

April 23, 2023

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John

\*Responsive Reading (From Psalm 116:1-2, 5-7) Erica Boyer

One: I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;

All: He heard my cry for mercy.

One: Because he turned his ear to me,

All: I will call on him as long as I live.

One: The Lord is gracious and righteous;

All: Our God is full of compassion.

One: The Lord protects the unwary;

All: When I was brought low, he saved me.

One: Return to your rest, my soul,

All: For the Lord has been good to you.

\*Hymn "I Will Call upon the Lord" Insert

\*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance Erica Boyer

To err is human; to forgive is divine. Only God can truly absolve our sins and cleanse our souls, but we can follow His command to forgive others as He has forgiven us by softening our hearts and surrendering to His Word so that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen!

Prayer of Reflection Pastor John

Prayer of Illumination Erica Boyer

Father, forgive us for failing to see and follow your great light. The darkness has obstructed the pathway that you have set before us. Illuminate our journey once again and inspire us to follow you with great passion and commitment so that we will see past the sins of others as you have looked past our transgressions. In your Glorious Name, we pray. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession Pastor John

Merciful God, we humble ourselves in your presence, confessing our unworthiness and our sinfulness in your sight. We have broken your holy law, and we have failed to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Thus, we pray that you will forgive us, cleanse us, and renew a right spirit within us; through the grace of you Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Prayer of Preparation for God's Holy Word Pastor John

Assorted Scripture Verses Erica Boyer and Pastor John

Response

One: Let us Rejoice in God's Holy Word!

All: For His Word brings us Light, Hope and Joy!

\*Gloria Patri No. 70

\*Hymn "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" No. 348

Choral Anthem "Since I Have Been Redeemed"

Message "Forgive...and Forge Ahead" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer Pastor John

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Our Gifts Pastor John

\*Doxology No. 95

\*Hymn "Nothing but the Blood" No. 362

Benediction Pastor John

Postlude Jen Moser

*\*=An Invitation to Stand in Body or Spirit*

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

### UMCOR Relief Opportunities

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the humanitarian relief arm of our denomination, providing assistance for natural or human-caused disasters. If you would like to provide assistance to our neighbors across the country and around the world, please visit [umcmmission.org/umcor](http://umcmmission.org/umcor).

### Vacation Bible School

Oak Chapel will join with several area churches to host Vacation Bible School on June 2-3 at Church of the Cross. If you would like to help, please contact our Outreach Team. We also need to encourage young people (Kindergarten through 6th grade) to participate. Information sheets are available in the Narthex. Registration forms for children will be available soon.

### Oak Chapel Has Openings

Do you know anyone who is looking for a church home? If so, Oak Chapel has a number of openings! No experience necessary, and the compensation is out of this world! If you have someone in mind, just let our Evangelism team know, by contacting Steve Moore at 330-317-7445.

### Worship Ideas

If you have any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions regarding any changes you might like to see our worship service, please contact Pastor John.

### Friendly Reminder

If you are the last to leave the church, please be sure that the wooden front doors are latched and locked.



**Praises and Prayers**

Lord in Heaven, we bow before you in humble adoration, confessing our unworthiness, but seeking your favor as we work to love and serve you as well as our neighbor. Be with us on this day and hear our voices as we lift up the following praises and prayers...

**Praises**

- \*For the arrival of Walker, newborn son of Abby Renker
- \*For Vivian Rastetter, new granddaughter of Jim & Cheryl
- \*For John Hall following a successful heart procedure
- \*For Kim Domer as he recovers from successful surgery

**Prayers**

- \*For Pastor Robin as she provides care for her parents
- \*For Donna Garrett, who remains in Hospice Care
- \*For Rebecca following an extended labor experience
- \*For Evelyn Silver's son-in-law, Phil, and his upcoming biopsy

**Upcoming Worship Services**

- April 30.....After You!
- May 7.....Don't Step Back
- May 14.....Dumping Ground
- May 21.....Be There!
- May 28.....Pentecost Sunday
- June 4.....Bustin' Out!

**Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...**

Sunday 4/23	Sunday School Classes	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 4/24	Prayer Shawl	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday 4/25	Days for Girls	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 4/26	Choir	7:00 p.m.
Thursday 4/27	4H Meeting	7:00 p.m.

**Looking Ahead...**

Sunday 4/30	Sunday School Classes	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 5/01	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
	Art & Soul	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday 5/02	Retirees' Breakfast	8:30 p.m.
Wednesday 5/03	Choir	7:00 p.m.
Sunday 5/07	Sunday School Classes	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 5/08	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
	Administrative Council	6:00 p.m.



**Financial News:**

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (March 2023): \$2,218

**Received last month:**

03/05.....	\$2,108.05
03/12.....	\$2,901.00
03/19.....	\$1,064.00
03/26.....	\$3,128.00

As of 3/31/2023, we received about 104% of our budgeted income for March and 95% YTD. We are ahead of last year at this time, which was 93% and 76%, respectively. The Food Pantry is in the black. We're still making a difference. Thank you, Oak Chapel!

**Oak Chapel  
United Methodist Church**

**April 23, 2023**

*Forgiveness*

Is not something we do for  
**OTHER PEOPLE.**

It's something we do for  
**OURSELVES**

to Move on.

4203 West Old Lincoln Way  
Wooster, Ohio  
330-264-2537  
www.oakchapelumc.com  
John Finn, *Pastor*

*Serving God and Community  
through Love, Compassion,  
Fellowship, and Caring*

Today's Message...

***"Forgive...and Forge Ahead"***