to see how your gifts benefit the whole congregation. [see the next page for a list of areas you can use your gifts to help Oxford UMC →]

Third, you have to try out your gifts. That’s where our energy for ministry comes from. Growing communities of faith give people multiple opportunities to find where their gifts best fit to build up the whole church

What Are Primary Gifts and Supporting Gifts?

Your spiritual gifts are not set in stone. We all have a mixture of gifts that work together and give each of us a unique way to contribute to ministry. Your primary gift is your strongest gift; oftentimes, it is the gift people will most easily confirm. Supporting gifts are attributes we can explore. In many instances, they become the most important ways we contribute to the work of the whole ministry.

You Are Uniquely Gifted

*“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well”
Psalm 139:14 (NIV).*

God has created us to be unique and has called us in Christ to be part of one body, each with a purpose. Our hope is that in exploring the spiritual gifts that God has given to you, you will find a place in that body that blesses you and fills you with a sense of purpose and satisfaction.

Ministry Opportunities at Oxford United Methodist Church

(Please return as soon as possible to the church office)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL AREAS WHERE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING OR LEARNING MORE

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- MUSICIAN (*Instrument: _____*)
- PARAMENTS / ALTAR GUILD
- PRAISE TEAM
- BELL CHOIR
- WORSHIP LITURGIST
- SONG LEADER
- COMMUNION ASSISTANT
- USHER
- TECH TEAM
- WORSHIP TEAM
- WEDDING HOSTS

OUTREACH

- GUEST GREETER
- CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY
- ASSISTING MINISTER WITH VISITATION
- LOVE I.N.C. LIAISON
- FISH FOOD PANTRY TEAM
- PRAYER MINISTRY
- PRAYER CHAIN TEAM MEMBER

FELLOWSHIP

- FRIENDSHIP HOUR HELPER
- BRUNCH COOK
- SET-UP / CLEAN-UP
- BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- ADULT BIBLE STUDY LEADER
- MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
- SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

YOUTH / CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- CONFIRMATION / SMALL GROUP LEADER (*soon to begin*)
- HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP MINISTRY
- NURSERY ASSISTANT

PROPERTY

- TRUSTEE / GENERAL HANDYMAN
- LANDSCAPE / YARD WORK
- SPECIAL EVENT SET-UP

SOCIAL MISSIONS

- CROP WALK PARTICIPANT
- KNITTING
- QUILTING
- PEOPLE FEEDING PEOPLE MINISTRY

FINANCE / STEWARDSHIP

- FINANCE TEAM
- ENDOWMENT / MEMORIAL TEAM
- SUNDAY OFFERING COUNTER
- ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDITOR
- STEWARDSHIP TIME / ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE
- SHARE PERSONAL FAITH TESTIMONY

CARE MINISTRIES

- UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: RACHEL CIRCLE
- UNITED METHODIST MEN: BAND OF BROTHERS
- COOK EMERGENCY MEALS
- DELIVER HOME COMMUNION (w/ PASTOR)

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- HELP IN CHURCH OFFICE WHEN NEEDED
- LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EAST WINDS DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

WAYS YOU CAN SERVE THAT ARE NOT LISTED:

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



Knit Knack

We meet every Friday from 1-3pm (*Note change in time!*) 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

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

During the school year:

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

Come to hear us play every third Sunday
Please remember to join us for brunch immediately after the service.

Praise Singers

Join us to practice Sunday's songs and hymns. For the summer, rehearsals are at 9am on Sunday mornings.

If you have questions or if you would like to be a part of the Praise Singers please contact Renae Shagena (248-969-2225).



Just for Fun...

Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB LZDGBOK
 DKFQROMTBHJOBSQEXZT
 OKXWJHOBMIZTIJSDQKU
 EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU
 RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT _____

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV



Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)

○ _____

The heavens are the work of God's what? (Psalm 8:3)

_____○_____

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)

_____○_____

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)

○_____○_____

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)

_____○_____

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

_____○_____○_____

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

_____○_____

The heave_s declare the _lory _f _od;
 the ski_s _roc_aim the wo_k of his ha_ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV



July 2023

Oxford United
Methodist Church
21 E. Burdick St.
Oxford, MI 48371
[This calendar is online at:
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>
<p>9a (S) Praise Singer Practice</p> <p>10a (S) Worship</p>	<p>10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels</p> <p>12p Program Deadline</p> <p>1p (CD/F/FK) Piece Makers Quilting Projects (1st & 3rd weeks)</p> <p>8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid</p>	<p>10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10:30a - 3:30p (P) Pastor's Office Hours</p>	<p>10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels</p> <p>8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid</p>	<p>10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels</p> <p>2p (U) Knit Knack</p>	<p>9:30a (F/FK) People Feeding People</p>

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Satur-</u>
						1
 <p>2 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Church Office Closed for 4th of July Holiday week</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>11:15a (U) Revive Team "CRT"</p> <p>11:15a (M) Covenant Experience (w/ special birthday celebration)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12noon (S. Conner porch) Rachel Circle End of the Season Luncheon</p> <p>7p (Zoom) Worship Team</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 1p (M) Reading for Fun</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p>	<p>31</p>					



2023

August

Oxford United
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Usual Events :

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>
9a (S) Praise Singer Practice 10a (S) Worship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 12p Program Deadline 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	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 7p (Y) Trustees	2	3	4	5
 6 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOLY COMMUNION Women Focus Worship	7	8 7p (Zoom) Staff Meeting	9 1p (M) Reading for Fun	10	11	12 12 - 3pm Ice Cream Social
13 11TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC 11:15a Revive Team "CRT"	14 7p (Zoom) Worship Team	15	16	17	18	19
20 12TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST	21 6p (CC) SPRC	22	23	24	25	26
27 13TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST	28 7p (Zoom) Church Council	29	30	31		

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

First Class
Stamp
Required

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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Oxford United Methodist Church

21 E Burdick Street, Oxford, MI 48371
Church office: 248-628-1289 Fax: 248-628-9411
Website: www.oxfordunitedmc.org
Facebook: Oxford UMC

The Reverend Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
oumc.office@sbcglobal.net

Becky Sallans, Office Administrator / Editor
oumc.office@sbcglobal.net

Alexander Wolf, Pianist

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The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space

LARGE PRINT EDITION available upon request

We thank all who create and read The Grapevine!



Regular Sunday Worship:

(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!