



The Grapevine

Oxford United Methodist Church ~ Rev. Dr. Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor
Issue 26 | November/December 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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from the
PASTOR!



Dear Friends: Thank you for continuing to discover how God is calling the people of Oxford UMC to be change agents and Disciples of Jesus Christ. This has been a year filled with challenges, unexpected events and learning to trust In God's WORD revealed through the ministry of Jesus the Christ. Advent is a season of waiting. What do you need in your life to be spiritually fulfilled and ready....ready to bring love, healing, and a sense of justice to our common good here in Oxford!

We know in our hearts as we prepare to enter this Holy season of Advent, we have much to do to **be** ready for the Christ child! What will you do differently to truly bring love, peace and joy to your family, the community of Oxford and the world this Advent? Will you be ready? Will you allow the transforming power of Jesus to remove your fears long enough to catch the VISION of new beginnings? I pray to God so.

What will you do to bring people closer to God? How will the people you meet know that you are a Christian? Will you be willing to step out of your comfort zone to make a phone call, or a personal visit to someone who does not know what this season of Advent means?

Let's be ready. Let's give a little more of our time, our energy and our resources to lighten up the world with the love of Jesus, this dimming the darkness that causes unjustifiable pain, isolation and marginalization. Please come forth and join me in this needed effort to promote freedom and a safer world.

In Faith and Hope,
Julius E. Del Pino, Pastor

HOPE Love JOY FAITH Peace



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3:

Please Note: Daylight Savings Time Ends!

At our 10am worship we will celebrate all those whom we have lost since our last All Saints day by lighting a candle and lifting them up in prayer to the Lord. We ask that you continue to keep their families and friends in prayer. Here are the names of church members, constituents, family and friends we will include (**please let us know if you have others to add to the list**):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entered into Eternity</u>
Marilyn Von Knorring - <i>Family of the Von Knorring's</i>	July 31, 2023
John Christiansen - <i>Friend of Kay Boyle</i>	November 2023
Charles McIntyre - <i>Husband of Linda McIntyre</i>	December 22, 2023
Eric W. Neill - <i>Father-in-law of Carolyn Lawrie</i>	January 15, 2024
Sue Smith - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i>	February 28, 2024
Leonard Solon - <i>Uncle of Michelle Wood / B-in-L of Millie Solon</i>	February 29, 2024
David Allen Hampshire - <i>Nephew of Kay Boyle</i>	March 4, 2024
Shirley Ricketts - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i>	March 10, 2024
Wilson Wells - <i>Friend of Laurie Del Pino</i>	March 30, 2024
Lindsay - <i>Niece of Tony Rizzo</i>	April 2024
Corey Capers - <i>Family of Pastor Julius Del Pino</i>	May 6, 2024
Dan Slosar - <i>Friend of Mary Dempsey</i>	August 2024
Karen Koski - <i>Friend of Mary Dempsey</i>	August 2024
Peter Muktar - <i>Co-worker of Steve Laidlaw</i>	September 2024
Dr. Eric K. Taylor, DDS - <i>Friend of Mary Dempsey</i>	October 3, 2024
Scott Tarach "Mr. Zero's" - <i>Friend of the Von Knorring's</i>	October 12, 2024
Ron Bunker - <i>Oxford UMC Member</i>	October 14, 2024
Gayle Moore - <i>Friend of Laura Clancy</i>	October 17, 2024

We invite you to take a stroll through the Memorial Garden.

Brick Orders for the Memorial Garden are available on the kiosk or from the church office.



Church Conference

Saturday, November 9 | 3pm | @ Goodrich United Methodist
 [8071 S. State Rd - Goodrich, MI]

All are welcome to attend - Note: only members may vote

[SPRC meeting with the DS is on October 30 @ 2pm via Zoom]



Trimming our Church

Sunday, November 24th

(after the worship service)

All are invited to stay after the service to help decorate for the Christmas season. Pizza will be provided for lunch. Thank you in advance for your time and service.



UM Student Day

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

*This year at Oxford UMC we will be celebrating
UM Student Sunday with Special Guest Speaker: Emma Rahm
All Young Adults & Students are invited to be part of this service*



100% of your UM Student Day donation goes to scholarships for students?

Every year, GBHEM (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry) awards an average of \$5.5 million in financial aid to United Methodist students. These funds are truly an investment in the future. Every dollar spent goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. We are blessed to support thousands of students through

Please Help Give!



The Giving Tree will be set up when we decorate the church for Christmas and will be dressed with

Christmas “ornaments” upon which will be written items for the **Grace Centers of Hope homeless shelter and for our neighbors in need.** In addition to the usual **hats and mittens**, we are collecting **socks and underwear** for children, adults and families. All sizes are needed.

Please take one or more of these “ornaments”, purchase the item, and place it in the collection box near the Giving Tree. **These items must be NEW, not used, and please do NOT wrap them.**

This mission project gives us the opportunity to show our love for those less fortunate and to bring blessings to children, youth, and adults.

A very big thank you to Joe Madore and the Oxford Village Council for fixing the holes in the south parking lot this autumn. It really saved us a lot of money. As we open the parking lot to all during the week, it was a gracious thing for the village to do. If you see Joe or a Council member, please let them know we are very grateful!

We also thank Tony Rizzo and the Trustees for seeing the potential in this partnership! We minister to the neighborhood and they help us with the upkeep.

scholarships, but we would like to do more. Our funds are limited, and every awards cycle we end up with a large pool of qualified candidates who we are unable to help because there was no money left to give. You can help us change that! Donate on November 26th and help more students answer God’s call to higher education.

ABOUT UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY (UMSD)...

United Methodist Student Day was the original Special Sunday created by United Methodist Church Sunday Schools who collected offerings to help advance education for their children. The fund was originally established in 1872 as the Children’s Fund. Today United Methodist Student Day Sunday has the same purpose, calling upon the denomination to support their students as they prepare for life by adding knowledge to their faith. The funds received from the offering go into the United Methodist Student Loan Fund to underwrite scholarships for United Methodist students. Currently, there are over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). Students can apply for scholarships at gbhem.org/loansandscholarships.

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN, IN ALL THE PLACES
YOU CAN, TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN.

- REV. JOHN WESLEY

What Are You Waiting For?

2025 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL



Now is the Time....

We Have Hope!

We have many new members, and it is a wonderful thing God is doing here at Oxford UMC! We are becoming an exciting place in this community. During the week we are used as a virtual school, as well as a theater rehearsal space and the sounds of voices fill the halls that were previously silent during the week.

We Have Love!

That is what some of the new members have said that they felt from our congregation. They have felt loved, and we need to continue to welcome and love on our fellow brothers and sisters whom God loves so dearly. Sometimes this means feeding them, paying for more toilet paper, or keeping the lights on a bit longer.

We Have Joy!

It feels so good to give love and share the gifts that God has so graciously given to us with others! If we can help one more person, it's ok to feel good about it.

We Have Peace!

Our Lord God grants us the peace that passes all understanding. Please pray about giving generously this stewardship season to be at peace that your tithe is what the Lord is asking you to give. Whether it is the 10% tithe that is asked in Deuteronomy 14:22-26 and referenced by Jesus in Matthew 23:23 or something else - that is between you and God. Just be at peace with your giving.

Commitment cards are due by December 1st



*"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.

As you can see from the graph this year's giving is the lowest in years. We understand that prices have increased everywhere but also here at church. We are currently behind what is needed to make our budget for this year - **Please help if you can!**

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	\$	6,338.48
July Giving	\$	4,133.87
August Giving	\$	3,948.00
September Giving	\$	5,244.35
October Giving (to date)	\$	<u>4,075.00</u>
Giving Subtotal (to date)	\$	<u>50,605.24</u>

Budget for 2024 \$ 111,968.00



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.



2025 Commitment Card Oxford UMC

We thank God for our blessings!
I/We commit to giving our prayers, volunteer help, & year-end donation

My/Our Financial Commitment
\$ _____ weekly (for 52 weeks)
\$ _____ monthly (for 12 months)
\$ _____ Electronic Giving

[Please include authorization form and submit with voided check]

Offering Envelopes Request (check one):

Weekly envelopes (52) Monthly envelopes (12)

Name(s) (print): _____

Signature: _____

Oxford UMC - 21 E. Burdick St. Oxford, MI 48371

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

~~~~~  
We also have a channel on YouTube! go to OUMC Oxford MI

From the SPRC...

Currently our beloved Oxford UMC is faced with serious financial challenges. We have been increasing our new members and families, but we need more consistent financial support and volunteers. Most of us have a full plate with family and work responsibilities. If we want our church to survive it will take all of us and then some. Oxford UMC has been in this community for over 100 years. What a shame if we are forced to look at possibly closing because we can't support the continuation through financial and volunteer means.

There is discussion in the works for going to a one team concept that would include one or two members from each of the teams on Church Council. The aim is to create one Team that would speak for all the key areas that help the church function and implement various programs and worship concepts. In one meeting there can be discussion, concept ideas, and plans for implementation with input from each of the leaders. Our plan is that with one major committee, the work of the church would be more simplified making it easier for each of the team members to be better informed holding to one meeting per month as much as possible.

At the moment there are a number of openings on teams specific to the operations of the Church. For example: Worship team, Missions and Outreach, Trustees and more. Many of our long term church members have manned these committees beyond the three year commitment and it is time to give them a break. We work hard to prevent burnout. Please do some soul searching and see if you would be willing to volunteer to take a place on one of the committees.

Lots of ideas are floating around and we need people and financial support to implement them for a more vibrant church. The Youth and Children's programs are primary elements. They are the future of this church.

Pauline East
Chair, Staff Parish team



We will once again have a float in the Oxford parade on the first Saturday in December (12/7). If you are interested in helping to build or walking on the day - please see Tony Rizzo or one of the Trustees!

Meet Our New Finance Chair: Jonathan "Jon" Gross...

"As I thought about accepting the finance coordinator position I did some reflection. It was 50 years ago that I joined the Trinity UMC in Lapeer as a teenager. In December 1996 I joined Oxford UMC. Over the last 50 years I have served on many committees and was the chairman of most of them. I was the Oxford UMC church treasurer and computerized the books. I have been a delegate to annual conference for 11 years and was the conference head usher for 9 years.

My professional career has been as a biomedical engineer at local hospitals for 40 years as of 10/01/2024. I am currently a clinical engineering project manager for Henry Ford Health. Right now my biggest project is converting the Accession Hospitals to Henry Ford Hospitals. I have opened 7 hospitals and clinics for Henry Ford. The next big hospital will be the new Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. This is about a 2 billion project. I also have a couple part time jobs working for Little Casers Arena and Meijer's.

My family and I along with our 2 puppies live in Lake Orion.

I have always led by example so I am going to increase my giving to OUMC and challenge you to increase your giving as well. Pray for Oxford UMC. Pray for the Pastor. Pray for me in this new role."

If you have questions for Jon
you may reach him at 568-604-2281



Christmas

PARTY

AFTER THE PARADE

DECEMBER

SATURDAY **7** +/- 2:00 PM

FREE

**Hot Drinks - Food -
Kids Gifts - Fun!**

FREE

Oxford UM Church | 21 E. Burdick St. | Oxford, MI
www.oxfordunitedmc.org

PRAY for and Encourage One Another Daily

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

Bob Willobee Family of Ron Bunker Carol Hauxwell Glen McLaughlin & Geraldine
 Carolynn Foss Jack Kelly & her unborn baby Anna Taylor Ann Anderson John Hauxwell
 Kip Lawrie Beth Attack Rona Jane Chislett Marina Chislett Rick Smith Chris Hass
 Jennifer & Jeri Nikki Doctor Connor Donovan Denise Gildner Julie Langley Olga Neill
 Clifford Warren Kent Patterson Ron Shedlowsky and Family Ro Van Wagoner
 Shirley Conner Bruce Conrad Ginny Conrad Amy Thorson Mary Adekitan

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 our school children, their teachers, school workers and administrators
 All Families + those expecting new children; dealing with loss of a loved one
 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
 Those affected by Natural Disasters & all Violence in the US and worldwide
 All affected by the Oxford High School and all other School Shootings
 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**

November

November 2 - Keri Kater
 November 6 - Peyton Kater
 November 17 - Linda McIntyre
 November 18 - Todd Lawrie

December

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

Dec. 19 - Eric & Catherine Richard

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Nov. 22 - Tony & Sue Rizzo
 Nov. 24 - Bill & Ro VanWagoner

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. There is a “special” drive during November 4 - 14:

Thanksgiving Food Drive -

Mashed potatoes	Sweet potatoes	Turkey Gravy	Stuffing
Canned Fried Onions	Canned Carrots	Cranberry sauce	Canned Fruit & Jello
Muffin Mix	Pie Crust & Fillings	Evaporated Milk	Personal care items

Any other *non-expired, non-perishable* food

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

OXFORD UMC HOSTING: November 2; November 30

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.



Excelsior Bell Choir

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.
 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

We are looking for more Praise Singers!
 If you like to sing and would be willing to
 share your talent with us, we'd love to have
 you join us to practice Sunday's
 songs/hymns and sing praise to our Lord
 and Savior!
 Rehearsals will be from 5:30 - 6pm on
 Wednesday evenings along with Sunday
 mornings from 9-9:30am.
 If interested, please contact Renae Shagena
 (248-969-2225 or 248-884-6840).



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.

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): Jon Gross (586)604-2281
 Board of Trustees: Tony Rizzo (248)628-1787
 Michelle Wood (248)969-2545
 SPRC Chairperson: Pauline East (248)320-4823
 Worship Team: Michelle Mumbrue (248)969-9173
 Laura Clancy (248)628-6648
 Missions & Outreach: tbd
 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.*

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.

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



UM Women: Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle is a group of women who come together once a month to make this world a better place.

We have fellowship, that means we meet new friends, build a stronger understanding of the struggles women deal with on a regular basis. We build each other up. We pray for one another. We share our strengths with each other & in a purpose driven theme, we also extend a hand to our community in so many loving & helpful ways.

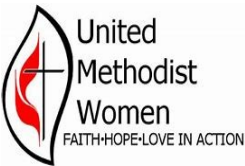
Please allow my words to make you feel welcome & invited to our next meeting. All women in Oxford & the surrounding communities are encouraged to join us this season.

When: We meet the 2nd Monday of each month. Our new meeting time is 10:30am - 12 noon.

Where: We usually meet at the Oxford United Methodist Church. (21 E. Burdick St. Oxford) The location might change, to 2 miles down the road. Please check the church Sunday program or contact Carolyn Lawrie or the church office. I will also post a note on the front doors with the address of our meeting place, if we should meet off site.

May the Lord's blessings shine upon you & give you strength.

Sincerely, Carolyn Lawrie
Rachel Circle President
Oxford United Methodist Church



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).



All Are Invited!

New Covenant Class - 11/17

There will be a **COVENANT CLASS** held for all who wish to learn more about the ministries of Oxford UMC on **November 17th** after worship. What is a Covenant Class? It is a class taught by the Pastor and other members of Oxford UMC that explains what it means to be a United Methodist Member. If you would like a little bit of a background of this church or if you like a little bit of history of how the United Methodist church began or even if you know lots about the church and just have questions about the church or even if you don't know what it means to be a member of a church - feel free to attend. Find out what is on Chuck KnowsChurch on YouTube. It's fun and interesting!

Please pick up a red packet from Pastor (on Sunday) or Becky (in the office during the week) if you are interested in membership.

Questions? Contact Pastor Julius. Please notify the church office if you plan to attend.





With Gladness and Thanksgiving

... The long day of the year is almost done,
and nature in the sunset musing stands,
gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,
looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands: ...

Empty and folded are her busy hands;
her corn and wine and oil are safely stored,
as in the twilight of the year she stands,
and with her gladness seems to thank the Lord.

Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,
in the sweet sabbath of this autumn calm,
and lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,
and sing with nature our thanksgiving psalm.

—Kate Seymour Maclean (1829-1916)

[USED WITH PERMISSION OF CHURCHART ONLINE]

Veterans Day Salute

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who "came back to faith" during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. "That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people," he told a reporter. "I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it."

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.

[USED WITH PERMISSION OF CHURCHART ONLINE]

Comfort Zones

By Rev. Margie Crawford
 Superintendent of the East Winds District
 Posted on October 16, 2024



Rev. Margie Crawford, superintendent of the East Winds District, encourages us to listen as Jesus calls us to step out of our comfort zones and follow him to live out the great commission.

Before I answered the call that the Lord placed on my life, leading me to become an elder, I was a scientist. My area was the field of medical audiology. I researched how different diseases and disorders impacted people's ability to hear. My dissertation established that an auditory response in the brain was generated by nerves and not muscles. Before I left the field, I was studying how oxygen deprivation impacted metabolism in the sense organ of hearing. Although I don't conduct the research anymore, I still have an analytical approach to some of my work.

One of the many things I have observed is how many people dealt with COVID-19. We were encouraged to protect ourselves from infection by sheltering in place, especially avoiding public gatherings. So, for a year or so, I did not go to restaurants, watch movies in the theater the way they were meant to be shown, or even attend worship regularly.

The small screen became my window to the world. The Metropolitan Opera offered digital replays of its library of performances from the last 40 years. Streaming classic and new movies and TV shows became my source of entertainment. And I connected with a few restaurant delivery services so I could still enjoy some of my favorite dishes.

And when that time of isolation ended, I realized that my comfort zone had changed. I didn't rush back to see a movie in person. Nor did I go to my favorite restaurants right away. And I flew for the first time in 2023 when, prior to the pandemic, I traveled at least four times each year. I am still adjusting to a new way of being present outside my home. I believe we all are.

What is true for air travel, entertainment, and food delivery is also true for connecting with our Lord. Many, though not all, of our churches provide an online option for worship, prayer, or devotions. I can attend a service live, later the same day, or, for some churches, even later in the month. Without leaving my living room, I can chat with others participating online, sharing morning greetings, how the music moves us, and who we are asked to pray for.

It's not the same. I like being with other people as we celebrate our mission and ministry. I enjoy learning about what's happening in people's lives, hearing about upcoming events, and experiencing that sense of electricity and excitement I don't usually feel watching a screen. And

I like fellowship hour because of the conversations that affirm who we are and whose we are.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 caused us to take a break from what we were doing, whether we wanted to or not. We have struggled to begin again because we are reminded how much work it takes to organize a dinner, sort through the items for a rummage sale, make quilts, shawls, and blankets, visit those who are sick, invest in Vacation Bible School, or participate in a Crop Walk or backpack drive, to name a few. Our Lord never said that the work before us would be easy. Instead, Jesus encouraged the disciples to step out of their comfort zones to follow him, spread the good news, and undertake the great commission.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John — Zebedee's sons — were all fishermen. They were called by our Savior, along with at least one tax collector and seven others. From Matthew 10, we learn that they were instructed to go into the world to share the good news. Instead of taking food or money, they were encouraged to rely on the hospitality of the towns and villages they visited. When Jesus gave them the great commission (Matthew 28), it did not include a manual with detailed instructions on how to begin to transform the world. And yet, because the apostles and those who followed were willing to step out of the world they knew, embracing by faith the new covenant and the new relationship that God offered, they planted seeds of mission, ministry, service, and selfless love that are still shaping who we are, as we seek to tell our Lord's story.

Jesus asked those who followed him to live in a new way. He offered new commandments (Matthew 22). Through the parables, he challenged people to see themselves and one another through our Lord's eyes. The people were amazed at his teachings, realizing that their understanding of our relationship with our Creator was still growing deeper and stronger. Some were uncomfortable with what Jesus asked. They followed him anyway. Some were uncomfortable with what Jesus said. They listened to him anyway. Some were uncomfortable with what they saw. They shared testimonies of who Jesus was and what he did anyway.

May we continue to be uncomfortable with what God asks of us. May we be excited by how we answer God's call upon our lives to live out the great commission, to care for the least and the lost, to feed the hungry, visit the sick, provide shelter for those in need, and to welcome the stranger into our midst. May we struggle with how to accomplish the missions and ministries that are so needed in our neighborhoods. May we invest our gifts and talents in a different kind of venture capital so that we may realize the kingdom that is and the kingdom that is yet to come. May we step out of our comfort zones with the assurance that God is with us in all we say and do in his holy name. Amen.

Last Updated on October 17, 2024
 Posted in Michigan Area Leadership, Voices.

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

Like a Mustard Seed, Tiny Gift Grows into a New Sanctuary

By Kudzai Chingwe | October 11, 2024 | MUTARE, Zimbabwe (UM News)

Small acts of kindness and generosity can trigger far-reaching results. That is the case with a new sanctuary built in a rural Zimbabwe village.

Dedicated in August, Dzobo UMC's new building is a product of a dollar donation in 2015 from the late Jo Hatfield of Mary's Chapel United Methodist Church in Bean Station, Tennessee. Hatfield donated 100 pennies to the Rev. Samuel Dzobo - then pastor of Mary's Chapel and now Smoky Mountain and Tennessee Valley district associate - after he shared his dream of building a sanctuary in his home village. Dzobo said he was warmly welcomed and loved by United Methodists worshipping in a Dzobo school classroom when he was 13. The village is named after his extended family. That introduction turned his life around, and Dzobo became a staunch United Methodist.

At 16, he preached for the first time. By age 24, he was an elder appointed to a congregation in the Hilltop circuit in Zimbabwe. Then he met the Rev. Gerald Russell, a UM missionary at the time, who facilitated his coming to the United States. "In 2015," Dzobo recalled, "while serving at Mary's Chapel ... I shared my story about how I was unkempt but still invited to the house of the Lord at 13. I became a disciple of Jesus as a United Methodist. This story made an impression on Jo Hatfield, an elderly woman in my church."

After the worship service, Hatfield asked Dzobo how she could help his home congregation. "I told her that my deepest desire was to build a house of worship in my village," Dzobo replied, "so my home church could meet and worship there."

He said Hatfield came back to the church later and took two rolls of pennies out of her purse and handed it to him. "She said, 'Pastor Sam, go and build the church,'" Dzobo recalled.

Accepting the money, Dzobo asked Lois Carmon, the circuit treasurer, what to do with the little gift. He said she told him to pray for it. Holding hands with Carmon, Dzobo prayed, "You are the God of miracles. I know you as the God who took five loaves and two fish, multiplied them and fed 5,000 people. I (place) this dollar into your hands. Bless it for the building of the church in my village. Amen."

Carmon promised to create a line item in the budget, so that those who wanted to donate toward the building of the church in Dzobo's village could do so. "Miraculous things thereafter unfolded," he said. With about 35 in average worship attendance, Mary's Chapel sent \$48,000 over six years to build the sanctuary. The church raised most of the money, but other churches, including Colonial Heights UMC in Kingsport and Central UMC in Lenoir City, both in Tennessee, contributed funds, Dzobo said.

"A dollar in the hands of God produces wonders," he added.



Amy Carmon, a member of Mary's Chapel United Methodist Church in Bean Station, Tennessee, gets emotional during the dedication ceremony for Dzobo United Methodist Church in rural Zimbabwe. At left is the Rev. Samuel Dzobo, whose dream for a sanctuary in his home village inspired Mary's Chapel to raise \$48,000 to help build the church. At right is the Rev. Gerald Russell, a retired pastor in the Holston Conference and former United Methodist missionary. Photo by Kudzai Chingwe, UM News.

Amy Carmon, a member of Mary's Chapel and daughter of Lois Carmon, expressed gratitude to the community of Dzobo "for making this project a success." Circuit lay leader Charity Nyamana said villagers made a lasting contribution to the project. "We did not fold our hands during the construction. We actively participated through ferrying the bricks, sand and water to the site; excavating the foundation; and providing the most-needed manpower.

"We appreciate Rev. Dzobo and our partners for the financial support and the relationship established. Within the surrounding areas, there is no church like this with tiles and ceiling."

Russell, now a retired pastor in the Holston Conference, called the sanctuary a dream come true. "I am joyful to be with the community of Dzobo. Our dream has come true, and for that, I give thanks to the Lord. "The church of the Lord is alive. Jesus Christ is coming and is waiting for his people to glorify and worship him. What a joyful moment to be here," Russell said...

Lopes said the sanctuary is beautiful and inviting. "I praise the Lord for it. I enjoyed the music. Beautiful voices led in worshipping the Lord in heaven..."

Happymore Nyamana, traditional leader for the Dzobo community, said Rev. Dzobo's work is only the beginning.

"We are planning to construct a big community hall, which will be connected to this church to be used for weddings, meetings and other functions.

"God willing, we would like to establish a community garden," he said, adding that so far that work has been hampered by a lack of water. "Our three attempts at drilling boreholes led to dry holes, but we have not given up on our dream. We have so many things in store for Dzobo...."

Hatfield did not live to see her dream become reality. She died of COVID in November 2021 at the age of 82. However, Hatfield still had one more gift to give. Her daughter donated her mother's huge collection of books to Mary's Chapel for a yard sale benefiting the church in Zimbabwe, the Holston Conference reported in 2022....

[\[You may find the full article here\]](#)

Chingwe is a UM News communicator in the Zimbabwe East Conference. Annette Spence of the Holston Conference contributed to this report.

WORSHIP *with us*

Tuesday
24
December

Join Us for Christmas Eve Service at
Oxford United Methodist Church
at 6:30 & 10pm.

*We invite you to join us for candle lit
Carol services with the Message given by
the Rev. Julius E. Del Pino, PhD.
6:30pm includes Christmas carols,
readings, and music by
piano, and bells as well as a special
presentation by the Oxford Wildcat
Professional Theater Company*

Cookie Fellowship to follow.

*10pm is a Holy Communion service with
Christmas carols and music by organ.*

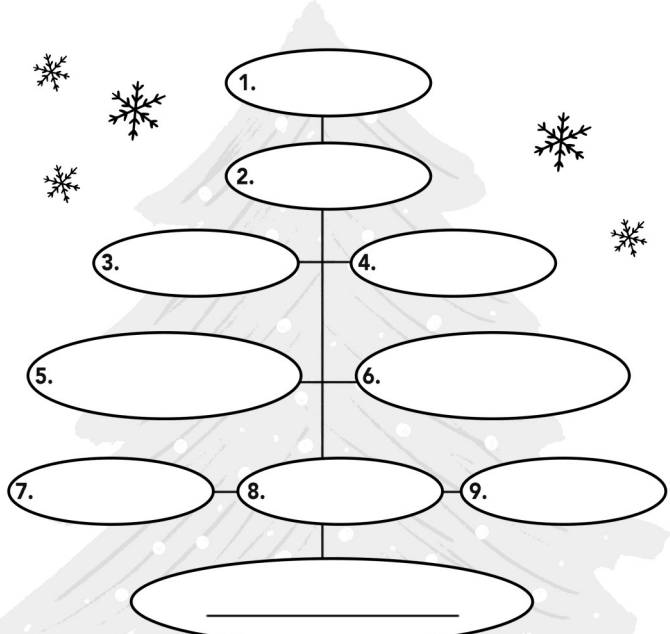
welcome

21 E. Burdick St
Oxford, MI
48371
website:
oxfordunitedmc.org



Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.
Then jot down the first letter of each answer and unscramble those letters to form a word about this season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a _____ ..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the _____ to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season; Christmas



BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Psalm 145:8 | SGAICURO | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Job 36:5 | HGIYMT | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Psalm 90:2 | LTAVREENISG | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 2 Peter 3:9 | INETTPA | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:24 | FUFHIATL | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Isaiah 40:25 | OYHL | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

Help me, Lord my __od;
save __e __ccording __o
your un__ailing l__ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV





CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 59-63 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 40-41 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 15-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 64-66 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 42-43 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 14, Mark 6,
Luke 9:1-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 20-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 44-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 4-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron. 32-33 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 46-48 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 15, Mark 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 17:1 - 18:18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nahum 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 16, Mark 8,
Luke 9:18-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thess. & 2 Thess. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 22-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 17, Mark 9,
Luke 9:28-62 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 18:19 - 19:41 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron. 34-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 4-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zephaniah 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 7-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 5-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 10-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 9-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 4-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ezra 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10-11,
John 10:22-42 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 12-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 7-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ezra 4-6, Psalm 137 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 12-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 15-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 10-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Haggai 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 14-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 14-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Zechariah 1-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 16-17:1-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 4-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 18-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Zechariah 8-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 23-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Esther 1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 17:11 - 18:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 11-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 26-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Esther 6-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 19, Mark 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 14-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 30-31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nehemiah 1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 20-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 20-23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 32-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nehemiah 6-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 18:15 - 19:48 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 24-26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 35-37 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nehemiah 8-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 11, John 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 27-28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 38-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nehemiah 11-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 22, Mark 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians & Philemon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 74, 79 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 126 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 23,
Luke 20-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 1-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 24-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 20-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron. 36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1, John 11-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habbakuk 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 1,
Luke 2:1-38 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Titus 1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 41-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 2, Luke
2:39-52 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 1-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 46-48 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 3, Luke 4-5,
John 1:15-51 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 26, Mark 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 1-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 49-50 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 2-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 22, John 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 7-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 51-52 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 8-9; Mark 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 14-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 1-3:36 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 27, Mark 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:37-
5:22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 12, Mark 3,
Luke 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23, John 18-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter, Jude |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28, Mark 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 5-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 8:1-13,
Luke 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 24, John 20-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John & 3 John |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 9-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 11:1-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelations 1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 13-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 12:22-50, | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 4-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelations 4-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 16-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 11:1-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelations 6-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 18-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 13, Luke 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelations 12-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 20-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 8:14-34,
Mark 4-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelations 16-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 22-23 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelations 19-22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 24-27 | | <input type="checkbox"/> James 1-5 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 28-31 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 32-34 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 35-37 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 38-39 | | | |

Prepared by

Rebekah Schreyfer

365 Daily Readings from the Bible
in Chronological Order



www.MostlySensible.com



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>
9a (S) Praise Singers Practice 10a (S) Worship	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 12p Program Deadline 8a-4p (W) Dragonfly Hybrid	10:30a (SK) Meals on Wheels 1p (F/FK) (1st & 3rd) Piece Maker Quilters 5:30p (S) Praise Singers 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
 3 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - ALL SAINTS - HOLY COMMUNION	4	5	6 7p (Y) Trustees	7	8	9
10 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11:15a (U) Revive Team Meeting	11 10:30a (F/FK) Rachel Circle 7p (F/FK) Worship Team	12	13 1p (M) Reading for Fun	14	15	16
17 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Bells & Brunch Sunday	18 5p (CC) Finance Budget Meeting	19	20	21	22	23
24 27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Blessing the Greens and Trimming the Church	25	26	27	28 	29	30



Usual Events :

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>
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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 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE COMMITMENT SUNDAY	2	3	4 7p (Y) Trustees	5	6	7 1pm Oxford Parade [Oxford UMC Party to follow]
8 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT LOVE COMMITMENT SUNDAY	9 12p (Red Knapps) Rachel Circle 7p (FK) Worship Team	10	11 1p (M) Reading for Fun	12	13	14
15 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY Bells & Brunch	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - PEACE CHILDREN'S SKIT DURING WORSHIP	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS EVE 6:30/10p Christmas Eve Services	26	27	28
Church Office Closed - Becky on vacation until January 6, 2025						
29 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY	30	31	January 1, 2025 NEW YEAR'S DAY			

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

First Class
Stamp
Required

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



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Alexander Wolf, Pianist

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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!