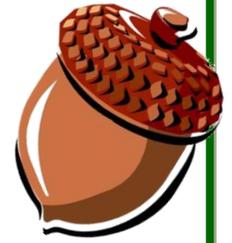


The Acorn

February 2023



Monthly publication of The Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
4203 West Old Lincoln Way • Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-2537 • www.oakchapelumc.com

A Valentine's Day Invitation to 'Be Mine'

Remember those tacky, chalky hearts we used to exchange on Valentine's Day back in elementary school? You know, the ones with a faint mint taste that had love-related messages stamped on them in red.

I never really cared for them, but because they were so prevalent in our school, I felt obligated to participate in this annual ritual and occasionally consume a few pieces of this embossed candy, even though I felt somewhat nauseous the second I put one in my mouth.

Valentine's Day is filled with traditions of love, including cards, roses, chocolates, bracelets...and those silly hearts. I think we were more intrigued by the sayings than the candy itself because, let's face it, they tasted more like a Pepto-Bismol tablet than a palate-pleasing treat.

As we got a little older, those candies took on added importance as we tried to summon the courage to give one of those hearts to someone on whom we might have had a crush. I never engaged in that practice because I was too shy and too fearful of rejection.

All kidding aside, there is one saying in that box of hearts that eloquently and exquisitely encapsulates our spiritual, or agape, love, and that is the one with two words: "Be Mine." That really expresses the deep, gracious, tender love of Jesus that, although it is unmerited and undeserved, is unconditional and unailing.

His death on the cross and his resurrection from the tomb can be summarized in those seemingly simple, but also very profound words: "Be Mine!" But that is only half of the story. In response to his invitation, we are encouraged to express that same sentiment of love toward him and to all of his people as we come full circle in a covenant of faith that cannot be broken. As part of this sacred compact, Jesus simply asks us to love one another.

I understand that some of this may seem trivial, even silly in some respects, but just like those candy hearts, his message is unmistakable: "Be

Mine and be fulfilled. Be Mine, and experience the love, joy, peace, and hope of a relationship with me. Be Mine and transform your life."

As Scripture tells us, we are to "'Love the Lord [our] God with all [our] heart and with all [our] soul and with all [our] mind.'...and 'Love [our] neighbor as [ourselves].'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

During this month of love, when everything else around us is cold and dark and dreary, let us bask in the warmth and light and clarity that we celebrate through Christ our Lord, and let us honor him through our love for others, even those with whom we have disagreements and discord.

Valentine's Day provides an excellent opportunity to show our love, not just to our spouse and our family, but also to all of God's people. However, we don't have to limit it to one day each year. Let this month and the months that follow be filled with love, so that we can carry out our call to be living, loving Disciples of Christ.



Until we
meet again,
Be Blessed!

Pastor John

Pastor John is hoping to develop a more organized prayer structure in 2023. If you would like to become part of our nascent prayer partners at Oak Chapel, please let Pastor John know.

There is no question that those in need greatly appreciate prayer and that they often divinely feel the effects of it. Even if it does not always bring the desired results, it always seems to provide comfort, assurance, hope, and peace of mind. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please feel free to contact Pastor John, and he will pray with and for you and them in the sanctuary, in your home, or wherever is most comfortable.

Our Daily Bread

Copies of *Our Daily Bread* devotional books are in the Narthex. Feel free to pick one up and place it on your nightstand so that you can easily access it when you wake up in the morning and before you go to bed in the evening.



Pastor John is leading a study of the Book of Revelation. The group meets at 9:30 am on Monday mornings in the Gathering Grounds downstairs. We welcome new participants.



Self—Care Suggestions

We all live in stressful times. That's why it's so important to take extra time to care for ourselves. Taking care of

yourself means different things to each of us. While some feel the way to self care is a spa day, others long for a weekend get-away or a luxurious meal. These, of course, are fine, but may not be feasible for all.

Below are some simple suggestions for self care. Online searches show many more.

1. Call or text someone special to you.
2. Savor a up of tea or coffee.
3. Journal your goals, feelings, favorite verses, prayers, your day.
4. Practice deep breathing exercises.
5. Listen to or play your favorite music.
6. Read a book or peruse a magazine.
7. Cook a favorite dish.
8. Take a walk if weather permits, walk barefoot in the grass. The earth has healing qualities for the mind.
9. Meditate. Do yoga.
10. Disconnect from social media.
11. Get creative!
12. Sit in the sunshine.
13. Take a nap.
14. Organize an area in your home.
15. Do something kind for someone.

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 Ministries.



Acorn Submissions—The next issue is **March 2023**.
Deadline is February 15.

Young Adults meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Gathering Grounds. Anyone is welcome to join us!

The Choseness Bible Study group, meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. The class has discussed the importance of Choseness in the establishment and development of religions such as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam; and the recruitment of observers. The group has had in-depth discussions on such topics as forgiveness, parenting, friendship, judging, rejoicing, adversity, and the sovereignty of God the Father. The Bible is the sole source for the study. The group is currently discussing justification, righteousness, sanctification, condemnation and acquittal. The discussions are designed to be comfortable for those who actively participate and for those choosing to reflect silently. All are welcome! Leader is Bruce Bloch.

“Surprised by Hope,” by Biblical scholar N.T. Wright. The book and the study will reveal the full scope of what God's Word has to say about heaven and the hope the gospel holds for the present life. All are welcome to the remaining sessions at 9:30 am in the Sing-Mar room.

Financial Information

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (December 2022): \$2,130
Received last month:

12/04 - \$1,644.05 12/11 - \$1,372.00
12/18 - \$5,447.00 12/25 - \$2,850.00

As of 12/31/2022, we received about 133% of our budgeted income for the month of December and 92% YTD. We are behind last year at this time, which was 197% and 95%, respectively. The weather during Christmas impacted this some. The Food Pantry is in the black. We're still making a difference. Thank you Oak Chapel!

United Women in Faith has two baking and gift giving fundraisers now available.

Nuts and Snack Fundraiser



AND



- ♥ You may order 24/7, 365 days a year.
- ♥ Both links are on the home page of Oak Chapel's website, oakchapelumc.com
- ♥ Proceeds will support our mission projects.
- ♥ You can pick up a postcard in the Narthex with more information.
- ♥ If you have questions, please call Elizabeth Feldman at 330.465.5782.

Prayer Shawls—Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to make beautiful shawls for us to distribute to people we want to bless. Anyone can pick up a shawl to give to another. While most of them go to those who could use some comfort and healing, we encourage everyone to think of a happy reason to celebrate as well.

Currently the shawls live in the closet in the Crib Room which is next to the Elevator on the main floor. Step 1. Choose a shawl to give. There are some gift bags if you want to use them. Step 2. Pick up a card from Oak Chapel to deliver with it. Step 3. (A VERY important step) Find the blue folder. Inside you will see the lists of those who have received shawls. Please add the recipient's name(s), date and your name. We want to make sure we do not miss anyone or accidentally duplicate someone. No reasons need to be added.

We are always looking for more people to make shawls too! We are used to seeing crocheted and knitted ones, but fleece and quilted ones are also an idea! Fleece should be hemmed but not fringed and knotted, as someone in a wheelchair or bed could get it tangled up. Lap robes are also a nice alternative to shawls.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, March 25, 2023, 5-7pm
In the Fellowship Hall



Open to all ages.
No entry fee.
Cash prizes for the top three places.
Freewill offering at the door.
Chili must be at the church by 4:30pm.
See the church calendar for additional details.
Sponsored by United Methodist Men.

Monday, February 6



Art & Soul meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. This group meets to craft for about an hour. We will begin to make Bulletin Necklaces for our Christmas Shoe Boxes.

Now the Work of Christmas Begins

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman, a civil rights leader, educator and theologian, penned this litany.

From the Custodian—Winter is upon us and that means snow, ice, salt, etc. We have a snappy new entrance mat for winter weather. Feel free to wipe your feet over and over again! Those who would like to wear boots and bring shoes, slippers or fuzzy socks are welcome to change at one of the benches and stash them underneath.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jeff Burckhart
- Jay Hauser
- 5 Terra Aten
- 6 Pete Bunt
- 14 Paul Kauffman
- 16 Cathy Shallenberger
- 24 Evelyn Silver



Wish your neighbor a Happy day!

This information comes from our membership database. Please contact the church office if there are any corrections or additions.

Evangelism

What does Paul say about evangelism? Evangelism is merely God working through us. It is God who saves, and God alone. In His kindness He uses human instruments, but we are mute without the wind of His Spirit blowing through us. What use is a trumpet without a Trumpeter? Steve Moore is our Evangelism captain for the new year. This team will be reaching out to friends of Oak Chapel.

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday February 7.

Join us at Buehler's Town Market at 8:30 am for great conversation.

No agenda, just fellowship!



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith
Welcome to the 2023
year of changes.
Previously known as
United Methodist

Women, the organization refreshed its name to United Women in Faith. Along with the new name came a cheerful new logo and improved programs. This new image is designed to better nurture our current membership and to draw in and welcome new members.

I encourage all women of our congregation (and your friends) to join us for our regular meetings and special events. We have lots of events throughout the year so it should be easy for you to find something that piques your interest!

As always, your suggestions are welcome and I urge you to participate when possible. Our combined talents enable us to maintain and enhance our mission.

Remember, Many Hands Make Light Work!
Phyllis Weaver

Read the autobiography of a man's journey from death to life in "90 Minutes in Heaven." Reviewed by Betsy Bower. A paperback copy is available at the church.

"90 Minutes in Heaven, a story of death and life" by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey

Paramedics pronounced Don Piper dead the day his auto was crushed by a semi on a rain-slick highway. His mangled, lifeless body lay hidden from public view under a tarp.

Dick Onerecker, a fellow pastor, had come upon the horrendous scene and heard God calling him to pray for Piper. And despite the scoffing of paramedics, Onerecker did pray, for 90 minutes. Meanwhile, Piper was unaware of anyone or anything. He had died and gone straight to heaven. Piper relates the wonders he experienced there and also the anguish of being sent back to earth. He wrestled for months and months, trying to understand why God would send him back to suffer the physical pain of his injuries.

Family, fellow pastors and friends helped Piper through his earthly ordeal and were able to help him come to understand there were lessons he needed to learn and others he could help. The book takes you on a journey that is at times wonderful and hopeful and at others forlorn and tearful. It isn't focused on what heaven is like, but does provide a glimpse of what awaits us.

Piper recounts thanking Onerecker for saving his life and Onerecker being brought to tears. Although the officer said you were dead, I knew -- I just knew -- I had to pray for you. I could only think that you were hurt, and I wanted to make you feel better. I didn't do anything unusual.

"... Don, if you saw a little kid run out in the street, you'd dash out there to try to save his life. Human nature is like that. We try to preserve life, and I will do that anytime I get the opportunity. So would you."

The two were sitting in a restaurant and Onerecker paused to look around. "Yet here we are sitting in this place, surrounded by people, many of whom are probably lost and going to hell, and we won't say a word about how they can have eternal life. Something is wrong with us."

"You're absolutely right," said Piper. "We're willing to save someone in a visible crisis, but a lot of folks are in spiritual crisis and we don't say a word about how they can get out of it."

UNITED METHODIST MEN February 11 at 8:00 a.m. at Ebenezer Lodge, 140 N Market St. There will be an all you can eat breakfast and we will begin at 8 am and can stay and visit as long as we want. All men and boys are welcome. Mark your calendar for the 2nd Saturday of each month.

The Days for Girls Team will meet February 7 and 21 at 1:00 pm in the room directly across from the church office. We are making progress toward getting another shipment of kits out. We would love to have new participants in this outreach ministry to girls in underdeveloped countries. We also welcome monetary donations to help cover the cost of materials and shipping.

Oak Chapel UWF has Layettes available for you to share with new mothers in our community. Pick one up in the room across from the office and sign the appropriate list, or contact Robin Kitchen if you would like help. Supply donations are also appreciated.

**Please visit our website—
oakchapelumc.com—
to view our CALENDAR.**

**Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
Leadership Teams for 2023 and 2024**

Administrative Council - Meets five times annually
 Chair Bob Troutman
 Lay Leaders..... Greg Cantrell and Doug Henshaw
 Lay Delegate..... Elizabeth Feldman
 Treasurer Bill Braucher
 United Methodist Men CaptainKim Domer
 United Women in Faith CaptainPhyllis Weaver
 Finance Captain.....Stuart Mykrantz
 Finance Secretary..... Elizabeth Feldman
 At-Large..... Bruce Bloch
Team Captains:
 Christian EducationApril Aten
 Evangelism.....Steve Moore
 History and Records..... Alice Giffin
 Membership Care..... Rosie Troutman
 Memorials..... Cheryl Rastetter
 NominationsPastor John Finn
 Outreach..... Pam Domer
 PantryConnie Reed
 Staff Parish Relations Joyce Varns
 Trustees..... Dick Wiley
 Worship and Music Sandy Treece
 Youth..... J.J. Cline and Jen Moser
 Trustees Meets third Monday of each month
 Dick Wiley, Captain
 Members: Greg Cantrell, Stuart Mykrantz, Blair Shallenberger, Cathy Shallenberger, Gene Varns, Joyce Varns, Miriam Zech, Pastor John Finn
 Acorn Newsletter: Elizabeth Feldman, Captain
 Team Member: Carolyn Lilburn
 Audit Team Darrell Moser, Captain

Other teams meet quarterly.
 Christian Education.....April Aten, Captain
 Members: Bruce Bloch, Jen Moser, JJ Cline, Beth Gaubatz
 EvangelismSteve Moore, Captain
 Members: JJ Cline, Caroline Lilburn, Becky Schlund
 Finance..... Stuart Mykrantz, Captain
 Members: Bill Braucher, Elizabeth Feldman, Darrell Moser
 History and Records.....Alice Giffin, Captain
 Member: Miriam Zech
 Memorials Cheryl Rastetter, Captain
 Members: Alice Giffin, Joyce Varns
 Membership Care Rosie Troutman, Captain
 Members: Karen Cantrell, Evelyn Silver, Cheryl Rastetter, Joyce Varns, Phyllis Weaver
 Nominations Pastor John Finn, Captain
 Members:..... April Aten, Pam Domer, Carol Gossage, Cindy Mykrantz
 Outreach Pam Domer, Captain
 Members: Karen Cantrell, Connie Garg, Cindy Henshaw, Cathy Shallenberger, Joyce Varns, Phyllis Weaver
 PantryConnie Reed, Captain
 Members: Carol Gossage, Cindy Mykrantz, Rosie Troutman
 Staff-Parish Relations..... Joyce Varns, Captain
 Members: April Aten, Pam Domer, Carol Gossage, Doug Henshaw
 Worship and Music..... Sandy Treece, Captain
 Members: Kim Domer, Jen Moser, Tom Rife
 Youth JJ Cline and Jen Moser, Captains
 Members: Cyndi Boyer, Erica Boyer, Lauren Cline, Beth Gaubatz.



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.
Young Adult SS	11:30 a.m.

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

“Serving Christ and Community through Love, Compassion, Fellowship and Caring”

Rev. John Finn Pastor
 Sheri Finn Secretary
 Jen Moser..... Organist and Choir Director
 Miriam ZechCustodian
Church Phone 330-264-2537
 Pastor John’s Cell Phone.....330-988-2577

E-mail addresses:

pastor@oakchapelumc.com office@oakchapelumc.com

Visit our website: www.oakchapelumc.com

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT!

CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE

8800 Cleveland Ave NW, Canton, OH 44720
 330-499-3972, ext. 106 or email CanalTuscDistOffice@eocumc.com
 Rev. Angela Lewis, District Superintendent
 Megan Myers, Administrative Assistant