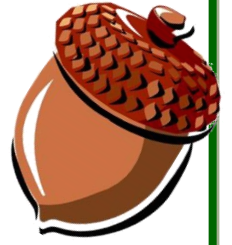


The Acorn

August 2023



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

The Need to Seed Instead of Weed

Why do we spend so much time on our hands and knees weeding our lawns, gardens, and mulched areas? Is it because we want pristine landscapes so that our neighbors and passersby will be impressed when they walk or drive by? Possibly, but it is a never-ending task. The weeds return quickly, sometimes with a vengeance, and so we get back on our hands and knees and start the process all over again. I realize that there is an easier way, but I am leery of the chemical treatments, so I stick with the old-fashioned way.

The point here is not how we weed, but why we weed — not so much in the yard, but in the church. Are we guilty of doing too much weeding and not enough seeding? In fact, should we be doing any weeding at all? After all, we claim to be a church that accepts all people, regardless of size, stature, background, race, ethnicity, or any other variable, and I firmly believe that we live up to that claim because we are a church of genuine hospitality and inclusion.

Unfortunately, our denomination just went through a very painful “weeding” process, known as “disaffiliation.” Instead of coming together, a decision was made to grow apart and go our separate ways. I don’t believe that this is what God intended.

When Jesus comes again, as we read in the Gospel of Matthew (3:12), he will “separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.” Weeding is the work of the Lord. Seeding is the work of his people. We don’t need to worry about weeding; he will take care of that. We need to focus on seeding.

We can do that in many ways — namely by making our church more inviting and more appealing, by expanding programming and educational opportunities, and by deepening

spiritual and worship experiences — but it all begins with “the ask.”

Our Evangelism Team has done great work in reaching out and inviting others to become part of the spiritual journey at Oak Chapel, but this group cannot and should not do it alone. We can all work together to grow our church by inviting and encouraging others to engage in their own faith journey.

Later in the Gospel of Matthew (13:3-9) Jesus tells a well-known story of sowing seeds in Scripture. He said this: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”

The moral of this parable is that not every seed sown takes root and grows, but some will, and when they do, they will produce hearty harvests, so our call has always been and always will be to sow, sow, sow the seed, and let the Lord work in the hearts and souls of others so that they may hear the call and answer the invitation.

August is not your traditional planting season, but when it comes to the church, we are to sow in all seasons. So let us continue to sow the seeds in faith — hoping, praying, inviting, and encouraging others to join us in our faith journey so that when our time in this world concludes, we may all reunite together in the glory of God’s Heavenly Kingdom!

Pastor John

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



August 10,11,12

House cleaning?
Garage cleaning?

Oak Chapel sits right on the Old Lincoln Highway, so it makes sense that we have participated in this great annual event since 2003. In addition to having your treasures for sale, we have a great opportunity for outreach to the community. We will have yummy lunch items for sale, including home-made ice cream. Our restrooms are open to the public, so year after year, folks stop by for a respite from the weather.

All this to say that it is a group effort and we need YOUR help! In addition to donating your items for sale, we need your help in setting up, displaying and pricing all those items, and getting food ready to sell. We will do this on Wednesday, August 9 from 6-8 pm. We will then need a few people on each shift during the sale on Thursday and Friday 8am—5pm, and Saturday 8am—2pm. And another few volunteers to clean up from 2-4pm. If you have suggestions to make our event better, please let Elizabeth know. 330.465.5782

Health and Well-being

August is immunization information and awareness month. The need for immunizations doesn't end when our childhood shots are completed. Some of the necessary "shots" needed as adults are:

- ♥ Yearly influenza (NO, you cannot get the flu from this immunization!)
- ♥ Periodic pneumococcal vaccine
- ♥ Hepatitis A and B
- ♥ Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine
- ♥ Shingles vaccine
- ♥ COVID vaccines

There are others to be considered and of course you need to discuss the schedule and need for these vaccines with your primary healthcare provider.

Mission Barn

We will be making another trip to New Castle, PA to work at the Mission Barn on Saturday, September 16. Adult and youth volunteers are needed to help with anything from filling clean-up buckets to building handicap ramps. Participants will want to wear old, comfortable clothing and take a sack lunch.



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 **September 2023**. Deadline is August 15.

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

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**

On August 13 the UWF will lead Worship in Pastor John's absence. Our speaker will be

from Operation Christmas Child. She will have a video and tell us helpful information regarding this project that we, as a church, have embraced. We urge you to attend and learn about this world-wide service project. Men, women and children are all vital to helping children around the world learn of Jesus and to feel the love that we are called on to share.

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. Each link can be found on the home page at oakchapel.umc.com. If you are not comfortable with online ordering, please call Elizabeth Feldman, 330.465.5782.

ART and SOUL will meet again after the Fair.
DAYS FOR GIRLS will resume after the Fair.

Finance Report: Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (June 2023): \$3,470
Received last month:
06/04 - \$1,706.00 06/11 - \$2,356.00
06/18 - \$1,146.39 06/25 - \$1,345.00
As of 06/30/2023, we received about 47% of our budgeted income for the month of June and 92% YTD. We are ahead of last year at this time, which was 73% and 81%, respectively. The Food Pantry is in the black. We're still making a difference. Thank you Oak Chapel!

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Janet and Paul Kauffman
30 Sheri and John Finn

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8 Elizabeth Feldman
9 Jim Pfander
12 Miriam Zech
17 Connie Garg
18 Pat Rickard
19 Harper Miller
23 Joyce Varns



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 MEN August 12 at 11:30 am at Oak Chapel during the Buy Way Sale.

All men and boys are welcome. Mark your calendar for the 2nd Saturday of each month for a time of fellowship.

Vote!

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
 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

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