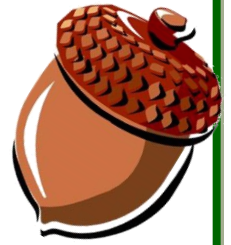


# The Acorn

January 2021



Monthly publication of The Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

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My Advice for 2021: 'Don't Worry, Be Happy!'

A lot of people long for a crystal ball. They desperately want to know what is going to happen in the future. As for me, I'll pass, and instead take things one day at a time. I've not always felt this way, but if 2020 has taught me anything, it's that I probably would rather not know what lies ahead. In fact, Scripture counsels us in that regard in the well-known passage from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew in which Jesus says...

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

Jesus goes on to expound on the carefree nature of nature itself. He concludes by encouraging us not to worry about tomorrow because "each day has enough trouble of its own." In other words, let's deal with today first; then we'll focus on tomorrow. Plan for the future, but live for today.

Reggae artist Bob Marley expressed a similar sentiment in 1988 with his catchy tune, "Don't Worry, Be Happy," which won the Grammy Award for Song of the Year. His simple lyrics express a lighthearted and carefree tone as he sings...

"Now there, is this song I wrote  
I hope you learned note for note  
Like good little children, don't worry, be happy  
Now listen to what I said, in your life expect  
some trouble  
When you worry you make it double  
But don't worry, be happy, be happy now."

Jesus knew that we would face trials and tribulations throughout our life, but he did not intend for us to be burdened by worry. Instead,

he called us to be resilient, upbeat, and above all, faithful. We are wise to live on the bright side and lift up others in the process.

I think I will make a more serious attempt to follow the advice of Jesus and Bob Marley in 2021. After all, what do I have to lose?

Instead, I will focus more on the things I can control, like my words and actions, how I spend my time, and how I serve the Lord by serving others.

People are clearly more tense and more angry these days, and the events of 2020, namely the coronavirus and the bitter Presidential election, have had a profound effect on our perilous disposition. We hope most of that will be behind us and that we can move forward with renewed hope and optimism in the coming year.

Let's all consider returning to our roots and find our footing in our faith. Let us become the person God intended us to be — kind, gentle, loving, compassionate, forgiving and gracious in all that we say and do. It may not be easy, but it will certainly be worth the effort.

So put this at the top of your list for 2021: "Don't Worry, Be Happy!" You can even sing it if you want.

Until we meet again, Be Blessed!

*Pastor John Fin*

## Choices for Worship on Sundays

Come inside with mask and social distancing.

Live stream on YouTube.com—see next page

Listen without ever leaving your car, by tuning in to 97.9 FM on your radio.

Links to Pastor John's sermon are posted on our website to view on YouTube or to listen as a podcast. <https://oakchapelumc.com/worship/sermons/>

## What will January look like at Oak Chapel?

We have good news! Christmas Eve was the debut of our worship service being streamed LIVE on YouTube. We will continue streaming Live each Sunday morning, other special events. This outreach is being provided for those unable to attend in person! Of course, we always hope to see all of your smiling faces in our sanctuary whenever possible!

Finding the service is very easy! Go to our website: [www.oakchapelumc.com](http://www.oakchapelumc.com) and click on the link.

In case you miss the LIVE stream of the service, it will be available later on the YouTube/Oak Chapel United Methodist Church website. (YouTube automatically records each stream for later viewing.) It will also be available later on the church website [www.oakchapelumc.com](http://www.oakchapelumc.com).

You can view and/or download and print the bulletin from our website or by using this QR code.



Pastor John and the Worship Committee want to keep the congregation safe, while also keeping some normalcy in our worship style.

Worship will continue in the Sanctuary at 10:30 Sunday morning. Our FM station, 97.9 will continue broadcasting to the parking lot, and now Live on YouTube.

## Food Pantry

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful support of our food pantry! It is serving the community every single day! How exciting! As the weather turns cold, we will be transitioning the pantry to dry goods, so that we don't have to worry about food freezing in the frigid temperatures. We will still have canned goods available for pick up inside, but the outside food should be more weather-proof. Here are some examples of foods that would be appropriate to donate for the outdoor part of the pantry.

Boxed mashed potatoes	Rice side-dish packets
Macaroni & Cheese	Dry milk
Pancake mix	Ramen noodles
Muffin mix	Cake mix
Cereal	Instant oatmeal
Hot chocolate mix	Crackers
Personal hygiene items	
Peanut butter & jelly (in plastic only)	
Pancake syrup (in plastic only)	
Soup mixes such as Lipton or Bear Creek (at RKO)	

As a reminder, we cannot accept anything that is not in tamper-resistant packaging, such as bulk food store items that are bagged and twist-tied. We also cannot take perishable goods. We have no way to store them and prevent spoilage. Again, thank you all for giving generously to this mission! May you be blessed abundantly in return! Cindy



## Bookworms

— January 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Bookworms is our local chapter of the National United Methodist Women Reading Program. It meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the SingMar room. Categories for reading include Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Contact Sandy Hower if you have questions or to suggest book titles for us to read.

**Next up—House in Sky** by Amanda Lindhout  
Amanda writes about her fifteen month abduction in Somalia in *A House in the Sky*. It is the New York Times bestselling memoir of a woman whose curiosity led her to the world's most remote places and then into captivity: "Exquisitely told...A young woman's harrowing coming-of-age story and an extraordinary narrative of forgiveness and spiritual triumph" ( The New York Times Book Review ).



## Feed My Sheep

Oak Chapel will continue to collect food on the first Sunday of each month as we come to the Lord's table. Food collected now will help support our in-house food pantry.

Any surplus items will be shared with People to People. See separate article for suggested donations.

## Recipes! Recipes! Recipes!

We'd love for each of you to submit five recipes for our packet of recipes to be added to your white three-ring binder cookbook. No need to buy a whole new book. Email Miriam or Elizabeth or bring or send to the church office. Call us if you have questions. bucki81@aol.com / eflogil@gmail.com 4203 W Old Lincoln Way 44691



Security projects that are completed: safeguard security from MCTV, new locks in the building, & new outdoor lighting. To be completed: fireproof file cabinet, wire mesh security panel for east windows of fellowship hall, and camera system for exterior of building.

At the parsonage we installed a new furnace/AC unit, and replaced the water heater. We have new tenants as of late November: Sharon and Richard Raber.

Blair Shallenberger will be plowing snow in the parking lot this year. Thanks, Blair!

## UNITED METHODIST Breakfast is Back!



January 9 at Green Leaf Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. All men and boys are welcome. Mark your calendar for the second Saturday of each month.



United Methodist Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

We have several small group opportunities for service and fellowship. All girls and women of the church are welcome. Stay tuned for in-person scheduling.

Art & Soul on the first Monday,  
Prayer Shawl on the fourth Monday,  
*Days for Girls* sewing group on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday.  
Morning Circle on the first Wednesday,  
Bookworms on the fourth Thursday

## Acorn Submissions

The next issue is **February 2021**. The deadline is January 15.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Jennifer Adair  
5 Cheryl Rastetter  
6 Cindy Mykrantz  
9 Mark Ritchey  
12 Darrell Moser  
17 Marie Houghton  
18 Elliot Miller  
21 Dave Zech  
24 Simon Kitchen  
26 Carol Gasser  
28 Natalie Bunt  
30 Bob Martin



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 Joann and Kate Jolliff

**Wish your neighbor a happy day!**

This information comes from our membership database.

Please contact the church office if there are any corrections.

## Financial News:

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (November 2020): \$1,496  
Received last month: 11/01 - \$2,401

11/08 - \$2,180      11/15 - \$1,610  
11/22 - 962      11/29 - \$443

As of 11/30/2020, we received about 102% of our budgeted income for the month of November and 83% YTD. Our recent monthly donations continue to improve our YTD performance. On top of that, we received \$225 for the Salvation Army (in lieu of bell ringing), \$465 for the Food Pantry and \$2,300 for livestreaming equipment. Oak Chapel is alive and well!

Note: We have two other ongoing unbudgeted projects that are available for donations: \$2,300 for sanctuary audio upgrade in conjunction with the theft replacements and \$1,400 for the surveillance cameras installation.

## Oak Chapel Budget Recap for 2021

### Income

Sunday School	\$1,428.00	
Lincoln Buy-Way Sale	\$1,331.00	
Building Use Fees	\$84.00	
Parsonage Gross Rent	\$12,240.00	
Subtotal	\$15,083.00	13.4%
Tithes and Offerings	\$97,187.00	86.6%
Total Income	\$112,270.00	100%

### Expenses

1. EOC & District Costs	\$14,172.24	12.6%
2. OCUMC Pastoral Costs	\$42,676.00	38.0%
3. OCUMC Operating Costs	\$50,095.89	44.6%
4. Program Expenses	\$5,326.00	4.7%
Total Expenses:	\$112,270.13	100%

The process to build the 2021 zero-based budget was the same as in the past. This budget has several noticeable financial changes (in comparison to 2020).

1. There's a \$3,486 (3.2%) increase in the budget, resulting from the following changes:
  - a. Apportionments decreased by \$903.
  - b. AV Equipment decreased by \$1,000 (microphones were replaced as part of the burglary).
  - c. SPRC Staff Recognition increased by \$599 to provide a stipend for JJ Cline.
  - d. Parsonage Capital Expense decreased by \$8,500, leaving \$0 budgeted for 2021.
  - e. Church Capital Expense increased by \$4,500 for parking lot resealing and repainting. We have been setting aside funds for this expense, so we should have adequate funds on hand for this project.

- f. \$1M Umbrella Insurance Policy added; liability premium increased by \$312.
  - g. Parsonage Maintenance Expense reduced by \$500.
  - h. Church Maintenance Expense reduced by \$2,200.
  - i. Church Internet/Safeguard Security increased by \$360 to provide a Fiber Internet connection for livestreaming and by \$410 to provide alarm monitoring for the security system.
  - j. Parsonage heating and cooling systems and hot water heater were replaced between tenant occupancy. As reported last year, the boiler was on its last leg. The parsonage now has a high efficiency heat pump. The project funds were fronted by internal funds, which will be replenished at a rate of about \$600 per month from the net parsonage rent. These are repairs/improvements that would be needed even if the parsonage was still occupied by our pastor. The difference is that we have restricted rental income to help pay for these repair/improvements.
  - k. The Trustees requested a \$250 per month set aside fund to repair the church roof at some point down the road.
2. FNB Properties LLC (formerly Swift Auto) is not interested in participating in a Fair Parking Fundraiser.
  3. Everything else is about the same as previous years.

## Special Tax Deduction

The CARES Act of 2020 includes a special tax deduction of up to \$300 for 2020 cash donations to qualifying charities. This is for taxpayers who use the standard deduction, which is most of us. The deduction lowers both adjusted gross income and taxable income. Standard recordkeeping requirements apply.



## Outreach

Thank you for your generosity in donating gifts

for Mt. Vision Christmas in Webster Springs, West Virginia. As we plan for the year ahead we welcome your ideas of projects that will increase our presence in our community and beyond. Please contact Pam Domer with any ideas you might have for future outreach projects at [office@oakchapelumc.com](mailto:office@oakchapelumc.com) or 330-601-3926.

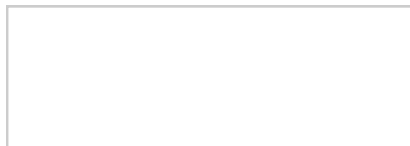


# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Zech	28 9:30am - Bible Study 6pm - Prayr Shawl	29 6:30pm - Girl Scouts	30	31	1 Happy New Year	2
3 10:30am - Worship 6:30pm - Youth Group	4 8am - Retirees' Brkfst 9:30am - Bible Study 7:30pm - GS Leaders	5 6:30pm - Girl Scouts	6 9:30am - AM Circle	7	8	9 7:30am - UMM Brkfst
10 10:30am - Worship	11 9:30am - Bible Study	12 1pm - Days for Girls 6:30pm - Girl Scouts	13	14	15 Acorn Deadline	16
17 10:30am - Worship 6:30pm - Youth Group	18 9:30am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Trustees	19 6:30pm - Girl Scouts	20 9:30am - Outreach	21	22	23
24 10:30am - Worship	25 9:30am - Bible Study 6pm - Prayr Shawl	26 1pm - Days for Girls 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - UMW Exec	27	28 7pm - 4-H 7pm - Bookworms	29	30
31 10:30am - Worship	1 8am - Retirees' Brkfst 9:30am - Bible Study 7:30pm - GS Leaders	2 6:30pm - Girl Scouts	3 9:30am - AM Circle	4	5	6



ACORN Newsletter  
Oak Chapel United Methodist Church  
4203 West Old Lincoln Way  
Wooster, OH 44691-3239  
<http://www.oakchapelumc.com>



## WE INVITE YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.

### Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

*"Serving Christ and Community through Love, Compassion, Fellowship and Caring"*

Rev. John Finn ..... Pastor  
Pam Domer ..... Deaconess/Secretary  
Jen Moser ..... Organist and Choir Director  
Miriam Zech ..... Custodian  
Church Phone ..... **330-264-2537**  
Pastor John's Cell Phone ..... **330-988-2577**

#### E-mail addresses:

[pastor@oakchapelumc.com](mailto:pastor@oakchapelumc.com)      [office@oakchapelumc.com](mailto:office@oakchapelumc.com)

Visit our website: [www.oakchapelumc.com](http://www.oakchapelumc.com)

**WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT!**

#### CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE

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