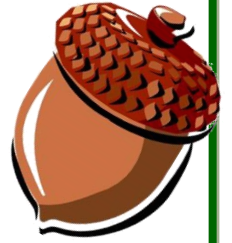


The Acorn

July 2023



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

Keeping Pace in Changing and Challenging Times

Time flies, especially as we age. Even so, it's hard for me to believe that I will be entering my fifth year as your pastor at Oak Chapel this month. I could never have imagined that I would one day be called back to the church that had such a significant impact on my faith journey and my decision to enter ministry, but I am greatly blessed to work with each of you in service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Pastor Keith Bohley asked me to lead a young adult Sunday School in the mid-1990s (yes, I was much younger then). Even though I did not have much of a foundation in Scripture, I agreed to lead the group, and it became a major blessing in my life as well as a springboard to further opportunities in the church, including an invitation from Pastor Bohley to lead worship and bring forth the message on occasion. It would be nearly 25 years before I would come full circle, but in 2019 District Superintendent Ed Peterson called and asked if I would be interested in an appointment at Oak Chapel. I chuckled to myself and said, "Of course!" It was at that point that he extended the invitation to serve, and I gladly accepted.

I am truly honored to be your pastor, but I am also deeply humbled, realizing how inadequate I often feel in serving in this position. Fortunately, it's not as much about me as it is about you. You are all ministers in and for the church. Through your love of the Lord and the inspiration of the Spirit, you apply your God-given talents to serve Him by serving others. Perhaps you are a skilled carpenter, a superb cook, an engaging teacher, a gifted musician, an experienced money manager, or maybe you are accomplished in some other area. Whatever the case, we are gratified to know that you are willing to share your gifts.

As we look back on the past four years, we can celebrate our efforts to spread the Good News and reach out to others in need, but we must not

rest on our laurels. There is so much yet to accomplish, and I have no doubt that we can do it if we continue to work together.

In planning for the future, several important objectives emerge, perhaps none greater than working to attract young families and their children to our church. Our Youth Group is making very positive strides, and we believe that our forthcoming playground will attract a younger demographic. We are also looking to become a "Lighthouse Church" — one that continues to offer a warm welcome to all people, particularly those displaced by the recent disaffiliation process. In addition, our Evangelism Team is making great progress in reaching out and attracting new members to our congregation.

You don't have to have any special talents to join us in these efforts, so feel free to inquire about how you can "jump in" to any of these endeavors. If you happen to have a special interest or a unique talent and you would like to introduce a new initiative that lines up with our vision for the church, please let me know, and we will be happy to facilitate your efforts.

Times are changing quickly, and as a church, we must adapt while holding firm to our foundation of faith and reverence for the Word of God. Despite the challenges that surround us, I believe that Oak Chapel has a very bright future, and I believe that each of you will continue to play a significant role in helping our church to grow and prosper in the years ahead. I invite you to "hop on board" and see what plans God has for us.

Until we meet again, enjoy your summer, and be blessed in all you do!

Pastor John

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

SPA Day July 8

9:00-1:00

Join us for a relaxing morning of pampering and fellowship.



Morning activities will include chair yoga, massages, warm wax to dip your hands into, a nail polish station, a make and take craft, meditation room with candles, music, labyrinths and coloring, plus a 'Chat, Chocolate and Chips' area. Invite a friend. We will end our morning together with a salad lunch. Let us know you are coming this Sunday or by calling the office.

Six Sun—Safety Rules

- 1) Slip on a covering. Clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- 2) Slop on SPF30 (or higher). Look for a broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. Apply before going outside, every 60 minutes or after being in the water. Apply generously!
- 3) Slap on a hat. A tightly woven, canvas-like hat offers more protection than a loosely woven straw hat. Look for a hat that has a wide brim that covers face, ears and back of neck.
- 4) Slide on some sunglasses with UV protection.
- 5) Seek shade!
- 6) Stay hydrated. Water is especially good.

Three Sun Related Dangers

- 1) Skin cancer (melanoma as well as non-melanoma)
- 2) Premature skin aging and other damage
- 3) Cataracts and other eye damage, even melanomas to the eyes

Miscellaneous sun related information

- 1) Drink plenty of cool liquids, especially water, *before* feeling thirsty.
- 2) Try to avoid sun exposure during the hours of 10am-4pm when the sun is at its hottest.
- 3) Skin burns faster in and near the water, as the water intensifies the sun's rays.
Enjoy your summer and be good to your body!!



August 10,11,12
House cleaning?
Garage cleaning?



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 will help support our in-house food pantry. Any surplus items will be shared with People to People Ministries.



Thanks 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 **August 2023**.
Deadline is July 15.

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

ART and SOUL will NOT meet in
July, but will meet on August 7.

Thank You! for the get well card after
I fell. Becky Schlund

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.



**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.

Mission U

July 21/22—University of Mt Union
*Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice
for Social Transformation.*

Canal District UWF is offering a \$50 scholarship
to two first-time attendees. See Elizabeth for
details. Registration deadline is July 6.

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.

We begin with supper at 5:00 on Friday
evening, stay in the dorm, and continue learning
through Saturday at 5:00pm. All meals will be in
the Student Center cafeteria.

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

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Natalie and Pete Bunt
- 19 Carol and Dick Gasser
- 30 Joyce and Gene Varns

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jim Rasteetter
Jimmy Rastetter
- 7 Bob Troutman
- 9 Brianna Lockhart
- 13 Pam Domer
- 14 David Anderson
- 15 Sydney Burckhart
- 17 Lucy Hauser
Penny Hauser
- 18 Rich Boyer
Patti Ritchey
- 23 Oliver Kitchen
- 24 Becky Schlund
- 30 Steve Gossage



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.

UNITED METHODIST July 8 at 8:30 am



All men and boys
are welcome.

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Saturday of each
month for a time of fellowship.

Days for Girls meets July 11 and 25, 1:30-3:30.
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.

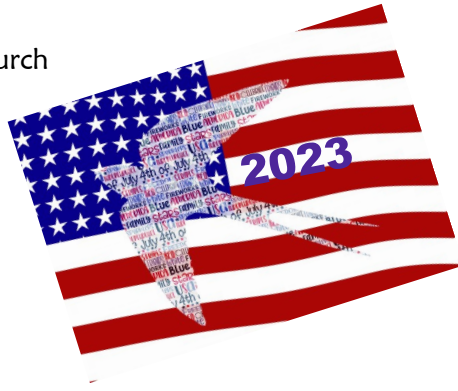
Oak Chapel is on the Air!

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



ACORN Newsletter
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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:

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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