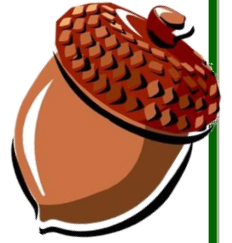


The Acorn

June 2023



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

Bridging the Troubled Waters

The music of Simon and Garfunkel is timeless, and the accompanying lyrics are profound. For more than 50 years, this dynamic duo's impressive discography includes such megahits as "Mrs. Robinson," "The Sounds of Silence," and, of course, "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Not only is the latter a hauntingly beautiful melody, but it also carries a compelling message that is as meaningful today as it was when it was first released in January of 1970.

Many would say that we are surrounded by "troubled water" throughout much of our life; the question becomes, how do we cross over the threatening currents. Paul Simon's words take on an undeniable spiritual quality — whether intended or not — similar in many ways to a passage we might read in the Book of Psalms.

Consider this opening stanza: "When you're weary, feeling small. When tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all; I'm on your side." Who is the one who dries our eyes? Who is the one who is on our side? As faithful believers, we believe without reservation that it is the Lord himself.

Furthermore, "when times get rough and friends just can't be found," he is there for us "like a bridge over troubled water," and not only that, but he will also lay himself down so that we can pass safely to the other side.

Jesus is, indeed, the bridge in our lives, our ever-present help in times of trouble. He assists us as we navigate through tough times and through rough waters. He is there to circumvent evil and to take us to the high road, which ultimately leads to the pathway to righteousness.

When we experience anxiety, face adversity, encounter trauma, battle temptation, or clash with evil in our life, Jesus is always there to bridge the gap and provide an escape route.

As individuals, it is important to remember that we stand on solid ground when we build a strong foundation in faith, but when we must flee, Jesus is there to provide secure passage via a bridge to safety.

More importantly, Jesus is our bridge to eternal life. Whereas sin separates us from God, Jesus bridges the gap and provides a corridor to the Father's Eternal Kingdom. Without him, there is no salvation; with him there is no fear.

Likewise, in the church, when there is conflict or crises, we need the Lord to bridge the gap and guide us to a place of shelter — a sanctuary if you will. As many of you know, the United Methodist Church has been grappling with the human sexuality issue for a number of years, and this has led to division across our denomination. With a few exceptions, I have remained relatively quiet on the subject, but the time has come to speak so that we may all understand the issues and try to find common ground.

Let me assure you that I believe we can move forward and remain united with complete transparency and open dialogue. With that in mind, I invite all of

you to join us in worship when we address subject during our service on Sunday, June 11. We will discuss this important issue so that we can move on and focus on God's divine plan for our church and for each of us.

Satan seeks to divide; God seeks to unite. Let us all join together in prayer as we work with the Lord to calm the troubled waters and chart the future of Oak Chapel.

Until we meet again,
Be Blessed!

Pastor John

**Evangelism is merely
God working through US!**

The Outreach Committee

If you would like to join the Outreach Committee, please contact Pastor John, Cindy Henshaw or Karen Cantrell. We'd love to have you!

Community Impact Day

Saturday, June 24 we will gather in Fellowship Hall for our annual Community Impact Day. We will meet at 8:30 for rolls, coffee and juice and Pastor John will have a brief devotion before we start the morning. We will put together hygiene kits for the Salvation Army and One-Eighty.

We will also pack shelf stable, nutritious meals that are shipped to children and families who struggle with hunger and malnutrition. The meals cost \$.33 each and are packaged six meals to a bag. The bags are package 216 per box. Each box we pack will cost \$432. We have set a goal of collecting \$1000 to purchase these meals. With the support of United Women in Faith, United Methodist Men, money budgeted for Outreach projects, and the help of the congregation, we feel this is an attainable goal.

Won't you please help support this mission work by making a donation? You can donate by putting an envelope in the offering plate marked Meal Packing or drop your donation off at the church office. And please plan to attend Community Impact Day on June 24.

Oak Chapel is on the Air!

MCTV is replaying an abbreviated (30-minute) playback of our Sunday service each week. Feel free to tune in, or invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family member to do likewise. Here is the schedule for each week on Channel 22.

Sunday: 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Wednesday: 11:00 am

Thursday: 4:30 pm

Friday: 11:30 am

Channel 621 - Sunday: 9:00 am

Days for Girls meets June 13 and 27, 1:30-3:30 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.

Join us the second and fourth Tuesdays.



The Choseness Bible Study group, meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. The Bible is the sole source for the study. All are welcome!

Sing-Mar Class meets at 9:30 Sunday mornings in the room next to the office. All are welcome.

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

Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays at 6:30 pm

Monday Morning Bible Study meets for one hour at 9:30 am in the *Gathering Grounds* downstairs. Pastor John is continuing to lead and we are currently studying the book of Daniel. We welcome new participants.

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.

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.



Thank to everyone for the wonderful support of our food pantry! It is serving the community every single day! How exciting! As a reminder, we cannot accept anything that is not in tamper-resistant packaging. Nor can we take perishable foods. Please donate only SHELF STABLE items.



Acorn Submissions

The next issue is **July 2023**.
Deadline is June 15.

From the United Methodist Men

When I first attended Oak Chapel it was not long before I was invited to a breakfast. This was at the restaurant out West on Rt 250, the old one, that is. Not knowing what to expect I walked into a welcoming group of men who talked about so very many interesting things, most of which, as I recall, was farming. Being a farming community and several were involved in farming that made sense, however that was not the only topic.

Why do I relate this experience? For one reason, I found a fellowship of believers who were just ordinary guys who gathered together for breakfast. We did have a short time of prayer and contemplation, perhaps a short story or reading from some publication such as the Upper Room. Then food and fellowship. This was the UMM get-together, run by two World War II veterans, both serving in the Pacific Theater, as I recall. These two, Tom Mykrantz and Harold Walters both worked together to insure a productive and interesting meeting. I came to admire them both greatly. As time passed — as time does for all of us — others stepped in to take their place.

Bill Feldman and I could not replace Tom and Harold, but we did our best. The Chili cook-off was the brainchild of Bill Feldman and, of course, the making of ice cream. That was work, but it was and still is fun. After all, the product needs tested. That is a requirement by the way. Our meetings were much the same and continued for some time, the only major change being the relocation to another restaurant.

Again time passes and Bill Feldman steps down for personal reasons and Kim Domer steps up. Kim is elected president and I retained the easy position, treasurer. Somewhere during this time we became a chartered organization and have remained so to this day. I'm not positive when, but along with other activities, we included at least one annual trip to Akron for a fun night of baseball and fireworks.

Time has again passed, and Kim has stepped down for personal reasons, and for me I can say that I miss him at the helm just as I miss his predecessors. When we gather together it strengthens us spiritually and our bonds as believers in Christ. We don't all have identical outlooks or beliefs, and we don't always agree, however, we can all contribute to the common good. Kind of sounds like the Book of Acts a little. There is one thing missing — Men. Now "men" includes full

grown men and boys. We can be an example for the next generation. I know we are somewhat sparse in numbers, but that can change.

Keeping this alive is important, and I need your help. You can start by expressing your opinion about several items. Is our meeting time wrong for you? Is the location a bad choice? Would coffee and pastry at the church be a better option? We need a president, would you like to help? Do you have friends you would like to include but never asked? This is open to everyone.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, or if you would like to become involved, please let me know. At the present I am the only officer. You can leave a note in my office mail box, you can e-mail me treasurer@oakchapelumc.com, or you can call or text me on my cell 330-201-1353. I am imperfect, but I will do my best to reply.

Thank You, William Braucher
Treasurer Oak Chapel UMC
Treasurer United Methodist Men

UNITED METHODIST MEN June 10 at 8:00 am 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.

Retirees Breakfast—Tuesday June 6. Join us at Buehler's Town Market at 8:30 am for great conversation. No agenda, just fellowship!

Membership Care

June 14 is World Blood Donor Day. This day is celebrated by countries around the world to raise awareness for the always present need for safe blood and blood products. It is a way to thank the many donors for their life-saving gift of blood. 4.5 million Americans will need a blood transfusion each year. Someone needs blood every 2 seconds! Donating is nearly painless and the entire process takes about an hour. Check with your local Red Cross for dates and times to donate your gift of life for others.

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.



United Women in Faith We continue to sell Rada knives and kitchen tools, as well as premium

nuts in a variety of combinations. These make great gifts as well as being enjoyed in your home. Each is an online experience. If you are not comfortable with online ordering, please call Elizabeth Feldman, 330.465.5782.

Nuts and Snacks and

RADA Knives and Kitchen Tools

- ♥ 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 or would like help ordering, please ask Elizabeth Feldman.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Shannon and Tom Bower
- 18 Rosie and Bob Troutman
- 28 Karen and Dick Wiley
- 29 Cyndi and Rich Boyer

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 5 John Finn
- 8 Bill Feldman
Lori Hauser
- 12 Ted Zech
- 14 Brad Kitchen
Elsie Mykrantz
- 19 Elaine Sprinkle
- 21 Ben Bower
- 24 Patti Pfander
- 30 Shannon Bower



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.

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.

Art & Soul (Monday, June 5) meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. This group meets to craft for about an hour.

Mission u 2023



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

July 21/22—University of Mt Union

Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation.

Come join us as we explore together the heart of Jesus' good news and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today.

All women and girls who have finished the 2nd grade through 12th grade are invited. Remember that the Youth and Children's studies are independent, meaty and fun events—not just tag-alongs for your children and grandchildren.

Do our young people know why they should connect with the church? Mission u is a wonderful way to build this connection.

We begin with supper at 5:00 on Friday

Financial News:

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (April 2023): \$1,893. Received last month:

04/02 - \$5,054 04/09 - \$2,852

04/16 - \$2,074 04/23 - \$1,534 04/30 - \$2,970

As of 04/30/2023, we received about 153% of our budgeted income for the month of April and 109% YTD. We are ahead of last year at this time, which was 100% and 81%, respectively. We received a QCD in April, which further pushed us up from 121% and 101%, respectively. The Food Pantry is in the black. We're still making a difference. Thank you Oak Chapel!

**To view our CALENDAR,
please visit our website—
oakchapelumc.com—**

Golden Agers—June 13

Our annual luncheon for all over 60 years of age will be on June 13. Come between 11:00 and 11:25, and we will eat at 11:30. Great food, great fellowship and a great program are the order of the day. It is a chance to honor our very wise neighbors. Come and invite a friend. Reservations are due by June 7.

It's early, but mark your calendars for a **SPA Day**. UWF quarterly meeting will be July 8 from 9:30 to 1:00 when you will be able to enjoy multiple relaxation stations followed by a light lunch.

We will be extending an invitation to the New Pittsburg church woman to join us in our meetings and activities. Invite a friend.

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 Captain Bill Braucher
United Women in Faith Captain Phyllis 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.... Cindy Henshaw and Karen Cantrell
PantryConnie Reed
Staff Parish Relations Joyce Varns
Trustees..... Dick Wiley
Worship and MusicKim Domer
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, Bruce Bloch

Finance..... Stuart Mykrantz, Captain
Members: Bill Braucher, Elizabeth Feldman,
Darrell Moser

Food PantryConnie Reed, Captain
Members: Carol Gossage, Cindy Mykrantz,
Rosie Troutman

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, Bruce Bloch, Cheryl Rastetter, Joyce Varns, Phyllis Weaver

Nominations Pastor John Finn, Captain
Members:..... April Aten, Pam Domer, Carol Gossage, Cindy Mykrantz

Outreach .. Karen Cantrell and Cindy Henshaw,
Co-Captains: .Members: Pam Domer, Connie Garg, Cathy Shallenberger, Joyce Varns,
Phyllis Weaver

Staff-Parish Relations..... Joyce Varns, Captain
Members: April Aten, Pam Domer, Carol Gossage, Doug Henshaw

Worship and Music.....Kim Domer, Captain
Members: Sandy Treece, 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 Phone330-264-2537
 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

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 Rev. Angela Lewis, District Superintendent
 Megan Myers, Administrative Assistant